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/4izMzW7

November 10, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 10th 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
Todd Powell, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reif called the meeting to order at 9:14 A.M.

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

Minutes of the October 27, 2026, and the November 3, 2026, Regular Meetings were not available.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BARTON COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION: 2026 Update:

-Mike Carlson and Charles Atkinson, Barton County Fair Board, will provide details. Accounting of the 2026 Barton County Fair has been completed, to include statistical information on attendance, income and other standards. In addition to a productivity review, the Commission will be asked to approve payment of related expenditures.

Mike Carlson and Troy Miller, Barton County Fair Board, shared information about their Facebook presence, they were trying to do more online. Carlson said they had an increase in participation in all aspects including animals, quilting and 4-H. Carlson said they had a 25%-35% increase in people that came to the fair. He said that was the biggest reason for the increase in the premium as well as the judges going up too.

Miller said in the open classes, they show sheep, goats, swine and beef. He said they had a full day at Expo 3 with people coming from out of town. Miller said the largest percentage of open class was from out of town. He said they were going to try to put together a very large, open class livestock show in the spring. Miller said with the gradual increase each year, it took more in finances as well as more volunteers.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked the gentlemen to remind everyone how long they had been on the Fair Board and their rate of pay. Carlson said he had been on the board since 2007 and pay was still zero. He said he loved to do it and that was why he was still there. Miller said he had been there since 2003-2004 and noted that a person had to die to get off of the board. He said they wanted to educate the youth and now he had grandchildren starting to show.

Commissioner Hutchinson said his point was to let the public know how dedicated they were to the fair.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it also was not just one day. The fair was a long journey. Miller said they meet every month, only taking one month off after the fair closed.

Commissioner Reif said he had known Miller for some time and asked him how many generations of his family were involved with the fair. Miller said probably at least 5 generations.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve a $9,577.45 payment to the Barton County Fair Association for 2026 Expenditures. Cost to be paid from the Finance General account of the General Fund, Barton County Fair Association line, 001-26-6850.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Health Department Advisory Committee:
-Julie Gibbs, Public Health Director, will provide details. Barton County solicited applicants for uncompensated positions for the Health Department Advisory Committee. The Health Department Advisory Committee provides guidance, recommendation and assistance to the Barton County Health Department staff. At this time, there are four open positions, terming December 31, 2028; requirements include allied medical health and citizens.

Julie Gibbs, Public Health Director, said there were four positions terming in December 2026. She said bylaws state they must have at least seven on the board and they currently had nine. Gibbs said it was a good mix of those from the medical field and citizens of the county. The same four had reapplied and she recommended they be appointed for another two years.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to appoint Krista Smith, Emily Young, Cathy Anderson and Jennifer Schartz to the Health Department Advisory Committee. The uncompensated positions term December 31, 2028.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. 2026 HIGHWAY STRIPING PROJECT: Project Update:
-Chris Schartz, County Works Director, will provide details. Barton County accepted proposals for the 2026 Highway Striping Project until February 23, 2026, for work that included centerline and edge line striping on approximately 97 miles of County roadway. Straight-Line Striping, Inc., was awarded the $112,311.45 bid. After award, striping 7th Street in Ellinwood and the McKinley Street Bridge outside of Great Bend were added to the project. This resulted in an actual cost of $115,191.90. It is suggested that the $2,880.45 difference be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund.

Chris Schartz, County Works Director, said a couple of projects were added after the initial bid. In Ellinwood, 7th Street is actually a county blacktop even though it goes through the city limits of Ellinwood. Schartz said it had hot mix overlay about eight years ago, so it was determined to seal it while they were in the area. Schartz said they also did a hot mix, cold overlay on the McKinley Street bridge so the striping company went ahead and striped it while they were here. Schartz asked that the $2,880.45 be paid from Road & Bridge fund.

Commissioner Reif asked Schartz if it was a law to stripe the county blacktops. Schartz said it varied by county. He said some counties only did the center lines and not the white lines. Schartz said KDOT had sent a survey to every county. They were looking into possible funding for those counties that did not have the money to put striping down. Studies showed it lowered the risk of accidents.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve payment of $2,880.45 to Stright-Line Striping, Inc. for additional 2026 paint striping tasks. Cost to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund, Contract Construction Line, 002-92-6250.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: Voting Delegates:
-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. The Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) will hold its Annual Conference from December 7 – 10, 2026, in Wichita. Each year, the Commission designates a voting delegate and first and second voting alternates for the meeting.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to designate Commissioner Reif as the Kansas Association of Counties Voting Delegate with Commissioner Schlessiger named as First Alternate and Commissioner Zimmerman named as Second Alternate. Direct the County Clerk to provide KAC with voting delegate information via the KAC website.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

E. 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:
There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURN:
Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:39 A.M.
Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST: _____ _____
Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk

Duane Reif, Chairman