

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/428LGL0>

April 14, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 14th day of April, 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 Hutchinson moved to approve the agenda.
 Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
 All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2026, Regular Meeting.
 Minutes of the April 7, 2026, Regular Meeting were not available.
 Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
 All voted aye. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes:

-Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk, will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes. Orders for these actions are kept on file in the County Clerk's Office. These are used to correct assessments and are requested by the County Appraiser's Office or the County Clerk's Office.

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

BATCH #6	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(3,973)		(\$481.06)	\$218.67
Real Estate	(121,641)		(\$19,115.78)	\$13,668.02
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(125,614)	\$0.00	(\$19,596.84)	\$13,886.69
Total Taxes	(\$19,596.84)			
Total Records Selected	24			

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/428LGL0>

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes as reviewed by the County Appraiser and presented by the County Clerk's Office. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. PROCLAMATION 2026-06: National Public Safety Communications Officers Week, April 12 – 18, 2026:

-Dena Popp, 911 Director, has asked that the Commission consider the adoption of Proclamation 2026-06, National Public Safety Communications Officers Week. In part, the Proclamation honors Public Safety Communications Officers for their vital role in protecting the life and property of Barton County citizens.

Dena Popp, 911 Director, said they were celebrating National Public Safety Communications Officers week. It was a way of thanking 911 dispatchers in Barton County and across the nation. The dispatchers job often goes unnoticed but was a key part of the first responder system. Popp said this was a week to say thank you to those taking the calls, being the link and getting resources where they were needed. Popp shared that some things they dealt with were very heavy and serious despite not being physically on the scene. Calls range from things like cattle being on the road to someone threatening to take their own life, domestic situations, accidents and a person not breathing. Popp said whether it be through the 911 system or the non-emergency lines, 911 dispatchers were the first point of contact. They route calls where needed and get first responders' pertinent information. Popp said there were numerous emergency and non-emergency lines into the communications center and dispatchers were trained to prioritize the calls. Popp said employees have to operate numerous systems, portals and websites as well as acquire medical training, security training, learn radio etiquette and become familiar with all first responders in the county and keeping things confidential. Popp said locally in the last month, there had been several traumatic events that they had to work through. In Barton County, they dispatch 7 law enforcement agencies, 7 fire departments and 4 EMS agencies. Popp said there are a few openings for dispatchers, and they were looking for the right people to fill those positions. Popp said she very much appreciated her staff for their dedication and commitment. Popp asked that they sign the proclamation recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week.

Commissioner Reif said it was a very important job.

Commissioner Zimmerman said thank you was not enough and she very much appreciated the department and everything they did.

Commissioner Schlessiger said it had been tumultuous lately and she also appreciated them.

Commissioner Esfeld echoed the sentiments.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Popp how many open positions she had at this time. Popp said there were currently three openings, but someone was coming in to test and seemed like a good prospect.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Proclamation 2026-06, National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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/428LGL0>

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, passenger car and light truck tire fees and the construction and demolition fees be adjusted.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, said she recommended \$50/ton for MSW, the basic trash; \$40 for construction and demolition and \$40 for contaminated soils. Hamby said even with the increase in fees, Barton County would still be less than other landfills in the area. Hamby said one county was at \$61/ton, another county was at \$60/ton with trash being \$90/ton and \$50 for construction and demolition.

Commissioner Esfeld said she was glad Barton County was fee based. She said another county charged \$50 on their property taxes for solid waste. Hamby said there were some counties who were tax based rather than fee based. Hamby said fee based, only those who use the landfill were charged.

Commissioner Reif noted that it was very expensive to run a landfill. There was a lot of heavy equipment that was costly to maintain. Hamby said that was the biggest expense.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt the amended Solid Waste Rates, effective July 1, 2026.

Direct Ms. Hamby to notify local contractors of the rate change.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. BOARD APPOINTMENT: Central Kansas Community Corrections Advisory Board:

-Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, will provide details. The County solicited applicants for one two-year term on the Central Kansas Community Corrections Advisory Board. The ideal candidate can assess community needs, be interested in community corrections, be adaptive and supportive of change that will lead to improvements within CKCC. Kenton Doze has applied for appointment.

Brooke Haulmark, CKCC Director, said they were required to have an advisory board that helped to continue improving the agency. Haulmark said they posted the opening in newspapers and on social media for an unexpired position that was a two-year term. The board was required to have at least twelve members and no more than fifteen members. This position was for the twelfth spot. The applicant was Kenton Doze, former Police Chief in Hoisington. He was a non-voting member as police chief.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to appoint Kenton Doze to the Central Kansas Community Corrections Advisory Board. The uncompensated position terms April 14, 2028.

Commissioner Esfeld 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:

Announcements

2. Appointments

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/428LGL0>

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.


VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 9:19 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Duane Reif, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2026-06

**National Public Safety Communications Officer Week
April 12 -18, 2026**

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of all emergency service personnel is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Barton County Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, Communications Officers are the first and most critical contact citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Communications Officers are the single vital link for emergency responders, monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and

WHEREAS, Barton County Communications Officers have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, declares the week of April 12 through 18, 2026, to be National Public Safety Communications Officer Week in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our communities and citizens safe.

Signed this 14th day of April, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS



Duane Reif, Chairman




Commissioner Barb Efeld



Commissioner Shawn Hutchinson



Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger



Donna Zimmerman, Member

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

