



**Board of Riley County  
Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
February 08, 2021**

115 North 4th Street  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
[www.rileycountyks.gov](http://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  |
| John Ellermann | Public Works Director/County Engineer         | Present | 8:30 AM  |
| Alvin Perez    | Public Works Operations/Fleet Manager         | Present | 8:30 AM  |
| Julie Gibbs    | Health Department Director                    | Remote  | 8:30 AM  |
| David Adams    | EMS/Ambulance Director                        | Remote  | 8:30 AM  |
| Elizabeth Ward | Human Resource Manager                        | Present | 8:40 AM  |
| Shilo Heger    | Treasurer                                     | Present | 9:15 AM  |
| Amanda Smeller | Planning/Special Projects Director            | Present | 10:00 AM |
| Cheryl Collins | Museum Director                               | Present | 10:25 AM |
| Allana Saenger | Museum Curator of Design                      | Present | 10:25 AM |

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

1. Public Comments

Gibbs reported as of Friday there were 15 more positive COVID cases. Gibbs said the percent positive is 5.2%.

Gibbs said vaccinations will take place this week Tuesday-Friday.

Gibbs stated those eligible for the booster will get an Everbridge contact, phone call, and an email notification.

**Commission Comments****2. Commission Comments****Ford's Comments:**

Thursday afternoon I spoke and met with former Manhattan City Commissioner and Mayor Ed Klimek. Had a wonderful conversation on several topics and ideas including work being done in the Westloop Business Association and west Manhattan.

Also Thursday afternoon I spoke with Amanda Smeller (Riley County Planning Director) on the next set of possible steps in developing a rural economic development advisory committee moving forward and a couple of items for today's County Officials Luncheon.

Thursday I listened to NACo's national teleconference call with Eduardo Cisneros, White House COVID-19 Intergovernmental Affairs Director, and Dr. Bechara Choucair, White House Vaccinations Coordinator, on the latest efforts to provide federal support to counties for ongoing COVID-19 mitigation and vaccination efforts.

Also over the weekend took a long look at HB 2142, which will be working its way through committee hearings this week. Spoke to a couple of local legislators on the matter as well.

Super Bowl LV obviously didn't go as planned with the Chiefs losing to Tampa Bay, but I do think they will have another opportunity to raise a trophy before it is said and done.

**McKinley's Comments:**

Last Friday I listened in on a KAC discussion on HB 2142. There are a lot of problems with the bill, a large part of the problem is that it is so vague. It could be used to cover a wide variety of things and is back dated a year to cover events that cannot be changed now.

Friday afternoon I took a tour of the church. The arrangement is very cut up and would be hard to use for our needs.

**Focke's Comments:**

Attended the Solid Waste Committee on Zoom. Gary Rosewicz and John Ellermann were both on the zoom call and Gary went over

financials and other issues with county waste management. Included was a discussion on recycling, especially on lithium battery disposal. It is more expensive to dispose of these batteries and the public isn't aware of the hazards of disposal. An issue was brought up concerning vape cigarettes and being powered by lithium batteries. I suggested that we might be able to use our PIO on some educational programs concerning recycling of batteries and other waste disposal.

I met with John Ellermann at Public Works concerning the asbestos removal proposal for the former First Christian Church property. There were some terms used that I didn't understand and we may be able to dispose of some of the materials in-house. We also looked at the church on GIS, as I'm investigating the original church building and if it could be saved to preserve the building. It is 120 years old and was built to match the Courthouse and Carnegie Library building in the courthouse plaza. The option of saving just that building was never proposed in earlier studies.

The painting of my office is completed and I was able to move back into my office this past weekend.

### Business Meeting

#### 3. Highway Use Permit, Twin Valley Telephone

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting Twin Valley Telephone permission to work in the right of way to set cabinet and bury fiber optic line along Anderson Avenue.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

#### 4. Highway Use Permit, Twin Valley Telephone

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting Twin Valley Telephone permission to work in the right of way to bury fiber optic line along Stockdale Park Road.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

## 5. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Personnel Action Form for JoAnne Reed, for a promotion (internal promotion and appointed Deputy with \$3,000 stipend included), as a Deeds Supervisor, in the Register of Deeds Office, at a grade S step 1 at \$2,331.38 per pay period.

## 6. Tandem Axle Dump Truck Bid Recommendation

Move to approve the low bid submitted by Diamond International, Kansas City, Missouri, for a new International tandem axle dump truck with snow plow and salt spreader box with the option of LED plow lights for an additional \$1,275.00 for a total price of \$189,863.00.

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|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

**Review Minutes**7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Feb 4, 2021  
8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>        |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

**Review Tentative Agenda**

## 8. Tentative Agenda

**Press Conference Topics**

## 9. Discuss Press Conference

**9:00 AM Rich Vargo, County Clerk**

10. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditure report.

**9:15 AM Shilo Heger, Treasurer**

11. January 2021 Revenue Reporting - Riley County Treasurer

Heger presented the January Treasurer's report.

**9:30 AM Press Conference****9:40 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services**

12. Administrative Work Session

Holeman presented Commissioner McKinley's draft testimony for HB 2142, concerning the reimbursement of property taxation.

Discussion followed on HB 2142.

13. Pending County Projects County Counselor

14. Executive session to discuss confidential legal advice regarding potential litigation issues

Move to table the executive session.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>TABLED [UNANIMOUS]</b>          |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

**10:00 AM Amanda Smeller, Planning/Special Projects Director**

15. Planning & Development New Vehicle Modified Purchase Authorization - Competitive Bid Process

Smeller presented the new vehicle bid recommendation.

Move to approve the revised Purchase Authorization for a replacement vehicle and bed cover in the Planning and Development Department in the amount of \$30,000.00 by competitive sealed bid.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

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

16. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works project update.

**10:25 AM      Cheryl Collins, Museum Director**

17. Riley County Historical Museum Staff Update- One Room School Exhibit

C. Collins and Parker presented the Museum update.

**Adjournment**

Move to adjourn after the County Officials Luncheon.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

**12:00 PM      County Officials Luncheon**

18. County Official's Luncheon Agenda - Meet the New Commissioners

The Board attended the County Officials Luncheon.