

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/3Bqa9Sw>

June 3, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 3rd day of June, 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 Esfeld moved to amend the agenda removing Item E from the agenda. And then also, when we do our appointments, 9:45, the recipient of that award is out of town.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025, and the May 27, 2025, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Zimmerman 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 May 20, 2025, and ending June 3, 2025.

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve appropriations for the period of May 20, 2025, to June 3, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Façade Improvement Grant 2025 – Deadline Extension:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Barton County is excited to announce the extension of the FIG 25 deadline to June 30, 2025, for all areas except the City of Claflin. This program provides financial assistance to businesses and property owners for façade improvements to defined areas to create a visual impact and increase economic prosperity, accessibility and quality of life in Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend and Hoisington, Kansas. The Cities of Claflin, Ellinwood and Hoisington are participating partners in the program. FIG 25 applications are found at under the Living in Barton County tab.

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Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said the reason for not including Claflin in the deadline extension was due to there being an adequate number of applications from there. Hoping to receive more applications from the other communities.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Patzner to provide an update on the number of applications from each of the communities. Patzner said currently there was one from Hoisington, one from Great Bend and he believed five from Claflin.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if there were none from Ellinwood. Patzner said that was correct.

Commissioner Schlessiger said what Sauer's did to their building in Ellinwood with the Façade Improvement Grant was amazing and came together beautifully.

B. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Board Appointments:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. While the Commissioners are well versed in County operations and have administrative and other professional personnel available to assist them, citizen involvement is also necessary. To that end, the Commission has several advisory boards and committees. Persons are appointed to non-compensated multi-year terms and provide input on operations. Currently, the County is accepting applications for appointment to Central Kansas Community Corrections, Central Kansas Library System, Fire District No. 2, Memorial Parks and the Southwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging Advisory Boards.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said that they wanted to get the word out about openings on these boards. Making people aware that may want to serve their communities and give some time to the boards.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they all knew the importance of having people interested in the projects on these boards.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was appreciated the time and effort when they served.

C. JUVENILE SERVICES: Out of State Travel – CADCA's Mid-Year Forum:

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. In 2021, Juvenile Services received a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Drug-Free Communities Support program grant. A component of this grant includes training with the National Coalition Academy (NCA), working in partnership with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). The Commission will be asked to allow Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services, along with Nichelle Holinde, Family Crisis Center, to attend the Mid-Year Forum in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 20-25, 2025.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said she and Tyler Morton were here to ask permission to travel out of state to the CADCA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Woodmansee said they had funds available from the Drug Free Communities Grant and had gone through the process of picking the youth who would represent Barton County.

Tyler Morton said this was a great opportunity for the youth and they were excited for the opportunity. Morton said Nichelle Holinde would be joining the group as a chaperone. He was hoping for good weather as that had been a huge impact the last couple of years. Morton said CADCA had invested resources, time and energy to come out and do trainings in Kansas on a smaller scale, Kansas was one of the few states to have these trainings.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked Morton how many youths were going on the trip. Morton said they were taking five of the seven applicants. There were not as many applicants due to a timing change. Morton

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said two or three were new this year and over the last three or four years, fourteen youths attended the conferences.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Morton if they would come to a meeting and present to the commissioners. Morton said they would come share their experiences and what they learn.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve out-of-state travel for Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services, to attend the Mid-Year Forum in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 20 through July 25, 2025. Associated costs to be paid through the Drug-Free Communities Grant Fund, Line, 908-72-5490. Direct the Commission Chair to sign said Travel Request.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY SERVICE: Mental Health Services:

-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will present details. On July 1, 2024, CKCC was granted \$27,720.50 for Fiscal Year 2025 to assist felony probationers with the cost of mental health and substance abuse evaluations, treatment and medication. As of May 27, 2025, there were 44 individuals with outstanding balances for the services received through The Center for Counseling and Consultation for this fiscal year. CKCC requests Commission approval to pay \$14,573.78 from the CKCC Fund, Emergency Aid Line, 095-70-5975, to offset that balance.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said every year they receive behavioral health funds from the Kansas Department of Corrections. The funds were allotted for assessments, such as mental health, substance abuse and sex offender treatment. Haulmark asked for approval to pay The Center for Counseling and Consultation for 44 individuals.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the \$14,573.78 payment to The Center for Counseling to offset the cost of client services. Cost to be paid from the CKCC Fund, Emergency Aid Line, 095-70-5975.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Item Removed

E. COMMISSION APPRECIATION: Chad Ehrlich:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. During the Courthouse remodel, Chad Ehrlich produced several Facebook posts that detailed work progression. Mr. Ehrlich will be recognized for assisting Commissioner Esfeld and the County in preserving history and creating media content during the Courthouse renovation.

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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

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VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended the Legislative Session in Beaver

Commissioner Reif – attended the Legislative Session in Beaver last Friday and the one on Saturday at Long Pumpkin Patch.

Commissioner Hutchinson – said they were not well attended by the public and he was disappointed at first but there were some great conversations between state representatives and commissioners.

Commissioner Esfeld – regarding property tax relief, the only thing that happened was taking off golf carts, razors, boats, luxury items. She also spoke about possible sales tax exemptions.

Commissioner Schlessiger - Brett Fairchild explained that the only choice they had was to leave it as is or make them exempt because of the constitution.

Commissioner Hutchinson – at the Beaver session, Commissioner Schlessiger was able to paint a picture about how underfunded Community Corrections was.

Commissioner Schlessiger – she was going to follow up with Ken and Brett Fairchild about Community Corrections funding.

Commissioner Schlessiger – spoke about the KNRC Quivira water issue. A formal meeting had been requested with the new Quivira managers.

Commissioner Zimmerman – asked for a moment of silence for Lily Akins who recently passed. She was the Public Health Director for several years in Barton County.

Commissioner Hutchinson – said he was proud of the citizens of Great Bend for stepping up and filing for the open city positions. He had asked Bev Schmeidler for a statement about filings.

Bev Schmeidler – talked about the last Municipal Primary, which was in 2018 for the 1st Ward City Council in Great Bend. She also talked about the filings and a Primary for Great Bend City Council Ward 2.

Commissioner Hutchinson – noted that Great Bend, Hoisington, Ellinwood, Claflin and Pawnee Rock all had at least one candidate filed for each open seat.

Commissioner Reif – said Schmeidler was also on the County Edition speaking about filing for office and the deadline, that may have helped getting people to file for office.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:33 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman