



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 30, 2023**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

**Riley City Hall, 222 S. Broadway, Riley,
Kansas**

6:00 PM

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

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

[District 1 – John Ford, Vice Chair](#)

6:00 PM

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Ford	County Commissioner	Present	6:00 PM
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Present	6:00 PM
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	6:00 PM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	6:00 PM
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	6:00 PM
Derick Schroller	IT	Present	6:00 PM
Jana McKinley	City of Riley	Present	6:00 PM
Brenda Jordan	Rural Economic Development Board	Present	6:00 PM
Kent Glasscock	Rural Economic Development Board	Present	6:00 PM
Brandon Peoples	KMAN	Present	6:00 PM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	6:00 PM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	6:00 PM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	6:00 PM
Roger Nelson	landowner	Present	6:12 PM
Pat Tiede	RCPD Sergeant	Present	6:00 PM
Brian Peete	RCPD Director	Present	6:00 PM
William Isom	City of Riley	Present	6:00 PM
Darci Pottroff	City of Riley	Present	6:00 PM
Lorn Clement	Rural Economic Development Board	Present	6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Nelson discussed agricultural land in north Riley County, Swede Creek, being purchased for hunting and not appraised as recreational. Nelson stated the County is losing money. Nelson stated the out of state people buying it for recreational are eliminating the chance of

local kids getting into agricultural.

Nelson said he is more than willing to take the commissioners on viewings of the land to see no cattle or agriculture activity is taking place.

Nelson stated he has spoken directly to the person who is named as the leasee and he said he has not signed any agricultural leases.

Burson stated the lease agreements are public open records. Burson said she has met with the property owner and he said ag is in the works on the property. Burson said they have reviewed some of the properties and there is some agricultural activity taking place. Burson said if they have the leases her hands are tied on the matter.

Nelson asked about the personal threats the property owner made to county staff.

Burson stated she told the property owner he cannot talk to the staff inappropriately. Burson said it did not happen when she was here. Burson said she is aware of the matter.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Monday I attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon at Rockin K's event space. The main presentation was by County Counselor, Clancy Holeman who updated the group on legislation being proposed by the Kansas Legislature. There was a lot of discussion and questions, so there was not time left for all the attendees to update their activities.

The next meeting will be on April 24th.

Monday afternoon and Tuesday I attended to some personal business and medical appointments.

I received some calls concerning the appointments to the Fairground Task Force.

Wednesday I was driving home from my Veterinary office and witnessed the burn southwest of Tuttle Creek Dam. Coming into Manhattan, several fire trucks were on their way to the fire.

Later in the afternoon, I had a meeting with several Common Table

members to discuss the possible move of community meals to the 9th grade building. Apparently, the project has been postponed again by the school district until the fall of '24. That evening I attended Lenten services at my church.

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I attended March Intergovernmental Luncheon hosted by USD 383 at Rockin K's. After some brief remarks and introductions, we listened to Riley County Counselor give some updates on several important pieces of legislation in Topeka and the impact they will have locally if passed. I thought some pretty good dialog ensued, so it was definitely worth the time. Also, worth noting it was pretty well attended and thanks to everyone at Rockin K's for lunch as well.

Also Monday afternoon I spoke with Brenden Wirth, Director of Political Affairs for the Kansas Farm Bureau to discuss some civic engagement programming and to get some ideas on how to possibly move a Junior Commissioners Program forward using community resources and knowledge. We had a wonderful conversation and appeared to be on the same page, we plan on staying in touch to see how we can help each other and this type of programming in the future.

Tuesday afternoon I attended the monthly Board of Directors meeting of Pawnee Mental Health via Zoom. Among the items of discussion were Chief Executive Officer's report from Robbin Cole, some program report updates on medical services, as well as an Insurance Risk Report, an updated financial report and a marketing and development report, several different committee reports including a review of the Strategic Plan Progress Report, and a CY 2023-2025 review of the actual Strategic Plan. The Finance Oversight Committee provided a review of January 2023 financials. Other business included doing this year's Mental Health Month Proclamations and distribution of the invites for this year's Annual Celebration in Clay Center on April 25th were discussed as well. We also have two new board members representing Geary County that were introduced to the board during the meeting. Next Meeting will be the Annual Celebration as mentioned above.

Wednesday afternoon I met with Blake Crawford with Channel 8 News from K-State. He's doing a story on the EMS Station in northern Riley County and wanted to do a video interview to answer some questions and get some background information on the subject. It went pretty well and he is supposed to be getting back with me when it airs.

So glad to see the start of Major League Baseball today. Not overly

hopeful for the Kansas City Royals, but I do know the Atlanta Braves should make things interesting this season so we will see how it goes.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday after our meeting I attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon. Clancy Holeman discussed the legislative issues at the state coming up this year.

After that I visited with Russell Stukekey regarding the bids for the fire stations.

The afternoon was the meeting with our committee, the architect, and the contractor regarding the Public Safety Building. Looking at ideas to lower the cost.

Tuesday, I had a conversation with Craig Cox about the animal shelter and the animal control officers.

Later I met with Russel Stukekey again to discuss the fire station projects.

Earlier today I met with Julie Gibbs about the health department.

Later I met with Anna Burson about an appraisal question that I had received.

At home I also had a chance to start some work in the garden.

Business Meeting

Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 27, 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

Review Tentative Agenda

4. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

5. Discuss Press Conference

6:30 PM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

6. Administrative Work Session

Holeman discussed SB 323 which is a proposal by the Senate to make the Appraiser an elected office. Holeman stated given the tenor it will be important to watch the bill.

Holeman discussed some potential perception problems if the position is elected in determining values of property.

6:50 PM Brian Peete, RCPD Director

7. RCPD update

Peete discussed increase vehicle burglaries and increased threats in the community.

Tiede discussed how local "swatting" crimes are handled by both RCPD and the FBI.

Tiede introduced himself as a Sergeant of RCPD and will be working in north county.

7:05 PM Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

8. Firefighter and Storm Spotter Recruitment

Stukey discussed firefighter and storm spotter recruitment.

7:20 PM Darci Pottroff, Riley City Mayor

9. Riley City update

Pottroff, Riley City Mayor, presented the Riley City update.

7:30 PM Vivienne Leyva, PIO

10. Communications Update for March 2023

Leyva presented the PIO communications update.

7:44 PM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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