



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
February 27, 2023**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

8:30 AM

[District 2 – Greg McKinley, Member](#)

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

[District 1 – John Ford, 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
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 Resource Director	Present	8:30 AM
Gloria Loberg	Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
Isaac Drake	Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
Penny Bellman	Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
Jeremy Noll	Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
Anne Johnson	Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
Darrin Hobbs	Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
Jonathan House	Public Works	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:31 AM
Cindy Kabriel	Senior Administrative Assistant	Present	9:14 AM
Russ Briggs		Present	10:07 AM
Gary Fike	County Extension Director	Present	10:31 AM
Lance Sharp		Present	10:31 AM
Jason Smith		Present	10:31 AM
Greg McClure	Extension Agent	Present	10:31 AM
Bob Mertz		Present	10:31 AM
Marty Vanier		Present	10:31 AM
John Jobe	County Extension Agent	Present	10:36 AM
Mike Day		Present	10:38 AM
Greg Williams		Present	10:38 AM
Greg Renz		Present	10:38 AM
Josh Wendland		Present	10:38 AM
Lori Muir	Real Estate Specialist	Present	11:13 AM
Joseph Godown	Administrative Analyst - Levy	Present	11:13 AM

Pledge of Allegiance**Public Comment**

1. Public Comments

Hobbs presented the Employee of the Month Award to Gloria Loberg.

Ward updated the Board on the United Way Campaign. Ward stated the campaign ends on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Holeman asked the Board to add an executive session to his time today at 10:10 a.m.

Move to add an executive session to Counselor Holeman's time today at 10:10 a.m.

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

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I met via Zoom with planning, public works, and the counselor's office regarding planning for the upcoming Keats Tax District meeting on March 9th. A tentative schedule was discussed and Amanda Webb sent out notes and an agenda for the meeting. The brochure will be printed this week and everyone is busy getting the presentation together.

Friday I came down to the office, signed some documents that weren't marked in the bonding packet on Thursday and spent time in the office going over today's meeting, following up on phone calls and e-mails, and went to the gym for some exercise.

Saturday I attended the Washington Days event in Topeka. A new slate of officers were elected. The luncheon speaker was Lt. Gov. Toland and he did an excellent job.

Sunday, I attended church, went to lunch with friends, went to the gym and caught up on household chores.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I listened in on the February “Connecting Kansas Counties” Zoom call hosted by KAC. After some introductions we heard from Wulf James, Communications Coordinator, State Library of Kansas. He took some time to discuss their collections and the educational and entertaining materials for all ages and reading levels and explained how they are a statewide resource for Braille materials, government information and support for educators and librarians. We also heard from KAC with some upcoming events including County Government Month in April 2023 as well as the Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference that will be taking place on April 25-27 in Ellis County. We also heard several Kansas county updates as well.

Also Thursday afternoon I met with David Adams, Director of Riley County EMS to discuss several items including the new Public Safety Headquarters, the North County Ambulance Station and several other related concerns and questions pertaining to personnel and staffing in his department. Glad I had the opportunity to sit down and chat and have this dialog and I certainly appreciated the time.

Late Thursday afternoon I spoke with Kyle Powers Local Realtor and Daryn Soldan from the Chamber of Commerce on a couple of pieces of property that could be available over in the Ogden area and what that possibly could look like moving into the future. Pretty good conversation and dialog but still very primitive at this point.

Friday I spent most of my day finally getting caught back up on some personal items and things around the house that have been nagging me for a while. It feels good to have all that out of the way again.

Saturday the K-State men’s basketball team got an important but tough victory in Stillwater versus Oklahoma State 73-68 and the K-State baseball team dropped one to #1 LSU 7-3 as well.

Sunday afternoon I made it over to the 45th Annual Flint Hills Home Show at the National Guard Armory. Had a lot of fun and even for Sunday afternoon it was very well attended with a lot of new attractions and booths than in the last couple of years. Looks like this event has finally moved forward post pandemic.

Sunday evening I joined the Riley County Farm Bureau for their

Family Fun Night up in Leonardville. Heard from the KFB President Joe Newland and they had all kinds of activities and entertainment, several local vendors and a lot of agriculture education and advocacy as well as games and prizes as well. Appreciated the invite and I had a very good time attending.

So glad to finally see some measurable rain last night as well as few rumbles of thunder. It lets me know spring is at least somewhat on the horizon.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday after our meeting Craig Cox stopped by to discuss some of the updates on Keats sewer situation.

Thursday evening I attended the town hall meeting with RCPD Director Peete in Randolph. There were fifteen to twenty people in attendance. He had a good interaction with the crowd discussing their questions. The attendees said they appreciated the opportunity to meet and interact with the new director. One of the officers told me that the smallest crowd at these meetings was the Manhattan one with five people attending.

Friday morning I caught up on everything at home because starting that afternoon we were watching the grandkids through the weekend. We did watch K-State basketball Saturday afternoon and enjoyed the road victory.

Business Meeting

3. Appraiser Website agreement with Braden Cott, Assistant Vice President of United Bank & Trust

Move to approve a Real Estate Sales Data Search Service Agreement for with Braden Cott, Assistant Vice President of United Bank & Trust for the Appraiser's Office.

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

4. 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

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Feb 23, 2023 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

Review Tentative Agenda

7. Tentative Agenda

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

8. Pawnee Mental Health Services update

Cole presented the Pawnee Mental Health Services update.

9:15 AM Alvin Perez, Operations and Fleet Manager

9. Bid opening for crushed/washed limestone chips

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for

3/8" CM-K crushed/washed limestone chips:

Company	Total Bid
Bayer Construction Company, Inc. PO Box 889 Manhattan, KS 66505-0889	2,000 tons \$30.30 per ton \$60,600.00

Move to refer the bids to staff for evaluation and recommendation.

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

9:20 AM

Elizabeth Ward, Human Resource Director

10. NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

Ward discussed the NACo High Performance Leadership academy.

The Board discussed the NACo Leadership academy.

Move to approve and sign the contract agreeing to send two participants to the NACo High Performance Leadership academy in 2023.

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

9:30 AM

Press Conference

11. 2023 Valuation Notices - Anna Burson (3-5 minutes)

Burson discussed the 2023 Change of Value Notices. Burson stated the residential real estate values increased from 7%-17%.

Burson stated residents have until March 17, 2023 to appeal the values.

12. NACo Conference - John Ford (5 minutes)

Ford discussed the NACo Annual Policy Conference that he attended in February.

9:40 AM Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

13. Comprehensive Plan update - public outreach/engagement discussion

Webb discussed the Comprehensive Plan update public outreach/engagement discussion.

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

14. Administrative Work Session
15. Pending County Projects County Counselor

10:11 AM Executive session to discuss confidential legal advice regarding potential litigation issues

Move the County Commission, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, attorney for the commission, which would be 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 10:30 a.m.

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

10:30 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 no binding action was taken during the executive session.

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

10:30 AM Gary Fike, County Extension Director

16. Future of the Riley County Fair Facilities

Fike discussed the future of the Riley County Fair.

Fike said if future plans for the Riley Fair and Kaw Valley Rodeo are discussed the Fair Board would like to have a seat at the table.

The Board discussed the Riley County Fairgrounds.

Fike stated he does feel it is beneficial to have the Riley County Fair and Kaw Valley Rodeo together.

Vanier discussed the expansion of the animal science facilities.

Williams presented a diagram of the expansion of the animal science facilities.

Renz discussed the new assets, which will be brought to the community.

Renz asked if the Board wants to leverage what they are doing in coordination with the project.

Focke asked how the other events and activities would fit into the project.

Williams stated he does not know at this time.

Vanier said they are open to all the discussions to see if the Riley County Fair and Kaw Valley Rodeo fit in the project to help the County.

Ford agreed a task force to discuss the opportunity would be beneficial.

Wendland, Chair of the Fair Board, discussed the benefit of the KSU project. Wendland said he would be willing to sit at the table to discuss the benefits of the program.

The Board agreed by consensus to support a task force for the project.

11:00 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

17. County Road Systems in Kansas

Ellermann discussed the history of township road maintenance.

Holeman discussed the options the Board must consider if wanting to do the County-Unit or County-Rural system.

McKinley asked if the County took over the township roads would they all be required to be brought up to the same county standards?

Ellermann stated the way he did it in a previous county he brought up all roads to have a similar feel.

Focke said there is a lot to look at here.

11:45 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the Intergovernmental Luncheon.

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

12:00 PM Intergovernmental Luncheon

18. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda