

# Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA 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)

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February 13, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 13th day of February 2024, at the 1500 Kansas location.

*Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Chairman

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2024, and the February 6, 2024, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: Third 13th Month:**

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period ending December 31, 2023. This is considered the third "13th Month" for 2023 expenditures.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve 13th Month appropriations for the period ending December 31, 2023. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 30, 2024, and ending February 13, 2024.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 30, 2024, to February 13, 2024. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

-There was no Old Business.

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## **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY OF CLAFLIN OFFICIALS:**

-Commissioner Duane Reif will provide details. The Commission met jointly with the City of Claflin City Council on Monday, February 12, 2024.

Commissioner Reif said when this group of commissioners first met, they set some goals to best represent the public. Everyone agreed that as commissioners, their duty was to be involved and listen to the concerns of the citizens. They also agreed that they did not work for one district, one area or one town but for the entire county. Having joint meetings with the different cities in the county was a way to accomplish this goal. Last year, the commissioners along with County Administrator, Matt Patzner and County Counselor, Patrick Hoffman, met with the cities of Great Bend, Ellinwood and Hoisington. Last night, all the commissioners, Sara Arnberger from Economic Development, and Matt Patzner went to Claflin for a joint meeting. Arnberger gave a report about what economic development was doing for the county. The city of Claflin shared with the group some of the projects they had planned and what they wanted to accomplish such as the streetscape project. They thanked the commissioners for the Façade Improvement Grant projects and felt they needed to do some things such as better lighting. Commissioner Reif said one thing leads to another to improve a community. They had some great ideas to brighten up and enhance Main Street. He felt the joint meeting was productive and time well spent.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they were going to do new lighting similar to Little River on Main Street. They were a little short on the fundraising and were still accepting donations. It was a good meeting and was great to take Arnberger to talk about grants.

Commissioner Esfeld said Claflin was the model city of façade improvements. Knowing that we all work together with all of the cities was very important.

Commissioner Hutchinson said there were nine façade improvement grants in Claflin for a total investment of \$100,000.00 in county funds but \$150,000.00 between county funds and private investments in their Main Street in the last few years. Commissioner Hutchinson said he would like to invite them to come see us when the courthouse renovations had been completed.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she echoed the previous comments and had always been impressed by the community of Claflin. It was impressive all of the different projects they have in the works. They also have a sewer replacement project where they are going to replace it with lagoons in process.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator said he echoed the other comments and said it was great to have Arnberger there to share how she could help.

### **B. INVENTORY OF COUNTY PROPERTY:**

-Ms. Schmeidler; Chris Saenz, Equipment Technician; and Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, will provide details. Per KSA 19-2687, each County officer and head of a department shall make an inventory of the personal property owned by the County and located in such office or department. The inventory, which shall be taken during the month of December of each year, shall be filed with the County Clerk on or before December 31 of each year. The inventory shall not include books, records, files, stationery, writing materials and blank legal papers. The information will be presented to the Commission during February of each year. Per Resolution 2005-22, the mandated duties have been assigned to the Information Technology Department.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, said the report had been presented to the commissioners and asked for approval.

Chris Saenz, Equipment Technician, said he sends an email to all departments in October, they report any changes in their inventory. Some departments such as the Health Department and Engineering enter

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their own items. Susan Johnson in IT enters all computers into the system. A report is compiled and submitted to the commissioners.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Saenz if the module he used in CIC was helpful. Saenz said it worked well. When he first started, everything was on the AS400 and then converted to CIC. Some things had to be cleaned up.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to accept the 2023 Inventory Listing.  
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. USDA-DLT B 2023 Grant:**

-Mr. Hollingshead will be joined by Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, and Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, to present details. Barton County has been awarded a 2023 grant from the US Department of Agriculture for Distance Learning and Telemedicine. This is similar to the grant the County received from the USDA in 2020. The 2023 USDA B grant totals \$185,745. Barton County will be required to pay a match totaling \$28,730. This rural development investment will help to establish distance learning programs that connect vulnerable populations across rural counties to vital services not in their communities.

Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, said Barton County would have to pay roughly 15%. Hollingshead said he, Marissa Woodmansee and Patrick Hoffman worked together along with Matt Patzner.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said this was an additional opportunity to continue to connect with clients and their families across the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. They are based in Barton County but also serve Russell, Rice, Stafford and Ellsworth counties. They could continue to provide services to those in neighboring counties without interruption of services. It also removed a barrier for the clients when you considered transportation and time as well as removing that barrier for Juvenile Services. This was a great opportunity for the county to continue with other departments.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to accept the 2023 US Department of Agriculture for Distance Learning and Telemedicine (USDA B) in the amount of \$185,745.00. The grant match, totaling \$28,730.00, is to be paid from the Courthouse General account of the General Fund, Improvements not Buildings, 001-18-6310.

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

## **D. ROAD AND BRIDGE: Rebuild of Storage Shed:**

-Darren Williams, County Works Director, will present details. One of the south storage buildings at Road and Bridge was damaged in the July, 2023, hail and windstorm. It is suggested that the building be demolished by Road and Bridge staff and that a new building be constructed on site. After accepting bids, Steel Builders Construction, Inc. presented the low bid of \$316,420.00 for a 50'x180'x16' eave height Behlen All Steel Building. Road and Bridge has sufficient monies for the construction, although a Resolution transfer from Equipment Replacement to Capital Improvement would be necessary.

Darren Williams, County Works Director, said three bids were received from Joiner Construction, Schenkel Construction and Steel Builders. Steel Builders submitted the low bid for a building 50'x180'x16'. Williams asked for approval of the Steel Builders bid.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Williams how deep the current building was. Williams said it was about 35'. They would be able to put trucks inside the new building.

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Commissioner Reif said it would be a little bit longer. Williams said it would be about 75' further to the west. It would have a dirt floor and electricity was included in the price.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if it would be kept a dirt floor or would they put cold mix down. Williams said they would probably rock it.

Commissioner Reif asked Williams if electricity just meant outlets. Williams said lighting and garage door openers as well.

Commissioner Esfeld asked if they had security cameras in place. Williams said yes, they did.

Commissioner Zimmerman said the building was on the replacement plan, scheduled to be replaced. This was fortunate to have some insurance money to help with the cost. Williams said the building was built in the early 1950's.

Commissioner Zimmerman was surprised by all the broken boards. Williams said that happened from the storm.

Commissioner Reif said the storm also blew the doors in. Williams said they lost four garage doors.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the construction of a Behlen All Steel building as bid by Steel Builders Construction, Inc. Cost of the building, \$316,420.00, to be paid from the Capital Improvement, Road and Bridge, Buildings and Fixed Equipment, 071-00-6335.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Williams if there was about \$60,000.00 from insurance. Williams said just a little less than \$60,000.00.

Commissioner Hutchinson said we were still in the process of applying for a variance for the building to go a little further to the south. Williams said yes, trying to get it to go back on the existing property line, working with the city.

## **E. RESOLUTION 2024-07: A Resolution Transferring Unexpended Funds from Equipment Replacement to Capital Improvement for a Road and Bridge Shed Replacement Project:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Should the Commission approve the rebuild of the storm-damaged shed at Road and Bridge, monies will need to be transferred, via Resolution, from the Equipment Replacement Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. The proposed Resolution authorizes the transfer of the full project amount, \$316,420.00.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said this was related to William's item. Currently, the Road & Bridge Capital Improvement Fund had approximately \$103,000.00 dedicated to Road & Bridge but the Equipment Replacement Line had about \$967,000.00. Asking for approval to transfer \$316,420.00 from the Road & Bridge Equipment Replacement Line to the Road & Bridge Capital Improvement Line. The transfer must be done by resolution.

Commissioner Zimmerman said we were not moving just the difference but the entire amount, were there other plans for the balance. Patzner said correct.

Commissioner Esfeld asked about the insurance money. Patzner said a portion had already been received, that would already be in the Capital Improvement Line.

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Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2024-07, A Resolution Transferring Unexpended Funds from Equipment Replacement to Capital Improvement for a Road and Bridge Shed Replacement Project.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## *No Executive Session Held*

### **F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

-Chairman Barb Esfeld will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess to executive session at this time as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319. Any motion must contain the justification for the executive session, the subject matter to be discussed, any individuals in addition to the board who will attend the executive session and the time at which the regular session shall resume.

### **VI. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Esfeld – legislative updates from KLPG weekly meeting.

Patrick Hoffman – said he had some before photos of the courthouse that he would share.

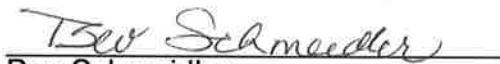
### **VIII. ADJOURN.**

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adjourn at 9:29 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Barb Esfeld, Chairman