



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 17, 2022**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

9:00 AM

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

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

[District 1 – John Ford, Member](#)

9:00 AM

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Ford	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	9:00 AM
Craig Cox	Deputy County Counselor	Present	9:00 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	9:00 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:00 AM
Christian Bright	Manhattan Mercury	Present	9:00 AM
Vivienne Uccello	PIO	Remote	9:00 AM
Gary Fike	County Extension Director	Present	10:00 AM
Gregg Eyestone	Extension Agent	Present	10:00 AM
Megan Doughty	Extension Agent	Present	10:00 AM
Josh Kyle	RCPD	Present	10:01 AM
Greg McClure	Extension Agent	Present	10:02 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

McKinley's Comments:

I have talked with David Adams several times over the last couple of weeks about locations for the ambulance station in Leonardville.

After our meeting Monday we had the county officials meeting. We discussed how we will deal with costs increases this year. We do have cares funding remaining that should be enough to carry us through. We also discussed the county pay scale. The pay rate is causing problems with recruitment and retention. We have several items that will be investigated to see what can be done.

Wednesday I attended the North Central Juvenile Detention meeting. Reviewed financials for the month and started looking at budget for next year. The meeting was held in Minneapolis this month. I have never been there but it is a nice little town. We met at a place called The Farm which is a new business. They have a coffee bar, a meeting room for rent, a teen hangout, and soon a microbrewery.

Focke's Comments:

Monday, I attended the County Officials Luncheon held in the BOCC chambers. Elected Officials and some department heads were in attendance. One of the areas of concern is the 2022 budget and how cost increases and the availability of supplies are affecting all the departments. David Adams reported that medicines, supplies and oxygen bottles are not only in sparse supply, but costs have gone up greatly. Michael Boller reported that many of the chemicals that they use for noxious weeds are not available and those they can get have increased in cost. Fuel is another concern as prices have dramatically increased. Department heads are doing what they can to contain costs. Some ARPA funds might be used to help with these costs. A discussion was also held on "Competitive Pay Scale/Salaries. A printed copy was supplied and we went over the study that has been underway with H.R. further discussion will be held at another time. Later that day I had a doctor's appointment and did some yard clean-up.

Wednesday, I met with Elizabeth Ward to discuss several areas of concern, including the Museum Director and the County Appraiser positions. We also discussed how the county can remain competitive in today's job market.

Wednesday evening, I attended Lenten services at my church.

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon, we had the first County Officials Luncheon of 2022. We talked about and discussed two main topics, the rising cost of services, materials, equipment and other related county needs, and the difficulties with salary, retention and the hiring of personnel. Tough topics to discuss but obviously a needed dialog at this point. Also on Monday I met with Reid Petty, District Director for Congressman Tracey Mann. We spent time discussing this new FY 2022 1.5 trillion omnibus spending package, some house related grants and appropriations, and of course March Madness. It had been before the holiday's since we last met, so I was glad we had some time to meet and chat.

Later on Monday as well, I met with Kent Glasscock to talk about and discuss the Aggieville Parking Garage (Entrepreneur Center, RCPD Substation), the Flint Hills Regional Council, the new Riley County Economic Development Advisory Board, and several other topics as well. I know he's extremely busy so I'm grateful he took some to talk about these items with me.

Tuesday I attended the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce. We met in person for the first time in a while. We had a presentation from MATC President Jim Genandt on their facilities plan and development for the future. Got a Chamber local policy agenda update and discussion. It has been broken down in 4 parts and there will be more to come on this topic and update on the leader's retreat that was moved to May that will be here in Manhattan once again. Staff from the Chamber also gave their monthly update to the group as well.

Wednesday evening I met with the Ogden City Council, I gave them an update on work and activities from Riley County, and they discussed several items including the rescinding of their Downtown Business Incentive Grant program, upcoming spring and summer events and a special meeting for the hiring of summer work crews.

Thursday morning I attended the Manhattan Area of Commerce Good Morning Manhattan event virtually. We heard from Aaron Schroeder, President of Canopy. Jessa Voos, Director of the Wamego Chamber of Commerce and small business owner and Jason Smith, President, CEO of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss the upcoming Leadership retreat and other events.

Business Meeting

3. Highway Use Permit, WTC Communications

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting WTC Communications permission to work in the right of way boring and plowing to place fiber optic cable along Skyway Drive.

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

4. Highway Use Permit, Cox Communications

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting Cox Communications permission to work in the right of way to riser down the Evergy Pole and set a large vault and Doghouse Pedestal on Tuttle Creek Cove.

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

5. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda

6. Sign Tax Roll Corrections

Move to approve the Tax Roll Corrections.

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

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 14, 2022 8:30 AM

Move to approve minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:15 AM

John Ellermann, Director of Public Works & Evan McMillan, Assistant County Engineer

10. University Park Wastewater Treatment Facility- Design Recommendations

McMillan presented the University Park Wastewater Treatment Facility design recommendations.

Move to approve the recommendations to begin contract negotiations with SMH Consultants to analyze the current wastewater treatment facility at University Park and provide engineering expertise required for the plant to meet and maintain effluent limits in accordance with KDHE and EPA requirements.

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

9:30 AM

Craig Cox, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

11. Administrative Work Session

No update.

9:50 AM Break

10:00 AM Gary Fike, County Extension Director

12. Forming an Extension District

Fike presented forming an extension district.

The Board discussed the extension district presentation.

10:15 AM Captain Josh Kyle, Administration Division Commander

13. RCPD update

Kyle presented the RCPD update.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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