

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 7, 2018

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 7th day of May 2018, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District (Chairman Pro-Tem)
Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District
Alicia Straub, Commissioner, 4th District
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District, Chairman
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator
Carey Hipp, County Counselor

Members absent:

Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Item I, Court Services Air Conditioning problem.

Commissioner Straub seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2018, Regular Meeting.

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 April 16, 2018, and ending April 30, 2018.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to ratify the appropriations for the period of April 16, 2018, to April 30, 2018. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Davis 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 #17	Values	Escaped Taxes	Added / Abated	Refunds
Property Types				

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Gas				
Oil	-81,519		-\$16,021.46	\$8,885.31
Personal Property	-13,483		-\$ 2,450.76	\$1,005.82
Real Estate				
16/20 M Trucks	- 2,905		-\$ 421.86	
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	-97,907		-\$18,894.08	\$9,891.13
Total Taxes	-\$18,894.08			
Total Records Selected	30			

Commissioner Straub moved to approve the listing of Added / Abated / Escaped and Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk and direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. INTERSECTION OF NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE AND NORTH 30 ROAD:

-As the result of an accident at the intersection of North Washington Avenue and North 30 Road, the Commission requested that County staff research potential safety improvements.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said showed photographs of the intersection where the fatality accident occurred on April 17th. McManaman explained it is currently a 2-way stop with rumble strips and flashing lights on the stop signs for east/west traffic as well as stop ahead signs. North/south traffic has no passing zones and crossroad warning signs with a flashing yellow beacon. McManaman said there have been two options discussed.

- Option 1 - leave it as a 2-way stop installing larger 36" stop ahead signs for east and westbound traffic with larger 30", instead of 24", cross traffic does not stop signs underneath the stop signs. Another improvement would be white stop lines.
- Option 2 – make it a 4-way stop adding 48" stop signs on Washington Avenue, placing a flashing beacon, add all way stop signs, install 36" stop ahead signs and white stop lines at each approach of the intersection as well as installing rumble strips on Washington for both north and south bound traffic.

To bring awareness to the new signage, they would place orange flags for a few months to allow people to get used to the changes. There was a TEAP study done in 2005 that did not recommend a 4-way stop.

Sheriff Bellendir said KSA 8-1528 allows a driver to continue past the actual stop sign to the intersection line before stopping if there are no stop lines or crosswalk.

McManaman contacted KDOT for accident statistics for the last ten years at that intersection and noted there have been fifteen accidents in the intersection plus two more (one at the entrance to All Seasons and another that was an animal accident south of the intersection). Of those fifteen accidents, only two involved a northbound vehicle versus a westbound vehicle.

- Commissioner Schremmer: Has driven through the area 3 times recently.
- Caitlyn Eakin: Travels through the intersection 8 times a day. Would like to see the speed limit changed from 55 to 45 mph for all of Washington. Need the traffic to slow down. There are nine houses where you cannot turn around in the driveway and must back onto the roadway. Also has her two year old in her vehicle. Rosewood Services is on North Washington and sees at least two clients walking on the road, supervised, every week.

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- Holly Bowyer: Dad farms on North Washington. Sterling changed the speed limit on a road from 55 mph to 30 mph. Would like a stop line for eastbound traffic for best visibility.
- Becky Wornkey: The only way to slow them down is a 4-way stop. People don't obey speed limits.
- Randy Suchy: There are always accidents at that intersection. Ford County has stop signs with LED lights, which makes them very noticeable.
- Gary Ketch: Lives at 296 N. Washington. His house is where everyone begins to accelerate. Would like white stop line and 45 mph speed limit for the entire road.
- Robert Hertel: Got scared to death when a car pulled out in front of him. The rumble strips are four power poles away from intersection, which is too far. Would like to see the trees gone as they are too close to the road and should be further back about 20'. Asked why the trees are growing on top of the gas line.
- Greg Schenk: Offered condolences to the family of Shealee Stover as well as acknowledging the truck driver involved in the accident. Lives at 298 North Washington and purchased the property 6 years ago. Part of the reason they love the property is because of the natural privacy fence provided by the trees. The trees do not extend onto the county easement. Keeps them trimmed back and prevents further growth to the west. Mentioned a prominent citizen in Great Bend with property near a pair of abandoned sand pits. The sand pits were a natural drainage for a flooding intersection in the city limits, however when there is a heavy rain, the sand pits cannot consume the drainage and the property floods. A simple solution to the city causes problems for the unsuspecting homeowner. In 2007, a GBHS student was traveling westbound on Lakin with three of her friends. Distracted while talking to someone in the back seat, she ran the stop sign at Morton. A weary man returning home from work had to slam on his brakes to avoid the car. Schenk was the weary driver and his daughter was the driver of the other vehicle. That night they had a lengthy discussion about distractions. Pam Schenk, a distant relative was killed on South 281 Highway at the 5-mile black top when a semi ran the stop sign. Due to distractions and negligence, there will never be an accident free road system. Does not want to see rumble strips installed in front of his neighbors properties as they moved there for the peace and solitude. Measures could be installed that would benefit the travelers on North Washington, but not impose a noisy roadway to his neighbors. Suggested reducing the speed to 45 mph all the way to NW 50 Rd, installing a reduced speed advisory sign of 35 mph at the intersection, solid white stop lines for east and west bound traffic, installing missing rumble strips on west bound road and a larger "Traffic does not stop" sign.
- Heather Weber: Mother of Shealee Stover, would personally like to see a 4-way stop. At least if one person did not stop, the other driver would.
- Commissioner Davis: Need more information on LED signs and a larger "cross traffic does not stop".
- Barry McManaman: Will check into the LED sign. Looking at 30 x 24 signs, but can go to larger ones.
- Commissioner Davis: As a professional driver, learned to obey the laws of the road. Can't cure all the people that break the law.
- Commissioner Straub: Sterling has some new speed limit signs that really seem to do what they are supposed to do. Doesn't want the commission to get in a hurry. Welcomed public input.
- Commissioner Schremmer: Willing to discuss. Close friend was killed at that intersection.
- Commissioner Schartz: It's a problem intersection. Matter of course to err on the side of caution. A 4-way stop requires two people to fail to stop for there to be a serious accident. Her heart goes out to Mrs. Weber. Will be in favor of a 4-way stop.
- Caitlyn Eakin: Not opposed to a 4-way stop, but opposed to installing rumble strips on Washington. In 2015, a study was done on North Washington that showed 2,060 vehicles in a 24-hour period. That is 751,900 cars in a year. She hears all of that traffic in her home. Rumble strips would depreciate the value of the homes in the area. Would like options other than the rumble strips explored.
- Greg Schenk: In response to Commissioner Schremmer saying he lost a close friend, Francis L. Stout, father of Harold Stout was killed at this location in 1974 in a one-vehicle accident, south bound passing a vehicle. The intersection used to have a hump in the middle and Mr. Stout went airborne, lost control and was crushed underneath the vehicle. It has been 44 years since there was a fatality accident at this

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intersection. There are other intersections with a higher accident rate and nobody is asking for stop signs at those locations. Asked for consideration of the statistics before making decisions.

Commissioner Davis said he had a question he needs to ask. One of our motions is to study this matter further and I think, this is another personal opinion, but I think if we put the white stop lines out there at the east and west stop signs and maybe improve our signage somewhat and continue the enforcement that Brian so graciously does out there and maybe decrease the speed limit to the north, leave it 45 on further north, Barry said we could go a couple hundred yards, maybe we could even go to the bridge up there and I think if we could do that and study it a little bit before we make a decision to do the signs, that would be my recommendation.

Commissioner Schartz asked Commissioner Davis if he was making that in the form of a motion. Commissioner Davis said I think I will.

Commissioner Schartz asked for a second.

Phil Hathcock said there would have to be a resolution passed to change the speed limit, but all of the other recommended changes could be done.

Commissioner Davis said he would like to have that as part of the motion, that we get a resolution together and do that.

Commissioner Straub said she would like to study it further.

Commissioner Schremmer said lowering the speed limit and improved signage would lessen traffic on the road. We could make a decision in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Davis wanted to clarify that he would like further discussion on the matter, but go ahead with the signage changes.

McManaman said the suggested things could be done now and wouldn't be wasted money. If it becomes a 4-way stop intersection, the larger "cross traffic does not stop" signs would no longer be necessary.

Commissioner Schartz asked Commissioner Davis for clarification that his motion included a resolution to change the speed limit going north stopping at the bridge. Commissioner Davis said yes.

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 10:03 A.M., Commissioner Straub moved to recess until 10:10 A.M. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 10:10 A.M., Commissioner Schartz called the meeting back to order.

C. PROCLAMATION 2018-09: National Bike Month – May, 2018:

-The bicycle is an economical, healthy, convenient, and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent tool for recreation and enjoyment of Barton County's scenic beauty. Throughout the month of May, the residents of Barton County and its visitors can experience the joys of bicycling through educational programs, races, commuting events, charity events, or by simply getting out and going for a ride. One upcoming local biking event, the Great, Great Bend Summer Bike Caper, has been planned by

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the Be Well Barton County Committee. Janel Rose, Committee Member, has been asked to present the Proclamation that names May 2018 as National Bike Month.

Janel Rose, Committee Member, said Be Well Barton County has been very interested in the safety of citizens both as pedestrians and bicyclists and overall for the entire county. Rose said Be Well Barton County has been working with the County Engineer, the City of Ellinwood and the school districts to be sure there are safe conditions in the county and to educate children to become better pedestrians and bicyclists.

Rose introduced Susie Burt, Be Well Barton County Task Force and Dale Hogg, one of the leaders of Be Well Barton County.

Commissioner Davis moved to approve adopt Proclamation 2018-09, National Bike Month – May, 2018. Commissioner Straub seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. PROCLAMATION 2018-10: Mental Health Awareness Month – May, 2018:

-Mental health is essential to everyone's overall well-being. This year's national Mental Health Awareness theme is "Whole Body Mental Health." The proposed Proclamation, declaring May, 2018, as Mental Health Awareness Month, states that with appropriate resources, treatment and support, people with mental health concerns are able to improve their well-being and quality of life.

Julie Kramp, The Center Executive Director, said this is a very health conscious time and said they talk openly about bike safety, diabetes prevention, etc. Kramp said the only time mental health is talked about is when there is a suicide or a violent tragedy. Mental health goes on every day and affects everyone. Mental health should be as accepted as a part of health care, openly and honestly discussed.

Kramp asked the mental health team to stand and be recognized and introduced those present: Connie Holliday, John Makings, Noell Hartman, Shanna Long, Billie Downum and Holly Bowyer.

Commissioner Straub moved to adopt Proclamation 2018-10, as Mental Health Awareness Month, May, 2018. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. SOLID WASTE: Annual Review of the Solid Waste Management Plan:

-Per KSA 65-3405, Barton County is required to form and maintain a Solid Waste Planning Committee to develop and perform an annual review of the Solid Waste Management Plan, which is then approved by the Commission. As the Solid Waste Management Plan had a comprehensive review last year, it is recommended that no changes be made at this time.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator/Solid Waste Director, said the committee's main function is to review the plan every year and do a comprehensive update every 5 years. Hathcock said this is the 2nd year in the 5-year review and said, at this point, the committee has recommended that there be no changes to the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve the Solid Waste Management Plan. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

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F. TREASURER'S OFFICE: Office Improvement:

-At less than 100 square feet, the interior office space used by the County Treasurer is inadequate for his current needs. Bids were received to move two walls to expand the office space, upgrade the electrical and install LED lighting. Thomas Quality Homes provided the lowest bid of \$13,743.80.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said the space was very limited for taxpayers to come in and visit with the Treasurer. Hathcock said Thomas Quality Homes has done remodeling for the Clerk, Appraiser and Treasurer Offices in the past. They will reuse the existing door, windows and trim, and update the lighting in his office to LED's.

The following quotes were received:

Thomas Quality Homes	\$13,743.80
Just in Time Remodeling	\$17,292.00

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said it was very difficult to have taxpayers in to visit.

Commissioner Schartz said in light of the work being done and the money being brought in, for all intents and purposes may have been lost, he does need a bigger office.

Commissioner Schremmer moved to approve the \$13,743.80 bid from Thomas Quality Homes to expand the interior office space utilized by the County Treasurer. That amount is to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Straub seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz asked when the work would start and finish. Jordan said they will start soon and the work should take about 2 weeks.

G. 2018 TAX SALE: Filing:

-On April 23, 2018, the 2018 Tax Sale petition was filed with the Clerk of the District Court. Subsequent to the filing, the County will send each party to the sale a summons, a copy of the petition and the corresponding limited Certificate of Title by certified mail. To avoid having a property sold at auction, taxpayers must pay all taxes from, generally, 2014 forward and a redemption fee of \$186.00.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said Barton County had 240 parcels abstracted. Of those, 84 were removed prior to filing. There are currently eleven on a payment plan, with one being paid off already.

Information Only. No Action Required.

H. COMMISSION DISCUSSION: Kansas County Commissioners Association Annual Conference:

-The Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) held their annual conference in Wichita beginning May 1, 2018. The conference, entitled Point. Counterpoint., included such topics as the obligations of elected officials, immigration issues, taxation, cybersecurity and executive sessions. Barb Esfeld, County Appraiser, participated on a panel dealing with property appraisals. There was also a legislative update. The Commissioners will discuss the conference.

- Commissioner Schremmer: His first year to attend. Received good feedback and liked it better than KAC.
- Commissioner Straub: Brought Dennis Kriesel's KAC report, discussed cyber security, immigration reform and talked about everyone paying their fair share of taxes.
- Commissioner Schartz: Immigration is problematic – people don't have money for an attorney.

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- Commissioner Davis: Barb Esfeld is President of Appraiser's Association and was part of panel at conference. There is a bill to make appraisers elected. Someone off the street can't be appointed appraiser. Not in favor of that being an elected position.
- Commissioner Schartz: Esfeld visited with legislators. They don't realize that commissioners don't tell the appraiser how to appraise. Open records act – feels we're pretty open.
- Commissioner Straub: Nathan Eberline and Melissa Wangemann both leaving KAC. Do not have to list members present in an executive session.
- Donna Zimmerman: Agreed and noted we have stated others may be invited.

Information Only. No Action Required.

ADDED ITEM I. COURT SERVICES: Air-Conditioning:

Phil Hathcock said that the old unit went down last week. Hathcock said it was a 10-ton unit with heavy hail damage and explained the unit was so old that the refrigerant is outdated. Hathcock said it was an emergency and called three vendors to provide quotes. Moeder Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning provided the low bid at \$7,874.00 to replace the A/C unit, the coils inside and the new refrigerant lines. Hathcock asked that they please allow for replacement, as the building has no windows to open for ventilation.

Commissioner Straub moved to approve the bid for replacement of the air conditioner on the Court Services building. That cost to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - Line, 071-00-6305 and the quote was \$7,874.00 from Moeder Plumbing, Heating and Air.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Comm Schartz: Impressed with this morning's meeting as there were pretty strong feelings.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Straub made a motion to adjourn at 10:52 A.M.

Commissioner Schremmer seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk

Jennifer Schartz, Chairman