

# Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.

Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email [clerk@bartoncounty.org](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3M940iR>

January 27, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Chairman  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk  
Matt Patzner, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

*Members absent:*

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Reif called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.  
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 2nd Batch:**

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period ending December 31, 2025. This is considered the second "13th Month" for 2025 expenditures.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve 13th Month – 2nd Batch appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 13, 2026, and ending January 27, 2026.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 13, 2026, to January 27, 2026. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. COMMISSION: Employee Engagement Committee:**

-Judith Castro, Employee Engagement Committee President, will provide details. The Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) is charged with creating short- and long-term goals and project development to improve employee retention and employee satisfaction. All terms expire December 31, 2026.

Judith Castro, Employee Engagement Committee President, asked that the commissioners extend the terms for Judith Castro, Charlotte Konrade, Richard Estes and Ryan Lichter and appoint Lindsey Creamer to the open position.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was a great group.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to appoint the following persons to the EEC for terms expiring December 31, 2026:

Judith Castro, Administrator's Office  
Lindsey Creamer, County Clerk's Office  
Richard Estes, Road and Bridge  
Charlotte Konrade, Appraiser's Office  
Ryan Lichter, Juvenile Services

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

### **RESOLUTION 2026-04: Resolution for Approval of Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land:**

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. Paul Greeley, STC Tower, LLC, has applied for a conditional land use permit to build a 410' Guyed Communications Tower on a tract owned by the Loretta Tindall Agricultural Trust in the SE/4, Section 36–T17S– R14W, located approximately two miles west of Hoisington, Kansas. A Public Hearing was held on January 8, 2026, and the Barton County Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the Barton County Commission approve this request. Due to the height of this tower, no building permit can be issued until FCC approval has been received. FAA approval has already been obtained.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said a public hearing was held on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Goreham said of the Planning Commission members present, all of them voted in favor of recommending approval of the tower. Goreham said it was a 410' tower that would be approximately 2 miles west of Hoisington. The land was not in the floodplain, in a great location for the tower with no homes nearby. There were no concerns from landowners within the 1,000 feet but a citizen from Hoisington, Jettie Zoller, expressed her concerns about potential health risks from cell towers but did not ask that the permit not be approved.

Commissioner Reif said it was good to know that the public was paying attention. He said he was surprised it was not in the low area. Goreham said it was a high, dry location and would not interfere with anyone. It was supposed to improve communication abilities.

Paul Greeley, STC Tower, called in and said he attended the public hearing. He felt everyone was generally satisfied they were doing their best. Greeley said they were in complete agreement with the Planning Commission's recommendations and stipulations. He said they had provided FAA approval of the request.

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Goreham asked Greeley if they had received FCC approval. Greeley said they had not yet but did understand that was a condition placed on the application.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the motion needed to reflect the condition of FCC approval. Goreham said that was correct.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve Resolution 2026-04, Resolution for Approval of Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land pending FCC approval.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. SOLID WASTE: Purchase of a Bobcat Angle Broom Attachment:**

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. The Solid Waste Department utilizes a 2021 Bobcat T770 skid steer loader in its operations. The department recently sought bids for an angle broom, which is used to sweep mud and debris off onsite asphalt access roads and the highway in front of the Landfill entrance. Monies are available in the Solid Waste Fund for this purchase.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, was requesting approval to purchase a new angle broom attachment for the skid steer. Hamby said the current broom needed a bristle bar replacement. She reached out to several vendors, but it was purchased at an auction, so they did not have the correct information for it, no model or serial number. Hamby said she received three bids:

White Star Machinery, Garden City, Bobcat brand	\$9,467.13
Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Vernig brand	\$9,035.00
Bobcat of Salina	\$7,416.32

Commissioner Reif said they had worked with Bobcat of Salina for some time. Hamby said yes, they were currently on a municipal buyback program for the skid steer.

Commissioner Reif said he appreciated them taking care of the blacktop in front of the landfill. Hamby said they did their best.

Commissioner Hutchinson said they checked with Road & Bridge about the used brooms they had. Hamby said the problem with those was it would be another vehicle to maintain, engine, hydraulics and cooling system. They were just wanting the attachment for a machine they currently used.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to authorize the purchase of an 84" Angle Broom from Bobcat of Salina for \$7,416.32. The purchase price, which includes delivery, is to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Equipment, Operations and Construction, 140-68-6190.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. COMMISSION: Independent Contractor Agreement for Interim County Counselor:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Several years ago, the County entered into an agreement with Patrick Hoffman for independent contractor services as the County Counselor. Mr. Hoffman has recently accepted a position with the City of Salina. As such, it is suggested that the County enter into an Independent Contractor Agreement for Interim County Counselor until such time as the County hires a County Counselor.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he could not think of a better man for the job.

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Commissioner Reif said they appreciated everything that Hoffman had done, and it was going to be a big change for the county.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked Patzner if the position had been posted. Patzner said it was open until filled.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she really appreciated Hoffman's willingness to help. She enjoyed working with him and appreciated the communication back and forth.

Hoffman said one of his principles of county counseling was that any meeting where the county counselor had to say much was a bad meeting. Hoffman said he had been blessed and appreciated working here. He had an opportunity he felt he needed to pursue but felt he had an ethical obligation to help until a replacement was found.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for Interim County Counselor.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## ***No Executive Session Held***

### **E. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

-Chairman Duane Reif will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess to executive session at this time as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319. Any motion must contain the justification for executive session, the subject matter to be discussed, any individuals in addition to the board who will attend the executive session and the time at which the regular session shall resume.

### **VI. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Reif – Commissioner Esfeld was representing Barton County in Topeka with KLPG today and would be attending Government Day tomorrow.

Commissioner Reif and Commissioner Schlessiger – attended Barton County Conservation Annual Meeting last week.

### **VIII. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:26 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Duane Reif, Chairman