

# 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/4mu3kR2>

September 23, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 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.  
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the September 16, 2025, Regular Meeting were not available.

## **II. 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 September 9, 2025, and ending September 23, 2025.

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

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of September 9, 2025, to September 23, 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. KANSAS LEGISLATIVE POLICY GROUP: Annual Meeting Review:**

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. The Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) held its 2025 Annual Meeting in Russell, Kansas, on September 17 and 18, 2025. Commissioner Esfeld will summarize the meeting outcomes.

Commissioner Esfeld said KLPG was founded in 1979 to help rural counties. When it began, there were 13 counties and now there were 33 counties. In 2000, they brought on attorneys who saved the counties many, many dollars and also brought money back to the counties.

Commissioner Zimmerman said that was the Oil and Gas Depletion Fund Trust money. Barton County received a little over a million dollars.

# 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/4mu3kR2>

Commissioner Esfeld said Russell County received a lot also. Commissioner Esfeld said KLPG was originally founded to fight severance tax and the loss counties had because of it. Commissioner Esfeld said they revised the 2026 legislative platform, looking similar to last year. She said there were several legislators present who spoke. Commissioner Esfeld said one of the things in their platform was water resources, not just the quantity but the quality of the water. That would be added to the focus work with KNRC. Another item discussed was the county home rule and self-determination. KLPG opposed any state-imposed limitation on taxation or spending. She said this would come up this year where they try to put some control on counties and cities with their spending. Commissioner Esfeld said she was not saying that it was good or bad but did not want the state to control every penny spent when we knew what was best for our county.

Commissioner Esfeld said Troy Waymaster talked about how 50% of the state's budget went to schools and due to the funding lawsuit, some time ago, they could not touch the school budgets and could not realign them until 2027. He said they did not want to take money from the schools but it kind of handicapped them. Another speaker, Jim Minnix, Chairman of the House Water Committee, talked about a rule on irrigation and how if you did not use the amount allotted, you lose it. This was something they were going to look at getting changed.

Commissioner Esfeld said that Reed Petty, District Director for Jerry Moran, talked about the Big Beautiful Bill. She said it would cost \$3 trillion over the next 10 years. One billion of that was set aside for rural hospitals which would affect us. The average family would save approximately \$2,400 with this bill and they heard that there would be no taxes on tips. As part of a safety plan, there was talk of putting a cable in the ground on interstate highways that could detect people traveling in the wrong direction or out of control speeds as well as excessive winds. The alerts could be put out to drivers in the affected areas. Bob Kent, Director of PVD, and Lynn Kent, PVD, spoke about changes with taxes.

Commissioner Esfeld said the meetings were very informative with a lot of good speakers.

## **B. CITY OF CLAFLIN: Cooperative Effort to Repair Roads:**

-Chris Scharz, County Works Director, will provide details. The City of Claflin has requested assistance with sealing of certain roads. As an independent contractor, the County would receive no more than \$6,000.00 for labor and equipment.

Chris Scharz, County Works Director, said every year the City of Claflin requests assistance from the Road & Bridge Department to seal certain roads. This year, they were looking at doing all of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Park Street and Williamson Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Street as far as they could get. Scharz said it would depend on how far the oil went but it would probably be to Main Street. The city usually paid for the tanker of oil needed to do the job.

Commissioner Reif said this was something they did every year. Scharz said they had done it every year as long as he had worked for Road & Bridge. He remembered it being done when he was a kid growing up in Claflin.

Commissioner Reif moved to authorize the Road and Bridge Department to assist the City of Claflin in sealing certain City Streets under a signed agreement. Direct the Commission Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the County.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

# 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/4mu3kR2>

## **C. RESOLUTION 2025-15: Designation of Casey Hubbard, Assistant Administrator / Human Resource Director, as Barton County's KPERS Agent:**

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Kansas Public Employees Retirement (KPERS) Act of 1961 provides in K.S.A. 74-4902(6) for the designation of an agent for each participating employer through whom system transactions and communications are directed. In addition, this agent acts as a local contact for employees for retirement system information, transactions, forms and publications. The proposed Resolution names Casey Hubbard, Assistant Administrator / Human Resource Director, as the agent with Mr. Patzner remaining as an additional signer.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Patzner who was the current designated agent. Patzner said it was himself right now.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-15, Designation of Casey Hubbard, Assistant Administrator / Human Resource Director, as Barton County's KPERS Agent.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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

## **D. 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 – would attend the Southwest Developmental Services Incorporated meeting in Garden City Wednesday.

Commissioner Schlessiger – She and Commissioner Reif attended the ABCC/USD 112 meeting last Friday about their daycare.

## **VII. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 9:33 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

## **RESOLUTION 2025-15**

### **DESIGNATION OF CASEY HUBBARD, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR / HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR, AS BARTON COUNTY'S KPERS AGENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas Public Employees Retirement (KPERS) Act of 1961 provides in K.S.A. 74-4902(6) for the designation of an agent for each participating employer through whom system transactions and communications are directed; and

**WHEREAS**, the designated agent provides a local contact for employees for Retirement System information, transactions, forms and publications. Acting as a liaison between the Retirement System and the employee, the designated agent acts on behalf of the employer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Barton County, Commissioners, as a participating employer, is authorized to name such an agent.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that Casey Hubbard, Assistant Administrator / Human Resource Director, is the designated agent for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement Act (KPERS), with Matt Patzner, County Administrator, named as an additional signer in the absence of the Assistant Administrator / Human Resource Director; and

**FURTHER**, that Hubbard is authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in employee matters related to KPERS; and

**FURTHER**, that Hubbard is authorized as agent until such time as formal Commission action is taken to remove her from said designation; and

**FURTHER**, that Patzner is authorized to act on behalf of Hubbard, in his absence, until such time as formal Commission action is taken to remove him from said duty; and

**FURTHER**, that Brenda Kaiser, former Human Resource Director, is removed from the role of additional signed for Barton County effective the date of noted below.

**ADOPTED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
  
Bev Schmiedler  
County Clerk


  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Patrick Hoffman  
County Counselor

  
Duane Reif, Commissioner

  
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner