

# 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/3wnHEzC>

August 24, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 24th day of August 2022, at the Barton County Courthouse.

## *Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Chairman  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk  
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## *Members attending via Teams®:*

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District

## *Members absent:*

Jon Prescott, Commissioner, 4th District

County Clerk did roll call.

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Krier rescinded his motion. Moved to add Item D, it will involve the mowing of our ditches and Darren Williams will give information on it.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the July 13, 2022, Regular Meeting. The minutes of the July 20, 2022, July 27, 2022, August 3, 2022, August 10, 2022 and the August 17, 2022, Regular Meetings were not available.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. CITY OF ELLINWOOD: Water and Wastewater Improvements:**

-Chris Komarek, Ellinwood City Administrator, will provide details. For some time, the City of Ellinwood has worked to develop a water and wastewater improvement project. Included in the project are both the new hospital and new housing area. As quotes are currently being accepted for needed materials, the City will ask that the County provide financial assistance. This item was tabled on July 27, 2022.

Chris Komarek, Ellinwood City Administrator, said Mayor Irlan Fullbright was also present. Komarek talked about projects they have upcoming in Ellinwood. The first was Ellinwood District Hospital building a new facility on the west side of town. This would require the extension of utilities and will make the remaining area available for more growth. The next project was thirteen acres of open land in the northwest corner of town that the city owns and were in the process of developing into a new residential neighborhood. Potential of fourteen lots to develop. The third would be downtown revitalization. The sidewalks were last replaced in 1981 – 1982 and have deteriorated. They would also update streetlights as well as curb and guttering. The grant they are looking at through the State would be for over a million dollars with a 20% cost share. The water mains are 114 years old but would not be included in the grant, eligible. Asking the county for some assistance with these projects. The hospital project estimated at over \$138,000.00 and did not include a lift station which would be \$250,000.00. The housing

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velopment would be just shy of \$300,000.00 and Main Street just over \$100,00.00 in material costs alone. All the materials would be installed by city employees. They have very talented people working for the city that can do the jobs, they do not contract the work out. The city had looked at several different funding sources. When they look at grants, the income level of residents was too high to qualify for many of them.

Commissioner Krier asked Komarek if he were asking for ARPA funds and not property tax money. Komarek said that was correct.

Commissioner Krier added that he was in favor of the first two projects as they add infrastructure to the communities but not in favor of helping with maintenance.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the commissioners were impressed with how much work the City of Ellinwood had put into these projects.

Commissioner Schartz said she agreed with Commissioner Krier about the hospital and housing project, adding to the community. Commissioner Schartz asked about the impact the sidewalk project may have on the tunnels. Komarek said the sidewalks around the tunnels would be a completely different project and would not impact the tunnels.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the financial support for the City of Ellinwood in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the Water and Wastewater Improvement Project. The full amount to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Improvement Not Buildings Line, 071-00-6310, is that correct Matt, to Great Bend Economic Development. Direct the County Counselor to develop a Memorandum of Understanding reference the administration of said funding and that money is not to go to Great Bend Economic development until Ellinwood is ready for it.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Fullbright said Komarek was right, they have very talented employees that can run any piece of equipment and get the job done.

Commissioner Krier said that was how they felt about the Road & Bridge Department.

## **B. RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1: Infrastructure Improvement Assistance:**

-Mary Anne Stoskopf, Secretary/Treasurer, Barton County Rural Water District No. 1, will provide details. Russell County Rural Water District No. 3 has proposed acquiring Rural Water District No. 1. In addition to providing Barton County residents with an option for an improved water system, the consolidated Water Districts would be poised for a planned project that involves purchasing water from the City of Hoisington to sell in bulk to the City of Bunker Hill. Ms. Stoskopf will ask that the Commission contribute funding to improve infrastructure. This item was tabled on August 17, 2022.

Mary Anne Stoskopf, Secretary/Treasurer, Barton County Rural Water District No. 1, said 50 years ago, a small group of neighbors north of Hoisington invested in a rural water district. Fifty percent of those homes originally served are today owned and resided in by descendants of the original investors. Another 25% of the homes were purchased from an original investor. There is no trace of the house that she and her husband lived in when they were first married. For 2 years, they hauled every drop of water they used at their residence from the City of Hoisington. Today, Barton County Rural Water District No. 1 was requesting an investment in the future of Barton County. They were asking for a commitment of \$130,000.00 for a water infrastructure project in northern Barton County. This \$900,000.00 project was an add-on to a \$7.2 million dollar project that Russell County Rural Water District No. 3 will be breaking ground on soon. The larger project will serve nearly 800 Barton County residents including the towns of Odin, Beaver, Susank, Galatia and rural residents in more than 11 townships. Russell County Rural

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Water District No. 3 had been approved for \$900,000.00 loan from the Kansas Revolving Water Fund. Barton County Rural Water District No. 1 will provide the easements necessary for Russell County Rural Water District No. 3 to purchase water from the City of Hoisington to sell in bulk to the city of Bunker Hill. It also includes replacement of the 50-year-old infrastructure of Barton County Rural Water District No. 1. Eventually, we will be coming back to request your approval as State law requires when the water district was absorbed. Asking that you grant \$130,000.00 contingent upon the agreement and participation of all parties involved. Stoskopf thanked Jamie Tomlinson, District Manager of Russell County Rural Water District No. 3.

Commissioner Krier said there was a house under construction north of Hoisington that may be hooked up to the rural water district. He had also spoken to Alan Hoffman, who may put a house and a business north of the very end of that line. Possible another house to be built west of that location. Without this infrastructure, these three homes may not have been put in.

Commissioner Schartz said when this was last discussed, Great Plains Development happened to be in the audience. They had a discussion with Stoskopf and it proves good communication and teamwork goes a long way. Had Great Plains Development known about the needs of Barton County Rural Water District No. 1, they could have helped with some grant funding and would not have had to come to the county for funds.

Tomlinson said when they received the \$900,000.00 Revolving State Fund Loan approval, he contacted Great Plains about the project, and they helped set up the process. He said they knew about it but the gentleman in attendance here was unaware.

Commissioner Esfeld said it would take a long time for taxes to pay back \$130,000.00. Commissioners not realize at that time what the costs were going to be for the HVAC and repairs to the courthouse. That was when it started causing her concerns about giving the funding when it could cause the taxpayers grief over our own project.

Commissioner Schartz asked Stoskopf for clarity about how many residents Rural District No. 1 served. Stoskopf said 8 residences currently. Tomlinson said Rural Water District No. 3 serves 42% of northern Barton County.

Commissioner Schartz asked if Rural Water District No. 3 absorbed Rural Water District No. 1, Rural Water District No. 1 would no longer exist. Stoskopf said that was correct.

Commissioner Krier moved to encumber \$65,000.00 in support funding for the infrastructure improvements provided:

Barton County will contribute \$65,000.00 to the project, provided that Rural Water District No. 1 raises \$65,000.00 in match funds for said project;

That Russell County Rural Water District No. 3 acquires Barton County Rural Water District No. 1; That the City of Hoisington enters into an agreement with Russell County Rural Water District No. 3 to provide water; and

That the monies will be provided to Russell County Rural Water District No. 3 when proof of completion of these contingencies are presented to the Barton County Director of Operations.

Funding to be encumbered from the Capital Improvement Fund, Improvement not Buildings Line, 071-00-6310.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion to move forward with further discussion. It is my understanding that the City of Hoisington will benefit from this and that is why we are asking them to fund it of this, is that correct.

Commissioner Hutchinson said City of Hoisington.

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Commissioner Krier said I do not know that we are asking for funding, it is just that they have to, they never voted on. Duane Reif is here, he is on the city council. Have you ever voted on this.

Duane Reif said no, we did not vote. But I did ask our City Manager and he said as far as he knows, it does not require our vote, which I thought it did.

Commissioner Krier said well, we are kind of waiting for that vote. I do not think he has that kind of power.

Reif said he did say things looked good as far as our end, as far as the water. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> well that they are working on and he did not see why that would not work. With the 3 wells we have got going right now, it should be enough to handle the water that they are asking for.

Commissioner Krier he heard too that the water coming from the north cannot come into Hoisington, is that correct.

Reif said yes, there is an aqua valve.

Commissioner Krier said no, I am talking legally.

Reif said legally now, I do not know about that.

Stoskopf said as long as the water is compatible, it meets the same.

Tomlinson said what is the question.

Commissioner Krier can the water from the north ever come back into Hoisington.

Tomlinson said it could. Both treatments on both the City of Otis and the City of Hoisington, are compatible which does not create a cross connection. They are both chlorinated and fluorinated the same way in which necessary it could go back into the City of Hoisington; sustainability is not evident.

The sustainability to supply the City of Hoisington with that amount of water is not evident. Now, Hoisington has not been asked to donate any portion of their money to it, just because we will be buying from them. Buying from them will increase the revenue to that city which will increase the revenue to the county.

Commissioner Krier said I think that would be a great place to look for the other \$65,000.00.

Tomlinson said we will be happy to pay them for the connection. So, we cannot ask for money from them and then pay them money to the knowledge. Does that make sense.

Commissioner Krier said no.

Stoskopf said the City of Hoisington is contributing in other ways through the cost of the water.

Tomlinson said through the usage of their actual utility, the water that they have.

Commissioner Krier said do they charge more than they do for the city people.

Tomlinson said no, it will be the same price from when Jonathan and I spoke.

Reif said my understanding was you guys are going to get the same rate as Mary Anne.

Stoskopf said yes, they have agreed to provide the water for this add-on project at the same rate as the Barton County Rural Water District No. 1 purchases from them.

Commissioner Krier said they would not want to lock into that perpetually, would they, that price.

Stoskopf said they have a schedule, I believe, they have a schedule of the different water rates for the different entities. Our agreement with them has been in place since USDA Farmers Home.

Commissioner Krier asked can it be changed.

Stoskopf said they have raised rates on us in the past in proportion to how they raised rates among everyone else.

Tomlinson said, Commissioner Krier, you talked about the 50% that you went to Ellinwood on, with the \$300,000.00. What is the percentage you were looking at for the Barton 1 project.

Commissioner Krier said I was looking for that hookup.

Tomlinson said but the sustainability of that, for the actual what is going to have to take place, it is basically an all new project. That hookup does not entail the entirety of the project. So if you look at the entirety of the project.

Commissioner Krier said you are replacing new water line, right. An old line, you are replacing.

Tomlinson said no, we are putting in new. We are putting in new to support the infrastructure that it will maintain. We are not replacing, we are putting in new.

Commissioner Krier said the old line cannot sustain that, is that correct.

Tomlinson said which means we have to put in new.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## III. NEW BUSINESS:

### A. CITY OF CLAFLIN: Assistance with Grant Award:

-Casey Hubbard, Claflin City Council member, will provide details. The City of Claflin was awarded a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) grant for the purchase of a new recycling trailer. The grant award is \$15,720.75, with a cash match amount of \$5,240.25. The City of Claflin asks that the County assist by providing up to 50% of that match.

Robert Gunder, Claflin City Council member, said the city had run the recycling program for a number of years now. The program keeps recyclables out of the landfill, keeping the landfill viable. Asking for the county to assist with funding.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the County does have a recycle grant from the landfill that we allocate to different projects.

Commissioner Krier said the City of Great Bend was wanting some of that as well. He commended the City of Claflin for going after grants.

Commissioner Krier moved to authorize payment in the amount of \$5,240.25 to the City of Claflin to be used as a grant match to the \$15,720.75 in KDHE funding for the recycling trailer. Monies to be paid from Solid Waste Fund, Recycling Grant Line, 140-68-5905.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

### B. SUNFLOWER DIVERSIFIED SERVICES: Glass Recycling Project:

Sunflower Diversified Services has requested matching funds for a grant to support glass recycling efforts. It is suggested that the County provide up to a fifty percent match for the \$12,878.96 project.

Shelby Zuniga, Sunflower Diversified Services, said they are building a glass bunker. Asking for the county's assistance with funding.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve \$3,219.74 in funding to Sunflower Diversified Services for the Glass Recycling Project. Matching funds to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund, Recycling Grant Line, 140-68-5905.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

### C. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Grant Deadline Extension:

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. During the September 21, 2021, Commission Meeting, AJN Investments, LLC was allocated \$20,000.00 for façade improvements for the building located at 1315 Main, Great Bend, Kansas. As the building has now been moved into an historical district, project planning has been delayed. The Commission will be asked to extend the grant period to June 30, 2023.

Rick Davis, MPIRE, said a historical grant on the project was delaying their progress. Asking for an extension.

Commissioner Krier moved to extend the contract period for AJN Investments, LLC for the FIG project at 1315 Main, Great Bend, Kansas, to June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **RESOLUTION 2022-21: A Resolution Establishing a Permitting System for Bailing Hay in County Right of Way and Rescinding Resolution 2021-09, Same, Adopted March 12, 2021:**

-Darren Williams, County Works Director, will provide details. This Resolution created a permitting system for bailing hay in County right-of-way. Included was a Barton County Harvesting Hay on County Right-of-Way application which describes the Permit, Performance and Liability directives. The County Works Director manages the program under established guidelines and provide the Commission an annual report relative to the permitting and permitting fees collected. After receiving complaints from a concerned party, it is suggested the original August 15th date to complete bailing be extended to September 15th.

Darren Williams, County Works Director, presented details.

Brian Bellendir, County Sheriff, said he hoped the resolution had provisions in the event that the bales were not removed in a timely manner. He receives complaints about the bales on the roadside and they are a traffic hazard.

Commissioner Schartz asked about not refunding money if there were violations.

Commissioner Hutchinson said we do not return \$500.00 of the \$1,000.00 they had put down, but he felt the Sheriff was looking for something with a little more teeth for enforcement.

Commissioner Krier said this was a different scenario. The gentleman was going to be hired by a farmer/landowner who would obtain the permit. That person would be liable.

Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Resolution 2022-21, A Resolution Establishing a Permitting System Bailing Hay in County Right of Way and Rescinding Resolution 2021-09, Same, Adopted March 12, 2021.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

## **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Road & Bridge will begin chip and seal the first week of September in the southeast part of the county.

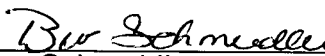
## **VI. ADJOURN.**


Commissioner Krier moved to adjourn at 9:58 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeldseconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman