



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 21, 2022**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

8:30 AM

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

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

[District 1 – John Ford, 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
Darell Edie	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Christain Bright	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:32 AM
Rita Cassida		Present	8:30 AM
Michele Reid	Payroll & Benefits Spec & HR Associate	Present	8:38 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:48 AM
John Martens	Deputy Fire Chief	Present	8:57 AM
James Slaymaker		Present	9:31 AM
Josh Kyle	RCPD	Present	10:05 AM
Sam Johnson		Present	10:16 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	10:30 AM
Bob Isaac	Planner	Present	10:30 AM
Jim Goode	Maxnet	Present	10:37 AM
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	10:55 AM
Scott Jeffcoat	ARRA	Remote	11:02 AM
Vickie James	Food & Farm Council, Riley County & Manhattan City	Present	4:00 PM
Ron Fehr	Manhattan City Manager	Present	4:00 PM
Usha Reddi	Manhattan City Commissioner	Present	4:00 PM
Dee McKee	Pottawatomie County Commissioner	Present	4:00 PM

John Matta	Manhattan City Commissioner	Present	4:00 PM
Linda Morse	Manhattan City Commissioner	Present	4:00 PM
Chad Kinsley	Pottawatomie County Administrator	Present	4:00 PM
Richard Weixelman	Wamego City Commissioner	Present	4:00 PM
Caroline Myran	Project Manager, New Venture Advisors	Remote	4:00 PM
Mark Hatesohl	Manhattan City Commissioner	Present	4:15 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Vargo introduced Darell Edie the Budget and Finance Officer.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

McKinley's Comments:

After our meeting Monday I met with Perry Piper. We discussed a lagoon problem a resident had contacted me about. Then had a chance to discuss a lot of general items with Perry.

Monday afternoon I attended the welcome reception for the Scorpion Biologic Services and their parent company, Heat Biologics. I had the chance to talk to a lot of community leaders and had a short conversation with David Halverson who will be the head of the facility here. They all talked about how impressive the presentation that was made when the site selection committee visited. The founder and CEO of Heat said when he sat down in the meeting he introduced himself the gentlemen next to him and asked who he was. He said I am KSU President Richard Myers. Mr. Wolf thought that was great and asked what other universities he had been at. Myers said I did not have a traditional academic background, I had served in the military. Wolf said he then asked him what he did there and President Myers said I was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Wolf said he was so stunned by that response he did not know what to say. It was a very good reception.

Tuesday evening was the fire advisory board meeting. They always have spirited discussions and the meeting lasted until 9:30. Highlights were working on getting more volunteers, revisions to policy manual and SOG's, new equipment coming in, update work on stations, two new stations coming later this year and updates to radio system. The total number of volunteers now is 121, which is down from previous numbers, but they also had cleaned out some of the inactive members. After the meeting one of the north county captains had some questions about a property owners in that area.

Wednesday morning was the North Central Juvenile Detention Center board meeting. We voted to allow another dollar an hour raise to keep and hire needed employees. There was some discussion on succession planning with the two lead positions there. A long discussion concerned revising the By-laws. They were written in 1992 and the functions of the facility and the board have changed over the years. This will be an ongoing project for several months. Letters were sent to the counties that don't attend to see if they could start sending representatives. The facility covers fifteen counties, but only six to eight of the counties show up at the meetings.

Wednesday afternoon my wife had some business in the area, so we went through Scranton. I had not been there in 30 years but my great grandparents and their descendants lived for over 100 years. My great aunt lived in the same house all of her 95 years. No one was home, but it was fun to see the house again.

Focke's Comments:

Monday I attended the Law Board meeting in the afternoon. The consent agenda included minutes of the past meetings, approval of expenditures and credits, and related County expenditures. There was a short discussion on the higher than average daily inmate population, seizure expenditures, and the monthly crime report. All were approved as presented. The general agenda included a report from the Fraternal Order of Police on their monthly activities. \$3,000 was raised from the Polar Plunge that will go toward the Special Olympics fund.

Several proclamations were read by the Chair, Linda Morse. One for the National Correctional Officers Week - 5/1-5/7, and the National Police Week - 5/15-5/21.

Special RCPD award presentations, an Honorary Trooper recognition and a Metal of Valor Award were made by RCPD Captains Steer & Kyle and Kansas Highway Patrol, Colonel Jones to citizens and RCPD

Officers for their actions at the Dec. 5th traffic accident that involved 5 teenagers.

2023 Budget Development was presented that focused on salary increases necessary to recruit and retain personnel. Another letter is being sent to the city and county commissions concerning requests for ARPA funds for these increases.

Tuesday I attended via zoom by the team developing the Food System Master Plan that will be presented to the Joint City/County/County meeting later this afternoon. The group had some final corrections prior to the plan going to print. It is a rather lengthy and very thorough 10 year plan.

Wednesday I attended, via zoom, the quarterly meeting of the HWI Board. The board consists of appointed members and elected officials. The new director has been very busy since starting last fall. A thorough review of full coverage health insurance was made and is being offered to employees. There are four plans for them to choose from. Also under discussion was office space in Topeka for the main office, and the Workforce center in Manhattan whose leases are up on June 30th of this year. It was decided to close down the Topeka office. All employees have been working remote and feel they can continue with that arrangement, using the Topeka Workforce Center if needed. In Manhattan, negotiations are underway with the Manhattan Area Technical School and Highland Community College for possible free space in Wamego. The current space can be leased on a month to month basis through October if necessary.

Staff and several board members reported on attending a conference in Washington D.C., which focused on the current labor shortages in the country. Shortages aren't necessarily related to COVID, but issues that have been known for many years - baby boomers retiring (80%) and younger people entering the work force that have different needs (20%). Many ideas surfaced that were discussed.

The board has been awarded two new grants and they are hiring two new employees for them. The focus will be on retaining employees, getting injured workers back to work, and getting people who were formerly incarcerated into the workforce.

Unemployed numbers in the state have remained steady at 2.5% with our region being a little higher at 2.8%.

Also discussed was the Scorpion Biometrics industry coming to this area. 30% of the employees will be PhD's with fairly high earnings.

The facility will include approximately 500,000 sq. ft. located in western Pottawatomie County.

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I attended the April meeting of the Riley County Law Board at Manhattan City Hall. Amongst the items of discussion were Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #17, two separate proclamations including National Police Week and National Correctional Officers Week. We also had several letters of appreciation, several commendation awards, and a medal of valor award presented by both RCPD and the Kansas Highway Patrol. The rest of meeting focused on the 2023 budget development including their recent salary survey and how it incorporates in the budget and the possible need for County/City ARPA funding was discussed as well.

Tuesday morning I attended the Town hall with Congressman Tracey Mann over at Pottorf Hall. Thought he did a pretty good job of catching us up on everything he and his staff are working on, what is going on at the Capitol in Washington D.C. and some things to expect moving along through the rest of 2022. He did answer some questions and the event was pretty well attended as well.

Tuesday afternoon I attended the monthly Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting. A large part of discussion centered around the recent announcement of the Scorpion Biological Services facility in Pottawatomie County and what this will mean for the region moving forward. Also got an update on financials through March and on membership accounts too. Dialog was had on the updated bylaws to include several new ex-officio positions. Some other action items on the new economic development in Pottawatomie County, discussion on testimony for the Manhattan City Commission on the Aggieville Midtown development, City salary recommendations, Chamber events, Leaders Retreat, and the Annual Meeting, and we also had updates from their staff.

Wednesday I attended the "A Day in The Life" event at Stormont Vail Health Center in Topeka. It was absolutely amazing to spend all day touring the parts of the facility and talking to the administrative and operations staff of the organization. We toured all the departments including catheter and angioplasty unit, neo-natal and maternity, regular operating rooms as well as emergency, the forensics units, the simulation and education unit as well the trauma unit where I actually performed CPR and in simulated scenario and brought the patient back to life. We also toured the helipad where Life Flights come in although they couldn't bring a helicopter in this time, because of the weather.

We later had lunch and got updates from Stormont staff and got an overview of the new facility going in here in Manhattan and what their plan and vision for the facility is going to be. Really was insightful and educational and had a lot of fun being in attendance for it.

Also Wednesday afternoon I had the monthly Zoom call with MPO. We had some staff updates from the MPO staff and from KDOT. We approved changes to the MPO Operations Manual, adopted Amendment #2 to our connect 2040 plan, adopted another amendment #2 to our Transportation Improvement Plan, and adopted Amendment #1 to our Unified Planning Work Program. We discussed this year's second local match funding request and local match estimates for 2023, and lastly we as a policy board approved a process for the hiring of a new Transportation Planner that we will invoke to find the replacement for Stephanie Peterson. We still have a few minor details to iron out and as of yesterday we also have no applicants for the position. We will for sure meet again on May 18th.

Business Meeting

3. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$543,316.01 and the following warrant vouchers for April 22, 2022:

2021 Budget

Road & Bridge Cap Project	\$151,119.79
TOTAL.	\$151,119.79

2022 Budget

County General	\$715,609.09
Health Department	54,172.30
County Auction	83.50
Motor Vehicle Operations	4,037.82
Community Corrections	26,464.33
Emergency 911	611.83
Solid Waste	203,094.64
County Building	14,365.05
Road & Bridge Cap Project	7,560.93
RCPD Levy/Op	1,270.25

Landfill Closure	1,245.38
Riley Co. Fire Dist. #1	12,791.55
University Park W&S	6,311.21
Hunters Island Water Dist	1,422.91
Carson Sewer Benefit Dist	876.81
Deep Creek Sewer	341.32
Moehlman Bottoms	150.94
Valleywood Operations	7.25
Terra Heights Sewer	1,439.59
Konza Water Operations	2,242.37
Lakeside Heights Sewer	58.66

TOTAL. \$1,054,157.73

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

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 18, 2022
8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM**John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer****7. University Park - Consultant Agreement**

Ellermann discussed the University Park Water Treatment Facility.

Ellermann presented the University Park consultant agreement.

Cassida asked if the EPA Order for Compliance for Consent, University Park was not listed on it? Cassida said they never saw the document.

Cassida stated the University Park Capital fund only has about the same amount of funds as the consultant agreement proposed. Cassida asked if the Board feels the proposed cost of \$155,000 is reasonable. Cassida said she does not, given her past experience with similar projects.

Cassida said she understands there is not a flow meter on the system to provide better information on the volume.

Cassida stated she has been told the storage tank is too large, which would impact results.

Cassida said she understands a contractor maintains the system and it may be beneficial to have a county employee assigned to the task.

Slaymaker, University Park Improvement Board, stated Riley County is responsible for the maintenance of the water treatment facility. Slaymaker said the EPA standards have changed, which has caused the system to be out of compliance.

Slaymaker discussed the lack of land available for a lagoon.

Slaymaker asked for better communication from Riley County on their systems.

Slaymaker said around May the current operator was sited for multiple violations. Slaymaker asked who pays for the fines, the benefit district?

Slaymaker discussed the concerns with the way a consultant was selected and the cost of the proposed agreement.

Slaymaker said he believes August 1, 2022 is a hard date from EPA for a response.

Ellermann stated he will do better at communications with the University Park Improvement Board.

The Board by consensus asked for Ellermann to look for alternate ways to reduce cost on the consultant agreement and identify funding.

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

8. Administrative Work Session

Move to add an executive session to Holeman's time.

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

9:49 AM Executive session to discuss confidential legal advice regarding potential litigation issues

Move the County Commission, including Chairman McKinley, Commissioner Focke, and Commissioner Ford, recess into executive session for the purpose of consultation with Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, attorney for the commission, on potential litigation, a matter which is 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 10:00 a.m.

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

10:00 AM Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

9:50 AM Break

10:00 AM Gregg Eyestone, County Extension Agent

9. Extension Master Gardener

Eyestone discussed and thanked the volunteers who assist with the Extension Programs.

Eyestone discussed the Master Gardeners Program established in Riley County in 1988.

10:15 AM Captain Josh Kyle, RCPD

10. RCPD update

Kyle presented the RCPD update.

Kyle stated RCPD just recently implemented a \$5,000 sign on bonus for first responders, corrections, dispatch, and police.

Kyle said they also have a \$1,000 bonus for employee referrals.

10:30 AM Amanda Webb, Planning and Development Director

11. Keats Sewer Benefit District Project Update

Webb discussed the historical and current issues with the Keats properties wastewater systems.

Webb presented an update on the Keats Sewer Benefit District project.

11:00 AM Jim Goode, Maxnet

12. Network Node Router System

Goode, Maxnet presented information to provide broadband to rural America.

Jeffcoat presented information on ARRA Networks Last Mile Platform.

Goode stated he is available for future meetings to discuss further.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the Joint City/County/County Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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

Joint City/County/County Meeting (at County Offices)

13. City/County/County Meeting Agenda

Morse introduced Richard Weixelman, Wamego City Commissioner.

14. Food System Assessment/Survey Results/COVID Impact

James presented the Food System Assessment/Survey Results/Covid Impact.

McKee discussed the follow up on transportation issues. McKee presented information from KDOT in 2019 on the Blue River Bridge. McKee discussed the impact of the new company being established in Pottawatomie County.

McKee asked for a letter of support from the region.

5:10 Adjourned.

