

# 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams®** at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3KZD0qd>

December 16, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1<sup>st</sup> District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Chairman  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk  
Matt Patzner, County Administrator

*Members absent:*

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the December 2, 2025, Regular Meeting were not available.

## **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 December 2, 2025, and ending December 16, 2025.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of December 2, 2025, to December 16, 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. KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: Conference Overview:**

-Chairman Tricia Schlessiger will lead the discussion. The Commission will ask those department heads that attended the KAC Annual Conference to provide a conference overview.

Commissioner Schlessiger attended the KNRC Meeting on Monday evening. They had a breakout session regarding Quivira water rights. Commissioner Schlessiger said KNRC currently had 32 member counties with 15 more counties interested in joining. She felt KNRC represented rural Kansas counties well.

Commissioner Schlessiger also attended a session on Ethical Leadership with Jay Hall and his wife. She attended a session with County Treasurer Jim Jordan about how much reserve was in the reserves.

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talked about revenue neutral rate and reserves; how much you should have in reserves to remain revenue neutral.

Jordan said they were told about a lot of people not paying close attention to the reserves being depleted due to inflation.

Commissioner Reif said he also attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual KAC Conference. He also attended the Ethical Leadership session with Jay Hall. He said they talked about different qualities of leadership.

Commissioner Reif said that at the vendor's fair, they had both Kenworth and Mack trucks so they could see the comparisons.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, spoke about a Practical AI session and how AI was involved in everything. She said there was so much information, but it really needs to be fact checked. They had an individual bring a document to their office with information they found saying certain property was exempt. When Prosser found the statute in its entirety, the information the taxpayer found was incorrect. Prosser also attended Listening to Change about the differences in communication across the country.

## **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 include Bailey's Food Bin, Inc.; Cheyenne Bottoms Armory LLC; Vickie Oeser, Quilting by Vickie and CiJi Folk, Squeegy's Bar and Grill. Earlier this year, both the City of Claflin and the County approved the \$42,937.94 project which included a \$10,734.48 match by the applicants, equaling 25% of the project. The project experienced an overage of \$1,965.58. It is suggested that the County cover the overage, with the City of Claflin reimbursing the County \$16,101.73 for the completed project.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for consideration.

Commissioner Schlessiger said the corridor was quite impactful and this was a worthwhile thing to consider.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the disbursement of \$1,965.58 for the Claflin Main Street Corridor Façade Improvement Project. Payment to be made from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Façade Improvement Grant line, 001-26-6925. Further, direct the Administrator to remit a \$16,101.73 billing to the City of Claflin for their share of the original project cost. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. BOARD APPOINTMENT: Central Kansas Library System Board:**

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. The Central Kansas Library System supports library services in 17 counties in Central Kansas: Barton, Cloud, Ellis, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Phillips, Republic, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline and Smith counties. The Central Kansas Library System Board meets twice a year to conduct the business of the System, to approve the budget, any resolutions, the system plan and elect members to the Executive Committee. The County appointee must be a resident of the regional library system taxing district, this is, within Barton County but outside the district of any local legally established public library.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said Brooke Haulmark had applied for the uncompensated term expiring May, 2029.

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Commissioner Reif moved to appoint Brooke Haulmark to the Central Kansas Library System Board to an uncompensated term expiring May, 2029.  
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## D. 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 #1	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(471,978)	\$ 189.02	(\$78,351.80)	\$33,869.68
Personal Property	(14,883)		(\$2,364.24)	\$1,867.94
Real Estate	(34,660)		(\$4,255.04)	\$0.00
16/20 M Trucks	(394)		(\$52.84)	\$0.00
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(521,915)	\$189.02	(\$85,023.92)	\$35,737.62
Total Taxes		(\$84,834.90)		
Total Records Selected	27			

Commissioner Hutchinson 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.

## E. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Cereal Malt Beverage License Renewals:

-Ms. Schmeidler will provide details. Per K.S.A. 41-2702, no retailer shall sell any cereal malt beverage without having secured a license for that business. When a business is located in the unincorporated portion of the County, that application shall be made to the Board of County Commissioners. License renewals for 2026 will be presented.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, said The Odin Store, Odin Community Club and Lake Barton Golf Club applied for one license each with Miller Time LLC, applying for two licenses. Schmeidler said background checks were completed and asked for approval of the licenses.

Commissioner Reif moved to Approve the 2026 Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses for the listed businesses to include Lake Barton Golf Course, Miller Time LLC (two licenses), Odin Community Club and Odin Store.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: South Central Regional Council for Homeland Security:

-Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, will present details. The South Central Regional Council for Homeland Security supports statewide all-hazard preparedness while reducing vulnerabilities. The Council works to accomplish this by building capabilities and developing comprehensive strategies in partnership with other government agencies and the private sector. At this time, the Commission will consider the appointment of Mr. Kelly for a two year term.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, said every two years, we have to appoint a Homeland Security representative for the South Central Region. This region was made up of 19 counties with seven regions in the state. Kelly said they formulate projects using Homeland Security grant funding that help build our capabilities and reduce vulnerabilities for the region. Kelly asked the commissioners to appoint him as a voting member for a two year term ending December 31, 2027.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to Appoint Mr. Kelly to the South Central Regional Council for Homeland Security for a Two-Year Term Ending December 31, 2027. Direct the Commission to sign the appointment letter.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

**No Executive Session Held**

## **G. 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:**

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## 1. Announcements      2. Appointments

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business.

## **VII. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:44 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

**ATTEST:**

Bew. Schmidlin

Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman