

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**

February 1, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 1st day of February 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, Assistant Deputy County Clerk
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members attending via Teams:

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Roll Call taken by County Clerk.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

The minutes of the January 25, 2021 were not available.

II. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS: 13th Month – 3rd Run:

-An Accounts Payable Register for the 13th Month, 2020, will be submitted to the Commission. Thirteenth month expenditures include any unpaid bills for a product, service or utility that was received in 2020.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the 13th Month – 3rd Run appropriations for 2020 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS:

-An Accounts Payable Register will be submitted to the Commission for the period of January 18, 2021, and ending February 1, 2021.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve appropriations for the period of January 18, 2021, to February 1, 2021 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

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NEW BUSINESS:

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

-Bev Schmeidler, Deputy 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.

Bev Schmeidler, Deputy County Clerk, presented details.

BATCH #3				
Property Types	Values	Escaped Taxes	Added / Abated	Refunds
Gas				
Oil	-7,476		-\$1,299.62	\$774.38
Personal Property				
Real Estate	699,143		\$105,285.14	
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
Grand Totals	691,667		\$103,985.52	\$774.38
Total Taxes	\$103,985.52			
Total Records Selected	6			

Commissioner Krier asked if Redbarn understood what happened with the building. Schmeidler said it was her understanding that Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, had spoken to them.

Commissioner Krier said the State started it a year later. Commissioner Esfeld said it was the Board of Tax Appeals who ruled to start it a year later.

Commissioner Hutchinson 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. I would like to direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

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

B. RESOLUTION 2021-04: Resolution for Approval of Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land:

-Environmental Management received an application from AMG Technology Investment Group dba Nextlink for the construction of a 120' Monopole Type Telecommunications Tower on a parcel of land owned by Charles and Katie Sharp. The parcel is located southeast of the City of Great Bend. A Public Hearing was held on January 12, 2021, by the Barton County Planning Commission, to consider authorizing a Conditional Land Use permit. The Barton County Planning Commission unanimously recommended that the County Commissioners approve the request.

Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said this was the second telecommunications tower request received by AMG Technology Group out of Texas. Goreham reported the parcel meets all the fall zone requirements. An area crop-duster attended the public hearing with concerns since he sprays fields in the area. Goreham explained they can place additional conditions on conditional use permits. The Planning Commission asked for approval as presented with the condition that the tower meet the requirements required by Kansas statute regarding aviation paint on the top 1/3 of the tower. They would paint the top 40 feet of the tower orange and white alternating bands, with orange at the top and the bottom of the silver monopole tower. The lot is very wooded at the west end of the property and the tower would be nestled in the trees with farm ground all around it. The paint would allow for visual

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awareness for a pilot spraying the farm ground. The Planning Commission was concerned about setting a precedent since they did not require the aviation paint for the tower north of Pawnee Rock, but felt this location warranted the additional safety precaution. At the next public hearing, next Tuesday, they decided that each of the three applications would be handled separately to determine if the paint would be necessary at those locations. Nextlink was fully aware of the condition for construction of this tower and they were prepared to comply and maintain the aviation paint.

Commissioner Daily asked if Nextlink would be responsible for the costs involved in repainting. Goreham said yes, they bear all costs. When they paint, the equipment will have to be taken down so there would be some down time for the internet during maintenance. Goreham explained these telecommunication towers were for internet use only with no intentions of collaborating with other companies and were not for cell phone use. They were only to increase the availability of internet service in the rural areas of the county. The company looked for dead zones in the county and there were five basic locations. This was the second tower with three more coming up next Tuesday.

Commissioner Schartz said she was proud of the Planning Commission for being proactive as crop-dusting can be a dangerous activity. It hits hard with the commission as Commissioner Don Cates was lost several years ago in a crop-dusting accident.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve Resolution 2021-04, Resolution for Approval of Conditional Land Use Permit for a Described Tract of Land.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN: City of Hoisington:

The City of Hoisington has submitted an updated Neighborhood Revitalization Plan which provides a tax rebate incentive for property owners to either remodel, repair or build new construction within City Limits. The plan is intended to promote the revitalization and development of the City of Hoisington by stimulating new construction, rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment within the City. An Interlocal Agreement must be approved by the County Commission prior to the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan being submitted to the Attorney General of the State of Kansas.

Jonathan Mitchell, Hoisington City Manager, said they had planned to ask for a super long extension, but after discussion on a county-wide plan, had decided to pursue a plan to the end of 2021. This would allow the city to work with the other communities in the county and come up with one master plan that would cover the county entities moving forward. They proposed some changes including the criteria to qualify for the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The previous plans required a 5%/\$5,000 improvement, but the new proposal increases the improvement to 10%/\$10,000. Also making changes to the proposed rebate and keeping language that should the homeowner become delinquent or fail to conform to the city or county codes, they would be removed from the program. Would have the ability to suspend the program with 30 days' notice or in the event of a natural disaster. After approval from all the governing bodies, the plan will be sent to the Attorney General for review of the interlocal agreement.

Commissioner Krier asked about designated utilities as far as a delinquency. What is the process for an appeal should someone miss a monthly payment? Mitchell said they try to communicate with their customers. If it were an honest mistake or the person was just a little bit late for city operated utilities, they would not request removal from the program.

Commissioner Krier said he was a big proponent of a countywide Neighborhood Revitalization Program and would like to pursue it as soon as possible. He has had a lot of responses from people who are trying to build until a program was in place.

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Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adopt the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Hoisington and Barton County allowing for the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for the City of Hoisington, subject to approval by the Attorney General of the State of Kansas.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Health Department Advisory Committee:

-Barton County solicited applicants for uncompensated positions for the Health Department Advisory Committee. The Health Department Advisory Committee provides guidance, recommendation and assistance to the Barton County Health Department staff. The uncompensated positions term December 31, 2022.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said the committee was formed in 1987 as a requirement of the Family Planning Grant. There were three applications for reappointment to be considered. First, Libbie Merritt, Registered Nurse with nine years of nursing experience and employed with U.S.D. 428 as a school nurse and also a contractual worker for the Health Department during COVID. Second, Brian Wilborn has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a graduate of the School of Banking who brings experience in budgeting, finance and personnel management and is currently employed by Community Bank of the Midwest. Finally, Krista Smith has a degree in physical therapy and has many years of experience working in the school system and has been involved with programs concerning children and families and has knowledge and experience with grant distribution. Winkelman noted the advisory committee has regular monthly meetings.

Commissioner Krier asked if anyone had applied for the open position. Winkelman said not yet.

Commissioner Krier asked if and when the county was to receive a greater amount of vaccine, was she concerned about having enough nurses to administer the vaccines and would she need more nurses. Winkelman said at this time, they could handle it and believed they could also handle a larger volume.

Commissioner Krier asked if she had thought about using student nurses to help and noted some of the hospitals have reached out. Winkelman said yes and said EMS was also available to assist.

Commissioner Krier asked if she were a worker short, was there someone available to replace that person. Winkelman responded yes.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he had some constituents come to his office last week that were upset. He asked if it were mandated by the state to not turn persons living outside of Barton County away from getting the vaccine in Barton County. Winkelman said the state recommended they not turn anyone away.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if she were aware of Lacey Cruse, Sedgwick County, was on the news stating they were turning non-residents away. If Barton County receives an allocated number of doses and persons from outside the county were allowed to receive it, there was no reason to have an allocated amount. Winkelman said there are people who live in other counties but work in Barton County and felt it was important to not stop at county lines. She said some counties are allowing persons to receive the vaccine if they own land in that county but do not reside there. It was being handled numerous ways across the state. Winkelman said anytime one person was vaccinated, you protect multiple people. While doing data entry for the drive-thru last week, she estimated it was less than 5% of out of county residents that were vaccinated here.

Commissioner Schartz asked of the less than 5%, were they persons that worked in Barton County. Winkelman said of the names she recognized, yes, they do.

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Commissioner Krier said Ellsworth County gave shots to the teachers at U.S.D. 112 and came to Claflin and vaccinated the teachers there because the district office is in Ellsworth County. Barton County would not have to use doses for them and said it is a federally subsidized medicine and we cannot deny anyone the shot.

Commissioner Esfeld asked how many persons serve on the board and who were the other board members. Winkelman said the board has a minimum of 5, maximum of 9. Five of the members must be from the allied health field. Other members are:

- John Stettinger, term ending 12-31-2021
- Dr. William King, term ending 12-31-2021
- Dr. Mike Malone, term ending 12-31-2021

Commissioner Esfeld moved to reappoint Libbie Merritt, RN; Krista Smith and Brian Wilborn to the Health Department Advisory Committee. The uncompensated positions will term December 31, 2022. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. MATCHING FUND REQUEST: SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging:

-The SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SWKAAA) is requesting matching funds from Barton County in the amount of \$1,500.00. These funds, which would be used as "Seed Dollars", are an equivalent match to the \$549,470.00 in services received by older residents and low-income families from Barton County. The County has traditionally provided this match from the Finance General Account of the General Fund.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said this annual request is budgeted each year. SWKAAA provides services to the elderly population in the county, typically over 70 years of age. This money is a small amount of what they budget each year to cover those that they serve.

Commissioner Krier asked if the agency was helping get the older population get vaccines. Hathcock said he was not aware.

Commissioner Schartz said at budget time, the commission looks at the non-profit and other agencies we provide money to and if the county can provide \$1,500 and it makes a match that is \$550,000, it is money very well spent for our county.

Commissioner Krier asked if SWKAAA had a presence in Barton County, a building. Commissioner Hutchinson said there was a building on Washington Street around 21st Street.

Commissioner Krier moved to authorize 2021 funding to SWKAAA in the amount of \$1,500.00. Payment to be made from the Finance General account of the General Fund, SWKAAA Line, 001-26-6930. Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. WORKFIT: Continuation of the Agreement for Physical Capacity Profile® Testing:

-WorkFit provides physical capacity profile testing for pre-employment purposes. The testing determines the abilities of the potential employee to perform a job's essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodation. This reduces the possibility of placing an individual in a position where there is a substantial risk of injury, thereby reducing work-related injuries and potential workers compensation claims. The service rate is \$110.00 per testing.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said this was the annual contract with Barton Community College. One of the many tools used for pre-employment screening of potential hires. This is a fit test to determine a baseline for strength or any preexisting conditions the person may have. The testing increased from \$105 to \$110 per test.

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Commissioner Daily asked if employees had to do any testing after being hired. Hathcock said no, just the preemployment testing. Hathcock said the baseline for each department is different and based according to the duties for the job applied for.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the Agreement for Physical Capacity Profile® Testing with WorkFit, Barton Community College, for the period ending December, 2021.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked that Hathcock give an update on the next drive-thru vaccination on Wednesday. Hathcock said the next drive-thru would be Wednesday, February 3rd and would be two separate events. There were 190 doses received for those that had already received their first dose between December 21st and January 7th. That one will take place in the morning from 10:00 A.M until 12:00 P.M. Beginning at 4:00 P.M, 400 first doses will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked the status of obtaining scheduling software. Hathcock said they were working on it but at this point, the drive-thru with no scheduling was working well and they plan to continue with it. Hathcock continued they are talking about a Saturday event in the future to help with those who work during the week.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he brought it up because he was contacted by a constituent who was upset. She said she had Stage 4 cancer and was unable to sit in line for hours waiting to get a vaccine. Hutchinson said he knows not everything can be dealt with, but felt he was not doing his job if he did not bring it up. Hathcock said he understood and there are individuals unable to go to the drive-thru and they need to reach out to those people if they have extra doses.

Commissioner Krier said some hospitals had sign-ups and did not know if it could be discussed at this time. Hathcock said that he and Winkelman had a ZOOM meeting last Friday with all the hospital administrators and discussed that in depth and were all on the same page and working together.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the second dose people would be contacted. Hathcock said no, they are automatically on a list to receive the second dose.

Commissioner Daily said he knew that to receive the second dose, there was a window of 4 days before the 4-week mark. How does it affect the first shot if someone does not come and get the second dose in the time frame? Winkelman said the time frame for the Moderna vaccine is 28 days apart. There is a grace period up to 4 days early. From the point the shot is due and beyond, there is not an end date.

VI. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Comm Krier: Requested a public notice that the commissioners may be present at the Expo during vaccination events to volunteer or observe in order to not violate open meetings and asked that it be stated for the year 2021.
- Patrick Hoffman: The commission tries to give notice about the possibility of more than two or three commissioners being together outside of a meeting. With the vaccination clinics continuing to be a vital part of county business for the foreseeable future, it was highly likely that a few of them could be together in the same place. The media/public is welcome to come to the vaccination clinics to witness.

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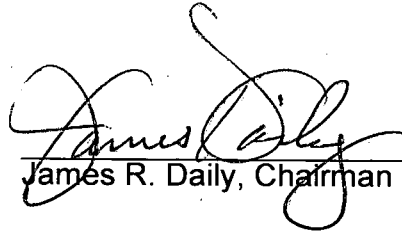
viii. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:49 A.M.
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Assistant Deputy Clerk


James R. Daily, Chairman