

# 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/31caqPY>

January 11, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 11th day of January 2022, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Barb Esfeld, 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  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk  
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations

*Members absent:*

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 December 31, 2021, Special Meeting and the January 4, 2022, Regular Meeting.

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

## **II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 1st Run:**

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of December 21, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve appropriations for the period of December 21, 2021, to December 31, 2021 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 1, 2022, and ending January 4, 2022.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 1, 2022, to January 4, 2022. and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

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Nominations are in order for the 2022 Commission Chairman as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219. The Board of County Commissioners consists of Commissioners James R. Daily, Barb Esfeld, Shawn Hutchinson, Kirby Krier and Jennifer Schartz.

Commissioner Daily said it had been an honor and privilege to serve with this group. Served as Chairman for the last year and hoped he did a good job representing the county.

Commissioner Daily moved to appoint Shawn Hutchinson as the new Chairman for the County Commission for the year 2022.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Huchinson thanked Commissioner Daily for all of his years of public service.

## B. ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN PRO TEM OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

-Nominations are in order for the 2022 Chairman Pro Tem as is allowed under Kansas Statute 19-219.

Commissioner Schartz moved to appoint Barb Esfeld for the role of Pro Tem.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## C. 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.

BATCH #3	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(2,855)		(\$692.82)	\$744.32
Personal Property	(9,511)		(\$1,739.52)	
Real Estate	(1,672)	\$45.12	(\$331.80)	\$331.80
16/20 M Trucks			(\$2,322.40)	\$177.78
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(14,038)</b>	<b>\$45.12</b>	<b>(\$5,086.54)</b>	<b>\$1,253.90</b>
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>(\$5,041.42)</b>			
Total Records Selected	62			

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 and direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## D. RESOLUTION 2022-02: Operating Year 2022 - Requesting a Waiver Under K.S.A. 75-1120a:

-It is standard procedure to request a waiver of the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a relating to the preparation of financial statements and financial reports each year. The basis is that statements prepared in conformity with this statute are of no significant value to Barton County nor to the general public. Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details.

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Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, asked the commission to waive the statutory requirement for general accepted accounting principles. Present financial statements and reports on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements.

Commissioner Krier asked Patzner who presents reports to the Director of Accounts and Reports. Patzner said the approved minutes are used as notice.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked how often a waiver would need to be done. Patzner said annually.

Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Resolution 2022-02, Requesting a Waiver under KSA 75-1120a. Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **E. RESOLUTION 2022-03: Designation of the Official County Newspaper:**

-Resolution 2022-03 calls for the designation of the official County newspaper. The newspaper selected must meet the qualifications as prescribed by K.S.A. 64-101. To meet this statute, and to best reach the citizens of Barton County, the Commission shall consider the designation of The Tribune. Matt Patzner will provide details.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, asked the commission to designate the official county newspaper.

Commissioner Daily moved to adopt Resolution 2022-03, Designating Great Bend Tribune as the Official County Newspaper.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion. voted aye. Motion passed.

## **F. COMMISSION: COVID-19 Award From HHS:**

Health Department - Barton County was awarded a bonus payment from Phase 4 General Distribution and ARPA Rural Payment from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Matt Patzner will provide details.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said in September 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced an application for new funding available for healthcare providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This included funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Health Care Enhancement Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, and the American Rescue Plan Act. Barton County was awarded a base payment of \$17,877.53 on December 2, 2021. This was calculated as a percentage of expenses and revenues reported from July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Barton County was awarded a bonus payment of \$26,296.81 on December 16, 2021. Asked the commission to consider accepting the Phase 4 General Distribution.

Commissioner Schartz asked if there was any risk of having to pay back this money. Patzner said that was always something to consider but that was why they were diligent when following the guidelines for grant funding.

Commissioner Daily moved to accept the Phase 4 General Distribution and ARPA Rural Payment from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in the amount of \$26,296.81, funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Health Care Enhancement Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, and the American Rescue Plan Act (PL 117-002). Funds to be deposited in the HHS Grant Fund, General Funds Received Line, 909-00-4286.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

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voted aye. Motion passed.

## **G. SOLID WASTE: Repair of a Cat 826K Compactor:**

-The Barton County Landfill owns and operates a Caterpillar 826K Compactor that is utilized daily to compact municipal solid waste at the landfill. The machine was damaged during a fire at the landfill in June of 2021. Due to the extent of the damage, the machine was transported to Foley Equipment in Salina and disassembled, inspected and repaired. Barton County has submitted an insurance claim for the fire damage and will be reimbursed upon approval of the invoice. Phil Hathcock, Solid Waste Director, will provide details.

Phil Hathcock, Solid Waste Director, said they received a bill from Foley for repairs in the amount of \$210,608.78. The insurance paid \$202,472.24 leaving approximately \$8,100.00 to be paid from the Solid Waste Fund. Insurance did not cover everything because they had some repairs made while Foley had the machine.

Commissioner Schartz asked if the machine was considered rebuilt. Hathcock said they had the machine rebuilt approximately 2 years ago. It was still under warranty so Foley went through it extensively and made sure that no damage from the fire would affect the warranty.

Commissioner Schartz asked if the warranty started over from this point. Hathcock said no, however there are some new parts with new warranties.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted the fires have cost the county and asked Hathcock to tell about measures being taken to mitigate the risk of fires in the future.

Hathcock said they purchased a fire truck to help with daytime fires. Installed a thermal camera that notifies himself and Dereck Hollingshead of high temperatures for faster response to potential fires after operating hours. Working with KDHE on a grant for more public awareness about disposal of lithium batteries.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the repair cost of the Cat 826K Compactor by Foley Equipment. The total cost, \$210,608.78, to be paid from the Solid Waste Budget, Maintenance of Machinery and Equipment Line, 140-68-5460. Insurance proceeds, if any, to be deposited into the Solid Waste Fund. Commissioner Daily seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **VI. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Hutchinson – possibility of Health Board study session today or tomorrow morning.  
Commissioner Krier – there have been a couple of deaths in his district recently. Sue Jacobs and her husband Edgar have owned and operated the Odin Store for 50 years. Ray Cates was awarded the Silver Star. Commissioner Krier read details of the award.  
Commissioner Hutchinson – received an email from a citizen regarding the burn ban. They wanted to burn tree limbs, but was unable to due to the burn ban. All of the Fire Chiefs in the county agreed that it was too soon to lift the burn ban at this time.  
Commissioner Daily – rely heavily on their expertise.  
Commissioner Krier – asked Hathcock if it was up to each of the Fire Chiefs.  
Hathcock – he had not read the resolution, could not answer the question.  
Commissioner Krier – can the Fire Chiefs override the county burn ban.  
Commissioner Daily – no, they cannot.  
Commissioner Krier – should the commission revisit the burn ban on a weekly basis.

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Commissioner Daily – Amy Miller keeps up on the local conditions regarding burn bans.

Commissioner Krier – explained about burning in agriculture. Federal government requires burning in specific time frames due to nesting wildlife.

Commissioner Hutchinson – while burn ban is in effect, get weekly updates from Amy Miller.

Commissioner Schartz – stopped weekly because it was a burden in the past.

Commissioner Krier – Fire Departments have to give permission to burn even when no burn ban is in effect.

## VIII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:34 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman