

# 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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March 10, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 10th day of March, 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

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

*Members absent:*

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</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 Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 5th 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 fifth “13th Month” for 2025 expenditures.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and requested approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the 13th Month – 5th Batch appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman 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 February 24, 2026, and ending March 10, 2026.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and requested approval.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of February 24, 2026, to March 10, 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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## V. NEW BUSINESS:

### A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes:

-Ms. Schmeidler will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes. Orders for these actions are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. These are used to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and requested approval.

BATCH #4	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(87,530)		(\$12,640.14)	\$8,860.87
Personal Property	(3,846)		(\$560.00)	\$105.52
Real Estate	(185,354)		(\$30,173.38)	\$5,721.29
16/20 M Trucks	0		\$0.00	\$0.00
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(276,730)	\$0.00	(\$43,373.52)	\$14,687.68
Total Taxes	(\$43,373.52)			
Total Records Selected	65			

Commissioner Esfeld said she knew they were still catching up on oil exemptions. She said a good bill could pass this year would allow County Appraisers to exempt oil that produced under five barrels if it qualified. This would allow them to work right away.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, said these were due to payment under protest hearings that were held the last week of February, they had 134 hearings. Prosser said there were a few that were oil and gas exemptions but were primarily from the hearings. She said they would have another large group of these because they were about halfway through working them.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk's Office. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

### B. COMMISSION REPORT: County Day at the Capital:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. County Day at the Capital was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. For Kansas counties, this is a day of visibility, engagement and leadership placing local officials at the center of the policy conversation. While there, Commissioner Esfeld testified against HB 2745, dealing with property tax revenue, and on March 4th against SCR 1616, the CAP Amendment. The Commission will discuss the event.

Commissioner Barb Esfeld said they had a great time in Topeka, and it was the first time Barton County had a table at the event. She said they were able to share some accomplishments such as Travel 389 and the courthouse renovations as well as other projects. She said the County Treasurer Association also had a table.

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Commissioner Zimmerman said Barton County was represented by County Treasurer Jim Jordan and Paige.

Commissioner Esfeld said she had the opportunity to testify on HB 2745 and she appreciated the support of her fellow commissioners. Commissioner Esfeld shared information about the bills and said things were changing rapidly.

Commissioner Zimmerman thanked Commissioner Esfeld for her testimony and representing Barton County. She also wanted to thank Diana Watson and Elle Hutchinson for the Barton County table; they received many compliments.

Commissioner Reif said it was a proud moment watching Commissioner Esfeld testify and said they were trying to make a difference.

Commissioner Hutchinson said his takeaways were that we had a tendency of overcomplicating things in government in all of the levels.

## **C. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: 2026 Highway Striping Project:**

-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will provide details. Barton County accepted proposals for the 2026 Highway Striping Project until February 23, 2026. Work includes centerline and edge line striping on approximately 97 miles of County roadway. Straight-Line Striping, Inc., and Heartland Traffic Services submitted unit prices for the estimated quantity of both white and yellow paint, as well as the glass beads that provide reflectivity to the striping. The actual quantities of each material used by the contractor will be paid for at the unit prices submitted. There were no other bidders.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, presented details and said Straight-Line Striping, Inc. bid was \$1,123,311.45 and Heartland Traffic Services bid \$1,115,350.66. Schartz said Barton County had worked with Straight-Line Striping, Inc. for a number of years and had never had any issues. They also do several other counties in the area. Schartz said they always communicated well about schedules and work relatively fast. He said they completed last year's work in three days. Schartz asked the commissioners to award the bid to Straight-Line Striping, Inc.

Commissioner Reif asked Schartz to share the area that would be striped this year. Schartz said it would be in the southeast quadrant of the county. It would be from Dartmouth blacktop east and south to the county line and north to Odin.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she knew Straight-Line had done the work for years and always provided quality service.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to award the contract for the 2026 Highway Striping Project to Straight-Line Striping, Inc. for the bid price of \$1,123,311.45. Bid cost to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund, Contract Construction Line, 002-92-6250. In addition, authorize the Commission Chairman to sign the Notice of Award and the Project Agreement.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. COMPUTER INFORMATION CONCEPTS: Annual Peopleware Agreement:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. In 2013, the County purchased a commercial software package from Computer Information Concepts, Inc. (CIC). The software includes tax administration, budgetary / fund accounting, indexing / imaging, payroll / personnel and time / attendance. Portals for the Treasurer and the Appraiser have since been added.

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Pat Patzner, County Administrator, said the annual agreement was received that detailed responsibilities for the software and hardware, including response time. The renewal fee was \$46,520, down from last year at \$46,775. Patzner said after going through the bill, it was discovered that the county did not utilize the indexing, so they removed \$840 from the bill bringing the total to \$45,680.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Annual Peopleware Agreement with Computer Information Concepts, Inc. The agreement cost, \$45,680.00, is to be paid from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, CIC Maintenance Fees Line, 001-18-5476.

Commissioner Esfeld 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 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.

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

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

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

There was no other business.

### **ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:37 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
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Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
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Duane Reif, Chairman