

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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April 15, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 15th day of April, 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 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 April 1, 2025, Regular Meeting. Minutes of the April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting were not available.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2025-08: Honoring the Life and Career of Jan Karlin:

-Commissioner Donna Zimmerman will provide details. Jenneth “Jan” Hallmark Karlin (July 12, 1947 – April 4, 2025) was first hired by the Barton County Clerk's Office and obtained a thorough knowledge of the operation of the Clerk's Office and what would become known as the County's Information Technology Department. Karlin was later elected to the position of Barton County Treasurer and then expanded upon the statutory responsibilities of the department and continue to strengthen the collaborative relationship with administrative offices and the Commission. The proposed Proclamation honors her life and career with the County.

Commissioner Zimmerman said Jenneth “Jan” Hallmark Karlin was laid to rest on April 14, 2025, at the age of 77. Commissioner Zimmerman introduced family members present today: her husband, Bernie Karlin; daughter Jennifer Taylor; son Chad Hallmark and Ashley; grandson JD. Commissioner Zimmerman shared memories of her dear friend and former co-worker. Jan was first hired in the Barton County Clerk's Office in 1980 preparing payroll and later added duties in what would become known as the County's IT Department. She was the first person in the Barton County Courthouse to operate a computer. Jan later set her sights on elective office and was elected as Barton County Treasurer in 1986 and remained in that position until she retired in 2007. She was instrumental in computerizing the County Treasurer's Office and brought back the annual tax sale that had not been done for years. Karlin implemented new procedures to collect delinquent taxes. Commissioner Zimmerman said the family shared how Karlin would always look for out of county and out of state tags. She wanted everyone to pay their fair share of taxes if they lived in Barton County. Karlin kept area bankers on their toes, looking for

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the best competitive rates for the county. Karlin was a member of several organizations, serving as President of the Kansas Treasurers Association, a member of her District Treasurers Association, numerous chambers and Rotary Club among them. She was very active in her association and worked on potential legislation, there was not anything Jan could not do when she set her mind to it. Commissioner Zimmerman said she sent greeting cards with personal notes to those in her life. Commissioner Zimmerman said one of the things she admired most about Karlin was her desire to help anyone regardless of their stature or position and never knew a stranger.

Commissioner Zimmerman read the proclamation.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Proclamation 2025-08, Honoring the Life and Career of Jan Karlin and declaring April 15, 2025, Jan Karlin Day.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was thankful the family could attend today. Karlin left a legacy, she worked so hard and made a huge impact, not only on Zimmerman's life, but on the county.

Commissioner Esfeld said she remembered the Russell County Treasurer relied on Karlin and was her friend.

Commissioner Zimmerman said there were only two computers in the courthouse and Karlin operated one of those, she saw a lot of changes in her time.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he did not know Karlin but understood the importance of a good treasurer. He was grateful for what she did for the county.

Commissioner Reif said he knew Karlin when she lived in Hoisington, she was well respected.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she was sad to not have known Karlin but she made a lasting impact at the courthouse and Barton County.

B. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes. Orders for these actions are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. These are used to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

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

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BATCH #6	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(18,742)		(\$2,841.14)	\$2,841.14
Personal Property	(33,817)		(\$4,902.58)	\$789.40
Real Estate	(101,396)		(\$16,858.64)	\$16,361.80
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(153,955)	\$0.00	(\$24,602.36)	\$19,992.34
Total Taxes	(\$24,602.36)			
Total Records Selected	14			

Commissioner Esfeld said that the Board of Tax Appeals had been behind on exemptions for a good two years and had hired back an attorney to work on them.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk's Office. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Hidden Hills Housing Development:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Barton County continues to be a funding source for projects benefiting the economic development of the entirety of the County. As such, the Commission will consider prioritized funding based on project selection. At this time, the Commission will consider the purchase of needed culverts for the Hidden Hills Housing Development.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and said this was for the area just outside of Claflin.

Commissioner Hutchinson said we do not need more taxes in Barton County, we need more taxpayers in Barton County. These economic development funds were going toward a development of ten to fifteen homes north of Claflin. There were only two ways to lower property taxes, cut from the budget and services provided to our citizens or grow. He said he would like to think we were doing both and this was an example of that.

Commissioner Zimmerman said very well said.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it was not often 15 or so new houses got built. It was a great use of economic development funds.

Commissioner Reif said it would benefit both Claflin and Barton County.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it also benefited the township.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it would boost their value.

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Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the purchase of \$29,440.80 in culverts from the J & J Draining Products, Co., of Hutchinson, Kansas. Payment to be made from the Finance General Account of the General Fund, Economic Development Line, Economic Development Line, 001-26-6880.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. DISTRICT CORONER: Appointment of Deputy Coroner:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Dr. Patrick Stiles currently serves as the 20th Judicial District Coroner. At the recommendation of Ellsworth County, it is suggested that Dr. Joshua Bahr be appointed as a Deputy District Coroner.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said Dr. Stiles' term ends December 31, 2026. Under Kansas law, the Deputy District Coroner term would be the same as Dr. Stiles. Patzner asked for the appointment of Dr. Joshus Bahr as Deputy District Coroner.

Commissioner Reif moved to appoint Dr. Joshua Bahr as a Deputy Coroner for a term ending December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. 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.

At 9:19 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of 20 minutes. The subject to be discussed will be non-elected personnel. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss the performance of the County non-elected employee. The governing body, the County Counselor, and the County Administrator are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 9:40 A.M. in this room.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:40 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to Regular Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – would be attending a Regional Housing session on Thursday in McPherson.
Commissioner Esfeld - would be attending the Commissioners' Association in Manhattan next week.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:43 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman