

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/3Uzh5Qz>

January 9, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 9th day of January 2023, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman
Jon Prescott, Commissioner, 4th District
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Prescott seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2022 and the January 4, 2023, Regular Meetings.
Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

III. RECESS FOR SWEARING IN OF OFFICIALS:

-The following officials will be sworn in: Duane Reif, Tricia Schlessiger and Donna Zimmerman, Commissioners, and Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk. The ceremony will be held at 9:15 a.m. in Courtroom A. Following the ceremony, the County will host a reception in the Courthouse rotunda.

Commissioner Hutchinson said before recessing for the swearing in, they would hear from the outgoing commissioners.

Commissioner Prescott said it was truly a privilege to serve the residents of the county. He was born and raised in Great Bend and said it was amazing how many moving parts and pieces there were. He did not have the knowledge or appreciation for what it took to run the county. Having the opportunity to serve had given him the knowledge and appreciation for what everybody does in the county.

Commissioner Krier thanked everyone and said he had enjoyed his time on the commission. He had asked Matt Patzner for some numbers and said that these commissioners were leaving with \$11,544,300.34 in reserves. Two years ago, there was approximately \$5.5 million in reserves. Hopefully this would keep the mill levy down and taxes down. Commissioner Krier said Matt Patzner had stepped into a difficult job, he was doing a great job and he had enjoyed working with him. He said Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, had also done a great job and turned the Treasurer's Office around.

Commissioner Schartz thanked her constituents for the opportunity to serve. Commissioner Schartz said she had always seen herself as a public servant and not a politician. She ran opposed only twice in her years on the commission which was the longest service for a Barton County Commissioner and equivalent to approximately 900 meetings. She shared some accomplishments that happened during her

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As a commissioner such as paving the compost road, the redesigning of the Boyd Blacktop curves and the railroad crossing, NE 30 Rd and Washington intersection, Veteran's Memorial, Scenic Byway, new county software, health insurance and county wide zoning. The new commissioners will work on the HVAC system. She said she had made a lot of friends over the years and said she lost two good friends, Don Cates and Kenny Schremmer.

Commissioner Hutchinson said prior to becoming a public servant, he thought he had a pretty good idea of what it meant. He was a father, husband, soldier and businessman. He was finding out that there was a huge difference between thinking he had lived it and actually living it. He had a lot of appreciation for the lessons learned from the people leaving today. He said Jon Prescott was selected to fulfill the term vacated by Jim Daily, a huge legacy. Jon brought to the commission a kindness and ability to bring everyone together with a we can do this as a team attitude.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that Commissioner Kirby Krier held two records: served as County Commissioner in the most nonconsecutive terms, 1999-2005, 2008-2011 and 2020-2023 and served in the most districts, the 3rd, the 4th and the 1st without moving. He lead with humor, was innovative and never afraid to speak his mind. He said he had learned from Krier that our good works were timeless and that we can catch the ripples of our past actions and create new momentum as well as that our time was short but our legacy was long.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Commissioner Schartz first took office in 2005 and had served 18 years. She had seen her family grow with the births of grandchildren, lost her son and faced her husband's health issues. She has carried on through triumph and tragedy, figured out how to navigate her public service while dealing with life. She had not made it seem easy but showed everyone that there was a path to professionalism and stewardship that comes with true commitment.

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked all of the outgoing commissioners for their work and dedication and said they had done their part in making Barton County boom again.

Commissioner Esfeld moved that we recess the agenda meeting for the Swearing In of Barton County Officials. This meeting will resume at 9:45 a.m. in this room.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. RETURN:

Commissioner Esfeld moved to resume the agenda meeting at 9:49 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. Nominations are in order for the 2023

Commission Chairman as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219. The Board of County Commissioners

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Consists of Commissioners Barb Esfeld, Shawn Hutchinson, Duane Reif, Tricia Schlessiger and Donna Zimmerman.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, presented details and asked for appointment of a chairman.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Shawn Hutchinson as the Chairman for the Barton County Commission for 2023.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld said her reason for nominating Commissioner Hutchinson as Chairman again was because they are working on the HVAC system improvements, and he had been working closely with the architects and Matt Patzner.

B. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN PRO TEM OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Nominations are in order for the 2023 Commission Chairman Pro Tem as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said per statute a commissioner needed to be named Chairman Pro Tem.

Commissioner Reif moved to appoint Barb Esfeld as Chairman Pro Tem of the Barton County Commission for 2023.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS: Recognition of Out-Going County Commissioners:

Commissioner Barb Esfeld and Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson will present details. It is appropriate that the out-going Commissioners be recognized for their dedication to public service. Included in that recognition will be Commissioner Kirby Krier, Commissioner Jon Prescott and Commissioner Jennifer Schartz.

Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson and Commissioner Barb Esfeld presented Jon Prescott and Jennifer Schartz with clocks in appreciation of their service. Kirby Krier had already left.

Barb Esfeld, County Commissioner, said Jennifer Schartz was one of the commissioners who hired her as County Appraiser.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to recognize Jennifer Schartz and Jon Prescott as outgoing commissioners and a job well done.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld said she wanted to recognize Kirby Krier as well.

D. RESOLUTION 2023-03: Requesting a Waiver Under K.S.A. 75-1120a:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. It is standard procedure to request a waiver of the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a relating to the preparation of financial statements and financial reports each year. The basis is that statements prepared in conformity with this statute are of no significant value to Barton County nor to the general public.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said in order to waive the requirement of a GAP audit, the governing body must take action and it must be approved by the Director of Accounts & Reports in Topeka. Patzner asked for consideration of adoption of the resolution.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 2023-03, Requesting a Waiver under KSA 75-1120a.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. RESOLUTION 2023-04: Designation of the Official County Newspaper:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Resolution 2023-04 calls for the designation of the official County newspaper. The newspaper selected must meet the qualifications as prescribed by K.S.A. 64-101. To meet this statute, and to best reach the citizens of Barton County, the Commission shall consider the designation of The Tribune.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, presented details.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Dale Hogg was very accurate with his reporting. It is unbiased, to the point and accurate. Hogg captures the spirit of the meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Resolution 2023-04, Designation of the Official County Newspaper.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. RESOLUTION: A Resolution Establishing Procedures for Certain Economic and Community Development Expenditures:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Commissioner Kirby Krier first introduced this Resolution. As proposed, certain expenditures, as approved by the Commission, shall be deemed to be economic and / or community development in nature. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to determine a schedule for the release of said support funding for these expenditures. It is believed that this will allow the Treasurer to better manage investments.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said he would turn that over to the commission for discussion and take any action they see pertinent.

Commissioner Esfeld said she would like for no action to be taken at this time to allow the new commissioners to discuss it and ask any questions they may have of the treasurer. Have a study session next week regarding the matter.

G. RESOLUTION: A Resolution Establishing a Salary Policy for Elected Officials:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Commissioner Krier first presented this Resolution. As proposed, it establishes a policy for determining the salary and / or benefits for individual Commissioners as well as the County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Attorney and Sheriff.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, presented details.

Commissioner Esfeld said she would also like to have this item in a study session to allow discussion with all of the elected officials including the new commissioners.

Brian Bellendir, County Sheriff, said we had a spirited discussion last week. He asked that the commissioner vote this resolution down. In his opinion, the commission could be in violation of a Kansas Supreme Court decision. He did not want it to be in limbo and asked that it be voted down.

Commissioner Esfeld asked what other elected officials present felt about it. Jim Jordan, County Treasurer and Pam Wornkey, Register of Deeds, both said they were in support of the Sheriff.

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lendar said he would like the commissioners to vote on the resolution and kill it forever. He felt there would be unforeseen legal consequences if adopted.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Resolution Establishing a Salary Policy for Elected Officials not be passed.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

H. NORTH HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP: Board Appointment:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will provide details. Angi Beck has resigned from the position of North Homestead Township Treasurer. The remaining North Homestead Township board members have nominated Richard Lacey to fulfill the term of Township Treasurer. It is the Commissioners' responsibility to make the appointment per KSA 25-1606.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, said Angi Beck had moved out of the township and resigned her position as treasurer. Richard Lacey had been the Clerk and his term just ended. He agreed to fulfill Beck's term and asked that he be appointed.

Commissioner Reif said he had known Lacey for a number of years and know he would do a good job.

Commissioner Reif moved to appoint Richard Lacey as the North Homestead Township Treasurer, effective January 9, 2023, with the position terming on January 13, 2025.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ENDING BUSINESS:

Announcements

2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

VIII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 10:07 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler

Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Notes provided by Director of Operations, County Clerk was not present.

Barb makes motion to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel until 11:20. With everyone in the room present.

Tricia seconds

All in favor aye from all.

Donna makes motion to come out of executive session with no action taken.

seconds

All in favor aye from all.