



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 13, 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
Charly Pottorff		Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	8:30 AM
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	8:30 AM
Blade Mages	Founder & Executive Creative Director at Middle	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Director	Present	9:15 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	9:35 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	9:45 AM
Joshua Gering	EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director	Present	9:51 AM
Kile Morrison	Archimages	Present	10:00 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	10:00 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Mages, representing the Wareham Hall Restoration Fund, a 501 c3 formed to restore the Wareham Hall. Mages asked the Board to sign a support letter for grant funding for the Wareham Hall Restoration.

Pottorff asked if the Board has allocated funding for the Riley County Fairgrounds.

The Board said Riley County has not allocated funding for the fairgrounds.

Pottorff stated the dog park at CiCo Park is horrible and needs improved. Pottorff discussed improvements to consider and potential private funding to help.

Pottorff said his daughter's company would be willing to fund a canopy in the dog park.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon there was a meeting of the Keats planning group to organize the presentation for the meeting in Keats that evening (I attended via Zoom). We organized it with me being at the sign-in table and doing the opening and closing remarks. I also introduced county staff present, including Craig Cox and Clancy Holeman from the Counselor's Office; John Ellermann and Evan McMillin from Public Works; Amanda Webb, Bob Isaac and Perry Piper from Planning; and Rich Vargo and Vivienne Leyva from Riley County Clerk's Office. Brian Foster from BG Consultants also attended. Amanda Webb took charge of the meeting, which included a PowerPoint presentation and lots of Q&A from the audience. After about two hours the meeting closed with an agreement by the taxing district voters to proceed with the process to build a lagoon.

I want to thank all the people who attended from Riley County and the community. We will be working diligently to locate property.

Friday, I traveled to Kansas City to pick up my daughter at the new airport. I didn't make it into the terminal but spent some time in the cell phone lot and then in a long line of traffic to get to the pick-up location. They don't have the traffic situation under control yet and it was very inefficient. Hopefully it will get worked out after some time.

Saturday, we went to Schatzki's Schnitzel Haus in Riley. Great German food!

The weekend was busy and it's good to have my daughter home for a visit.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I met with Blade Mages, one of now principal owners of the Wareham Theater. We went over their proposal for renovating the theater and if there's anything they need to be aware of on the Riley County side, and how we can be community partners with this project. We also discussed some of the available grants and resources that may be available for the project as it's their goal to do all of this privately. I have a lot of fond memories at that Wareham Theater and I'm wishing them well to be available to complete this renovation.

Thursday afternoon I listened in on the Council of Foreign Affairs March Local Official Webinar via Zoom. The CFR President Richard Haass lead a conversation on expanding the idea of citizenship and ensuring the survival of American democracy with his new book "The Bill of Obligations: Ten Habits of Good Citizens" this is meant to be a guide for use by local officials, government staffers and their constituents across the political spectrum to heal divisions and safeguard the country's future.

Listened to the K-State and TCU game Thursday night in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament game in Kansas City. The Wildcats lost 80-67 and I continue to wonder why the Big 12 Tournament seems to be such a struggle for K-State. Good news is we have earned a 3 seed in the East Region for the NCAA Tournament and will play Montana State Friday night. Also congratulations to the K-State women's team for making the NIT Tournament as well.

Friday Morning I went through the written testimony in opposition to SB Bill 248 as well as the House substitute for it with Clancy Holeman. We did get that drafted and signed and hopefully it will have an impact as it works its way through the process.

Also Friday morning I met with Matt Mackeprang, regional engineer with KDOT via Microsoft Teams to discuss some of the issues and challenges facing the city of Ogden on Riley Avenue/K-114 (Mainstreet). I spent some time highlighting the concerns with him to see what direction within KDOT we need to go currently. He's going to work with the local project engineer as well as others in the department for some thoughts and ideas and we are going to chat again here in a couple of weeks.

Friday afternoon I met with Anna Burson, Riley County Appraiser to discuss a hand full of items and completing the full round of meetings with department heads here early in 2023. Some of the items we discussed were this year's valuations and the process for it, personnel and staffing and just some general issues and challenges with the department. Appreciated the time as always and I'm sure there will be more to chat about down the road.

Later Friday afternoon I had a pre-Law Board meeting with the RCPD Director, Assistant Director and Chair of Law Board to discuss the upcoming meeting and get the agenda put together officially. A lot of the discussion at this meeting also centered around complications due to the Fake Patty's event two weekends ago and how it can be prepared for better in the years to come.

Spent a good part of the weekend at home rerouting and updating my home entertainment and stereo surround systems. Got it all set back up just in time to the start of the NCAA Tournament it appears.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I attended the meeting with the architect and construction manager for the Public Safety Building. There was a good discussion about needs and wants for the building. David Adams will be giving a report today.

The weekend was spent catching up on work around the house.

Congratulations to the K-State basketball teams. The men are a 3 seed in the NCAA tournament and the women are in the WNIT.

Business Meeting

Move to sign a letter of support for the Wareham Opera House renovation project for SPRINT grant funds for the Wareham Hall team.

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

Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 9, 2023 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ford, County Commissioner

SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

Review Tentative Agenda

4. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

5. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

6. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditure reports.

9:15 AM

David Adams, EMS/Ambulance Director

7. Request to Fill Open Positions

Adams presented the request to fill the following open positions.

- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), FT
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), PT
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Paramedic (EMSPRN)

Move to approve the request to fill the positions.

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

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

- an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), FT & PT, in the

EMS/Ambulance Department, at a Range AEMT.

- an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), in the EMS/Ambulance Department, at a Range EMT.
- a Paramedic (EMSPRN), in the EMS/Ambulance Department, at a Range Paramedic.

9:20 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

8. Administrative Work Session

9. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Holeman presented the pending Commission Projects List.

Holeman discussed SB 248 granting a sales tax exemption for local units of government for food items. Holeman stated the Board did oppose SB 248.

9:30 AM Press Conference

9:35 AM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

10. Riley County Historical Museum Staff Report

Hensler presented the Museum staff report.

9:50 AM Evan McMillan, Assistant Public Works Director/County Engineer

11. Public Works Project Update

McMillan presented the Public Works projects update.

10:05 AM David Adams, EMS/Ambulance Director

12. Riley County Public Safety Headquarters update

Adams presented the Public Safety Headquarters update.

Adams reported the Building Committee met with BHS Construction and received the first cost estimate for the Public Safety Headquarters of \$16.6 M for the building and a total of \$19.5M with contingencies. Adams stated there will also be an additional \$1.8M-\$2.2M for design, IT and FF & E for a total estimated cost of \$21.7M.

Morrison stated he will meet with BHS Construction to see what they can do to reduce cost and not change functionality.

Adams stated he will report back to the Board after the next construction meeting on March 27, 2023.

10:25 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the County Officials Luncheon at 12:00 (noon).

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

12:00 PM County Officials Luncheon

13. County Official's Luncheon Agenda