

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

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July 7, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 7th day of July, 2026, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District

Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District

Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District

Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

Matt Patzner, County Administrator

Casey Hubbard, Assistant County Administrator

Todd Powell, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif 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.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2026-10: Celebrating 10 Years of the Great Bend Bat Cats Baseball Club:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. The Great Bend Bat Cats Baseball Club expands to 32 states and eight countries, bringing student athletes to the Al Burns Memorial Field in Great Bend, Kansas, to develop skills, gain exposure and pursue a dream of playing professional baseball. With an estimated 8,000 people attending free games throughout a typical home season, the team offers local support by participating in community and service opportunities, reinforcing the organization's commitment to giving back. The Commission will now be asked to adopt a Proclamation celebrating 10 years of commitment to youth and community.

Commissioner Esfeld said not only was it Bat Cat Day, but they were also celebrating 10 years.

Commissioner Esfeld said it was her honor to recognize Coach Roger Ward and Assistant Coaches Zach Dobbins and Derek Pomeroy and the team as they celebrate another outstanding season. She said if you had never attended a game, you were missing out on some of the best, free entertainment our community had to offer. She said these talented athletes contribute so much to Great Bend. They volunteer in the community, bring excitement to the ballfield and attract parents, family members and friends who travel to support them. This benefited our local businesses as well as gave us a chance to share our hospitality. They were respectful, hardworking young men.

Coach Roger Ward thanked the commissioners for having them here today. He said last year, he told them it was the best group they had put together, not just on the field but how they conduct themselves, the little things they did that made it easier for coaches. Ward said he thought this year's group had topped last year. He said there were a lot of returning players that helped lead the way. He said the last

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two summers, they came up short by one win to get to the World Series. Ward said the next two weeks were going to be a whirlwind, they needed to play good baseball and hopefully have a little luck on their side, but they were currently in first place. Ward said he had been to the World Series five times as a player, Coach and General Manager. He added that it was year 92, the longest standing national championship for baseball in the United States. Ward introduced Darrin Hall, Board Member, and said he, along with many others, were doing things behind the scenes that allowed him to be free to coach, manage the guys and organize other things. He said what the board does had turned the organization into one of the premier ones. Ward said some places they travel to only had a few fans and maybe half a concession stand. He said that was important to him to fill the stands and have a good environment. Ward said this was his hometown and a lot of the guys understood how important it was to him.

Commissioner Esfeld read the proclamation and had each player introduce themselves.

Commissioner Reif thanked them for being here and supporting Barton County.

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Peanut, TJ and George for helping coach his son's Little League team.

Ward said the organization was growing and they had two interns this year that helped with a lot of different things. They were in a booth handing out rosters and selling raffle tickets, helping to get the crowd fired up for the games.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adopt Proclamation 2026-10, Celebrating 10 Years of the Great Bend Bat Cats Baseball Club.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. INDEPENDENT TOWNSHIP: Board Appointments:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will provide details. Randy Oeser, Trustee, and James Debes, Treasurer, have resigned from the Independent Township Board. It is recommended that the Commission accept the resignations and appoint Fred Beck as Trustee and Dustin Daniels as Treasurer. It is the Commissioners' responsibility to make the appointments per KSA 25-1606.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, presented details and asked for approval of the recommended appointees.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to accept the resignation of Randy Oeser as the Independent Township Trustee. Further, move to approve the appointment of Fred Beck as the Independent Township Trustee, effective July 7, 2026, with the position terming January 8, 2029.

AND

Move to accept the resignation of James J Debes as the Independent Township Treasurer. Further, move to approve the appointment of Dustin Daniels as the Independent Township Treasurer, effective July 7, 2026, with the position terming January 8, 2029.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman thanked Randy Oeser and James Debes for their service for many years.

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No Executive Session Held

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Duane Reif 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.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – After Harvest Festival kicks off Thursday, July 16th with the parade on the 18th.

Commissioner Schlessiger – attended KNRC Meeting and would be touring Quivira Wildlife Refuge tomorrow.

VI. ADJOURN:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Duane Reif, Chairman

Notes from Executive Session in Study Session, County Clerk not present:

At 10:37 a.m. Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Commission enter into Executive Session for a period of (45) forty-five minutes. The subject to be discussed will be non-elected personnel. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss the performance of a county non-elected employee. The Governing body, the County Administrator, the Sheriff and the 911 Director are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 11:22 a.m. in this room.

Commissioner Schlessinger seconded the motion.

All voted aye.

At 10:37 a.m. Commissioner Zimmerman moved to amend her earlier motion to include the Assistant County Administrator.

Commissioner Schlessinger seconded the motion.

All voted aye.

At 11:23 a.m. Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to study session with no action taken.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye.