



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 06, 2022**

115 North 4th Street
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

8:30 AM

[District 1 – John Ford, Chair](#)

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

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Member](#)

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
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	8:30 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed Director	Present	8:30 AM
Darrin Hobbs	Zoning Enforcement Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	8:30 AM
Michele Reid	Payroll & Benefits Spec & HR Associate	Present	8:30 AM
Christian Bright	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:30 AM
John Martens	Deputy Fire Chief	Present	8:30 AM
Tami Robison	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:36 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	9:00 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	9:00 AM
Greg McHenry	County Appraiser	Present	9:20 AM
Janna Williams	Flint Hills Regional Council	Present	10:15 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Reid, on behalf of REACH, introduced Darrin Hobbs and John Martens who will be new members to the REACH Committee.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I had first Community Leaders Zoom call of 2022. This call is with leadership from K-State, Ascension Via Christi, Lafene Health Center, City of Manhattan, and several of us from Riley County to discuss the ongoing efforts locally with Covid-19. Testing efforts and what that is looking like moving forward was discussed. The impact of the Omicron variant as well as the regular flu and Delta variant were talked about. Messaging and what policies will be in place from the various local entities were mentioned and discussed as well. We will meet again on January 17th to discuss these items further.

Tuesday afternoon our regularly scheduled January meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee was canceled due to the lack of agenda items. We will meet once again in April.

Tuesday afternoon I met with our legislative contract lobbyists Tom Bruno and Dick Carter to discuss the upcoming legislative session in Topeka, the legislative schedule, items of concern for Riley County, and what they may look like going through the process here in 2022. I thought the dialog went well and I appreciated both gentlemen's time to provide this conversation.

Tuesday night I watched K-State beat LSU 42-20 in the Texas Bowl in Houston, excellent way to end an up and down season. Looks like a very depleted basketball lost to Texas as well.

Wednesday night I attended the Ogden City Council meeting. It had been awhile since I've had the chance to get over there. Their new council members will take office next Monday.

McKinley's Comments:

Tuesday afternoon I met with our lobbyist at the state. Discussed what items we are wanting them to work on this year and how they could present the issues.

Attended the first half of the K-State basketball game. The seven eligible players did a great job, but I think they just wore out over the second half.

Also watched and thoroughly enjoyed the K-State football game.

In between I attended the Leonardville City Council. I went over our

Rural Economic Development Advisory Board including the make up and goals. I left some applications for the city office and asked them to talk to others that would be good members. I also discussed the ambulance options for north county.

Wednesday I took an application to someone I thought would be a good addition to the board.

I also cast our vote for adding the county Human Resource group to KAC.

Focke's Comments:

Monday afternoon I took my puppy to the vet for his booster shots.

Tuesday in the morning I had some lab work done at the doctor's office and a doctor appointment later. In the afternoon, I met with Clancy Holeman, Tom Bruno, and Dick Carter in the Commission Chambers. Under discussion was the upcoming legislative session and which issues they are going to lobby the legislators on. One that is very possible is the LAVTR. Other issues such as the County Home Rule and Dark Store will involve more education and networking with organizations and citizens. Other areas discussed were possible actions on income tax, food tax, and property tax. They suggested that we (commissioners) are more proactive with legislators and committees.

On Tuesday, I attended the board meeting of the Common Table organization. One of the items of discussion was to have a presence during discussion of use of the 9th grade building, as they will be moving to the high school in 2023.

Tuesday evening I watched the KSU football ball game.

Business Meeting

3. Purchase Authorization

Move to approve the Purchase Authorization for a 2022 Land Pride RCM5710 Mower from KanEquip at the price of \$24,578.13.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

4. Sign Tax Roll Corrections

Move to approve the Tax Roll Corrections.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

5. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

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

- Alicia Bartlett, a new hire, as a Records Assistant I, in the Register of Deeds Department, at a grade F Step 3, at \$16.22 per hour.
- Sam Wineland, an As-Needed Volunteer Fire Fighter, for EM/Fire District, for Separation from County Service, effective December 21, 2021.

Review Minutes

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jan 3, 2022
8:30 AM

Move to approve minutes.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

Review Tentative Agenda

7. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

8. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM**Elizabeth Ward, Human Resource Manager**

9. COVID-19 Vaccination Incentive Program Update

Ward presented the COVID-19 vaccination incentive program update.

Ward stated an end date for the incentive was not established originally. Ward said she would like to know if the Board would like to continue the incentive program.

Ward stated some staff have asked if there is an incentive for receiving the booster.

Ward said the City of Manhattan is offering a leave incentive.

Focke stated she would be in favor of a leave incentive.

Ward said from the human resources perspective it is to protect the work force so they are able to provide services. Ward stated the local health officials recommend the work force receive the booster.

The Board agreed by consensus to continue the current COVID-19 vaccination policy as previously approved.

New employees to Riley County who are regular, benefits eligible employees will receive a full scheduled day of annual leave granted by the Commissioners, which will be added to the annual leave accrual balance, on a one-time basis (not to be included in accrual calculations; subject to the same approval process as all other annual leave) AND \$100 added to your paycheck on Oct 8, 2021.

Riley County will pay the required taxes on the \$100 incentive, and this money will be excluded from KPERs withholdings, however, it will be included in your annual W-2 and included in your gross income.

Human Resources will follow the same process for collecting vaccination status as we have been. You may notify HR of your vaccination status by one of the following methods:

- Email hrrileyco@rileycountyks.gov <<mailto:hrrileyco@rileycountyks.gov>> your status and the proof of your vaccination
- Call Michele Reid, Elizabeth Ward or Amanda Howar with your vaccination status AND, if vaccinated, bring proof to the HR office
- Come to the HR office and talk to Michele, Elizabeth or Amanda AND, if vaccinated, bring proof to the HR office

Remember, this incentive is separate from the Commissioners direction to collect vaccination status, therefore a response of vaccination status is still needed for each employee before Aug 31, 2021. However, if you have not received the vaccination, you may report “no vaccination” but would still be eligible for the incentive if you choose to receive the vaccination prior to Oct 1, 2021.

9:15 AM Michael Boller, Noxious Weed Director

10. Staff Update

Boller presented the Noxious Weed/HHW staff update.

11. KDOT Contract Renewal

Boller presented the KDOT contract renewal for approval.

Move to approve the annual Kansas Department of Transportation Bureau of Maintenance County Agreement to Treat Noxious Weeds.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

9:30 AM Greg McHenry, Appraiser

12. Appraiser's Office Report

McHenry presented the Appraiser's Office report.

9:55 AM Break

10:00 AM Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

13. Staff Time

Stukey presented the EM/RCFD #1 staff report.

10:15 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

10:18 AM 14. Executive session to discuss confidential legal advice regarding potential litigation issues

Move the County Commission, including Chairman Ford, Commissioner McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, recess into executive session for the purpose of consultation with Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, attorney for the commission, on potential litigation, a matter which is deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:35 a.m.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ford, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

10:35 AM Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ford, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

Move the record reflect action shall be taken consistent with the consensus reached in executive session.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ford, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

10:35 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

15. Review of Flint Hills Regional Council Formation Documents and Requested 2022 Dues Increase to Members; Possible Appointment of Council Representative for 2022

Holeman presented the Flint Hills Regional Council dues increase to member and review of the formation documents.

Ford said he does not feel the increase of dues to pay the debt should be on the taxpayers.

Focke stated it looks like the loan was originated for the aTa Bus and they paid it off. Focke said she is confused on the nature of the loan.

Williams said the dues increase for 2022 was to increase member benefits.

Williams stated she is not sure of the aTa Bus grant, because it was before her time.

Ford stated the 2022 budget has been set and the amount is not large, but we do not intend on increasing budgets.

Ford said he is also concerned of the vision and focus of the organization without a director currently.

McKinley stated he has not seen any value in the Flint Hills Regional Council in several years.

McKinley expressed dissatisfaction with the organization's work when he was on the City of Riley Council.

Focke stated she is torn with the decision. Focke said she cannot continue as the Riley County representative.

The Board expressed frustration with not being aware of the proposed increase during the budget time.

Move to discontinue membership with the Flint Hills Regional Council.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [2 TO 0]
MOVER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	John Ford, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, McKinley
ABSTAIN:	Focke

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	John Ford, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley