

# 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/4nX5hrt>

July 15, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 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

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 with the addition of an item under Section III, Approval of Appropriations, 13<sup>th</sup> Month, 2<sup>nd</sup> Run.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the July 8, 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 July 1, 2025, and ending July 15, 2025.

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

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the appropriations for the period of July 1, 2025, to July 15, 2025.

Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present details. An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the Approval of Appropriations, 13<sup>th</sup> Month, 2<sup>nd</sup> Run.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the appropriations for the 13<sup>th</sup> Month, 2<sup>nd</sup> Run. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. PROCLAMATION 2025-15: Great Bend Bat Cats Day ~ July 15, 2025:**

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. The Great Bend Bat Cats began playing in June, 2017, at Al Burns Memorial Field in Great Bend, Kansas. Managed by Roger Ward, Head Coach, the Bat Cats play from May through the end of season tournaments, with both home and away games. The Commission will be asked to adopt a Proclamation recognizing the players, staff and sponsors for their dedication to the game and their commitment to health, leadership and community.

Commissioner Esfeld said she had enjoyed having the team in Great Bend. She said they give up their summer off to come play baseball. They give up time with family and friends and brought a lot to our community. Commissioner Esfeld asked the commissioners to adopt a proclamation recognizing the players, staff and their sponsors for their dedication to the game and their commitment to help leadership in the community.

Roger Ward, Bat Cats Manager, thanked the commissioners for the honor. Ward said the early years were tough, but it had gotten easier each year. Ward said the support and the crowds had been incredible, the support from businesses and individuals had increased. Ward said he tried to teach a few life lessons along the way. Ward said this group had been his favorite one to work with. They had had trials and tribulations, kept showing up and were a great group of humans from around the country and Canada. Ward said many of them will be very successful in life. The end was always scary because you work so hard.

The players introduced themselves.

Commissioner Esfeld said her family hosted two of the players this summer. She said it had been a fun season, and she enjoyed seeing the little kids interact with the players.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the entertainment factor they brought to the community was what paid the bills and kept the organization going. He said he had been taking his own kids to play baseball for twenty years. The cherry on top was taking them to see the Bat Cats play and see the young men out in the community helping with projects. The kids see them as good players, but they also saw them volunteering in the community. Those effects were long-lasting.

Commissioner Schlessiger congratulated them on transitioning from high school sports to college sports, that was a big step. Securing a scholarship and committing to a team was a big step.

Commissioner Zimmerman said what a testament by Coach Ward to not only their athleticism but to their characters, she was very proud and wished them well.

Commissioner Reif congratulated them on a job well done and said it also took a great leader.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Proclamation 2025-15, Great Bend Bat Cats Day ~ July 15, 2025. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested a five minute recess for pictures with the team.

## **B. 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.

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Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said staff requested an Executive Session. The subject matter would be legal issues affecting the Health Department and the justification would be to have consultation with the County Counselor for attorney client privilege. The participants would be Matt Patzner, Patrick Hoffman, Karen Winkelman and Misty Trudeau. We need 15 minutes.

At 9:20 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman so moved.

Hoffman said 15 minutes would be until 9:35 A.M. Hoffman said some places like him to say and then adopt it.

Commissioner Zimmerman said that works good.

Commissioner Schlessiger said so until 9:35, we have a motion, do we have a second.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:35 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to Regular Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **V. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Schlessiger – invited everyone to the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of After Harvest Festival in Ellinwood this weekend. She wanted to recognize the City of Ellinwood, Ellinwood Rotary, Ellinwood Chamber of Commerce, Ellinwood Police Department, Barton County Sheriff's Office, The Sidewinders, Ellinwood Hospital District and all of the volunteers who donate their time to make it possible.

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended CKCC Advisory Board Meeting yesterday. Director Haulmark provided updates.

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended the KNRC Meeting last Thursday with Commissioner Reif.

Bev Schmeidler – early voting to begin Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> in the County Clerk's Office for Great Bend City Council, Ward 2.

## **VII. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:53 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

## PROCLAMATION 2025-15

Great Bend Bat Cats Day ~ July 15, 2025

**WHEREAS**, the Great Bend Bat Cats, members of the Jayhawk Collegiate League, began playing in June, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, managed by Roger Ward, Head Coach, the 2025 roster includes 30 players hailing, internationally, from Canada; nationally, from Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, and Texas; with Kansas players from Chase, Clay Center, Edgerton, Little River, Minneola and Topeka and six from Barton County to include three from both Great Bend and Hoisington; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the family friendly atmosphere at home games, area businesses often sponsor activities at Al Burns Memorial Field in Great Bend.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, name Tuesday, July 15, 2025, as Great Bend Bat Cats Day; and

**FURTHER**, the Commission recognizes the players, staff and sponsors for their dedication to the game and their commitment to health, leadership and community; and

**FURTHER**, the Commission encourages our citizens to support the Great Bend Bat Cats by attending home games and following away games on line; and

**FURTHER**, the Commission thanks those families and businesses that offer assistance to the Bat Cat family through player hosting, facility improvements and community support; and

**FURTHER**, that the Commission applauds the Bat Cats for their community spirit and wish the team the best of luck with the Jayhawk League Championship and the NBC World Series.

**Adopted** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

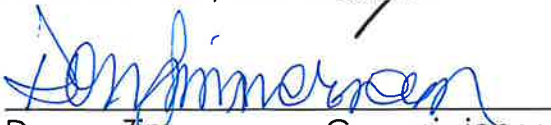
BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner

  
Duane A Reif, Commissioner

  
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

