

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/3MklSqB>

December 2, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 2nd day of December, 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 November 25, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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 November 17, 2025, and ending December 2, 2025.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of November 17, 2025, to December 2, 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 ENGINEER: Barry McManaman – Retirement:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. After graduating from Pratt Community College and K-State with a degree in Civil Engineering, Barry McManaman became a Kansas Department of Transportation Area Engineer in 1984. He stayed with KDOT for over thirty years, when his focus shifted and he was hired as the County Engineer in November, 2015. Working more than 40 years in this area, the Commission will honor Mr. McManaman for his public service.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said McManaman had brought in millions of dollars in grant funding to help support infrastructure in Barton County. Patzner said McManaman had been a real asset to Barton County building relationships with township officials and municipalities, and he would be greatly missed but wished him well in his retirement.

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Commissioner Esfeld said McManaman had saved the county a lot of money as well as got a lot of projects completed but he was also Interim County Administrator for a period of time. She said he stepped up when needed and did an excellent job.

Commissioner Reif said he admired McManaman's dedication to Barton County, his knowledge and ability to communicate with landowners.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he had never worked with a more astute or consummate professional than McManaman. He said he was in the Air Force previously and their core values reminded him of McManaman; integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she remembered former commissioner, Kenny Schremmer, trying to recruit McManaman to come to work at Barton County and how highly respected he was. She said that proved true after he began working for the county. Commissioner Zimmerman said she enjoyed working with him while he was Interim County Administrator and she served as Assistant County Administrator. She said he would be greatly missed and read a letter to McManaman from the commissioners.

Commissioner Schlessiger thanked McManaman for his service and presented him with a clock.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to honor Barry McManaman for his committed service to Barton County and the surrounding community for the last forty years.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

McManaman thanked everyone for the kind comments and said he valued not only the relationships with workers, but also landowners and township officials. It had been a great career with no regrets. McManaman introduced his wife, Cathie, and said he was looking forward to retirement.

B. RESOLUTION 2025-18: A Resolution Amending Article III of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. The Zoning and Subdivision Regulations were adopted in 2000 and later revised in 2013. The Planning Commission now recommends amendments to Article III as it pertains to the three different classifications of Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) in the seven Zoning Districts in Barton County. Specifically, this Resolution pertains to Small Scale Single Use, Large Scale Non-Commercial and Commercial Scale WECS development in Barton County, Kansas.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said one and a half years ago, the Planning Commission started completely rewriting the wind energy regulations originally adopted for single use small scale only in Barton County back in 2007. Goreham said that after the prospect of commercial solar coming into Barton County, they decided it would be best to be proactive. Goreham said there were seven zoning districts. She said they were not changing anything about the small-scale single use. It had been a permitted use as a structure with setbacks subject to the no build zone originally created in 2007 around Cheyenne Bottoms. Goreham said she believed there were three sides that were three miles out and one side two miles out for a special conditionally permitted area. It would be permitted in ag district and industrial district with conditional permits in the remaining districts. Goreham said that was how it had been and how it was staying.

Goreham said the next type was large-scale non-commercial use. They can be connected to other wind turbines and may be used for business, farmstead or subdivision. Large-scale non-commercial is conditionally permitted in every district and every application would have review with Nature Conservancy Wildlife & Parks. Goreham said commercial scale use was conditionally permitted in all districts

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cept residential districts, where they were not permitted. They were not permitted in unincorporated community districts nor allowed in a planned community district. Goreham said the commercial scale start at 800 feet tall and the technology changed rapidly. She said when thinking about something that large, they had to be proactive, and it was more than just protecting Cheyenne Bottoms. Goreham asked for any comments and then approval.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-18, A Resolution Amending Article III of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Motion Rescinded Later in Item C

C. RESOLUTION 2025-19: A Resolution Amending Article VIII of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II:

-Ms. Goreham will provide details. The Zoning and Subdivision Regulations were adopted in 2000 and later revised in 2013. The Planning Commission now recommends amendments to Article VIII as it would pertain to the three different classifications of Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) in the seven Zoning Districts in Barton County. This Resolution details updates to regulations pertaining to the development of "Small Scale Single Use Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)", and new regulations reference "Large Scale Non-Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)", and "Commercial Scale Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)" in Barton County.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said they used the template they had for solar that was adopted in 2024 and tried to create a similar structure of regulations. Goreham said a small-scale single use wind

turbine could not generate more than 150 kilowatts of power. It could not be taller than 120 feet or be connected to another turbine. They could not be connected to the grid or able to sell energy to a power company as it created a very serious electrocution risk. Goreham said the setback had to be 1.1 times the height of a fall zone so it could not fall on a road, right-of-way, property line, structure or utility line. She said all of that stayed the same as it had been.

Goreham said the setback for large-scale was different. It was six times the total height of the turbine for a fall zone. Goreham added that someone could obtain a waiver from the non-participating adjoining landowners. In that case, they could be as close as one and a half times the height. Goreham said they discussed the pros and cons with the commissioners of having just a structure or residential structure. The commissioners recommended to the Planning Commission to consider changing it to just residential structures. The Planning Commission decided to stick with the original recommendation of all structures because the property could be sold in the future. Goreham said there also could be no shadow flicker across the property lines whether they obtained a waiver or not. Goreham said these turbines would also have to be fitted devices that detect a strike to help prevent bird and bat kills. She said 100% of these applications would be subject to conditional land permits. All require input from Nature Conservancy and Wildlife & Parks.

Goreham said with commercial scale, the tower had to be more than 120 feet tall and produce more than 150 kilowatts. Designed for large electrical networks, more than one turbine and they start at 800 feet tall. The setback would be one mile from a non-participating landowner. There were options for waivers but could only happen if they bought out the adjoining landowner and would still have to be one and a half times the height of the turbine. Since we do not know if the turbines will get bigger, it is one mile or ten times the height, whichever is greater. No shadow flicker can leave the property, and they would have to be equipped with the aerial detection systems.

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Goreham said that when we get to the maps, the no build area for solar was expanded by one mile to be more protective of Cheyenne Bottoms. She said they were recommending that they not be allowed in any residential district, unincorporated community district or planned community district. Goreham said when they were working on solar, it became difficult to read the maps, so they took the official zoning maps and turned it into three different maps. Goreham described the different maps. Goreham said they anticipated a bigger turnout at the public hearing after the solar issue but only had two people in attendance, Curtis Wolf from Wildlife & Parks and Commissioner Duane Reif.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she felt there was a lot of satisfaction with the work that the zoning committee and Goreham did, that was proven with solar.

Patrick Hoffman said the regulations had a larger no build zone than solar, there were a lot of restrictions to protect existing uses and non-participating landowners and also required conditional use permits.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Goreham how many leases for large-scale commercial wind she knew about at this time. Goreham said they were not aware of any currently, but they knew from solar, that landowners who signed contracts signed them for solar and wind.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he would like to see large-scale, non-commercial wind energy conversion systems and commercial scale wind energy conversion systems banned. He also would like to see the regulations loosened up on agricultural small scale single use. Commissioner Hutchinson said that did not mean that he was at odds with the Planning Commission, he felt they did a magnificent job and asked Goreham to introduce them.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he asked one of the members if he was wasting their time if he wanted to propose a ban. He said they told him they were there to write regulations, not to suggest or propose bans, that was the commissioner's job.

Commissioner Esfeld said she understood and respected what Commissioner Hutchinson was saying but she thought the way it was written protected the county and would like to adopt the resolution. She did want to hear from the other commissioners because she would be alright with banning it as well.

Commissioner Hutchinson said his point was if regulations were being written to almost ban, we might as well ban it.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked for clarification, was he wanting to ban large-scale non-commercial and large-scale commercial.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Goreham to explain large-scale non-commercial. Goreham said they cannot be more than 120 feet tall nor produce more than 150 kilowatts of energy. They were the same size as small scale but there would be more than one.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she would not want to ban large scale non-commercial. Goreham said that would take some farmsteads out of the equation.

Commissioner Hutchinson said his intention was to ban 800-foot wind turbines in Barton County.

Hoffman said since this was a recommendation from the Planning Commission, it could be adopted with a simple majority vote. It could be returned for more consideration with a majority vote, but to amend it today required a 4/5 vote.

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Commissioner Zimmerman asked if they chose to ban large scale commercial, would they have to rescind the motion on Item B. Goreham answered yes.

Commissioner Reif said he initially was in favor of banning it but when he attended the public hearing, he was surprised that there was no pushback. That was confusing that no landowners came to voice their opinions. He would still be fine with the ban.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she received zero calls.

Commissioner Schlessiger felt the commercial scale was written somewhat a ban with the setbacks, utility lines, property lines and mile lines. She said it would be really difficult to accommodate.

Commissioner Hutchinson said we should ban the big ones and revisit the small ones.

Item B Motion Rescinded and New Motion

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to rescind the motion to adopt Resolution 2025-18, A Resolution Amending Article III of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II, and moved to adopt Resolution 2025-18, A Resolution Amending Article III of the Barton County Zoning Regulations Version II with the elimination of large-scale commercial.

Goreham said commercial scale is big.

Commissioner Zimmerman said commercial scale.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he would second that so we can have further discussion.

Hoffman noted that it would require a 4/5 vote because it was a change from what was recommended. Motion passed 4-1, Commissioner Esfeld voted nay.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve Article VIII as presented with the exception of Section 8-400, which are the regulations for Commercial Scale Wind Energy Conversion System Regulations and omit them in their entirety which in effect bans them in Barton County.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Esfeld said she voted against Resolution 2025-18 and of course, would also vote against this, because she felt it could restrict landowners' rights, which she was not yet aware of.

Motion passed 3-2. Commissioners Esfeld and Schlessiger voted nay.

Item B Motion Rescinded and New Motion

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to rescind the last motion that Donna made on Item B and replace it with move to adopt Resolution 2025-18, A Resolution Amending Article III of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II, as presented.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-19, A Resolution Amending Article VIII of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2025-20: A Resolution Amending the Official Barton County Zoning Map:

-Ms. Goreham will provide details. The Zoning and Subdivision Regulations were adopted in 2000 and later revised in 2013. The Planning Commission now recommends amendments to the Official Barton County Zoning Map to allow for three different maps that will isolate the General Zoning Districts, SECS WECS uses in Barton County.

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Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said we discussed the three maps. If you stay consistent, you would approve these three maps.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-20, A Resolution Amending the Official Barton County Zoning Map.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif said he appreciated the Planning Commission for their hard work.

E. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: KAC Legislative Policy Statement:

-Mr. Patzner will present details. On December 9, 2025, County officials will meet at the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) Annual Conference. An important item that will be discussed is the KAC Legislative Policy Statement. Member Counties will be called to review the issues and determine the platform's final form. It will then be utilized during the upcoming Legislative Session to promote issues related to County Government. Each year, Barton County reviews and considers the KAC Platform and other initiatives that may have local interest.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commissioners to consider approval.

Commissioner Esfeld said the platform put forward looked good and the legislature would be working hard on a lot of issues.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the 2026 KAC Legislative Policy Statement and support for the document at the KAC Annual Conference.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. DISTRICT CORONER: Appointment of Special Deputy Coroners:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Dr. Patrick Stiles is the District Coroner in the 20th Judicial District. Dr. Stiles has made recommendation as to the appointment of Special Deputy Coroners as prescribed by Kansas Statutes and by Resolution 2006-11, District Coroner. Special Deputies serve one-year calendar terms.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said Dr. Patrick Stiles was first appointed as District Coroner effective November 1, 2020. That term had been extended to 2026. Dr. Stiles requested the Special Deputy Coroners be appointed for a term ending December 31, 2026. Patzner read the list:

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COUNTY	NAME	TYPE	TERM
20th JD	Dr. Patrick Stiles	Coroner	12/31/2026
Barton	Dustin Daniels	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Barton	Scott Fleming	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Barton	Meghan Kern	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Barton	Sheila Phillips	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Barton	Melissa Prosser	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Barton	John Stettinger	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Barton	Laura Webster	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Ellsworth	Nathaniel Florian	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Ellsworth	Shawn McGowan	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Russell	Chris Venters	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Russell	Ashley Steirlen	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Stafford	Jill Burbank	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Stafford	Melissa Dove	Special Deputy	12/31/2026
Stafford	Doris Tompkins	Special Deputy	12/31/2026

Commissioner Reif moved to appoint the following Special Deputy Coroners as stated on the list. Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Health Department Advisory Committee:

-Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, will provide details. Barton County solicited applicants for uncompensated positions for the Health Department Advisory Committee. The Health Department Advisory Committee provides guidance, recommendation and assistance to the Barton County Health Department staff. At this time, there are five open positions, terming December 31, 2027, requirements include allied medical health and the animal health professional fields.

Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, said the Barton County Health Advisory Committee was formed in 1987 as a requirement of the family planning grant. The committee was comprised of nine members for two-year uncompensated terms and they meet monthly. Winkelman said the committee provided guidance, recommendations, assistance and support. She said there were five positions open to be appointed beginning January 1st. Applications were received from John Stettinger, Barbara Shirk, Dr. Mike Malone, Dr. Perry Smith and Tracey Post, all were current members. Winkelman asked for consideration of reappointing those members for another term.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to appoint Dr. Mike Malone, Tracey Post, Barbara Shirk, Dr. Perry Smith and John Stettinger to the Health Department Advisory Committee. The uncompensated positions term December 31, 2027.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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No Executive Session Held

H. 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 Esfeld – Oxford House Alumni were having a chili raffle on December 13th at 7:00 P.M. at the First Church of the Nazarene.

Commissioner Schlessiger – meeting regarding the soil types changes in Ellinwood on December 16th at 6:00 P.M.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 10:27 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2025-18

A RESOLUTION AMENDING ARTICLE III OF THE BARTON COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS, VERSION II

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2013, the Barton County Planning Commission recommended to the Board of Barton County Commissioners the adoption of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, including the Official Zoning Map of Barton County, Version II. Said recommendation resulting in the adoption of the current version of the Zoning Regulations; and

WHEREAS, on the 13th day of November, 2025, the Planning Commission approved a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve certain revisions; and

WHEREAS, that the Barton County Planning Commission recommends that:

Article III - District Regulations be revised to include the following uses in Barton County:

Small Scale Single Use Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) are to be Permitted in the Agricultural District and the Industrial District and Conditionally Permitted in all the other districts in Barton County.

The Large Scale Non-Commercial WECS are to be Conditionally Permitted in all seven zoning districts in Article III of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II.

The Commercial Scale WECS are to be Conditionally Permitted in the Agricultural District, Commercial District, Industrial District and LMSC District and Not Permitted in the Residential District, Unincorporated Community District and the Planned Community District in Article III of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, hereby adopts the recommendations of the Barton County Planning Commission as contained herein; and

FURTHER, that the Secretary of the Planning Board is hereby directed to have said revisions published in the official County newspaper and be reflected in the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II.

MOTION MADE AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commission of Barton County, Kansas, this 2nd day of December, 2025.

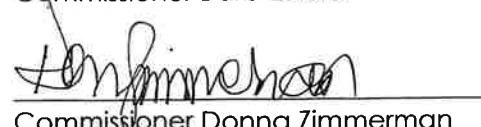
BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman Tricia Schlessiger


Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


Commissioner Duane Reif


Commissioner Barb Esfeld

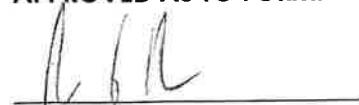

Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler,
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman,
County Counselor

RESOLUTION 2025-19

A RESOLUTION AMENDING ARTICLE VIII OF THE BARTON COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS, VERSION II

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2013, the Barton County Planning Commission recommended to the Board of Barton County Commissioners the adoption of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, including the Official Zoning Map of Barton County, Version II. Said recommendation resulting in the adoption of the current version of the Zoning Regulations; and

WHEREAS, on the 13th day of November, 2025, the Planning Commission approved a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve certain revisions; and

WHEREAS, that the Barton County Planning Commission recommends that:

Article VIII – Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) Regulations be amended, to include updates to the current regulations that pertains to the development of "Small Scale Single Use Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)", and new regulations that pertain to the development of "Large Scale Non-Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)", and "Commercial Scale Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)" in Barton County:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, hereby adopts the recommendations of the Barton County Planning Commission as contained herein; and

FURTHER, that the Secretary of the Planning Board is hereby directed to have said revisions published in the official County newspaper and be reflected in the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II.

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BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman Tricia Schlessiger

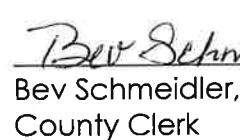

Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


Commissioner Duane Reif


Commissioner Barb Esfeld


Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler,
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman,
County Counselor

RESOLUTION 2025-20

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF BARTON COUNTY

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2013, the Barton County Planning Commission recommended to the Board of Barton County Commissioners the adoption of the Barton County Zoning Regulations, including the Official Zoning Map of Barton County, Version II. Said recommendation resulting in the adoption of the current version of the Zoning Regulations; and

WHEREAS, on the 13th day of November, 2025, the Planning Commission approved a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve certain revisions; and

WHEREAS, that the Barton County Planning Commission recommends that:

The official zoning map of Barton County be updated to reflect changes as it pertains to Large Scale Non-Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) and Commercial Scale Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS). This will result in a change from one map to three separate maps. This will also reflect an addition of a "no build" zone around Cheyenne Bottoms as it pertains to the development of "Commercial Scale Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS)" in Barton County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, hereby adopts the recommendations of the Barton County Planning Commission as contained herein; and

FURTHER, that the Secretary of the Planning Board is hereby directed to have said revisions published in the official County newspaper and be reflected in the Barton County Zoning Regulations, Version II, including the Official Zoning Map of Barton County, Version II.

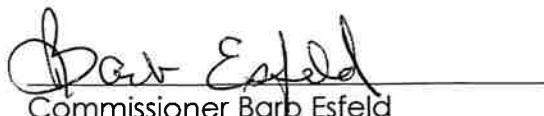
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BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman Tricia Schlessiger

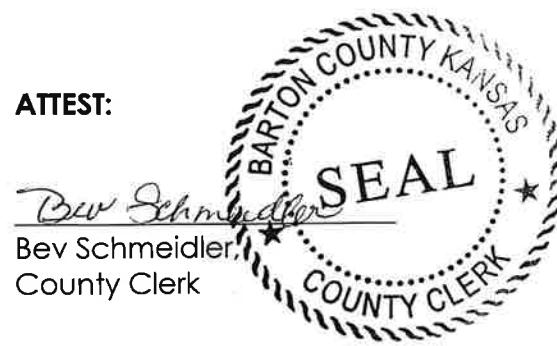

Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


Commissioner Duane Reif


Commissioner Barb Esfeld


Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

ATTEST:



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman,
County Counselor