

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/41Oim1n>

April 12, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 12th day of April 2023, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the April 5, 2023, Regular Meeting were not available.

II APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

v Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of March 29, 2023, and ending April 12, 2023.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve appropriations for the period of March 29, 2023, to April 12, 2023. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

IV. 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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ATCH #5	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(7,159)		(\$1,034.22)	\$111.95
Personal Property	(16,112)		(\$2,828.56)	
Real Estate	(2,980)		(\$586.28)	
16/20 M Trucks	(823)		(\$126.94)	\$63.47
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(27,074)	\$0.00	(\$4,576.00)	\$175.42
Total Taxes	(\$4,576.00)			
Total Records Selected	6			

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 Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. THE WALL THAT HEALS: Public Presentation:

-Larry Parson, Chairperson for The Wall That Heals / Great Bend Leadership Committee, will present details. The Wall that Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Great Bend, Kansas, on May 11 – May 14, 2023. The Wall will be located at Veterans Memorial Park and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. The Wall that Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Larry Parsons, Chairperson for The Wall That Heals / Great Bend Leadership Committee, said about a year ago, he thought about how Vietnam Veterans were being forgotten and something should be done. There were only approximately 30% of the Vietnam Veterans still living. When he first applied to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, he set four goals: assist the Vietnam Veterans in their healing process, recognize the families, educate the public and our youth and promote Great Bend and Barton County. The wall would come to Great Bend after being in Kyle, Texas. On Tuesday, May 9th, an escort team will meet them in Claflin where they will go through Hoisington and then on to Great Bend. The trailer will travel through parts of Great Bend and past several of the grade schools before going to Veterans Memorial Park. The wall will be assembled on Wednesday by volunteers. They have struggled finding enough volunteers to assemble the wall and staff it 24 hours a day. The opening ceremony will be on Thursday, May 11th with guest speaker, Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab, a Great Bend native, and honoring those killed in Vietnam. That afternoon, approximately 600 Great Bend High School students will attend. On Sunday, the wall will be dismantled and moved to Wisconsin. This is the biggest traveling wall and the only one with a mobile educational unit. Included in the educational unit are history, hometown heroes' photos and an in memory of section. Some of those included are Don Cates, Gary Dino, Ron Prosser and others.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Parson where citizens could be to greet the caravan in Great Bend. Parson said on Main Street between Broadway and Lakin.

Parson presented a shadowbox to the family of Edward L. Saenz who died in combat. Edward was the oldest brother. Chris Saenz, Ramona Webb and Monica Ortega were present.

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RESOLUTION 2023-11: A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Burn Ban:

-Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, will present details. Persistent dry weather conditions have created a fire hazard situation within Barton County. Local Fire Chiefs have asked that the Commission prohibit open burning in Barton County by declaring a temporary burn ban until conditions improve.

Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Manager, said she was contacted by Doug Hubbard, Fire District #1 Fire Chief, last week. Hubbard had been in touch with other Fire Chiefs in the county about the extremely dry conditions. Miller said for the first time in her memory, Barton County had moved to the exceptional drought on the U.S. Drought Monitor. Miller said Doug Hubbard and Charles Keller were present.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he was contacted by Brent Smith, Interim Fire Chief, Great Bend Fire Department, and he was in support of a burn ban.

Miller said Spencer Proffitt, Ellinwood Fire Chief was also in support of the burn ban.

Commissioner Reif said Jerry Stricker, Fire District #2 Fire Chief, contacted him in support as well.

Hubbard said ever since Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lamp in Chicago in 1856 and caused the great Chicago fire, the primary function of fire departments had been prevention. For them, this was a prevention measure.

Keller said other counties had already put burn bans in place. Rush County did a week ago and Ness County did a month ago. They had burned tree piles in the city pit in Albert two months ago. That was still hot as a citizen dropped some tree limbs in last weekend. It reignited and they had to dump 2,000 gallons of water on it.

Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Resolution 2023-11, A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Burn Ban.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. COMMISSION: Barton County Façade Improvement Grants:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. In 2021, the Commission dedicated \$630,000.00 to the Façade Improvement Project. In 2023, the Commission directed \$250,00.00 in funding be reserved for the program. Thus far in 2023, the Commission has awarded \$71,213.66 in funding to priority projects and \$181,700.64 in current funding. The Commission will consider award of funding for a portion of the projects in later items.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said on March 29, 2023, the Commission awarded \$53,258.50 in Priority Funding and another \$57,091.61 in 2023 Round II Funding.

On April 5, 2023, the Commission awarded \$17,955.16 in Priority Funding and \$124,609.03 in 2023 Round II Funding.

Right now, the Priority Funding sits at -\$39,613.54 with several projects outstanding that were extended to June 30th. Round II funding availability is \$68,299.36.

Today, ask that the commission consider the applications from Michael G. Davis, Colby Miller, Grant and Shannon Unruh.

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E. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Michael G Davis:

-Michael G Davis will provide details. Mr. Davis has requested \$9,673.72 in grant funding to improve the building located at 158 S Main, Hoisington, Kansas. The building houses Cardinal Thrift Store. The \$3,224.57 match by the applicant equates to 25% of the project.

Michael G. Davis said he made the suggested changes but it did not change the bid much. Davis said there were a couple of design changes that may be made.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the commission had asked Davis to do a little more to help with the visual impact.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Michael G Davis for the building located 158 S Main, Hoisington, Kansas, in the amount of \$9,673.72. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Millers of Claflin Inc:

-Colby Miller will provide details. Millers of Claflin Inc has requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 220 Main, Claflin, Kansas. The \$19,122.98 match by the applicant equates to 49% of the project.

by Miller, Millers of Claflin, said this project would be their last building front, #14 on Main Street. This building is the flooring warehouse, and they did not consider doing it until the grant program was available. It would be modeled after the Carter Billiard Saloon that was in Claflin in the 1880's. The business was lost to fire, and they were unable to find any pictures. Miller said they found some buildings they liked at Disney World and copied the design.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Millers of Claflin Inc for the building located 220 Main, Claflin, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Grant Unruh and Shannon Unruh:

-Grant and Shannon Unruh will provide details. Mr. and Mrs. Unruh have requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 1110 Main, Great Bend, Kansas. The building houses Mitchell's Bakery. The \$15,650.34 match by the applicant equates to 44% of the project.

Grant Unruh said they were excited about the project. A lot of people did not realize that Mitchell's Bakery had been in town since the 1970's. It has been well supported by the community.

Shannon Unruh said the bakery was number 8 on the Donuts of the Nation. They want to bring it to life without changing it too much, keep the nostalgia.

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Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Grant Unruh and Shannon Unruh for the building located 1110 Main, Great Bend, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

H. SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONERS AND ENGINEERS:

-Commissioner Duane Reif and Commissioner Donna Zimmerman will provide details. After attending the South Central Kansas Association of Commissioners and Engineers (SCKACE) meeting last week, the Commissioners will lead a discussion on information presented.

Commissioner Reif said they attended the spring meeting in St. John along with Commissioner Zimmerman, County Engineer Barry McManaman and County Works Director Darren Williams. One of the things he found interesting was that 50% of bridges were 50 years old or older. With rural life declining, may need to consider putting in low water bridges instead of rebuilding bridges as they were. He said that felt like going backwards but it may be something to consider. There was discussion about long term planning, and he felt they, as commissioners, were doing that already. The difference between culverts and bridges was if the span was twenty feet or less, it was a culvert. Anything over twenty feet would be a bridge. In the session just for county commissioners, they discussed the issues with hiring and retention of employees, and local control for counties.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was a very informative meeting. They provided a report on the Kansas Road Network which was interesting. Kansas has a total of 140,000 center line miles statewide. Kansas ranks number 4 nationwide while ranking 36th by population and 15th by land area. County roads total 113,000 which was 81% of the total statewide miles, so counties have a big part of the responsibility. Counties own 75% of the 25,000 bridges in the state of Kansas. KDOT reported on Federal Funds Exchange Funding, said it would decrease next year by 10-13%. We were scheduled to receive approximately \$190,000 this year, with the local option at 90%, we should get around \$171,000 for our bridge budget. The 10-13% decrease could increase our 90% share to \$149,000 for an estimated decrease of \$22,000. Bruce Chladny, KAC Executive Director, provided legislative updates. Lindsay Francis, Kansas LTAP Director, reported on free equipment available to counties. There were 12 different types of equipment such as traffic county equipment, speed monitoring equipment and even a drone with a licensed pilot.

I. COURTHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Lease Agreement – Concept Commercials, LLC:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The Commission recently took action and initiated a Courthouse Improvement Project centering on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. The work being done will require Courthouse offices to be temporarily moved to other locations. At this time, Mr. Patzner will present a building lease agreement that would allow certain offices to operate at the Concept Commercials, LLC building located at 1520 Main, Great Bend, Kansas.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Hutchinson said originally, District Court and County Attorney offices were going to be in the old Sears building. However, a degree of separation was necessary so another location would be needed.

Dale Hogg, Great Bend Tribune, asked what the cost was for the rental.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he would get that to him, he did not have it at the moment.

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Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Lease Agreement with Concept Commercials, LLC for the building located at 1520 Main, Great Bend, Kansas. Associated costs to be paid from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, HVAC Project Expenses, 001-18-5517.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

J. HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Return of Grant Funding:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. In 2021, Barton County received various federal grants related to COVID aid and relief. A review of grant reports by the Health Department indicate that certain remaining funding must be remitted back to the federal government.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said this was a bonus payment based on Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP administrative claims data from January 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

Commissioner Reif moved to remit \$26,296.81 to the US Department of Health and Human Services for certain 2021 COVID grants.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Shawn Hutchinson will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess to executive session at this time as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319. Any motion must contain the justification for the executive session, the subject matter to be discussed, any individuals in addition to the board who will attend the executive session and the time at which the regular session shall resume.

8:41 A.M., Commissioner Schlessiger moved that the Commission adjourn into Executive Session until 9:55 A.M. with the governing body and the following individuals in attendance: County Administrator and County Counselor. The justification for the Executive Session is to discuss matters protected by attorney client privilege and the subject matter to be discussed shall be legal matters related to potential litigation involving the county.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:55 A.M. Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to regular session with no action taken.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – the Senate tried to approve a 3% cap on valuation, that did not work so they changed it to 4% which passed but would not go on a ballot until November of 2024. That would not allow for tax relief until 2025. Encouraged citizens to contact representatives.

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended Pawnee Rock Revitalization Committee Meeting. July 22nd, they will have a Pawnee Rock Hard Rock Run, 5K and a 1 mile walk. Their new pavilion should be up by the end of May. Having community clean up April 21st -23rd. CKCC Advisory Board will meet on the 18th of April. She reached out to all of the other 12 commissioners in the 20th Judicial District to gather information. She had also reached out to 3 Community Corrections actors.

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City Boxberger, CKCC Director and Judge Hannelore Kitts, CKCC Advisory Board Member – discussion about CKCC policies regarding Sheriff Brian Bellendir's concerns brought forth last meeting.

The complete meeting may be watched through Microsoft Teams® at the following link:
<https://bit.ly/41OiM1n>

VII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 10:24 A.M.

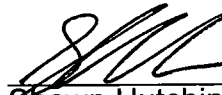
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2023-11

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY BURN BAN IN BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS

WHEREAS, the Barton County Board of County Commissioners is authorized by K.S.A. 19-101(a) to perform all powers of location legislation and administration it deems appropriate, subject to certain limitations; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize the need to establish a burn ban due to extremely dry weather conditions in Barton County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize that weather conditions may cause a reverse of the burn ban.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that:

1. There is an imminent threat of fire affecting Barton County, Kansas, at this time.
2. Effective immediately, all outdoor open burning is prohibited in the rural areas of Barton County, Kansas. Agricultural burning for crop and pasture management practices may be exempted from this order only upon issuance of a written permit by the Fire Chief having jurisdiction of the area where the Burning is to take place and in accordance with the provisions of Barton County Resolution 2005-04, Resolution Regarding Opening Burning and Creating a Permitting System for such Burning and Repealing Resolution 2004-05, Same, Adopted January 26, 2004.
3. This Resolution is being adopted pursuant to County home-rule power and K.S.A. 19-101d. Violations of this Resolution by any person shall be punishable as a Class B Misdemeanor with penalties for each separate offense by a term of confinement in the Barton County Detention Facility not to exceed six months and \ or a fine in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Any person who aids, assists or abets another in violating the provisions of this Resolution will be deemed to have committed a violation of the Resolution.
4. The effective date of this Resolution shall be the 12th day of April, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and it will continue in force until such time as suspended by the Board of County Commissioners, Barton County, Kansas.

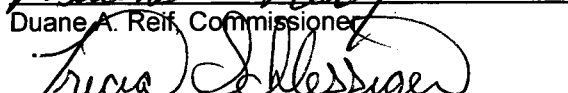
DECLARED by the Board of Barton County Commissioners, Barton County, Kansas this 12th day of April, 2023.

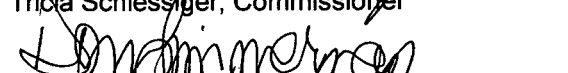
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS**


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman



Barb Esfeld, Commissioner


Duane A. Reif, Commissioner


Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner



Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman
County Counselor