

# 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/3mXJsKu>.

February 9, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 9th day of February 2022, at the Barton County Courthouse.

## *Members present:*

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District  
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*  
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Chairman  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District  
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk  
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

## *Members attending via Teams®:*

James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

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

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

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022, Regular Meeting.  
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

The minutes of the February 2, 2022, Regular Meeting were not available.

Commissioner Schartz withdrew her motion.  
Commissioner Krier withdrew his second.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. RESOLUTION: Regulations for Barton County Owned and Operated Memorial Parks and Cemeteries:**

-Pam Wornkey, Register of Deeds, will provide details on suggested updates to the regulations. This item was tabled on February 2, 2022.

Pam Wornkey, Register of Deeds, said Barton County took over the memorial parks in 1996. Record keeping was in several different departments until the Register of Deeds took it over in 2009. The Register of Deeds Office and Road & Bridge Department work closely together to keep the memorial parks maintained and records current. Suggested that the price be increased to \$350 for all spaces in both Golden Belt and Hillcrest. There would be no increase in fees for recording, transfers or marking spaces.

Commissioner Krier thanked Wornkey for all the work she had done as well as Gary Demel and Mick Lang from Road & Bridge.

Wornkey said it was a partnership that works well.

Commissioner Schartz said the increase was not a great amount. When you were looking at perpetual, funds would be needed to maintain the memorial parks and cemetery without putting such a burden on the tax base.

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Wornkey said all the funds go to the maintenance and perpetual care.

Commissioner Krier said there were people who purchased lots when the memorial parks were privately owned. Due to the state of the memorial parks before the county took them over, some of those people were buried elsewhere. He asked what could be done with those plots if the families were not going to use them.

Wornkey said they could be transferred, sold, or donated to others. They have handled this many times. If they are sold, they can come to the Register of Deeds Office to transfer ownership. They can also donate them to a church, people in need or back to the county.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the resolution needed to be read aloud or if Wornkey could state any key points. Wornkey said just the price increase and noted that the resolution would be posted on the county website under both Register of Deeds and Memorial Parks.

Commissioner Hutchinson also thanked Wornkey for the job she had done.

Commissioner Krier noted that Wornkey used Tech Fund to purchase a plotter for the Cartographer's use.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Resolution 2022-08, Regulations for Barton County Owned and Operated Memorial Parks and Cemeteries.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

-Bev Schmeidler, 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, County Clerk, presented details.

BATCH #5	VALUES	ESCAPED TAXES	ADDED / ABATED	REFUNDS
Gas				
Oil				
Personal Property	(104)		(\$14.52)	\$18.00
Real Estate	(284,821)		(\$52,490.38)	\$6,606.00
16/20 M Trucks				
State Assessed Utilities				
Special Assessments				
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(284,925)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$52,504.90)</b>	<b>\$6,624.00</b>
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>(\$52,504.90)</b>			
Total Records Selected	70			

Commissioner Krier asked when the rebate amount was zero on a payment under protest, did that mean the taxpayer lost. Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, said that meant the adjustment would be applied to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half taxes. It would adjust the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

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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. Direct the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **B. ELLINWOOD DISTRICT HOSPITAL: Letter of Support:**

-Kile Magner, Chief Executive Officer, Ellinwood District Hospital, will provide details. The Commission has been asked to provide the Ellinwood District Hospital with a Letter of Support reference the replacement of the current hospital building.

Kile Magner, Chief Executive Officer, Ellinwood District Hospital, introduced Kristy Rupe, Ellinwood Hospital Foundation Director. Magner said the current building was 76 years old. During the pandemic it became obvious that it was unable to support the current needs of healthcare. They have had to go on diversion for ambulances quite often. They have so many patients now that the oxygen system cannot support adding any more. Also, they are landlocked and cannot expand or add additional services. To renovate the 76 year old building would cost almost as much as a replacement project. Seeking USDA approval for a loan that would be supported by revenue bonds. They have added services such as Troy Moore, Physical Therapy, Dr. Durrett for scopes, and opened a pharmacy in Ellinwood. They have expanded services in the last 4 years and had an immense impact on the community. The building is not ADA nor totally fire compliant as they are not sprinkled. The new hospital would be located at Highway 56 & Park Street, across from Ellinwood Packing Plant and the golf course. Magner said they currently employ 104 people and have 8 practitioners. Requested a letter of support from the commission.

Commissioner Krier asked what services they would provide in the new facility that they do not have now. Magner said add another Physical Therapist or Occupational Therapist, they have tripled their PT services in the last year and a half.

Commissioner Krier asked Magner what would happen to the current facility. Magner said that was yet to be determined.

Commissioner Schartz said Barton County was fortunate to have such good healthcare. This change could only make our healthcare stronger in Barton County and she would support them in a letter.

Magner said they will be adding a surgery department as well as an outpatient clinic. Currently with the rules that govern them being a critical access hospital and a rural healthcare clinic, they cannot bring in a specialist. It would affect the ability to be reimbursed.

Commissioner Hutchinson said since they are tax exempt, when they build on a new site, the current hospital could potentially go back on the tax roll.

Commissioner Esfeld said she would be in support as well and this would add a lot more services to our area. She asked Magner about the Teddy Bear Clinic listed on the handouts.

Magner said once a year, school children were invited to bring a stuffed animal for a physical. They visit radiology, perhaps get a cast and providers listen to lungs, etc. This was to help make healthcare less scary for children.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve a Letter of Support for the Ellinwood District Hospital.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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Prosser said they have a few more things to do for USDA. One of the biggest issues was that they were building in a floodplain. Because of that they have a few additional environmental steps. Hopeful to break ground this fall.

## **C. RESOLUTION 2022-09: A Resolution Amending Resolution 2021-23, A Resolution Adopting the Barton County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Effective January 1, 2022, adopted September 28, 2021:**

-Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, will provide details. After adopting both a Resolution and the Interlocal Agreement supporting the Neighborhood Revitalization plan in September, 2021, the Interlocal was submitted to the Kansas Attorney General. The document has been approved. However, some entities were not included in the original document and opted to join and others joined after the closing date. The Commission will be asked to consider adoption of an updated Resolution that adds those parties.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, said they had received several applications and new construction would be under way soon. Due to time constraints, some entities were not included in the original document and opted to join and others joined after the closing date. Asked for adoption of a resolution to include the cities of Olmitz and Pawnee Rock, Ellinwood District Hospital, Rec Commissions USD 112, USD 355, Great Bend Rec and USD 495.

Commissioner Krier commended Prosser for all the work that went into getting this project done in a short amount of time. All taxing entities had to be contacted.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Prosser how many taxing entities are in Barton County. Prosser said in the 60's.

Prosser said there were a few townships that did not participate; however taxpayers can still benefit, they would not receive those mills back in the rebate.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Prosser if it were only townships excluded now. Prosser said the City of Galatia also.

Commissioner Esfeld noted that Prosser had just taken over the office when she tackled the project.

Prosser said of the applications received, all but 1 are in rural areas outside of cities participating in the plan.

Commissioner Krier moved to adopt Resolution 2022-09, A Resolution Amending Resolution 2021-23, A Resolution Adopting the Barton County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Effective January 1, 2022, adopted September 28, 2021.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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

-Wendy Prosser will provide an update on this item. At the February 2, 2022, meeting, the Commission rejected the only bid for the bulk mailing of valuation notices and directed the Appraiser to find a more cost-effective solution.

Wendy Prosser, County Appraiser, said by March 1<sup>st</sup>, according to statute, all property owners must be mailed new valuation notices. Commission rejected the previous bid received. Prosser contacted the vendor that had been used previously. They had not turned in a bid because the person the notification of went to was no longer with the company. They bid \$6,804.93 at this time. Prosser asked for approval of Master's Touch.

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Commissioner Esfeld asked Prosser how much would be saved from doing the job in house. Prosser said approximately \$4,000.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted the rejected bid or handling it in house would both be around \$10,000 and asked Prosser how many notices get mailed. Prosser said just under 12,000.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to award the bid for bulk mailing 2022 valuation notices to Master's Touch for an estimated cost of \$6,804.93. Payment to be made from the General Fund, Appraiser's Account, Professional Service Fees Line – 001-14-5475.

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

Prosser said the Appraiser's Office would be asking for a 15 day extension to be sure adjustments could be made from wind damage.

## **E. FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2: Appointment of a Board of Trustees:**

-Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, will present this item. Per Resolution 2018-10, which created Fire District No. 2, the members of the Fire District Board of Trustees shall consist of not more than one (1) appointee from each participating township and not more than one (1) from each participating city. A trustee position was advertised for the City of Olmitz for an uncompensated term expiring in 2023.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said Curtis Peterson reapplied for the position. Asked for approval.

Commissioner Krier moved to appoint Curtis Peterson as the representative for the City of Olmitz on the Board of Trustees for Fire District No. 2. The uncompensated term end December 31, 2023.

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

## **F. MATCHING FUND REQUEST: SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging:**

-Matt Patzner will provide details. The SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SWKAAA) is requesting \$1,650.00 in matching funds from Barton County. These funds, which would be used as "Seed Dollars", are an equivalent match to the \$525,225.00 in services received by older residents and low-income families from Barton County. The County has traditionally provided a match from the Finance General Account of the General Fund.

Matt Patzner, Director of Operations, said \$1,500.00 was allocated when the 2022 Budget was adopted. Patzner said they were requesting \$1,650.00, asked that the board approve the amount they felt appropriate.

Commissioner Schartz said this was a group she felt good about supporting and the extra \$150.00 to make their job easier.

Commissioner Schartz moved to authorize 2022 funding to SWKAAA in the amount of \$1,650.00. Payment to be made from the Finance General account of the General Fund, SWKAAA Line, 001-26-6930.

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

## **IV. ENDING BUSINESS:**

1. Announcements                      2. Appointments

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## OTHER BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Esfeld – talked about SB339 & SB342 and Redistricting Maps. Today was the last day for individuals to file a new bill, February 11<sup>th</sup> last day for non-exempt committees to file and February 24<sup>th</sup> will be turnaround.
- Patrick Hoffman – said they had been tied up with the redistricting and generally do have to get things turned around quickly.
- Commissioner Hutchinson – city administrators were in study session last week regarding potential funding through different grant programs. One of the things that must do to qualify is a Housing Assessment or HAT. Asked Patzner when they were meeting.
- Patzner said they will meet in March.
- Commissioner Hutchinson – asked about hiring consultants, would cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per city. Would like the Board of Commissioners to consider paying for the assessments for the 4 cities in Barton County.
- Commissioner Krier – asked if the money could be given to Great Bend Economic Development.
- Commissioner Schartz – said they were told HAT was only good for 1 year.
- Commissioner Hutchinson – Sue Cooper let him know they could last as much as 5–10 years.
- Sara Hayden, Great Bend Economic Development – said they did a housing study for Great Bend last year. Ellinwood also commissioned the same company. GBED chose that company because they provided all the answers for the HAT. Theoretically, Great Bend and Ellinwood would already have the information needed for the HAT so it could be less expensive. It is recommended to do them every 3-5 years.
- Commissioner Krier – did GBED do the assessment themselves.
- Hayden – they hired RDG Development.
- Larry Marshall, Marshall's Towing – owns property southwest of Great Bend at 514 SW 20 Road, where he stores vehicles. He was not aware that he could not store cars there. Said he had spent \$8,000.00 to get everything done that was asked of him. Felt like he was attacked when he went before the Planning Commission yesterday. He was told by people on the committee that he would never be able to get the property rezoned, was told to buy different land and move the cars. This site was for overflow from his yard in the city of Great Bend.
- Commissioner Krier – Zoning & Planning Committee asked Marshall to clean the area, put up fencing and gates, did he get that accomplished. Marshall said yes. Commissioner Krier asked if he filed for rezoning.
- Marshall - said he did. He has 8-foot fencing and gates with construction mesh so nothing can be seen from the road.
- Commissioner Daily – said he had personally viewed the site. Marshall had met every requirement. Felt the commissioners should override the Planning Committee.
- Commissioner Schartz – have parties involved come speak to the commissioners.
- Hoffman – said the public hearing was held. Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, would prepare a report to bring to a study session, board could accept or deny. Process to follow.
- Commissioner Hutchinson – no action today.
- Commissioner Krier – commissioners should go view the area before deciding.

## VI. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Krier moved to adjourn at 10:01 A.M.  
Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Esfeld voted nay.

ATTEST:

  
Bev Schmeidler  
Barton County Clerk

  
Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman