

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/48HZBMG>

October 21, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 21st day of October, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

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

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

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of October 7, 2025, and ending October 21, 2025.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of October 7, 2025, to October 21, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE:

-Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, will provide details. The Barton County Health Department has taken innovative measures to reach area citizens, to include expanded hours, digital outreaches, community vaccine initiatives and more. Through the promotion of physical and mental health advancement from birth through senior adulthood, Public Health provides a wide range of services. An overview will be provided at this time.

Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, told the commissioners Winston Churchill said healthy citizens were the greatest asset that any country can have. Winkelman said with that in mind, that was their why with public health. Winkelman gave an overview of the innovative measures her department used to reach area citizens, including expanded hours, digital outreaches, community vaccine initiatives among

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others. Winkelman said with over twenty grants with focused measures, it was important to position her department with community partners as prevention was a huge part of public health. She said other activities included air quality monitoring, emergency preparedness measures, car seat safety, childcare oversight and transportation. Winkelman said the Drug Take Back Day would be held this Saturday outside the courthouse. Winkelman said she appreciated the commissioners acting as the Board of Health and willingly meet with the Health Advisory Board.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Winkelman how many grants they currently had. Winkelman said they were working with about 20 currently.

B. JUVENILE SERVICES: Stepping Up for Juvenile Justice in Kansas Update:

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide an update on the Stepping Up for Juvenile Justice in Kansas program. Governor Laura Kelly, in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), initiated the juvenile justice-focused Stepping Up initiative to address the prevalence of behavioral health needs among youth in Kansas. The program's aim is to reduce the use of detention and increase connections to improve outcomes for youth and families and enhance community safety.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said Governor Laura Kelly, in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Corrections, initiated the juvenile justice focused Stepping Up initiative to address the prevalence of behavioral health needs among youth in Kansas. The program's aim was to reduce the use of detention and increase connections to improve outcomes for youth and families and enhance Community safety. Woodmansee said the model was used with adults and had now expanded into the juvenile world. As part of a pilot program, Woodmansee and her team were asked to answer questions that included such things as Do you have local resources? What are your strengths and weaknesses? What does data support? What funding is available? She also explained that there are "intercepts" at the points of contact – Prevention and Early Intervention (school resource offers, behavioral health and substance abuse resources); Law Enforcement Contact and Initiated Diversion (law enforcement, Juvenile Services); Referrals, Detention and Diversion; Judicial Processing; Detention and Reentry / Aftercare.

No Executive Session Held

C. 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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – Golden Belt Humane Society Garage Sale Friday and Saturday.

Commissioner Schlessiger – Ellinwood High School Girls Volleyball Team had a record of 40-0 and won Regional last night. They will play in Sub-State this Saturday.

Commissioner Esfeld – Great Bend High School Football Team was having a great season also.

Commissioner Hutchinson – Hoisington High School Football Team was also.

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VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 9:47 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman