

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

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November 16, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16th day of November 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*

James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman

Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk

Barry McManaman, Interim County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the October 26, 2021, the November 2, 2021 and the November 9, 2021, Regular Meetings were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SHERIFF'S OFFICE: Recognizing Undersheriff Bruce Green:

-Undersheriff Bruce Green has served at the Barton County Sheriff's Office since 1979. Hired by Sheriff Gene Marks, Undersheriff Green has successfully served under five Sheriffs. During his career, he has served Barton County as a Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and at the end of his career, Undersheriff. At this time, Sheriff Brian Bellendir will present Undersheriff Green, who is retiring effective November 19, 2021.

Sheriff Brian Bellendir said it is his honor and privilege to announce the retirement of Undersheriff Bruce Green. Bruce started in law enforcement in 1976 and briefly worked for the Hoisington and Great Bend Police Departments before coming to work for the Sheriff's Office. Bellendir said when he started as a reserve officer in 1982 Bruce was already there. Green has spent more than 45 years in law enforcement and has worked for five sheriffs. Came up through the ranks as deputy, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and undersheriff. Sheriff Bellendir said it took him about 25 years to finally get a rank ahead of Bruce. On behalf of the Sheriff's Office and Barton County, Sheriff Bellendir presented Undersheriff Bruce Green with a plaque.

Undersheriff Bruce Green said he was twenty years old in 1976 when hired as a Hoisington police officer and was promoted to captain in 1978. Green said he started his law enforcement career on Monday, November 1, 1976, and on Monday, November 1, 2021, he turned in his retirement notice to Sheriff Bellendir. Thanked his wife Rhonda who put up with rotating shifts, rotating days off, numerous phone calls and schedules that did not match. Rhonda stood up and received applause. Worked for Sheriff Marks, Sheriff Daily, Sheriff Causey, Sheriff Armstrong and finally Sheriff Bellendir. Tried to learn from each one to make things better. Has a lot of admiration for both Sheriff Daily and Sheriff Bellendir. A couple of years in between those two sheriffs, the department did not advance much and slipped

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backwards a little. In the past 45 years has worked with many good people and appreciates everyone he has gotten to work with. People still have respect for law enforcement in this community.

Commissioner Krier asked what his starting pay was when he started in 1976. Green said he started at Hoisington PD at \$550 per month and noted they had to buy everything other than shirt, badge, and pants.

Commissioner Daily said in 1989 when he took over at the Sheriff's Office, starting pay for a Deputy was \$5.98 per hour and they had to provide everything except their uniform.

Green said the Hoisington PD also worked the ambulance and got \$5 for an in-town run and \$10 for out-of-town run. Green said his father started in law enforcement in 1956 and was Chief of Police in St. John and then Chief in Kinsley. Green said he has really enjoyed his time with the County and looking forward to retirement.

Commissioner Daily said when he came here in 1973, one of the first people he met was Ed Green and that working relationship carried over to Bruce Green. Bruce Green said his brother Ed was a type I diabetic and started losing his eyesight but kept going. Green said they have a son, Josh, who is a police officer in Ellsworth and part-time in Claflin.

Commissioner Schartz moved to recognize Undersheriff Bruce Green upon his retirement after 42 years of dedicated service with the Barton County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. GREAT BEND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Board Appointments:

-As a result of the financial support of Great Bend Economic Development, Inc. (GBED), Barton County has been allotted one appointed seat on the GBED board as well as one seat on the GBED selection committee, which is responsible for selecting other members from the applicant pool. It is recommended that the Commission consider recommending Commissioner Jennifer Schartz as the GBED selection committee member and that during the selection process, Commissioner Schartz be authorized to select Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson as the GBED board member.

Barry McManaman, Interim County Administrator, said on November 2nd the Commission showed their support of Great Bend Economic Development, Inc. by approving \$150,000 to be paid immediately with another \$100,000 to be paid in 2022. They were then awarded a seat on the selection committee and a seat on the board.

Commissioner Krier moved to recommend the appointment of Commissioner Barb Esfeld as the GBED selection committee member and should that appointment be approved, authorize Commissioner Esfeld to select Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson as the County's GBED board member. Term limit to be determined at that time.

Krier said the reason he is making this motion is because three of us are up for election next year and is looking for longevity. Krier said he thinks Jennifer Schartz or Jim (Daily) would be awesome on this board, but looking for longevity. Does not mean Esfeld will accept it.

Commissioner Schartz said she volunteered because she has served for a long time.

Commissioner Esfeld said she is OK with that as long and her recommendation is Shawn Hutchinson. Commissioner Krier asked if we decide the term limit or the board.

Commissioner Schartz said the board would determine that.

Commissioner Hutchinson said they really did not want someone who would be running for election.

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Commissioner Daily said he did not know how long that selection committee would be existing.

Commissioner Schartz said it will be kind of a one and done situation.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the selection committee will choose every board member, not just one.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. WETLANDS & WILDLIFE NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY: Website License and Service Agreement:

-For the past several years, the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway website, www.kansaswetlandsandwildlifescenicbyway.com, has been hosted by Filament Essential Services (FES) / Simplified Online Communication System (SOCS). It is suggested that the County enter into another three-year period for services at a cost of \$1,900.00 per year. It is noted that the cost remains unchanged from the last renewal period.

Bj Wooding, Cartographer and Byway Committee Member, said it is time to renew the license agreement for the Byway website and noted it is hosted by the same company as the county website. Wooding said the company is easy to work with and the website is very easy to update.

Commissioner Daily asked if Wooding does all the photography. Wooding said she provides the aerial photography and said Dr. Dan Witt and other area photographers and the Great Bend Convention Bureau and has also contributed. Judy Goreham also helps update, especially with the photography.

Commissioner Schartz asked if there is a counter on the number of site visits. Wooding said they have had 49,899 visits so far this year and the county website has had 461,000 visits.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Filament Essential Services / Simplified Online Communication System Renewal License and Services Agreement for the Kansas Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway for a three-year period beginning January 1, 2022. Cost of service, \$1,900.00 per year, to be paid from General Finance, General Fund, Economic Development Line, 001-26-6880. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. COMMISSION: COVID-19 Immunization Action Plan Supplemental 3 – Vaccine Access and Supplemental 4 -Vaccine Equity Awards

-Barton County was awarded two COVID-19 Immunization Action Plan grants for vaccine access and equity. The IAP grants expand access to vaccines.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said they were awarded two KDHE grants and asked for approval. Vaccine Access was for \$63,000 and Vaccine Equity was for \$120,000. Both have been based on county population in terms of what they were eligible to request. The funding would be used for salaries, freezer for vaccine storage and to lease a vehicle for two years to provide access to the smaller communities within our county.

Commissioner Krier asked if it will be difficult to spend the funding. Winkelman said it is available until June 2024. Winkelman said if they have trouble spending it, they can submit a new request for another item to KDHE. A big portion will go towards leasing a vehicle.

Commissioner Esfeld said the vehicle will pull the Health Department trailer.

Commissioner Schartz moved to accept the COVID-19 Immunization Action Plan Supplemental 3 – Vaccine Access grant for \$63,000 and the Immunization Action Plan Supplemental 4 – Vaccine Equity grant for \$120,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign the grant acceptance paperwork. Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

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All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. SOLID WASTE: Repair of the Cat 826G Compactor:

-The Barton County Landfill owns and operates a Caterpillar 826G Compactor that is utilized daily to compact municipal solid waste at the landfill. The machine is articulated and steering of the machine is accomplished by two hydraulic cylinders. The left steering cylinder of the machine developed a significant hydraulic leak. A remanufactured cylinder was located by landfill management and installed on the machine by Foley Equipment.

Phil Hathcock, Solid Waste Director, said the landfill operates two compactors. The 826G has been used for construction at the landfill. One of the hydraulic cylinders began leaking. It is a pretty involved repair process. It must be lanced out. Asked for authorization of the repair

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Foley Equipment billing of \$11,235.27 for the repair of the Caterpillar 826G Compactor. That price to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Maintenance of Machinery and Equipment Line, 140-68-5460.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Krier said Foley is about the only one who can do this.

Hathcock said they have maintenance contracts, but Foley is the best.

Commissioner Krier asked the Commission to visit with Phil to see how we can change the process to allow for these type expenditures because they need to be repaired immediately to get the equipment back in service.

Commissioner Hutchinson said maybe something as simple as calling the chair for approval. The commission could give the chair authority to approve.

Commissioner Daily said they ran into the same issue with Road & Bridge.

Hathcock said the V7 dozer is being repaired now.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if there was a core charge on that. Hathcock said no, they located a rebuilt cylinder so they could replace it. He sent the cylinder that was leaking off to be rebuilt, so they will then have a spare.

Commissioner Schartz said our solution might be as simple as raising the amount to possibly \$15,000 or \$20,000.

Commissioner Krier said a new compactor would be a million dollars.

Hathcock said right at a million.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. MIDWEST ENERGY: Grain Entrapment Rescue Tube Funding:

-The County Commissioners will request the award of a \$1,000 grant from Midwest Energy. Any monies awarded would be used to purchase a grain entrapment rescue tube for Fire District No. 1 (Claflin) to be used, under mutual aid agreements, by all area agencies, including Ellsworth and Rice Counties.

Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, said Midwest Energy is making \$21,000 available in grant funding at \$1,000 per each county they serve. Miller said the tube is used in case they become encased in grain. Miller said Midwest wants to ensure only one grant is awarded per county and noted it is a first come first serve grant. Need to approve a letter of intent for Fire District No. 1 to receive the equipment.

Commissioner Daily asked Hubbard if he has experience with this. Doug Hubbard, Claflin Fire Chief, said no, but he has had training. Hubbard explained how the entrapment tube is used.

Commissioner Schartz asked what the full price is for the equipment.

Hubbard said they are somewhere around \$2,000. Claflin Ambulance Service will provide some of the matching funding.

Commissioner Schartz asked if it will be available for use throughout the county. Hubbard said yes, they have mutual aid agreements.

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Miller said the equipment is important as there is farm storage other than the commercial elevators.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to authorize the Commission Chair to sign a letter of intent requesting funding from Midwest Energy for a Grain Entrapment Rescue Tube purchase.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Comm Esfeld: Law enforcement is not a career you are going to get rich at. Gave her goosebumps seeing all the men in blue.
- Comm Daily: Hired David Paden when he was 21 years old.
- Comm Esfeld: They learned from somebody who led by example (Bruce Green).
- Comm Hutchinson: Curious how the meeting went yesterday. (*Sunflower Diversified BOTA Hearing*)
- Comm Esfeld: It went pretty well.
- Patrick Hoffman: They have 15 days to make a determination. Difficult for the board to determine where the line is. Sunflower had made an exemption request for their market on West 10th Street. There was discussion with the board to determine whether to grant the exemption.
- Comm Esfeld: Typically, the Appraiser's Officer just signs off on the exemption requests. It is definitely hard on BOTA to decide. Wendy (Prosser) brought up the assessment rate on a 501c3.

VI. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:56 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk

James R. Daily, Chairman