



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
September 25, 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
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Director of Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
Bob Isaac	Planner	Present	8:50 AM
Josh Brewer	Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Flint Hills Executive Director	Present	9:21 AM
Rob Voelker		Present	9:26 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Hansen asked the Board to amend the agenda to move the executive session from 9:55 a.m. to his administrative time at 9:00 a.m.

Move to amend the agenda and move the executive session from 9:55 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. today.

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

Meyer reminded the Board the phone system migration will begin Friday at 6:00 p.m. which

will cause intermittent phone disruption to Riley County phone lines over the weekend.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I attended the September Intergovernmental Luncheon out at Rockin K's in the K-State Edge District. Guest speaker was Karen Goos from Kansas State University. She discussed in depth the K-State enrollment management and recruitment efforts. We followed that up with some updates from all the entities in attendance as well. Very well attended once again and it was good to see everyone is in full swing as we move into fall.

Also Monday I spoke with Peter Lazarz from MakeMyMove to get an update on our Home in the Heartland grant program. As we are aware we are indeed a finalist for the grant, but State Treasury has made everyone aware the funding exceeded the 1.5 million appropriated for the 2025 program year. They are asking for a review and possible resubmission with a reduced funding amount; however we have been informed to keep ours as is and it will be endorsed as such. No timeline on when we will hear back for sure.

Tuesday morning I spoke with Audra Goldsmith, Project Manager, Stepping Up, Council of State Governments Justice Center. I saw her presentation virtually last month during the Mental Health Summit out in Hays and discussed it with Riley County Community Corrections Director, Megan Lewis. She will be planning on presenting to us sometime in the future and is already working with community partners here locally including Pawnee Mental Health Center and the Court Services Office to name a few. Several are wanting to reengage apparently as they were in the process back in 2016-17 she thought. Look forward to seeing the presentation when it comes our way.

Wednesday afternoon myself and Jacob Hansen attended the Kansas Association of Counties business meeting and then the Legislative Policy Committee meeting at the Geary County Health Department. Business meeting ran kind of long but there's a lot they are working on including the Annual Conference in December. The policy meeting went well, a very good dialog in the areas of tax/budget, government operations, land use/housing, and several other policy issues. We were able to get some specific language on RHIDs that supports the idea of opting in rather than opting out of potential projects.

Also Wednesday afternoon I came downtown to the CPE Building and checked out the progress being made on the new windows. Amazing first off how quickly they are getting these in, a second how much life and light they give the board chambers and offices. Should have been done years ago to be honest.

Focke's Comments:

Monday I attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon after our BOCC meeting. The main presentation was by the Vice Provost for Enrollment for KSU, Karen Goos. She gave a very detailed presentation on KSU enrollment management (recruitment efforts) over the past years. There has been a 37% increase in enrollment since efforts have been studied and emphasized, with the highest freshmen class in 2025 for many years. Also discussed were

legislative items of interest and activities and announcements from the group. The next meeting will be Monday, October 27, 2025

Tuesday morning I met with Lori Muir and Cory Meyer to look at potential finishes for the BOCC Chambers remodel. We picked out several carpet samples, wood finishes, and chair coverings and will get samples from the subcontractor. Lori was going to Salina for a meeting and will stop by their showroom and pick up some samples. Later, I stopped in to see Jacob Hansen to get updates on the progress of easements for the Keats Lagoon project.

Wednesday, I worked on today's meeting agenda and documents, had a physical therapy session and then went to bell choir practice.

McKinley's Comments:

Monday noon we had the Intergovernmental Luncheon. Our speaker was Karen Goos who is provost for enrollment management at Kansas State. It was interesting what they have done to successfully increase enrollment. One of the surprising things they have done is to take visiting families on a bus tour of Manhattan.

Later I had a meeting with two locals who wanted Riley County to hire a county administrator. They also have a group that wants to help Riley County going forward.

Business Meeting

1. Supplemental Agreement

Move to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with BG Consultants, Inc for Crooked Creek Bridge (G.0-12.6) replacement.

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

2. Riley County Employee Action Form

Move to approve the requested Employee Action Forms.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Employee Action Forms for the following:

- Ethan Swan, a new hire, as a Volunteer Firefighter, in the Fire District #1 Department, at a Range TASND.

- Gabriel Larson, a new hire, as an AEMT, in the EMS/Ambulance Department, at a Range AEMT.

Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Sept 22, 2025 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

4. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

5. Executive Session to discuss security measures

Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairman McKinley, Vice Chairwoman Focke, and Commissioner Ford, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the Commission; and Cory Meyer, IT/GIS Director, recess into executive session to discuss matters relating to security measures that protect a public body or agency, public building or facility or the information system of a public body or agency, which would be jeopardized if discussed in an open meeting, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of discussing information technology security matters of the county, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:15 a.m.

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

Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

Move the record reflect no binding action was taken during the executive session.

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

9:15 AM**Bob Isaac, Planner**

6. Final Plat - Western Shore Acres Unit Five

Isaac presented the final plat, Western Shores Acres Unit Five.

Move to approve “Resolution No. 092525-41, A Resolution approving the Western Shore Acres Subdivision Unit Five plat and accepting the street rights of way, easements and licenses as shown to be dedicated on said plat.”

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

9:35 AM**Josh Brewer, Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Flint Hills Executive Director**

7. Potential project's alignment with Riley County RHID Policy

Brewer presented a potential project's alignment with the Riley County RHID Policy.

Brewer stated there is a piece of property between Spain and Casement which would be a candidate for a housing development.

Brewer said the townhomes would cost \$240,000 and the cottages would be \$172,000.

The Board discussed the proposal.

Adjournment

10:00 Move to adjourn.

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