

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/4kTIP00>

July 22, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 22nd day of July, 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 Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025, and the July 15, 2025, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

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

Taxes:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, 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 #9	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(753,223)		(\$55,946.48)	\$55,731.17
Personal Property	37,251		(\$82.16)	\$82.16
Real Estate				
16/20 M Trucks	5,081			
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(710,891)	\$0.00	(\$56,028.64)	\$55,813.33
Total Taxes	(\$56,028.64)			
Records Selected	144			

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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 Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. SOLID WASTE: Recycling Update:

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. The Landfill diverts household hazardous waste, electronic waste and other items from the disposal stream. In addition to extending the life of the landfill, some recycled items can be reused by the public and the environment is better protected through this simple act of activism.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said she wanted to talk about some of the recycling programs offered at the Barton County Landfill. Recycling was crucial to the community and the landfill. Hamby said by diverting recyclable materials, the life of the landfill would be extended, and natural resources were conserved. Hamby said HHW, or Household Hazardous Waste, was one of the programs offered to Barton, Pawnee and Ellsworth counties residents. They have a scheduled collection every third Saturday from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., April through October at the landfill. Residents can bring paint, cleaners, car chemicals, batteries and expired medications. Hamby noted that if someone could not come to a scheduled collection, they can call the landfill and schedule an appointment to bring items. Hamby said through these efforts 750,000 pounds of materials had been diverted from the landfill since 2003. Hamby said part of this program was that any materials brought in that were still in good containers with the labels were available for residents. People could make an appointment and shop at the store for paint, cleaners and other chemicals. Hamby said that it was a free service. Hamby said lithium-ion batteries are a big problem for landfills because of their potential to go into thermal runaway when damaged. They contain a flammable electrolyte in them and contain a large amount of energy in a very small space. When damaged, they explode and cause fires. Hamby asked that the public bring the batteries to them and not dispose of them in the trash. Hamby said they also had an electronics waste recycling program. Those products contain the lithium-ion batteries that they remove and dispose of properly. Hamby said some phones and tablets they received had been smashed. She believed people did that to protect their information, but they smashed them while the batteries were still inside. She cautioned how dangerous that was as she had seen these batteries explode. These batteries were in phones, tablets, watches, toys and power tools.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if there was a fee for residents to dispose of items in the HHW Program. Hamby said no, it was a free service for residents of Barton, Pawnee and Ellsworth counties.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Hamby what they did with the batteries after receiving them. Hamby said they shipped them to a company that disassembled them. Hamby said the batteries were a topic discussed at every conference and training she attended.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the collections were every third Saturday and asked what it would take to have one every Saturday. Hamby said staffing would be the issue.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked how many more staff it would take to have one every week. Hamby pointed out that they accept the items anytime with an appointment.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked Hamby if there were drop off bins. Hamby said a drop off location would have to be manned so things were not left that could not be accepted.

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Commissioner Reif asked Hamby if Sunflower Diversified had ever had a drop off site. Hamby said they did a collection several years back with Sunflower.

Hamby said to help with fires at the landfill, in 2021, they purchased a 1969 fire truck from the City of Claflin. It worked great with the exception of getting stuck. In August 2024, the county donated that truck to the Barton County Historical Society and purchased a 1996 Ford F350 brush truck from the City of Wilson. This truck has worked better since it is four-wheel drive. Hamby said they also had thermal cameras at the landfill to help monitor fires. Hamby gets alerted by phone any time that temperatures reach a certain mark. She can check by computer if there is a need for the fire department or if something else set off the sensor.

Hamby said they also recycle mattresses. Those were taken to Hutchinson Correctional Facility where they segregate the components for recycling. The box spring wood was used to make outdoor furniture and smaller items like rabbit hutches, pet houses and small sheds. The padding was used for dog crate pads. It was called Hope Project, and the items were available for the public to purchase. Hamby said to date, Barton County had recycled one million pounds of mattresses. Hamby said each year, they recycle 200,000 pounds of tires that go to a facility in Concordia. They were recycled into livestock feed bunks, benches, picnic tables and playground surfaces. Hamby said they also recycle metal and had diverted 606 tons since 2008.

Hamby wanted to remind the public about the wind closure policy. They close the landfill if the winds were sustained at 30 mph with gusts of 35 mph or over or prior to gusts 40 mph or higher arriving. It was a safety issue as well as litter being blown around. Hamby said there was also a secure load policy. Every load entering the landfill must be covered or secured. Any load not secured would receive an additional 50% charge.

Commissioner Reif said the wind closure policy was not Hamby's decision but a policy they followed. Hamby said it was Resolution 2009-06, signed by the commissioners. Hamby said the secured loads was a state law.

Patrick Hoffman said most landfills close during high winds. The landfill was responsible for gathering trash that was blown from it.

Commissioner Reif said he took some things to the landfill recently and was amazed at the number of things available for reuse. Hamby said they received cases of products that the county obtained during COVID that were expired and they donated it to the Humane Society.

No Executive Session Held

C. 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.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

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V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – thanked everyone for coming to the After Harvest Festival in Ellinwood. She also thanked the Barton County Sheriff's Office and Ellinwood Police Department for their assistance. Commissioner Schlessiger – Ellinwood also had a rescue situation last week and the individual was doing well. Great Bend Fire/EMS assisted.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:21 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman