

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 22, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 22nd day of September, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District

Chris Saenz, Deputy County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Casey Hubbard, Assistant County Administrator

Members absent:

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

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the September 15, 2026, Regular Meeting were not available.

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 September 8, 2026, and ending September 22, 2026.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of September 8, 2026, to September 22, 2026. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2026-12: Dolly Day ~ September 25, 2026 ~ 9 – TWO – 5, Honoring the Career and Philanthropic Endeavors of Miss Dolly Parton:

-Charell Owings, Executive Director, United Way of Central Kansas, will provide details. Dolly Parton died peacefully on August 25, 2026, in Nashville, Tennessee. She was 80 years old. One of her greatest achievements was Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Created as a tribute to her father, Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. It is suggested that the Commission proclaim September 25, 2026 ~ 9 – TWO – 5 ~ as Dolly Day in Barton County. In honor of the legacy created by Parton, all citizens are urged to donate to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, to the United Way of Central Kansas or by simply reading a book to one child on September 25, 2026.

Charell Owings, Executive Director, United Way of Central Kansas, brought some books that are part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to show the commissioners. Owings said Parton started the

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Imagination Library in 1995 as a tribute to her father who was unable to read or write. She said the program started out with an order of about 1,700 books and now over a million books go out every month to children in the United States, the UK, Australia and Canada. Owings said the Dollywood Foundation itself provides the central infrastructure, the enrollment, the book ordering system, selects the titles, negotiates pricing, covers administrative overhead and monthly mailings. In Kansas, there was another important partner. In 2023, the Imagination Library went statewide. The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund funds half of the expenses on a monthly basis allowing them to send out twice as many books as they would otherwise be able to afford. The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that reading with children beginning at birth supported language, cognitive and social emotional development, strengthening relationships with caregivers. Owings said that since the program began, they had mailed out 59,700 books in Barton County to 2,251 local children. Owings said they would be having a community wide celebration on 9-25 celebrating Dolly Day and were asking organizations, businesses and individuals to participate in some way.

Commissioner Esfeld said Diana Watson had some fun things planned for the county to participate.

Owings read the proclamation.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Proclamation 2026-12, Dolly Day ~ September 25, 2026 ~ 9 – TWO – 5, Honoring the Career and Philanthropic Endeavors of Miss Dolly Parton.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: City of Claflin – K4 Fuel and Wash, LLC:

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The City of Claflin approved a \$2,982.64 award for K4 Fuel and Wash LLC, 200 E Front Street, Claflin as part of the Façade Improvement Grant program. The \$3,976.85 project includes a 25% match. If approved by the Commission, the County would be responsible for the full disbursement of funds at the completion of the project. At that time, the City of Claflin would reimburse the County for one-half the cost.

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

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for K4 Fuel and Wash LLC, 200 E Front Street, Claflin, with a project of \$3,976.85 project cost. The \$2,982.64 request includes a 25% match. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the full award from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Façade Improvement Grant line, 001-26-6925. Direct the Commission Chairman to sign the FIG 26 Agreement on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. APPRAISER'S OFFICE: Contracting for an Independent Fee Appraisal for Valuation Appeal:

Mr. Patzner will provide details. Under Kansas law, any taxpayer may protest the final determination of an informal appeal. Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, received an independent fee-simple appraisal following such a valuation appeal. As Ms. Prosser disagrees with the value given that only one of the three traditional valuation methodologies was utilized, the County must perform or commission its own fee-simple appraisal. It is suggested that KellerCraig be hired to perform such work. Monies were included in the Appraiser's account of the General Fund for this purpose.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said the valuation of the property located at 94 SE 30 Rd was appealed during a payment under protest hearing. After viewing the information presented during the hearing, the County upheld the valuation. K.S.A. 79-1496 says any taxpayer aggrieved by the final determination of the County Appraiser may file a third party fee simple appraisal that reflects the value of

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property as of January 1st for the same tax year being appealed. A fee simple appraisal was submitted and reviewed on the parcel under protest. The County believes the submitted fee appraisal was not conclusive due to it only using one of the three traditional valuation methodologies. Accordingly, per K.S.A. 79-1496, the County is required to perform or commission its own fee simple single property appraisal. Patzner said the County reached out to three Kansas licensed commercial fee appraisal companies asking for appraisal bids. Two of them declined due to time constraints and the scope of the project. KellerCraig was the only bid received for \$6,000.00.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to hire KellerCraig to conduct an independent fee-simple appraisal for an appealed valuation. The cost of service, \$6,000.00, is to be paid from Appraiser's Office account, General Fund, Professional Services Line, 001-14-5475.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. COMMISSION REPORT: Kansas Legislative Policy Group Annual Meeting:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will report. Commissioner Esfeld attended the Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) 2026 Annual Meeting in Dodge City, Kansas, on September 17 and 18, 2026. She will present a summary of information provided during the meeting.

Commissioner Barb Esfeld presented details and information from the meetings she attended.

No Executive Session Held

F. 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 Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:48 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Duane Reif, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2026-12

Dolly Day ~ September 25, 2026 ~ 9 – TWO – 5
Honoring the Career and Philanthropic Endeavors
of Miss Dolly Parton

WHEREAS, global icon and humanitarian, Dolly Parton, known to the world as a beloved singer, songwriter, philanthropist, actress, playwright and author died peacefully on August 25, 2026, in Nashville, Tennessee. She was 80 years old; and

WHEREAS, born January 19, 1946, Dolly, the fourth of seven children, was raised in a one-room cabin with no electricity or running water in East Tennessee. With a seven-decade career, she inspired multiple generations of artists and fans with her music and an unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. Her songs resonate with people of all ages and her philanthropic endeavors will have a lasting impact; and

WHEREAS, one of her greatest achievements was Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Created as a tribute to her father, Dolly believed his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month; and

WHEREAS, what started as a local program in 1995, has now expanded across the United States and in to Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and the Republic of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Dolly's legacy shows up in mailboxes across Barton and Pawnee Counties as 867 local children currently receive an Imagination Library book each month. For children from birth to age five, these free books are made possible through local support from the United Way of Central Kansas, along with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that September 25, 2026 ~ 9 – TWO – 5 ~ is Dolly Day in Barton County in honor of Miss Dolly Parton; and

FURTHER, that all citizens of Barton County, in honor of the legacy created by Parton, are urged to donate \$9.25 to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/>, to donate \$30.00 or more to the United Way of Central Kansas at <https://www.uwck.org/Donate> or by simply reading a book to one child on September 25, 2026; and

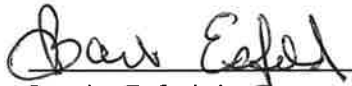
FURTHER, that everyone is urged to read to the children in their lives as the seeds of dreams are often found in books and the seeds planted in each community can grow across the world.

Adopted this 25th day of September, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Duane Reif, Chairman



Barb Esfeld, Commissioner



Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner



Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner

ABSENT

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Bev Schmiedler
County Clerk

