

# 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®**

January 11, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 11th day of January 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District  
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District (Chairman Pro-Tem)  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District Chairman  
Bev Schmeidler, Assistant Deputy County Clerk  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

*Members attending via Teams®:*

Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District

## I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Roll Call taken by Assistant Deputy County Clerk.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the agenda.  
Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2020 and the January 4, 2021, Regular Meetings.  
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

## III. RECOGNITION OF OFFICIALS:

### A. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING OFFICIALS:

Commissioners Don Davis and Homer Kruckenberg will be honored at this time. Commissioner Davis was first sworn into office on January 14, 2013. Commissioner Kruckenberg was first sworn into office on January 12, 2009. Both have faithfully served Barton County in a leadership role since elected.

Commissioner Daily said he had known Homer Kruckenberg for many years and said his service to the community and to the county had been very well represented and everything he has done was greatly appreciated. Commissioner Daily said Don Davis had done an outstanding job as a commissioner and noted he had volunteered for committees and always represented the county in a positive way.

Commissioner Krier said he had not served with Don Davis for very long but thanked him for his service to the county. Commissioner Krier said that he and Homer Kruckenberg go back a way and said he was a delight to work with. Commissioner Krier thanked Kruckenberg and wished him good luck in the future.

Commissioner Schartz said the day was filled with happiness, but there was also a touch of sadness because she has worked with these gentlemen for a long time. They are two of the most dedicated commissioners that she had worked with in her time. Commissioner Schartz said she will miss them both immensely. Commissioner Schartz said Don Davis had been a good commissioner even though he had

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She has not been able to physically be there in person. One of the things she will miss most about Kruckenberg were his witticisms and asked him to give them one more quote. Commissioner Kruckenberg said put the hay down where the goats can get it.

Commissioner Daily moved to honor Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Kruckenberg for their dedication to Barton County.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Davis thanked God for the chance to serve the public of Barton County. Davis said he wanted to remember the first responders and the many people that have stepped up to help during the pandemic. Davis also thanked the dedicated employees of the county for always being willing to be available and stepping up to do their jobs and being proud of the jobs they do. Davis also thanked the Road & Bridge Department for taking care of the cemeteries. Davis said he was especially proud Kenny Schremmer made sure the Veteran's Memorial was built at the cemetery. Davis thanked Homer Kruckenberg and remembered Don Cates.

Commissioner Kruckenberg said it had been a real joy, was glad he got to serve with Commissioner Krier and noted that Commissioner Schartz had run the show as it should be run.

Commissioner Schartz presented gifts.

## **B. HONORING COMMISSIONER KENNY SCHREMMER:**

Commissioner Kenny Schremmer passed away November 26, 2020, in Hoisington, Kansas.

Commissioner Schremmer faithfully served Barton County and District No. 1 since he was first sworn into office on January 9, 2003.

Commissioner Schartz said she had no words to express how she felt and noted Kenny Schremmer was a co-commissioner for as long as she had served. Schartz said Kenny was her friend and said they worked well together. They did not always agree but agreed to disagree. Kenny beat the bushes and figured out what his constituents wanted, he was always willing to take a call from anyone, an all-around great guy. Commissioner Schartz presented Kenny Schremmer's wife and daughter a gift on behalf of the county.

Commissioner Krier said he and Kenny went way back and recalled when the commission was increasing from three to five commissioners, Kenny asked if Kirby thought he could be a commissioner. Commissioner Krier said he told Kenny he would be a great commissioner.

Commissioner Daily said he first met Kenny when Daily became Sheriff in 1989 and knew of his auction and real estate business. Kenny was always a friend and helped whenever he could. You could call him anytime, if there was livestock out, a fence down or you just needed help to find something. Commissioner Daily said that he had the pleasure of working with him for a short period of time as a commissioner and Kenny was a mentor for him. They would visit after the meetings and Kenny imparted priceless information.

Commissioner Daily moved to honor Commissioner Kenny Schremmer for his service to Barton County for the many, many years that he did.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **IV. RECESS FOR SWEARING IN OF OFFICIALS:**

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The following officials will be sworn in: James R. Daily, Barb Esfeld and Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioners; Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk; Pam Wornkey, Register of Deeds; Levi Morris, County Attorney and Sheriff Brian Bellendir. James Jordan will be sworn in as the Treasurer, although his term will begin later in the year. The swearing in ceremony will be held at 9:15 am in Courtroom A.

At 9:16 A.M., Commissioner Krier moved to recess the Commission Meeting for the swearing in of County officials and Sheriff's Deputies. The Commission will return to Chambers and resume the meeting following these activities.

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

## **V. SWEARING IN OF SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES:**

Deputies of the Barton County Sheriff's Office will be sworn in.

## **VI. RETURN:**

Commissioner Daily moved to resume the agenda meeting at 9:53 A.M.  
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

### *Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District *Chairman*  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Bev Schmeidler, Assistant Deputy County Clerk  
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

-Nominations are in order for the 2021 Commission Chairman as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219. The Board of County Commissioners consists of Commissioners James R. Daily, Barb Esfeld, Shawn Hutchinson, Kirby Krier and Jennifer Schartz.

Commissioner Schartz moved to appoint Jim Daily as Chairman of the Barton County Commission for 2021.

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

### **B. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN PRO TEM OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

-Nominations are in order for the 2021 Chairman Pro Tem as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219.

Commissioner Daily moved to appoint Jennifer Schartz as Chairman Pro Tem of the Barton County Commission for 2021.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

Commissioner Krier moved to appoint Shawn Hutchinson as Chairman Pro Tem of the Barton County Commission for 2021.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

Commissioner Daily explained a vote would be taken on the second motion first.

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Commissioner Krier, Commissioner Esfeld and Commissioner Hutchinson voted aye.  
Commissioner Schartz and Commissioner Daily voted nay.  
Motion passed 3 - 2.

## **C. SOUTH BEND TOWNSHIP: Board Appointment:**

-Following the death of Lance Walters, the remaining South Bend Township board members have nominated Darren Nicolet to fulfill the term of Township Clerk. It is the Commissioners' responsibility to make the appointment per KSA 25-1606. Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, will provide details.

Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk, said Lance Walters served on the board for a long period of time and did a great job and was saddened to learn of his sudden passing. Zimmerman said Marilyn Selle, South Bend Township Treasurer, obtained the form to appoint Darren Nicolet to the position of South Bend Township Clerk and said Nicolet is a qualified registrant.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that he knows Darren Nicolet as a competent individual and he was more than qualified for the position.

Commissioner Krier said he appreciated Lance Walters service.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Darren Nicolet as the South Bend Township Clerk, effective January 11, 2021, with the position terming on January 9, 2023.  
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **RESOLUTION 2021-01: Operating Year 2021 - Requesting a Waiver Under K.S.A. 75-1120a:**

It is standard procedure to request a waiver of the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a relating to the preparation of financial statements and financial reports each year. The basis is that statements prepared in conformity with this statute are of no significant value to Barton County nor to the general public. Matt Patzner, Finance Officer, will provide details.

Matt Patzner, Barton County Financial Officer, said the statute requires municipalities to use generally accounting principles or GAP in preparation of their financial statements and reports. The governing body may choose to waive the statutory GAP requirement and present financial statements and reports on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of Kansas. In order to waive the requirement of the GAP audit, the governing body must take such action and that must be approved by the Director of Accounts and Reports in Topeka.

Commissioner Daily asked if this was done annually. Patzner said yes.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Resolution 2021-01, Requesting a Waiver under KSA 75-1120a.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **E. RESOLUTION 2021-02: Designation of the Official County Newspaper:**

-Resolution 2021-02 calls for the designation of the official County newspaper. The newspaper selected must meet the qualifications as prescribed by K.S.A. 64-101. To meet this statute, and to best reach the citizens of Barton County, the Commission shall consider the designation of The Tribune. Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, will provide details.

Phil Hathcock, Barton County Administrator, said this was a normal annual procedure designating an official county newspaper.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Resolution 2021-02, Designation of the Official County Newspaper.

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

## **VIII. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Comm Krier: Asked if the mask mandate could be revisited at some point in time.
- Comm Daily: Asked if Comm Krier wanted it on next weeks' agenda.
- Comm Krier: We could discuss it in study session.

## **X. ADJOURN.**

Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 10:02 A.M.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Assistant Deputy Clerk

James R Daily  
Jim Daily, Chairman