



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 10, 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
AJ Dome	Mercury	Present	8:43 AM
Stacy Olson	Mercury	Present	8:43 AM
Darell Edie	Budget & Finance Officer	Present	8:52 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:58 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	9:13 AM
Gregg Eystone	Extension Agent	Present	9:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Director	Present	9:30 AM
Craig Cox	Deputy County Counselor	Present	10:10 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	10:30 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	10:30 AM
Francis Awerkamp	Representative District 61	Remote	10:30 AM
Dick Carter	Riley County Lobbyist	Remote	10:30 AM
Usha Reddi	Senator District 22	Remote	10:30 AM
Nate Butler	Representative District 68	Remote	10:30 AM
Kenny Titus	Representative District 51	Remote	10:30 AM
Tom Bruno	Riley County Lobbyist	Remote	10:30 AM
Sydney Carlin	Representative District 66	Remote	10:33 AM
Mike Dodson	Representative District 67	Remote	10:36 AM
Jay Hall	KAC	Remote	10:30 AM
Lewis Bloom	Representative District 64	Remote	10:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I met with Craig Cox and Amanda Webb in the planning office to have further discussion on the search for a lagoon site in Keats.

Friday, I spent most of the day finishing my taxes to get to the accountant that afternoon.

I received a 1980 historical study of Keats which includes pictures of businesses and homes and maps throughout its history. The Riley County Historical Society had recently received the publication which was made by some extension workers many years ago.

Saturday I spent most of the day working in the yard, catching up on bed cleanup and planted some spreading junipers on my sloping back yard. Had to move some existing shrubs and add a lot of soil and mulch.

Sunday, I played in the Bell Choir for both services at the church, and enjoyed a great Easter lunch with good friends. Later in the afternoon, I continued planting and working in the yard, going over paperwork for today's meeting and enjoyed the spring weather.

Ford's Comments:

Hopefully everyone has a blessed and Happy Easter holiday weekend. The weather was just absolutely gorgeous to get out and accomplish things and for any related events for the holiday.

Thursday afternoon I listened to the Council on Foreign Relations State and Local Officials webinar for April. Alex Schroeder, Chief Technology Officer at the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation and Michael Moltzen, Deputy Director of Transportation and Climate Division at the EPA took time to discuss the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act and its provisions for sustainable, resilient, and equitable transportation project including electric vehicle, along with infrastructure deployment, grid integrations across the sector. Senior

CFR Fellow Hedi Crebo-Rediker moderated the discussion and lead the question and answer session afterward as well.

Also Thursday I attended the Crisis Intervention Team meeting. Discussion included a handful of old business items including the upcoming CIT Class that will be held at the Public Work Conference room July 17th-21st. We got an update from the State of Kansas CIT Board. New business items included an update from the CIT Panel from RCPD Lt. Daryl Asher and Pawnee Mental Health CSU Director Brynne Haverkamp on the recent Crisis Response and Resource Symposium, and a good discussion of expanding the council to a more regional team including entities from both Geary and Pottawatomie Counties as well and calling it the Flint Hill Crisis Intervention Team. We will meet again in June.

Friday morning I met with Former 1st District Riley County Commissioner Dave Lewis to catch up and discuss a few items including an appointment to the Fairground Task Force, some other economic development ideas, and thoughts, plus some other related commission things. Always good to catch up with former commissioner to chat and catch up and certainly appreciated the time spent.

Also Friday morning I met with Greg Willems and Greg Lohrentz from the K-State Foundation to discuss the Fairgrounds Task Force, their involvement with it and just some general updates to the plans out at the Edge District including the recent groundbreaking of the third office complex. Had a very good dialog and I look forward to seeing what this task force can produce.

Friday afternoon I met with my doctor in Topeka via video conference to catch up and refresh things on my weight loss journey. All is well currently, and we continue to move forward and progress which is good.

Also Friday afternoon we had our Pre-RCPD Law Board meeting to discuss the April meeting agenda. Animal Control and enforcement from the city was the main topic of discussion and will be discussed at the meeting. I asked that someone from the City of Manhattan provide a presentation to the board so questions and concerns can be addressed. We also discussed some preliminaries for the 2024 budget and several grant possibilities and proclamations that will be made at that meeting as well. The regular meeting is scheduled April 17th at noon at Manhattan City Hall.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday afternoon was the building committee meeting for the new Public Safety Building. We are working on what we can build for the funds we have. A lot of good options discussed for the new buildings, the area buildings, and the parking required.

Sunday, we met with my wife's family in Kansas City. Probably 50+ people including a lot of younger kids. It was great to get together and the weather was beautiful to be outside.

Business Meeting

Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 6, 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

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 Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

7. Staff Update - Riley County Historical Museum

Hensler presented the Museum staff update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

8. Upcoming gardening programs - Gregg Eyestone (2-3 minutes)

Eyestone said the community is invited to a free program on growing warm season vegetables like tomatoes at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 15th at Pottorf Hall in CiCo Park.

9:35 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

9. Request to fill position

Ellermann presented the request to fill Parks Seasonal Laborer positions.

Ford questioned the need for the number of positions or the amount of hours due to getting by the last couple of years with a lot less.

Ellermann said due to the Fair.

Ford suggested cutting the number of hours in half.

McKinley said if they can be hired there is always deferred maintenance to be done.

Move to approve the request to fill the Parks Seasonal Laborer positions for 2023.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [2 TO 1]
MOVER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner
AYES:	Focke, McKinley
NAYS:	Ford

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for Seasonal Laborers, in the Public Works Department, at a Pay Range Seasonal.

10. Request to Hire Custodial Worker 1

Ellermann presented the request to fill the Custodial Worker 1 position.

Move to approve the request to fill the Custodial Worker I.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Custodian I, in the Public Works Department, at a Pay Range 1.

11. 2023 Equipment & Vehicle Internet Auction

Ellerman discussed the 2023 Equipment & Vehicle Internet Auction.

Move to authorize staff to move forward and to authorize Public Works to contract with Purple Wave, Inc, of Manhattan, Kansas to conduct an "Internet Only" auction to sell surplus vehicles and equipment and to begin the process to dispose of surplus property.

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

9:50 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

12. Administrative Work Session

13. Pending County Projects County Counselor

14. Nationwide Settlement Agreement of Opioid Litigation—Opportunity to “Opt In”—Five New Settling Defendants

Holeman discussed the National Opioid Settlement.

Move the Board authorize counsel to sign on its behalf as recommended.

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

Holeman discussed the 2023 Legislative Session Conference agenda.

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

15. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works projects update.

10:30 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

16. Virtual Legislative Conference

Holeman welcomed and thanked the legislators for attending the Legislative Conference.

Holeman stated the Board is unanimous in opposition to HB 2002 elimination of local retailers sales tax on food.

Holeman discussed the Board's opposition to SCR 1611 placing a ceiling on property valuation increases at 4%.

Holeman presented SB 162, Riley County's Unincorporated Area Nuisance Abatement Act as Sedgwick County currently has legislative authority.

Dodson discussed the bills.

Reddi discussed a tax exemption for the Area Agency on Aging.

Reddi said they are looking at sending our RNR notices and valuation notices online to reduce cost.

Reddi discussed the impact on the food sales tax elimination.

Carlin discussed proposed legislation.

Titus stated in Corrections they worked on a jail modernization bill.

Titus discussed a water funding bill with \$5M for technical assistance and \$12M for projects with loan forgiveness.

Butler stated he did not have anything to add.

Awerkamp discussed the valuation notices which proposes 4 years of prior data. Awerkamp stated it has been revised to 2 years.

Awerkamp said on a bright note a lot of economic development bills were killed.

Dodson reported the bill will now go to the Governor and most of them did not pass by a huge majority.

Dodson discussed the single rate income tax proposal.

Bloom discussed HB 1611 and said the bill will not be worked this year and the big school budget is coming up.

Ford discussed SB 162 regarding nuisance control.

McKinley discussed Awerkamp's desire to place 5 years of valuation on notices.

Awerkamp stated he feels it is better information than provided on the RNR statements at less cost.

11:36 AM

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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