

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/31ob10E>.

March 2, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 2nd 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
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members attending via Teams®:

James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District

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.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 5th Run:

-An Accounts Payable Register for the 13th Month, 2021, will be submitted to the Commission.

Thirteenth month expenditures include any unpaid bills for a product, service or utility that was received in 2021.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the 13th Month – 5th Run appropriations for 2021 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schartz 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 February 16, 2022 and ending March 2, 2022.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the appropriations for the period of February 16, 2022, to March 2, 2022, and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

There is no Old Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROCLAMATION 2022-01: Colon Cancer Awareness Month, March, 2022:

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Commissioner Jennifer Schartz and Sheriff Brian Bellendir will provide details. During National Colon Cancer Awareness Month, County citizens are encouraged to learn their family's health history, to be screened regularly for colorectal cancer and to see a health care provider for change in bowel habits, bleeding, unintended weight loss or other symptoms.

Brian Bellendir, Barton County Sheriff, said colon cancer is the second most deadly cancer in the United States currently. It is one of the most insidious because it sneaks up on you. Bellendir said he was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer in 2014 and stressed for people to get screened, have a colonoscopy done. Current recommendation was to have a colonoscopy at age 45. In the case of Commissioner Schartz's son, he was a young man and sadly, did not survive. Bellendir said literally, one week before he was diagnosed, he felt fine and was cutting down trees with no indication that something was wrong.

Jennifer Schartz, Barton County Commissioner, said we do this every year, and it was always difficult. Anytime a parent who had lost a child is given the opportunity to talk about their loss and say their child's name out loud, it is a gift. Schartz's son, Dane, was diagnosed with colorectal cancer at the age of 26 and battled for nearly four years. Because of his diagnosis, the entire family had colonoscopies, even his 17-year-old sister. Dane's Dad had had a colonoscopy just 2 years prior and given a clean bill of health. He was on the 10-year plan but when they did another one because of Dane's diagnosis, they found a huge cancerous tumor. Dane always said that his cancer saved his Dad's life. Commissioner Schartz said to be vigilant about changes in your body and get regular colonoscopies.

Bellendir asked the commissioners to adopt the proclamation.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Proclamation 2022-01, Colon Cancer Awareness Month, March, 2022.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hutchinson said thank you guys very much for being here and sharing with us things that are very personal.

Commissioner Krier said I agree with Shawn because it was very moving last year and it is very moving again this year.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. UPDATE: Resolution 2022-10 – A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Burn Ban:

-Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, will present details. Drought conditions have continued in Barton County. Without significant measurable moisture, it is expected that the that the burn ban will continue.

Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, said some area Fire Chiefs felt the conditions still warrant a burn ban. Checking National Weather Service page, they are forecasting dangerous conditions for Barton County the next few days.

Information only. No action required.

C. PROCLAMATION 2022-02: Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 7 – 11, 2022:

-Amy Miller will present details. Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 7 – 11, 2022, is a cooperative effort of the National Weather Service, the Kansas Emergency Management Association, and local county emergency management agencies. Barton County Emergency Management reminds everyone to be prepared for the spring severe weather season. The proposed Proclamation encourages individuals, businesses, and communities to plan and prepare for an emergency.

Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, said severe weather was not just tornadoes. There was probably some damage from hail. Also have to consider lightening dangers, high winds, drought and wildland fires. Miller encouraged everyone to have a plan and check their go kits to be sure food and water are not

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pired. Several ways to receive severe weather notifications such as apps on smart phones and old school weather radios.

Commissioner Krier asked if Barton County had any tornadoes last year. Miller said there were 2 in Barton County and 37 in Kansas.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Proclamation 2022-02, Severe Weather Preparedness Week, March 7 – 11, 2022.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Miller said the statewide tornado drill will be done Tuesday, March 8th at 10:00 A.M. and Storm Fury on the Plains will be Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 P.M. at the Crest Theater.

D. APPRAISER'S OFFICE: Valuation Update:

-Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, will provide details. By March 1 of each year, the Appraiser's Office is to have completed valuation of property and mailed notices to the public per K.S.A 79-1460. The Commission will receive a report on the mailing of notices of valuation and valuation trends.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, said her office was in the process of finalizing property valuations for the 2022 year. Statute requires they notify property owners by March 1st; however they were granted an extension until March 15th. Due to the crazy market inflation that they have seen, they are being diligent in looking at those values to be fair and accurate with everyone. They requested additional time and it was granted so the deadline now was March 23rd. Property owners would still have 30 days from March 23rd to request an informal hearing. Prosser ran some preliminary numbers and as of yesterday they were:

Overall residential	8.24% increase
Farmsteads with homes	3.68% increase
Ag Land not market value	2.76% decrease
Ag Buildings	3.97% increase
Commercial	1.62% increase
Vacant Lots	29.29% increase
Not for Profits	5.49% increase
Other Exempt	2.31% increase

Commissioner Esfeld said the not for profits are 12% assessed rate, not exempt nonprofits.

Prosser said looking at the overall increase in value countywide, showing 4.07% and noted that this was very preliminary.

Commissioner Schartz said this was good information for the budget process, it was on them to lower the mill levy.

Commissioner Esfeld said everyone would have to work together to get the mill levy down.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Patzner to schedule meetings with taxing entities.

Commissioner Krier said oil was the 2nd largest industry in Barton County and asked Prosser about the price of oil. Prosser did not have that information; she knew it had increased. Prosser said the Property Valuation Division at the state has employees that specialize in oil. They meet with industry people, gather information and forecast what the average would be for the year.

Information only. No action required.

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E. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Suggested Amendments:

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. It is the intent of the Human Resources division to offer amendments to the Barton County Employee Handbook. To be considered is the addition of a policy dealing with Telework, an arrangement in which an employee performs assigned duties from an alternate work location, such as that employee's residence. Also to be considered are certain revisions to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy, assuring compliance with current practices.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, presented details and asked for adoption.

Commissioner Schartz asked Patzner if employees would be notified of the changes. Patzner said yes, employees sign a form stating they received the updates.

Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Policy 501.1, Telework and Policy 600, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy, and authorize the Director of Operations to make such revisions as are necessary to incorporate the updates into the Barton County Employee Handbook and to provide such updates to County employees.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Penny Pruettt – requesting the county adopt a nuisance ordinance. She lives in rural Barton County and a neighbor plays music so loud that she cannot hear her own music inside her home. She has called the Sheriff's Office in the past and they have responded.
- Bellendir – said there is no Kansas State Statute for disturbing the peace in a rural area. They have no enforcement and view it as a civil issue.
- Commissioner Schartz – the county does not have the same ability to legislate as a city does. Until laws change at the state level, there was not much they could do.
- Commissioner Hutchinson – could we make a policy that the Sheriff's Office contact the person.
- Bellendir – said we could make a policy, generally they do make contact, sometimes there are extenuating circumstances. They have approximately 3 or so of this type of calls a month, not always music, sometimes gunfire or fireworks.
- Hoffman – we could look at what other counties have done, coordinate with the Sheriff and the County Attorney.
- Commissioner Daily – said the Sheriff's Office was providing a courtesy, no statutory authority and any resolution could separate agricultural noises from nuisances.

VIII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:43 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2022-01

COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
March, 2022

WHEREAS, March is National Colorectal Awareness Month, an observance dedicated to encouraging patients, survivors and caregivers to share their stories, advocate for colorectal cancer prevention and inform others about the importance of early detection; and

WHEREAS, when colorectal cancer is found at an early stage before it has spread, the 5-year relative survival rate is about 90%. Unfortunately, about 1 in 3 people in the US who should get tested for colorectal cancer have never been screened; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires both private insurers and Medicare to cover the costs of colorectal cancer screening tests, because these tests are recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Citizens are urged to review their health insurance plan for specific details and to contact the insurer with questions related to colorectal cancer screenings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that Barton County joins in the observation of Colon Cancer Awareness Month, March, 2022; and

FURTHER, that the Commission endorsed the message of the American Cancer Society, and encourages all citizens to learn their family's health history, to be screened regularly for colorectal cancer and to see a health care provider for change in bowel habits, bleeding, unintended weight loss or other symptoms; and


FURTHER, that the Commission urges all citizens to be mindful of their health by observing safety practices and to bring their health concerns to their own medical care provider or the Barton County Health Department.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

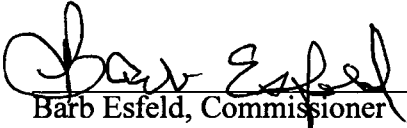

Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman


Bev Schneider,
County Clerk

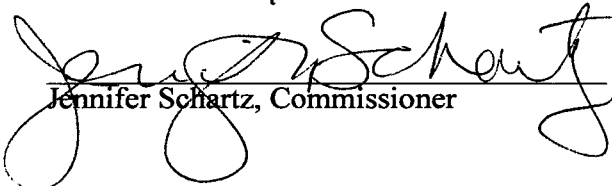


APPROVED VIA TEAMS

James R. Daily, Commissioner


Barb Esfeld, Commissioner


Kirby Krier, Commissioner


Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

PROCLAMATION 2022-02

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK
March 7 - 11, 2022



WHEREAS, Barton County can be devastated by flooding, tornadoes, hail, windstorms, wildfires and other potentially dangerous events; and

WHEREAS, severe weather often occurs at night, which demonstrates the importance of having the ability to receive warnings 24 hours a day; and

WHEREAS, thunderstorms, lightning, wildfires, hail, strong winds, and flooding have caused millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses, and local government infrastructure in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, everyone is encouraged to Make A Plan for how to shelter from a storm, create an emergency preparedness kit for everyone in their household, decide how they will receive emergency alerts and warnings, and practice their Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that we increase awareness of the dangers of severe weather hazards as well as the protective actions that all Barton County residents can take; and

WHEREAS, all schools, businesses and citizens are encouraged to prepare and practice personal safety plans, and to participate in the statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, hereby declares the week of March 7 through 11, 2022, as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in an effort to educate citizens about severe weather and to help them prepare for a life-threatening severe weather event.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of March, 2022.

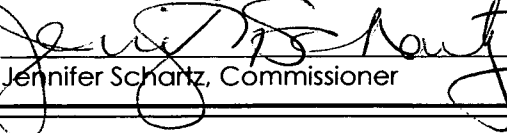
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman
APPROVED VIA TEAMS

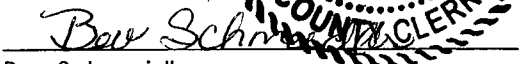
James R. Daily, Commissioner

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner


Kirby Krier, Commissioner


Jennifer Scharz, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk

