



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
February 22, 2021**

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
Alvin Perez	Public Works Operations/Fleet Manager	Present	8:30 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Remote	8:30 AM
Mary Hobbs	IT	Present	8:30 AM
Gary Rosewicz	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	8:39 AM
Robbin Cole	Pawnee Mental Health Services Director	Present	9:00 AM
Amanda Smeller	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:06 AM
Gregg Eyestone	Extension Agent	Present	9:27 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Gibbs reported as of last Friday there were only 10 new cases. Gibbs stated there have been 6,158 COVID-19 cases.

Gibbs stated a little over 18,000 have signed up for the vaccine.

Gibbs said 7,500 have been vaccinated and 2,500 of them have had their second vaccination.

McKinley asked about the numbers in the Mercury article referencing the numbers in the nursing homes and other outlets that are reported directly to the State.

Gibbs said they do not get the numbers that go to the State.

McKinley asked, what is the expiration on Order #19?

Gibbs stated there is not an expiration, but it can be rescinded. Gibbs said they will probably be drafting another order today.

Perez reported from February 13-17th the Public Works department spent over \$65,000 on the storms.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I listened in on the National Association of Counties biweekly National Members call to hear the latest update on the federal COVID-19 relief efforts and vaccine distribution. The National Association had President Gary Moore (Boone Co. Kentucky) and NACo Executive Director Matt Chase on the call with Senior Advisors from the Biden Administration to discuss the challenges facing counties during this pandemic and how to provide relief through intergovernmental partnerships to work our way through the rest of it. Among the topics were discussions on a 350 billion dollar local/county and tribal relief package that will include funding for public and community health centers, infrastructure and PPE as well as CDBG dollars to support other necessary and specific local relief efforts, and lastly a broader discussion as a whole the administration's American Rescue Plan.

Also Thursday afternoon attended our joint city/county/county meeting here at the BOCC Chambers. I enjoyed the in depth presentation presented by Vickie James, Sharolyn Jackson, and Andrea DeJesus on behalf of the Food and Farm Council. I've been on the monthly Zoom calls for the CAT Waste Team myself for quite some time and it is wonderful to get to see and understand the other parts and how it all is falling into place. The work and compassion being displayed in these efforts are amazing.

Friday evening I didn't attend in person, but watched via Facebook the

96th annual Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Banquet. Wanted to congratulate Jeff Sackrider for winning the first annual young professionals award, Lucy Williams for winning the C. Clyde Jones Volunteer of the Year award, and Neil Horton for winning the Lud Fiser Citizen of the year award. I thought Larie Schoap and Mark Bachamp did an outstanding job MCing the event considering the unusual circumstances and protocols for this year's event.

Was nice to see the Wildcats get their first win on 2021 in beating TCU Saturday in Fort Worth, maybe that is the spark they have been needing moving forward. The K-State baseball squad went 1-1 to start 2021 with a win over powerhouse Oregon State as well.

McKinley's Comments:

Last Thursday attended the Joint City/County/County meeting here. We had a presentation from the Food and Farm Council. They discussed the work they do and how they coordinate the work of other groups in the city and county. I was familiar with most of the groups, but learned more of what they all do.

Received more emails regarding the COVID restrictions and when they will be revised.

I have been looking through this year's budget to be ready to start on next year's budget.

Focke's Comments:

Attended the Joint City/County/County meeting on Thursday afternoon. Presentation by the Food and Farm Council - a PowerPoint presentation that was very informative on what their council does in the community/county. I was greatly impressed that they could serve 400 meals each night as I know how difficult it is to serve 100 on a nightly basis (common table).

Worked on a letter of testimony with Clancy Holeman regarding SCR 1606. Commissioner McKinley will be doing live testimony on Tuesday.

Received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce regarding loosening restriction on the COVID order. Julie said in the meeting today that they will be writing possible revisions (draft) sometime today.

Attended a Zoom meeting of the FHRC (Flint Hills Regional Council) where they discussed the proposed regional trail network, adopted the draft of strategic goals, accepted Chase County Housing Assessment, and had a presentation from Fort Riley on their economic impact on the region.

Was a guest of Pottawatomie Commissioner, Dee McKee, at the in-person Chamber of Commerce Annual meeting. It was a good networking event as I hadn't been to any in-person meetings since COVID-19 restrictions. I have a copy of their annual report for anyone to review in my office.

They discussed the sales tax ballot measure in 2020, effective in 2023 that will generate a projected \$6.5 million to the City of Manhattan over 10 years. Of that amount, 20% or \$1.3 million per year for ten years will be devoted to economic development. With this information, we may want to make adjustments to our annual contribution to the city and chamber's economic development funds in the future, and focus more dollars on rural economic development in the county. They also stated that the city is "land-locked" for future industrial park business development.

Business Meeting

3. Firing Range Water Line- Bid Recommendation

Move to award the contract to Larson Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$58,757.00.

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

4. 9000 Lbs. Forklift Bid Recommendation

Move to approve the bid from Lift Truck Sales and Service Inc. for \$32,025.15.

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

5. Riley County Grounds Maintenance Extension of Contract - Rothwell Landscaping, Inc.

Move to approve the Riley County Grounds Maintenance Extension of Contract with Rothwell Landscaping, Inc.

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

6. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

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

- Travis Johannes, a new hire, as a Public Works Operator II (asphalt), in the Public Works Department, at a grade I step 3, at \$18.22 per hour.
- Caleb Ubel, a new hire, as a Facility & Grounds Tech I, in the Public Works/Parks Department, at a grade H step 2, at \$16.77 per hour.

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Feb 18, 2021
8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Robbin Cole, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director

10. Pawnee Mental Health Services update

Cole presented the Pawnee Mental Health Services update.

9:15 AM Amanda Smeller, Planning/Special Projects Director

11. Proposed Regional River/Trail - Flint Hills Regional Council grant application and letter of commitment

Smeller presented the Proposed Regional River/Trail project letter of commitment/support.

Move to approve signing a letter of commitment for the NPS grant application in support of the proposed Regional River/Trail project and authorize staff to participate in the planning process.

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

9:30 AM Press Conference

12. Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop and Youth Lawn Mowing Clinic - Gregg Eyestone (2-3 minutes)

Eyestone said a Fruit Tree Pruning demonstration will be held Saturday, March 6th beginning at 1:00 p.m. The host is Dr. David Mengel at 13999 Tuttle Creek Boulevard.

Eyestone said a Free Youth Lawn Mowing Clinic will be held Monday, March 8th beginning at 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Pottorf Hall. This is open to any youth in grades 4-6 who would like to learn about lawn care. Please register at www.riley.ksu.edu.

9:45 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

13. Administrative Work Session

Holeman discussed SCR 1606 protecting current constitutional Home Rule law for counties.

Holeman stated the Dark Store Bill, HB 2402, is pending in front of the House Appropriations Committee.

Holeman said SB 13 repeals the existing tax lid, but includes a revenue neutral tax lid. Holeman stated it is not currently set for a hearing.

Holeman discussed HB 2412 regarding refunding taxes to businesses, which closed down or impacted adversely.

Holeman said SB 72 reduces the educational requirements of county appraisers.

14. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the Intergovernmental Luncheon.

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

12:00 PM Intergovernmental Luncheon

15. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda

The Board attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon.