

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

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April 30, 2024

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 30th day of April 2024, at the 1500 Kansas location.

Members present:

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

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

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

Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Item E, HVAC Renovation Project: Courthouse Blinds and move Item E to Item F.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

-There was no Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY ENGINEER: Kansas Department of Transportation, Contract for Preliminary Engineering (PE) Design Services by Consultant (Cost Plus Net Fee Agreement), Project No. 5 C-5265-01:

-Barry McManaman, County Engineer, will provide details. Barton County was awarded Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) project No. 5 C-5265-01 to evaluate no passing zones and install signing on approximately 77 miles of County blacktop roads in the southwest portion of the County. KDOT will pay 100% of the costs for design, construction and inspection of the project. After a public notice period, one firm expressed interest in the project. The County's selection team recommends Kirkham Michael to do the design work. KDOT has prepared a three-party agreement for the design services with the total compensation not to exceed \$34,272.86. Barton County will pay Kirkham Michael for their services and KDOT will reimburse the County for 100% of the cost up to the maximum compensation of \$34,272.86.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said this was a continuation of the consideration of no passing zone analysis and signing project. The agreement to be considered today was for the design work. McManaman said Commissioner Zimmerman, Darren Williams and himself were on a selection team to recommend a design firm. Kirkham Michael was the only firm to express interest.

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Commissioner Zimmerman moved to approve Kansas Department of Transportation Agreement No. 187-24 for Preliminary Engineering (PE) Design Services by Consultant (Cost Plus Net Fee Agreement), Project No. 5 C-5265-01. Direct the Administrator's Office to encumber \$34,272.86 for engineering services provided by Kirkham Michael from the Capital Improvement Fund, Road and Bridge Line, 071-00-6335. Reimbursements from KDOT received in 2024 will be remitted to the Capital Improvement Fund, Other Refunds and Reimbursements Line, 071-00-4585. Reimbursements received in 2025 will be remitted to the Road and Bridge Fund, Other Refunds and Reimbursements, Line 002-00-4585. Commissioner Reif seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. COUNTY ENGINEER: Kansas Department of Transportation Federal Funds Exchange:

-Mr. McManaman will provide details. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has offered to exchange the County's annual federal funds distribution for state funds at an exchange rate of ninety percent. The County has the option of using the full share of federal funds in the amount of \$183,115.66 on a project designed with all federal requirements and restrictions. If the exchange is accepted, the County would have the freedom to use the money on road and bridge projects without following federal requirements. There is \$164,804.09 available for reimbursement if the exchange offer is accepted.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said this was the same as had been done for several years.

Commissioner Esfeld said that was more than anticipated. McManaman said last year the amount was \$171,000. They had talked about a reduction of 12%-13% but it ended up only being about half that amount.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to accept the KDOT federal funds exchange rate of ninety percent making the amount available to Barton County \$164,804.09. Authorize the County Engineer to submit the Request to Exchange Federal Funds to KDOT. Once received, said monies are to be deposited in the Road and Bridge Fund, State Funds Received Line, 002-00-4325.

Commissioner Schlessiger seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: RFP – Office Furniture:

-Matt Patzner, County Administrator, will provide details. On April 22, 2024, the Barton County Administrator's Office let an RFP on behalf of Central Kansas Community Corrections. The Office Furniture bids were to include select pieces for a suite of offices at 1806 – 12th, Great Bend, Kansas. Furniture must be of sufficient quality to ensure endurance for multi-year use, must be delivered assembled or be assembled on site at CKCC and the majority of furniture should be installed within one month of bid award. Bids were accepted until noon, April 25, 2024.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details and said two bids were received. OPI was the low bid and local bid.

Commissioner Esfeld said the other bid was about double the OPI bid and asked if it were from Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Patzner said it was from Kansas Correctional Industries.

Commissioner Hutchinson noted that the funds were coming from CKCC program funds, not tax dollars. Patzner said the funds had to be expended by the end of the fiscal year or lose the funds.

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to award the RFP – Office Furniture bid to OPI as outlined in the bid specifications. Total cost of office furniture, \$7,997.00, to be paid from the CKCC Fund, Office Furniture and Equipment Line, 095-70-6175.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

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All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. COMMISSION UPDATE: Meeting Review:

-Commissioner Duane Reif and Commissioner Tricia Schlessiger will provide details. On April 24, Commissioner Reif attended a multi-County meeting in Ness City that focused on western Kansas County issues. On April 25, Commissioner Schlessiger attended the Western Kansas Delegation meeting in Dodge City. At this meeting, attendees were able to meet with state and federal legislators.

Commissioner Reif said Trego, Lane, Hodgeman, Rush, Gove and Ness counties had quarterly meetings for all the commissioners. Last week, they invited Graham and Barton counties to join. The other counties involved, excluding Barton, each had less than 3,000 in population. What caught his attention were some of their struggles that we may take for granted in Barton County. Some of them have hospitals that may be closing and may be turned into health care centers where a patient could only be kept for 24 hours. Some of them contract EMS services and some share with neighboring counties which means a delayed response. Some of the counties purchased used patrol cars but they also do not have as many miles to cover. Some counties also do not have officers patrolling some nights, just on call. Barton County had three hospitals and four separate EMS services. Commissioner Reif said it was informative and positive to share with other counties. He would like them to keep attending, maybe take turns. Commissioner Reif said he always had to refer to Commissioner Esfeld saying Barton County was the best county in Kansas.

Commissioner Esfeld said she had a commissioner from another county ask if they were crazy building another hospital when he saw the construction in Ellinwood. She told him that the hospitals here were not county funded and that made a huge difference.

Commissioner Reif said a lot of the surrounding counties rely on the services in Barton County.

Commissioner Schlessiger said Tracey Mann was in attendance and there was discussion about the farm bill being rewritten. It was a five-year bill and had already been extended one year and may have to be extended for another year. Mann pointed out that 81% of the farm bill was food and nutrition with only 19% was farm related. Mann talked about the small business committee he was on. They were trying to do regulation rollback which created hardships on small businesses. There was discussion on the essential air service, a federal bill. Sara Arnberger said they were trying to get the designation back for the Great Bend Airport. Senator Marshall sent his District Director and State Director who also spoke about the farm bill. They said it was not the worst farm bill to extend because it was written by Pat Roberts. They discussed the NPR and said it was funded by the public and should be neutral but had done some things not considered neutral. Grants for technical assistance and wastewater were also discussed. Ford County was launching their big solar project. A State Senator talked about a bill just passed regarding eminent domain and that it did not affect utilities. It was passed at the state level, and they said it would have no effect on the grain belt express. There would be more federal pressure to approve energy projects because the coasts were demanding more energy. The center of the United States created the energy and pushed it to the coasts. Immigration reform would not go anywhere because no one could agree so nothing was happening. Commissioner Schlessiger said she asked about H2A visas and H1B visas. She asked why H2A visas could not be done in a timely manner. She was told because of mismanagement of the federal system. Basically, the resources had been pushed to those people coming across the border and that took away those people who processed the visas. Chamber health plans would be thrown out and cannot have a health care plan together without having a common core. Senator Marshall's office had been sitting in on the monthly meetings with GMD5 concerning the Quivira water. FAFSA overhaul had caused a drastic decrease in applications for college and made it more difficult to get scholarships.

Commissioner Zimmerman said she appreciated both commissioners attending and bringing back good information.

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Commissioner Hutchinson thanked them also. It makes them stronger as a team, having more knowledge.

E. HVAC RENOVATION PROJECT: Courthouse Blinds:

-Mr. Patzner will provide details. As the HVAC renovation project nears completion, it is suggested that the purchase of like blinds be purchased for the Courthouse. The blinds, which will provide a cohesive look throughout the building, will provide for better light and heat control. Total cost for the blinds, purchased through Brentwood Builders, is \$59,718.18. Lead time for purchase is four weeks, with installation taking another two weeks.

Matt Patzner, County Administrator, presented details.

Commissioner Hutchinson said unfortunately, they would not be installed when we move back in but they did their due diligence to ensure the best price.

Commissioner Reif said we were focused on the HVAC Project and then realized the need for the blinds after the fact.

Commissioner Reif moved to purchase blinds from Brentwood Builders for the Courthouse. Total cost of project, \$59,718.18, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund, Building and Fixed Equipment – General Line, 071-00-6305.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

No Executive Session Held

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Chairman Barb Esfeld 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.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hutchinson – last week there was a report of a gunman at a facility in Great Bend. He wanted to give a shout out to law enforcement for the amazing job handling the incident and the quick response. Very brave men and women.

Sean Kelly – said everyone needed to be weather aware and keep their eyes to the sky for severe weather.

VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schlessiger moved to adjourn at 9:42 A.M.

Commissioner Reif seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Barb Esfeld, Chairman