

# 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/3yF2EjW>

October 5, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 5th day of October 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
- 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.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021, Regular Meeting.  
 Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
 All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of September 28, 2021, Regular Meeting were not available.

**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 #12	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property				
Real Estate	(2,253)		\$ (411.06)	\$ 176.44
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(2,253)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ (411.06)</b>	<b>\$ 176.44</b>
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>\$ (411.06)</b>			
<b>Total Records Selected</b>	<b>6</b>			

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

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. COMMISSION: Façade Improvement Grant: Review Applications**

-The Façade Improvement Grant program has available funding. The Commissioners will review multiple applications to determine award amounts up to 75% of eligible project costs, with a maximum award of \$20,000.

Awards will be given based on the project's size and visual impact. The program prioritizes retailers and restaurants and project applications that commit more than the minimum required match amount.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said there are a total of nine applications. Beugelsdijk Chiropractic, PA is located at 1309 Williams Street. The project includes replacement of the wall and exterior façade, Total project cost is \$106,000 and requesting \$20,000 for an 82.8% match.

Commissioner Schartz said people initially thought it was only for the fronts of buildings but noted this also includes the side.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Beugelsdijk Chiropractic, PA** for an award of \$20,000.00 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said the next application is from Concept Commercials, Inc. located at 1018 Kansas Avenue and currently occupied by State Farm Insurance, a counseling service plus a couple of other offices. The total project cost is \$19,057.05 and requesting \$14,292.78 which is a 25% match. Replacing façade shingles, working with different colors and renovating the top portion of the building.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Concept Commercials, Inc** for an award of \$14,292.78 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said the next application is also from Concept Commercials, Inc located at 1520 Main Street. Renovations will include shake shingle replacement. Total project cost is anticipated to be \$34,903.86 and requesting \$20,000 for 42.7% match.

Commissioner Hutchinson said shake shingles look nice, but slate will increase the longevity. Painting below the shingles will make it look nice.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Concept Commercials, Inc** for an award of \$20,000.00 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said the next application is Dilly & Doc Creative Studio, LLC located at 1119 Main Street. Total project cost is \$10,216.38 and requesting \$7,662.28 for a 25% match. The entryway will have carpet removed and replaced with tile. They will replace the sign and add a neon open sign. New awning and exterior lighting also included.

Brad Brack said they are excited to get started and said they are meeting with Guthrie today to determine colors. Brack reported that the Bingo Hall is now planning to paint. Brack said the funding is allowing them to do something now that was planned for five years down the road.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Dilly & Doc Creative Studio, LLC** for an award of \$7,662.28 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said the next application was from Mi Tierra Restaurant & Bar located at 118 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoisington. Total project cost is \$23,590.07 and requesting \$17,692.55 which is a 25% match. Includes a wall, siding, brick work and painting.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Mi Tierra Restaurant & Bar** for an award of \$17,692.55 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305 and also on that it is a very good restaurant.

Commissioner Esfeld said they have done a lot of improvements already. They have spent a lot of money on the outside and the signage.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the burning question is do they have good cheese sauce.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion and said because everyone is talking about food.

Commissioner Schartz said Sue, I do have some questions and I do think this is a really good project and I will support it, but I am just kind of confused by some of the numbers. The only number that we have is that it is just side building on all the walls, and it is \$20,000. Was that updated?

Commissioner Hutchinson said I think so. I think that the problem is that the application didn't reflect the bid.

Sue Cooper said that could be. I know I got these in droves from the City of Hoisington. I show the total project cost is \$23,590.07. And then 75% of that is \$17,692.55 that Commissioner Krier mentioned.

Commissioner Schartz said you answered my question.

Commissioner Krier said I also want to mention they were not involved in any sting operation.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said next is Miller's of Claflin, Inc., located at 118 Main Street in Claflin. This project includes paint, lettering and other items. The total project cost is \$22,718.99 and requesting \$17,039.24 which is a 25% match.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Miller's of Claflin** for an award of \$17,039.24 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305 and because of what Miller's has done the previous decades is the reason we are doing a lot of this because we saw what can happen. And I want to also say that Colby Miller was in, and he had given his request for three different projects, but when he came back and said he just wanted to make a comment to the commissioners of what a great job, what a great program this is. That he has been to six hundred thirty some communities in the State of Kansas, he's been to over 600, he says towns and the cities that have improved their

towns are surviving and the ones that don't, die.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

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Commissioner Schartz said because they are asking for three different grants, do we need to put in our motion the address for each one of these.

Zimmerman said yes, that would be great.

Commissioner Schartz said so the one we are voting on right now is for 1903, no no I don't know what the address is.

Commissioner Krier said 118 Main.

Commissioner Schartz said are you sure? I think the \$17,000 one is 201 Main.

Sue Cooper said there are two of them for \$17,000. The first one is 118 Main, and it is for \$17,039.24.

Commissioner Schartz said OK it's about the same amount. We just need to get it clear which one goes to which.

Commissioner Krier said this one here in the motion will include **118 Main Street**.

Sue Cooper said would you like to see that with other motions? I know we didn't do it with Miller and we didn't do it with Hammond, Inc. Would you like to see that with future motions?

Commissioner Schartz said I think just for posterity.

Commissioner Daily said when we have multiple properties like this in the same community, that would probably clarify it a lot.

Commissioner Krier said we have done it in the past.

Commissioner Daily said we did it with Miller over here on Forest.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said next is Miller's of Claflin, Inc. at 200 Main Street in Claflin. The total project cost is \$54,016.31 and requesting \$4,062.23, for a match of 25%. This project also includes some wood that has rotted and paint. This was the original building where it all started.

Commissioner Esfeld said Miller's was a true definition of what a façade is.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it would be hard not to admit that Miller's of Claflin was a big inspiration for this project. Took foresight and maybe even some bravery to develop this program.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Miller's of Claflin, Inc** for **200 Main Street** for an award of \$4,062.23 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said the next property is also for Miller's of Claflin, Inc. and located at 201 Main Street in Claflin. The project includes paint and repairs to the awning. Total project cost is \$23,460.95 and total requested is \$17,595.71.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **Miller's of Claflin, Inc** at **201 Main Street** for an award of \$17,595.71 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion and asked Barry to go to page three and four on this one. Something I'd like to point out. We're getting towards the end of this, but so that \$17,595, just so the community is aware, that doesn't go to Miller's of Claflin. That's going to end up being, well we will pay back Miller's of Claflin once they have paid for the project. But as you can see here, S&H Lumber is going to get \$17,500 worth of business, Alvin Penka is going to get \$5,000 worth of business, Mark's Custom signs is going to get \$1,000 worth of business and this is normal. This is what it looks like. That is going to generate sales tax, put our contractors to work and spread that out fairly evenly throughout the county. I think last count we had over a dozen different contractors that were going to be working on these projects. Numerous lumber yards obviously and different painters and paint supply stores. This is going back out to the county.

Commissioner Krier said we see Mark's Custom signs on just about every grant. Not sure where they are getting the employees to do all of this. They have all of next year to do this.

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Commissioner Hutchinson said 12 months.

Commissioner Krier said hopefully in October they are getting close to done.

Commissioner Schartz said it is putting a strain on businesses here, but it is a positive strain.

Commissioner Schartz said Kirby, I do have a question for you. Do you know when Miller's redid 90% of downtown in Claflin. Commissioner Krier said I'm guessing it was in the late 80s.

Commissioner Schartz said they did that all on their own dime.

Commissioner Krier said yes, they did.

Commissioner Schartz said it was good money to put into that, because I'm sure if it was all done at the same time, would need redone at the same time. Glad able to help a little bit.

Commissioner Hutchinson said they have been in business a long time, and that had to have helped make them a destination shop. I think people come from miles around just to see their facades. Well they were telling us that they were taking pictures out on Main Street.

Commissioner Krier said yes, the one where they put the Bloomer garage up with the motorcycle parked in front and they were out taking pictures.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, said the final application today is The Beauty Bar Salon, LLC located at 1409 Main Street in Great Bend. Total project cost is \$20,754.75 and requesting \$15,566.00 for an awning, signs, work on the back of building and paint.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for **The Beauty Bar Salon, LLC** located at **1409 Main Street** for an award of \$15,566.00 and direct the Finance Officer to encumber this award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Cooper said \$33,000 was awarded this morning and brings the total award amount to roughly \$425,000. There is roughly \$175,000 remaining.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked how much is being requested compared to the available funding. Cooper said \$57,000 would be remaining if everything that has been requested so far was awarded.

## **C. SUNFLOWER DIVERSIFIED: Early Childhood Intervention Funding:**

-The Sunflower Diversified Early Childhood Intervention Program provides individualized services to children ages birth to three years with a developmental delay or disability. Sunflower's professional staff serves the child in the home setting, thus including the family in the educational process. In the 2021 Barton County Operating Budget, Sunflower Diversified's Early Childhood Intervention Program was funded at \$15,000.00. Jon Prescott, Executive Director, Sunflower Diversified, will request the funds be awarded at this time.

Jon Prescott, Executive Director, Sunflower Diversified, said they have been providing services for 55 years. Prescott said COVID was tough and said they lost \$147,000 in children services and are down 30% in the number of children served mainly because families did not want them coming into their homes for fear of COVID. Prescott said they started offering video support services to the children. There are 150 kids with a diagnosis of autism in their five-county service area. Prescott said they are the only service provider in the area with the next closest provider located in Wichita. They serve children age birth to age 5. In 2019, they were excited about the growth they had been seeing but in 2020 it started taking a dive. They have seven children in services for autism with five on the waiting list. May need to build a new school as the one on Patton is quickly running out of space. Prescott reported that a lot of their adult clients are vaccinated as a credit to the Barton County Health Department for coming to their facility to administer vaccinations.

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Commissioner Schartz asked if the other counties they serve provide any funding. Prescott said Rice County provides \$33,000, Pawnee County provides \$22,500 and Stafford County provides \$22,500 per year. Rush County provides around \$5,500 as most of their children go to Hays for services. Pawnee County, the school district said it is tough for these families to bring them to Great Bend. They asked if they provided a classroom, would Sunflower be willing to bring services to them. Prescott said they provide services in homes and other environments and was happy to bring it to their classroom. Rice County provided a property and will remodel it to their needs. Prescott noted one of the largest contributing counties is Rice County.

Commissioner Krier moved to allocate \$15,000.00 in support funding to Sunflower Diversified, Early Childhood Intervention Program. Monies have been included in the 2021 Budget in the Finance General account of the General Fund, Early Intervention Line, 001-26-6920.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. BOARD APPOINTMENT: Memorial Parks Advisory Committee:**

-The Memorial Parks Advisory Committee is charged with advising and assisting the Commission regarding the care and maintenance of the Barton County Owned and Operated Memorial Parks and Cemetery. With not less than five, nor more than seven members, there is one position open. Frank Ochs, rural Great Bend, has reapplied for appointment.

Darren Williams, County Works Director, said Frank Ochs has been on the board since 2018.

Commissioner Krier moved to reappoint Frank Ochs to the Barton County Memorial Parks Advisory Committee. The uncompensated term ends July 1, 2025, and I appreciate everyone who has been on this board now and in the past because the cemeteries look awesome, they look really good.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Frank is a good ole boy and seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **E. BOARD APPOINTMENT: SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging:**

-The County sought applicants for two positions on the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SWKAAA) Sub-Regional Council. SWKAAA helps determine long term needs and adequate programs for all senior citizens in Southwest Kansas. Appointees are required to attend four quarterly meetings per year, with mileage reimbursed. The uncompensated positions end in September 2024.

Barry McManaman, Interim County Administrator, said each county has three members with 28 counties represented on the council. McManaman said there are six applicants with five others under consideration.

Commissioner Schartz said everyone is worthy of being on the council and noted all are very qualified. Probably the person who is reapplying has experience and would be valuable. Commissioner Schartz said Kathleen McGinnis is the applicant who is reapplying. The other four are Jim Jordan, Brenda Lebbin, Madonna Oborny and Virginia VanBrimmer. McManaman said Melissa Nech also applied.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if this should be tabled for a week.

Commissioner Schartz moved to appoint Kathleen McGinnis to the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging Sub-Regional Council. Uncompensated positions end in September 2024.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson said interested applicants could come speak to them next week.

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## I. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Comm Krier: In the 1970s we had Johnny Cash, Steve Jobs and Bob Hope. Now we have no cash, no jobs, and no hope. Hope Kevin Bacon doesn't die.
- Comm Schartz: We are meeting as the Board of Health at 11am.
- Comm Hutchinson: Would like to discuss cancelling the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting the week of Thanksgiving.
- Comm Schartz: We could put that on the agenda to vote on it next week.

## VI. ADJOURN.

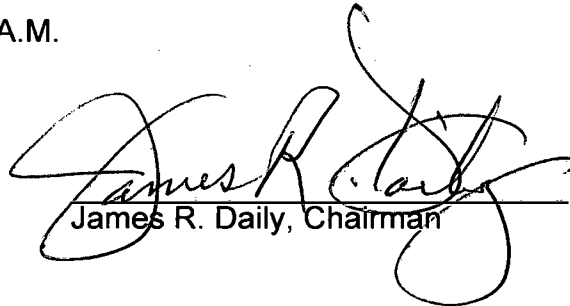
Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:54 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James R. Daily, Chairman

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Held during study session)**

At 1:55 P.M. Commissioner Schartz moved to enter into executive session for a period of ten (10) minutes until 2:10 P.M. with the Commissioners, Barry McManaman, Patrick Hoffman, Donna Zimmerman, and Levi Morris to discuss the evaluation of one or more county employees. The justification is non-elected personnel.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 2:10 P.M. Commissioner Esfeld moved to end the executive session and announced no action was taken.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.