

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/333zWOw>.

March 16, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16th day of March 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
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffmann, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

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

Minutes of the March 9, 2022 Regular Meeting were not available.

II APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of March 2, 2022, and ending March 16, 2022.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve appropriations for the period of March 2, 2022, to March 16, 2022. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

-There is no Old Business at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. YOUTH CREW: Take Down Tobacco Day:

-Katelyn Sigler, Health Educator, will present details. Tally Wikum, Hoisington High School; Jasmine Figueroa, Great Bend High School; Ransom Hardcastle, Great Bend Middle School; and Keegan Roblyer, Great Bend Middle School, represented Youth Crew at Take Down Tobacco Day in Topeka in early March. The students will be introduced and discuss their day. In addition, the youth will detail community goals determined after attending this event.

Katelyn Sigler, Health Educator, said she was the Central Kansas Partnership Coordinator and Youth Crew Adult Sponsor.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said she was the Central Kansas Partnership Chair.

Tyler Morton, Drug Free Community Project Coordinator, said he was new to the area and brand new to his job. It is a youth led task force for grades 6 through 12. Working on prevention and helping the youth create healthy habits within themselves, their communities, and their homes. They have three major focuses: alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. More education and resources provided to help youth stay on

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right path. They provide education, community service and fun events. On March 26th, they are having a kickball tournament for grades 6 – 12 at the Great Bend Sports Complex.

Commissioner Schartz asked what the bigger problem for youth was today, e-cigarettes or tobacco. Sigler said the e-cigarettes contain tobacco and the youth were going to speak about the issues.

Sigler said CKP and Youth Crew uses Kansas Communities That Care data. They present the data and look for gaps. One of the gaps they found was e-cigarette usage. Locally, 22.41% have smoked e-cigarettes at least once. The state average was 16.79%. Sigler writes a grant every year for a Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Grant. Through that grant was the opportunity for a \$300.00 mini grant that will be used for the kickball tournament and attending Take Down Tobacco Day in Topeka. Sigler said the youth present would introduce themselves.

Jasmine Figueroa, Great Bend High School, also on the statewide council for Resist Group.
Keegan Roblyer, Great Bend Middle School.
Tally Wikum, Hoisington High School.

The youth spoke about issues in the schools with students vaping.

Commissioner Schartz asked Sigler if they were working with school administrators to facilitate a stronger policy. Sigler said not yet, but that was the plan. Commissioner Schartz said she would be glad to sign a letter of support.

B. GREAT BEND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Financial Support:

-Sara Hayden, Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) President, will provide details. In 2021, Great Bend Economic Development, in partnership with the Golden Belt Community Foundation, received a Community Service Tax Credit Program grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce in the amount of \$200,000 for the area childcare network. Since that time, the GBED has continued to seek funding as the project moves forward. At this time, the Commission will be asked to consider a grant match.

Sara Hayden, Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) President, asked the commission to consider matching funds for the childcare center. They have raised \$285,714.00 through a Community Service Tax Credit Program grant. They have continued efforts and received \$70,000.00 from the City of Great Bend and \$80,000.00 from private donations. That brings the total assets to \$435,714.00. Hayden asked the commission to consider matching that amount which would aid in the submission of a grant.

Commissioner Schartz asked Hayden if there was a deadline in order for this to move forward. Hayden said they would like to break ground as soon as possible. They know there will be funding coming from the state towards childcare. They see this as an opportunity to expand childcare faster, going into the other communities sooner. The goal was to break ground by late summer, early fall and wanted to have most of the funding completed at that time.

Commissioner Daily asked Hayden who would be running the centers. Hayden said it was a 501c3 under the umbrella of Great Bend Economic Development. It will be called ABCC Inc. (Advancing Barton County Childcare), an executive director that specializes in early childhood development would be hired to run the center as well as subsequent centers to follow.

Commissioner Daily asked Hayden if they would be building a new facility rather than using an existing structure. Hayden said with KDHE requirements the cost to renovate an existing building was almost as much as building a new facility.

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Commissioner Daily asked Hayden the amount of the grant she would be applying for. Hayden said it would be to match existing funds. If the commission agreed to match their existing funds, the amount to be matched would be over \$800,000.00 and would almost complete their funding.

Commissioner Schartz said the county had already given \$250,000.00 and those funds were not earmarked for childcare, yet the City of Great Bend funds were earmarked for childcare. Commissioner Schartz said she felt the city should step up more as the facility will be in Great Bend and more beneficial to them. Would rather make this decision after the budget process because this was going to be a difficult year.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Hayden how many children needed a childcare in Barton County. Hayden said 705.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he was a strong advocate for economic development. He was in support of the childcare center because we need to get people back to work in our communities. If the commission matched the funds and they received the grant, it would double their funds to approximately \$1.6 million.

Commissioner Krier asked if the commission could agree to match the funds only if they were awarded the grant. Hayden said she assumed so as long as she had a letter to that effect that could be submitted with the application.

Hayden said the one facility would not meet all of the needs, but it was a start. If they continue with the project and can meet the needs of all 705 children, statistics show that it would have 564 new people enter the work force in Barton County. That would bring an additional \$22,377,264.00 in personal income each year based on Barton County average wages.

Commissioner Daily asked where the 705 kids were now. Hayden said with grandparents and parents that are staying at home. Commissioner Daily asked were there not currently day care centers. Hayden said there were not enough to meet the demands, most have waiting lists, especially for infants.

Commissioner Daily asked Hayden why they were asking the county for more funds when they had not asked the city. Hayden said the county had been very supportive in the plight for childcare. Hayden added that there are many home daycare providers trying to get licensed to help ease the demand. This project would be self-sustaining while many are not and are having to do fundraisers each year just to stay in business. This program came from Garden City. They also ran theirs through economic development. They want to be able to pay the directors and the employees for the education they get to teach these children. They will move forward with the project because it is important to Barton County and getting people back to work. To make the centers self-sustaining, the maximum number of children in each facility would be 59.

Commissioner Daily asked how much it will cost to build. Hayden said upwards of \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Schartz said she supports the center but not until after budget season. She wanted to see the city step up.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Commissioners Daily and Schartz if they had a better plan for the funds.

Commissioner Daily said he was not opposed to childcare, but he did not agree with getting government involved with a private entity type business. Commissioner Daily agreed with Commissioner Schartz that they needed to wait until after the budget process.

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Commissioner Hutchinson said Great Bend Economic Development has become a countywide initiative and even though this particular facility would be in Great Bend, it would benefit the whole county.

Commissioner Krier asked the commission if they would be interested in matching the \$70,000.00 that Great Bend had given.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if they would be interested in asking the city to split the \$435,000.00.

Commissioner Schartz said she would like to see where the city stands on giving more funds.

Commissioner Daily said it needed to be a partnership of some kind. Commissioner Hutchinson said in his opinion, the partnership was with Great Bend Economic Development.

Commissioner Krier said he agreed with all the points of view but noted that approximately 50% of the county's property tax dollars come from Great Bend. Commissioner Krier asked Hayden if they could revisit the item next week.

Amy Miller asked Hayden what parents are paying for childcare. Hayden said on average parents pay \$130.00/week per child.

Commissioner Schartz moved to table this item until we can discuss with the city if they are willing to put in some money, and I am not sure when they are meeting, that is why I am not giving a specific time to come back to our agenda. But just as soon as we find out something or Sara finds out something and they are able to pledge some money to this or decide not to. I think it would make my vote a little more clear in my mind.

Commissioner Krier said they put in \$70,000.00 right now.

Hayden said correct.

Commissioner Schartz said of the \$250,000.00. We already gave \$250,000.00. We just did not earmark part of it for childcare.

Commissioner Hutchinson said like I said, my thing is we did save some money back for things to help our community and if I can not identify a stronger need than childcare, I would not want to hold up the process. It has been moved that we table.

Commissioner Krier said before we have a second, is this going to be a problem waiting a week or two.

Hayden said our grant needs to be submitted by the end of March. So we will proceed whether we have extra funds or not. It will change how much we ask for.

Commissioner Hutchinson said so the grant that could potentially double the money that they have is being submitted at the end of March. I will tell you guys one other thing, I am on the board with Great Bend Economic Development but there is a few other things that we have in the works so we are going to go to the city and ask them to double down.

Commissioner Schartz said Mr. Chairman, since we are just midway through March, I would still support my motion that is on the floor, to check with the city and see if they can come up with any money for this. I do not think that that would slow us down if we had it on the agenda for the 23rd or the 30th. We could still make that happen.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Matt, is our joint meeting with Great Bend the 28th of March.

Patzner said 28th, yes.

Commissioner Hutchinson said here is what I would propose. I propose we go to that meeting March 28th and ask them to split it with us. What do you guys think. And then we could bring it back up on March 30th for our agenda meeting March 30th.

Commissioner Esfeld said would that give you time to submit it since that is only three days prior.

Hayden said we will make it happen, yes.

Commissioner Hutchinson said you could do everything except for fill in the blanks, right.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

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Commissioner Hutchinson said it has been moved and seconded to table. Do we want to table this until March 30th, that is after the meeting with Great Bend.

Commissioner Schartz said I think that would be appropriate.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: KDHE Teen Pregnancy Targeted Case Management Additional Grant Funding:

-Karen Winkelman, Health Director, will provide details. Barton County is eligible to receive formula funds for the Teen Pregnancy Targeted Case Management Additional Grant Funding for the current state fiscal year.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said for the state FY2021-2022, they received \$8,309 for the Teen Pregnancy Targeted Case Management Grant. Last Wednesday they were notified by KDHE of an additional \$3,867.62 available if they submitted a proposal. The proposal would be to initiate and sustain a teen parent support group. They would like to collaborate with the Dream Center and provide childcare, office supplies and incentives for those who attended. The additional funding would have to be expended by June 30, 2022. Winkelman asked for approval to accept the funding.

Commissioner Krier asked if this would be to help the teen get through the pregnancy, not for abortion. Winkelman said not for abortion. It would be for comprehensive services and the management of services for the teen parents, support and to help them accomplish their goals. They would follow them during the pregnancy and up to twelve months after delivery.

Commissioner Krier moved to accept the additional funding from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for State Fiscal Year 2022 for the Teen Pregnancy Target Case Management program, in amount of \$3,867.00. Funds to be deposited in the Health Fund, Teen Pregnancy Case Management, 006-00-4787.

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

D. REVIEW OF THE BURN BAN:

-Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, will provide details. On February 23, 2022, the Commission adopted Resolution 2022-10, A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Burn Ban. At that time, conditions warranted its enactment. The Commission will receive current weather and drought conditions.

Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, said she heard from three fire chiefs who would like the burn ban to remain in place. Ellinwood Fire Chief Spencer Proffitt said they had a structure fire that started four or five hours after someone had been working there and left due to the dry grass around the shed.

Commissioner Daily moved to leave the Burn Ban in place.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

Doug Hubbard, Fire Chief Fire District No. 1, said the burn permit process was brought about in 2004 as a notification process. Another week of the burn ban would be helpful.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. COUNTY ENGINEER: Approval of KDOT Cost Share Program Agreement No. 50-22 for the Resurfacing of SW 40 Avenue (Airport Road):

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. Barton County has been approved for Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Cost Share Program funding to resurface SW 40 Avenue (Airport Road) from the US-56 intersection north to the West Barton County Road intersection. Barton County will sign, advertise and administer the project. KDOT will reimburse the County 75% of the actual costs up to a maximum \$600,000.00. Barton County is responsible for 100% of construction costs over the

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00,000.00 estimated cost, as well as 100% of the costs for design and inspection, which are estimated at no more than \$25,000.00.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said the City of Great Bend had agreed to split the local costs.

Commissioner Schartz said the project had been on the table for years. Glad we were able to wait for the grant and that the city was willing to share costs.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve KDOT Cost Share Program Agreement No. 50-22 for the resurfacing of SW 40 Avenue (Airport Road). Authorize the Director of Operations to transfer \$555,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building & Fixed Equipment, General, Line, 071-00-6305, to the Capital Improvement Fund, Improvements Not Buildings, General, Line, 071-00-6310, and then to encumber \$555,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund, Improvements Not Buildings, General, Line, 071-00-6310, with the additional \$270,000.00 to be encumbered from the Road and Bridge Fund, Professional Service Fees, Road Overlay Line, 002-92-5475-96. The KDOT reimbursement, estimated at \$555,000.00, to be deposited into the Capital Improvement Fund. Any remaining reimbursement is to be deposited into the Road and Bridge Fund.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. SANDPIT: Finalize Purchase of Real Estate:

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. In order to protect the County's commitment to infrastructure, the Commission approved the purchase of ground in the W/2, Sec. 5, T20S, R11W on November 9, 2021. Following the completion of a survey, the total cost, based on actual acreage of 54.1135, is \$270,567.50.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, asked the commission to rescind the motion made November 9, 2021 and make a new motion to specify the actual acreage, actual cost and to whom the payment should be made to.

Commissioner Krier moved to finalize the purchase of 54.1135 acres in the W/2, Sec. 5, T20S, R11W from CLS Barton, LLC. Authorize the Director of Operations to cancel the \$280,000.00 encumbrance for the cost of lands to the Smoky Hill Title Company as well as the initial deposit of \$10,000.00. Actual cost of land, \$270,567.50, to be paid to CLS Barton, LLC. from the Capital Improvement Fund:

Road and Bridge Line, 071-00-6335	\$225,385.86
General Fund, Improvements not Buildings, 071-00-6310	\$045,181.64

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. COUNTY COMMISSION: Recognizing James R. Daily:

-Chairman Shawn Hutchinson will provide details. Commissioner James R. Daily faithfully served Barton County in law enforcement both at the City of Great Bend and as the Barton County Sheriff from 1989-2001. He then moved to Newton where he became the Chief of Police. Upon his return to Barton County, he was selected to fulfill an unexpired term as Commissioner and was sworn into office on April 15, 2019. Early this year, Commissioner Daily announced his resignation as he is moving out of the area to provide for his wife's health care. At this time, Commissioner Daily will be recognized for his public service.

Commissioner Schartz said she had enjoyed the time they worked together. Commissioner Daily's integrity, sense of fairness and ability to look at all sides of every issue served Barton County well. She appreciated his work as a commissioner and had enjoyed his friendship. Wished him all the best.

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Commissioner Esfeld said she enjoyed working for him as a County Appraiser and enjoyed sitting beside him as a commissioner. Thanked him for all he had done as a County Commissioner and wished him well.

Commissioner Krier said he first met Commissioner Daily in 1999 when he was the Barton County Sheriff. He added Commissioner Daily was an amazing individual and he had enjoyed the time working together.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Barton County was a better place because of Jim Daily.

Commissioner Schartz moved to recognize Commissioner James R. Daily for his service to Barton County and its citizens.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz presented Commissioner Daily with a clock.

Commissioner Daily said the people of Barton County had always been supportive. Great Bend and Barton County have been home for a long time.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Krier – Central Plains Oilers boys and girls basketball teams both went to State Playoffs. The girls won their 9th consecutive title.

VII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 10:20 A.M.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Done in Study Session)

Notes from Director of Operations

Barb Esfeld – I move to enter into executive session until noon for attorney-client privilege. I would like to invite Patrick, Matt, and all five of the Commissioners.

Kirby Krier – Second

All in favor – aye from all

Barb Esfeld – I move to come out of executive session with no action to be taken.

Kirby Krier – Second

All in favor – aye from all