



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
November 10, 2025**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Family Child and Resource Center RM #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
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	8:30 AM
Megan Lewis	Community Corrections Director	Present	8:30 AM
Steve Schurle	Assistant County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Doug Russell	Deputy Fire Chief of Operations	Present	8:32 AM
Rob Voelker		Present	8:33 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:34 AM
Tande Lentz	Assistant Vehicle Supervisor	Present	9:15 AM
Brandon Peoples	KMAN	Present	9:15 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:23 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had my monthly meeting with my doctor at Stormont Vail. Nothing really new to report we are going to hold steady as we work through the holidays and the New Year before making any potential changes.

Also Thursday afternoon I attended the November meeting of the Flint Hills Mental Health Task Force via Zoom. After some opening welcomes and introductions we got updates from all the various community partners in attendance went through the updated data dashboard, and discussed in depth current community concerns, challenges, and issues. Had a really good dialog and there are several items we will need to follow up on for sure.

Thursday evening I attended the Riley County Extension Annual Meeting out at Rockin K's up on the K-State Edge District. After some opening welcomes and introductions we had a greeting from Dr. Greg Hadley, Director of K-State Extension, approved the meeting minutes from last year, roll call of the 2026 members, an election of the 2026 Executive Board, a Nominating Committee report, Oath of Office for new officers, a series of special awards that were presented, and lastly, Daniel Skucius gave an interactive program titled "Do You Know Riley County K-State Extension?"

Saturday night I caught most of the K-State men's game in which they won 98-71 vs. Bellarmine to start the young season off at 2-0. The K-State women beat SMU 46-44 on a game winner at the end to start off 2-0 as well.

Sunday I watched as the Jacksonville Jaguars squandered a 19-point lead in the 4th quarter to lose to Houston 36-29 to fall to 5-4 on the season.

Looks like the United States Senate got a funding bill passed through January to hopefully end the government shutdown and impasse. Still has to go back and pass the house and then have the President sign as well, but it looks as if it has finally ended this time around which is good news for many.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon, I attended the Pre-Law Board Meeting at the RCPD offices. We went over the upcoming agenda for the November 17th meeting. John Matta will not be there, so I will have to chair the meeting.

Later that evening I went to Keats to pick up an easement but the property owner had left the paperwork at her home in another county. I didn't have any copies so she will mail the papers to our offices. Afterward, I stopped at three other properties but no one was home at any of them.

Friday, early morning, a neighbor and I went to Anneberg Park to see the start of the "Balloon Fest", but they were at another park. Their Facebook page showed Anneberg, but apparently, they had posted it incorrectly.

Later that evening the balloons were tethered at Anneberg and cars were allowed to drive through and see them light up. I walked over and around the park and it was a great sight.

Saturday, I did some work around the house and yard, getting prepared for colder weather. Later, I had lunch with a friend. That afternoon, I took the dog to Keats Park for a long walk and stopped by two of the properties that I had missed on Thursday, but still didn't catch anyone home.

Sunday afternoon, I reviewed the agenda and documents for today's meeting and caught up with other paperwork.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday evening I attended the Riley County Extension Council Annual Meeting. We heard some remarks from Gregg Hadley the Director of Kansas State Extension. The volunteers of the year were Lynne and Rusty Berry, well deserved.

Friday on Seth Child Road we saw the traffic on Anderson backed up past Westloop for the balloon festival.

Saturday we went to the K-State men's basketball game. They certainly know how to score this year. A fun team to watch.

Business Meeting

1. RCFD #1 Station 116 bid recommendation

Move to accept the low bid submitted by Bowman Contracting for Station 116 improvements including Alternate #1 in the amount of \$37,181.44.

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

2. Tax Roll Correction

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction.

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

3. Grant Agreement with City of Manhattan for Recovery Court Funding

Move to approve the Grant Agreement with the City of Manhattan for Recovery Court Funding.

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

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

4. Discuss Intergovernmental Luncheon

BOCC, Jacob, Michael and Rich

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Nov 6, 2025 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of the November 6th meeting.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

6. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

7. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year-to-date budget and expenditure reports.

9:15 AM

Vivienne Leyva, Steve Schurle, and Tande Lentz - Employee Day Committee

8. 2025 Employee Day Event Summary

Schurle and Lentz presented a review of the 2025 Employee Day Event.

9:30 AM

Press Conference

9:35 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

9. Administrative Work Session

10. Staff Update

Hansen presented the Counselor's staff update.

9:55 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

11. Request to Fill Custodial Worker I Position

Ellermann requested to fill the Custodial Worker I position.

Move to approve that the Public Works Department advertise for and fill the

Custodial Worker I position.

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 a Riley County Position Action Form for a Custodian I, in the Public Works Department, at a Range 1.

12. Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works update.

Adjournment

10:02 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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

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.

Riley County Offices will be closed Tuesday, November 11th due to the observance of the Veterans Day holiday.