

# 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®**

September 28, 2020

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 28th day of September 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 Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

The minutes of the September 21, 2020, Regular Meeting were not available.

## **II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of September 14, 2020, and ending September 28, 2020.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve appropriations for the period of September 14, 2020, to September 28, 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. PROCLAMATION 2020-10: National 4-H Week:**

-4-H, as delivered by area Cooperative Extension, has helped thousands of youth become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders. By declaring October 4 –10, 2020, is National 4-H Week, the Commission will encourage all citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it makes by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime. Michelle Beran, Cottonwood Extension District – Barton County, will be joined by area youth in presenting the proposed Proclamation.

Michelle Beran, 4-H Extension Agent Cottonwood Extension District – Barton County, brought the following 4-H ambassadors who assisted with the presentation:

Alexis Straub

Halley Hicks

Dinah Newman

-4-H Barbeque will be on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> \$8 BBQ beef or pork. Drive thru event,

# 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®**

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Proclamation 2020-10, National 4-H Week.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. HEARTLAND STRUCTURE, LLC: Damage to the Salt Shed at the South Washington Sand Pit:**

-Darren Williams, County Works Director, reports that the salt shed at the South Washington Sand Pit was damaged during the windstorm earlier this year. Heartland Structures, LLC has submitted a repair billing for \$41,856.00. Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, is remitting the bill to insurance. It is suggested that the Commission authorize payment at this time, with any insurance payment being deposited in the Road and Bridge Fund. Mr. Williams will provide details.

Darren Williams, County Works Director, said the windstorm last June caused damage to the salt shed.

Commissioner Daily asked if it had been repaired yet. Williams said yes.

Commissioner Schartz asked how much will not be covered. Hathcock said it was part of a larger claim with a \$2,500 deductible.

Commissioner Daily moved to authorize a \$41,856.00 payment to Heartland Structure, LLC for repair of the Salt Shed at the South Washington Sand Pit. Payment to be made from the Road and Bridge Fund, Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, Improvements Line, 002-92-5515 and any insurance reimbursements we would receive back would be deposited back into the Road and Bridge Fund, Other Refunds and Reimbursements line, 002-00-4585.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. RESOLUTION 2020-16: Rescinding Resolution 2020-04, 2020 Tax Sale, and Cancelling the 2020 Tax Sale:**

-On January 27, 2020, the Commission initiated the tax sale process with the adoption of Resolution 2020-04, 2020 Tax Sale. Since that time, COVID-19, a global pandemic, has caused priorities to shift and the delivery of services to take a different form. In response to COVID, Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, suggests that the sale be cancelled for 2020 and the Resolution rescinded.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said this year due to COVID asked the Commission to cancel the sale for this year. Jordan said we would have had 46 parcels on this sale and noted they typically we would have had 130 parcels but have worked with the taxpayers to set-up payment plans and get taxes paid.

Commissioner Schartz asked if skipping this year will that make more work next year. Jordan said it will be the same amount and noted it was a relief not having one this year.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Resolution 2020-16, Rescinding Resolution 2020-04 2020 Tax Sale.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. ADMINISTRATION: SPARK Funding: Distributions**

- Barton County has received the necessary documentation from the State Office of Recovery to distribute SPARK funding to the certain entities and to reimburse the County for COVID-related expenses.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, requested approval to distribute SPARKS funding. Hathcock said these entities have submitted the necessary documentation to fulfill the requirement of the CARES Act.

# 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®**

Commissioner Daily said this money we got from the Federal Government as a grant for COVID. Hathcock said correct, this money is to help mitigate and plan for future COVID response through December 2020.

Commissioner Daily asked when the funds have to be spent. Hathcock said December 30, 2020.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve distribution of SPARKS funds to the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, Golden Belt Community Foundation, The Center for Counseling and for the reimbursement of Barton County payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID. Total payments of \$1,087,872.87 to be made from the SPARKS Fund.

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

## **E. 911: 800 MHz Repeater Purchase**

- Barton County has received the necessary documentation from the State Office of Recovery to SPARK funding to purchase necessary hardware to support the upgrade to 800 MHz radios for law enforcement, fire services, and EMS.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said approximately 1½ years ago, Barton County began the transition to the 800 MHz radio system to replace the current UHF system. The 800 MHz radio system is a network of state towers that provides radio communication throughout the entire state of Kansas. There is only one state tower in the county. To adequately provide in-building coverage and a back-up system for the county in the event the state tower is inoperative, several repeaters need to be installed. Motorola has provided a contract to install two repeaters, one on the Mobile radio tower south of great bend, and one on the county owned Susank tower. To offset part of the cost, the county submitted plans for the project to be paid by SPARKS funding as the COVID-19 response has significantly impacted emergency services. The county has received approval from the SPARKS committee to proceed with the project.

Commissioner Daily said the elevation of the Susank Tower should give very good coverage to the Northern part of the county. Dena Popp said that is correct and should give coverage east and west as well. Popp said the state-wide system should provide coverage through-out the entire state. Hathcock said the percentile of coverage is 95% inside buildings. Commissioner Daily said this was something they were desperately working to find funds for. Hathcock said hats off to Sue Cooper and Dena Popp for securing the funds.

Commissioner Schremmer said a lot of work was done a few years ago. Popp said yes the structural analysis was done.

Commissioner Schartz asked if this had to be completed by the end of year and what would happen if it was not complete. Hathcock said we will get it done.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the contract with Motorola for the purchase and installation of 800 MHz repeaters and associated hardware. Payment of \$1,180,611.00 to be made from the SPARKS Fund equipment line 901-36-6165-60.

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

## **F. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Upgrade of phone system – Health Department and Courthouse:**

The current phone systems in the Courthouse and Health Department are running on unsupported hardware. This was problematic when services became more heavily reliant on technology following the COVID-19 closure of County business offices. Dereck Hollingshead, Network Administrator, has

# 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**

Research options that include the use of cloud phones that will allow all County business offices to work on one central system, thus allowing for greater ease in social distancing using features not currently available on the outdated system.

Dereck Hollingshead, Network Administrator, requested approval to purchase new phones.

Commissioner Daily asked what the advantages to the new phone system are. Hollingshead said all county departments will be on the same phone system. Daily said this is a cloud-based system and asked what the installation time frame is. Hollingshead said the end of the year and noted he will be working along with the installers.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the purchase of Polycom cloud phones from NexTech for the Health Department at a cost of \$11,541.60 and for the Courthouse at a cost of \$28,936.20. Payment for the Health Department phones to be made from the SPARK Health Dept, Equipment Line, 902-52-6165-60 and for the Courthouse from the SPARK Fund, Equipment Line, 901-24-6165-60. Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **G. KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: Voting Delegates:**

-The Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) begins its virtual Annual Conference in Wichita on October 13, 2020. Each year, the Commission designates a voting delegate and first and second voting alternates for the meeting.

Commissioner Schartz moved to designate myself Commissioner Jennifer Schartz as the Kansas Association of Counties Voting Delegate with Commissioner James R. Daily named as First Alternate and Commissioner Don Davis named as Second. Direct the County Clerk to complete the Certification of Voting Delegate and return to the KAC. Commissioner Daily seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **V. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS:**

• Jennifer Flick, parent of a child in the school system: Families with a COVID positive case are being quarantined for 24 days, despite the fact the CDC is not recommending that length for three of the four contact scenarios. At the last meeting it was mentioned we would rather err on the side of caution and quarantine large groups of people to keep everybody safe. All well and good if you are not the person out of wages or out of school. At the 9/21 meeting she heard that the Health Department and the Commission are doing the best they can and are really tired. Aren't ALL of us exhausted by the rules and regulations and fear? Aren't our health care workers and first responders and grocery store employees and retail staff and educators absolutely doing the best they can? That does not excuse blanket quarantines and economically crippling health orders. At a previous Commission meeting Ms. Duvall and Superintendent Thexton were emphatic that children need to be in school. A recent KSN article said the Center for Counseling in Barton County has seen a drastic increase in suicide behaviors. There has been an increase of teen age kids coming with anxiety and depression, especially in the last month. 10-days my children were home with no symptoms with not even a sneeze and then ordered to stay home another 14 days. What if they are quarantined again? We are going to drive community spread because people are more afraid of the quarantine than they are of the virus. People are going to stop getting tested. People will stop giving out their contacts. We need to stop with the releases targeting specific businesses. Exposure can happen anywhere. Asking for action for a plan that will better serve.

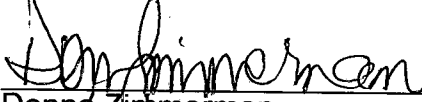
# Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

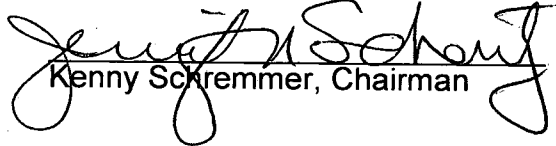
Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.  
Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email [clerk@bartoncounty.org](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)  
Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams®**

## **VII. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Schartz made a motion to adjourn at 9:38 A.M.  
Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman

## PROCLAMATION 2020-10

### National 4-H Week

WHEREAS, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, having supported almost six million youth across the country thus far; and

WHEREAS, 4-H has helped thousands of youth in Barton County and across Kansas and the United States to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension – a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing hands-on projects in areas including health, science, agriculture and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, National 4-H Week showcases the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people, and highlights the remarkable 4-H youth in Barton County, Kansas, who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them; and


WHEREAS, 4-H's network of 600,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all 4-H'ers, helping them to grow into true leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that October 4 –10, 2020, is NATIONAL 4-H WEEK throughout Barton County, Kansas, and


FURTHER, that all citizens are encouraged to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and continues to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

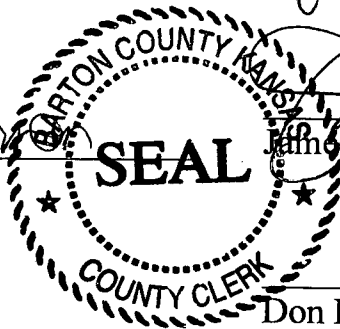
Adopted this 28<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman

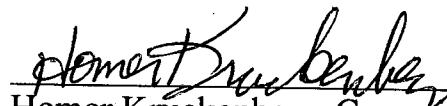
ATTEST:

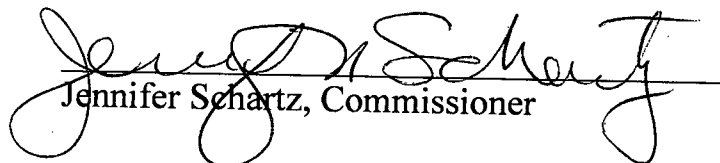
  
Donna Zimmerman  
County Clerk



  
James R. Daily, Commissioner

ABSENT  
Don Davis, Commissioner

  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner

  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

**RESOLUTION 2020-16**

**RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2020-04, 2020 TAX SALE,  
AND CANCELLING THE 2020 TAX SALE**

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2020, the Barton County Commission adopted a Resolution that initiated the 2020 Tax Sale process; and


**WHEREAS**, since that time, COVID-19, a global pandemic, has caused priorities to shift and the delivery of services to take a different form; and

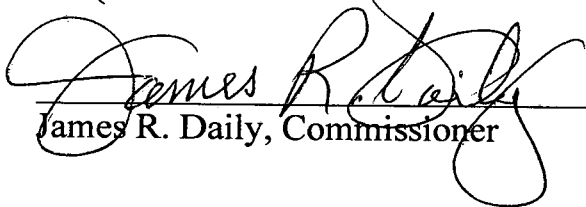
**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Kansas has adopted certain Executive Orders protecting citizens from financial hardships.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that Resolution 2020-04, 2020 Tax Sale, is hereby rescinded and that the 2020 Tax Sale is cancelled.

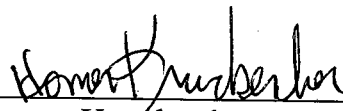
Adopted this 28<sup>TH</sup> of September, 2020.

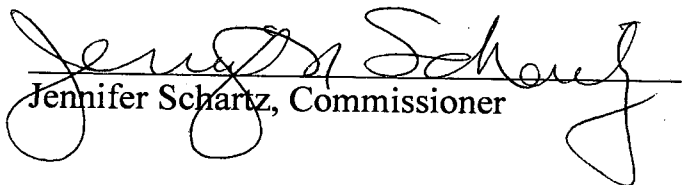
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman

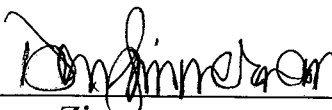
  
James R. Daily, Commissioner

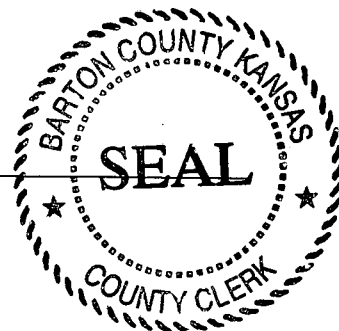
ABSENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Davis, Commissioner

  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner

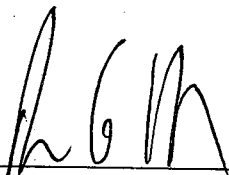
  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Donna Zimmerman,  
County Clerk



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor