



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 15, 2021**

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	Present	8:30 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	8:30 AM
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	8:30 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed Director	Present	8:30 AM
Alice Massimi	PIO	Present	8:34 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:38 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	8:40 AM
Craig Cox	Deputy County Counselor	Present	9:30 AM
Gary Fike	County Extension Director	Present	9:55 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	9:50 AM
Breva Spencer	Family Connections Supervisor	Present	9:50 AM
Dennis Butler	RCPD Director	Present	10:15 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	10:30 AM
Amanda Smeller	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	10:34 AM
DaLanna Nichols	Court Administrator	Present	10:38 AM
Tami Robison	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	10:04 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	10:43 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Tuesday morning I did KMAN 1350's In Focus Program via Zoom. The first segment was Julie Gibbs from the Health Department giving a local update on the situation with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. I also brought Amanda Smeller Riley County Planning Director on to discuss our efforts on future comprehensive planning and what that is going to look like as well as the NextGen911 efforts. Discussion on a new EMS facility, the First Christian Church Property, the Seth Childs Corridor, extension of a county ½ cent tax, and broadband/wireless were also brought up. Speaking of technology I appreciate Brandon Peoples patience as service on my Wi-Fi jetpack for the Zoom went down late in program, thankfully I had my phone available for backup.

Tuesday afternoon I had a follow up Zoom call on some interests and collaboration moving forward down in the Aggieville District. Dialog was good and there is a lot yet to sort out so there will be more about this moving forward in the future most likely.

Thursday afternoon I had my monthly national teleconference meeting with NACo's Community Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee. This meeting centered around a recap of the first virtual policy conference, which was held throughout March and early April, as mentioned this year's annual conference and expo is being moved from Travis County, Texas to Prince Georges County, Maryland and will be a combination of both in person and virtual. A legislative update on the American Jobs Plan was presented by Jessica Jennings, NACo's Associate Transportation Director and an update on the American Rescue Plan was presented our committee liaison Daria Daniel.

McKinley's Comments:

Tuesday I attended Flint Hills Veterans Coalition meeting. In early stages of planning the Veterans Day parade, which is their primary event. They have a website and a Facebook page and have started doing some podcasts with the latest one being Women in War. I met and had a short conversation with former commissioner Mike Kearns.

Tuesday I had several conversations with the Sowell's about their concerns about what Britts are doing along Wildcat Creek. Went out with Tim Sowell and walked through some of the areas they are concerned about. An injunction was served yesterday stopping the

work for now.

I have had some calls and emails regarding Biden's 30 by 30 plan. Some are confusing it with the National Heritage Area being proposed. There was a meeting in Clay Center Tuesday evening concerning the National Heritage Area that would stretch from here to Colorado, three counties deep in Kansas and Nebraska. Riley County is actually already a part of a National Heritage Area that covers eastern Kansas and some western Missouri.

I contacted both Representative Mann's office and Senator Moran's office about the 30 by 30 plan. Right now it is just a broad initiative with no concrete details or definitions. They are both aware of the problems in this regarding any restrictions of private property rights and are keeping an eye on it. Senator Moran has a news release concerning this on his website.

Focke's Comments:

I received a call from Tim Suell in the a.m. of Tuesday concerning the environmental problems occurring in Hunters Island and Temple Lane. I went out to the property and met with him and his father, Scott, and toured the property with Tim. Steve Higgins has been working on getting the adjoining property owner to stop clearing and bulldozing the creek areas. Later in the day, I was informed that a restraining order was to be issued the next day. I followed up with the Suells' the following morning. A representative of the state will be at the site on Wednesday to assess the damages and pursue the mitigation.

On Wednesday, I attended the Heartland Works meeting via zoom. A presentation was given by Mary Ann Lawrence who is a national consultant that analyzes programs in the 50 states. Her report stated that the Kansas program is compliant and had compliments for the board and numerous workforce centers. She had several suggestions including adding an extra business person to the board and to change the by-laws for a 4 year plan rather than 5 that's in the current by-laws.

Other discussion included making a plan for employees wanting to continue to work remotely after a May 1st opening date for the centers. David Brennan had a report on the issue. During the pandemic a significant number of workers have determined not to return to work, possibly due to more emphasis on family life and the cost of child care.

Business Meeting

3. Bid Recommendation 2022 Truck

Move to approve the bid submitted by Shawnee Mission Ford, Shawnee, Kansas for a 2022 one and one-half ton 4x4 cab chassis truck in the amount of \$39,487.00, which was the second lowest of two bids received for the Noxious Weed Department.

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

4. Senn Rd. Bridge Replacement Project- Bid Recommendation

Move to approve the low bid submitted by Ebert Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$380,699.77 for the Senn Road Bridge replacement project.

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

5. 2021 CIP Authorizations-First Work Session

Move to approve and sign the CIP Authorization Forms for approved requests during the first quarter CIP work session held on April 8, 2021. The approved combined total is \$1,292,000.

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

6. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

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

- Millicent Okyere-Atta-Yeboah, for a promotion (from COVID-19 Contact Tracer), as a Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Coordinator, in the Health Department, at a grade L step 1, at \$19.69 per hour.
- Sydney Owings, for a promotion (from an Appraiser I-Residential), as an Appraiser II-Commercial, in the Appraiser's Department, at a grade L step 1, at \$19.69 per hour.
- Jana Chingway, for a promotion, as a Senior Legal Assistant, in the

Counselor's Department, at a grade M step 5, at \$23.57 per hour.

7. Discuss Intergovernmental Luncheon

Review Minutes

8. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 12, 2021
8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

9. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

10. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

11. Fill an open Traffic Control Technician Position

Ellermann presented the request to rehire the Traffic Control Technician position.

Move to approve the Public Works Department advertise to hire the open Traffic Control Technician position.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Traffic Control Technician, in the Public Works Department/Traffic Division, at a grade I.

9:15 AM Break

9:30 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

12. Administrative Work Session

Holeman asked the Board to change the title of the executive session to pending litigation.

Move to change the executive session motion from "Potential" to "Pending" litigation.

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

9:30 AM 13. Executive session to discuss confidential legal advice regarding pending litigation issues

Move the County Commission, including Chairman Ford, Commissioner McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, recess into executive session on pending litigation for the purpose of consultation with Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, and Craig Cox, Deputy County Counselor, attorneys for the County Commission, which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:50 a.m.

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

9:50 AM

Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

Move the record reflect action shall be taken consistent with the consensus reached in executive session.

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

9:50 AM

Breva Spencer, Maternal and Child Health Supervisor

Move to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Board of Health.

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

14. Request to proceed with new position through the OPEI grant

Spencer presented the request to create a new position through the OPEI grant.

Move to approve the process of writing a job description, McGrath placement evaluation and salary and benefits determination for the new position under the OPEI and ELC grant funding through December 31, 2021.

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

Move to recess as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.

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

10:00 AM Gary Fike, County Extension Director

15. Wallet Wisdom

Fike presented the "Wallet Wisdom Program" beginning April 22, 2021.

10:15 AM Dennis Butler, RCPD Director

16. RCPD update

Butler presented a RCPD update.

10:30 AM Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

17. Staff Update

Stukey presented an update on Emergency Management/Riley County Fire District #1.

10:45 AM Rich Vargo, County Clerk

18. First Christian Church/County Administrative Facilities & Courtroom Space

Vargo presented the background material from 2006-Present on the

planning and purchase of the First Christian Church/Administrative Facilities.

The Board discussed the First Christian Church/Administrative Facilities.

Vargo suggested the Board consider a Retreat with all Department Heads/Elected Officials to discuss space needs.

Nichols discussed Courts needs for additional space together with the County Attorney and CASA.

Wilkerson agreed with Nichols comments. Wilkerson discussed the large cases cause overcrowding where witnesses and defendants are talking with each other.

The Board asked to have Brent Bowman present a review of the last space plan developed.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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