

# 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)

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May 6, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## *Members absent:*

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the April 29, 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 April 22, 2025, and ending May 6, 2025.

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

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of April 22, 2025, to May 6, 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. RESOLUTION 2025-09: A Resolution Adopting the Kansas Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan and Rescinding Resolution 2020-01, A Resolution Adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted January 6, 2020:**

-Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, will provide details. Hazard mitigation is the act of reducing risk to people and property from natural hazards. Barton County Emergency Management and other Barton County entities have participated in the development of a regional hazard mitigation plan. The plan identifies hazards associated within the region and qualifies participating entities for additional pre- and post-disaster grant funding. The Commission will now to be asked to adopt the plan.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, said they started it last year and it was on a five-year cycle to be updated. Kelly said the plan update was done with participating counties to the south of Barton County as well as entities from Barton County. Must have an adopted, approved plan through FEMA and

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... state to receive hazard mitigation grant funding, both pre and post disaster funding. Kelly said the state had helped by making it more regionalized because it was labor intensive when it came to demographics, economic information and weather that must be in the plan. Kelly said hazard mitigation was the act of reducing risks to people and property from natural hazards. Barton County Emergency Management and other Barton County entities have participated in the development of a regional plan. Kelly asked for approval from the commissioners.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-09, A Resolution Adopting the Kansas Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan and Rescinding Resolution 2020-01, A Resolution Adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted January 6, 2020. Direct Mr. Kelly to forward the adopted Resolution to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. OUT OF STATE TRAVEL: Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director:**

-Mr. Kelly will provide details. Mr. Kelly is a Planning Section Chief and Situation Unit Leader on the Kansas Incident Support Team. Additional training opportunities are made available to this team with Regional Homeland Security funding available for cost reimbursement. The Incident Management Team Association has opened a summer academy June 23 – 27, 2025, in Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Kelly requests approved for out of state travel for training that will include Area Command and Effective Team Command and Coordination for IMT Leaders.

Sean Kelly, Emergency Management Director, said Barton County had sponsored him on the Kansas Incident Support Team for the last 8 years. Kelly was a Planning Section Chief and Situation Unit Leader. It was hard to get training in Kansas and he would like to attend the summer academy in South Carolina.

A benefit to him being a team member and a sponsoring organization was that Homeland Security funding for the region set aside training dollars to reimburse registration fees and travel expenses. Kelly said Barton County would pay up front but then be reimbursed. He had funding in his budget for the trip.

Commissioner Esfeld said it sounded like great training and the costs would be reimbursed. Kelly said it was national level certification training.

Commissioner Reif commended Kelly for pursuing the training, it would be a benefit to Barton County.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Kelly how the generator test went last week. Kelly said it went well; they identified areas that could be cut back on if needed.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that was something that his predecessor had started working on, making sure the courthouse had power in an emergency.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve Out of State Travel for Mr. Kelly to attend the Incident Management Team Association training in June, 2025, in South Carolina. Training cost to be paid from the Emergency Management account of the General Fund with eligible costs to be reimbursed by Homeland Security.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## ***No Executive Session Held***

## **C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chairman Tricia Schlessiger will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess executive session at this time as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319. Any motion must contain the justification

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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 Hutchinson – City/School Election this year. Encouraged people to file for offices and said the filing deadline was June 2, 2025 at noon.

## **VI ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:14 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schneidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

## **RESOLUTION 2025-09**

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE KANSAS REGION E HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2020-01, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE KANSAS HOMELAND SECURITY REGION E HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, ADOPTED JANUARY 6, 2020

**WHEREAS**, areas of Barton County, Kansas, are vulnerable to the human and economic costs of natural, technological and societal disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, recognizes the threats that natural hazards pose to people and property within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 ("Disaster Mitigation Act") emphasizing the need for pre-disaster mitigation of potential hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Disaster Mitigation Act made available hazard mitigation grants to state and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, an adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Barton County, Kansas, fully participated in the FEMA prescribed mitigation planning process to prepare this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and FEMA Region VII officials have reviewed the Kansas Homeland Security Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan, and approved it contingent upon this official adoption of the participating governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, Barton County, Kansas, desires to comply with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act and to augment its emergency planning efforts by formally adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, demonstrates the jurisdiction's commitment to fulfilling the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in this plan, and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of this Resolution legitimizes the plan and authorizes responsible agencies to carry out their responsibilities under the plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that Barton County adopts the Kansas Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan as an official plan; and

**FURTHER**, that Resolution 2020-01, A Resolution Adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region E Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted January 6, 2020, is hereby rescinded; and

**FURTHER**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication in the official County newspaper, the Great Bend Tribune.

**FURTHER**, that the Barton County Emergency Management Director of Barton County, Kansas shall submit this adopted Resolution to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and FEMA Region VII officials to enable the plan's final approval.


**ADOPTED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

**BARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chairman Tricia Schlessiger

  
Commissioner Barb Esfeld

  
Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson

  
Commissioner Duane Reif


ABSENT  
Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

**ATTEST:**

  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Patrick Hoffman  
County Counselor