

# Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon 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)

Requests to be made pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act and County Policy. Estimated cost of disk – Five Dollars (\$5.00).

January 23, 2012

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2012, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd Dist, Chairman

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District

John Edmonds, Commissioner, 3rd District

Don Cates, Commissioner, 4th District (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk

Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Edmonds seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

The minutes of the January 17, 2012 Regular Meeting were not available.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval for Orders of Abatement and Refund of 2011 Taxes:**

-Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, will present Orders of Abatement and Refund for 2011 taxes. Orders for these abatements \ refunds are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. Reasons for the abatements \ refunds are to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, presented details and noted all of the abatements and refunds had been ordered by the County Appraiser.

<i>BATCH 4</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>ASSESSED VALUE</i>
Abatements #58 - #67	\$2,510.46	15,476
Refunds # 6 - #10	\$1,439.01	9,718

Commissioner Edmonds moved *(to approve the Abatements and Refunds)*.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

### **B. 2012 TAX SALE: Barton County Abstract:**

-As there are no other abstract companies in Barton County, Richard Boeckman, County Counselor \ Administrator, took the liberty of contacting Barton County Abstract reference abstracting services for the 2012 Tax Sale. Barton County Abstract is willing to provide the needed services at \$65.00 per parcel.

Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator reported Barton County Abstract's priced the work at \$65 per parcel and noted the price had remained the same for three years.

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Pam Curtis, Barton County Abstract, said they had a good working relationship with Mr. Boeckman and County Treasurer, Kevin Wondra and asked for the Commissioners approval.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve a \$65.00 per parcel price for abstracting work provided by Barton County Abstract for the 2012 Tax Sale.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. HISTORIC BRIDGES: Proposed Demolition of Bridge #7, Hitschmann Double Arch Bridge:**

-The County is considering the repair of eight historic Works Project Administration (WPA) bridges. The bridges, clustered in the Claflin area, require the repair of damaged stones, replacing failed or missing stones, resetting displaced stones and removing and replacing grout. The estimated cost to the double arch bridge, commonly known as the Hitschmann Double Arch Bridge, is in excess of \$90,000. Given the cost, it is suggested that the bridge be replaced with a cast in place reinforced concrete box. As the bridges are on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Historic Preservation Officer must be given the opportunity to comment any action that would, generally, alter or destroy the structure. This item serves as notice to both the Kansas Historical Society and the public of the proposed action to demolish the bridge.

Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator explained in order to be compliant with the State Preservation Statute (KSA 75-2724) it isn't necessary to have a public hearing, but the public needs to have an opportunity to speak to the issue of demolishing the historic Hitschmann Double Arch Bridge. Boeckman asked the news media to help announce it so people attend the agenda meeting next Monday when the Commissioners would take formal action. Boeckman said we weren't awarded grant funding for bridge repairs from the State as requested. The Hitschmann Double Arch Bridge is used by heavy vehicles. The cost to repair was approximately the same as to demolish and build a new concrete bridge. The new concrete bridge would have a longer life than a repaired limestone bridge.

Boeckman noted the law requires the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to be given the opportunity to comment on proposed projects affecting historic properties or districts and this bridge would certainly apply. The Kansas statute provides that the project cannot proceed until the local governing body has determined there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the proposal and that the project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the historic property and it environs. The local governing body is required to give five days' notice of such determination, by certified mail, to the State Historic Preservation Officer. Next Monday the Commissioners will decide if there is no feasible alternative to the destruction of limestone bridge and the building of a new concrete bridge.

Clark Rusco, County Engineer, estimated the replacement bridge cost at \$60,000 and the demolition of the old bridge to cost \$10,000.

Commissioner Edmonds commented the bridge was currently posted at three tons and asked it that was safe? Rusco said as long as everything stayed in compression it was OK, but if top stone would fall in, there could be major problems.

Edmonds asked, due to heavy traffic using the bridge, what was the County's liability? Boeckman said if the bridge had a posted limit, it would not be our liability.

Rusco said a new concrete bridge would pass all the State legal loads and there would be no need for postings. Rusco discussed a time line for new bridge construction: bridge design, water resources, solicit bids, permits and time for the State Historical Society to respond.

Information Only. No Action Required.

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## **D. MATCHING FUND REQUEST: SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging:**

-The SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SWKAAA) is requesting matching funds from Barton County in the amount of \$1,500.00. These funds, which would be used as "Seed Dollars", are an equivalent match to the \$423,036.00 in services received by older residents and low income families from Barton County. The County has traditionally provided this match from the Finance General Account of the General Fund.

Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Edmonds moved to authorize an expenditure of \$1400.00 for 2012 financial support for the Southwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging. Payment to be made from the Finance General Account of the General Fund, SWKAAA line – 10-24-5030. Edmonds said, I would note parenthetically, that is the amount budgeted.

Commissioner Cates seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **E. COUNTY SERVICES: Informational Update:**

-Mr. Boeckman will provide the informational report of work completed during the last period. The report, which will be made available to the media, will serve as a public reminder of the services provided by the County on a regular basis.

Information Only. No Action Required.

## **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Comm Cates: Supreme Court Justice Nuss mentioned, in his State of the Judiciary Address, the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission and acknowledged Richard Boeckman's work on that commission.

## **VI. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Schartz made a motion to adjourn at 9:41 A.M.

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

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

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Homer Kruckenberg, Chairman