

# 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](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)  
Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**

October 19, 2020

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 19th day of October 2020, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District  
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District (Chairman Pro-Tem)  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

*Members attending via phone/Teams:*

Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District

*Members absent:*

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Kruckenberg moved to approve the agenda.  
Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the October 12, 2020, Regular Meeting were not available.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. CONSIDERATION OF ROAD VACATION: A Portion of NE 70 Road from NE 10 Avenue to NE 20 Avenue, South Homestead Township:**

-Barton County received a request to vacate a portion of NE 70 Road from NE 10 Avenue to NE 20 Avenue, South Homestead Township. Adjoining landowners were notified of the viewing. In addition, an advertisement was placed in the Great Bend Tribune. There was no public viewing as the adjoining landowners agreed to the vacation. This is allowed by Kansas statute.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said he received a written request to vacate NE 70 Road from Abe Lollar, Ducks Unlimited. McManaman said the east end is located one mile north of the Cheyenne Bottoms Headquarters building and going back one mile west from that point. The adjoining owners are the Nature Conservancy on the north side, Wetlands America Trust on the east half mile on the south side and Mary Jo Ochs Living Trust on the west half mile. McManaman said we would generally have a road viewing, but because of state statute, we did not have to have one since all landowners agreed on the road vacation.

Abe Lollar thanked Barry and the Commission. Closing the road will be really helpful in the future. McManaman said Gary Sidman from South Homestead Township was also present and noted the township sent a written response approving the closing.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the Order of Vacation for the following described roadway: All public road right of way along and adjacent to a line beginning at a point twenty five (25) feet east of the

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Northwest (NW) corner of Section Twenty Seven (27), Township Eighteen (18) South, and Range Thirteen (13) West, thence east along the north line of said section approximately one mile to the point thirty (30) feet west of the Northeast (NE) corner of said section. Said road lies on the section line between Sections 22 and 27 of Township 18 South, Range 13 West, with the right of way to be vacated recorded as being 60 feet in width, 30 feet on either side of the described section line.  
Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. ADMINISTRATION: SPARK Funding Reimbursement:**

-Barton County has received the necessary documentation from the State Office of Recovery to reimburse SPARK funding for COVID-related expenses. This includes the rent of the Barton County Annex, Broadway at Morton, Great Bend, for the period of March – December, 2020.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said this funding is for the annex building located at Broadway and Morton utilized by the County Treasurer. This funding will reimburse the county for rent paid for the use of this facility during COVID.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the reimbursement of SPARK funds to Barton County for public health and safety in providing services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID. Total reimbursement of \$28,500.00 to be transferred to the General Fund, SPARK Reimbursement line, 001-00-4586.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. PUBLIC HEALTH: SPARK, Health Department, Funding Reimbursement:**

Barton County has received the necessary documentation from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to reimburse SPARK funding for COVID-related expenses. This includes the mobile health unit purchased in July, 2020.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said this item is from a different fund. The Health Department purchased an RV from Harper Camperland earlier in the year and has used it extensively. This item is being reimbursed by SPARKS funding.

Commissioner Daily said he has seen the camper out and about.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the reimbursement of SPARK, Health Department, funds to Barton County for public health and safety in providing services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID. Total reimbursement of \$25,540.00 to be transferred to the Equipment Replacement Fund, Other Refunds and Reimbursements line, 072-00-4585.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. PUBLIC HEALTH: SPARK, Health Department, Purchasing Plan:**

-Barton County has received the necessary documentation from KDHE to make certain purchases and / or reimbursement of SPARK funding for COVID-related expenses. The Commission will be asked to approve the SPARK, Health Department, Purchasing Plan.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said these funds are used exclusively by the Health Department and are to be used specifically for COVID-19 response.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the SPARK, Health Department, Purchasing Plan for measures taken providing services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID. Identified plan

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Items to be paid for or reimbursed up to the amount shown per item, with the total plan expenditures not to exceed \$205,437.47.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **E. COVID-19 UPDATE:**

Karen Winkelman said their first case was reported on March 30, 2020 and as of this morning, 7 months later, we are at 695 positive cases. Winkelman said there have been seven deaths and other deaths pending confirmation with the physician(s). The state provides the positivity rate which is defined as PCR positive and based on laboratory test data. Winkelman pulled the positivity rates:

9/27/2020	Barton County 15.49%	Kansas 6.37%
A week later	Barton County 14.97%	Kansas 7.51%
10/11/2020	Barton County 18.52%	Kansas 8.49%

Winkelman said the virus is community spread and said we all know what measures we all need to take to mitigate the spread and lower the risks. Due to the virus being community spread, they adapted quarantines slightly. Isolation orders have not changed. Positive cases are issued a 10-day isolation order from the onset of symptoms. Quarantines are recommendation letters for a recommended 14-day quarantine. Winkelman noted they rely very heavily on KDHE as they are the experts and provide support to the local level.

Commissioner Schartz said KDHE may come out with new guidelines on Wednesday. Winkelman said perhaps, they change recommendations frequently. It changes more and more as more is learned.

## **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **Discussion: Quarantine Procedures:**

Commissioner Schartz said everyone feels passionately about this issue. We will listen to your concerns; however, we cannot take any action today. Each person will be given one 5-minute opportunity to speak. This is not an open debate.

- Jennifer Flick: Wish to address concerns regarding the current quarantine practices and request policy change. Local schools have yet to prove to be a hotbed of COVID transmission. Out of nearly 160 quarantines issued to USD 428 high school students, only 2 of those students actually became positive. Attending in-person school is critical to the health and welfare of our students. Some students may have experienced social isolation and increased anxiety while not physically being in school. Schools also provide critical services, such as school meal programs and behavioral and mental health services. There are families represented here today that are on their 6th quarantine. It is time to reconsider our "close contact" 14-day quarantine practices and let symptom free kids return to school under parent monitoring. According to the CDC website, children are less likely to get COVID-19 than adults, and when they do, they generally have less serious illness than adults. The CDC also notes that out of the 200,000 plus COVID deaths in the United States, only 95 deaths have been children under the age of 18. When you are sick, stay home. When you are healthy, live your life as normal. Nearly 17% of our population in Barton Co is below the poverty line. Imagine being below the poverty line, wondering how you are going to provide basic necessities and then being told you have to stay home from work another 14-24 days when you are not exhibiting symptoms. A recent post made by the city of Hoisington said, "City staff has been cautioned that there are numerous individuals in the area that are exhibiting symptoms that are not getting tested." They are not getting tested because they are afraid. There are

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- students in school that are getting bullied because they have gotten tested or they sneezed at school and now the whole team or the whole classroom is at jeopardy of getting quarantined. We have got to make some changes for the welfare of our community.
- Stephanie Davis: 14-year-old daughter missing 4 weeks of school. A member of the volleyball team. Daughter has 7 different teachers and 7 different platforms to turn homework in on. With on-line learning a student cannot raise their hand to ask a question. It takes time to get questions answered through email when the teacher is available sometimes 4-5 hours later. Anxiety is not good. The bullying of kids who get tested on Snapchat/Instagram is horrible. In-person education is essential. Do you realize kids on quarantine are driving around Great Bend? They are going out to eat. Do you realize these kids are playing corn hole for 3 hours? Who is in charge of these kids? The parents are working.
  - Jennifer Flick: This is a critical issue. Citizens are owed a little extra time.
  - Stephanie Davis: Understands nothing can be done today but asked when can I get a voice from you.
  - Comm Schartz: Explained we cannot vote on something brought up as a discussion item as the item needs to be placed on the agenda for action, so any interested party would have the opportunity to attend. The Commissioners also need time to talk and discuss the issues.
  - Jennifer Flick: This has been addressed before.
  - Comm Schartz: The Commission is aware of that. We discuss COVID all the time. KDHE will make some changes possibly.
  - Jennifer Flick: Had I been allowed to finish would have expressed more stats from the CDC saying that mitigation strategies can be scaled up or down depending on the local situation.
  - Stephanie Davis: Per KDHE masks were recommended and you know your vote on masks. You always have the choice.
  - Jennifer Gregg: Wanted to read a letter from Tracy Post but will not have time to in 5 minutes.
  - Personally speaking, am the parent of two medically fragile children and has every reason to be cautious. County has taken it too far. Let children be children and be in school. Tracy's letter states since the beginning of the school year, 101 staff members have been quarantined and as of 10/18/20 588 students are in quarantine with zero reports of any non-household contacts placed into quarantine testing positive. Cited hours/days lost statistics. Students are being bullied into not get tested so they do not get other students quarantined. Students are being shamed for being tested. We must look at unintended consequences and have to adjust. Please consider making adjustments for our children.
  - Comm Schartz: Asked for a copy of Tracy's letter.
  - Julie Spray: Family received 6 quarantine orders. Right now, this morning her 3 children who are not sick are stuck at home in quarantine. None of her children have developed symptoms. Students are being bullied. Other school districts/counties are redefining their quarantine orders to keep their students in school and listed several districts. Asked for modification that no quarantine be issued when both students wore masks. Provided copies of the other school district/county information.
  - Comm Daily: Listened to this for several weeks/months. Have allowed our Health Dept to adopt KDHE rules and regulations. Easier to get opinions from experts in their field. Working diligently to find solutions nationwide. Not going away right away. Solutions are not easy. We will work towards a solution. We meet on a regular basis. Certain we will come up with some sort of a solution. Hoping we can work with USD 428 in a satisfactory manner.

## VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Kruckenberg made a motion to adjourn at 9:47 A.M.  
Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Schartz, Chairman Pro-Tem

## ORDER OF VACATION

**WHEREAS**, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, held a Public Hearing for the purpose of vacating a portion of road right of way in South Homestead Township, being located in Barton County, Kansas; and

**WHEREAS**, on the above said date, the County Commission having heard no objection to the right of way vacation, were satisfied that the right of way is no longer necessary for public purposes, and that no public or private right would be injured or endangered; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the Order of the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the following premises hereinafter described were vacated, to wit:

All public road right of way along and adjacent to a line beginning at a point twenty five (25) feet east of the Northwest (NW) corner of Section Twenty Seven (27), Township Eighteen (18) South, Range Thirteen (13) West, thence east along the north line of said section approximately one mile to a point thirty (30) feet west of the Northeast (NE) corner of said section. Said road lies on the section line between Sections 22 and 27 of Township 18 South, Range 13 West, with the right of way to be vacated recorded as being 60 feet in width, 30 feet on either side of the described section line.

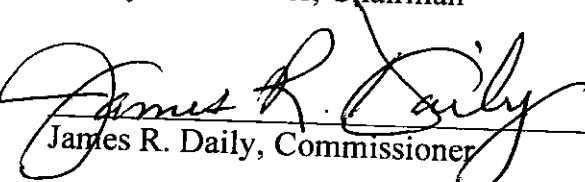
**THEREFORE**, at the presentation of the Order of Vacation, the County Commission approved its adoption and it shall hereafter be filed with the Office of the Register of Deeds of Barton County, Kansas.

Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

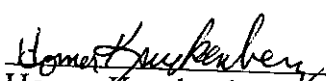
ABSENT

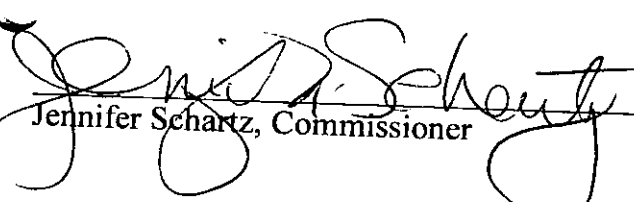
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman

  
James R. Daily, Commissioner

Approved via Teams

Don Davis, Commissioner, attended via Teams

  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner

  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner