

# 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)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams** at the following link: <https://bit.ly/2XVMOR6>

March 29, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 29th day of March 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)  
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Roll Call taken by County Clerk.

Commissioner Krier said he would like to add an item F to the agenda and talk about the plaque  
Commissioner Hutchinson is presenting.  
Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of the March 22nd Regular Meeting.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of March 15, 2021 and ending March 29, 2021.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of March 15, 2021, to March 29, 2021. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## III. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

## IV. NEW BUSINESS:

### A. DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY: COVID-19:

-The Commission ratified a Declaration of a State of Local Public Health Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 event at a Special Meeting held March 20, 2020. That Declaration has since been extended to March 31, 2021. At this time, the Commission will be asked to extend the declaration until May 28, 2021, unless terminated earlier. The extension of the disaster declaration allows for the County to receive state and federal aid.

Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, said the current declaration ends on March 31st and asked the Commission to extend the declaration to May 28, 2021 which will coincide with the state declaration according to SB 40. Miller said this would allow the county to receive supplies and resources.

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Commissioner Krier asked if the money was specific for COVID relief. Miller said this is not for money but supplies and resources for disaster relief. Any expenses incurred can be used to apply to FEMA for reimbursement. Miller said it is for the response to a pandemic. Krier said he read where FEMA may possibly pay for COVID related deaths. Miller said yes, which is another reason why we would need a declaration in place.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the Declaration of a State of Local Public Health Emergency for Barton County, Kansas, as a result of COVID-19.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. PROCLAMATION 2021-04: Sexual Assault Awareness Month:**

-April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. The Family Crisis Center provides services for sexual assault survivors at no charge and offers educational and professional training for community members and professionals.

Joanne Wondra, Family Crisis Center Executive Director, read their Vision Statement for the Crisis Center and the Mission Statement for the Domestic and Sexual Violence Center. Wondra reported that they housed 33 women, 1 man and 20 children in shelter for 1,046 bed nights this past year and answered 1,678 crisis calls. They helped 265 domestic violence victims (208 women, 10 men and 47 children). They helped 54 sexual assault victims (38 women, 4 men and 12 children), 2 human trafficking victims and 27 stalking victims. Wondra read the proclamation.

Commissioner Daily asked when the Crisis Center gets involved with a victim, do they get called when law enforcement gets called. Wondra said the hospital generally calls them.

Commissioner Schartz asked how those numbers compared to last year. Wondra said the numbers are down slightly. During the shut-down their numbers were down about 20% on the domestic violence/sexual assault side, but once things opened back up the numbers spiked.

Commissioner Krier said he had the pleasure working with former Commissioner Linsner who ran the Family Crisis Center a few years back.

Wondra said that April 6<sup>th</sup> was Sexual Assault Awareness Day and encouraged everyone to wear a teal-colored shirt in honor of the day. Photos can be sent to them and they will post them on Facebook in support.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Proclamation 2021-04, Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. PROCLAMATION 2021-05: Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month:**

-The Family Crisis Center has requested that a Proclamation be adopted declaring April, 2021, as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. The Proclamation states that child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure families have the support needed to raise children in a healthy environment and that there are dedicated individuals and organizations in Barton County working to counter these problems.

Kasey Dalke, Family Crisis Center Child Advocacy Center Program Director, introduced the prevention committee members present:

Jamie Fager

Vickie Richardson

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Connie Cale  
Marissa Woodmansee  
Julie Kramp  
Caitlyn Eakin

Dalke said pinwheels will be placed around town for child abuse prevention awareness. Kansas Children's Service League worked with the Oxford House and painted pinwheels for awareness on business windows. Encouraging everyone to wear blue on April 1st in support of child abuse prevention month.

Dalke read their mission statement and said their numbers increased during COVID are up by about 45 cases. Dalke reported they served 197 children that were abused sexually, physically, emotionally, mentally, were witness to violence, drug endangered and human or sex trafficking. The primary percentage of referrals come from child sexual abuse. They served 100 non-offending caregivers, conducted 195 forensic interviews, and provided advocacy for 6 sexual assaults exams for children. They hosted 72 multi-disciplinary team meetings working with their partners each month in all the counties that they serve. There were 9 educational presentations, that number being down due to COVID. Primary number of referrals come from child sexual abuse.

Commissioner Daily asked how many counties are served. Dalke said 6 counties (Barton, Rice, Stafford, Pawnee, Ellsworth and Pratt).

Dalke read the proclamation.

Commissioner Esfeld asked if they are in the same building as the Family Crisis Center. Dalke said yes.

Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Proclamation 2021-05, Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. WOODRIVER ENERGY BILLING: Arctic Weather Cost:**

-Barton County is in receipt of a WoodRiver Energy Billing for February, 2021. Following the arctic blast, County's portion of the billing was \$21,267.10, which is significantly higher than last month's billing. It is suggested that the County's portion be paid from Capital Improvement. This bill covers the Courthouse, Sheriff's Office, Detention Facility, and the Health Department.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said natural gas prices spiked during the cold weather in February. The January billing statement was \$1,381.36 and the February statement was \$23,620.93. Hathcock asked to pay this statement from reserve funds but noted it could be paid from our General Fund if necessary.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if this was coming from our reserve funds. Hathcock said yes, from the Capital Improvement Fund. Hutchinson noted this a good reason to have savings.

Commissioner Krier moved to pay the County's portion of the WoodRiver Energy Billing for February, 2021, in the amount of \$21,267.10 from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **E. BARTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD: Use of the Expo III Building for COVID Vaccinations:**

-The Barton County Fair Board has graciously allowed the County to use the Expo III building for COVID vaccinations. The site is large enough to allow vehicles to be staged and to allow nursing and support staff to provide vaccinations with some relief from the weather. The Commission will consider allocating the Fair Board \$5,000.00 for use of Expo III.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said they held a total of 12 vaccination clinics at Expo III and reported 4,839 Prime doses and 3,107 boost doses for a total of 24.8% of the county vaccinated.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the 24.8% included 0-16 years. Hathcock said he removed that population.

Hathcock said the Fair Board rents the space at \$400 per day and said they have not asked for payment. COVID relief funds can be used since it was for vaccination clinics.

Commissioner Daily said it was generous of the Fair Board to allow the county to use it and also include the utilities.

Commissioner Krier said they also heated the bathrooms. Hathcock said they are moving to Brit Spaugh Park since the Expo is booked for the Farm & Ranch Show.

Commissioner Schartz asked if this would be the only payment or if we planned to move back out to the Expo. Hathcock said he would hate to guess, but stated the site worked well for them.

Charles Atkinson, President of the Fair Board, said they appreciate the payment and said it was expected. Atkinson said they are heading into the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fair and combining with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. The building will be turned over to the Farm & Ranch Show on Wednesday. Atkinson said they received a number of letters thanking them for allowing the use of the building for vaccinations.

Commissioner Schartz moved to remit \$5,000.00 to the Barton County Fair Board for the use of the Expo III building. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Other Contractual Services Line, 001-18-5465.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **ADDED ITEM F. PLAQUE PRESENTATION:**

Commissioner Krier said he does not ever remember a meeting with the City of Great Bend.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the point of the plaque is just a symbol of a new beginning. The relations between the city and the county are going to improve if he has anything to do with it. Hutchinson said the engraved plaque is to commemorate the joint meeting of the city and county.

Commissioner Krier said he believes the county has also discussed having joint meetings with the other cities in the county.

Commissioner Esfeld added she is excited about this meeting as well. This can only improve the services and quite possibly lower taxes.

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Commissioner Esfeld moved that we all agree and would like to see the county reimburse Commissioner Hutchinson for his expenses.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

## VII. ADJOURN.

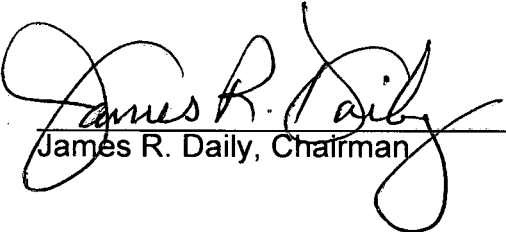
Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:35 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James R. Daily, Chairman

**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
For Barton County, Kansas**

**WHEREAS**, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021, the Board of Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas declared there continues to be a State of Local Public Health Emergency within Barton County, Kansas as a result of the occurring public health emergency and Pandemic known as COVID-19, which presents an imminent threat in Barton County, Kansas;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has all right and/or powers to perform such functions as are vested in said Board by and through the provision of the Kansas Emergency Act of 1975 and amendments thereto;

**WHEREAS**, such conditions endanger the public health, safety, and welfare of persons within the border of Barton County, Kansas.

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

1. That a State of Local Public Health Emergency within Barton County, Kansas, declared on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2020, and was subsequently extended until March 31, 2021.
2. That the State of Local Public Health Emergency within Barton County, Kansas, is hereby renewed and extended, and will remain in effect indefinitely during the County's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the continuing impacts thereof, unless terminated earlier or renewed by consent of the board of county commissioners, or as otherwise provided by law or executive order.
3. That the area within the borders of Barton County, Kansas covered by this declaration of local disaster emergency encompasses the entire area of Barton County, Kansas.
4. This declaration of a local public health emergency shall activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all local and inter-jurisdictional emergency plans which are applicable to Barton County, Kansas and shall initiate the rendering of aid and assistance there under.
5. The Board of County Commissioners has all rights and/or powers to perform such functions as are vested in said Board by and through the provision of the Kansas Emergency Management Act. Any rights or powers lawfully exercised, or any actions taken pursuant to local disaster emergency plans shall continue and have full force and effect as authorized by law unless modified or terminated in the manner prescribed by law.
6. This declaration of a local public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Barton County Clerk
7. That a state of local public health emergency continues to exist and shall remain in effect until May 28, 2021, unless terminated earlier by this issuing authority.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Barton County Commission this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
James R. Daily, Chairman


  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner

  
Kirby Krier, Commissioner

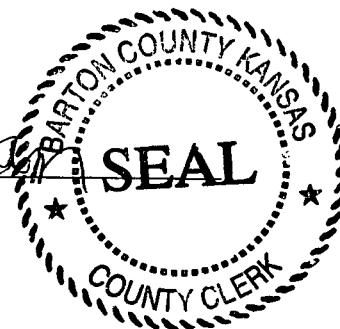
  
Jennifer Scharz, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Donna Zimmerman  
County Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Patrick Hoffman  
County Counselor



**PROCLAMATION 2021-04**

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence is a widespread, preventable, public health problem in Kansas; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence is any sexual act inflicted onto someone else against that person's will or when that person is not able to consent or refuse the act and includes sexual assault, rape, unwanted touching, threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, and verbal sexual harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Family Crisis Center, Inc in Barton County served 348 victims in 2020 and 54 victims in 2020 who identified sexual assault as their primary victimization; and


**WHEREAS**, the statistics do not represent the true incidence and prevalence of sexual violence for multiple reasons, including not all victims report the crime to law enforcement; and that sexual violence is often a tactic of domestic violence, so sexual violence may not be reported as the primary form of abuse and victimization by law enforcement although the victim has experienced sexual violence along with another kind of primary abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the Family Crisis Center, Inc. is Barton County's local victim's advocacy and services program for people in our community who have had sexual and/or domestic violence inflicted upon them.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the month of April 2021, shall be known as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month".

**ADOPTED** this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
James R. Daily, Chairman


  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner

  
Kirby Krier, Commissioner

  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Donna Zimmermann  
County Clerk



**PROCLAMATION 2021-05**

**CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem that requires all citizens to be involved;  
and

**WHEREAS**, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations without community resources and don't know how to cope; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect can be reduced by making sure families have the support needed to raise children in a healthy environment; and

**WHEREAS**, in Barton County, Kansas, there are dedicated individuals and organizations that work daily to counter the problem of child abuse and neglect and help parents obtain assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve freedom from verbal abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and physical abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve to have warm homes, loving hugs, tender care, parents and adults who listen and promote self-esteem, give quality time and provide necessary food shelter, clothing and attention; and

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community; and

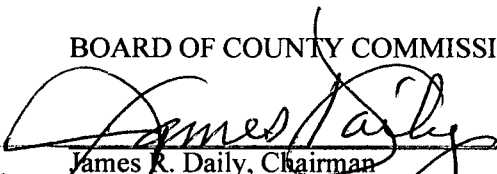
**WHEREAS**, through partnerships and collaborations, the Family Crisis Center, Kansas Children Service League, Central Kansas Court Appointed Special Advocates, Department for Children and Families, St. Francis Ministries, Child Abuse Prevention and Education, University of Kansas Health Systems – Great Bend Campus SANE program, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Juvenile Services and law enforcement officers work daily to address child abuse and neglect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the month of April, 2021, is declared as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month; and

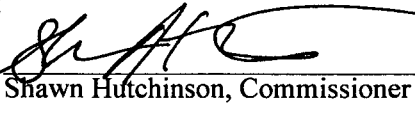
**FURTHER**, that all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities and businesses are called upon to increase participation in efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community.

**Dated** this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
James R. Daily, Chairman

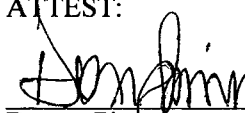
  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner

  
Kirby Krier, Commissioner

  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Donna Zimmerman  
County Clerk

