

# 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)

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June 9, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 9<sup>th</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 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 June 2, 2026, Regular Meeting.  
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. RESOLUTION 2026-14: A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, Accepting the Donation of a Revolver, Providing for Its Display and Establishing Restrictions on Its Sale or Disposition:**

-Sheriff Brian Bellendir will provide details. Earlier this year, Sheriff Bellendir announced that he had located the Colt Model 1860 Army percussion revolver used by George N. Moses, the first Sheriff of record in Barton County. Having purchased the revolver with private funding, Sheriff Bellendir will now cede the revolver to the County. This proposed Resolution allows for its acceptance and details the requirements for display, safekeeping and shared responsibility, including specific language reference cooperative efforts with the Barton County Historical Society.

Sheriff Brian Bellendir said the gun was a historic artifact that would mean a lot to future generations. He said the odds of finding the gun with the history and proven provenance were highly unlikely. Sheriff Bellendir said there were concerns about where the weapon would ultimately wind up because Sheriffs and Commissioners come and go. He wanted the ownership to be the Barton County Commissioners so he, along with Diana Watson and Patrick Hoffman, created the resolution. The gun could never be disposed of. If for some reason, the county no longer wanted to display it, possession would go to the Historical Society. If they did not want it, it would remain in possession of the county. In the instance they no longer wanted it, it would have to go to an institution where it could be displayed such as a university or museum. Sheriff Bellendir said he became aware of the weapon a little more than a year ago and was put in contact with the owner. He said even though they were not firearms people, they recognized the historical value.

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Commissioner Zimmerman asked Bellendir if he had seen the weapon yet. Bellendir said not yet, it was in New Jersey. He said they were working on how to transport it to Barton County.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Bellendir how long he had been looking for the gun. Bellendir said he was unaware of its existence but found out randomly at a Police Chiefs meeting. One of the Police Chiefs in Barton County had a copy of an article highlighting the gun from the Washington Post.

Commissioner Schlessiger said the resolution seemed to be put together with a lot of thought. Bellendir said yes, there was a lot of redlining back and forth in the development. He added that between Watson and Hoffman, there was a form attached to the resolution about the gun being borrowed but no modifications could be made to it.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2026-14, A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, Accepting the Donation of a Revolver, Providing for Its Display and Establishing Restrictions on Its Sale or Disposition.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Bellendir said they had raised well over \$10,000 but was not quite enough. He planned to get a museum quality display case for the gun. If anyone donated \$100 or more, he would put their name on a plaque. They were also reaching out to other former Barton County Sheriffs for any other items to be displayed. Bellendir said the contributions were being run through a 503C account, separate from county funds. He said his final goal as Sheriff had been to be the longest serving Sheriff in Barton County, which he had achieved but obtaining this piece of history was a bigger goal.

## **B. SOLID WASTE: Community Recycling Activities Grant Allocation:**

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. In the 2026 Barton County Solid Waste Operating Budget, the Barton County Commissioners budgeted \$15,000.00 to support community recycling activities. Applications were received from Kans for Kids Fighting Cancer Foundation, Sunflower Diversified Services, two separate applications from Great Bend High School, and one from Rosewood Services. Each centered on developing or improving recycling activities in Barton County, Kansas. The Commission will consider the award of monies, in full or in part.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, presented details and said to be eligible, the application had to demonstrate a positive economic and environmental impact in the county, be consistent with the Barton County Solid Waste Management Plan, benefit the county and its residents and increase recycling. Hamby said after reviewing the applications, she recommended Kans for Kids Fighting Cancer Foundation and Rosewood Services.

Commissioner Reif recused himself from discussion and voting on the item.

Commissioner Hutchinson said both were great organizations to receive the grant. A Kans for Kids collection site is near his business and he witnessed the participation. In his business, he sees a lot of electronic waste so the roll off container was a great idea.

Commissioner Schlessiger said there were several great applications received and wished they could fund them all.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to award the 2026 Solid Waste Community Recycling Activities Grant allocation as follows:

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Agency	Request	Plans per Grant
Kans For Kids	\$5,294.10	Signage and Receptables
Rosewood	\$9,840.00	E-Cycling, Equipment, Signage

Further, upon request of the County, recipients shall provide a funding report to the Commission, to include how the award was used and the outcome of expenditures.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Reif abstained.

## **C. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Conference Room Payment Update:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Commissioner approved Brentwood Builders creating two conference rooms from one larger office at the Barton County Annex on May 19, 2026. At that time, the cost was to be paid from the local funding budget. As the fiscal year comes to a close, it has been determined that the funding would be better spent from the CKCC Budget, Fund 095.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said this was a housekeeping item and would shift the cost from the local kind of fee-based funds to the actual state block grant.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to rescind the May 19, 2026, motion and instead authorize Brentwood Buildings to create two conference rooms in the Barton County Annex for a cost of \$15,350.00. Cost to be paid from CKCC Budget, Building and Fixed Equipment Line, 095-70-6325.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

### *No Executive Session Held*

## **D. 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.

## **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Sheriff Bellendir – held a class for area law enforcement officers. Marissa Woodmansee was gracious enough to speak to the group regarding juveniles and mental illness.

## **VI. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:41 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Duane Reif, Chairman

## RESOLUTION 2026-14

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS, ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF A REVOLVER, PROVIDING FOR ITS DISPLAY AND ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS ON ITS SALE OR DISPOSITION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas (the "Board"), is authorized to accept gifts, donations and personal property for the benefit of the County as provided by Resolution 2006-09, A Resolution Establishing the Barton County Stewardship Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, after Barton County was officially organized on May 16, 1872, the first sheriff of record was George Nelson Moses, starting around July 1, 1872. Sheriff Moses, a Civil War veteran, carried a Colt revolver throughout his lifetime, including during his term as Sheriff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Moses family played an important role in Barton County's early development, contributing to local industry and community life; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2026, Sheriff Brian Bellendir located the revolver. Passed down through the Moses family for generations, it is currently in the possession of a family member in the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, knowing the provenance on the Colt, as well as its historical importance to Barton County, Sheriff Bellendir raised private funds to purchase the revolver. With no tax dollar expended for the purchase, the Sheriff now cedes custody of the Colt Model 1860 Army percussion revolver to Barton County; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff Bellendir requests, as a condition of ownership, that the Revolver shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of by Barton County except upon formal action of the Board of County Commissioners and with the approval of the Sheriff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that acceptance of the revolver, subject to these conditions, is in the best interest of Barton County and will contribute to the preservation and public display of this item.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS:**

1. Acceptance of Donation. The Board hereby accepts possession of the firearm from the Sheriff upon the completion of the transaction as described herein.

2. County Property. Upon acceptance, the revolver shall become the property of Barton County, Kansas, and shall be maintained, stored, displayed or otherwise handled in accordance with applicable County policies and state and federal law.
3. Display at the Barton County Courthouse. The revolver shall be displayed at the Barton County Courthouse, when practicable, as an item of historical or civic interest for the benefit of the public.

When the revolver is physically located at the Courthouse, it will not go more than six months without being on public display.

4. Loan to Barton County Historical Society or other Museums or Cultural Institutions. The revolver may be loaned for temporary display to a museum, historical society or other cultural institution for a period not to exceed 180 days upon approval by a majority vote of the Board of Barton County Commissioners, subject to any conditions deemed appropriate by the Board to ensure its safekeeping and return. The loan period may be extended for a second 180 days upon request by the borrower and approval by the Commission. Upon the completion of the loan period, the revolver shall be returned to the Barton County Commission.

In the event that the revolver is on loan and the County determines that it is needed on site for any reason, the borrower shall be notified via call or email that revolver shall be returned to the Commission within (7) days.

Revolver shall be displayed in a secured location, displayed safely on site and returned in the same condition in which it was loaned.

5. Transfer to the Barton County Historical Society, Sale or Disposition.

The revolver shall not be sold, transferred, or otherwise permanently disposed of unless such action is first authorized by a subsequent formal resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners and, further, that the current Barton County Sheriff provides, in writing, authorization of same.

The Barton County Historical Society (BCHS) shall be donated the firearm in accordance and agree in writing to the stipulations of paragraph 1B of this section. The BCHS shall have a period of six months following notice to take such action.

1A If the BCHS rejects the offer or six months pass without action, the Commission may sale, transfer or dispose of the revolver in a manner best preserving the historical significance and public interest of the artifact.

1B Should ownership of the revolver be transferred to the BCHS, the firearm may not be sold or otherwise permanently disposed of and in the event the BCHS becomes insolvent, defunct or otherwise nonexistent, the weapon shall be transferred to the possession of the Board of County Commissioners, Barton County Kansas. The Commissioners may display the weapon as previously described or dispose of it as provided in Section 1A. The Commission will consult with the current Sheriff in making a determination as to the transfer.

6. Custody and Recordkeeping.

Custody – As the revolver has been donated to Barton County, it shall be in the custody of the County Commission.

Recordkeeping – The Barton County Sheriff's Office shall ensure that appropriate inventory and property records are maintained on said revolver.

Display – When removed from display, the Commission shall notify the Sheriff in writing of the location of the revolver as well as storage conditions.


Loan – When placed on loan, the Commission shall notify the Sheriff in writing of the agency to which the revolver is being loaned, the physical location where the revolver will be displaced and the return date. The Sheriff shall also be notified in writing of the safe return of the revolver.

7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

**BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chairman Duane Reif

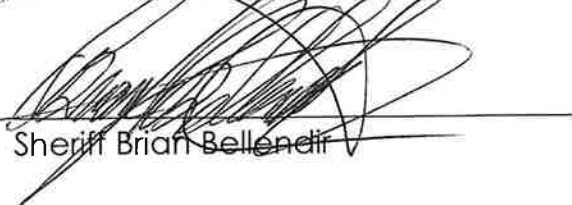
  
Commissioner Barb Esfeld

  
Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


  
Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger

  
Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

**SHERIFF BRIAN BELLENDIR, OWNER**

  
Sheriff Brian Bellendir

**ATTEST:**

  
Bev Schmeidler,  
County Clerk



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**ELECTRONIC APPROVAL GIVEN**

Patrick Hoffman,  
County Counselor