

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

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/487FmoK>

February 6, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 6th day of February 2024, at the 1500 Kansas location.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, Chairman
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Via phone:

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the January 30, 2024, Regular Meeting were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. JOINT COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – Quivira Water Rights Impairment Issue:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will provide details. County officials attended a Joint County Commission Meeting reference the potential Quivira Water Rights Impairment issue in Stafford County on January 29, 2024. Stafford County has since submitted minutes from that meeting.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, said Stafford County Clerk had shared the minutes from the meeting and asked for approval by the commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the January 29, 2024, Joint County Commission Meeting minutes reference the potential Quivira Water Rights Impairment issues.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld said the newspaper covered the meeting well.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said the Barton County Commissioners did not discuss County business but participated in the meeting.

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

-Ms. Schmeidler 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.

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Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

BATCH #3	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property				
Real Estate	(347,156)		(\$57,188.36)	\$8,745.72
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(347,156)	\$0.00	(\$57,188.36)	\$8,745.72
Total Taxes	(\$57,188.36)			
Total Records Selected	72			

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk's Office. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2024-06: A Resolution Supporting House Bill 2508, Authorizing a Transfer of State General Fund Moneys to the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund in Fiscal Year 2025 and all Fiscal Years Thereafter, Requiring Political Subdivisions to Credit all such Moneys to Residential Property Taxpayers in the Form of a Rebate and Providing a Formula for such Rebate Amount:

-Chairman Barb Esfeld will provide details. The Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund (LAVTR) is one way for the State of Kansas to provide property tax relief to citizens. Monies from that fund were last distributed in 2003. House Bill 2508 (HB 2508) provides for the allocation of \$130,000,000 of State revenues directly to local units of government to be given to residential property owners as a property tax rebate. The proposed Resolution urges the Kansas Legislature to adopt HB 2508 replenishing the LAVTR and directing the \$130,000,000 of revenue raised in that bill to be used toward providing property tax relief to owners of residential property.

Chairman Barb Esfeld said House Bill 2508 would give \$130 million back to Kansans. This was only for residential property and if the bill passed, over a million dollars would come back to Barton County. If the bill gained traction, Commissioner Esfeld said she would put out information for where taxpayers could go to calculate how much they would receive. At this point in time, she wanted to support this bill and encouraged people to talk to their legislators. She was hopeful it would pass and get the Senate to approve, sending it to the Governor.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Resolution 2024-06, A Resolution Supporting House Bill 2508, Authorizing a Transfer of State General Fund Moneys to the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund in Fiscal Year 2025 and all Fiscal Years Thereafter, Requiring Political Subdivisions to Credit all such Moneys to Residential Property Taxpayers in the Form of a Rebate and Providing a Formula for such Rebate Amount.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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Commissioner Esfeld said the rebate would show on tax statements as the state paying.

D. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Mobile Video Systems:

-Sheriff Brian Bellendir will present details. The Mobile Video System Administrator service provides a technical operations resource to assist with the management of mobile videos. The system extends to both body-worn cameras and in-car video systems, enabling the upload of video evidence quickly and securely. The 13-unit system includes equipment, software and service for a five-year period. It is suggested that the Commission provide for the initial cost, with the Sheriff paying for auxiliary needs, such as a server, through other funds.

Brian Bellendir, County Sheriff, said last November, when looking at insurance bids, it became apparent that video equipment would be needed. The current in-car cameras were beginning to fail. He received a bid for 13 in-car cameras and body worn camera sets for \$134,290.63. Bellendir asked the commissioners to fund the purchase from the general fund rather than his budget. He was under budget last year and returned funds.

Commissioner Esfeld said this was protection for the officers. Bellendir said it would be useful for court cases, liability purposes and officer complaints. If it were an on-view crime, where the officer was present, the footage could be used as evidence in court.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Bellendir if he would be able to control the videos. Bellendir said yes, that was one of the reasons for going with Motorola. Some of the companies used cloud storage and the video becomes the property of the company who stored it. This system would be a stand-alone server, on site, and they would be able to recall the videos as needed.

Commissioner Reif said the other system was outdated so there really was no choice but to replace it. Bellendir said they were going to have to replace the in-car cameras and companies were selling them now as sets of in car and body worn cameras.

Commissioner Reif said it was important to keep law enforcement safe. Bellendir said they appreciated the support.

Commissioner Esfeld said they were not appreciated enough. Bellendir said people are either really glad to see them or they do not want to see them at all.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the \$134,290.63 Mobile Video System from Motorola Solutions. Cost to be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund, General Line, 072-00-6380.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. COUNTY ENGINEER: NE 30 Road Resurfacing Project Bids:

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. The County accepted bids until January 25, 2024, for the NE 30 Road Resurfacing Project. The project includes a 1.5-inch hot mix asphalt overlay, estimated in the amount of 5,266 tons of hot mix, to be placed on NE 30 Road between US-281 highway and NE 30 Avenue. Venture Corporation submitted the only bid for \$795,004.70. If awarded, Venture anticipates doing the work sometime in July of this year.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said the road was commonly called Juco Road and the resurfacing would go approximately one-half mile east of the college. They advertised bids online and, in the Tribune and received only one bid, from Venture Corporation. Venture anticipated doing the work in July if awarded the contract.

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Commissioner Hutchinson asked McManaman how many times the county had applied for the cost share program. McManaman said they had applied three times for the KDOT cost share program and were not accepted for this project. McManaman added that it was a highly competitive program and Barton County had been fortunate in the past on several projects. With all the traffic for the landfill and college, the road needed to be resurfaced.

Commissioner Hutchinson we tried everything possible to save money and hold off on the project, but it was time to get it done now.

Commissioner Reif said it was last done in 2010, it had held up well. McManaman said it was overlaid with hot mix in 2010 and had been chip sealed, sand sealed, by Road & Bridge a few times since then.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked McManaman if this came in under what was anticipated. McManaman said his estimate was around \$915,000.00. Prices seemed to have stabilized or shifted.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to award the NE 30 Road Resurfacing Project to Venture Corporation for a total bid of \$795,004.70. That amount to be paid as follows – \$270,000.00 from the Road and Bridge, Professional Service Fees, Road Overlay Line, 002-92-5475-96 and \$525,004.70 from the Capital Improvement Fund, Federal Funds Exchange Line, 071-00-6336. Direct the Commission Chairman to sign the Notice of Award and the Agreement between the County and Venture Corporation.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. KANSAS LEGISLATIVE POLICY GROUP: 2024 Membership:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) is a bi-partisan coalition of western Kansas counties with a common interest in the preservation of the counties tax base and retention of local control. The KLPG serves as a policy and decision-making body establishing legislative priorities at its annual meeting and providing speakers to address KLPG members about the important topics of the day. After denying membership earlier this year, the Commission will reconsider that action. Membership is priced at \$5,471.34.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for consideration of approval.

Commissioner Esfeld said they hesitated to join because they thought KNRC might do the same thing. The KLPG really focused on overall Kansas legislation in small counties particularly out west while KNRC focused more on natural resources.

Commissioner Zimmerman said several years ago, Barton County received well over a million dollars from Oil and Gas Depletion Trust Fund in a lawsuit.

Commissioner Reif said this filled the gap on a lot of the other entities.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the 2024 KLPG Membership Dues of \$5,471.34. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion and said he would add that that million dollars, quick math, pays for 181 years of membership.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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G. COURTHOUSE HVAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Other Change Orders – Under Resolution 2023-19 Threshold:

-Mr. Patzner will present details. Barton County has received notice of certain needed updates to the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning improvement project. These changes, individually, are under the threshold established with the adoption of Resolution 2023-19.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said there was a misprint, and the changes were actually over the threshold of Resolution 2023-19 so no action had been taken yet. This was the first-floor bathroom remodel, domestic water upgrades and sanitary sewer upgrades. Essentially, this would fix a lot of the issues with leaks in the ceiling and the smell in the courthouse as well as making the bathroom more ADA compliant.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the following Change Orders for the Courthouse HVAC Improvement Project. Cost to be paid to Kruse Construction from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment – General Line, 071-00-6305. Refer to the chart for a total of \$344,009.82.

Orders	Reason	Amount
No. 26	First Floor Bathrooms – Remodel	\$217,484.61
No. 26	First Floor Bathrooms – Water	\$048,113.32
No. 26	First Floor Bathrooms – Remaining Scope	\$078,411.89
Total		\$344,009.82

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

No Executive Session Held

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman 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.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Bev Schmeidler – Presidential Preference Primary March 19th.

VI. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:34 A.M.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Barb Esfeld, Chairman