

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

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/4zOJ5ox>

October 20, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 20th day of October, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Todd Powell, County Counselor

Members absent:

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of October 6, 2026, and ending October 20, 2026.

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

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve appropriations for the period of October 6, 2026, to October 20, 2026. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SOLID WASTE: Community Assistant – Reduction in Disposal Fees for the City of Claflin:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The City of Claflin will demolish a dilapidated structure at 107 W Williamson, Claflin, Kansas. Stone Sand Company has quoted the City \$19,250.00 for the demolition, which includes \$2,800.00 in construction and demolition waste disposal fees. After discussion, it is suggested that the County waive fifty percent of the fees, reducing them to \$1,400.00. As the Landfill is operated with user fees, no tax monies are involved in the community assistance.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

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Commissioner Zimmerman asked Doug Hubbard if this house was destroyed by a fire and was a danger to the community. Hubbard said that was correct, it had been deemed a health hazard as well as a physical hazard.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it was good that the City of Claflin was being proactive.

Commissioner Reif said the fire was some time ago, about two years ago. Hubbard said it was on Good Friday, 2025.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to reduce the disposal fees for the City of Claflin from \$2,800.00 to \$1,400.00 for the demolition of the structure at 107 W Williams, Claflin, Kansas.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2026-19: Creation of a 911 / Communications Advisory Board and Rescinding Resolution 2024-16, Same, adopted July 30, 2024:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The 911 Advisory Board, which provides input to the operations of the 911 Center, is tasked, in part, with improving communications between the Center and supporting agencies. After assuming responsibility of Communications in September, 2026, Sheriff Brian Bellendir suggests that membership of the Advisory Board be expanded to include the Chief of both Fire and Emergency Medical Services for the Cities of Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend and Hoisington, the Chiefs of Fire District No. 1 and No. 2, volunteer fire agencies and one Commissioner. In addition, the written summary requirement for the Commission is removed.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details about the Advisory Board.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 2026-19, Creation of a 911 / Communications Advisory Board and Rescinding Resolution 2024-16, Same, adopted July 30, 2024.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2026-20: Fireworks Sale Permits and Rescinding Resolution 2013-18, Same, adopted August 28, 2013:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Management Director, will provide details. The proposed Resolution allows for the continued sale of fireworks through the Independence Day holiday and allows for the sale of fireworks for the Christmas and New Years holiday. This secondary period follows Kansas Statutes for the sale of fireworks from December 24 through January 1 in a permanent retailer structure. Responsibility for permitting this period falls to the Kansas Fire Marshall's Office.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Management Director, said this was a new concept for Barton County. Goreham said the laws allowed seasonal firework sales that could be in tents, permanent structures or anywhere. Those had to be inspected by Goreham's office if located in the unincorporated areas of the county. There had been a change that in a brick-and-mortar structure, fireworks could be sold year-round. Goreham said each county could consider if they want to allow the sales all year or just specific times of the year. Goreham said there was a request to allow sales from December 24th to January 1st and allow fireworks to be discharged during that time. She felt it was a good situation for the county having increased sales tax revenue. Goreham said the businesses would have to be approved by the State Fire Marshall and obtain a license.

Commissioner Reif clarified that the resolution only covered the county. Goreham said that was correct, "the cities would have to decide themselves if they want to allow it."

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Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2026-20, Fireworks Sale Permits and Rescinding Resolution 2013-18, Same, adopted August 28, 2013.

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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Bev Schmeidler – Early voting began last Wednesday in the County Clerk's Office and continued until November 2nd at noon.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adjourn at 9:16 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Duane Reif, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2026-19

Creation of a 911 / Communications Advisory Board and Rescinding Resolution 2024-16, Same, Adopted July 30, 2024

WHEREAS, Barton County has successfully implemented a 911 system that allows for consistency in addressing, answering and directing emergency and other services through a central answering point; and

WHEREAS, that system has been augmented through a 911 / Communications Advisory Board comprised of emergency service personnel; and

WHEREAS, these members have provided professional opinions and advice throughout the years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, formally creates a 911 / Communications Advisory Board to:

- 1.) Insure the 911 center is in compliance with and operating pursuant to the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual.
- 2.) Provide input relative to operations of the 911 / Communications Center.
- 3.) Improve communications between the 911 Center and supporting agencies.
- 4.) Perform other functions as requested by the Board of County Commissioners.

FURTHER, the Advisory Board, following the adoption of Resolution 2026-16, A Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Barton County's Responsibility for the Provision of 911 Services to the Barton County Sheriff's Office, adopted September 1, 2026, shall operate as follows:

- 1.) **Membership** The members of the 911 / Communications Advisory Board shall consist of the Barton County Sheriff, the Chief of Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services of the Cities of Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend and Hoisington, the Lieutenant of the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Barton County Emergency Management Director with each member being able to name a designee in his or her place;

a.) That the Barton County Commission shall appoint one Commissioner to serve on the 911 / Communications Advisory Board. The appointed Commissioner shall serve until the conclusion of their current elected term.

b.) The Chief of Fire District No. 1, the Chief of Fire District No. 2, as well as the Chief of any volunteer fire department in the County, may also join said Advisory Board.

2.) Meetings Said Advisory Board shall meet at least bi-annually, unless additional meetings are needed, with the Barton County Sheriff or his or her designee responsible for setting such meetings.

FURTHER, that Resolution 2024-16, Creation of a 911 / Communications Advisory Board and Rescinding Resolution 2008-19, Same, Adopted July 30, 2024, is hereby rescinded.

ADOPTED this 20th day of October, 2026.

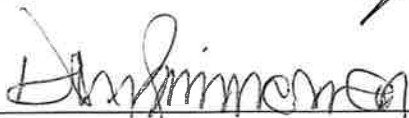
BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman Duane Reif


Commissioner Barb Esfeld

ABSENT
Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


Commissioner Trisha Schlessiger


Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED ELECTRONICALLY
Todd Powell, County Counselor

Resolution 2026-19, Creation of a 911 / Communications Advisory Board and Rescinding Resolution 2024-16, Same, adopted July 30, 2024

RESOLUTION 2026-20

FIREWORKS SALE PERMITS AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2013-18, SAME,
ADOPTED AUGUST 28, 2013

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 19-101a, et. seq. defines the County Commissioners' powers of local legislation and authority for enforcement of resolutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that effective upon publication hereof:

SECTION 1 – the Seasonal Sale of fireworks shall be regulated in the unincorporated areas of Barton County, Kansas:

1. Per the Kansas Fireworks Act found in K.S.A. 31-5101, et. seq. the definition of a Seasonal Retailer means a person who receives consumer fireworks and sells, delivers, consigns, gives, or otherwise furnishes consumer fireworks only to the public for their personal use and only during the period of June 27 through July 4 of a calendar year.
2. Fireworks shall be further defined as those devices designed to produce a display of light, noise, and/or smoke by the combustion of explosive or flammable materials.
3. This Resolution shall, in no way, alter, amend, or modify any restriction or ordinance in effect, or hereafter put into effect, in any incorporated city within Barton County, Kansas.
4. It shall be unlawful for any persons or organizations to sell at retail any type of fireworks, without first securing a permit, from the Barton County Environmental Management Division or a designated agent thereof from the Offices of Barton County, Kansas. The permit shall be issued upon proper completion, payment of fees and verification by the Barton County Environmental Management division or his designee, the Fire Chief of the district in which the fireworks stand is physically located, or his designee, that the applicant is in compliance with all laws and Kansas Administrative Regulations, Chapter 22, Article 6, Fireworks.
 - A. Permits issued shall be valid from June 27 through July 4 of the year specifically stated on the permit.
 - B. Any permit issued shall be valid only at the location specifically stated on the permit issued hereunder.

RESOLUTION 2026-20: Fireworks Sale Permits and Rescinding Resolution 2013-18,
Same, adopted August 28, 2013

- C. Payment schedule for fees shall be published at least one time in the official County newspaper before the tenth day of June of each year.

5. The fee for such permit shall be based upon square footage as follows:

SIZE	PRICE
0,000 – 0,300 sq. ft.	\$50.00
0,301 – 1,000 sq. ft.	\$125.00
1,001 – 2,000 sq. ft.	\$225.00
2,001 – 3,000 sq. ft.	\$325.00
3,001 sq. ft. or larger	\$400.00

6. The issued permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place inside the fireworks stand.
7. Fireworks stands shall be removed from sites within three days of closing of the stand for business.
8. Fireworks stands larger than 144 square feet must meet the following setback requirements:

SIZE	LOCATION FROM NEAREST BUILDING
0,144 – 0,300 sq. ft.	25 ft.
0,301 – 1,000 sq. ft.	35 ft.
1,001 sq. ft. or larger	50 ft.

9. The fees paid by fireworks vendors pursuant to this Resolution shall be reimbursed to the participating fire department which has jurisdiction over the area in which the fireworks stand is physically located. A 25% processing fee will be retained by Barton County, and 75% of the monies collected pursuant to the fee schedule will be delivered to the appropriate fire department.
10. Operating a fireworks stand without a permit will be deemed to be a violation of this Resolution. Provisions of K.S.A. 19-4701 et. seq. will apply. The fine for failure to have a permit will be \$250.00 a day for every day that fireworks are sold without having obtained a permit from the Barton County Environmental Management Division for sale of such fireworks.

11. Notification of this Resolution, and the annual fee schedule, shall be published in the official County newspaper before the tenth day of June of each year. Failure of any persons to receive or have knowledge of said notice shall not in any way affect the legality or enforcement of the provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 2 – the sale of fireworks by a Permanent Retailer as defined by the Kansas Fireworks Act found in K.S.A. 31-501, et. seq. shall be regulated in the unincorporated areas of Barton County, Kansas:

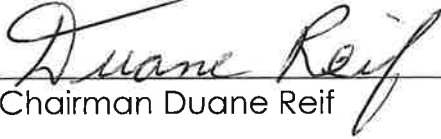
1. Per the Kansas Fireworks Act found in K.S.A. 31-501, et. seq. the definition of a Permanent Retailer means any person engaged in the year-round retail sale of consumer fireworks, including the receipt and possession with intent to sell of consumer fireworks and the retail sale, delivery, consignment, gifting or other distribution at retail of consumer fireworks to any person from a permanent structure at a permanent location within the state.
2. It shall be unlawful for any Permanent Retailer as defined in the Kansas Fireworks Act found in K.S.A. 31-501, et. seq. to operate in the unincorporated areas of Barton County, Kansas unless they have met the specific inspection requirements, licensing requirements, and registration requirements set by the State Fire Marshall's Office of Kansas and may operate only during the period of December 24 through January 1 of a calendar year.
3. The issued permit, license and / or registration as obtained by the State Fire Marshall's Office of Kansas shall be posted in a conspicuous place inside the Permanent Retailer Structure.
4. Operation of a Permanent Retailer for the purpose of selling fireworks without an inspection, license and registration from the State Fire Marshall's Office of Kansas will be deemed to be a violation of this Resolution. Provisions of K.S.A. 31-501, et. seq. will apply. The fine for failure to comply will be regulated by the State Fire Marshall's Office of Kansas.

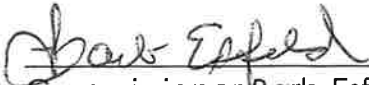
FURTHER, that Resolution 2013-18, Fireworks Sale Permits, dated August 28, 2013, is hereby rescinded.

FURTHER, that this Resolution shall become effective upon publication of this Resolution in the official County newspaper.

ADOPTED this 20th day of October, 2026.

BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman Duane Reif


Commissioner Barb Esfeld

ABSENT
Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger


Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ELECTRONIC APPROVAL
Todd D. Powell,
County Counselor