

# 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/4oGo3nv>

June 23, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Chairman

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

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

Casey Hubbard, Assistant County Administrator

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Item D. JUVENILE SERVICES: Installation of a Sturdi-Bilt Lofted Barn.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. RESOLUTION 2026-15: A Resolution Concerning the Motor Vehicle Transaction Fee:**

-Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, will provide details. Pursuant to Kansas Statutes, from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2029, the Commission may modify the motor vehicle transaction fee to \$10.00.

This fee is collected on behalf of the State of Kansas to offset the operational cost of State mandated responsibilities relative to motor vehicle tagging services as performed by Kansas Counties. The Commission will now consider adoption of the proposed Resolution.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said this resolution was a result of the passage of Senate Bill 325 which removed the facility fee and adds the state transaction fee. Jordan said the transaction fee should make the Motor Vehicle Department self-sufficient and not relying on property taxes to operate. Jordan said there also was a task force within this bill that he had the pleasure of sitting on. The task force evaluated vehicle services to modernize the process.

Commissioner Esfeld thanked Jordan for his work on the matter. She said he worked many hours at it and did not give up. The Treasurer's Association did not give up either and she appreciated the hard work.

Commissioner Zimmerman echoed Commissioner Esfeld's thoughts and asked Jordan if the facility fee would drop off on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Jordan said the facility fee would drop off on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Reif said there had always been a fee, was that correct. Jordan said no, this was a fee to the office get healthy. It makes the state responsible for paying us to do their job.

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Commissioner Esfeld said she did not want taxpayers to look at it as another fee, but that it would save money somewhere else. The office had to function, and the money had to come from somewhere so this would even it out. Jordan said the task force had been working on it and tried several different ways to reduce costs.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked if the \$10 would stay in Barton County. Jordan said yes, the money collected here would stay in Barton County.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2026-15, A Resolution Concerning the Motor Vehicle Transaction Fee.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. BARTON COUNTY COUNSELOR: Letter of Engagement:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Earlier this year, Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, reduced his service time with Barton County after accepting a full time position with the City of Salina. At that time, Barton County released a Request for Qualifications seeking attorneys or law firms to serve as the primary legal advisor to the Barton County Commission through proactive, timely and accurate legal counsel. At this time, the Commission will consider approval of the Engagement Letter with services to be provided by Todd Powell, Jeter Law Firm, LLP, of Hays, Kansas.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for consideration of approval.

The commissioners welcomed Mr. Powell.

Todd Powell said he appreciated the opportunity and looked forward to the relationship.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the Engagement Letter for County Counselor services to be provided by Todd Powell, Jeter Law Firm, LLP. Cost of service, \$5,500.00 per month for the period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, to be paid through the Special Liability Fund, Professional Services Line, 025-00-5475.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Patzner read a message from Patrick Hoffman.

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

## **C. 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 the 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.

## **D. JUVENILE SERVICES: Installation of a Sturdi-Bilt Lofted Barn:**

-Mike Daniel, Juvenile Services Assistant Director, will provide details. In September, 2025, the County purchased a portion of four lots in Block 116 of the City of Great Bend. The land is located between the Health Department and the Barton County Annex. Juvenile Services has asked that the Commission consider authoring the installation of a Sturdi-Bilt Lofted Barn on the lot to be used for storage. Cost of 14 X 20 wooden structure, along with the required anchoring, is \$10,337.00.

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Mike Daniel, Juvenile Services Assistant Director, said they needed more storage space for Juvenile Services equipment. Daniel said they had a lot of lawn equipment and athletic equipment currently taking up space in areas of their office. Daniel asked the commissioners to place the building on the lot near their office.

Commissioner Reif said the building would serve them well.

Daniel said they could share it with other county departments that may need storage space as well.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they had lawn equipment because they worked on life skills with the juveniles. Daniel said that was correct through the mentorship program. They also maintained the lot.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the purchase of a Sturdi-Bilt Loft Barn to be placed on the County-owned lots in Block 116 of the City of Great Bend. The \$10,337.00 cost to be paid to Sturdi-Bilt as follows:

FUND, LINE NAME	NUMBER	AMOUNT
JIAS Fund, General Equipment	100-72-6325	\$03,445.66
JISP Fund, General Equipment	105-76-6325	\$03,445.67
IIP Fund, General Equipment	128-87-6325	\$03,445.67
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,337.00</b>

Commissioner Reif said for a total of \$10,337.00.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – Barton County Fair starts tomorrow.

Commissioner Esfeld – would attend SDSI meeting on Wednesday.

## VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:20 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Duane Reif, Chairman

**RESOLUTION 2026-15**

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSACTION FEE

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, by the powers vested in it by K.S.A. 19-101(a), may perform powers of local legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission, pursuant to K.S.A. 8-145, as amended, and as provided by Senate Bill No. 325, from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2029, upon recommendation of the County Treasurer, may set the motor vehicle transaction fee to \$10.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission and the Treasurer believe that this modification to a fee currently being collected will better provide for operations of this State mandated responsibility as performed by Kansas Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission and the Treasurer believe that user fees, when appropriately applied, reduce the reliance on local property tax.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that upon recommendation of the Barton County Treasurer and pursuant to K.S.A. 8-145, as amended, the motor vehicle transaction fee shall be set at \$10.00 effective January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2029.

**FURTHER**, that this Resolution shall be effective upon publication in the official County newspaper.

**ADOPTED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2026.

**BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chairman Duane Reif

  
Commissioner Barb Esfeld

  
Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson

  
Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger

  
Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

**ATTEST:**

  
Bev Schmeidler,  
County Clerk



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**ELECTRONIC APPROVAL GIVEN**  
Patrick Hoffman,  
County Counselor