

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/3Bd81Kx>

January 25, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 25th 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 Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION 2023-05: A Resolution of the Board of Barton County Commissioners Authorizing Participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2023:

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will provide details. The Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) Student Loan Repayment Program provides up to a \$15,000 benefit as a workforce recruitment tool for eligible persons establishing domicile in Barton County. The Kansas Department of Commerce requires counties to pass a resolution obligating them to participate in this ROZ program for at least five years.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said if approved, up to \$15,000 could be used for student loan repayment and half of that would be matched by the state.

Commissioner Hutchinson said when he attended KAC two years ago, they showed a map of counties who were participating, Barton County was not one of them. He wondered why Barton County was not participating when there was no financial commitment. Commissioner Hutchinson was in favor of opting in the ROZ program.

Commissioner Esfeld said they were looking at making a change with the program. As it stood now, a person must leave their county for education and then return to benefit. The potential change would allow a student to attend a local education facility and remain in their home county.

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Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Resolution 2023-05, A Resolution of the Board of Barton County Commissioners Authorizing Participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2023.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: 2023 Membership:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has submitted a renewal notice for the 2023 membership. Based on population, the dues are \$553.00. NACo advocates for county priorities in federal policymaking, promotes exemplary county policies and practices and nurtures leadership.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said NACo served nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate county priorities and federal policy making, advocate county priorities in federal policymaking, promote exemplary county policies and practices, nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks, optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings and enrich the public's understanding of county government. After taking a break from membership in 2017, the County rejoined in 2021.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was a lot of bang for the buck.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the 2023 NACo Membership Dues of \$553.00. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: 2023 Membership:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) has submitted a renewal notice for the 2023 membership. Based on a calculation that includes a base fee, population and valuation, the dues are \$6,124.34. The Association sponsors the annual KAC Conference, various educational meetings throughout the year and lobbies the State and Federal Legislature on behalf of Kansas Counties.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson said this was a valuable membership.

Commissioner Esfeld said with the addition of lobbyist Mike Taylor and the education provided, it was very valuable.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the 2023 KAC Membership Dues of \$6,124.34. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. KANSAS LEGISLATIVE POLICY GROUP: 2023 Membership:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) is a bi-partisan coalition of western Kansas counties with the common interest in the preservation of the counties tax base and retention of local control. The KLPG serves as a policy and decision-making body establishing legislative priorities at its annual meeting and providing speakers to address KLPG members about the important

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ics of the day. At this time, the Commission will consider renewal of the membership, priced at \$5,471.34.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said Commissioner Esfeld attended the meeting in Topeka yesterday.

Commissioner Esfeld said the meeting was very beneficial and KLPG was very active and proactive in helping counties that belong. Commissioner Esfeld said 34 counties belong.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if this was the group fighting the 30 by 30.

Commissioner Reif said that was KNRC.

Commissioner Zimmerman said Barton County joined several years ago and received a little over \$2,000,000 in the oil and gas depletion trust fund money.

Commissioner Esfeld said there will be some hearings concerning grain elevators.

Commissioner Reif said there were a lot of grain elevators in western Kansas and in Barton County, would have to keep an eye on the hearings.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the 2023 KLPG Membership Dues of \$5,471.34. Payment to be made from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

voted aye. Motion passed.

ITEM TABLED

E. ANNUAL DEPARTMENT UPDATE: County Attorney's Office:

-Levi Morris, County Attorney, will provide an annual update on his department.

Levi Morris, County Attorney, was not available.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to table it until February 8th.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. 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.

No Executive Session at this time.

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

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I. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:13 A.M.


Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman