



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
September 8, 2025**

2101 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Family & Child Resource Center, Room #124

8:30 AM

[District 1 – John Ford, Member](#)

[District 2 – Greg McKinley, Chair](#)

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Vice-Chair](#)

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Ford	County Commissioner	Present	8:30 AM
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Present	8:30 AM
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	8:30 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	8:30 AM
Jacob Hansen	County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Joshua Gering	EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Emma Loura	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:32 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget & Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Mark Claussen		Present	8:30 AM
Michael Rezkalla	Pawnee Mental Health Director	Present	9:15 AM
Carol Sommers	Customer Service Rep II	Present	9:30 AM
Donna Borgerding	Vehicle Supervisor	Present	9:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:30 AM
Shilo Heger	County Treasurer	Present	9:30 AM
Eric Martin	Pawnee Mental Health Recovery Services Manager	Present	9:30 AM
Michele Reid	Human Resources Manager	Present	9:30 AM
Tande Lentz	Assistant Vehicle Supervisor	Present	9:30 AM

Amanda Webb	Planning & Special Projects Director	Present	9:38 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	10:14 AM
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	10:18 AM

Pledge of Allegiance**Public Comment**

Gering said there is a funeral service for the PCEMS Director on September 19th. RCEMS requested to provide an on-duty ambulance to cover the Blue Township area of Pottawatomie County so their members may attend the funeral. RCEMS also requested the use of an off-duty ambulance and crew to participate in the funeral procession. There will be no impact to EMS operations in Riley County.

The Board agreed by consensus to both and expressed their condolences.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had my monthly appointment with the doctor. All things considered it went well. We continue to try and tweak some things in my routine, but we have plateaued at least for the moment anyway. Going to keep working at it. Also Thursday afternoon we had the monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Mental Health Task Force that I attended via Zoom. Some of the items of discussion included a summary from the recent Mental Health Summit out in Hays, a Flint Hills Mental Health Task Force Charter and who that may include from around the region. We also got an area agency update from all in attendance including the CSU, Hospital and Pawnee as well as some updates from within the CCBHC model, and a very in-depth conversation on the local strains from outside entities to our social services network. It's a dialog that's going to continue to come up from many different sectors of our community.

Friday morning, I met with a group, a local business individual, at Radina's here downtown to discuss some interworking from within the county, challenges, issues and just the future in general and what it may mean moving forward. Great discussion overall and I'm sure there will be further dialog as well. Friday afternoon I listened in on the K-State State of University address via live stream. I thought President Dr. Richard Linton did a good job laying out the goals and directive moving forward for the University. I like how this address is being done upfront and at the beginning of the academic year as well.

Saturday, I went to the K-State-Army game. Beautiful afternoon and evening for some football. Also had tickets to the Ahearn Appreciation BBQ which was good as well. I ran into a lot of people at several tailgates I hadn't seen in a while so that was good too, but as for the game itself not so good as the Wildcats drop a stunner to the Black Knights 24-21 in an ugly game particularly in the second half. This is looking like a very long and disappointing season.

Sunday afternoon was the 9/11 Day of Remembrance Family Event and Picnic over at CiCo

Park. The Flint Hills Volunteer Center distributed 400 brand-new athletic shoes to local area youth, as well as a brand-new pair of socks and a hope tote. Shoes were fitted by our first responders. RCPD was onsite to serve a picnic dinner and emergency vehicles were on display onsite with other family-friendly events going on as well. Sunday was the first full start of the NFL season. So I spent some time watching the full slate of games including my Jacksonville Jaguars winning their home openers vs the Carolina Panthers 26-10 after a nearly two-hour weather delay as well. Also spent some time catching up on correspondence and preparing for what looks to be a rather busy week.

Focke's Comments:

On Friday, I caught up on some phone calls and e-mails. The pre-Law Board meeting was re-scheduled due to the KSU meeting that Director Peete was attending. The chair was out of town and unable to come. We will meet on Tuesday, this week. Friday evening, I joined some friends at Old Chicago and got into the football spirit when the KSU pep band came.

Saturday evening, I went to the football game. It was disappointing. The Army pre-game events combat helicopters, sky divers landing on the football field and the Army band playing with the KSU band were all great.

Sunday, I went to church, did readings for the day and helped the choir on some special effects. In the afternoon, I took a long walk with the dog at Marlatt Park. Afterwards, I did some house and yard work and reviewed the agenda and documents for today's meeting.

McKinley's Comments:

On Thursday evening, we attended a presentation at the Discovery Center about Thane Baker. His daughter has written a book called "Running in Borrowed Shoes." He came from Elkhart, Kansas and walked on the track team. In 1952, at the Olympics in Helsinki, he won a silver medal in the 200 meter. In 1956, at the Olympics in Melbourne he won a bronze in the 200, a silver in the 100 and gold in the 4 x 100 relay that set a world record. It was a great talk with stories of his friendships that have continued from the track team, K-State and the Olympics. At age 92, he is the oldest living USA Olympic medalist in track and third in the world.

On Saturday I was able to attend the K-State football game. It started with a flyover by four Army helicopters, three skydivers dropping onto the field and the Fort Riley band joined KSU band on the field. Including the end of the game, it was a big celebration of the Army.

Business Meeting

1. Agreement for Professional Services

Move to approve the Agreement for Professional Services with Schwab Eaton.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford

NAYS:	None
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2. Agreement for Engineering Services for Riley County Bridge G.0-12.6 Crooked Creek Rd

Move to approve the agreement with BG Consultants for the Crooked Creek Bridge Replacement Project.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Ford
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

3. Agreement for Engineering Services for Riley County Bridge G.4.18.5 Kansas Ave

Move to approve the Agreement for Engineering Services with BG Consultants for Riley County Bridge on Kansas Ave.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

4. University Park Water Line Relocation Agreement

Move to approve the agreement between the Rural Water District #1, and the University Park Sewer Benefit District.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Ford
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

5. Conservation District Budget Certification

Move to approve the County Budget Certification to the Riley County Conservation District in the amount of \$55,136 for calendar year 2026.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

6. Proclamation for Recovery Month

Move to approve the Recovery Month Proclamation.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Ford

AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

7. Proclamation for Standing up Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction

Move to approve the Standing Up Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction Proclamation.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

8. Tax Roll Corrections

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Ford
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

9. Discuss Policy Breakfast

10. Discuss Joint City/County/County Meeting

Review Minutes

11. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Sept 4, 2025 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

Review Tentative Agenda

12. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM Rich Vargo, County Clerk

13. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditure reports.

9:15 AM Michael Rezkalla, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director

14. Pawnee Mental Health Services Update

Rezkalla presented the Pawnee Mental Health Services update and discussed Recovery Month.

Martin discussed Recovery Services at Pawnee Mental Health.

9:30 AM**Press Conference**

15. Public Notice - Alvin Perez (2 minutes)

McMillan said a culvert replacement project on Tabor Valley Road is scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 9, 2025. The project is located approximately 6/10th mile west of the Riley County/Wabaunsee County Line. Tabor Valley Road will be closed to through traffic from Tabor Valley Lane (Riley County) east to Tall Grass Road (Wabaunsee County) during the project. The project is expected to be completed by Tuesday, September 9, 2025, weather permitting.

16. Presentation of Recovery Month Proclamation - Greg McKinley and Michael Rezkalla (3-5 minutes)

McKinley presented the Recovery Month Proclamation to Rezkalla.

17. Presentation of Standing up Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction Proclamation - Greg McKinley and Mark Claussen (3-5 minutes)

McKinley presented the Standing up Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction Proclamation to Claussen.

18. Presentation of retirement plaque for years of service to Carol Sommers - Greg McKinley (2-3 minutes)

McKinley presented a retirement plaque to Carol Sommers, Treasurer's Office, for 22 years of service.

9:50 AM**Jacob Hansen, County Counselor**

19. Administrative Work Session

20. Staff Update

Hansen presented the Counselor's project list.

21. BOCC Findings of Fact on Annexation of 4790 Skyway Drive, Manhattan, Kansas

Hansen presented the Findings of Fact on Annexation of 4790 Skyway Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 090825-38, Resolution making findings concerning the City of Manhattan's request to annex A 3.21 Acre tract of land."

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford

SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

10:10 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

22. Monthly Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works monthly projects update.

10:25 AM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

23. Staff Update - Riley County Historical Museum

Hensler presented a monthly Museum staff update.

10:40 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

24. Commission Chamber Remodel

Ellermann presented the proposed Commission Chamber remodel options.

The Board discussed the options.

Meyer said the furniture cost is \$32,000 and rewiring \$10,000 plus the cost for flooring, walls and paint.

Ellermann stated his CIP request for the project totals \$250,000.

The Board agreed by consensus for staff to proceed with the remodel of the BOCC Chambers.

11:10 AM Ford left the meeting.

11:00 AM Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

25. CIP Work Session

Phillips presented the CIP Work Session documents.

The Board asked Phillips to bring back the revised list when Ford is available.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the County Officials Luncheon.

RESULT:	Adopted Passed
MOVER:	County Commissioner Greg McKinley
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke
NAYS:	None

12:00 PM County Officials Luncheon

26. County Officials Luncheon Agenda

Announcements

Riley County Planning Board/Board of Zoning Appeals meeting will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m. in Room #124 at the Family & Child Resource Center, 2101 Claflin.