

# 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/3EVyxXA>.

April 6, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 6th day of April 2022, at the Barton County Courthouse.

## *Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Prescott moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Commissioner Schartz was ahead of Commissioner Prescott.

Commissioner Prescott withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Item F, and that is for recognition of the University of Kansas for its championship.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the corrected minutes for the March 16, 2022, Regular Meeting and the minutes of the March 23, 2022, and the March 30, 2022, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There is no Old Business at this time.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

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

-Bev Schmeidler, 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.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details.

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IC#7	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(3,722)		(\$684.62)	\$209.79
Real Estate				
16/20 M Trucks	(983)		(\$148.50)	\$148.50
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(4,705)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$833.12)</b>	<b>\$358.29</b>
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>(\$833.12)</b>			
<b>Total Records Selected</b>	<b>6</b>			

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

Commissioner Prescott seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. PROCLAMATION 2022-07: National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week:**

-Dena Popp, 911 Director, has asked that the Commission consider the adoption of Proclamation 2022-07, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. In part, the Proclamation honors Public Safety Telecommunication Officers for their vital role in protecting the life and property of Barton County citizens.

Dena Popp, 911 Director, said when someone calls for help in a time of crisis, the first person they speak to is a dispatcher. Dispatchers are perceived as having an easy job when in fact they must multi-task at an extreme level. First line of help but their face is never seen. Over the last few weeks, they have had an influx of high priority calls that take a toll. Very competent staff able to deal with situations. Popp said she was very proud of the profession and of her staff and asked the commission to adopt the proclamation.

Commissioner Schartz said dispatchers were unsung heroes and asked what the county could do for mental health checks for employees. Popp said any of her staff can report if they see a coworker struggling. Popp said currently three of her staff were certified in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. They are part of a local team.

Commissioner Prescott asked if there was an employee assistance program. Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said the county does have a program in conjunction with health insurance.

Commissioner Hutchinson visited communications when Popp was handing out awards. Popp said that was a year ago during Telecommunicators Week, they try to push the positives. They do give out awards at staff meetings as well.

Commissioner Krier appreciated that in Barton County, the 911 center was independent of the Sheriff's Office because they work for many different entities. Popp said they dispatch for 10 fire departments, 4 EMS agencies and 7 law enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Proclamation 2022-07, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **BOARD APPOINTMENT: Barton County Planning Commission:**

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. 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, Environmental Manager, said three long term members reapplied. Three positions are open each year for three-year terms. They have been fortunate to have a full board for several years. Mary Anne Stoskopf, James Welch and Billie Bonomo applied for reappointment. Both Stoskopf and Welch have been on the board since before zoning was adopted in Barton County, June 2000. They have dedicated many years and are active members of the board. Bonomo is currently chairman, has been on the board for almost nine years and very involved as well. Asked for commissioners to reappoint these three individuals.

Commissioner Schartz said the board had to work very hard lately and did a great job.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to reappoint Mary Anne Stoskopf, James Welch and Billie Bonomo to the Barton County Planning Commission for uncompensated positions terming March 31, 2025.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Goreham said her office moved Monday and share space with Juvenile Services and CKCC. She appreciated all the help from Phil Hathcock, Dereck Hollingshead and some trustees.

## **CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Corrisoft Smartphone Application:**

Amy Boxberger, Central Kansas Community Corrections (CKCC) Director, will provide details. CKCC received a grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration, Second Chance Act: Improving Reentry for Adults with Substance Use Disorders. The Solidarity Program is an alternative to incarceration designed to improve outcomes for probationers with substance use disorder. One of the unique aspects of the program is to engage probationers with a smartphone application to aid in scheduling, provide reminders and use of data to reinforce positive habits. CKCC released a Request for Proposal on March 18, 2022 with bids accepted until March 25, 2022. Corrisoft submitted the only bid. The County acts as a pass-through agency in this effort.

Amy Boxberger, Central Kansas Community Corrections (CKCC) Director, told why they are doing different interventions with intensive probation population. Overdose death has increased 24% from 2019 to 2020. Additionally, from 2010 to 2020, sentences for prison for drug offenses increased 9%. The number of women in prison for drug offenses tripled. The cost of prison was almost 11 times more than community corrections in 2020. Approximately one-third of the prison population and two-thirds of the prison admissions were due to people incarcerated for supervision of probation violations in 2020. Community Corrections is a cost-effective solution to incarceration. A "slap on the wrist" sometimes is the intervention needed to change behaviors. Prison sanctions have been proven to be unsuccessful, so they are being phased out. In response to budget shortfalls, they applied for and received a grant through the Second Chance Act, improving reentry for adults with substance abuse disorders. One of the strategies they will use to divert people from going to prison will be to take in high-risk offenders who will enter into the Solidarity Program. They will deploy a smartphone application as a vital tool for those people. There was only one bid received, asked approval of the bid from Corrisoft.

Commissioner Schartz said Boxberger had proven the program provided true rehabilitation and helps to make our community safer and stronger.

Commissioner Esfeld said she looks forward to the statistics being down next year.

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Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the bid from Corrisoft for services not to exceed \$39,852.00 for the life of the grant. This project is supported by Grant No. 2020-RW-BX-0013 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office.

Commissioner Prescott seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **E. DISTRICT CORONER: Appointment of Deputy Coroner:**

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. Dr. Patrick Stiles was appointed as District Coroner effective November 1, 2020. At the recommendation of Ellsworth County, Dr. Stiles requests that Dr. Eastin Casey be appointed as a Deputy District Coroner.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, asked the commissioners to appoint Dr. Eastin Casey.

Commissioner Krier moved to appoint Dr. Eastin Casey as a Deputy Coroner for a term ending December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **F. PROCLAMATION 2022-08: University of Kansas NCAA National Champions:**

-In honor of the KU Men's Basketball NCAA championship victory, the Commission will be asked to recognize the team through the adoption of a Proclamation. The University of Kansas Men's Basketball team participated in the 2022 NCAA Tournament and defeated the University of North Carolina to win the Championship. In doing so, on Monday, April 4, 2022, the KU men, Coach Bill Self and the coaching staff made everyone proud to be a Kansan.

Diana Watson, Administrative Assistant, read the proclamation.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Proclamation 2022-08, University of Kansas NCAA National Champions.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-2. Commissioner Hutchinson and Commissioner Krier voted nay.

## **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Commissioner Krier – Commissioners invited to Pints & Politics next Wednesday at Dry Lake Brewing, put on by Chamber of Commerce, invitation only
- Commissioner Krier – He agrees with Commissioner Schartz, maybe all junior colleges could go to the Board of Regents to reduce the stress on the counties where they are located
- Commissioner Esfeld - Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference will be held April 26-28
- Commissioner Krier – Would like to discuss moving Commission Meetings back to Mondays

## **VI. ADJOURN.**

Commissioner Prescott moved to adjourn at 9:40 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

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voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman