

# 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/3KvDJdm>

September 30, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 30th 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 Esfeld moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025, and the September 23, 2025, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. PROCLAMATION 2025-16: National 4-H Week:**

-Michelle Beran, Cottonwood Extension District – Barton County, will be joined by area youth in presenting the proposed Proclamation. 4-H, as delivered by area Cooperative Extension agencies, has helped thousands of youth become true leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries. By declaring October 5 – 11, 2025, as National 4-H Week, the Commission recognizes the importance of using the Head, Heart, Hands and Health, the four core values of the 4-H mission, to become beyond ready.

Michelle Beran, Cottonwood Extension District – Barton County, said they had just finished the Kansas State Fair which meant the 4-H year was ending and the new 4-H year would begin October 1<sup>st</sup>. Beran said in Barton County there were seven community clubs serving nearly 150 4-H members. Kansas 4-H offered 50 projects with each project area including communication, leadership, citizenship and career options. Beran introduced new 4-H Agent, Ben Sims. Beran said she was stepping into a different role as a family and community wellness agent with a focus on family resource management teaching a lot of financial literacy.

Ben Sims said he was glad to be here. His wife grew up in Wilson and they wanted to come back to the area. Sims said he was a 4-H and ag agent at extension in Greenwood County for about three years. He was glad to bring his experience here and be a part of the community.

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Jan said she had the honor of chaperoning four young women to the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. last spring. Those delegates had the important task of addressing one of fifteen issues and presenting as a team to one of the federal partners. Beran was with a group that presented at the Pentagon on youth mental health, in particular, for military youth to the Forestry Service and all different kinds of areas. Beran introduced 4-H Ambassadors Melody Braddy, Samantha Negaard, DJ Wyant and Russell Kern. Each spoke about some of their experiences in 4-H. Beran said Negaard was one of the kids who did a demonstration presentation, public speaking, at the Kansas State Fair earning a purple on her presentation. Beran added that Kern was named Youth Educator of the Year by the Home Bakers Association, a national organization.

Beran said the group was established in the 1950's and charged with the management and upkeep of the 4-H education buildings which continued to be used for 4-H club and council meetings, day camps, archery practice and much more. She said they were always looking for project leaders and volunteers.

Commissioner Schlessiger said 4-H was near and dear to her. She enjoyed them being here today and said they all did a great job.

Commissioner Esfeld spoke about her sons' experiences in 4-H.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Proclamation 2025-16, National 4-H Week.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. LEASE AGREEMENT: Murphy Property – Road and Bridge Storage:**

-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will provide details. Barton County wishes to extend a current lease of approximately 2.4 acres in the SW/4, Section 6-T19S-R14W to store materials and equipment used for the construction and maintenance of roadways. Leased from James Murphy, it is suggested that the updated agreement be extended to October, 2030, with a payment of \$1,500.00 per year.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, said the location was approximately 1 ¾ miles west of Heizer. The remote pit allows them to get materials without having to come back into Great Bend, saving time and money.

Commissioner Reif said the site had been used for several years. Schartz said yes, it had been leased even before Murphy owned it. Schartz said they referred to it as the Dyer lot. Schartz said they also had pits in Odin, Ellinwood and northwest of Hoisington.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve the Lease Agreement with James Murphy for approximately 2.4 acre in the SW/4, Section 6-T19S-R14W. Annual cost of \$1,500.00 to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund, Right of Way Line, 002-92-6270.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: VMWare Licensing:**

-Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, will provide details. VMware software is necessary for virtualization computing, which allows businesses to run multiple virtual machines (VMs) on a single physical server. The Commission will be asked to ratify the \$16,856.64 expenditure from SHI. The purchase was necessary to allow the IT Department to continue seamless operations.

Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, said in 2023, they did a server refresh. They installed a piece of software on three of the servers that allowed them to build ten additional servers on of those three physical boxes. Hollingshead said the software cost was \$1,100 to renew in 2023 and

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Increased to \$3,200 in 2024. When they received the renewal for this year, it had gone up to \$17,000. Hollingshead contacted SHI and inquired why there was such a significant increase. He learned that VMWare was acquired by Broadcom in 2023 and they were eliminating the mom-and-pop licenses like Barton County used and were focusing on enterprise licensing. SHI was able to get the lower quote of \$16,856.64. Hollingshead reached out to local vendors, but they were not able to sell the software anymore. In order to keep our servers going, updated and have support for the next year, he had to go ahead with the purchase.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked Hollingshead if there would be options for the future. Hollingshead said yes and he had already started exploring those options. He only had a few weeks' notice, or he could have looked for something else. He had never had something increase so much and had reached out to other local entities to see how they were handling it. Hollingshead said some of those servers were law enforcement and critical to county operations. Our day-to-day function would have been jeopardized without that licensing and support.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to ratify the purchase of VMWare Licensing for \$16,856.64 from SHI. Cost to be paid from the Courthouse General Account of the General Fund, Dues, Memberships and Subscriptions Line, 001-18-5455.

Commissioner Hutchinson 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 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

### **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business.

### **VI. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:24 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman