

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/3MIYrbC>

August 31, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 31st day of August 2022, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman

Jon Prescott, Commissioner, 4th District

Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING

At 9:00 A.M. Commissioner Krier moved to enter into the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing. Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING: 2023 Operating Budget:

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. The requirement to hold a Revenue Neutral Rate public hearing was passed into law in 2021. The revenue neutral rate is the tax rate that would generate the same total property tax in dollars for the County as the previous tax year using the current tax year's total assessed valuation.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said as you will see with the upcoming Budget Hearing, the proposed 2023 budget is under the Revenue Neutral Rate. After reaching out to the State office of Municipal Services, it had been confirmed that there was no benefit to adopting a resolution to exceed RNR if your budget was at or under revenue neutral because we would be held to that mill levy regardless of changes in assessed valuation between now and November.

Commissioner Schartz said when Senator Alicia Straub was here, she said she voted in favor of this because it eliminated the lid we were under before. In the wisdom of the State, they created unintended consequences. If expenses would go up a lot next year such as fuel costs and other things, we would be in a bad place because we were unable to plan for it. When power was lost for a local board to govern and tax as appropriate, it removes it from our hands to do what we think needs to be done. Hoping that in the next session some of these things are remedied because it hampers the commission.

Commissioner Krier said he understood what they were trying to accomplish with SB13, but they failed miserably. It put a lot of burden on local taxing entities, especially townships.

Commissioner Esfeld said she served on a committee that worked on what became SB13. It did not roll out as thought. It was never intended to hurt anyone but rather to protect the taxpayers. There were two things behind it, one being to reduce the mill levy over time and the second was to send homeowners a notice that was easily understood to inform about value changes.

At 9:07 A.M. Commissioner Krier moved to close the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing. Commissioner Prescott seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

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/3MIYrbC>

BUDGET HEARING

At 9:07 A.M. Commissioner Krier moved to enter into the Budget Hearing.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

BUDGET HEARING: 2023 Operating Budget:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Elected officials, Department Heads and supported agencies were asked to submit budget requests for the 2023 Operating Year. The Commission reviewed the requests and, with the assistance of the Operations Director, drafted a balanced operating budget. The proposed 2023 Operating Budget is now presented to receive public comment.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said this budget was an organizational blueprint to maintain delivery of quality public services at affordable cost to the taxpayer. The main goals that led the commission to this budget were to remain revenue neutral, maintain quality public services in a way that was sustainable for years to come, invest in the employees that deliver these quality services and contribute to expanding the tax base of Barton County and enrich the quality of life for citizens. Every budget year is unique and presents its own challenges. This year was no different with the commissioners having to find a way to accomplish these goals with the unprecedented inflation affecting many aspects of how Barton County operates. The proposed budget shows a mill levy of 41.381 with the countywide assessed valuation of \$290,553,881 which generates a total of 12,023,521 in ad valorem tax dollars. When comparing the mill levy to 2022, the proposed estimated mill levy would be a reduction of 2.899 mills. This budget also came in under Revenue Neutral Rate of 41.419 by .038 mills or \$10,927. Expenditure authority across all budgeted funds was up \$1,594,690 from 2022 for various reasons including increases in personnel costs, increases in commodities due to inflation and anticipated costs due to the courthouses HVAC renovation. The raise structure would be similar to last year with employees making less than \$17.00/hour receiving \$1.00/hour raise, employees making between \$17.00/hour and \$26.50/hour receiving \$0.75/hour raise and employees making over \$26.50/hour receiving \$0.50/hour raise. All full time Barton County employees would make at least \$15.000/hour starting in 2023. Attorneys in the County Attorney's Office received wage increases outside of the countywide raise structure in order to keep them competitive with other counties. All other elected officials were excluded from the raise structure for the 2023 budget year. Note that the increase in spending authority for Solid Waste for the compactor rebuild was not funded by ad valorem tax dollars as the Landfill operates on a fee-based fund. We were able to accommodate these expenditure authority increases while still remaining slightly under our Revenue Neutral Rate largely due to an increase in cash carry forward last year of \$1,098,142. Many of these increases were not anticipated to be ongoing costs and would not continue for future budget years. In summary, the 2023 budget was funded by a mill levy nearly 3 mills less than the previous year and .038 mills below our prescribed Revenue Neutral Rate which generates \$12,023,523. This was made possible by careful planning and the foresight to begin 2022 with a higher level of cash carry forward over the year before to deal with project costs, inflation and ever-increasing commodity prices while still making a healthy transfer into reserves for the future. As future budget years present themselves, they will bring with them unique challenges. I believe with adequate cash reserves, zero debt and careful planning, the county can address the challenges in a sustainable way as they come forward. With the leadership of the County Commissioners, the diligence and care of our department heads and high quality of our employees, Barton County remains fiscally sound and, in a position, to maintain a sustainable mill levy for years to come while contributing to the expansion of our tax base and continuing to provide quality public services. Patzner thanked the commissioners for their hard work on the budget as well as elected officials,

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/3MIYrbC>

department heads and supportive agency heads for their assistance. He thanked his office staff for their work on the presentation. It was a team effort and reflected the goals and the vision the board had provided.

At 9:15 A.M. Commissioner Schartz moved to close the Budget Hearing.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M.

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

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2022, the July 27, 2022, the August 3, 2022, the August 10, 2022, the August 17, 2022, and the August 24, 2022 Meetings.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of August 17, 2022, and ending August 31, 2022.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of August 17, 2022, to August 31, 2022. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION 2022-22: A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, to Levy a Property Tax Rate Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The proposed 2023 Barton County Operating Budget is funded at a mill levy of 41.381. The Revenue Neutral Rate for Barton County is calculated at 41.419 mills. It is recommended that the Commissioners do not adopt this Resolution as Barton County will not exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said as discussed during the RNR Hearing, there was no benefit to adopting the resolution as the proposed budget was under the proposed RNR rate. Recommended taking no action.

B. ADOPTION OF THE 2023 BARTON COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. At the Budget Hearing for the proposed 2023 Operating Budget for Barton County, conducted prior to this Regular Agenda Meeting, public comments were received. The Commission is now asked to consider adoption of the budget.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, asked the commissioners to consider the adoption of the 2023 Operating Budget for Barton County as presented earlier.

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/3MIYrbC>

Commissioner Prescott moved to adopt the 2023 Barton County Operating Budget.
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. ADOPTION OF THE 2023 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS LISTING:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. To assure that offices are operating with appropriate personnel, the 2023 Authorized Positions listing is presented for adoption. The listing includes all County positions, including Central Kansas Community Corrections and 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services, as both fall under the umbrella of County operations.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said the schedule of authorized positions would be adopted outside of the budget document.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the 2023 Authorized Positions Listing.
Commissioner Prescott seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PLANS:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Through the budgeting process, Barton County transfers cash, as savings, to both the Capital Improvement and the Equipment Replacement Plans. These plans, revised annually, allow the County to plan for projected long-term expenditures.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said one essential part of the budget process was the Capital Improvement and the Equipment Replacement Plans. These plans cover a 5-year period, and the items were reviewed annually. Monies for the funds were included as plan transfers in the budget and end of year savings with individual accounts and funds. Savings from those departments with their own mill levy such as Road & Bridge and Noxious Weed are directed toward individual department lines within the funds of their own use. Monies for the General Fund accounts are comingled for upkeep on the courthouse and other county owned buildings. Asked for consideration to adopt the plans.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt the Capital Improvement and the Equipment Replacement Plans for 2023.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. SOUTHWEST DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC: Agreement for Services:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Southwest Developmental Services, Inc. (SDSI) is the Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) for the County. Under the 2023 service agreement, SDSI will provide all services required by Kansas statutes for a CDDO for a total of \$70,000.00.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said in 2004, Barton County designated SDSI as the Community Developmental Disability Organization for the county. Under the 2023 service agreement, SDSI would provide all services required by Kansas statutes.

Commissioner Esfeld said Mark Hinde was here from SDSI. Commissioner Esfeld serves on the board and knew that they do a lot of work without many funds.

Mark Hinde thanked the commission on behalf of the individuals they serve.

Commissioner Prescott moved to approve the SDSI Agreement for Services for 2023 at an amount of \$70,000.00.
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

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/3MIYrbC>

F. 2021 AUDIT REPORT:

-Melissa Ille, Senior Manager, Adams, Brown, will present the 2021 Audit Report to the Commission. The report will cover the financial condition of Barton County from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

Melissa Ille, Senior Manager, Adams, Brown, expressed gratitude for allowing them to continue the relationship with Barton County. There were a couple of things to address but all in all it was a great year. It took a little extra time due to the 2 major audit programs for Federal Aid. One statute issue had to be noted, over budget by \$219.00 in the Special Alcohol Fund. It was just an accounting oversight and when a transfer was made with no repercussions from the state. There was one material weakness to note due to the dollar amount of an invoice that did not make it through the process by year end. There was an error in the calculation of payroll hours. They tested 20 employees and found 7 with slight, improper adjustments. This was due to allocations in the different grant programs through the Health Department.

Commissioner Schartz asked if corrections were made in these instances. Ille said yes, there were corrections. Patzner said if there was an overpayment, the county absorbs the difference. This instance happened months ago, and the employees probably did not notice the overpayment because it was small. Ille said the total amount was only \$1,053 spread out amongst several employees.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that was a small amount in a \$23,000,000.00 budget.

Commissioner Schartz said this was one more level of transparency and she trusted Adams, Brown.

Commissioner Schartz moved to accept the 2021 Audit Report as submitted by Adams, Brown.

Commissioner Prescott seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Fiscal Year 2023 Carry-Over

Reimbursement Plan Budget:

-Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) requires a budget submission of local program funding collected by Community Corrections agencies from program fees and reimbursements. These budgets require the review and approval of the Barton County Commissioners, as the Administrative County for the District to which the plan pertains.

Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director, asked for approval to submit FY2023 carry-over reimbursement budget. In the course of supervision, they collect various fees. Each year they provide an outline of how they will spend those fees. In FY2022, they started with \$54,927.39 and spent \$33,310.54. They collected through the year, \$30,368.16 which gives them \$51,985.01 to start FY2023. They plan to use the funds for travel, training, equipment and fleet replacement, if needed, client services and recovery efforts.

Commissioner Prescott asked Boxberger what the sources were for the collected fees. Boxberger said from the clients they support.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Carry-Over Reimbursement Budget in the amount of \$51,985.01. Authorize the Chair to sign Grant Forms as needed.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

H. JUVENILE SERVICES: Fiscal Year 2023 Carry-Over Budget:

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. Juvenile Services seeks approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 Carry-Over Budget. This includes \$64,347.61 from Core programming and \$16,894.00 from Immediate Intervention for a total of \$81,241.61. If approved, monies from the Core

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/3MIYrbC>

Programming will be used to fund contractual services (on-call/transporters), training for additional Evidence Based curriculum, supplies, and equipment to include required computer upgrades and vehicle replacement. Per the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), Immediate Intervention funds can only be used for evidence-based curriculum, incentives, or referrals to outside services for youth.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said they serve ages 0 to 23 population as child in need of care or juvenile offenders. Asking for approval of carry-over funds. Woodmansee did not use any of the carry-over last year so this year she can add an additional \$11,000.00. These fees are collected from the population they serve for electronic monitoring, UA fees and cognitive fees. Electronic monitoring was an alternative to detention. Detention costs approximately \$200.00/day versus \$5.00/day for monitoring. This affords them some freedom to remain in their community and continue their education.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Woodmansee if the All-Stars and Teen Crew programs fall under this. Woodmansee said All-Stars falls under prevention funds and Youth Crew was funded by a CDC grant. All-Stars was an evidence based program used in 6th grade and they have to wait years to see the effects of the program.

Commissioner Prescott moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Carry-Over Budget in the amount of \$81,241.61 and direct Ms. Woodmansee to submit the required forms to the Kansas Department of Corrections-Juvenile Services.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

I. COUNTY ENGINEER: Northern Natural Gas Pipeline Agreements:

-Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, will provide details. Northern Natural Gas (NNG) owns two large natural gas transmission lines that cross the Ellinwood sandpit. NNG has a blanket easement covering the entire 54-acre parcel. They have agreed in principle to reduce their easement to a strip of land that parallels the pipelines as well as approve an encroachment agreement that defines where the County will be allowed to cross their lines. The Commission will be asked to approve both documents.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, presented details.

Commissioner Schartz said it was purchased to provide sand for the county for years to come.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Modification and Amendment of Easement Grant and the Encroachment Agreement with Northern Natural Gas for the County-owned property in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4), Section 5, Township Twenty (20) South, Range Eleven (11) West.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schartz made a motion to adjourn at 9:52 A.M.

Commissioner Prescott seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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/3MIYrbC>

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman