

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/4mbx15l>

August 26, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 26th 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 Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the August 19, 2025, Regular Meeting were not available.

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 August 12, 2025, and ending August 26, 2025.

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

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of August 12, 2025, to August 26, 2025. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Item Tabled

A. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Employee Recognition Award:

-Judith Castro, Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) President, will provide details. The EEC accepts nominations from employees for the Employee Recognition Award. Deputy Michael Fahrney was nominated by his fellow employees at the Sheriff's Office. Comments included his growth and professionalism, willingness to learn and his ability to lead.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to table Item A until a later meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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/4mtx15l>

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.

BATCH #11	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(322,947)		(\$27,573.74)	\$27,573.74
Personal Property	11,976		\$0.00	\$0.00
Real Estate	(16,864)		(\$2,995.00)	\$1,000.77
16/20 M Trucks	2,336		\$0.00	\$0.00
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(325,499)	\$0.00	(\$30,568.74)	\$28,574.51
Total Taxes	(\$30,568.74)			
Total Records Selected	55			

Commissioner Hutchinson 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. RESOLUTION 2025-13: Establishing a Speed Limit of 40 Miles Per Hour on a Portion of NE 130 Avenue, Independent Township, Barton County, Kansas:

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. It is suggested that a resolution be adopted for the roadway adjacent to the Hidden Hills Estate Addition, located to the northwest of Claflin. The recommendation includes a 40-mph speed limit on a portion of NE 130 Avenue that lies on the east side of the addition. If approved, speed limit signs will be installed on NE 130 Avenue.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said the ribbon cutting for the new Hidden Hills subdivision was on the north side of Claflin was held last week. McManaman said the developers, the Miller family, had asked him to take a look at the speed limit on NE 130 Avenue. This was the blacktop going north out of Claflin and bordering the new addition. The city limits of Claflin currently go to the south side of Pleasant View Cemetery and the speed limit was 30 mph to that point. From that point north, the county-maintained portion, the speed limit was 55 mph as per state statute. McManaman said there were going to eventually be 17 new houses built in the area and would generate more traffic, so it warranted looking into. His recommendation was to make it 40 mph from the south side of the cemetery going north for a quarter of a mile to include the new entrance to the subdivision. It was a nice way to step the speeds down and make it a little safer.

Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Resolution 2025-13, Establishing a Speed Limit of 40 Miles Per Hour on a Portion of NE 130 Avenue, Independent Township, Barton County, Kansas.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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/4mtx15l>

HOMETOWN GRANTS: Grant Writing Services – Contract Task Amendment for Project Definition and Funding Strategies:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. On February 25, 2025, the Commission approved an agreement with NQSM Corp., d/b/a Hometown Grants, for work relative to the creation of up to four (4) grant applications during a 12-month period for \$50,004.00. It is now proposed that the Commission consider an amendment that will allow for additional service provision for the Cities of Ellinwood and Hoisington. The \$12,000.00 fee would include up to three projects for each City.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and added it would allow for grant research and project definition and funding strategies for those projects.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if there were three for each city. Patzner said it was 3 funding strategies and one potential grant.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she would do the research to come up with three different projects for each community and then give the commission some direction.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Contract Task Amendment for Project Definition and Funding Strategies with NQSM Corp., d/b/a Hometown Grants to provide additional grant writing services for a \$12,000.00 cost. That amount is to be paid from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Economic Development Line, 001-26-6880.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Item Tabled

TRAVEL 389: Driving Our Future – Ellinwood:

-Chairman Tricia Schlessiger will provide details. This fall, the Commission will Travel 389, meeting with local business owners, listening to citizen ideas and collaborating with those building better tomorrows along our 389 miles of County roadways. The Commission has planned face to face visits with ag-related businesses, family owned ventures, those entrepreneurs creating a stakehold for future generations and local manufacturers and retailers – spotlighting how diversity builds economic prosperity. The first stop on Travel 389 includes Ellinwood businesses.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to table Item E until a later meeting date.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif – invited everyone to attend the Hoisington Labor Day celebration next weekend.

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/4mtx15l>

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended the 46th Annual Barton County Community Foundation Auction and Dinner last Saturday. Good job fundraising for scholarships.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:13 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2025-13

ESTABLISHING A SPEED LIMIT OF 40 MILES PER HOUR ON A PORTION OF NE 130 AVENUE,
INDEPENDENT TOWNSHIP, BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, is empowered to set speed limits on County highways that allow for both the safe operation of all vehicles and convenience for citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, as a legally elected, qualifying, and acting body that has jurisdiction of the following described roads, it is deemed in the public interest that the speed limit on the following said roadway be herein set forth.

FIRST, that the speed limit of the following described road be, and the appropriate signs erected in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), as follows: 40 miles per hour on NE 130 Avenue from the current north city limits of Claflin at the south line of Pleasant View Cemetery, thence north for a distance of 0.25 miles; and

FURTHER, the described speed limit shall become effective after the publication of this Resolution in the official County newspaper and upon the installation of appropriate signage; and

FURTHER that should this Resolution conflict with any other resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that only the conflicting part of the previous resolution, and not the previous resolution in total, shall be declared void and ineffective.

ADOPTED this 26th day of August 2025.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman Tricia Schlessiger


Commissioner Barb Esfeld


Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


Commissioner Duane Reif



Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler,
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman,
County Counselor