

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/4oig5j5>

October 14, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 14th day of October, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members absent:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION 2025-17: Resolution for Approval of Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. After a Public Hearing on September 18, 2025, it was unanimously recommended by the Barton County Planning Commission that the County Commissioners approve a Nex-Tech Wireless request to build a 250' Guyed Communications Tower on a tract of land owned by Farris Haying, LLC, located approximately three miles northwest of Great Bend. More specifically, the property is in the NW/4, Sec. 15–T19S–R14W, and at the intersection of NW 50 Avenue and NW 30 Road, on the southeast side. The only condition of approval, requiring FCC approval, has been met.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said the location was slightly south and east of Heizer on the hill near the power plant. Goreham said Creighton Remus had submitted a thorough application and there were no complaints or comments made at the public hearing. Six of the nine Planning Commission members were present at the public hearing and fully recommended approval of the permit.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that Nex-Tech Wireless had a dead zone in that area, and this tower should provide better coverage. Goreham said Remus told her it would help at the fairgrounds and airport areas also.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was excited about the tower, it would be a good addition.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 2025-17, Resolution for Approval of Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: All Weather Roofing and Exterior, 2100 – 10th, Great Bend, Kansas:

-Chairman Tricia Schlessiger will provide details. Travis Decker, on behalf of All Weather Roofing and Exterior, 2100 – 10th, Great Bend, Kansas, has applied for \$8,500.00 in grant funding. This \$15,601.73 project involves the installation of siding, gutters, wraps, shutters, windows and painting of the building.

Commissioner Schlessiger said Jennifer Flick, All Weather Roofing, would present details.

Flick said they purchased the building about 18 months ago and had to put things on hold after a big storm hit the area. They were busy helping homeowners with repairs but now they were ready to move forward on the project. Flick said they were going to paint, put on new siding, replace some windows and repair some deterioration. This past summer, they put on a new roof. Flick said the building was right on the edge of the improvement district and thought they could be an asset to the aesthetics of that corner.

Commissioner Schlessiger said the pictures and plans looked great.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Flick if they were doing most of the work themselves. Flick said they had a great team of people to do the work.

Tyler Daily, All Weather Roofing, said the building sat at 10th Street and Williams and was a nice little cottage style building that had just not had the attention it needed in recent years. Daily said it was perfect for their office.

Commissioner Esfeld said it was at a great location and in the past, when a business was a part of the Façade Improvement Grant, the neighbors had also made improvements.

Daily said they wanted to do other projects in the future such as the concrete that was busted up, one step at a time.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the building was great as was the company located there. He said it could be an indication of where the Façade Improvement Grant area would potentially expand.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant to Travis Decker, All Weather Roofing and Exterior, LLC, 2100 – 10th, Great Bend, Kansas, for a total of \$8,500.00 and direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber award from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Façade Improvement Grant line, 001-26-6925.

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

C. VOTING AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES: KCAMP and KWORCC:

-Chairman Schlessiger will provide details. In November, 2024, the Commission voted to move liability, property and workers compensation to the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool (KCAMP) and Kansas Workers Cooperative for Counties (KWORCC). The Commission has now been asked to name a voting and alternate delegate who will be charged with representing Barton County's official position on matters brought before each organization. Designees must be elected officials and must serve for a minimum of one year.

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Commissioner Schlessiger said voting would take place at KAC.

Commissioner Esfeld said for the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool (KCAMP) moved to designate Commissioner Schlessiger as the Voting Delegate with Commissioner Reif named as the Alternate. Direct the County Administrator to provide KCAMP with delegate information.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld said for the Kansas Workers Cooperative for Counties (KWORCC) moved to designate Commissioner Schlessiger as the Voting Delegate with Commissioner Reif named as the Alternate. Direct the County Administrator to provide KWORCC with delegate information.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: City of Hoisington – Subdivision Improvements:

-Jonathan Mitchell, Hoisington City Manager, will provide details. The City of Hoisington has purchased the Windgate Apartment property and, along with the demolition of certain structures, has readied the grounds for improvements. Although some infrastructure work is still needed, the project is anticipated to bring 12 new homes to northern Barton County. The City now asks that the Commission consider designating economic development funding to install curb and gutters along with a concrete street. With this expansion of Vine Street through the subdivision, it is believed that new construction could begin late this year or early next year. At this time, the Commission will consider authorizing up to \$125,000.00 via a reimbursement program for subdivision improvements in the City of Hoisington.

Jonathan Mitchell, Hoisington City Manager, said he drove through downtown Hoisington on his way to the meeting this morning. He said the Façade Improvement Grant at Brick and Blossom was really moving forward. Mitchell said it was fun to see what happened when cities and counties worked with various partners to improve their communities. Mitchell thanked the commissioners for leading the charge.

Mitchell said he was here today to ask for assistance to continue the progress in their community. He said housing was a major challenge in Barton County and Hoisington had been dealing with blighted properties for the last couple of years. Mitchell said they acquired an old apartment complex, raised it and recently filed a plat bringing nine new residential housing lots and extending utilities to three other lots. Mitchell asked the commissioners for support extending Vine Street from Cheyenne to 15th Street. He said they were asking for assistance with paving the road.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Mitchell how long he had been with the City of Hoisington. Mitchell said since March, 2009.

Commissioner Esfeld said she had always admired Mitchell's passion for the city and everything he had done. When she was Appraiser, he used to call and ask if the mill levy was going to increase, looking out for the citizens.

Commissioner Schlessiger said this was the type of projects they were looking for with economic development dollars, to try something different. She said this was a project they could get behind and see results, it was a great project.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she enjoyed the working partnership that Barton County had always had with the City of Hoisington, good communication back and forth, and looked forward to another venture together.

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Commissioner Hutchinson moved to allocate \$125,000.00 in support funding for subdivision improvements in the City of Hoisington. Monies to be encumbered from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Economic Development line, 001-26-6880. Hoisington is to be reimbursed after the work is completed on the Vine Street road extension.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. PUBLIC HEALTH: Request for Proposal – Lobby and Exam Room Chairs:

-Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, will provide details. In mid-August, 2025, the Health Department requested approval from the Public Health Infrastructure (PHIG) Support Team to use grant funding to purchase lobby and exam room chairs. After receiving authorization in late August, bids were solicited through September 25, 2025, utilizing the Vendor Registry website. The lowest bid was submitted by Commercial Concepts Furnishings in Missouri for a total of \$15,498.62 for the equipment, to include delivery and set up.

Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, said they were replacing chairs that were more than 15 years old with the fabric well past its life. Winkelman said she wrote a letter to the grant support team justifying her reasoning for using the funds to replace chairs. Winkelman said they wanted to have stable chairs with a healthcare vinyl covering that could be wiped down to reduce contamination and provide safety. She received approval about two weeks later and put out a request for proposals for new chairs. Winkelman said there were four bids received.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted this was federal grant money and must go to the lowest bidder. He said there were some local bids, however, they were not low bids. Commissioner Hutchinson said if the low bid was not accepted, the funds would have to be returned.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the \$15,498.62 bid as submitted by Commercial Concepts Furnishings for the 18 pieces of lobby and exam room furniture. Cost to be paid from the Public Health Infrastructure Grant, Equipment Line, 910-52-6165-60.

Winkelman asked to make a comment on that please. On the bids included, on the low bid, there was a delivery fee on there of \$500 and I clarified that with the company. They said they come assembled in boxes and we have worked with this company before and gotten those same chairs. We unboxed them, we set them up where we wanted them. So I asked if that could be dropped and I have a letter confirming that that charge would not be applied. So it would be in the paragraph below that.

Commissioner Esfeld said subtract that \$500.

Winkelman said right.

Commissioner Schlessiger said \$14,998.62.

Winkelman said correct.

Commissioner Hutchinson said \$15,498.62.

Commissioner Zimmerman said taking \$500 off of that.

Commissioner Hutchinson said off of that.

Winkelman said yes.

Commissioner Hutchinson said I am sorry.

Commissioner Esfeld said I can amend that. Karen, what was that exact amount.

Winkelman said \$14,998.62.

Commissioner Esfeld said she would amend her motion to be the \$14,998.62.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman thanked Winkelman for her attention to detail and saving the extra money.

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No Executive Session Held

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Tricia Schlessiger 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.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hutchinson – they could now announce that Barton County had been in collaboration with three different housing developments throughout the county, potentially totaling over 40 new homes in Barton County. Barton County invests in growth.

Commissioner Esfeld – Kansas Policy Institute had a good post on Facebook about how taxes worked.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:29 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman