

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/3VqZdZv>

January 18, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 18th day of January 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, Director of Operations
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.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month:

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of December 21, 2022, and ending December 31, 2022.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve 13th appropriations for the period of December 21, 2022, to December 31, 2022 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, 2023, and ending January 18, 2023.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 1, 2023, to January 18, 2023 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. APPRAISER'S OFFICE: Bulk Mailing – Valuation Notices:

-Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, will provide details on this item. The Appraiser's Office invited Request for Proposals for the mass mailing of 2023 real estate valuation notices. Work involves the creation of valuation notices, mailing labels and envelopes.

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Andy Prosser, County Appraiser, said she was required by statute to mail out valuation notices by March 1. With the costs of postage, envelopes and paper at this time it was cheaper to hire a third party vendor. Prosser said she received three bids:

Mail Services	\$9,501.80
Mail Services (2 nd bid utilizing different sized envelopes)	\$9,339.12
The Masters Touch	\$7,997.60

Prosser said she received responses from Barton County vendors who said they would not be submitting bids. They could not compete with the big bulk companies on the project. Prosser said they had worked with The Masters Touch before and had a good working relationship, asked for approval of the bid.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Prosser what the amount was for postage. Prosser said it was \$5,586.05.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to award the mass mailing of 2023 real estate valuation notices bid to The Masters Touch for an estimated cost of \$7,997.60 to be paid from the General Fund, Appraiser's Account, Professional Service Fees Line – 001-14-5475. Authorize the Commission Chairman to sign the vendor agreement on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. BARTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Addition of Policy 110, DOJ / OVW Funding – Interaction with Minors:

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. Beginning in Calendar Year 2019, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) incorporated by referenced a determination of suitability required, in advance, for certain individuals who many interact with participating minors. Generally, those programs funded through the Department of Justice and / or the Office on Violence Against Women, would require initial and re-examination of employees for sex offender, criminal history and child abuse and neglect registrations.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, presented details and asked the commission consider adoption of the policy.

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

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. OCCUPANCY AGREEMENTS: 1806 – 12th, Great Bend:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. As a means of community support, the Central Kansas Partnership, Inc., Rise Up HEART (Health Equity Action Recovery Team) program is being housed in the office building at 1213 Baker, Great Bend. The program will pay the County a four hundred dollar per month rental fee for use of the office space, internet and parking.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, presented details and introduced Amy Ferguson to explain more.

Amy Ferguson, Program Coordinator/Community Liaison, said they were continuing to connect people to resources. One of the things they were highlighting was connecting people to COVID vaccinations. They will be partnering with the Barton County Health Department quarterly to do COVID and influenza vaccinations as well as STD testing at recovery sites in Barton County. They remove the barrier of transportation. Ferguson said it was hard to get ahead when you have trouble getting there. Since

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January 1, 2023, they had provided 38 rides. During those rides they make good use of the time by having meetings and may discuss mental health, recovery, health and wellness in general. They had taken 38 people to 12 step meetings, 5 persons to intermediate treatment and 6 for COVID vaccinations. Ferguson said it was exciting to be able to help the community.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Occupancy Agreement for the Central Kansas Partnership, Inc., Rise Up HEART (Health Equity Action Recovery Team) program with the Agreement set to expire December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2: Appointment of a Board of Trustees:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Per Resolution 2018-10, which created Fire District No. 2, the members of the Fire District Board of Trustees shall consist of not more than one (1) appointee from each participating township and not more than one (1) from each participating city. The City of Susank and North Homestead and South Homestead Townships remain open. All positions expire December 31, 2024.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, presented details and asked to consider appointing Richard Lacey and Richard Ward.

Commissioner Reif moved to appoint the following persons to the Board of Trustees for Fire District No. 2, County of Barton, Kansas. Said appointees shall serve for an uncompensated term ending December 31, 2024:

North Homestead	Richard Lacey
South Homestead	Richard Ward

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Commissioner Reif if he knew the two appointees.

Commissioner Reif said he knew them, and they would do a fine job.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. REVISION OF THE 2022 / 2023 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS LISTING:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. At this time, the Commission will be asked to recategorize one regular part-time position for the Operations / Facilities Department to full-time.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said this was specifically to move Fred Hernandez, Maintenance and Facilities, from part-time to full-time. He was a great asset to the county.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the 2022 / 2023 Authorized Positions Listing.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. DISCUSSION: Kansas Association of Counties New Commission Orientation:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will lead the discussion. The Commission had the opportunity to attend the Kansas Association of Counties 2023 New Commissioners Orientation on January 11 – 13, 2023, in Topeka. Included were Commission duties, public service and financial obligations.

Barb Esfeld, County Commissioner, said it was attended by Commissioner Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner Duane Reif and herself. There was a session for Commissioner job description which was very informative. Jay Hall, KAC Legislative Attorney, explained in depth the County Home Rule Act and the restrictions. He also explained how to conduct a meeting

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Following the Standards According to Kansas as well as covering executive sessions. Hall explained the definition of decorum, do not speak unless you have the floor and respect everyone. People should be able to argue without being argumentative. Another session involved the powers and obligations of elected officials and how things ought to work. A retired Harvey County Commissioner held a session about balancing your personal life and role as a commissioner. Mike Taylor, a lobbyist for counties, said legislators will be talking about home rule, property valuation, property tax reductions and he was in favor of bringing back LAVTR, Local Ad Valorem Tax Relief. Taylor told them that counties had lost over 2 million dollars since the LAVTR was removed in 2003. Commissioner Esfeld added that Local Government Day will be February 25th.

Commissioner Reif spoke about the importance of working with other elected officials and what to expect as a commissioner. There was a lot of information for new commissioners.

Commissioner Schlessiger talked about county culture and how it starts at the top and required accountability. You should focus on a culture of transparency, she felt that that was what taxpayers and constituents were interested in from them. Another hot topic was mental health and there should be more grant options available. Commissioner Schlessiger said she learned that there were only 35 Kansas counties with a road system like Barton County.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was glad to hear KAC talk about the LAVTR and that they were looking at that as a revenue stream that could be reinstated. It was interesting listening to the litigator in the Lincoln vs. Nielander case. Commissioner Zimmerman shared a quote from Kim Hall of NACO, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." It is good to be involved and be at the table.

Commissioner Esfeld had a trivia question for Commissioner Hutchinson and the media. She asked if anyone knew how county areas were formed. Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said it was a one day horse ride.

G. 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 regular session shall resume.

Commissioner Hutchinson said in the spirit of transparency, they would be placing Executive Session item on the agendas as a placeholder in the event that one was needed. The purpose of an executive session would be to protect the anonymity or personal information of non-elected personnel, litigation about something or land acquisitions.

Hoffman said a lot of counties have it on the agenda as a placeholder in the event of any of the justifications for an executive session. If there were not a need for it, it would be skipped over.

No executive session today.

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – she will be attending the Legislative Policy Group Meeting in Topeka on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

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I. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 9:31 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman