Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

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November 3, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 3rd day of November, 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

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Item A1, Proclamation 2026-15, Honoring the Ellinwood High School Girls Volleyball Team and renumbering Item A to item A2. Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the October 27, 2026, 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 October 20, 2026, and ending November 3, 2026.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of October 20, 2026, to November 3, 2026. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A1. PROCLAMATION 2026-15: Honoring the Ellinwood High School Girls Volleyball Team:

-Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger will provide details. Community support for high school student athletes creates a sense of unity that is strengthened through a shared history enhanced by winning seasons, defining championships and records that will stand with pride. These are honors held by the 2026 Ellinwood Lady Eagles Volleyball team. In addition to holding the longest active winning streak in the Nation and being back to back 2A State Champions, team members Alyvia Batchman, Bennett Jacobs, Mette Maxwell, Ayla Ritchie, Reagan Stickney and Brynn Widener have been named to the 2026 Kansas Volleyball Association Class 2A State All-Tournament Team. Coach Greg Maxwell will be asked to introduce his team.

Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger said present today was the Back-to-Back State Champion Volleyball Team for 2A. She welcomed the team and coaches. Each player introduced themselves.

Andrew Murphy, Great Bend Tribune, brought copies of the newspaper.

Commissioner Schlessiger said their winning streak was 94-0, longest active winning streak in the nation. She then read the proclamation.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to recognize these ladies on their fine achievement and acknowledge Lady Eagles Volleyball Day.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to amend the motion to adopt Proclamation 2026-15, Honoring the Ellinwood High School Girls Volleyball Team and naming Tuesday, November 3, 2026, as Ellinwood High School Volleyball Day.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

A2. SOLID WASTE: Revision of Operating Rates:
-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. The Landfill operates on user fees. After reviewing both income and expense projections, it is suggested that the refuse tipping fees, the construction and demolition fees, and the contaminated soil fees be adjusted.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said landfill management periodically evaluated disposal rates to ensure that operational and closure expenses were covered. Hamby said due to increasing costs, she was recommending a $2 per ton increase beginning January 1, 2027, with a gradual increase each year for the next several years to cover future costs. Hamby said they were looking at having to build a new cell in the future and projected costs were $5 to $6 million. She said closure costs increased about 3% every year as well. She had been told that the landfill would have to implement a gas collection system in the future at some point. The cost for it would be between $1.5 to $3 million. To be sure to have those funds in the future, she recommended increasing tipping fees $2 per ton for general trash, construction and demolition, and all the soils.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt the amended Solid Waste Rates, effective January 1, 2027. Direct Ms. Hamby to notify local contractors of the rate change.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. DISTRICT CORONER: Appointment of Special Deputy Coroner:
-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. Russell County recently informed the Administrator's Office that their two appointed special deputy coroners have resigned. This was followed by a request to appoint Steve Voorhees, a paramedic, as a special deputy coroner. Dr. Patrick Stiles, District Coroner, has approved this appointment.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked for consideration of appointing Steve Voorhees.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to appoint Steve Voorhees as a Special Deputy Coroner for the Twentieth Judicial District, Russell County. Said term to end December 31, 2026.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT: District Coroner – Appointment:
-Mr. Patzner will provide details. In accordance with the Kansas Statutes Annotated, Chapter 22a, the Board of County Commissioners of the County with the largest population in a Judicial District is to

appoint a District Coroner to serve a four-year term. It is suggested that Dr. Patrick Stiles be appointed to the 2027 – 2030 term.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commission to consider appointment of Dr. Patrick Stiles to another term.

Commissioner Zimmerman asked if this would be his third term. Patzner said he believed that was correct.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Dr. Patrick Stiles as the District Coroner for the Twentieth Judicial District. Said appointment set to run 2027 - 2030.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

D. 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.

V. ENDING BUSINESS:
1. Announcements 2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:
There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURN:
Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adjourn at 9:29 A.M.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

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