

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/4vY6pis>

April 28, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 28th 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
Casey Hubbard, Assistant County Administrator

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to amend the agenda to add Item E, to lift the temporary burn ban.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. JUVENILE SERVICES: Out of State Travel – CADCA's Mid-Year Forum:

-Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, will provide details. In 2021, Juvenile Services received a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Drug-Free Communities Support program grant. A component of this grant includes training with the National Coalition Academy, working in partnership with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). The Commission will be asked to allow Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services Prevention Advocate, and another adult to attend the Mid-Year Forum in Orlando, Florida, from July 12–16, 2026.

Marissa Woodmansee, Juvenile Services Director, said Tyler Morton would be sharing details of the travel.

Tyler Morton, Juvenile Services Prevention Advocate, said this was the fourth or fifth year they had taken the trip and it would be the second time to go to Orlando. Morton said there were nine applicants this time. They had a requirement that the youth had to be in the program for at least six months to go on a trip. One of the applicants had not been in the program for that long. Morton said four of the youth were selected to make the trip, two had previously gone and two would be going for the first time. The youth were Branson Holinde and Braelyn Komarek, both are freshman at Great Bend High School; Jaci Sandberg, freshman at Ellinwood High School and Mya Brewer, an eighth grader at Hoisington.

Commissioner Reif asked if they would have a presentation for the commission when they return. Morton said they would be there to report about what they learned. Morton said the idea was to come back and implement strategies.

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Commissioner Esfeld said they were held to a tight schedule and attended a lot of classes. Morton said all four that would be attending had been with Youth Crew around four years. These four started in sixth grade with the All-Stars Program. They were interviewed by a panel of five people.

Commissioner Esfeld said Youth Crew was amazing and she looked forward to hearing about the trip.

Commissioner Hutchinson said the trip was not being paid for with Barton County property tax dollars but with the Drug-Free Communities Grant Fund.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she felt this brought the enthusiasm back to the kids. Morton said they tried to push the point that this was needed in our community and that the youth were the future leaders.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve out-of-state travel for Mr. Morton to attend the Mid-Year Forum in Orlando, Florida on July 12 through July 16, 2026. Associated costs to be paid through the Drug-Free Communities Grant Fund, Travel Line, 908-72-5490. Direct the Commission Chair to sign said Travel Request.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. COMMISSION: Kansas County Commissioners Association Annual Conference Update:

-Commissioner Barb Esfeld will provide details. The 2026 Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) Annual Conference was held in Hutchinson last week. Commissioner Esfeld attended on behalf of Barton County. An update on the meeting will be provided at this time.

Commissioner Esfeld shared a photos and an update from the conference. It was the 50th year for this association. She talked about legislation and numerous bills that were pushed through so they could get on the campaign trail. She said there were 68 bills this year.

C. MEETING WITH THE CITY OF GREAT BEND: Joint Committee:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. One outcome of the April 15, 2026, meeting between the Commission and the Great Bend City Council was the creation of a committee designed to discuss shared solutions to governmental challenges. Mayor Alan Moeder and Council members Gary Parr and Shelly Arnberger have all volunteered for the committee. It is suggested that the County appoint two Commissioners to the committee as well.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and asked the commission to consider appointing two commissioners to the committee.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to appoint Commissioner Hutchinson and Commissioner Zimmerman to the Joint Committee.

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.

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RESOLUTION 2026-11: A Resolution Lifting the Temporary Burn Ban in Barton County, Kansas, Established by Resolution 2026-09, Adopted March 31, 2026:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. After receiving moisture throughout Barton County over the weekend, local Fire Chiefs have asked that the Commission lift the current burn ban.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, asked that the commission consider lifting the burn ban.

Commissioner Reif said not all of Barton County received significant moisture, but people were anxious to do some burning but should still exercise caution. If all of the Fire Chiefs were in favor, there was no reason not to lift it at this time.

Commissioner Schlessiger asked if they were all in favor of lifting the temporary ban. Patzner said yes, they were.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt Resolution 2026-11, A Resolution Lifting the Temporary Burn Ban in Barton County, Kansas, Established by Resolution 2026-09, Adopted March 31, 2026.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schlessiger – St. John's CDC Open House Thursday at 5:30 P.M. This was opening two new preschool rooms.

He Olofson, Midwest Energy – shared maps and information about a grant received for replacement of pipeline across Barton County.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 10:05 A.M.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk


Duane Reif, Chairman