

# 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**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3eobWb7>

August 16, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16th day of August 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District (Chairman Pro-Tem)  
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

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

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021, and the August 9, 2021 Regular Meetings.  
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

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

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of August 2, 2021, and ending August 16, 2021.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve appropriations for the period of August 2, 2021, to August 16, 2021 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.  
Commissioner Hutchinson 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:**

-Donna Zimmerman, 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.

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, presented the following tax roll adjustments and year-to-date RECAP:

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BATCH #10	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(675)		\$ (105.86)	\$ 105.86
Real Estate	(105,089)		\$ (6,619.66)	\$ 3,605.12
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(105,764)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ (6,725.52)</b>	<b>\$ 3,710.98</b>
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>\$ (6,725.52)</b>			
<b>Total Records Selected</b>	<b>7</b>			

Commissioner Esfeld asked if Wendy (Prosser, County Appraiser) could provide the address in the comments section. Esfeld said she understood the first two for Christopher McCord and that it was zero because it had not been taxed yet. Esfeld asked if the Sunflower Diversified was the property they were waiting on.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator said this adjustment was not for the UPS building and noted it is still waiting to be heard by BOTA.

Zimmerman provided addresses for the tax adjustments.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it is important for the public to know that anytime a non-profit takes a property off the tax roll, it takes twice as much residential property to make up the difference.

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 and direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. RATIFICATION OF THE USDA DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE GRANT PROGRAM: Collaborative Award with Barton, Ellsworth, Rice and Stafford Counties:**

-At the October 26, 2020, Agenda meeting, the Commissioners approved a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Agreement with USDA. At that time, the Grant Coordinator was authorized to sign the grant electronically. The USDA has since requested the Agreement be signed by the current Commission Chairman.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said in October 2020, the motion included an authorization for the grant coordinator to sign electronically. Since that time the USDA has asked that the Commission Chair sign the paper documents.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to ratify the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Agreement and authorize the Chairman of the Barton County Commissioners to execute the same on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel matters of non-elected personnel:**

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-The Commission will enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The Commission meeting will resume in thirty minutes.

At 9:11 A.M. Commissioner Esfeld moved that we enter Executive Session from now until 9:40 am to discuss non-elected personnel for performance evaluation of one or more employees.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

(Commissioner Esfeld continued her motion) I didn't say who. I looked at Patrick and I didn't say it. I would request that Mr. Hoffman, our County Counselor, and our Administrator Phil Hathcock be present. Commissioner Schartz said I would like for Donna Zimmerman to be there too.

Commissioner Esfeld said I have no problem with that as well.

Commissioner Esfeld said so I add Donna Zimmerman to my motion as well, our County Clerk.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel matters of nonelected personnel:**

-The Commission will make any necessary announcements as a result of the Executive Session. If necessary, further discussion or a decision may be made at this time.

At 9:40 A.M. Commissioner Esfeld moved to enter back into regular session and out of our executive session.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson announced no action was taken in executive session.

## **V. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Karen Winkelman, Health Director: As of Friday, 66 persons are infectious and in isolation. We had 11 cases in June, 101 in July and only halfway through August we already have 88 cases.
- Comm Schartz: How many children?
- Winkelman: 11 children who are too young to vaccinate. Children as young as 7 months of age. 13 of the 88 cases (15%) were vaccinated.
- Comm Krier: Do you agree with President Biden that 350 million people are vaccinated. That's 106% of the population.
- Winkelman: She did not have that information in front of her and could not comment.
- Comm Hutchinson: Karen, you do not agree with that?
- Winkelman: Said she could only answer for herself.
- Comm Hutchinson: So, you cannot say whether 350 million people have been vaccinated in the United States?
- Winkelman: My focus is Barton County.
- Comm Schartz: Were the breakthrough cases immunocompromised?
- Winkelman: Did not have that information, but the majority of them were vaccinated early when the vaccine first came out. Vaccine can wane just like flu vaccinations.
- Comm Hutchinson: There were a few that had come forward who had bad responses to the vaccine.
- Winkelman: To our knowledge there have had 2 persons that they did a VARES report on. One came forward after the commission meeting. 11,854 vaccine doses administered just at the Health Department. 167 doses administered last week, the same number as the week prior. All preparations available. Barton County population is at 35.8% fully vaccinated and Kansas as a whole is at 43.3%. Age 12 and up in Barton County is 42.3% complete. Looking closely for the release for the booster doses. At 6pm Friday, KDHE gave Kansas the ability to administer boost doses or dose three. The booster dose is only for those who had Moderna or Pfizer, completed the series and more than 28 days have passed since the last dose. A person can choose either Pfizer or Moderna.

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- Comm Schartz: You can choose either?
- Winkelman: Yes. Johnson & Johnson has not released a boost dose at this time.
- Comm Krier: Have you seen the studies by the hospital in Minnesota about the difference between Moderna and Pfizer? Moderna is effective at 75% for 6 months and Pfizer at 43% for 6 months.
- Winkelman: KDHE gave some guidance on the immunocompromised. It does go into those on chemotherapy type agents or high dose corticosteroids, transplant patients. The public self-declares. Referring them back to their physician if they have questions. Testing continues as before. There have been 37 variants identified with 34 of those being Delta. The next closest county going east is Saline County with 146 of the variants of concern. Finney and Ford County are the only ones who are higher than us with 59 and 63.
- Comm Krier: Do you know the number who have been hospitalized?
- Winkelman: Knows of at least one. Going to college for vaccinations. Had a meeting with the Superintendents. Provided her recommendation. The guidance provided by KDHE is her recommendation which is backed up with credible knowledge. Universal masks, social distancing. Money available for testing strategies. Reviewed close-contact definitions. Talked about timely reporting of cases and identifying close contacts.
- Comm Krier: Are the schools or college making it mandatory that they are vaccinated or testing?
- Winkelman: The college has not shared their plan. The schools are choosing to not follow any of the testing strategies and masking is optional.
- Comm Schartz: Could they require tests?
- Winkelman: They could if they chose to follow the testing strategy. Close monitoring. Information in the guidance that there is grant funding available to make the testing available.
- Comm Schartz: Have you seen an upswing in kids 12 and over who were recently been approved for the vaccine?
- Winkelman: Last week a 14-year-old child brought herself and a friend in to get vaccinated because they felt it was important. The guardian with them stated she was not really in favor of it.
- Comm Daily: You said schools are not following the recommendations. Do you foresee a mandated mask issue for our kids?
- Winkelman: I can share my medical knowledge, but it will be up to them to make that decision.
- Sheriff Bellendir: Locked the jail down due to COVID issues. Several coming off quarantine this week. Inmates and staff are all recovering with no new cases.
- Comm Krier: Can you mandate a prisoner to take a test?
- Sheriff Bellendir: We can while the inmate is in custody.
- Comm Hutchinson: What about vaccines?
- Sheriff Bellendir: Not vaccinations because that is elective. Can do things if medically necessary.
- Patrick Hoffman: The state is not mandating vaccinations.
- Bellendir: Taking precautions and fogging the jail again.
- Comm Krier: If you had Moderna you can get the Pfizer booster. Winkelman said yes.


## VII. ADJOURN:

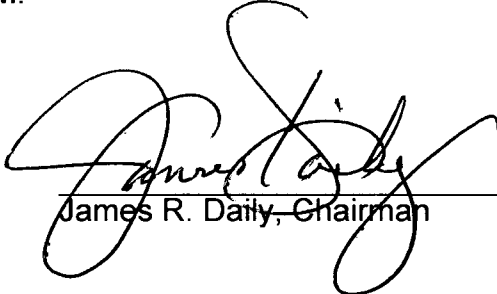
Commissioner Krier moved to adjourn at 10:03 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James R. Daily, Chairman