



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 08, 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	Absent	8:30 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	8:30 AM
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	8:30 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Remote	8:30 AM
Cindy Volanti		Remote	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:36 AM
Christy Rodriguez	Flint Hills Regional Council Director	Present	9:00 AM
Susie Brown	Administrative Assistant I - Elections	Present	9:30 AM
Greg Brown		Present	9:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	9:30 AM
Tami Robison	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:50 AM
Breva Spencer	Family Connections Supervisor	Present	10:00 AM
Jessie Hubbard	Administrative Assistant II	Present	10:25 AM
Sara Darnell	Community Corrections	Present	10:25 AM
Cheryl Collins	Museum Director	Present	11:00 AM
Joshua Gering	EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director	Present	11:00 AM
Marcia Rozell	Freedom's Frontier Partner Advisory Board Member	Present	11:00 AM
Dr. Caronda Moore	Freedom's Frontier Board of Trustees Member	Present	11:00 AM
Amanda Smeller	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	11:00 AM
Kevin Howser	IT/GIS Director	Present	11:11 AM
Sherie Taylor	GIS	Present	11:11 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Gibbs said as of Friday the percent positive is under 5%. Gibbs stated there is only one COVID-19 patient in the hospital.

Gibbs said 4,343 people have been vaccinated. Gibbs said vaccinations will be Tuesday - Friday 10:00-4:00 p.m. at Pottorf Hall.

Volanti said kudos to Riley County and their organization for the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I listened in on the biweekly NACo National Membership Call with NACo leadership and member of the White House Covid-19 and Intergovernmental teams. Typically this call has been 30 minutes but this time it was an hour. The first 30 minutes discussed White House and Federal Government vaccination efforts including logistics on including the new Johnson & Johnson one shot vaccine and how they are planning to make a vaccine shot available to each American by the end of May. The second half of the call was on the American Rescue Plan and the 1.9 trillion dollar Covid package that's currently in the Senate. Roughly 60 billion should be available in county support and 10 billion in broadband and wireless support in rural and disadvantaged area

Thursday afternoon I Zoomed in on the Bi-Monthly meeting of the Flint Hills Mental Health Task Force. We got an update from Bruce Johnson from the Crisis Stabilization Center report, Robbin Cole gave an update from Pawnee, we also got reports Ascension Via Christi and from Brynne Haverkamp the RCPD/PMHS Co-Responder as well.

Lastly on Thursday I attended virtually NACo's Pre Conference Network Session in advance of the start of the Virtual Policy Conference. Membership Committee Chair Matt Prochaska, NACo President Gary Moore, and NACo Executive Director gave open remarks and previewed what the Legislative Policy Conference is going to look like this year and how to properly engage and navigate through session with fellow peers and counties throughout March. A discussion on the various networking opportunities and technical support during the month was provided too.

McKinley's Comments:

Absent

Focke's Comments:

Registered for a KAC Webinar, but couldn't get on the meeting.

Spent the afternoon catching up on phone calls and e-mails.

Contacted Brandon Peoples at KMAN radio regarding the Forum I will be attending next Tuesday.

Friday, I had a call with BHS construction regarding their process in renovating Historic buildings.

Set meetings and appointments for the following week.

Had a doctor's appointment to determine an upcoming out-patient medical procedure.

Weekend reviewed minutes and documents for Monday's BOCC meeting.

Upon reviewing the commissioner comments from Thursday's meeting, I need a clarification:

Which commissioner is on the Military Relations Committee?

Commissioner Ford stated that he went to their luncheon, and Commissioner McKinley stated that he didn't attend because he thought it was a recorded (zoom) meeting.

When we determined our committees in January, I recall that Commissioner Ford had a conflict with that committee's meeting time and Commissioner McKinley was to take the position. Please clarify this on our current "List of Boards".

Received the letter from homeowners in Harbor Hills' neighborhood, but didn't get the attached list of homeowners that was to be attached. Please provide...

Spent considerable time on the phone with members of the community and several city commissioners concerning the Board of Health, the Director of the Health Department, and other emergency and/or health committees in the county and city. There is considerable concern in the community about the COVID-19 restrictions by the city and county.

Business Meeting

3. Highway Use Permit, Larson Construction, Inc

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting Larson Construction, Inc. permission to work in the right of way to repair an emergency water leak.

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

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 4, 2021
8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

7. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditure reports.

9:15 AM

Christy Rodriguez, Flint Hills Regional Council Director

8. Flint Hills Regional Council update

Rodriguez presented a PowerPoint on the Flint Hills Regional Council.

9:30 AM

Press Conference

9. Presentation of Years of Service plaque to Susie Brown - John Ford (3-5 minutes)

Ford presented a Years of Service plaque to Susie Brown in the County Clerk's Office for 26 years.

Brown thanked the office and Riley County. Brown said a lot has changed since she started. Brown said the office location is different now. Brown said she started in real estate. Brown stated she now works in elections and they have grown.

9:50 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

10. Fairmont Heights Sanitary Sewer Benefit District Improvements Change Order #1

Ellermann presented the Fairmont Heights Sewer Project Change Order #1.

Move to approve Fairmont Heights Sanitary Sewer Benefit District Improvements Change Order #1.

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

10:00 AM

Julie Gibbs, Health Department Director and Brea Spencer, Maternal and Child Health Supervisor

Move to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Board of Health.

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

11. **Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Position Reclassification Request for MCH Home Visitor**

Gibbs presented the Maternal and Child Health Home Visitor position reclassification.

Ward stated the proposed classification needs to be reviewed by McGrath.

Move to approve the recommendation for the reclassification of the Maternal and Child Health Home Visitor position and follow recommendations for placement and status and open the position for recruitment.

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

Move to recess as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.

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

10:10 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

12. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works projects update.

10:25 AM Jessie Hubbard, Community Corrections

13. Request to Fill JIAS On-Call Officers

Hubbard presented the JIAS On-Call Officers request to fill position.

Ward stated the cost does not change it just increased the number of people filling the positions.

Move to allow RCCC to advertise and hire additional JIAS On-Call Officers.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an On-call Juvenile Intake and Assessment Officer, in the Community Corrections Department, at a grade B.

10:40 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

14. Administrative Work Session

Holeman discussed SB 286 concerning economic development tax relief related to COVID-19. Holeman stated it is set for hearing on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Holeman recommends the Board submit written testimony on SB 286.

The Board agreed by consensus to submit written testimony on SB 286.

Move to approve the written testimony on SB 286.

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

15. Pending County Projects County Counselor

11:00 AM Cheryl Collins, Museum Director

16. Riley County Historical Museum Staff Update- Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

Collins, Rozell, and Moore presented the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area information.

11:15 AM Amanda Smeller, Planning/Special Projects Director

17. NG911 Committee Presentation

Smeller presented the NG911 Committee recommendation.

Taylor stated addresses need to be renumbered due to the grid outline and knowing which direction to look for a property.

Gering stated the grid outline is a critical portion of their new employee training. Gering said any deviation from the grid system can cause problems in locating the property.

Move to direct the NG911 committee to move forward with naming/renaming/renumbering private roads in unincorporated Riley County.

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

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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