

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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August 12, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 12th day of August, 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 Reif moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 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 July 29, 2025, and ending August 12, 2025.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of July 29, 2025, to August 12, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

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

-Ms. Schmeidler 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 approval.

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CH #10	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(30,701)		(\$3,169.94)	\$3,414.34
Personal Property	(78,361)		(\$8,101.82)	\$1,302.64
Real Estate	(6,996)		(\$541.26)	\$523.44
16/20 M Trucks	425			
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(115,633)	\$0.00	(\$11,813.02)	\$5,240.42
Total Taxes	(\$11,813.02)			
Total Records Selected	39			

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 Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Claflin Main Street Corridor Project – Bailey's Food Bin, Inc.; Cheyenne Bottoms Armory LLC; Vickie Oeser, Quilting by Vickie; and CiJi Folk, Squeegy's Bar and Grill:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Claflin Main Street Corridor Project businesses, including Bailey's Food Bin, Inc.; Cheyenne Bottoms Armory LLC; Vickie Oeser, Quilting by Vickie; and CiJi Folk, Squeegy's Bar and Grill, have applied for \$32,203.46 in grant funding to improve certain buildings located on the Main Street Corridor in Claflin, Kansas. It is anticipated that the City of Claflin will approve the \$42,937.94 project which includes a \$10,734.48 match by the applicants, equaling 25% of the project. Troy Bailey, Ryan Oeser, Vickie Oeser and CiJi Folk are contacts for this project.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said between 2021 and 2023, the commissioners allocated \$880,000. To date, \$862,705.07 had been paid out. Patzner said Sauer Chiropractic had completed their project but had not yet submitted paperwork for the final payment. Patzner said Barton County had pledged another \$120,000 for Façade Improvement Grant 2025 with participating cities of Claflin, Ellinwood and Hoisington matching the grants. Patzner said the City of Claflin approved their half at their City Council meeting last night for the Claflin Main Street Corridor Project.

Commissioner Schlessiger thought when Commissioner Hutchinson came up with the idea to include the cities, this was what was intended. She said they could not have asked for a better applicant with the corridor project including four businesses.

Commissioner Hutchinson said there was a second applicant. When that person heard about the corridor project, they withdrew. He said that was the community spirit they hoped to see, a city/county partnership. Commissioner Hutchinson said it was amazing what could be achieved when working together.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was going to have quite an impact on the community, on the main corner.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it sounded like it would be completed quickly as they all had contractors lined up to complete the work.

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Commissioner Reif said one of the Claflin City Council members noted that they had a beautiful downtown area. Commissioner Reif agreed and said this improvement would invite people to come downtown.

Commissioner Esfeld said it was a community with great pride.

Commissioner Zimmerman said each community could tailor it to what worked best for them.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the only stipulation they were looking at for next year was that it promoted commercial valuation growth.

Commissioner Esfeld noted with their community pride, the city was looking at what they could do for the citizens and perhaps not realizing that they were growing the tax base.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for the Claflin Main Street Corridor Project for a total of \$32,203.46. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicants. Direct the County Administrator to encumber award from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Façade Improvement Grant line, 001-26-6925.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson wanted to clarify that the county would pay the entire amount and then bill the City of Claflin for their portion. Patzner said that was correct.

C. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Caitlyn Meitner, Brick & Blossom, Hoisington:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Caitlyn Meitner, on behalf of Brick & Blossom, 104 N Main, Hoisington, Kansas, has applied for \$13,552.70 in grant funding. The City of Hoisington has approved this \$13,030.26 project which includes a \$4,477.56 match by the applicant which equates to 25% of the project.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said he had been in touch with Jonathan Mitchell, Hoisington City Manager, and the City Council was behind this project. Patzner asked for approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson said they saw the rendering, and this would be very transformative for downtown Hoisington.

Commissioner Schlessiger said Meitner wanted to make the outside of her business match the inside, they put a lot of work into the business.

Commissioner Reif said the adjacent buildings looked nice after their Façade Improvement Grants; this would tie them together.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Caitlyn Meitner for a total of \$13,552.70. 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.

D. 20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUVENILE SERVICES: Fiscal Year 2025 Year-End Outcomes:

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Corrections provides grants to Kansas Counties to develop and maintain a range of programs for juvenile

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enders. As a part of that grant funding, Juvenile Services is expected to meet certain outcomes as delineated in service provisions. The Year-End Outcomes Report sets out the results at the fiscal year's close and requires the review and approval of the Barton County Commissioners as the Administrative County for the District.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said they get a state block grant that was statutorily required to serve Intake and Assessment as well as Immediate Intervention. For Intake and Assessment, they served 436 youth in the 20th Judicial District last year. Woodmansee said she looked at those that were detained, why they were detained and was the right population going to detention. This was not only a cost to Juvenile Services but also to their collateral partner of law enforcement. They were the ones driving them to and from detention facilities across the state. Woodmansee said they tried to utilize Reno County but they were understaffed and often full so that meant having to go to Garden City, Junction City and even Douglas County. She tried to be a good steward of partners' time and money. Woodmansee said for Barton County, they had eight youths that were detained for probation violations. They were picked up because they posed a specific community threat and or a flight risk. There were also fourteen youths that went to detention based on the crimes they presented with including burglary, aggravated criminal threat, criminal trespassing, aggravated criminal damage to property and drug possession. It was up to the courts to determine what happened next, but they would come back to the community at some point. Woodmansee said that went into their next program, which was immediate intervention, which was diversion. Not all of them would be eligible for diversion. Last year, they had 161 kids go through the diversion program. Of those 161, 125 were successful, 21 were unsuccessful and 15 declined. Woodmansee said for her agency, the question was what made them unsuccessful and was there anything else they could have done as an agency, as a community, what was the deficit. Woodmansee said even with those numbers, she was very pleased with the work the team had done.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Woodmansee what happened if the youth declined. Woodmansee said they notify the County Attorney, and the youth must make a court appearance. They may be offered a post file diversion which includes fines, fees and supervision through her office.

Woodmansee spoke about the 21 who were unsuccessful. They send it back to the courts, asking for guidance as to how to best serve them. Usually, they were supervised by Court Services or her office on intensive supervised probation. Woodmansee said last year, 22 came through juvenile intensive supervised probation. 16 were successful and 6 were unsuccessful. Woodmansee said that was a 72% rate and the KDOC way was 75% or higher. She really digs deep into those who were unsuccessful.

Commissioner Esfeld told Woodmansee that two people told her what an awesome team it was at Juvenile Services. They were successful adults because of the help they received from them and two of those people still worked there. Woodmansee said that was great to hear.

Woodmansee went on to talk about the evidence-based programs from the funds received because of the reform in 2016. Those funds were to provide enhanced services. Woodmansee said when she looked at those who were unsuccessful, these were the programs they created in their district that worked for them. She said they did not get any special direction or guidance; they developed what worked best for them with the allocated funds. The reinvestment funds were used to fund the Parent Project and Casey Rowland. Part of her duties were to follow up with the families after the intake and assessment to hand them off to the diversion program. The other side of it was to facilitate the Parent Project curriculum, a ten-week commitment they asked the parents to do. They were getting ready to start the next session, it would be class 22. The biggest piece for Rowland's outcomes was that they do not progress through the system. In a two-year allocation, she worked with 221 youths and families with a success rate of 88%. Woodmansee said Rowland had been through a lot of training and she was very good at her job. The next piece was JCAB funds. It involved a report that goes through her advisory board and then to translators. Woodmansee said the questions framed around what was missing in the community and what

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re the barriers. Those could be transportation, language, access to or money for care. It could be that they were not sure of what they needed or how to ask for assistance. Woodmansee said they had a contract with the COG Program, and they also had day school. There were 14 kids who graduated last year. Woodmansee said they had supervised community service projects within the communities that they served. She said with that program, it served 237 youth with 197 not progressing in the justice system for 83%. Woodmansee said they had the numbers to show what they were doing with the funds and proof that it was working.

Commissioner Zimmerman said the parent project was dear to her. Helping the struggling families was important, they had someone to support them, and the entire family could heal. An 88% success rate was huge and commended them for a great job. Woodmansee said they were going to lean a little heavier on mentoring, job skills and getting these kids viable employment. We need to make them productive citizens. Woodmansee said Mike Daniel and Ryan Lichter just attended training and had the opportunity to learn from partners across Kansas. She said they came back excited and ready to get things going. She was excited to see the future of that program.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she had just talked to the high school about the CNA Program and thought it was free. Woodmansee said it was not free, but she had funds to help pay for it. She knew that a traveling CNA could start at \$25.00 an hour and wanted to let the kids know there were options for them.

Commissioner Reif said all parents wanted their children to succeed but they were at a loss of how to help sometimes. He said a lot of them were really good kids but needed direction. Woodmansee said there was so much coming at them on a daily basis with today's society and technology.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Year-End Outcomes Report for the 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services and authorize the Commission Chairman to sign the grant forms as needed.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Zimmerman – discussion about the RNR notices that were sent out last week.

Commissioner Schlessiger – Quivira would not be calling for water in 2026, good news for the farmers.

VII. ADJOURN:

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

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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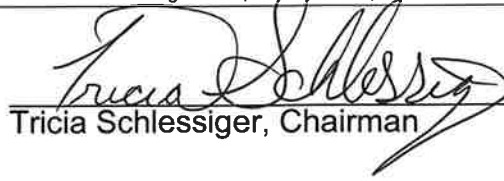
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ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman