

# 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3o8Adea>.

November 14, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 14th day of November 2023, at the 1500 Kansas location.

## *Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Chairman  
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Esfeld moved to approve the agenda.  
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

The minutes of the October 31, 2023, and the November 7, 2023, Regular Meetings were not available.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

-There was no Old Business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. TREASURER'S OFFICE: Tax Statements:**

-Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, will present details. In general, taxpayers should receive real estate, personal property and oil and gas tax statements for the current year on or after November 1st, but no later than December 15th of each year. New to the process this year is eNotices. This online statement presentment program allows residents to receive their tax statements electronically at a designated email address. In addition, payment can be made through eNotices, on-line through the County's website or in person at 1500 Kansas, Great Bend, Kansas.

Jim Jordan, County Treasurer, said this year taxpayers would be given the opportunity to sign up to receive their tax statements electronically. This would make it smoother for the customer and the county.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it would also save postage. Jordan said it costs the county \$0.61 to mail and would be around \$0.14 for electronic mail.

Commissioner Hutchinson said if a single owner had 15-20 properties, they would all go to one email address. Jordan said that was correct, by taxpayer request.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Jordan if he could work with the Appraiser's Office on that. Shawnee County does their notices by email, it took them awhile to get going but saved them a lot of money.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she thought the Appraiser's Office had sent them electronically, however it was not well received so they went back to mailing.

Commissioner Zimmerman said this was elective, so a taxpayer could choose to receive it electronically.

# 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3o8Adea>.

Jordan said included in the tax statements will be a pie chart showing where tax money goes.

Commissioner Hutchinson said in an easy-to-read format. Jordan said a simple pie chart showing who went up and who went down.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it would be a county average, correct. Jordan said yes, county in general. If a person wants a pie chart specific to their property, they can go to the website, enter their address or name and get the results.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she appreciated the work done by the Treasurer, Appraiser's Office and Clerk's Office.

## **B. JUVENILE SERVICES: Return of FY23 Unspent Funds:**

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will present details. The Kansas Department of Corrections has notified the department of the need to return certain unspent funding remaining from the FY23 allocation for the JCAB and Reinvestment Grants. In total, the amount to be returned to the State is \$127,596.64. It is noted that the inability to hire staff for open positions for the majority of the grant period led to unspent funds.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said she had been sharing this information since July. This was two allocations from the JCAB and Reinvestment Grants. The Reinvestment Fund was due to having a position open for half the year. She did her due diligence to spend that down and keep the dollars here in our district, employing people with the great benefits of the county. JCAB Fund position was open for ten months. It was difficult to get the specialized employees to do that work.

Commissioner Hutchinson said as much as he hated sending the money back, Woodmansee was open minded and worked with them trying to find ways to keep the funding here.

Woodmansee said the other component was that these dollars going back will go into the State's General Fund to then be allocated back out to the districts. She would be following how that would be allocated.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if the positions were still open. Woodmansee said they had been filled. One was a new employee and the other was a long time employee willing to make a lateral move to provide this service with a different population.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to remit \$127,596.64 of unspent FY23 funding to the Kansas Department of Corrections. Funding is to be paid out as follows:

\$66,106.23 – JCAB Fund, Wages, 121-88-5000

\$61,490.41 – Reinvestment Fund, Wages, 126-72-5000

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. COURTHOUSE HVAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Additional Services – Sanitary Sewer / Bathroom Remodel / Domestic Water:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. With the Courthouse HVAC project underway, it is an appropriate time to replace water pipes throughout the building. Included will also be the replacement of certain water heaters, sanitary waste and vent piping as well as the renovation of certain first floor restrooms. OSE has submitted a \$63,000.00 cost estimate to design this portion of the project.

# 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3o8Adea>.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Zimmerman said this was another laborious item but it made sense, because the pipes were in such bad shape, to do the project while the courthouse was vacant.

Commissioner Reif said we do not want to do all of this work on the courthouse and have water leaks.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they saw many patches that were to be temporary but had never been repaired correctly.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was recently discovered that there was a break in the sewer line going from the elevator to the mechanical room. Patzner said it was near where the old HVAC was located.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to authorize OSE to provide additional services relative to sanitary sewer / bathroom remodel / domestic water at a cost of \$63,000.00. That cost to be paid to from the Courthouse General account of the General Fund, HVAC Line, 001-18-5517.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **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.

At 9:20 A.M., Commissioner Schlessiger that the Commission go into Executive Session for a period of 30 minutes. The subject to be discussed will be consultation with the County Counselor to discuss matters related to attorney client privilege, as the matter is protected by attorney / client privilege. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to provide the attorney / client privilege and the County's position on the matter on which legal advice is being sought. To include the governing body, Matt Patzner, County Administrator, and Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 9:50 A.M. in this room.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:50 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to come out of Executive Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to go back into Executive Session for an additional 30 minutes with the governing body, Matt Patzner, County Administrator, and Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor. The Open Meeting will resume at 10:20 A.M. in this room.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 10:20 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to come out of Executive Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

# 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3o8Adea>.

## **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Matt Patzner – spoke to Jonathan Mitchell, tentative date for joint meeting with Hoisington City Council November 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Esfeld made a motion to adjourn at 10:31 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman