

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).

June 13, 2016

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 13th day of June 2016, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District (Chairman Pro-Tem)
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District
Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman
Alicia Straub, Commissioner, 4th District
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk

Members absent:

Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Straub moved to add an item of business concerning the possibility, or lack thereof, of hiring an HR position in the County.

Commissioner Davis said there had not been a discussion session yet and it should not be brought up right now.

Commissioner Straub said in last week's newsletter, there was discussion amongst a couple of commissioners and the administrator concerning an HR position and she felt it should be discussed in an open meeting.

Commissioner Davis said there had not been a decision made and in the absence of the administrator he did not know the proper procedure. Commissioner Davis asked the County Clerk how to handle the situation. Zimmerman said an item may be added for discussion or it could be discussed in study session. Commissioner Davis said he would prefer having the matter discussed in study session.

Commissioner Straub said her understanding from the newsletter was that a decision had been made by a couple of commissioners and the administrator without a study session and that a particular person was scheduled to be interviewed. Commissioner Straub said she was not aware it had been decided to hire someone for that position and said she did not feel there was a need for an HR position. Commissioner Davis said Commissioner Straub was entitled to her opinion. Commissioner Straub said that is why she would like to have an open discussion and suggested the discussion should be Item E.

Commissioner Straub moved to add Item E to the agenda then.
Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.
Commissioner Straub and Commissioner Schremmer voted aye.
Commissioner Davis voted nay.
Commissioner Kruckenberg abstained.
Motion passed 2 – 1.

Commissioner Schremmer said he would like to see where things stand with the budget prior to a decision being made regarding an HR position.

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Commissioner Davis said a motion was needed for approval of the agenda.

Commissioner Straub so moved as amended.
 Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.
(No vote taken)

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2016 Regular Meeting as read.
 Commissioner Straub 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 May 31, 2016, and ending June 13, 2016.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve the appropriations for the period of May 31, 2016, to June 13, 2016 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
 Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.
 All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded

Taxes:

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes. Orders for these actions are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. These are used to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, presented the following tax roll adjustments:

BATCH #12				
Property Types	Values	Escaped Taxes	Added / Abated	Refunds
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	-8,431		-\$1,492.98	\$1,594.72
Real Estate	-1,528		-\$ 275.72	\$ 275.72
16/20 M Trucks	- 175		-\$ 24.00	
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	-10,134		-\$1,792.70	\$1,870.44
Total Taxes	-\$1,792.70			
Total Records Selected	7			

Commissioner Straub moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk, Donna Zimmerman, and direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
 Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.
 All voted aye. Motion passed.

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SCAMMED FUNDS: Expense / Return of Funds:

-Unfortunately the County was scammed out of \$48,600 after being asked to wire monies across State lines on Friday, May 13, 2016. Within a week, the County had been notified that \$34,360.70 had been collected and would be returned. At this time, it is suggested that the Commission determine account coding for both the expenditure and receipt of funds.

Kevin Wondra, County Treasurer, asked for approval to book the \$48,600 that was wired to Sun Trust Bank and for approval to book \$34,360.70 in recovered funds.

Commissioner Straub asked how this money would show in regards to the budget. Would it show the Treasurer's office used \$14,000.00 in professional service fees? Commissioner Straub said she was concerned about it distorting the line items. County Clerk Donna Zimmerman said they would note the item so it was easily identifiable.

Commissioner Schremmer moved, as a means of accounting for the scammed \$48,600.00 expenditure, direct County Treasurer to take the following actions:

Record the expense of \$48,600.00 for "SCAM" to the Treasurer's Account of the General Fund, Professional Services line, 001-06-5475.

and

Record the receipt of \$34,360.70 from "SCAM" to the Treasurer's Account of the General Fund, Professional Services line, 001-06-5475.

Commissioner Straub seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. COUNTY ENGINEER: Replacing Bridge 650:

For the County became involved with the Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway, several Works Progress Administration (WPA) native-stone bridges in the northern part of the County were placed on the National Historic Register. Unfortunately, Bridge 650 is in an advanced state of deterioration and needs to be replaced. Barry McManaman, County Engineer, applied for a construction permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in February, 2016. As a part of the permitting process, federal requirements for mitigating the loss of a historic structure must be met. The County has been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement stipulating the mitigation effort will consist of maintaining and preserving the remaining four native stone bridges that are listed on the National Register and providing photographic documentation of Bridge 650.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said Barton County has 5 native stone bridges and all are located in the area north of Beaver.

Commissioner Schremmer said this particular bridge would be tremendously expensive to repair and felt it must be replaced since it is a high traffic bridge and really needs to be wider.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas State Historical Preservation Officer and Barton County Regarding the Replacement of a Native Stone Bridge.

Commissioner Straub seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. COUNTY ENGINEER: Inspection Agreement – KDOT Project 5 C 4671-01:

-Kirkham Michael & Associates has submitted a work estimate of \$39,615.13 for the inspection on the upcoming Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) signing project on County roads. Barton County personnel will install the signs and Kirkham Michael will mark the sign locations and document that they properly installed. Inspection services must be performed by an outside firm as Federal guidelines do

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Allow the County to inspect its own work. The payment for inspection services will be routed through the local KDOT office and paid directly to Kirkham Michael.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said Barton County has a KDOT Force Account project and explained we need inspection services for this project. McManaman noted this project will be 100% KDOT funded.

Commissioner Straub moved to approve the inspection agreement for KDOT Project 5 C 4671-01, High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) Signage Project with Kirkham Michael & Associates. The inspection cost to be paid directly to Kirkham Michael from KDOT.

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. HR POSITION (ADDED ITEM):

Commissioner Davis said the County provides a lot of services for citizens and said he felt it was owed to the employees to create an HR position. Commissioner Davis said Richard Boeckman currently performs the HR services and noted he won't be here forever, probably only another 1-3 years. Davis said we need to have the position filled for when Boeckman retires.

Commissioner Schremmer said we must review the budget before we make our decision and said he is reluctant to vote before he sees the budget.

Commissioner Kruckenberg said he saw no reason to hurry and said he was against spending more.

Commissioner Straub said she understood, from the newsletter, that Boeckman had visited with Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Scharz and that an individual was suggested and an interview scheduled. Commissioner Straub added she was present at both the meeting and study session and heard no talk on the matter. Straub said there are very capable people here who could handle the HR duties. Straub said she visited with the Employee Relations Committee and said they weren't in favor of the County spending more money on this position.

Commissioner Davis told Commissioner Straub to tell the rest of the story. Commissioner Straub said she asked ERC members whether they would like the money used for an HR position or divided up between the employees for a raise. Straub said ERC members said they would prefer the \$350 raise.

Commissioner Davis said raises are not an option and would prefer Boeckman and Commissioner Scharz be present for this discussion.

Commissioner Schremmer said one commissioner should not be making an offer.

Commissioner Straub asked Donna Zimmerman if their newsletter was open public record. Zimmerman said it is an open record once it has been discussed in an open meeting. Commissioner Straub said it was relayed in the newsletter that \$70,000 was available for the position.

Commissioner Schremmer said information should be obtained as a group, not with just a couple of individuals.

Commissioner Davis explained that he told Boeckman he knew someone who was looking for a job and Richard Boeckman contacted her. Commissioner Davis said Boeckman then mentioned the idea to Commissioner Scharz. Davis said they did not all meet.

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Commissioner Schremmer said the HR position was discussed at the meeting at the firing range, but he felt the issue needed to wait until everyone could be present.

Commissioner Davis asked the following individuals who were present at the meeting to provide input:

Sheriff Bellendir said he felt there was a need for an HR person, but asked the Commissioners wait until budgets are submitted. Bellendir noted his department has had only two detective positions since 1990 and said the case load is killing them.

Dale Phillips said employee raises definitely need to be looked at.

Barb Esfeld said she appreciates it being brought up, but said she had the understanding they were going to work within the departments. Esfeld said there is a risk of losing employees to other counties.

Matt Patzner said the budget situation needs to be looked at first.

Barry McManaman said he felt an HR position was needed and noted there are a lot of duties and services to cover. Raises are important, but a dedicated employee in HR is also needed.

Donna Zimmerman said she agreed with Commissioner Schremmer and said she felt it premature to make a decision now. Zimmerman agreed we should look at our budget situation first.

Commissioner Straub said she wanted to clarify that she did not promise a \$350 raise at the ERC meeting, she just used the number provided in the newsletter and was happy to wait until Boeckman and Commissioner Schartz return to make a decision.

Commissioner Schremmer said he would do everything possible to avoid raising taxes and said he knew that was Commissioner Kruckenberg's goal as well.

Mary Hoisington agreed that the discussion should be tabled. Hoisington suggested developing a job description first because she felt she was hearing more of a description for a Benefit Manager instead of an HR Director. Hoisington noted an HR Director does a lot more than a Benefit Manager and said this could save the County money.

Commissioner Schremmer said an HR person works with the employees regarding insurance and such, but payroll also goes along with that.

Commissioner Kruckenberg said they were getting the cart before the horse.

Commissioner Straub noted the newsletter put the cart before the horse.

Commissioner Straub moved to table this motion until next week's meeting which would be June 20th under old business.

Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

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OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

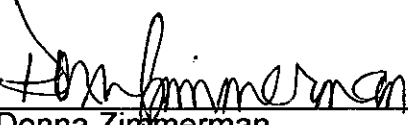
VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Straub made a motion to adjourn at 9:53 A.M.

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk



Don Davis, Chairman