

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

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March 15, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 15th day of March 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
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Members attending via Teams®:

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District

Members absent:

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 Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the March 8, 2023, Regular Meeting were not available.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of March 1, 2023, and ending March 15, 2023.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the appropriations for the period of March 1, 2023, to March 15, 2023. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Board Appointments:

-Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director, will provide details. Community Corrections is a state and local partnership which promotes public safety by providing highly structured community supervision to felony offenders. KSA 75-5297 governs the advisory board membership, qualifications and appointment provisions. Applicants will be considered for "general" membership at this time.

Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director, said Gloria Bogan had previously served and asked that she be reappointed to the CKCC Advisory Board.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Boxberger how often the board meets. Boxberger said they met quarterly, usually at noon on the last week of the month of the quarter.

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Commissioner Hutchinson asked Boxberger to have the board meet monthly for awhile and restructure the board. Boxberger said she would do that.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Gloria Bogan to the CKCC Advisory Board for a general open position. Uncompensated term to end March, 2025.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to appoint Tricia Schlessiger to the CKCC Advisory Board for a general open position. Uncompensated term to end March, 2025.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0. Commissioners Hutchinson, Esfeld, Zimmerman and Reif voting aye.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to appoint Brooke Haulmark to the CKCC Advisory Board for a general open position. Uncompensated term to end March, 2025.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. HUMAN RESOURCES: Recruitment:

-Brenda Kaiser, Human Resource Director, will provide details. Barton County currently has positions open in the County Works, Communications, Attorney, Sheriff and Health Departments. In an effort to recruit candidates and retain employees, the Commission has expanded search efforts and benefits.

Brenda Kaiser, Human Resources Director, said she was here to promote current staff openings within the county. Individuals have retired causing openings in the Road & Bridge Department and Sheriff's office. There were also openings for RN's at the Health Department and an Assistant County Attorney position. The positions in the county are great for individuals that like a predictable schedule and a more limited travel schedule. Most travel with the current open positions was limited to Barton County with the exception of training. There were equipment operator positions open at both Road & Bridge and Solid Waste Departments. There were also summer positions available at Road & Bridge. 911 also had openings for dispatchers. Full time positions include insurance package with health, vision and dental coverage as well as KPERS. Open positions were listed on the county website, Facebook, Central Kansas Jobs and Indeed.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Kaiser how many positions were open currently. Kaiser said 14 which included the summer positions.

C. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide a legislative update. Included will be information on various bills and committee work.

Commissioner Esfeld said there was a lot going on in Topeka and it was hard to track all the bills. Commissioner Esfeld said she and Senator Tyson meet on Fridays with a group of about 10 people trying to find ways to lower property taxes. One of the things they worked on was a bill that would allow County Appraisers to do their job without changing the constitution and legislation. The County Appraiser, by law, sets fair market value. Residential property would still be assessed at 11.5%, commercial at 25% and ag land at 30%. Ag land would not be affected since it was done on a use value and not fair market value. For the other categories, market value would be there but the assessed value would not increase more than 5%. If passed, it would go into effect this year and would require a lot of work from software vendors. Kansas Association of Counties had been working to protect Home Rule. That was the overreach of state government to make laws that affect local government. One was SB2057 which so far has blocked the courts to outlaw election drop boxes. That should be a decision of the local government. Another one was SB86 which require each commissioner to declare if they had any relatives with a lease or interests in

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Wind turbines or solar farms. A bill regarding local sales tax had already passed the senate but had not passed the house yet. They were looking at doing the Blue Ribbon Study, a deep dive study into taxes. It would investigate all forms of taxes and ways to help. Commissioner Esfeld said she had asked some constituents who called her about their property valuation to ask themselves if they could sell it for that amount. She encouraged people to call the County Appraiser's office and schedule a meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the taxpayers had until the end of the month to appeal. Prosser said until March 31st.

No Executive Session Held

D. 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:

There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURN.


Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:28 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman