

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/3ilLfo6>

August 8, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 8th day of August 2023, at the 1500 Kansas location.

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 Schlessiger moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023, Regular Meeting as submitted by the County Clerk.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. 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.

BATCH #10	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	16,662			
Real Estate				
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	16,662	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Taxes	\$0.00			
Total Records Selected	26			

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Commissioner Zimmerman 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 Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITIONS OF AMERICA: Mid-Year Training Institute Recap:

-Tyler Morton, Prevention Advocate with Juvenile Services, and Holly Bowyer, The Center for Counseling, Central Kansas Partnership board member and Suicide Prevention taskforce leader, supervised a youth trip to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Mid-Year Training Institute. Aaron Deason, Jasmine Figueroa, Makinzie Beneke, Grace Vandine, Alvin Bowyer and MaKiah Webber attended the training in Texas last month. The group will provide details.

Tyler Morton, Prevention Advocate with Juvenile Services, provided details about the recent trip to CADCA mid-Year Training Institute. It was held July 16-20 in Grapevine, Texas. Morton thanked the commissioners and County staff for their efforts in the storm cleanup as it weighed on them as they traveled. There were 2,500 attendees from over 20 different countries.

Holly Bowyer, The Center for Counseling, said the Barton County group was selected on day 2 to present about their community to the entire group at the end because they were doing so well. They were complimented.

Jasmine Figueroa, Great Bend High School Junior, said she attended the open sessions with speakers every day. She learned about people genetically predisposed to dementia, schizophrenia, heart disease and other diseases and that marijuana usage can cause early onset. There have been case studies of young adults developing early onset dementia. She learned about the repercussions of that behavior and that marijuana now was more potent than in the past and should be considered a hard drug. One session she attended was speakers from Washington who work closely with the White House. Someone in the audience asked why the seltzer drinks were so appealing to younger people. That speaker said it was because of the low caloric content. Figueroa was the only youth in that session and was able to speak to him one on one, sharing her perspective. She did not agree that youth worried about calories and asked where he got the data, he had to back his claim. Her favorite session was "Vive 18". They taught how to ask for funding, get youth engaged, hold a conference and have everyone actively participate. General Price, Founder and CEO of CADCA, had a presentation about the eleven different people at a table, for example: the bully, the critic, the ambitious person, the hungry person and how to deal with these people because you will find them wherever you go. Figueroa said a Finance Officer from the United States Army, a former CADCA trainer, said there was no "I" in team but there was an "ME". You have to recognize that within yourself, find your strengths and apply that to the team.

Makinzie Beneke, Great Bend High School Freshman, said she was a part of the Key Essentials group. One thing that stood out to her was Logic Models. They learned how to take problems from their community and explain them in a reasonable sentence with key components. Their topic was about the increase of vaping in schools. They identified risk factors and root causes. Other groups presented problems in their communities such as gun safety and heroin around the schools. The next step would be to take what they learned and implement in the community through social media, radio etc.

MaKiah Webber, Hoisington Middle School 8th Grade, said she learned many things on the trip but wanted to bring back tobacco prevention to Barton County. Youth vape a lot, but they are also smoking cigarettes. Both are extremely dangerous, mentally and physically. Tobacco causes many different cancers, heart disease, gangrene and reduced lung function. She learned that most teens are pressured to vape by their peers. July 1, 2023, the State of Kansas passed a law that a person must be 21 years of age to purchase tobacco products. This will make it a little harder for teens to access tobacco.

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Elvin Bowyer, Ellinwood High School Sophomore, spoke about underage drinking and social access by getting older people to purchase alcohol.

Aaron Deason, a recent Great Bend High School graduate, talked about vaping in schools.

Commissioner Esfeld said it was Deason's birthday and led the group in singing Happy Birthday.

Morton said Deason was 18 years old today and aged out of Youth Crew. They were hoping to keep him involved as a Peer Mentor. Morton added that the group was chosen to present at the final presentation and was very proud of the youth.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he was always amazed at how well these young people speak in front of a crowd. Very well spoken.

Commissioner Zimmerman said they were a group to be proud of.

Commissioner Reif said they were the leaders in Barton County.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked if they go into high schools and recruit, do they do presentations. Beneke said she had recruited friends to Youth Crew. When they invite them to attend the fun activities, the kids get intrigued and educated. Figueroa said that Morton and Katelyn Sigler go to the high schools, middle schools and elementary schools and talk about Youth Crew. They have events and the youth come together for a good cause.

Morton said they facilitate the All Stars program through Juvenile Services, prevention services beginning in 6th grade. They go into all elementary schools in USD 428, middle school in Hoisington and in Holyrood. Morton said Figueroa had already received 3 or 4 awards this year. Barton County had been asked to possibly host a conference next year, they will work on the details.

C. BARTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Update – Policy 110, DOJ / OVW Funding – Interaction With Minors:

-Casey Hubbard, Office Manager / Investigator, will provide details. In January, 2023, the Commission adopted Policy 110, DOJ / OVW Funding – Interaction With Minors, into the Employee Handbook. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has since suggested certain updates.

Casey Hubbard, Office Manager, presented details and asked for the changes to be adopted to stay in compliance with the grant.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt revised Policy 110, DOJ / OVW Funding – Interaction With Minors. Authorize the Administrator 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 Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. BOARD APPOINTMENT: SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The County recently sought applicants for one position on the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SWKAAA) Sub-Regional Council. SWKAAA helps determine long term needs and adequate programs for all senior citizens in Southwest Kansas. Appointees are required to attend four quarterly meetings per year, with mileage reimbursed. The uncompensated position ends in September, 2026. Linn Hogg has applied for appointment.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said Linn Hogg was the only applicant. Hogg had served previously for the maximum term. She took a year off and was now eligible for reappointment.

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Commissioner Reif moved to appoint Linn Hogg to the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging Sub-Regional Council. Uncompensated position ends in September, 2026.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

E. 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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – introduced Glenda French as the next Register of Deeds.

Commissioner Zimmerman - The County has long known that, at some point, it must upgrade the Courthouse HVAC system. Key to the success of the project has been the move of offices to three separate locations. In addition to the work of contractors, volunteers and County employees, Commissioner Hutchinson has been instrumental in the preparation and physical act of the move.

You have taken the lead on this project. Offering your experience on construction, plumbing and security and using your personal contacts for our benefit. We've seen you on site, hauling boxes, arranging for services and seeking answers to problems that have developed along the way.

Your forward thinking, progressive attitude and willingness to go beyond the call of duty and collaborate with employees, vendors and service providers have made a huge difference in this project.

We realize that you have stepped aside from your business and your family for hours each week, coordinating efforts and physically offering your support to the project. For the assistance you have given, for the leadership you have shown, for the experience you have shared – we thank you.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve a one-time \$2,000 bonus payable to Shawn Hutchinson. Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Commissioner Zimmerman. Hutchinson said when he decided to run for commissioner, he got a couple good pieces of advice from some smart people, one of them was Patrick. One of the people told him a commissioner job is what you make of it. It could be as little or as much as you want to put into it. I really believe that is true. I do not feel like I have done more in this role than I would have done in my own business. When I ran for this office, I said I will run this just like my own business so thank you very much for the recognition. I think that financially, a financial bonus to me is not necessary but I would like to see something go to our employees. They have been very good here in this building, they have not complained and heck, even Road & Bridge has thrown in and the Sheriff's Department has thrown in help for us. I am sure the Health Department has even helped us out. If I am missing somebody, let me know.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she would rescind her motion and move to transfer, in lieu of a bonus to Commissioner Hutchinson, moved to transfer \$2,000 from the County General Fund to the Barton County Employee Trust Fund.

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Commissioner Hutchinson asked was that the ERC.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it is.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion and said the other commissioners probably have something to say too. She came on board with Shawn, and it seems like yesterday, time has gone so fast. We both had goals that we wanted to accomplish. One making Barton County a better place to work and make it a better place for all the citizens that live in it. When you are a commissioner, you may have a district, but you serve all the people, Barton County. I will say that our time has gone fast. I think Shawn would agree with me, we accomplished a lot more than we actually set out to. We sat down and wrote down our goals because you cannot get there unless you know what your goals are. Lo and behold, I think we surpassed it. Thanks to good commissioners before us, there was money set aside to work on the HVAC and everything over at the courthouse and move everybody here. But I want to piggyback on Shawn. Shawn is over and above, it is kind of funny, because if you ask where is Shawn, oh, he is over at the Penny's building or he is over at the courthouse. He has given up time from his family, his business and like Shawn said, it is not successful unless you run it like your own business. That was one of the goals and you by far surpassed that and I think it is a great honor to, I knew Shawn would not take anything for himself, he has never been for personal gain from day one. I think it is very fitting we take this in your honor and give it to the employees. One more thing that I want to add, this is the best darn set of commissioners ever. The new commissioners, the three that came on, we all work well together, all very diverse, we add so much different to it, it is always everybody is for the good of Barton County and I think we made a huge difference.

Commissioner Reif said he agreed with Commissioner Esfeld and they were all for the betterment of Barton County. He thanked Commissioner Hutchinson for the countless hours he had put in.

Commissioner Schlessiger echoed the sentiments.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said he was very proud to be a part of the organization.

Patzner said he felt fortunate to have Commissioner Hutchinson to lean on as he was learning the job and seeing how he goes about business. A lot of times the hard way to do something was the right way. All voted aye. Motion passed.

VII. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 9:41 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman