

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

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

May 31, 2011

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 31st day of May 2011, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District (Chairman Pro-Tem)
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District
John Edmonds, Commissioner, 3rd District
Don Cates, Commissioner, 4th District,
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk
Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator

Members absent:

Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District, Chairman

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Edmonds moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Edmonds moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2011 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator, announced Commissioner Schartz was attending the Governor's KDOT announcement to city/county officials in Hutchinson this morning and noted Clark Rusco and Dale Phillips are also attending.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DISASTER PROCLAMATION: State of Local Disaster Emergency:

-On Tuesday, May 24, 2011, Barton County was involved in a significant weather event. As predicted earlier that day, the County experienced high winds, heavy rain, flooding and hail. In order to protect citizens, Chairman Jennifer Schartz signed a Disaster Proclamation covering a seven day period starting on the 24th. At this time, the Commission will be asked to ratify that action.

Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator, and Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, provided the details. Boeckman said a disaster proclamation was faxed to Topeka at 9:00 p.m. Tuesday evening, May 24, 2011 and said the Commissioners are now asked to ratify that action.

Commissioner Edmonds moved to ratify the Unnumbered Disaster Proclamation enacted by Chairman Jennifer Schartz following the significant weather event of May 24, 2011.

Commissioner Cates seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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B. WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY: Letters of Support:

-The American Recreation Coalition and the American Automobile Association (AAA) are taking the lead among national groups to inform and educate legislators about the importance of the National Scenic Byway Program. Byways have connected with communities and organizations in new and positive ways with initiatives that have a positive impact on economic development and tourism throughout America. To aid in that effort, the Commission will be asked to join in sending Letters of Support to the national legislature.

Janet Crane, Financial Officer and Byway Liaison, reported the National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP) was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, celebrating the natural, recreational, cultural and scenic highlights of the nation. 150 National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads have been designated by the Secretary of Transportation in 46 states. Scenic byway grants have funded more than 2,800 projects in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Last year, communities in 43 states received almost \$41 million to fund 160 scenic byways projects. From 1992 through 2010, the State of Kansas received over 4 million dollars in federal national scenic byway grants. Since 2006 Barton County has received approximately \$274,000 in federal funding for the Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway from three grants.

Commissioner Kruckenberg moved to approve remitting Letters of Support to National Legislators for the National Scenic Byway Program.

Commissioner Cates seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval for Orders of Abatement and Refund of 2010

Taxes:

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, will present Orders of Abatement and Refund for 2010 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, Barton County Clerk, presented the orders.

| <i>BATCH 13</i> | <i>AMOUNT</i> | <i>ASSESSED VALUE</i> |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Abatements #95 - #95 | \$ 28.22 | 177 |
| Refunds #46 - #48 | \$ 591.22 | 3,923 |

Commissioner Edmonds moved to approve the Orders of Abatement and Refunds of 2010 Taxes as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Cates seconded the motion.

All voted aye.

D. COUNTY OFFICES: Commercial Software Analysis:

-The Barton County Commission recently directed the Administrator to research options related to commercial software programming. At this time, Richard Boeckman, County Counselor \ Administrator, will detail that work.

The Commissioners requested Richard Boeckman to do a study on Commercial software that would handle payroll, accounts payable and other functions in the Clerk's, Treasurer's and Appraiser's Offices. Boeckman reported that in 2006 the County hired Troy Harding, consultant from Kansas State. Harding provided a six page report indicating we would be better served by commercial software. The County did not purchase software in 2006, because of issues in the development of the Orion and VIPS systems. At

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that time, the Commissioners were concerned about buying the wrong system and spending a great deal of money on a product that wasn't going to work with what the State was bringing on board.

Boeckman formed a software committee comprised of the Clerk, Treasurer, Appraiser, IT Director, Financial Officer and himself. They found three primary vendors: KomTek, CIC and Manatron. The committee visited McPherson County which uses KomTek, Pratt County which uses CIC and Pawnee County which uses Manatron. The committee decided to invite all three vendors to Barton County for presentations.

Commissioner Edmonds inquired about the cost of software? Boeckman said Manatron gave us preliminary figures four years ago in the \$400,000 range but that also included about \$135,000 in equipment. Boeckman said he asked vendors not to give us cost estimates right now because the better way to do it was to look at the material and then if we see something we like, we can start pricing it. Boeckman said he guessed it would be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Edmonds said we're talking at least six figures of some sort, perhaps as much as a half million dollars? Boeckman said yes to the first part, and to the second part he honestly didn't know. Edmonds asked if we'd be moving away from the AS400 System? Boeckman responded there were different options. KomTek has a cloud based system, CIC has a server based system and Manatron has an AS400 System and server based system, but will only demonstrate the server based system. Edmonds asked if there were major flaws in the current system that we're trying to cure? Boeckman said Harding's report indicated that our system was functional and had been working relatively well for a long time, but if we'd lose a key employee we'd have no one to manage the system. Edmonds asked if we had a software problem or do we have a personnel succession problem which might be solved less expensively? Boeckman said a little bit of both. Finding people who are competent to do this kind of work is hard to do and those people don't exist any longer. Edmonds said when we're talking about a half million dollar expenditure, it's best to ask the questions before we sign rather than afterwards. Boeckman agreed.

Information Only. No Action Required.

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:

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Edmonds made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 A.M.

Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk


Kenny Schremmer, Chairman Pro-Tem