



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
February 12, 2024**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

8:30 AM

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

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

[District 1 – John Ford, Chair](#)

8:30 AM

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Ford	County Commissioner	Remote	8:30 AM
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Remote	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
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:39 AM
Chase Hageman	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:39 AM
Larry Hoobler		Present	9:15 AM
Diane Hoobler		Present	9:15 AM
Nathan Larson		Present	9:20 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:20 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

No comments.

McKinley's Comments:

Last Thursday after the meeting I worked in the Extension office helping with some Master Gardener stuff.

Saturday morning, I attended the Riley County Republicans Lincoln Breakfast. We heard from a couple of people from the AG's office and the state representative on the RNC committee.

Saturday afternoon was at the K-State women's basketball game. They pulled out another close one. With Lee supposed to be ready to play, they should be getting into shape for a late season run.

The K-State men gave a late game charge but could not quite pull out the win.

Sunday evening there was some kind of a football game.

Ford's Comments:

Congratulations goes out to the Kansas City Chiefs for an incredible and thrilling victory in Super Bowl LVIII Sunday night in overtime versus San Francisco 25-22 to win their second straight Lombardi Trophy. Pretty sure there are a lot of people who did not show up to work on Monday after celebrating the huge win.

Friday morning, I left Manhattan at 5:30 a.m. to head out to Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Counties 2024 Legislative Conference. Made it to the hotel early afternoon, got my registration and conference materials and got settled in.

Also Friday afternoon I conference called into the RCPD Pre-Law Board meeting for the month of February. Not a lot to speak of for this month's agenda. We did discuss some plans for this year's Fake Patty's Day, the dialog we will be having on RCPD's Strategic Planning, goals and vision for the department, and a couple of new initiatives being deployed within the agency. This month's Law Board is on Tuesday February 20th because of President's Day

Saturday, I started out my day with a tour of the White House at 9:30 a.m. I want to say thanks to everybody in Senator Roger Marshall's office who put that together and made that happen for me. I was able to get a lot of pictures and the lady working at the gift shop onsite mentioned she's a big K-State fan as her son-in-law is a graduate and

alum which I thought was pretty neat.

After my tour I joined in on the meeting of the Community Economic and Workforce Development Committee I serve on. After opening remarks and introduction of Vice Chairs by the Committee Chair Martha Schrader we heard from Claudia Monterrosa, Deputy Asst. Secretary of Grant Programs of the Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Joaquin Altoro, Administrator, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. They discussed the programs and resources available in their departments. Next, we had a panel discussion on Place-Based Policy Making and the impact on recent legislation including ARPA and other Rescue funds, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS Act, Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act to name a few. Brian Cummings, Director of Economic and Workforce Development, Bucks County, PA moderated. Craig Buerstatte, Deputy Asst. Secretary for Regional Affairs, Economic Development Association; Taylor Maag, Director of Workforce Policy, Progressive Policy Institute; and Mirielle Burgoyne, Deputy Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations were also panelists. After lunch we heard from Patrick Carey, Asst. Commissioner for Current Employment Analysis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Atissa Ladjevardian, Acting Director of External and Governmental Affairs, CHIPS Office, National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce. He discussed the landscape and trends of the labor market and several key federal legislative policies and bills that can help address them. Lastly, we spent the rest of the afternoon working through the CEWD policy resolutions for 2024, several emergency resolutions, and then we voted to pass all of the resolutions in their entirety to finish out the meeting.

Sunday, I met with NACo's Veterans and Military Services Committee. After hearing some opening remarks and introductions from our Chair Trista Martinson we had a very difficult panel discussion on Military Sexual Trauma (MST) with Kayla Williams, Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation; Siobhan Norris, Vice Chair, NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee, Division Director, Veterans Services, Wake County, N.C.; and Danielle Applegate, Board Chair, National Coalition of Homeless Veterans. Our Chair Trista Martinson moderated. Afterward we had another panel discussion dealing with the subject of projecting veterans from Predatory Claims Companies. On that panel was Nichole Coleman, Vice Chair NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee, Immediate Past President, National Association of County Veteran Service Officers, Director of Veteran Affairs, Hancock, County, Ohio. She also moderated the panel. Also joining the discussion were Jake Friedman, Senior Legislative Asst. Representative Chris Pappas (D-NH-01); Martin Caraway, VSO Liaison, Veterans Benefits

Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Todd Leatherman, Director Center for Consumer Protection, National Association of Attorney General. Next, we heard from Robert Rader, Sr. Client Development Manager for the National Council of Wellbeing and Daniel Mulatero, Partnership Manager, National Council of Wellbeing both discussed mental health related resources for veterans. Lastly Rachel Mackey, Legislative Director for the Veterans and Military Services Committee, NACo gave a legislative update from Capitol Hill and discussed several key pieces of military related legislation working their way through Congress.

Lastly on Sunday there was a huge Super Bowl Watch Party in the International Ballroom for all the attendees for the Super Bowl LVII as the Kansas City Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in overtime.

Business Meeting

3. Sign Tax Roll Corrections

Move to approve the Tax Roll Corrections.

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

4. Sign Riley County Employee Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Employee Action Form for Dale Mulderrig, an As Needed Museum Assistant, for Separation from County Service, effective February 19, 2024.

Holeman presented a contract for purchase of real estate from the E. Stanley Schurle Trust.

Move to approve the Real Property Option Agreement with E. Stanley Schurle Trustee of the E. Stanley Schurle Trust for the purchase of real estate.

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

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Feb 8, 2024 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

6. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

7. Discuss Press Conference
- John Ford - National Association of Counties Legislative Conference Update
 - Rich Vargo - Presidential Preference Primary

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

8. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditure reports.

9:10 AM**Rich Vargo, County Clerk**

9. Request to Fill - Part time HR Assistant

Vargo requested to fill the part-time HR Assistant position.

Move to approve the hiring process to fill the part-time HR clerical assistant position.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Temporary As Needed Part Time Human Resources Clerical Assistant, in the Clerk's Department, at a Range TASND (Temporary As Needed).

9:15 AM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

10. Staff Report - Riley County Historical Museum

Hensler presented the Museum staff report.

9:30 AM Press Conference

11. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Diane Hoobler for Years of Service on the Riley County Planning Board - Greg McKinley and Amanda Webb (3-5 minutes)

McKinley and Webb presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Diane Hoobler for 14 Years of Service on the Riley County Planning Board.

12. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Nathan Larson for Years of Service on the Riley County Planning Board - Greg McKinley and Amanda Webb (3-5 minutes)

McKinley and Webb presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Nathan Larson for 6 Years of Service on the Riley County Planning Board.

13. Presidential Preference Primary - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported the voter registration for the Presidential Preference Primary closes and the last day to request a ballot by mail is February 20, 2024.

Vargo said advance voting will begin February 28, 2024.

Vargo said the polls will be open on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

9:40 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

14. Administrative Work Session

15. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Holeman presented the Commission Projects list.

Holeman discussed SB 162 regarding nuisance property in unincorporated areas.

9:50 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

16. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works Project update.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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