

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/3VHy32a>

September 9, 2025

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 9th day of September, 2025, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)
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

Members absent:

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Zimmerman said are we wanting to table Item One.

Commissioner Schlessiger said Item A, yes, we are wanting to table Item A and then move around.

Commissioner Zimmerman said under New Business, move Item C before Item A.

Commissioner Schlessiger said yes, was that in the form of a motion.

Commissioner Zimmerman said sure.

Commissioner Schlessiger said in the form of a motion, I have to table Item A under Old Business and move Item C to Item A under New Business. Could I have a second on that.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025, and the August 26, 2025, Regular Meetings.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Item Tabled

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.

B. TRAVEL 389: Driving Our Future:

-Chairman Tricia Schlessiger will provide details. This fall, the Commission will Travel 389, meeting with local business owners, listening to citizen ideas and collaborating with those building better tomorrows along our 389 miles of County roadways. The Commission has planned face to face visits with ag-related businesses, family owned ventures, those entrepreneurs creating a stakehold for future generations and local manufacturers and retailers – spotlighting how diversity builds economic prosperity. Today's destination for Travel 389 is Hoisington.

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Commissioner Schlessiger said the commissioners wanted to travel around the county to meet with businesses and citizens to see what was going on in the county and see what ideas others may have. They wanted to find out about challenges they were facing. Commissioner Schlessiger said they would visit anyone that wanted them to, just reach out. She said they were going to start two weeks ago in Ellinwood but that had to be postponed to a later date. They were going to Hoisington this afternoon to visit several businesses and were very excited about this road show.

Commissioner Reif said no business was too large or too small to visit.

Commissioner Schlessiger said they were trying to visit everything from Mom-and-Pop stores to companies like Essex. She added if anyone wanted to be on the schedule, they should reach out. They would schedule as long as it took to visit every business that wanted to see them. Commissioner Schlessiger said they would be visiting Hoisington this week, possibly Hoisington and Claflin next week and then Ellinwood the following week. She stressed that this was for anyone who wanted the commissioners to visit.

Commissioner Hutchinson volunteered to be a contact person for anyone who wanted to be on the list.

Commissioner Schlessiger said people could also contact Diana Watson in the Administrator's Office as well as any of the commissioners.

Commissioner Reif said they were as excited as the businesses were.

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 August 26, 2025, and ending September 9, 2025.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of August 26, 2025, to September 9, 2025 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

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.

At 9:06 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved for the Governing Body to recess into Executive Session with the County Administrator and County Counselor present. The subject matter to be discussed will be performance of non-elected personnel and the justification for the use of Executive Session is to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel with privacy as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), and for the meeting to resume in open session in this room in 15 minutes at 9:21 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:21 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to Regular Session with no action taken.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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A. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Fiscal Year 2025 Year-End Outcomes:

-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will provide details. The Kansas Department of Corrections provides grant funding to local judicial districts to work with high-risk offenders and assist in appropriate interventions to lower recidivism. The Year-End Outcomes Report sets out the results at the fiscal year's close and requires the review and approval of the Barton County Commissioners as the Administrative County for the District.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said for Fiscal Year 2025, KDOC changed what their outcome process looked like. She said they were not due until October for the prior fiscal year, and they had now gone to a case management style. Before they looked closely at numbers and were now looking at the goals the agency wanted to achieve, the steps they would go through to achieve those goals and if the goals were not met, how do they continue to improve. Haulmark said some of the challenges they faced were staffing. They went for a period of time with only three officers to cover the five counties. She said they averaged 250 clients and received 187 new cases from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. High caseload numbers continued to hinder them. Another challenge was the availability of new officer training with KDOC. They hired a new officer at the end of March, and they were only able to start a training class last week. Any training that he had received at that point was what they had been able to provide in house. KDOC required 40 hours of training per fiscal year and they did receive 49 hours of official training in addition to one-on-one staffing every week to review their caseloads. Haulmark said the first goal they set was to complete 90% of initial assessments within 30 days of assignment from the courts, that was achieved at 76.9%. Some of the barriers they faced were having only 2-3 officers who were certified to do assessments. One way they planned to overcome this next year was to have a part-time position that would focus only on doing assessments. Their second goal was to meet with high-risk clients and have case plans within 45 days of assignment. A big challenge with that was training the staff on how to make a proper case plan by KDOC standards. They were not trained properly in the past, so they had to start from the beginning and work on it. That goal was only achieved at 61%. Haulmark said training was their biggest barrier along with the number of new cases. She had scheduled training nearly every month. Haulmark added that KDOC paid for a subscription that specialized in how to do case planning and had a set guideline they purchased for all community corrections agencies. It was an 18-month training plan, they were about to start the third session. The other goal was for 90% of the high-risk clients to have referrals to services within 60 days of assignment. They achieved that at 73.3%.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Haulmark was doing a wonderful job for the community.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was doing a tremendous job, and she appreciated that Haulmark had a plan in place for the barriers they encountered.

Commissioner Reif also thanked Haulmark for a job well done and said training was an issue.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she was doing a fabulous job with the resources she had been provided.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Year-End Outcomes Report for Central Kansas Community Corrections. Authorize the Commission Chairman to sign the grant forms as needed and direct Ms. Haulmark to submit said forms to the Kansas Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE: Introduction of Assistant County Administrator / Human Resource Director:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. On September 8, 2025, Casey Hubbard started in his new role with Barton County as the Assistant County Administrator / Human Resource Director.

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Hubbard has served as the Investigator / Office Manager for the County Attorney's Office since 2003. He was previously with the Great Bend Police Department.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, introduced Casey Hubbard as the new Assistant County Administrator/HR Director. Patzner said Hubbard had been with the County since 2003 and would be transitioning from his role in the County Attorney's Office. In his new role, he would be handling human resources compliance, managing the County's insurance programs, both health and liability, assisting with the procurement process, as well as providing additional operational oversight and support in many areas across the organization. Patzner said he had worked with Hubbard in some capacity throughout the years and had always been impressed with his professionalism, was excited to have him as part of the team.

Casey Hubbard thanked the commissioners and Patzner for having the confidence to put him in this role. Hubbard said he felt it put him in the best position to best serve the county at this stage of his career.

Commissioner Schlessiger welcomed Hubbard and said they were excited to have him.

Commissioner Reif said Hubbard was a good choice and he looked forward to working with him.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she had worked with Hubbard for a number of years and was always impressed by his professionalism.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – NCRS was requesting a meeting with KNRC over the Quivira water issue.
Patrick Hoffman – the county owned property on Vine Street went back to the Hoisington tornado and FEMA funds.

VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Reif moved to adjourn at 9:39 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Tricia Schlessiger, Chairman