

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/4n8cCDu>

September 16, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16th day of September, 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 with the addition of Item G, County Engineering, Final Billing for OS 156RCB Extensions Project.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting. Minutes of the August 19, 2025, Regular Meeting were not available.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Employee Recognition Award:

-Judith Castro, Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) President, will provide details. The EEC accepts nominations from employees for the Employee Recognition Award. Deputy Michael Fahrney was nominated by his fellow employees at the Sheriff's Office. Comments included his growth and professionalism, willingness to learn and his ability to lead.

Judith Castro, Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) President, said Deputy Michael Fahrney was hired May 29, 2024. His fellow co-workers nominated him for his qualities and growth, professionalism and willingness to learn. Castro said Fahrney contributes to a positive and forward-thinking work environment demonstrating a clear commitment to professional development, embracing new challenges and proactively learning new skills. Fahrney exhibits professionalism in all interactions, fostering a respectful and positive work environment.

Commissioner Esfeld asked Fahrney what division of the Sheriff's Office he worked in and if he came from another county. Fahrney said he was in the Road Division and previously worked in the jail.

Commissioner Reif said it was great to see when someone moved up in the department. Fahrney said it was an honor and thanked everyone for having him here this morning.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to honor Deputy Fahrney with the Employee Recognition Award, Second Quarter, 2025.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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I. 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 #12	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(164,580)		(\$15,540.52)	\$15,540.52
Personal Property	16,205		\$0.00	\$0.00
Real Estate	(138,098)		(\$7,888.48)	\$7,888.48
16/20 M Trucks	3,336		\$0.00	\$0.00
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(283,137)	\$0.00	(\$23,429.00)	\$23,429.00
Total Taxes	(\$23,429.00)			
Total Records Selected	30			

Commissioner Esfeld 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.

B. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Sean Kelly – Kansas Certified Emergency Manager Designation:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The 2025 Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA) annual training conference was held in Manhattan this month. While at the Conference, Sean Kelly, Barton County Emergency Management Director, received the Kansas Certified Emergency Manager designation.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked Kelly to speak.

Kelly said he appreciated the commissioner's faith in him. Receiving the designation was a requirement of his job and took approximately two years to achieve. He had to design, facilitate and evaluate two exercises along with more than 80 hours of professional development training. Kelly said he would have to recertify every two years. He said it was an honorable designation, and he was proud of the achievement.

Commissioner Esfeld asked how many hours it took to recertify. Kelly said it was 24 hours as well as participating in the design and development of two exercises.

Commissioner Esfeld said she received photos of Kelly receiving his designation and was told he was doing an amazing job, and they were glad to have him in the ranks. She said all the counties had to stand together during disasters. People told her Kelly would be a great asset and was representing Barton County well.

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Commissioner Reif thanked Kelly and said it showed that we had some fine individuals working for Barton County.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to congratulate Mr. Kelly upon earning the Kansas Certified Emergency Manager Designation.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Moses Properties, LLC – 2015 Forest Avenue, Back of Property:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Earl Moses, on behalf of Moses Properties, 2015 Forest, Great Bend, Kansas, has applied for \$10,000.00 in grant funding. This project involves the back of the building, which is in the consumption district used for community events.

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

Commissioner Schlessiger said she and Commissioner Esfeld went to look at the area and said it was a good project for Great Bend Alive events. She said it backed up to the parking lot behind Dry Lake Brewery.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for Moses Properties for the back of 2015 Forest, Great Bend, Kansas, building for a total of \$10,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber award from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Façade Improvement Grant line, 001-26-6925.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE AND SALE OF REAL ESTATE:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. Barton County was approached by representatives of the Marilyn J. Kopke Revocable Trust and the Larry L. Kopke Revocable Trust to purchase a portion of four lots in Block 116 of the City of Great Bend. The land is located between the Health Department and the Barton County Annex. If approved, the cost of the vacant lots is \$25,050.00 and monies are available in the Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented the details.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he normally was not in favor of taking property off the tax roll, but this was a vacant lot that was not being used. It was between county owned properties and could be utilized if we needed to expand.

Commissioner Reif felt it was a good investment for Barton County.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Patzner to share the plans for the use of the property. Patzner said there had been some brainstorming and there was always the need for additional storage for Community Corrections, Juvenile Services and the Health Department. There have been discussions about storage or additional parking. Nothing was set in stone; there were several options.

Commissioner Zimmerman said Marissa Woodmansee had said she could also use the area for skilled learning projects for juveniles such as mowing.

Commissioner Esfeld said the size and shape did not lend itself to much.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate for certain real estate in the City of Great Bend between the Marilyn J. Kopke Revocable Trust and the Larry L. Kopke Revocable Trust and Barton County. The cost of the real estate, \$25,050.00, and incidentals as determined by the agreement, to be paid from the Capitol Improvement Fund, Improvements Not Buildings Line, 071-00-6310.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. RESOLUTION 2025-14: Resolution to Approve Functional Classification System:

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) works with every Kansas county to periodically update functional classification maps. There are three rural road classifications that are not on the state highway system in Barton County. Maintained by either the County or by townships, these classifications include major collectors, minor collectors and local roads. Mr. McManaman has worked with KDOT staff to identify changes to the functional classification map that will more accurately represent the level of service for Barton County and township roads. KDOT asks that the Commission approve the updated map through the adoption of a Resolution.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said in the county there were basically three major classifications of blacktop roads. McManaman said the major collectors were RS designation which meant rural secondary and those were built with federal funds. He was not recommending any changes with those. He said the minor collectors and local roads; there was a distinction in the functionality of those roads. The minor collectors had a little more traffic on it and tended to serve as an all-weather surface. McManaman said there were three sections of blacktop roads that were shown as local roads. One of them was north of Claflin, NE 130 Avenue from NE 190 Road, north to the Russell County line, and that was never shown as a minor collector. Another was south of Ellinwood, the blacktop going south towards Stafford County, commonly called the Ellinwood/Stafford blacktop. At SE 30 Road and SE 100 Avenue, it goes east for about three miles, south for one mile, east for two miles and then south to SE 50 Road. McManaman said the third one was south of Great Bend on US Highway 281 and SE 20 Road, commonly known as Hart's Corner. It goes west for half a mile, south a mile, west for two miles and then south to SW 50 Road. McManaman said those were the changes he was recommending.

Commissioner Reif asked if this really changed anything or was it just on paper. McManaman said no one would notice any changes, it was on paper.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-14, Resolution to Approve Functional Classification System.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

F. 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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3. COUNTY ENGINEER: Final Billing – OS 156 RCB Extensions Project:

-Mr. McManaman will present details. On December 17, 2024, the Commission authorized widening an existing Reinforced Concrete Box (RCB) Bridge, Number OS 156, located on NW 10 Avenue approximately 0.25 miles south of NW 20 Road near Great Bend, Kansas. At that time, the L&M Contractors, Inc. \$87,713.00 bid was approved. The cost came in \$437.00 higher than the original bid due to the increased cost of the concrete patching.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said L&M had completed the work, it was a nice improvement and safer. The final cost was \$88,150.00; there was an overrun of \$437.00. McManaman asked for approval to pay the overrun.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the project went on schedule. McManaman said it was on schedule until monsoon season. That created some issues with the wet conditions.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve a \$437.00 payment to L&M Contractors, Inc. for the OS 156 RCB Extensions Project. Cost to be paid from the Special Bridge Fund, Construction Related Items Line, 003-92-6191-92.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – planned to attend the KLPG meeting on Thursday and Friday.

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended a ZOOM meeting with NRCS regarding Quivira.

Commissioner Schlessiger – would be attending a meeting in Claflin Friday regarding the new daycare.

Commissioner Hutchinson – said Keith Lippoldt, Great Bend Tribune, had always been professional and he had enjoyed his interactions with him.

Bev Schmeidler – she and Chris Saenz would be visiting GBHS to provide voting information for seniors. They were invited to attend with the League of Women voters and Ellinwood High School seniors were joining as well.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:29 A.M.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2025-14

County Functional Classification Approval Resolution to Approve Functional Classification System

County: Barton

WHEREAS, the above stated County has reviewed the functional classification of streets located within their boundary, and

WHEREAS, said County is aware that those streets classified as Major Collectors and above are eligible for federal STP funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the functional classification of roads inside the County boundary is approved as indicated on the attached, signed map.

Adopted this 16th day of September, 2025, in Great Bend, Kansas.

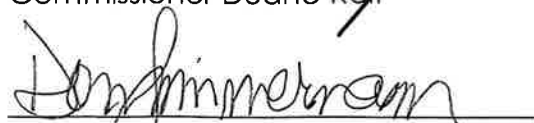
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman Tricia Schlessiger



Commissioner Barb Esfeld


Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson


Commissioner Duane Reif


Commissioner Donna Zimmerman

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

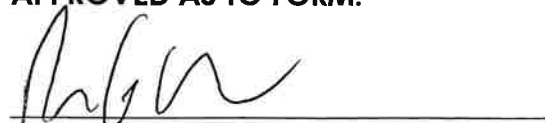

Barry McManaman, P.E.
County Engineer

ATTEST:


Bev Schneider, County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor