

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/47RhOpK>

March 24, 2026

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 24th day of March, 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 Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

" 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 March 10, 2026, and ending March 24, 2026.

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

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve appropriations for the period of March 10, 2026, to March 24, 2026. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

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

Taxes:

-Ms. Schmeidler 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.

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CATCH #5	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil	(1,069)		(\$135.24)	\$67.62
Personal Property				
Real Estate	(194,667)		(\$30,224.04)	\$8,471.71
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	(195,736)	\$0.00	(\$30,359.28)	\$8,539.33
Total Taxes	(\$30,359.28)			
Total Records Selected	47			

Commissioner Esfeld 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 Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2026-07: Establishing Commission Districts for Barton County, Kansas, and Rescinding Resolution 2023-15, Same, adopted May 17, 2023:

-Ms. Schmeidler will present details. At least once every three years, the Commission shall review districting to assure that each of the five districts is as compact and equal in population as possible.

Ms. Schmeidler, County Clerk, said because there were no new census numbers at this time, she suggested the Commission Districts remain the same. The districts were currently as compact and equal in population as possible. Schmeidler asked for adoption of the resolution with the districts remaining the same.

Commissioner Zimmerman said since it was an election year, it was best to leave the districts as they were and revisit when there were better numbers in the future.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 2026-07, Establishing Commission Districts for Barton County, Kansas, and Rescinding Resolution 2023-15, Same, adopted May 17, 2023.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. LETTER OF SUPPORT: Purchase of the Colt Revolver Used by Sheriff George N. Moses:

-Sheriff Brian Bellendir will present details. On February 17, 2026, Sheriff Bellendir reported to the Commission that the Colt revolver used by Sheriff George N. Moses may be available for purchase. Currently owned by the great-grand daughter of Sheriff Moses, it is suggested that private funding be used for the purchase and that the gun be donated to Barton County to provide for its perpetual care. Sheriff Bellendir will ask that the Commission consider providing a Letter of Support for the purchase by Sheriff Bellendir of the Civil War-era revolver.

Diana Watson, Administrative Assistant, presented on behalf of Sheriff Brian Bellendir who was unable to attend. Watson said the Sheriff talked to the commissioners about bringing the Colt revolver back to Barton County in February. Sheriff Bellendir was asking the commissioners for a letter of support. Watson said when we were moved out of the courthouse, Commissioner Zimmerman had an amazing idea to bring the original courthouse doors back to create a display area in the rotunda. The Colt revolver would

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... an incredible centerpiece for that display. Watson added that private funds would be used for the purchase of the revolver and not county monies. Watson said the display would be to promote our officials and employees, celebrating our history.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Sheriff Bellendir had quite a museum at the Sheriff's Office that he wanted to share with the public. It would be more available for viewing at the courthouse.

Watson said there was a bust that could be displayed there as well as weights from the County Clerk office and a surveying tool, so we had a collection of items to be showcased.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she was excited for the project. When the renovation was done, things were exposed that had been covered over the years and the display would be a great way for people to see the history and different items could be rotated in and out.

Commissioner Reif commended Commissioner Zimmerman for the idea of bringing the doors back to the courthouse.

Commissioner Schlessiger agreed that it was a great way for people to see the interesting items the Sheriff had at his office.

Commissioner Zimmerman said years ago, the County Clerk used to have to take the weights in a horse drawn carriage to check the scales at markets in the county were accurate.

Commissioner Schlessiger noted that Barton Community College had a Scale Technician program.

Commissioner Esfeld said the doors actually belonged to the Historical Society now, but they were willing to loan them to the county for the display. She said they mentioned potentially loaning other items for the display as well.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the Letter of Support for the purchase of the Civil War-era Colt Revolver used by Sheriff George N. Moses, the first Barton County Sheriff.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. LETTER OF SUPPORT: Grant Funding for Infrastructure enhancements on Fifteenth Street, City of Hoisington:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will present details. The City of Hoisington seeks grant funding for infrastructure enhancements on Fifteenth Street between Clay and Susank Road. The City believes that the improvement will promote safety, increase its appeal to potential homebuyers and promote community development. A Letter of Support will be presented at this time.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and said the letter of support would add to the funds the county pledged to the project last fall.

Commissioner Reif said that it was a good connection to that part and there was an area for potentially more housing development. Patzner said it could possibly set the stage for future expansion.

Commissioner Schlessiger said letters of support helped with grant submissions, this was a great idea.

Commissioner Zimmerman said anything to help grow our communities.

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Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Letter of Support for Grant Funding for Infrastructure enhancements on Fifteenth Street, City of Hoisington. Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. COMMUNICATIONS: State 911 Board Critical Facility Mapping Grant Program:

-Dena Popp, 911 Director, will present details. In mid-2025, the State 911 Board announced the Critical Facility Mapping Grant Program which provided funding to map K-12 schools in an effort to support emergency response, planning and NG911 integration. Ms. Popp has since been notified that Communications has received funding to create maps for each school in Barton County. It is noted that completed maps will be the property of the Kansas Legislature.

Dena Popp, 911 Director, said 911 centers across Kansas received news that the legislators had set aside one million dollars for a school mapping project. Popp said the grant was very easy to fill out and submit. Popp said she held a meeting with all 18 Barton County schools. In November, Popp said she received notification that Barton County was selected in the first round. In the initial round, each PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) was awarded 4 K-12 schools. Popp said in meetings it was decided to start with the high schools. Popp said they were then notified that all the funds had not been utilized and to submit the next steps in the process. All the schools in Barton County ended up getting approved. The state had narrowed the list of vendors to three that could be chosen from. Popp said they chose the one that appealed to the board and was also chosen by surrounding counties. She said that it was important because if counties needed to assist each other, the mapping was consistent. Popp said all of the funds from the first round were used but there could potentially be another round as a lot of counties did not submit a grant. Popp said the vendor came in and walked around the schools, taking photos and measurements. The only cost that could be incurred later would be if there were infrastructure changes and those costs would go to the schools. Popp said the actual map data would be the property of the Kansas Legislature. There was a possibility that it could open up to other public entities such as the courthouse, community centers, places with the potential to hold large quantities of people. Popp said they would not know about that for some time.

Commissioner Reif said he appreciated all the work she did on the project. It was important for first responders to have the information.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she was relieved to know who would have access to the data so it could not be used nefariously.

F. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Request for Proposals – CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection:

-Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, will provide details. Beginning February 17, 2026, the Information Technology Department accepted proposals for CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection software for all County owned computers and servers. This included 260 computers and servers needing active endpoint protection with Falcon Complete. Monies were included in the Information Technology account for this anticipated purchase. Given the timing of this bid and need to update County equipment, the proposal was awarded to CIS Security for \$17,160.00. The Commission will be asked to ratify the award.

Dereck Hollingshead, Information Technology Director, said for several years, the IT Department had used anti-virus on all computers and servers. In 2024, we switched from Malwarebytes to CrowdStrike at the recommendation of our insurance provider. Hollingshead said they went out for bids about a month ago to renew the anti-virus and the low bid was from Center for Internet Security. He asked commissioners to ratify the purchase. They had to touch every computer so they wanted to expedite the process.

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Commissioner Zimmerman said there was a wide disparity in the bids. Hollingshead said they switched to Center for Internet Security because they were a nonprofit organization funded by the Department for Homeland Security and CISA and were able to purchase licenses in larger quantities than private entities. They also offered an extra layer of security as they can remediate and shut off or isolate computers if something happened after hours.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to ratify the award of the Request for Proposals – CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection to CIS Security. Total cost, \$17,160.00, to be paid from the General Fund, Information Technology Account, Licensing Line, 001-24-5423.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. SOLID WASTE: Local Recycling Grant:

-Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, will provide details. In the 2026 Operating Budget, the Commission allocated \$15,000.00 under Solid Waste for local recycling with an understanding that applications would be accepted locally for the monies. Eligible to apply include any County department, agency, organization, recycling center, city, school district or community college located in Barton County. To be eligible, the application must demonstrate a positive economic and environmental impact in the County, be consistent with the Barton County Solid Waste Management Plan, benefit the County and its residents and increase recycling.

Jennifer Hamby, Solid Waste Director, presented details and asked for approval to announce the local grant and begin accepting applications.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to let the 2026 Solid Waste Recycling grant. Direct Ms. Hamby to coordinate the application process.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

H. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT: Carrier Water Source Heat Pump:

-Darren Williams, Facilities Director, will present details. A Carrier water source heat pump has failed at the Courthouse. The unit, which is part of the individual heating and cooling system that is utilized throughout the Courthouse, is out of warranty. It is suggested that a new unit be purchased from Kruse Corporation for a total of \$15,272.00. Given that the lead time for the unit is up to 19 weeks, an order has been placed and the Commission is asked to ratify the purchase.

Darren Williams, Facilities Director, shared details and said the faulty unit was in Judge Hipp's office and they were able to move a unit from a different area until the new one arrived.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to ratify the purchase of a Carrier model 50PEC heat pump as defined in the Kruse Quote, 90-601. The \$15,272.00 cost is to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment – General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

I. 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 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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ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Esfeld – would be attending the SDSI meeting in Garden City tomorrow.

Commissioner Esfeld – Adam Smith had been in touch about some bills coming up today.

Commissioner Schlessiger – congratulated the Central Plains Oilers men and women for their state run and the Ellinwood Eagle women for their second-place finish at state. She was proud of all the athletes.


VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 9:39 A.M.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Duane Reif, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2026-07

ESTABLISHING COMMISSION DISTRICTS FOR BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS,
AND
RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2023-15, SAME, ADOPTED MAY 17, 2023

WHEREAS, the voters of Barton County approved five (5) County Commission Districts at an election held November 5, 2002, pursuant to K.S.A. 19-204, and amendments thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, per K.S.A. 19-204 met and divided the County into five districts as compact and equal in population as possible and numbered them and, further, such districts shall be subject to alteration at least once every three years; and

WHEREAS, the population figures as used herein were certified to the Kansas Secretary of State by the Division of the Budget on July 1, 2020, and is the most recent data available.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, hereby designate the following areas as the Commission Districts for 2026:

(The remainder of the page is blank)

1. The First District shall consist of:

All of the Following Townships	
Albion	60
Beaver	98
Cheyenne	200
Cleveland	25
Eureka	70
Fairview	65
Grant	50
North Homestead	105
South Homestead	338
Independent	93
Logan	165
Union	46
Walnut	105
Wheatland	55
All of the following Cities, excluding Great Bend	
Albert	132
Clafin	562
Galatia	45
Hoisington	2,699
Olmitz	90
Susank	31
The following portions of the City of Great Bend	None
Total	5,034

2. The Second District shall consist of:

All of the following Townships	None
All of the following Cities, excluding Great Bend	None
The following portions of the City of Great Bend	
First Precinct of the First Ward	1,530
Third Precinct of the First Ward	1,081
First Precinct of the Second Ward	1,312
Second Precinct of the Second Ward	1,127
Total	5,050

3. The Third District shall consist of:

All of the following Townships	None
Great Bend Township A	1,153
All of the following Cities, excluding Great Bend	None
The following portions of the City of Great Bend	
Second Precinct of the First Ward	1,290
Second Precinct of the Fourth Ward	1,246
Third Precinct of the Fourth Ward	924
Total	4,613

4. The Fourth District shall consist of:

All of the Following Townships	
Clarence	133
Comanche	408
Great Bend Township B	212
Lakin	251
Liberty	248
Pawnee Rock	120
South Bend	566
All of the following Cities, excluding Great Bend	
Ellinwood	2,011
Pawnee Rock	193
The following portions of the City of Great Bend	
First Precinct of the Fourth Ward	1,057
Total	5,199

5. The Fifth District shall consist of:

All of the Following Townships	
Buffalo	431
All of the following Cities, excluding Great Bend	None
The following portions of the City of Great Bend	
Third Precinct of the Second Ward	1,405
First Precinct of the Third Ward	1,097
Second Precinct of the Third Ward	1,145
Third Precinct of the Third Ward	1,313
Total	5,391

FURTHER, that Resolution 2023-15, Establishing Commission Districts for Barton County, Kansas, adopted May 17, 2023, is hereby rescinded.

ADOPTED this 24th day of March, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Duane Reif, Chairman



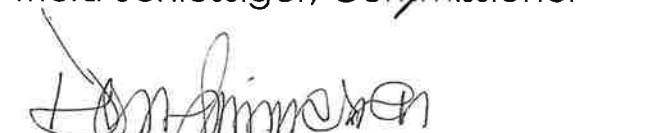
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner



Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner





Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner



Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Bev Schmeidler
County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ELECTRONIC APPROVAL GIVEN
Patrick Hoffman
County Counselor