

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/3p6iJLa>

February 16, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16th day of February 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
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Roll Call taken by County Clerk.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda after we remove Items D and E which is the Executive Session.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021, and the February 8, 2021, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 4th Run:

-An Accounts Payable Register for the 13th Month, 2020, will be submitted to the Commission.

Thirteenth month expenditures include any unpaid bills for a product, service or utility that was received in 2020.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the 13th Month – 4th Run appropriations for 2020 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of February 1, 2021, and ending February 16, 2021.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of February 1, 2021, to February 16, 2021. We would also like to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

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NEW BUSINESS:

SUNFLOWER DIVERSIFIED SERVICES: Letter of Support:

-In November, 2019, Jon Prescott, Executive Director/CEO, Sunflower Diversified Services, provided details on a Kansas Department of Transportation grant that would allow for expanding its fleet to fourteen buses and adding connecting services to Ellis, Reno, Saline and Pratt Counties. At that time, the Commission provided a Letter of Support for the 90 /10 percent project, calculated at a total cost of \$1,135,000.00.

Jon Prescott, Sunflower Executive Director/CEO, said they provide transportation services for five counties with the majority of their services in Barton County. Prescott said they are taking very good of the buses provided to them by the state and noted they have been hit by vandalism where the vandals cut off catalytic converters. Prescott said COVID was tough on transportation, but they never closed as there were people who needed dialysis and chemo patients for example that had to be transported. Sunflower provided 45,222 rides in 2020. Rides increased by 322 in December 2020 and 528 rides in January 2021. Rides are provided to a lot of people beyond their own clients. They provided free rides during COVID. Prescott said their normal charge is \$2 per ride which was waived since last June and will continue through June 2021. Prescott presented a Google Earth diagram detailing the new transportation facility and explained busses will enter and exit from 9th Street. Recycling sorting will continue at the 5523 10th Street location. Need a new school so will be applying for Community Development Block Grant funding, because they have now been credentialled for the autism program. There are 150 kids in Kansas who have been diagnosed with autism. Building the school on the front part of the property and building a new adult services building.

Commissioner Daily asked about the "Dream" timeline. Prescott said the transportation facility should be done in 12-18 months. Must have the Community Development Block Grant in by August and hopes to hear back on it by the end of the year. Hoping to have both buildings built and finished by the end of 2022. Prescott said the school will be first because that is the greatest need with the adult services second. When they purchased the Pro-Tint building, they found out that to get a fire inspection by the State Fire Marshall to draw up a code footprint. They hired Don Marrs to draw up the footprint and sent it to the State of Kansas two weeks ago.

Prescott said we are extremely blessed to have two public servants like Karen Winkelman and Phil Hathcock. Thanked them for coming out to their facility to administer shots in frigid temperatures.

Commissioner Krier asked why the transportation facility couldn't be built at the airport location instead of on 10th Street. Prescott said, right now, the cost of operations because we are located in so many different locations and being far apart from each other. They do not have that size of space at that location. Krier asked how many acres they have there. Prescott said he would have to check but he knew it was not enough. Prescott said he had tried to purchase the old Coca-Cola building but it could not be acquired for a reasonable amount. They decided to make the current property part of the grant application because they have to come up with 10% of the total cost of the grant. That piece of property meets the requirement. This will be a central transfer station and would facilitate riders from Ellis County, Rush County to Barton County and possibly beyond to Hutchinson or other areas. The west location would not be convenient to provide service to their customers nor would there be enough acreage. Krier asked why it would not be convenient. Prescott said in town is always more convenient than out of town. Some people come in their private vehicles, get on a transportation vehicle and be taken to the Rice County line or the Rush County line to get on another service.

Commissioner Schartz asked if 9th Street is a paved street. Prescott said it is not but is going to ask for some asphalt shavings.

Commissioner Krier asked if the street is in the township. Commissioner Daily said it is a city street.

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Commissioner Esfeld asked where adult services, school and other recycling are located at this time. Prescott said the community recycling center was right behind the UPS Store, commercial recycling processing and day services are at the airport location. Day services include jobs such as winding hoses for Flame Engineering and are now talking to LaCrosse Furniture to sew their pillows. Those jobs would be moved into town once the new day services building was completed. The more severely disabled population is served in building located by Water's True Value. That would also move into the new building.

Esfeld said the school is located on Patton Road and asked what would be done with the other buildings. Prescott said the building by Water's True Value was sold to the nearby church last fall. The airport where office staff is located will also be sold. Will only keep the back property with commercial recycling. Package dog bones that McPherson Company manufactures. Also do thermo coupling for Flame Engineering as well.

Information Only. No Action Required.

B. COMPUTER INFORMATION CONCEPTS: Annual Peopleware Agreement:

-In 2013, the County purchased a commercial software package from Computer Information Concepts, Inc. (CIC). The software includes tax administration, budgetary / fund accounting, indexing / imaging, payroll / personnel and time / attendance. The Commission will now be asked to consider approval of the Annual Peopleware Agreement that details responsibilities for the soft- and hard-ware, including response time.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said as you know CIC provides the software and hardware used for tax administration, budget, payroll, timeclock, etc. Each year they invoice us for the software we use, service and support and backup. Last year we paid \$49,775 and the cost this year has increased to \$51,795.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if there is a local company that could provide this service. Hathcock said it is not a local company and said we switched to this company in 2013 and from what he understands it was a huge undertaking to swap all of our accounting over. Hathcock said he is not aware of a local company that could provide this service.

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, said she is only aware of two companies who provide this type of service in the state of Kansas and noted neither company is local.

Commissioner Schartz said we really do not have a lot of control of some of these types of expenditures.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Annual Peopleware Agreement with Computer Information Concepts, Inc. The agreement cost, \$51,795.00, is to be paid from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, CIC Maintenance Fees Line, 001-18-5476.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE: Opposition to House Bill 2142:

-The Kansas House Tax Committee is considering House Bill 2142, which would require Kansas counties to reimburse businesses for property tax beginning December 31, 2019, if they were shut down or had capacity limited during the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill does not appear to allow the Commissioners discretion if the business was shut down for a reason other than COVID. At this time, the Commission will consider ratifying a letter that was sent to the Committee by Chairman James R. Daily on Monday, February 8, 2021.

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Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said Commissioner Esfeld brought this bill to their attention. Commissioner Esfeld said the bill is pretty vague as to what businesses were shut-down due to COVID and said we do not know what the financial impact would be. Esfeld said our opposition does not mean they do not want to help businesses; they just do not know what the impact would be.

Commissioner Schartz said this legislation could bankrupt the county.

Commissioner Daily said the bill does not pin-point any specifics when it comes to what kind of business, how much time is involved, and how much time they were shut-down. Therefore, we absolutely needed to oppose it.

Commissioner Schartz said the county will probably look at the impact of COVID on local businesses.

Hathcock said these bills are moving pretty quickly through the legislature which is why we must act quickly sometimes. This is why we need to ratify our action.

Patrick Hoffman said KAC sent an email last week during study session notifying them of the bill.

Commissioner Hutchinson said every time something comes out of our budget someone must pay for it. Hutchinson said if we take something out, we must put something back and would have to raise taxes on everyone else if we started refunding people. We are trying to avoid raising taxes.

Commissioner Schartz moved to ratify the February 8, 2021, letter submitted to the House Tax Committee reference House Bill 2142.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Attorney-Client Privilege:

-The Commission will enter into Executive Session. It is anticipated that the County Administrator, the Register of Deeds, the Human Resources Officer and the County Counselor will be invited into Executive Session. The Commission meeting will resume in fifteen minutes.

ITEM REMOVED

E. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Attorney-Client Privilege:

-The Commission will make any necessary announcements as a result of the Executive Session. If necessary, further discussion or a decision may be made at this time.

ITEM REMOVED

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Phil Hathcock: We have not received shipping confirmation of this week's COVID vaccine. It is likely weather related therefore we will most likely not have a drive-thru event tomorrow. Working with the city to coordinate the use of the EXPO building.
- Comm Daily: Thanked Karen Winkelman and Phil Hathcock for their work on the Saturday drive-thru when it was bitter cold. I thank you, the Commission thanks you and am certain the citizens thank you.
- Comm Schartz: Asked for an update on the Saturday vaccine drive-thru with the cold weather.
- Karen Winkelman: The event went very well. Administered 700 doses. There were so many people helping, including HazMat who brought their trailer to keep people warm. Comm Krier was also there helping with forms.

Comm Hutchinson: Were many people turned away?

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Comm Krier: According to the Sheriff only 6 were turned away.

Comm Krier: Told Jon Prescott the commission has discussed how they can get vaccine to their clients.

- Jon Prescott: Phil & Karen did a good job in sub-zero -13° weather on their holiday. Very much appreciated. Some of their clients are unable to go out in this cold. Got 29 clients vaccinated and have 7 to go. Can only vaccinate those who have agreed to vaccinate.
- Comm Esfeld: Rob Bauer offered to bring out coffee and food. Very glad the county was able to go to Rosewood and Sunflower with vaccine.
- Karen Winkelman: Has to commend her staff. There was no complaining and a lot of laughter. Came back to Health Department afterwards to do the data entry and stayed until 10pm. Still more data entry to do today.
- Comm Krier: Shout out to the Oxford House for their Applebee's fundraiser today. 50% of the items go towards their fundraiser.
- Comm Esfeld: Would like to discuss how we are administering the vaccine and discuss what some of the other counties are doing.
- Comm Daily: That can be discussed in study session.

VIII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:43 A.M.

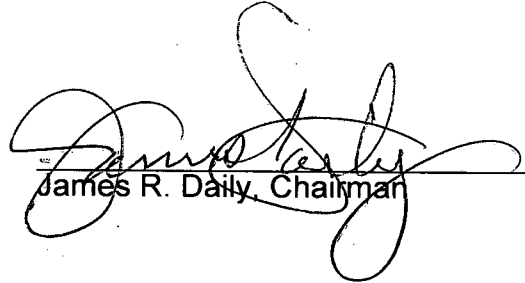
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk



James R. Daily, Chairman