

# 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**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3p0UFbV>

May 3, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 3rd day of May 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Barb Efeld, Commissioner, 2nd District  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021, and the April 26, 2021, Regular Meetings.

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

## II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

## III. NEW BUSINESS:

### **A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes:**

-Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes. Orders for these actions are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. These are used to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, presented the following tax roll adjustments:

| BATCH #7 | Property Types           | Values   | Escaped Taxes | Added / Abated | Refunds      |
|----------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
|          | Gas                      |          |               |                |              |
|          | Oil                      |          |               |                |              |
|          | Personal Property        | - 8,844  |               | -\$ 2,020.76   | \$ 1,221.04  |
|          | Real Estate              | -291,381 |               | -\$ 53,763.18  | \$ 27,095.22 |
|          | 16/20 M Trucks           | - 23,412 |               | -\$ 3,581.32   | \$ 1,764.85  |
|          | State Assessed Utilities |          |               |                |              |
|          | Special Assessments      |          |               |                |              |
|          | Grand Totals             | -323,637 |               | -\$ 59,365.26  | \$ 30,081.11 |

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|                        |              |  |  |  |
|------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Total Taxes            | -\$59,365.26 |  |  |  |
| Total Records Selected | 30           |  |  |  |

Commissioner Schartz asked was there any one thing that stood out.

Commissioner Esfeld said most of it was due to corrections on real estate and some 16M & 20M trucks that sold in the middle of the year. Esfeld noted this was the time of year for informal appeals.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the Clerk's Office. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. GREAT BEND HOUSING AUTHORITY: Renovation of the High Rise:**

-Great Bend Housing Authority is renovating the High Rise Apartments. These apartments, constructed in 1971, will be renovated floor by floor to provide modern, safe and affordable housing.

Lynn Fleming, Great Bend Housing Authority Executive Director, said they have two programs: Section 8 housing and the High Rise which is considered public housing. Fleming reported they are renovating the entire building and noted the current cabinets are made of particle board and the porcelain is wearing off the sinks. Fleming said the High Rise is made up of a lot of studio apartments which is a single room of about 500 square feet which are hard to rent. They are converting them to one-bedroom apartments. They currently have 97 apartments which will be reduced to 81 apartments. There are 40 one-bedroom apartments currently. Three two-bedroom apartments will also be renovated. Fleming said they can rent to 20% of the apartments to individuals under 55 years and explained that participants in either program must undergo a background check. The High Rise is a secured building being locked nights, weekends and holidays with on-site maintenance staff living on the premises. Fleming said they moved all residents to floors 1-4 so construction may begin on floors 5-12. The High Rise will be on the National Historic Register.

Commissioner Daily asked if they put tenants on lower floors who might need special accommodations. Fleming said they try to accommodate the tenants that request lower floors.

Commissioner Daily asked if they have rooms that are accessible to wheelchairs. Fleming said 10% are accessible and are disbursed throughout the building.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if it would take 1 studio apartment to make 2 bedrooms. Fleming responded that three studios will be converted into two one-bedroom apartments.

Information Only. No Action Required.

## **C. PROCLAMATION 2021-11: National Bike Month, May, 2021:**

-The bicycle is an economical, healthy, convenient and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent tool for recreation and enjoyment of Barton County's scenic beauty. Throughout the month of May, citizens are urged to experience the joys of bicycling and to be vigilant of bicyclists in the community when driving. Brandon Steinert, Be Well Barton County Committee Member, has been asked to present the Proclamation that names May 2021 as National Bike Month.

Brandon Steinert, Be Well Barton County Committee Member, shared that he was hit by a car on the highway a year ago while riding his bicycle and was down for about two months. Steinert said the 2021 Bike to Work Week is May 17-23 and Bike to Work Day is May 21<sup>st</sup>. The movement was sanctioned by

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League of American bicyclists to showcase cycling and encourage people to get their knees in the breeze. Steinert reported that more people were out pedaling than ever before during the pandemic.

Commissioner Esfeld asked how many people gather to cycle together. Steinert said there have been as many as twenty.

Commissioner Daily asked if they have trained for the Bike Across Kansas. Both Dale Hogg and Brandon Steinert said they have participated.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked when Be Well Barton County meets. Dale Hogg, Chairman, said they meet at noon, the first Monday of the Month at the Extension Office.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Proclamation 2021-11, as National Bike Month, May, 2021.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he liked to do proclamations that are not so controversial and asked to be the first to vote aye.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. SUNFLOWER DIVERSIFIED SERVICES: Grant Match for the Purchase of a Baler:**

-Sunflower Diversified Services has submitted a grant to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) for the purchase of a reconditioned baler. Included in the \$59,763.56 project is the baler, freight, installation and electrical work. Jon Prescott, Executive Director, Sunflower Diversified, has asked that the Commission consider contributing a 25% project match of \$14,940.89.

Jon Prescott, Sunflower Diversified Executive Director, requested approval from the Solid Waste Fund for 5% match for a reconditioned horizontal bale and explained that they have increased recycling. In 2020, they picked up four million pounds of recycling. Prescott said the baler broke down, so they were unable to process about 325,000 pounds in order to sell to Senoco. Prescott said the Recycling Department employs 15 staff and anywhere from 18-25 intellectually disabled clients who are paid minimum wage. They use five trucks to provide the service plus two fork-lifts. The clients appreciate the ability to work within the public. Prescott said the grant must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Commissioner Schartz said they have a grant that comes from the Landfill and asked if that is outside of that grant. Prescott said the request is outside of that grant and said he plans to reapply for that grant.

Commissioner Esfeld asked what would happen if they were not awarded the KDHE grant. Prescott said they would not need the match. Esfeld asked if they could sell the old baler. Prescott said there is no market for the old baler and noted they will use it until the day it dies. Esfeld said for everything they recycle; it saves space in our landfill.

Commissioner Krier asked how much income was generated annually. Prescott said in 2017, \$85,000 from Senoco. In 2018 there was gross revenue of \$59,000 and in 2019 it dropped to \$29,815. Prescott said he does not have the 2020 figures yet. Krier asked how much you get paid per ton. Prescott said each material is a different weight and price per ton. Prescott provided some of the pricing.

Commissioner Esfeld asked if the money they generate goes to paying the employees. Prescott said yes, plus maintenance of the equipment.

Commissioner Daily said hypothetically if the grant is not approved today how would that effect you. Prescott said they would have to evaluate recycling altogether.

Commissioner Krier asked why recycling is going out of business. Prescott said the cost of recycling.

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Commissioner Hutchinson said if it is not making money how long do you want to do recycling. Prescott said they are about breaking even, not about making money and hopes prices increase.

Prescott asked to know today if the Commission is not interested in recycling. Commissioner Hutchinson said he is interested in helping.

Prescott said Sue Cooper has been a great help in getting recycling trailers.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to encumber 25% of the project match up to \$14,940.89 for the KDHE Baler Grant as submitted by Sunflower Diversified. Match to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Recycling Grant Line, 140-68-5905. Funding may be released to Sunflower upon proof of the Grant Award. Wants to make it very clear it is upon approval.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## E. BOARD APPOINTMENT: Barton County Planning Commission:

-The County has sought applicants for the Barton County Planning Commission. The focus of the Planning Commission is to plan for the proper growth and development of Barton County through the enactment of planning and zoning laws for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare. Although all applicants must reside in Barton County, the majority of members must be from the unincorporated area.

Judy Goreham, Zoning Administrator, asked that Chad Ehrlich be appointed to the position vacated by Wilmer Wegele who moved out of the county. Goreham said Ehrlich is a businessman and involved in the community. Currently have six planning commissioners out in the county. If Ehrlich is approved this would make 3 members within the city but would still have the minimum of 5 in the rural areas.

Goreham said Debbie Deutsch had applied for a zoning amendment for an events center north of the college which was approved. She is now looking to move out to that home and live in the upper floor with her husband and father. Goreham said they would need to get a conditional use permit for a residence and noted they will have a public hearing next Tuesday.

Commissioner Schartz said this board gets strength from longevity and hoped this appointment will remain on the board. Goreham said three of the members have been on the board over 20 years with another three who have served for 10 years or more.

Commissioner Esfeld said she knows Chad and thinks he would be a great addition to the board.

Current membership:

| <u>Appointment</u> | <u>Requirement</u> | <u>Date Appointed</u> | <u>Term Date</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mary Anne Stoskopf | Unincorporated     | 3/25/2019             | 3/31/2022        |
| Billie Bonomo      | Unincorporated     | 3/25/2019             | 3/31/2022        |
| James Welch        | Unincorporated     | 3/25/2019             | 3/31/2022        |
| JC Bosch           | Unincorporated     | 4/06/2020             | 3/31/2023        |
| Earl Moses         | City               | 4/06/2020             | 3/31/2023        |
| Open               | County             | Open                  | 3/31/2023        |
| Toni Rice          | Unincorporated     | 4/05/2021             | 3/31/2024        |
| Russell Carson     | Unincorporated     | 4/05/2021             | 3/31/2024        |
| Penelope Gullett   | City               | 4/05/2021             | 3/31/2024        |

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Chad Ehrlich to the Barton County Planning Commission for an uncompensated position terming March 31, 2023.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

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voted aye. Motion passed.

## F. COVID UPDATE:

-The Commission will receive an update on COVID-19 operations.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said last week they administered 306 doses of Moderna vaccine and 15 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and for a total of 10,072 doses. Winkelman said they have adequate doses of both vaccines. Johnson & Johnson lifted the pause. Still waiting on the approval EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) for Pfizer vaccine for 12 years of age and older. Winkelman said they have two active positive cases currently and said with the two current positive cases, Barton County is at 2,505 cases today. Thursday, they placed an order for 60 doses of Pfizer vaccine for individuals age 16-18. Moderna is only provided for individuals age 18 and older. Walk-in vaccine services are provided. Home visits are being made as well. Winkelman announced they will be at the Cinco de Mayo event this weekend.

Commissioner Daily said you are again to be applauded for your outstanding services and your staff is second to none.

Commissioner Krier asked if there will ever be a time when we can scrape the six-foot social distancing signs off the floor. Winkelman said we still need to be vigilant in taking precautions. No vaccine is 100%, so if it can lessen the symptoms and prevent hospitalization, it is very important.

Commissioner Schartz said a lot of the pharmacies are experiencing a lot of waste. Are we still at a level where we are not wasting a lot of vaccine? Winkelman said we are wasting a very small amount. They try their best to call individuals who are interested. They have also asked for single dose vials and pre-d syringes. Instead, the manufacturer is looking to provide the vaccine in larger vials.

Commissioner Schartz asked if we have seen the variant in Barton county. Winkelman said no.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if anyone has had a serious reaction to the vaccine. Winkelman said one individual had a respiratory reaction that was sort of anxiety driven. Hutchinson said, no serious reaction in 10,000 doses with 500 of those doses being Johnson & Johnson.

Information Only. No Action Required.

## IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

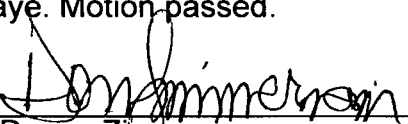
## VI. ADJOURN.

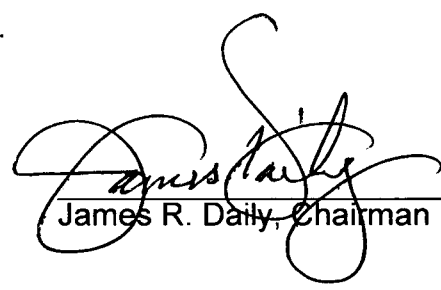
Commissioner Krier moved to adjourn at 9:52 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
James R. Daily, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2021-11

National Bike Month, May, 2021

WHEREAS, the bicycle is an economical, healthy, convenient, and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent tool for recreation and enjoyment of Barton County's scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, getting outside for exercise is not only good for one's physical health, but also for one's mental health as people may be facing added stress and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of May, the residents of Barton County are encouraged to experience the joys of bicycling; and

WHEREAS, creating a bicycling-friendly community has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, growing the economy of Barton County, attracting tourism dollars, improving traffic safety, supporting student learning outcomes, and reducing pollution, congestion, and wear and tear on our streets and roads; and


WHEREAS, Be Well Barton County, the Barton County Commission, the League of American Bicyclists, schools, parks and recreation departments, police departments, public health districts, hospitals, companies and civic groups will be promoting bicycling during the month of May 2020 and throughout the remainder of the year; and

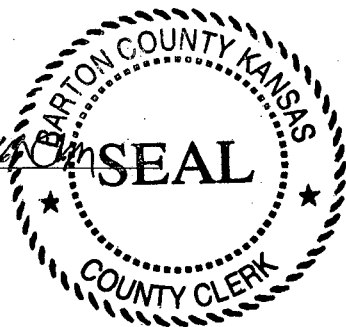
WHEREAS, these groups are also promoting greater public awareness of bicycle operation and safety education in an effort to reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities and improve health and safety for everyone on the road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that May 2020 is Bike Month in Barton County, and all residents are urged to join in this special observance.

Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2021.

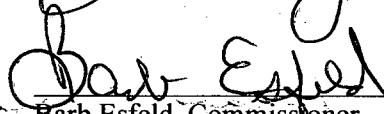
ATTEST:


  
Donna Zimmerman  
County Clerk




BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
James R. Daily, Chairman

  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner

  
Kirby Krier, Commissioner

  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner