



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 11, 2024**

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	Excused	8:30 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	8:30 AM
Shelley Woodard	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:55 AM
Larry Cale	Valleywood	Present	9:08 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:55 AM
Alvin Perez	Public Works Operations/Fleet Manager	Present	9:12 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:17 AM
Gina Snyder	Downtown Manhattan Director	Present	9:28 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had a PT appointment and then an appointment with my surgeon to go over the progress. We scheduled another

appointment in two weeks to check on progress.

Friday early a.m., I had another PT appointment, then spent time at home catching up after the week. Had some upcoming appointments to juggle around for next week's extra meetings and interviews.

I spent time on Sunday going over today's meeting documents and communicating with Brandon Peoples for the KMAN In Focus that I'm on Tuesday. Also did some minor yard work.

McKinley's Comments:

Absent to attend Kansas Legislature for testimony in support of SB 162 regarding Nuisance Property in Unincorporated areas, excluding agricultural.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday, I went back and checked out K-State Research and Extension's 1st E-Call for March with Brenden Wirth, Director of Political Affairs with the Kansas Farm Bureau discussing his "Engaged Kansas" program and the series of campaign schools he will be hosting across the state in 2024 and summary of the several he's already conducted including the one I spoke at here in Manhattan in early February.

Thursday I also went back and checked out Wednesday's WebX of the Kansas House Committee on Local Government and their discussion on SB 362. Sedgwick County, from the context and overview I got from that meeting I'm feeling pretty confident that we can get our version SB 162 through this same committee as well. It is being heard this morning Monday, March 11th as well.

Late Thursday afternoon I attended the March meeting of the Riley County Mental Health Task Force. Among the items we discussed were action items from the last meeting including survey results, follow up from the APS conversation and an invite for them to come and chat with this group, and ways to legitimize the group here in Riley County. New business included approval of last month's minutes, an update from the Crisis Innovation Committee, discussion of the three main goals of the CIC moving forward, review and dialog of the new survey results, and introduction of the new Pawnee Mental Health CEO Mike Rezkalla.

Saturday, I had the opportunity to judge two rounds and the finals round at the Manhattan Forensics Invitational at Manhattan High

School. The competitions I judged were Impromptu, Oration and for Finals Extemporaneous Speech. Had the chance to meet and chat with the MHS Debate/Forensics coach Mac Phrommany and catch up with my former coach Roger Brannan as well. Brought back a lot of memories and there were a lot of great topics and a lot of great speeches given by these kids from around the state as well.

Glad to see K-State get a win on Senior Day vs. Iowa St. 65-58 to finish out 18-13 for the season, K-State baseball pitched a 2-pitcher no-hitter Friday night and split the weekend series vs. Cincinnati to even their record at 9-6.

Also glad to see a little bit of rain to end out the week as well. My rain gauge measured ½ inch, but we could surely use some more moving forward.

Business Meeting

3. Schurle Escrow Agreement - Keats Wastewater Project

Move to approve placing \$9,000 in escrow with Charlson & Wilson Bonded Abstractors, in connection with an option agreement to potentially purchase real property and allow the chairman of the Board to sign the escrow agreement.

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

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 7, 2024 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

5. Tentative Agenda

The March 18, 2024 agenda have 9:50 a.m. as the last item.

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference
- Rich Vargo - Presidential Preference Primary

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

7. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditures reports.

9:15 AM**Evan McMillan, Assistant County Engineer**

8. Deep Creek Rate Resolution 2024

McMillan presented the Deep Creek Rate Resolution.

Move to approve “Resolution No. 031124-11, A Resolution modifying the rates for sewer usage in the Deep Creek Sewer Benefit District in Riley County, Kansas, and repealing resolutions in conflict therewith.”

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

9. Hunter's Island Rate Resolution 2024

McMillan presented the Hunter's Island Rate Resolution.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 031124-12, A Resolution modifying the rates for water usage in the Hunter’s Island Water Benefit District in Riley County, Kansas, and repealing resolutions in conflict

therewith."

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

9:30 AM

Press Conference

10. Downtown Manhattan update - Gina Snyder (3-5 minutes)

Snyder presented an update on Downtown Manhattan.

11. Public Notice - Evan McMillan (2 minutes)

McMillan said Moehlman Road will be closed to through traffic at the intersection of South Rosencutter Road and Moehlman Road from March 12th - 14th. The project is expected to take up to three days.

12. Public Notice - Alvin Perez (2-3 minutes)

Perez said a structure replacement project on Swede Creek Road is scheduled to begin Monday, March 25, 2024. The project is located approximately 5/10ths mile east of Center Hill Road. Swede Creek Road will be closed to through traffic during construction from Center Hill Road to Halls Ravine Road. The project is expected to be completed by Friday, April 5, 2024 weather permitting.

13. Presidential Preference Primary - Rich Vargo (1-2 minutes)

Vargo reported 400 voters have participated in the Presidential Preference Primary as of last Friday.

Vargo said advance voting is open 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday of this week and 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 (noon) this Saturday and closes at 12:00 (noon) on Monday.

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

9:40 AM

Larry Cale

14. Drainage issues in Valleywood subdivision

Cale said 74 Valleywood residents signed a document requesting Riley County to halt all new construction/development and their permits. Until a civil engineer can complete an assessment of water drainage and a better system implemented and established. As this is critical for the health, safety, and quality of life of the residents in Valleywood.

Cale discussed drainage issue concerns in Valleywood.

The Board discussed the concerns.

Woodard stated we do not have building codes so we are limited in what we can do.

McMillan discussed the sewer connections. McMillan said the new development does not have sewer connection.

9:50 AM

Anna Burson, Appraiser

15. Out of State Travel Requests for Anna Burson and Steve Schurle to attend the 2024 IAAO Conference in Denver Colorado

Burson presented the out of state travel request.

Move to approve the Out of State Travel Requests for Anna Burson and Steve Schurle to attend the 2024 IAAO Conference in Denver, Colorado in the estimated amount of \$5,000 for both.

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

16. Out of State Travel Request for Anna Burson to attend NCRAAO in Kearney, Nebraska

Burson presented the out of state travel request.

Move to approve the Out of State Travel Request for Anna Burson to attend NCRAAO in Kearney, Nebraska in the estimated amount of \$870.

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

17. Request to refill Open Commercial Appraiser I Position

Burson presented the request for the Commercial Appraiser I position.

Move to approve the request to post and fill the open Commercial Appraiser I position.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an Appraiser I - Commercial, in the Appraiser's Department, at a Range 7.

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

18. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works projects update.

10:25 AM Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

19. Fire EM staff update

Stukey presented the EM/Fire District staff update.

10:40 AM Shelley Woodard, Deputy Counselor

20. Administrative Work Session

21. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Woodard discussed the SB162 hearing.

Woodard stated she has been working on zoning violations.

Woodard discussed the relocation to Public Works during the 4th floor renovation.

11:00 AM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

22. Staff Report - Riley County Historical Museum

Rescheduled.

10:44 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the County Officials Luncheon.

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

2:00 PM County Officials Luncheon

23. County Officials' Meeting Agenda

The Board attended the County Officials Meeting.