

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

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September 15, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 15th day of September, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)
Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk
Matt Patzner, County Administrator
Casey Hubbard, Assistant County Administrator

Members absent:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger 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 August 25, 2026, and ending September 8, 2026.

Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to ratify appropriations for the period of August 25, 2026, to September 8, 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. INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR: Julie Gibbs, Director:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Earlier this year, the County started the process of hiring a Public Health Director. Under direction of the County Administrator, the Public Health Director manages the budget, staff and daily operations of the Barton County Health Department. After an extensive search, the County has hired Julie Gibbs. A public introduction will be made at this time.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said it was one of the county's key leadership positions. Patzner said following a thorough recruitment process, they were fortunate enough to find an outstanding candidate in Julie Gibbs.

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She Gibbs said this was her sixth day at Barton County Health Department. She said it was a great staff, very competent and they ran a tight ship. Gibbs said she was fortunate to be a part of it and looked forward to the future.

B. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: Colt Model 1860 Army Percussion Revolver:

-Sheriff Brian Bellendir will provide details. Earlier this year, the Colt Model 1860 Army percussion revolver used by George N. Moses, the first Sheriff of record in Barton County, had been purchased with private funding.

Sheriff Brian Bellendir said he went to New Jersey last weekend to take possession of the revolver. Bellendir said they had excellent provenance on it as to where the gun came from. He said all of the paperwork used for the evaluation of the revolver and the history was given to him as well by the owner. Bellendir said the family was very nice and happy that the revolver would be back at home in Barton County. Bellendir said it would be put on public display in the foyer in the future. The Sheriff said it was known that Moses shot and killed at least two people in the line of duty but it was unknown if this weapon was the one used.

C. SOLID WASTE: Rebuild of Caterpillar D7H Bulldozer:

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. The Barton County Landfill operates a Caterpillar D7H bulldozer to move dirt and debris across various projects. It also functions as a backup for the compactors. In addition to a recent clutch failure, the undercarriage has experienced accelerated wear that requires a rebuild. Foley Equipment has provided a \$129,350.01 estimate for the work. Monies are available in the Solid Waste Fund for this expenditure.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said when the forward clutch failed, it shattered causing damage to the transmission. She said Foley measures for the wear periodically and they have it rebuilt when it reaches a certain point. Hamby said the last rebuild was done in early 2022. When they measured it this spring, they said there was one to one and a half years of life remaining in the undercarriage. Due to the influx of large construction items, they do not think it would last a year. Hamby said the estimate could fluctuate when they begin the work but should be very close to the amount quoted.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted that their funds were fee based and not taxpayer dollars.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the repair of the Caterpillar D7H Bulldozer by Foley Equipment. Cost of repair, set at a not to exceed amount of \$135,000.00, to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Maintenance of Machinery & Equipment, 140-68-5460.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Fiscal Year 2026 Year-End Outcomes:

-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Corrections provides grant funding to local judicial districts to work with high-risk offenders and assist in appropriate interventions to lower recidivism. The Year-End Outcomes Report sets out the results at the fiscal year's close and requires the review and approval of the Barton County Commissioners as the Administrative County for the District.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said this was the time of year to talk about their goals and outcomes. She said the first goal was to address high-risk clients. They developed case plans based on their criminogenic needs and the goal was to complete those within 45 days of assignment. Haulmark said they were able to achieve 64.7%. She said the biggest battle last year was with staffing; they were understaffed by two officers for five counties. Haulmark said to achieve as high as they did was due to the dedication of their staff. Haulmark said 188 new clients were assigned to them last year. Of those, 73

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ould come to probation by sentencing guidelines with the remainder being prison eligible. She said the second goal was the formal training that KDOC purchased for them to use. Their goal was to achieve 11 months last year. Due to staffing issues, they were only able to achieve 6 out of the 11. Haulmark said they would get the new employees caught up and by January, everyone should be able to move forward. Haulmark said the third goal was cognitive skills and skill streaming. They had partnered with KDOC Parole Division for programming. Unfortunately, there were too many staff changes, and the program was never able to reach fruition.

Commissioner Zimmerman told Haulmark they had gotten a lot of work done and had made huge strides considering how short handed the department had been.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they have always been short staffed but do the best they can.

Haulmark asked for approval to submit the data to KDOC.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Year-End Outcomes Report for Central Kansas Community Corrections. Authorize the Commission Chairman to sign the grant forms as needed and direct Ms. Haulmark to submit said forms to the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. JUVENILE SERVICES: Return Unexpended Behavioral Health Funds to the Kansas Department of Corrections:

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. In September, 2023, Juvenile Services received \$50,000.00 for the behavioral health needs for youth and families in the 20th Judicial District. Due to the restrictive nature of this grant, monies remain unspent. The Juvenile Services Department requests approval to return \$46,041.22 in unexpended funds to the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said there were restrictions as to what the funds could be used for such as evaluations or any other therapeutic intervention. The population they served has state Medicaid and therefore they were not eligible to utilize those funds.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to return \$46,041.22 in unexpended funding to the Kansas Department of Corrections. Monies to be paid from the Behavioral Health Fund, Return of Grant Funds Line, 122-88-6710.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. RESOLUTION 2026-17: A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Burn Ban:

-Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, will present details. Persistent dry weather conditions have created a fire hazard situation within Barton County. Local Fire Chiefs have asked that the Commission prohibit open burning in Barton County by declaring a temporary burn ban until conditions improve.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, said once again we are in drought conditions with lack of moisture and high temps. Fire Chiefs reached out to him asking for a temporary burn ban. Kelly said there was rain in the forecast, but it was not widespread, soaking rain that was needed. Kelly said the northwest portion of the county was in moderate drought conditions with the southeast portion in severe conditions.

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Commissioner Zimmerman asked Kelly if he had heard from most of the Fire Chiefs. Kelly said he had and they were all in favor of the ban. Kelly said the temporary burn ban would remain in place until the Board of County Commissioners lifted it.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2026-17, A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Burn Ban.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

G. 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:

There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adjourn at 9:28 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Chris Saenz
Barton County Deputy Clerk



Donna Zimmerman, Chairman Pro-Tem

RESOLUTION 2026-17

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY BURN BAN IN BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS

WHEREAS, the Barton County Board of County Commissioners is authorized by K.S.A. 19-101 (a) to perform all powers of location legislation and administration it deems appropriate, subject to certain limitations; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize the need to establish a burn ban due to extremely dry weather conditions in Barton County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize that weather conditions may cause a reverse of the burn ban.

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

1. There is an imminent threat of fire affecting Barton County, Kansas, at this time.
2. Effective immediately, all outdoor open burning is prohibited in the rural areas of Barton County, Kansas. Agricultural burning for crop and pasture management practices may be exempted from this order only upon issuance of a written permit by the Fire Chief having jurisdiction of the area where the Burning is to take place and in accordance with the provisions of Barton County Resolution 2005-04, Resolution Regarding Opening Burning and Creating a Permitting System for such Burning and Repealing Resolution 2004-05, Same, Adopted January 26, 2004.
3. This Resolution is being adopted pursuant to County home-rule power and K.S.A. 19-101d. Violations of this Resolution by any person shall be punishable as a Class B Misdemeanor with penalties for each separate offense by a term of confinement in the Barton County Detention Facility not to exceed six months and \ or a fine in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Any person who aids, assists or abets another in violating the provisions of this Resolution will be deemed to have committed a violation of the Resolution.

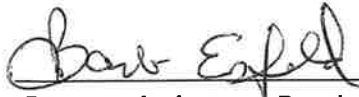
4. The effective date of this Resolution shall be the 15th day of September, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and it will continue in force until such time as suspended by the Board of County Commissioners, Barton County, Kansas.

DECLARED by the Board of Barton County Commissioners, Barton County, Kansas this 15th day of September, 2026.

BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT

Chairman Duane Reif



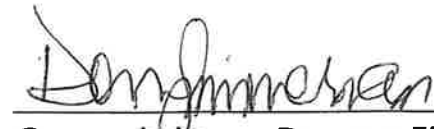
Commissioner Barb Esfeld

ABSENT

Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson



Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger



Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED ELECTRONICALLY

Todd Powell, County Counselor