

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).

January 2, 2018

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 2nd day of January 2018, 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
Alicia Straub, Commissioner, 4th District
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District, Chairman
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk
Phil Hathcock, Operations Director

Members absent:

Carey Hipp, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Straub moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

CLARIFICATION for 12/29/2017 Agenda Meeting Minutes:

Bj Wooding, County Cartographer clarified that the higher resolution aerial photography (approved last week) was being purchased just for the 4 cities.

Commissioner Straub moved to accept the clarified minutes of the December 26, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. AWARD OF PROPOSAL: County Counselor:

-Barton County accepted proposals for County Counselor / legal services. Under the proposal, the Offeror is to provide legal services as required by K.S.A. 19-247. Specifically excluded are the duties of the County Attorney. Two proposals were received. This item was tabled at the last meeting as Commissioner Alicia Straub was absent.

Phil Hathcock, Operations Director, said that the Operations Office sent out requests for proposals last November for both monthly rate and hourly rate. Hathcock then presented the following proposals:

ATTORNEY	FLAT MONTHLY FEE	HOURLY RATE
Carey Hipp	\$4,500 (\$54,000 per year)	\$180 / hr \$1,800 per month minimum
Allen Glendenning	\$4,500 plus \$175 per hr for tax sale / BOTA mtgs	\$175 / hr No minimum

Commissioner Kruckenberg asked what the hourly rate was for Ms. Hipp. Hathcock said \$180/hour with \$1,800/month minimum.

Commissioner Davis asked if the minimum was on top of the monthly rate. Hathcock explained the two options.

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Commissioner Straub said this was a good problem to have. We have two very qualified applicants. We don't know the number of hours for certain; flat monthly fee seems the better way to go. Straub said her other concern was that Watkins Calcara has been the attorney for our EMC insurance. If there were ever an issue, Watkins Calcara would not be able to represent the county.

Commissioner Schartz said if there were a situation with EMC, Watkins Calcara would have another attorney handle the issue. Schartz said there would not be a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Straub moved to award the County Counselor proposal for 2018 legal services to Miss Carey Hipp at a rate of \$4,500.00 per month. Those cost of services to be paid from the Special Liability Fund, Professional Service Fees Line, 025-00-5475.

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.
 Motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Schartz voted nay.

III. 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 #5				
Property Types	Values	Escaped Taxes	Added / Abated	Refunds
Gas				
Oil	- 1		-\$.16	
Personal Property	- 7,483		-\$1,581.28	\$1,291.99
Real Estate	-25,087		-\$4,456.86	\$1,171.74
16/20 M Trucks			-\$ 152.74	
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	-32,571		-\$6,191.04	\$2,463.73
Total Taxes	-\$6,191.04			
Total Records Selected	18			

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commissioner. That is dated 12-28-2017

Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. REAL PROPERTY RELIEF APPLICATION – Tax Year 2017: May 16, 2017, Tornado:

-In May, 2017, Barton County saw a tornado destroy property along a path from Pawnee Rock to Highway 4. After the event, the Commission adopted a Resolution that would allow property owners the opportunity to apply for tax relief if, following a natural disaster, damage to their homestead equals or exceeded 50% of their market value. Barb Esfeld, County Appraiser, has received one additional application for tax relief. With the assistance of Ms. Esfeld, the Commission will take action on the application.

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Barb Esfeld, County Appraiser, said the Appraisers Office received one additional application due to the May 16th, 2017 tornado. Esfeld explained that after the May 16th tornado, the County passed Resolution 2017-11, authorizing the abatement of taxes on a homestead that was 50% or more destroyed. Esfeld reported this brings the total applications to five and explained if approved, the tax abatements would be calculated from May 16th, 2017 and relief would be given to the dwellings for 230 days after the tornado.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve the Relief Application for:

Shawn Unruh – with the address of 766 West Barton County Road, Great Bend, Kansas

The total reduction in tax is \$1,042.56.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR COUNTY FUNDS:

-A designation of Barton County financial institutions as official depositories comes before the Commission. Such institutions must meet the 100% pledged securities requirement for all County funds. According to County Resolution 2017-16, all depositories must provide to the County Treasurer and the Financial Officer proof of security for these funds whenever such information is requested. Each institution designated as an official depository shall be notified by certified letter that they are required to meet the 100% pledged security.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, requested the list of institutions be named as 2018 depositories.

Commissioner Straub moved to approve the following depositories for 2018:

- American State Bank
- Bank of the West
- Community Bank
- Farmers Bank and Trust
- First Kansas Bank
- Landmark National Bank
- Sunflower Bank
- Wilson State Bank

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Suspension of Handbook Section 205.2, Employee Pay Ranges:

-County officials regularly review the Employee Handbook for updates. In a recent review, it was determined that the ranges used in Section 205.2, Employee Pay Ranges, were outdated. As such, it is suggested that the section be suspended until a more comprehensive review can be performed.

Phil Hathcock, Operations Director, said during some recent work in his office they discovered that this was a very outdated chart and no longer applied. Hathcock said until a further review can be done and updates made, requested the commissioners suspend Section 205.2.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to suspend Handbook Section 205.2, Employee Pay Ranges.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. COUNTY SERVICES: Informational Update:

-Mr. Hathcock 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.

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- Hathcock: There was a bomb threat at the courthouse and at Court Services building last Friday. Law enforcement did a thorough search of the building and did not find anything. The Sheriff's Office continues their investigation. It took only 30 minutes to clear the building.

Information Only. No Action Required.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Comm Straub: Received a letter from a concerned citizen asking whether Ms. Hipp's contract included travel. It does not include travel.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schremmer made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 A.M.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk

Jennifer Schartz, Chairman