

# 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/3p6iJLa>

February 8, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 8th day of February 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.

Roll Call taken by County Clerk.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the agenda by adding Item E to discuss vaccination programs. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021, Regular Meeting. Commissioner Krier seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

The minutes of the February 1, 2021, Regular Meeting were not available.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. CONSIDERATION OF ROAD VACATION: A Portion of Barton Avenue in the Lyndhurst Place Subdivision, South Homestead Township:**

-Barton County received a request to vacate a portion of Barton Avenue in the Lyndhurst Place Subdivision, South Homestead Township. The adjoining landowners signed statements in support of the vacation so, as per Kansas statutes, no public viewing was necessary. Legal notices were published in the Great Bend Tribune advising of the date, time and place for consideration of the vacation request by the Barton County Commission.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said Wayne Stout applied to vacate a portion of roadway in South Hoisington on Barton Avenue. McManaman said a 300' section on the north half of Barton Avenue south of 100 road was vacated in May of 2011. The two adjoining landowners and the utilities companies have no issue with the road vacate. McManaman said the townships are ok with the vacate and said they did not even know it was a road. McManaman said Mr. Stout and two of his neighbors were present.,

Wayne Stout said he maintains this road and has signs posted as private property. Would like to put a fence across the road eventually to keep people out.

Commissioner Schartz asked if this went before the planning commission. Barry McManaman said road vacations are not required, only minimum maintenance roads go before the planning commission.

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Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Order of Vacation for the following described roadway in the Lyndhurst Place subdivision, South Homestead Township: All public road right of way on Barton Avenue from a point 300 feet south of the south right of way line of NE 100 Road thence south to the north right of way line of Miller Street.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. COUNTY ENGINEER: 2021 Biennial Bridge Inspection Agreement:**

-The County Engineer requested proposals from engineering firms to perform the 2021 Biennial Bridge Inspections. Work includes routine bridge inspections following the requirements of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) "Local Routine Bridge and Element Level Inspection Scope of Services and Forms". Barton County is required to have all 372 bridge-length structures inspected every two years.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said inspections are required by federal law and noted the last inspection was done in 2019. Kirkham Michael has performed the bridge inspections the past several years and submitted the low proposal. McManaman said they also received a proposal from Lockner at \$119,000 and a letter from BJ Consultants saying they would not submit a proposal. Kirkham Michaels proposal is \$90 for each of the 371 bridges plus \$500 for initial inventory on the new bridge which is an increase of \$1 per bridge from the last inspection.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it is fair to say we do not have anyone local to do this work. McManaman said that is correct.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the Agreement for Engineering Services, Biennial Bridge Inventory and Appraisal with Kirkham Michael for a total of \$33,890.00 for the 2021 Biennial Bridge Inspections. That cost to be paid from the Special Bridge Fund, Professional Services Fees line, 003-92-5475-92.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **C. INVENTORY OF COUNTY PROPERTY:**

-Per KSA 19-2687, each County officer and head of a department shall make an inventory of the personal property owned by the County and located in such office or department. The inventory, which shall be taken during the month of December of each year, shall be filed with the County Clerk on or before December 31 of each year. The inventory shall not include books, records, files, stationery, writing materials and blank legal papers. The information will be presented to the Commission during February of each year. Per Resolution 2005-22, the mandated duties have been assigned to the Information Technology Department.

Dereck Hollingshead, Director, presented the 2020 inventory said in October of 2020 the county clerk's office sent out all the inventory to the various department to update.

Commissioner Schartz asked about the minimum level for inventoried items. Hollingshead said the minimum value is \$50 and said it had been discussed before.

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, said there is not provisions in the statute to exclude items other than stationery and pens for example. Zimmerman said they had discussed the minimum value with the auditors a few years back and settled on \$50 as the smaller items would be easier to walk off with. Zimmerman said inventory of the items was cumbersome in the beginning but had not heard complaints in maintaining the inventory.

Commissioner Daily asked if we were seeing things disappearing. Zimmerman said no.

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Hingshead said the IT Department inventories computers as they are purchased.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if anything was missing in the last inventory. Zimmerman responded departments review the inventory and disclose when items are disposed. Zimmerman said nothing was reported to their office regarding missing inventory. Commissioner Daily noted that responsibility lies with the individual department heads. Zimmerman said yes.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to accept the 2020 Inventory Listing.  
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **D. KANSAS SENATE COMMITTEE: Opposition to Senate Bill 72:**

-The Kansas Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation is considering Senate Bill 72, which makes changes to the qualifications and appraisal courses for appraisers in the State of Kansas. Barton County opposes this and like legislation given that it restricts the number of appraisers in the State and focuses on protecting real estate loans rather than purely determining valuation. At this time, the Commission will consider ratifying a letter that was sent to the Committee by Chairman James R. Daily on Monday, February 1, 2021.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said this legislation deals with the way appraisers are licensed and suggested Commissioner Esfeld provide details.

Commissioner Esfeld said the big problem is this bill would limit where appraisers could get their education and would also eliminate a couple designations from IAAO (International Association of Accessing Officers). Currently there are 78 county appraisers that serve 105 counties, and with the passage of this bill it will not take long for the number of appraisers would drop.

Hoffman said this item would ratify the sending of the letter in opposition to this bill.

Commissioner Krier asked why the legislature thinks this is a positive step. Commissioner Esfeld said approximately a year ago IAAO sent a letter about the "dark store" theory which the Senate did not agree with and noted the bulk of these classes come from IAAO. They want appraisers to take classes from the Real Estate Appraisal Board. The dark store theory is a building like Wal-Mart that went vacant, how would it be valued. The issue is how do you value dark stores, do you compare them to an open store or another vacant store. The industry on the other side that fights values in some cases is much lower. Esfeld said this is a big topic of discussion and upset a lot of people. They would like to put an end to IAAO classes.

Commissioner Schartz said she is very impressed Esfeld is able to bring these things to our attention and asked if she thought this bill is just punitive. Esfeld said why would you take away the best education we have? This bill would make obtaining appraisers harder as it would eliminate two designations.

Commissioner Krier said he was on the Commission a few years back when we did not have an RMA on staff when the appraiser left and noted we had to pay the state to come in and said it was very expensive.

Commissioner Schartz ask if this passed how much would it cost the county. Hoffman said this is a way to chip away especially when looking at the high box stores.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to ratify the February 1, 2021, letter submitted to the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation reference Senate Bill 72.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

oted aye. Motion passed.

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## **DED ITEM E. Vaccination Programs:**

Commissioner Krier said we all still getting phone calls and would like to discuss vaccinations. Krier said he was at the last round of vaccinations and said the additional 100 doses seemed to make a huge difference and noted they only turned away 50-60 cars. Before they had to turn away 400-500 cars. Krier said he believes we are only a couple of weeks away from people just driving through and getting the vaccine. The amount of vaccine is still the limiting factor.

Commissioner Hutchinson said there are a lot of people that cannot sit in their vehicles for that long. Are we going to work for a system to help these people when this situation may wan anyway?

Commissioner Krier said we are still going to have lines. The main objective is to vaccinate the most people and not waste any vaccine. People do not show up after they have signed-up. With a sign-up, you still get in line. Krier said they called people and they still did not show up. We want to make sure we do not waste any vaccine.

Commissioner Schartz said she all for anything that does not tax our Health Department. Schartz asked how quickly we could go to scheduling. Hathcock said he does have a program lined up that we could implement fairly quickly. Right now, the best course of action is to stay the course.

Commissioner Schartz asked if we get enough vaccine if we could administer both ways (first come/first served and scheduled). Winkelman said she thought that would be more cumbersome.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if it would go the against equality of the distribution to allow some of the people that cannot wait in line physically, are we putting them ahead of others if we implemented a sign-up process for 10% of the vaccine for instance.

Sheriff Bellendir said at least one car spent the night in line waiting for vaccine. If we would have had another 100 doses, no one would have been turned away. At this point, from the traffic movement, the problem is just that we do not have enough vaccine.

Commissioner Krier said we did not turn anyone away until about 3pm. When Walgreens and some of the pharmacies get vaccine, that will take some of the burden off the Health Department. People in line really appreciated it.

Commissioner Daily said the Health Department is doing fantastic. The people waiting in line all night is kind of ridiculous. If there is a group of people who cannot wait in line, we do not want them to fall though the cracks. Maybe we should do both and maybe the sign up should be on a limited basis. What we are doing is a great program and it flows pretty well. Folks know they will move through the line rapidly now, so it is not as much of a concern. People call him all the time wanting to know when we will do sign-up. Harvey County and Sedgwick County uses a sign-up program. Open for discussion.

Commissioner Schartz asked about Saturday vaccinations. Winkelman said we are doing a Saturday vaccination this Saturday with 300 booster second doses from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 400 prime doses at 2:00 P.M. Commissioner Daily asked if those who are to receive their booster dose do not show up, will those doses be available at 4pm. Winkelman said that is correct.

Commissioner Esfeld asked if we are working with our teachers to maybe allow them to bring a bus out. Esfeld said she understands we do not have enough vaccine to provide to all the schools but suggested starting with the elementary schools and moving up. Winkelman said we have had some educators come out. Winkelman said by having it on a Saturday she is hoping it will make it more available to come out.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if we could prioritize one group above another. Bellendir said he would hesitate to do that. How would you decide. Winkelman said we could, but there are so many in Phase II, how would

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I decide. Hutchinson said we want the public to know that none of us are asleep at the wheel. We are all taking it seriously and congratulate for a job well done.

Commissioner Daily asked how close we are to having the pharmacies up and running with vaccine. Do you get all if the doses or would you have to share? Winkelman said from the update Friday the pharmacies are expected to receive vaccine in the next 4 weeks. Their doses will come from the federal level and not the state. Winkelman said she has no idea if they will pull from our allocation.

Commissioner Krier said he believes the federal government will dispense Pfizer and we are getting Moderna, so it should not impact our doses. Johnson & Johnson provides the single dose vaccine. Winkelman said she did reach out to KDHE and said we would accept Pfizer because it is becoming more readily available and must be used within five days of refrigeration.

Commissioner Schartz said she heard they are looking at interchanging the doses between Pfizer and Moderna. Winkelman said she had not heard that.

Commissioner Krier said he asked Karen a couple of weeks ago what the Commission could do for her and said we need to take the brunt of the calls and let her do her work and moved to continue the first come first served until Sheriff Bellendir, Karen Winkelman and Phil Hathcock implement a new system of providing vaccination shots.

Commissioner Daily asked Commissioner Krier to add to his motion "in addition to the new system".

Krier said they can implement whatever they wish to, we just need to stay out of their way.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## ENDING BUSINESS:

- Announcements
2. Appointments

## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Comm Krier: There is a possibility the Commissioners will be attending the poverty assessment for public disclosure.
- Comm Daily: Commissioners may be attending some of the COVID activities.

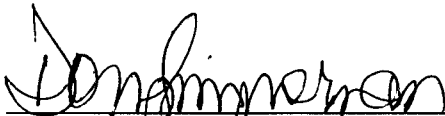
## VI. ADJOURN.

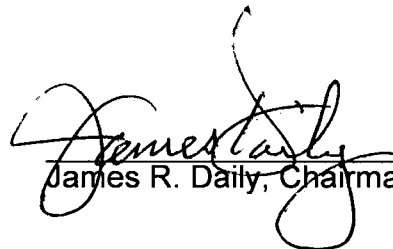
Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:45 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
James R. Daily, Chairman