

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** at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3IXC0ce>

April 5, 2023

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 5th day of April 2023, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Duane Reif, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District, (Chairman Pro-Tem)
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman
Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner, 4th District
Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2023, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2023-04: World Autism Acceptance Month:

-Ros Neeland, Chairman of the Autism Committee, Autism Workshop, Pilot Club, will provide details. World Autism Acceptance Day is recognized on April 2 by Presidential proclamation in the United States of America. Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability affecting over five million young people and adults. This Proclamation calls for knowledge and acceptance as it allows people to understand how to be more inclusive and build better, more supportive experiences.

Ros Neeland, Chairman of the Autism Committee, Autism Workshop, Pilot Club, told about another family affected by autism, Kanye and his mother, Amy Haxton. Kanye was diagnosed 16 years ago. Within a few months of moving to Hoisington and getting the diagnosis, the State of Kansas announced the Autism Waiver Program and they were one of the first 25 families in the state to receive the grant. Having no autism professionals in western Kansas, they had someone in Topeka handling Kanye's case. Then someone in Barton County had to be chosen, trained and worked with him 25 hours a week. His para at Helping Hands Preschool, Laura, became a godsend. The waiver was for 4 years, with a 5th year optional if deemed necessary, and it was. After the 5th year, Kanye transitioned to an Intellectual Developmental Disability Waiver. At that time, it was decided that Kanye should be around his typical peers in Hoisington. The family was blown away by the support of the community. Kanye has a very infectious personality and had grown to love everyone he met. Amy Haxton married a coach and all the siblings participated in sports. They packed a bag of special items for Kanye to take to events. Kanye participated with the cheerleaders in crowd chants and learned the fight song. The high school cheerleading coach allowed to cheer, unofficially, with the freshman squad. Kanye officially earned a spot on the squad his sophomore year. His classmates had always supported him and included him and considered him a rockstar in the community. Kanye can be seen every Tuesday and Saturday at the Dairy Queen eating a

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asket of fries and drinking a Sierra Mist. This year, Kanye was voted Homecoming King. Neeland said kudos to the community of Hoisington, he was always loved and never bullied. Neeland introduced Pilot Club members present as well as Allison from Sunflower Diversified with their therapy dog, Star.

Commissioner Reif had requested the commissioners wear blue for Autism Awareness. He said “Kids with special needs are not weird or odd, they want what everyone else wants, just to fit in.”

Commissioner Reif moved to adopt Proclamation 2023-04, World Autism Acceptance Month. Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. PROCLAMATION 2023-05: National Public Health Week:

-Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, will present details. Public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats. In recognition of Public Health Week, the Commission will be asked to adopt a Proclamation commending staff and partners who work to help citizens better understand preventive habits to live longer, healthier lives.

Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, asked for recognition of the contributions of public health across the nation. Winkelman said COVID-19 showed the importance of having a local public health system with a strong infrastructure. While navigating through a first pandemic for all of us, locally we continued to provide core, essential, public health services without disruption. Words that come to mind and witnessed during this uncertain period were adaptation, change, resiliency, support, passion, collaboration, stamina, collectively and endurance. Moving forward in public health, exciting opportunity to focus on innovation and transformation. Using health equity and social determinants of health as guiding principles, every person and every organization can take shared accountability to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, geography or income level. Winkelman commended her staff on the work that each contributed to the community. She also thanked local and state partners, the Board of County Commissioners who also function as the Board of Health for Barton County, and the Barton County Health Advisory Committee. Winkelman said it had been an honor to serve the communities in Barton County and asked the commissioners to adopt the proclamation. Winkelman introduced employees present. Winkelman said that Commissioner Esfeld spoke at their conference recently and presented a breakout session about communication between public health and the Board of Health.

Commissioner Esfeld noted that these employees could go elsewhere and make more money but they were dedicated to public health.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adopt Proclamation 2023-05, National Public Health Week. Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. PROCLAMATION 2023-06: National Public Safety Communications Officers Week, April 9-15, 2023:

-Dena Popp, 911 Director, has asked that the Commission consider the adoption of Proclamation 2023-06, National Public Safety Communications Officers Week. In part, the Proclamation honors Public Safety Communications Officers for their vital role in protecting the life and property of Barton County citizens.

Dena Popp, 911 Director, brought her administrative team to talk about the department.

McQuade, Supervisor, said when someone calls for help whether it be medical, fire, accident or crime, the first person they talk to is a 911 dispatcher. Dispatch runs the names and vehicle tags given by

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Dispatchers, logs all call transmissions given by officers, listens to callers reporting crimes, civil matters, medical emergencies, fires and those in mental crisis. Dispatchers are a lifeline for officers and other emergency responders. Often perceived as an easy job but at times may be very stressful, mentally taxing and traumatic. Dispatchers work shifts, nights, weekends and holidays and are away from families. A dispatcher must be able to multitask at a high level, be empathetic and understanding. Dispatchers are rarely thought of as the first line of help and are the face that was never seen.

Melissia Herren, Supervisor, said over the last month there had been an influx of high priority calls. Vehicle collisions, medical issues, suicides, deaths, an explosion and law enforcement officers shot at. In 2022, Barton County Communications answered 297,641 radio transmissions from police, fire and EMS. They answered 58,715 administrative non-emergency calls and 12,208 911 calls. 99.65% of those calls were answered in 15 seconds or less.

Melissa Fields and Wendy Dougherty read the proclamation.

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to adopt Proclamation 2023-06, National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. COMMISSION: Barton County Façade Improvement Grants:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. In 2021, the Commission dedicated \$630,000.00 to the Façade Improvement Project. In 2023, the Commission directed \$250,000.00 in funding be reserved for the program. Thus far in 2023, the Commission has awarded \$53,258.50 in funding to priority projects and \$57,091.61 in current funding. The Commission will consider award of funding for a portion of the projects in later items.

Commissioner Hutchinson said a wise man once said it's less important how we got here than where we go from here. That wise man was former Commissioner Don Cates. Commissioner Hutchinson explained how the Façade Improvement Grant program came to be.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said in 2021, the Commission dedicated \$630,000.00 to the Façade Improvement Project. Monies expended on completed projects totaled \$369,390.43, with extended projects estimated at \$229,009.45. The project remainder is \$31,600.12. In 2021, the Commission did not act on four projects that were labeled as alternatives. The Commission labeled those as "priority".

On February 8, 2023, the Commission approved \$250,000 in funding for Round 2. Applications were solicited until March 15, 2023, with some changes to the program:

The impact zone was extended to the "eye shot" of the Main Street corridor. No more than twenty-five percent of the award may be used toward signage. No more than twenty-five percent of the award may be used toward windows. Applicants are encouraged to use more than fifty percent of the award toward visual impact.

On March 29, 2023, the Commission awarded \$53,258.50 in Priority Funding (Gunn, Doan and Keller) and another \$57,091.61 in 2023 Funding (Magna-Dry, Gerritzen and the Masons). Today, the commission would consider additional applicants.

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E. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Front Street Merchant:

-David and Cheryl Hickel will provide details. Front Street Merchant have requested \$17,955.16 in priority grant funding to improve the building located at 200 West Front Street, Claflin, Kansas. The \$5,985.05 match by the applicant equates to 25% of the project.

Cheryl Hickel said her building was 78 years old and was previously a gas station. She turned it into a boutique, and they added storage buildings. They want to make it look like a single building.

Commissioner Reif said he visited the store recently and was very impressed.

Commissioner Reif moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Front Street Merchant for the building located at 200 West Front Street, Claflin, Kansas, in the amount of \$17,955.16. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

F. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Tara Lee Jenkinson:

-Tara Jenkinson will provide details. Ms. Jenkinson has requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 1104 Main, Great Bend, Kansas. This building houses Crazy Beautiful Salon. The \$12,778.49 match by the applicant equates to 39% of the project.

Tara Jenkinson said she purchased the building one year ago and had updated the inside, but the outside is in rough shape.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Jenkinson if she planned to paint the south side. Jenkinson said she had spoken to a mason, and it would need to be completely redone, a large project.

Commissioner Zimmerman to approve a Façade Improvement Grant to Tara Lee Jenkinson for the building located at 1104 Main, Great Bend, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: CP Real Estate, LLC:

-Barry Stalcup will provide details. CP Real Estate, LLC has requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 926 Main, Great Bend, Kansas. The \$13,522.30 match by the applicant equates to 40% of the project.

Barry Stalcup said the old awning was concrete and 110' long. It was starting to fall so it had been removed. He plans to put up a new awning, replace doors and paint the north side of the building.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for CP Real Estate, LLC for the building located at 926 Main, Great Bend, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-6305.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that Stalcup was providing \$13,522.30 to meet the grant match of 40%.

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voted aye. Motion passed.

H. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Andrews Investments LLC:

-Aaron Andrews will provide details. Andrews Investments LLC has requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 2107 Forest, Great Bend, Kansas. The \$19,334.00 match by the applicant equates to 49% of the project.

Aaron Andrews said he and his brother acquired the building approximately 2 years ago. The attorney currently in the building was winding down his business and Andrews planned a large renovation. This building was tied in to another one and they would like them to match.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it tied into a bigger project. Andrews said it did, they were still awaiting some approvals, but even if it did not work out with KU Med, they still plan to renovate.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the Façade Improvement Grant for Andrews Investments LLC for the building located at 2107 Forest, Great Bend, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

I. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Sauer Chiropractic and Sports Clinic, PA:

-Dr. Aaron and Jill Sauer will provide details. Sauer Chiropractic and Sports Clinic, PA has requested \$20,000.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 6 N Main, Ellinwood, Kansas. The \$19,334.00 match by the applicant equates to 35% of the project.

Dr. Aaron and Jill Sauer said they had been in the location for 32 years. The building is approximately 150 years old. They want to refresh the building with paint, windows, doors and a new awning.

Commissioner Schlessiger said the business looks great now, but the improvements will freshen it up. A lot of kids go there for sports physicals and chiropractic care.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Sauer Chiropractic and Sports Clinic, PA for the building located at 6 N Main, Ellinwood, Kansas, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

J. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Great Bend, LLC:

-Kim Vink, Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate, will provide details. Great Bend, LLC has requested \$19,700.00 in grant funding to improve the building located at 1709 Main, Great Bend, Kansas. The \$6,249.38 match by the applicant equates to 25% of the project.

Kim Vink, Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate, said she had been the property manager for the location for a period of time. Goodwill had been in part of the building for some time with Bin Shop'n in another area. District Court will use space during the HVAC project. One set of doors were original to the building and would be replaced as well as improvements to the other doors. They will paint the front of the building and use to attract another business for the remainder of the building.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Great Bend, LLC for the building located at 1709 Main, Great Bend, Kansas, in the amount of \$19,700.00. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

K. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Carly Liebl:

-Remington Miller, Millers of Claflin, will present on behalf of Carly Liebl. Ms. Liebl has requested \$5,839.45 in grant funding to improve the building located at 221 Main, Claflin, Kansas. This building houses Sunflower Cookie Co. The \$1,946.48 match by the applicant equates to 25% of the project.

Remington Miller, Millers of Claflin, said he was here on behalf of Carly Liebl. Liebl had built an unbelievable business, Sunflower Cookie Company, and ships nationwide. The building was one of the few that did not have the old west front and would like it to match the theme on the street.

Commissioner Zimmerman said it was nice to see so many applicants from the different communities.

Commissioner Esfeld said Millers of Claflin was one of the inspirations for the Facade Improvement Grant Project. She said Commissioner Hutchinson wanted a way to give back to the communities and the project was a way to accomplish that by enhancing values.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Carly Liebl for the building located at 221 Main, Claflin, Kansas, in the amount of \$5,839.45. Direct the Commission Chair to sign Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

L. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Moore Development Corporation:

-Lane Moore will provide details. Moore Development Corporation has requested \$19,069.58 in grant funding to improve the building located at 1201 Kansas, Great Bend, Kansas. The \$6,356.52 match by the applicant equates to 25% of the project.

Lane Moore said the building houses four businesses. It was a masonry building with metal cladding on the west end. They plan to paint the entire building, a new awning and make it look like one building.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve a Façade Improvement Grant for Moore Development Corporation for the building located at 1201 Kansas, Great Bend, Kansas, in the amount of \$19,069.58. Direct the Commission Chair to sign the Grant Agreement with the Applicant. Direct the County Administrator to encumber the award amount from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment - General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

M. BOARD APPOINTMENT: Barton County Planning Commission:

-Judy Goreham, Environmental Manager, will provide details. At last week's meeting, the Commission appointed Dr. Dan Witt to the Barton County Planning Commission. Due to a scheduling conflict, he would be unable to attend meetings and has respectfully resigned. The Commission will be asked to appoint another candidate. Although all applicants must reside in Barton County, the majority of members must be from the unincorporated area.

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dy Goreham, Environmental Manager, said Dr. Witt was contractually obligated and unable to attend the meetings of the Planning Commission. Goreham asked the commission to accept his resignation and appoint one of the three remaining applicants, Junior Welsch, Shane Suchy or Bob Fairbanks.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to regretfully accept the resignation of Dr. Dan Witt and move to appoint Shane Suchy to the Barton County Planning Commission for an uncompensated position terming March 31, 2026.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if there were any other nominations.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to appoint Junior Welsch to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Hutchinson said we have two nominations. Now we need to figure out how we vote on this.

Commissioner Schlessiger said she felt like the Planning and Zoning Commission should have a strong agricultural presence on it. So because those are people that actually have to live and abide under Planning and Zoning Commission rules and regulations. Although all three of these applicants do live inside Great Bend, I feel like Junior has a stronger connection with agriculture with his job and what he does for the community. So that is why I guess I would nominate him.

Commissioner Hutchinson said I like the fact that he was previously on the City Council.

Commissioner Schlessiger said that too.

Commissioner Esfeld said all three are very worthy. I had visited with Shane and you both had some good experience so we can not go wrong either way really. Shane has a lot of experience at this in his construction business as well and so yeah, you are both fine candidates.

Commissioner Hutchinson said okay, so well, let us start with the latter first. Junior, so we have a nomination for Junior Welsch, is there a second.

Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Esfeld voted nay.

Dr. Dan Witt thanked the commissioners for the opportunity. He had wanted to serve to try to prevent the solar development wanting to come to Barton County near Cheyenne Bottoms. He has a petition with numerous signatures opposing it. Thursdays, himself and Dr. Durett will be teaching at a brand-new medical school, the first new medical school in Kansas since 1905.

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor, said since Dr. Witt brought up the solar topic, he wanted to remind the public to let the Planning Commission know of any concerns they have if it would come to a public hearing.

N. COUNTY WEBSITE: SOCS – Simplified Online Communication System:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details the details. For the past several years, Barton County's website, www.bartoncounty.org, has been hosted by the Foundation for Educational Services (FES / SOCS). It is suggested that the County enter into another three-year period for services at a cost of \$5,225.00 per year. It is noted that the cost remains unchanged from the 2017 renewal.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, said in 2019, county personnel undertook a site update. It was suggested that the county enter into another three-year period of service.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to approve the contract agreement submitted by the Foundation for Educational Services (FES / SOCS) for the Barton County Website for a period of three years beginning 01/28/2023 and ending 01/27/2026 at a cost of \$5,225.00 annually. The annual cost of \$5,225.00 is to be paid from the General Finance Account of the General Fund, Economic Development Line, 001-26-6880.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Shawn Hutchinson will present. Any Commissioner may make a motion for the board to recess to executive session at this time as allowed by K.S.A. 75-4319. Any motion must contain the justification for the executive session, the subject matter to be discussed, any individuals in addition to the board who will attend the executive session and the time at which the regular session shall resume.

At 10:10 A.M., Commissioner Esfeld moved that the Commission go into Executive Session for a period of twenty minutes or let us, how about we say until 10:30. The subject to be discussed will be consultation with the County Counselor to discuss matters related to attorney client privilege as this matter is protected by attorney / client privilege. The reason this needs to be discussed in Executive Session is to provide the attorney / client privilege and the following people to be involved: the County Commission and our Administrator, Matt Patzner and County Counselor.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

At 10:31 A.M., Commissioner Zimmerman moved to return to regular session with no action taken.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Sheriff Brian Bellendir – discussion regarding Central Kansas Community Corrections policies. After much discussion, Sheriff Bellendir asked the commission for immediate change in policy or immediate change in leadership.

Commissioner Hutchinson – said the Sheriff brought this issue before them a month ago and they had been working on it. A Policy Advisory Board for CKCC exists and seemed to have been somewhat inactive, only meeting quarterly. They were asked to meet more often and now are meeting monthly. Three seats were added to the board, one is held by Commissioner Schlessiger and another by a former KDOC investigator. A third seat was still open and he invited someone from the Sheriff's Department to fill that seat.

Patrick Hoffman – this would take time to resolve.

The complete meeting may be watched through Microsoft Teams® at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3IXC0ce>

VI. ADJOURN.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to adjourn at 11:17 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2023-04

WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

WHEREAS, autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that affects essential human behaviors such as social interaction, the ability to communicate ideas and feelings, imagination, self-regulation, and the ability to establish relationships with others. One in 36 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, totaling over five million young people and adults; and

WHEREAS, acceptance comes with understanding, and while individuals and families living with autism face this life every day, there is still a need for factual education and awareness for the general public. Knowledge promotes acceptance because it allows people to understand how to be more inclusive and build better, more supportive experiences; and

WHEREAS, our communities can help these individuals and families through the gift of grace and understanding and by learning more about the signs of autism, understanding the challenges faced by those with autism spectrum disorders, and supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that April, 2023, is recognized as World Autism Acceptance Month; and

FURTHER, citizens are urged to celebrate differences as we work to build an inclusive society where individuals with autism live fully through connection and acceptance; and

FURTHER, while we will work to educate others about autism, we understand that fostering acceptance to ignite change through improved support and opportunities in education, employment, accessible housing, affordable health care and comprehensive long-term services and supports that are vital to our community.

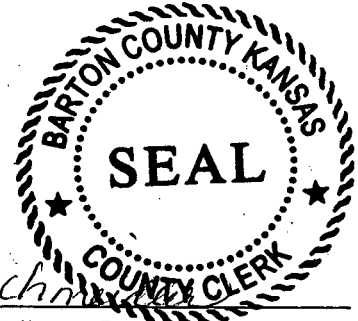
ADOPTED THIS 5th day of April, 2023.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman

ATTEST:





Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk



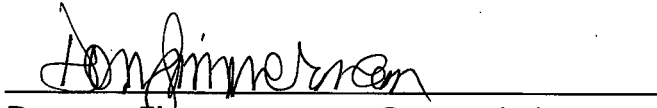
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner



Duane A Reif, Commissioner



Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner



Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

PROCLAMATION 2023-05

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

WHEREAS, the week of April 3 – 9, 2023, is National Public Health Week, and the 2023 theme is “Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health”; and

WHEREAS, a person's health status can differ drastically by where they live due to social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers, lack of economic opportunity, environmental threats, lack of access to healthy food and health care; and

WHEREAS, U.S. life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession, and only in 2018 began to increase again; U.S life expectancy then dropped again in 2020 and 2021 by a full year, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, reproductive health, substance misuse, natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity; and

WHEREAS, public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease and in establishing today's disease surveillance and control systems; and

WHEREAS, preventable risk factors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease; and 6 in 10 U.S adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more, leading to 7 of every 10 deaths annually being caused by chronic disease in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities, and Barton County and other local, state governments and public health leaders have declared racism a public health crisis.

WHEREAS, Barton County public health personnel practice trauma-informed care, an approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma, to include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), has played in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Barton County public health professionals recognize the cultural differences found throughout our communities and work to assure health equities for all persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Barton County Board of Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that the week of April 3 – 9, 2023, is observed as Public Health Week in Barton County; and

FURTHER, that the Commissioners commend the Barton County Public Health staff, members of the Health Department Advisory Committee as well as all partners collaborating with Public Health to help our families, friends, neighbors and co-workers to respect our cultural differences and to better understand preventive habits to live longer, healthier lives; and

FURTHER, that the Commission urges all citizens to be mindful of their own health and to practice a healthy lifestyle.


Dated this 5th day of April, 2023.

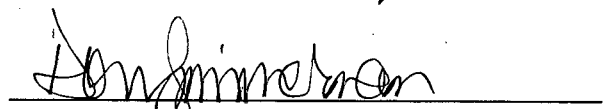
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman


Barb Esfeld, Commissioner

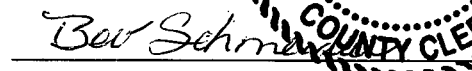

Duane A Reif, Commissioner


Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner


Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:




Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk

PROCLAMATION 2023-06

National Public Safety Communications Officer Week April 9-15, 2023

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of all emergency service personnel is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Barton County Communications Center; and,

WHEREAS, Communications Officers are the first and most critical contact citizens have with emergency services; and,

WHEREAS, Communications Officers are the single vital link for emergency responders, monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and insuring their safety; and,

WHEREAS, Barton County Communications Officers have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, dispatchers exhibit compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, declares the week of April 9 through 15, 2023 to be National Public Safety Communications Officer Week in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our communities and citizens safe.

ADOPTED THIS 5th day of April, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



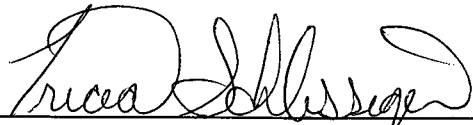
Shawn Hutchinson, Chairman



Barb Esfeld, Commissioner



Duane A Reif, Commissioner

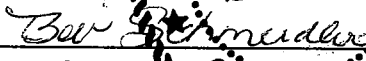


Tricia Schlessiger, Commissioner



Donna Zimmerman, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Bev Schmalzer
County Clerk

