

# 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)  
Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**

August 17, 2020

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 17th day of August 2020, at the Barton County Courthouse.

## *Members present:*

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District  
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## *Members attending via phone / Teams:*

Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.  
Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the August 3, 2020, and the August 10, 2020, Regular Meetings were not available.

## **APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of August 3, 2020, and ending August 17, 2020.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve appropriations for the period of August 3, 2020, to August 17, 2020 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. SOLID WASTE: Local Recycling Grant:**

-In the 2020 Operating Budget, the Commission allocated \$15,000.00 under Solid Waste for recycling with an understanding that applications would be accepted locally for the monies. Eligible are any County department, agency, organization, recycling center, city, school district or community college located in Barton County. The application would need to demonstrate a positive economic and environmental impact in the County, be consistent with the Barton County Solid Waste Management Plan, benefit the County and its residents and increase recycling. Rosewood Roots & Wings Foundation and Sunflower Diversified Services both submitted applications.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said historically Sunflower is the only agency to apply for this grant. The past couple of years both Sunflower and Rosewood Roots & Wings applied. Hathcock reported both non-profits applied again this year and presented excellent applications.

Commissioner Daily asked Howard Partington if they have moved forward with their E-recycling program. Partington said like everything with COVID it has been more challenging, but they are continuing to work

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on it. E-recycling is not a money maker but gives the clients meaningful work. It is growing but is not growing exponentially.

Commissioner Daily also asked Jon Prescott how their program is going. Prescott said they are on track to recycle 3.2 million pounds of recycling. Prescott said they employ 47 clients who are paid well with a client payroll of \$302,000. Prescott handed out a photo of a recycling material structure to be used by the businesses that houses a recycling bin.

Phil Hathcock said the landfill has seen a considerable drop in waste since Rosewood has started accepting e-waste. The collaboration with Rosewood is working very well.

Commissioner Schremmer asked if glass has increased. Prescott said yes, everything they have has increased.

Commissioner Schartz said both non-profits have been doing a big service in keeping waste out of the landfill. Schartz said we do not have enough money to make a big impact on what you are doing but thinks it is only fair to divide between them.

Commissioner Schartz moved to award \$7,500 to Rosewood Roots & Wings Foundation and \$7,500 to Sunflower Diversified Services, totaling \$15,000.00 for local recycling efforts. The grant allocations are to be paid from the Solid Waste Budget, Recycling Grant Line, 140-68-5905.

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

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Purchase of a Pharmacy / Laboratory Refrigerator:**

The Barton County Health Department is in need of an additional pharmacy / laboratory refrigerator for vaccine storage. Health Department staff researched options and pricing, and due to a current shortage of this equipment, an available Migali EVOx-2RG 44.9 cu ft Upright Hinged Two (2) locking glass door unit costing \$6,236.90 was ordered. It is suggested that Equipment Replacement funding be used for this purchase.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said the Health Department vaccine must be stored between three and five degrees Celsius. One of the department's refrigerators went out a couple weeks ago. Luckily, they were not in the middle of flu season with flu vaccine to store. Hathcock said, with COVID this year, thought it was prudent to get another refrigerator ordered. The new one is very similar to the last one purchased. Hathcock noted their refrigerators record temperatures.

Commissioner Daily asked if it is equal in size or larger. Hathcock said it is the same size as their larger refrigerator.

Commissioner Daily moved to ratify the purchase of a Migali EVOx-2RG pharmacy / laboratory refrigerator from Migali Scientific for a total of \$6,236.90. Cost to be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund, Equipment Replacement - Health Line, 072-00-6475.

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

Commissioner Schartz said the county has good team members in place that are always looking to the future. Schartz said she hopes we get to fill it with COVID vaccine. Hathcock said Karen is doing a remarkable job working 7-days a week.

## **ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

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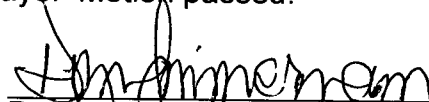
## VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Charlie Dixon: He along with Wally Eldridge and his sons, held a dinner July 24<sup>th</sup> from noon to 9pm for all of law enforcement in the county. Great Bend, Hoisington, Claflin, Ellinwood, Sheriff, KHP, KBI all attended. Fed over 200 law enforcement, support staff along with their spouses. Over 80 sponsors contributed over \$14,000 for this event. Had door prizes that ranged from a Traeger grill to a \$25 chamber gift certificate. Did this because law enforcement is getting dumped on. We are blessed with a good law enforcement community. Will present a check for \$5,500 to the local FOP this Friday and \$500 for a new bite suit for the canine officer.
- Comm Schremmer: If anyone does not realize how well our officers are doing, they not watching very close. They are nice and stop by their house occasionally. Brian (Bellendir) is one of the reasons why the county does that good work.
- Comm Daily: Thanked Charlie and noted he was part of law enforcement starting in 1973. Law enforcement has not changed much when it comes to community support.
- Charlie Dixon: COVID-19 is truly a new environment. Everyone is feeling the pain. Oil production, farming and small businesses are feeling the pain. In the midst of a pandemic this commission has decided to raise taxes. Shame on you Commissioners, shame on you. Did anyone of you actually talk to your constituents. Enough is enough. People claimed taxes was the biggest deterrent in attracting new businesses when he ran for District 3 Commissioner. USD 428 would love to make improvements, but the voters voted no to a bond increase. Too bad we cannot vote on any tax increase. Businesses and households have had to tighten their belts, but not the county. As reported in the Tribune on July 31<sup>st</sup>, Barton County had \$15 million in reserves in the bank in the beginning of 2019. \$27 million in revenue and \$25 million in expenditures, so was able to put another \$2.5 million in reserves. What is the \$18 million in the bank today for?
- Comm Schartz/Phil Hathcock: Those numbers are not correct.
- Dixon: Those numbers came from the newspaper. If that is wrong the newspaper needs to make a correction. Handed his phone to Phil with the Tribune article. Phil invited Charlie to go through the numbers with him.
- Hathcock: That is cash available at the end of the year.
- Donna Zimmerman/Jim Jordan: Explained taxes are paid in December and not distributed to the other entities until January. That is tax money received that goes out to the schools, cities, college, etc.
- Hathcock: Invited Charlie Dixon to sit down with him to look at the numbers.
- Dixon: What is the \$500,000 increase to be used for?
- Dixon: You are all sitting on a butt load/boat load of cash.
- Comm Schartz: The budget is very complicated. There is a lot of misunderstanding. If you had a better understanding it would help alleviate some of your concerns.
- Comm Daily: You put in a solid effort to support law enforcement and that is great but if some of these increases aren't made, then we find ourselves in a position where we have to decide where cuts have to be made. To do that to the Sheriff, Road & Bridge or the Appraiser for example is not doing justice for our county.
- Dixon: I totally understand that. Does not want any budget to be cut. This is a different time we are in. There are a lot of people out there who are not getting raises.
- Comm Schremmer: Set up a time to visit with Phil.

## VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schartz made a motion to adjourn at 9:36 A.M.  
Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

TEST:

  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman