

# Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)  
Requests to be made pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act and County Policy. Estimated cost of disk – Five Dollars (\$5.00).

February 9, 2015

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 9th day of February 2015, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District  
Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District  
Alicia Straub, 4th District  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District (Chairman Pro-Tem)  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Richard Boeckman, County Counselor/Administrator

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.  
Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Straub moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.  
Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:**

The Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 26, 2015, and ending February 9, 2015.

Commissioner Davis moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 26, 2015 to February 9, 2015. Authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of 13<sup>th</sup> month expenditures and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE: Request for Approval – Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes for 2014:**

-Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, will present a listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes for 2014. 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.

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Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, presented the following orders:

BATCH #3				
Property Types	Values	Escaped Taxes	Added / Abated	Refunds
Gas				
Oil	- 31,371		-\$ 4,832.02	\$ 637.70
Personal Property				
Real Estate	- 50,874		-\$ 8,578.46	\$ 369.57
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities	-369,776		-\$60,706.64	
Special Assessments			-\$ 675.00	
Grand Totals	-452,021		-\$74,792.12	\$1,007.27
Total Taxes	-\$74,792.12			
Total Records Selected	38			

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the Listing of Added / Abated / Escaped / Refunded Taxes for 2014 as presented by the County Clerk and reviewed by the County Appraiser and direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Straub seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## B. PUBLIC INFORMATION: Kansas Wetlands Education Center:

-The Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC), a branch of the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, is operated by Fort Hays State University personnel. The facility overlooks the 19,857 acre Cheyenne Bottom Wildlife Area managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Park and Tourism and the 7,694 acre Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve managed by The Nature Conservancy.

Curtis Wolf, Site Manager, provided the following annual report and said there were over 23,000 total contacts which included: drop-in visitors, on-site programs, outreach programs, various meetings, booths and trade shows. They also provided over 400 programs to area schools.

	2012	2013	2014
Drop-in visitors	7,238 (21 per day)	6,248 (18 per day)	6,829 (20 per day)
Onsite programs (# of participants)	223 (4,904)	232 (4,829)	283 (4,853)
Outreach programs (# of participants)	241 (11,240)	242 (7,557)	315 (7,958)
Facility rentals (# of participants)	10 (323)	24 (354)	15 (489)
Tradeshow / festival booths (Estimated contacts)	3 (3,028)	5 (1,673)	6 (2,965)
<b>Total number served</b>	<b>26,733</b>	<b>20,661</b>	<b>23,094</b>

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## Special Events

- Winter Family Programs; Quarterly Craft Series Workshops, Prairie chicken lek tours, Snowy Owls program, Great Migration Rally (145 participants), Wild Goose Chase 5k/3k (91 registered), Nature Photography Workshop (40 participants), Summer Kids Programs, Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing (58 participants), Butterfly Festival (144 participants), Hunter Appreciation Breakfast (175 participants), Crane Viewing Tours, KWEC Holiday Open House (83 participants)
- Participated in several local/regional festivals: Kansas Sampler Festival, Great Bend Earth Day, Garden City Earth Day, Ark River Festival, Great Bend June Jaunt, Walk With Wildlife, Ellinwood Bike Across Kansas Event, Ellinwood After Harvest Festival, Rolling Hills Safari Adventure Day, BCC-Jack Kilby Science Day

## Education Programs

- Conducted 426 school programs with most area schools and added several new schools
- Scheduled programming for Grades K-6 with USD 428 for 2014-2015 school year
- Conducted 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Wetlands Day contest for Barton Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders; partnered with City of Great Bend and local businesses
- Partnered with Great Bend Rec Commission on numerous programs for all ages
- Maintained several citizen science programs: Cheyenne Bottoms FrogWatch Chapter, Monarch Butterfly tagging, Cheyenne Bottoms Christmas Bird Count
- Offered 4 Girls Scout and 6 Boy Scout badge programs
- Offered 185 paid van tours plus 17 paid prairie-chicken lek tours

Information Only. No Action Required.

## C. APPRAISER'S OFFICE: Bulk Mailing – Valuation Notices:

-After reviewing options, the Appraiser's Office has determined that using Postal Presort to create valuation notices, mailing labels and envelopes is the most cost effective method for creating and mailing the Valuation Notices.

Barbara Esfeld, County Appraiser, said it time to mail certificate of value notices again and hopes to have them mailed by March 16<sup>th</sup>. Esfeld said using Postal Presort saves the County approximately \$1,600 not including staff time. The Appraiser's Office was contacted by Postal Presort, Pitney Bowes and Midwest Single Source. Postal Presort provided an estimate of .73 to mail each valuation notice, including postage and additional pages. Pitney Bowes and Midwest Single Source need live samples to bid the job. The Appraiser will send them live samples when they send the documents to Postal Presort this year. Next year we will know if these companies can provide this type of service and the associated costs. If the appraiser's office were to mail in-house, it would cost approximately \$9,956 including postage, but excluding staff time. Esfeld noted Postal Presorts rates have stayed steady the last couple of years.

Commissioner Schartz asked about the option where taxpayers would be able to opt in or opt out of an e-mailed notice in order to save postage costs. Esfeld said Shawnee County provides the notices by e-mail and added there is a statute that says notices do not even need to be mailed when there is no value change. Esfeld said she is not in favor of that, as she likes the taxpayer seeing the value so they can ask questions or appeal if needed. Esfeld said her office is not yet ready for e-mail notices and also noted there are a lot of taxpayers that do not use computers.

Commissioner Straub moved to hire Postal Presort, anticipated at a cost no higher than \$8,322, for bulk mailing Certificates of Valuation Notices for 2015. Cost to be paid from the Appraiser's account of the General Fund, Professional Service Fee's line – 001-14-5475.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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## V. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- **PERTUSSIS OUTBREAK UPDATE** - Shelly Schneider: Interviewing and trying to categorize 29-30 suspect cases. Investigating over 100 contacts. Staff has worked very hard during the outbreak. Given well over 1,000 Tdap shots. Numerous people tested for pertussis with mostly negative results. KDHE has been a great resource. 5 swabs have been sent to KDHE to check and confirm that the local standards are good and to run a second panel for any other organism that had not been identified. Local standards are good, but of the swabs sent in, two came back positive for Parainfluenza, (a step down version of the flu), and one with Influenza A H-3. KDHE sent those swabs on to the CDC in hopes of shedding some light on the illnesses in Barton County.
- Sheriff Bellendir: The murder trial is well underway. Expects it to wrap up this week.
- Comm Schremmer: Commissioner Homer Kruckenberg is 80 years young.

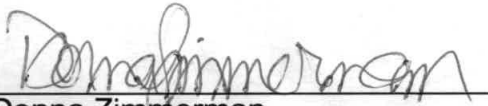
## VII. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schartz made a motion to adjourn at 9:36 A.M.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

WITNESSED:

  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman