# Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

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Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email clerk@bartoncounty.org
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October 27, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 27th day of October, 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
Todd Powell, County Counselor

## I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 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. RESOLUTION 2026-21: A Resolution Prohibiting Wagering and / or Betting on Candidates, Races or Election Outcomes:**

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will provide details. Barton County believes in the liberties vested to the citizens of the United States, to include the right to elections conducted in a transparent and ethical manner, free of any undo influence. As a result, the Commission will consider the adoption of a Resolution prohibiting wagering and / or betting on candidates, races or election outcomes. The proposed Resolution also includes support for the County Clerk / Election Officer in following any and all directives relative to this matter as determined by the Kansas Secretary of State.

Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, said the staff takes great pride in conducting fair and honest elections. The resolution reinforced those beliefs and asked for approval by the commissioners.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked the County Counselor if this was necessary at the county level. Powell said necessary, probably not. As he understood it, it was a recommendation from the Secretary of State and was limited to those who worked directly with elections.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked Schmeidler if this only applied to those working the elections. Schmeidler said anyone that touched any part of the elections.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it expanded beyond county employees to also include Election Board workers.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Resolution 2026-21, A Resolution Prohibiting Wagering and / or Betting on Candidates, Races or Election Outcomes
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

**B. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Hometown Grants – Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – 2027 Federal Edward J Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant:**
-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will provide details. Earlier this year, Hometown Grants worked with CKCC to develop and submit an application to the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a 2027 Federal Edward J Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for sweat patches. CKCC has been notified of a $59,718.00 award. Using those funds, CKCC will implement a sweat patch drug monitoring pilot program to provide continuous, tamper-resistant substance use detection for individuals under community supervision across a five-county area. It is recommended that the Commission accept the grant.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said this was another form of illegal substance testing. It was a tool used nationwide, particularly with drug courts to hold people accountable. Haulmark said a mission of her agency to benefit our counties and communities' safety primarily was to hold people accountable to the best of their abilities. She said it also gave insight into what substances were being used and the treatments that would help. Haulmark said they have individuals who had long periods of sobriety. They were asking to use the patches to help hold them accountable. She thought the benefits would extend further than they knew. Haulmark said the grant would allow them to purchase sweat patches and pilot a program to see the benefits. She said they were tamper resistant patches that were worn and good for 14 days. She said 90% of their clients were in Barton County with fewer in the other counties they served. Haulmark requested approval to accept the grant, which was good for one year and would term in September.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked if there was any match by the county. Haulmark said no, it was a reimbursement grant.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was excited about the grant and that they could pilot this, forging the way to see what the data showed.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to accept the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – 2027 Federal Edward J Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Authorize the Commission Chair to sign any required documentation. This grant project is supported by subgrant number 27-JAG-01 awarded by the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice as administered by the Kansas Governor's Grants Program. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Kansas Office of the Governor, or the U.S. Department of Justice.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

**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.

At 9:20 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved that the Commission go into Executive Session for a period of 20 minutes. The subject to be discussed will be consultation with the County Counselor to

discuss matters related to attorney client privilege. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to discuss the County's position on the matter on which legal advice is being sought. The Governing body, the County Administrator and the County Counselor are to be included in said meeting. The Open Meeting will resume at 9:40 A.M. in this room.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 9:40 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to come out of Executive Session and return to Regular Session with no action taken.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

**IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements 2. Appointments

**V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business.

**VI. ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:44 A.M.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST: _____ _____
Bev Schmeidler Duane Reif, Chairman
Barton County Clerk