



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 26, 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 Regal	Assistant Fire Chief	Present	8:30 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	8:30 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	8:30 AM
Alice Massimi	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
David Willis	Parks Manager	Present	8:31 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:35 AM
Laurie Harrison	Emergency Management Coordinator	Present	8:36 AM
Steve Schurle	REACH Committee	Present	8:30 AM
Scott Cassidy	Parks Department	Present	8:35 AM
Robbin Cole	Pawnee Mental Health Services	Present	9:00 AM
Gary Rosewicz	Assistant County Engineer	Present	9:00 AM
Sam Hennigh	KMAN	Present	9:09 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Schurle presented Scott Cassidy of the Parks Department the Employee of the Month Award for his assistance with the COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Stukey stated Cassidy went above and beyond in assisting with the COVID-19 clinics.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I met with Reid Petty, Congressman Mann's director here in the now open Manhattan Congressional office. We spoke briefly on a handful of topics and several will most likely be ongoing for the time being as they will need to be figured out in Washington DC over the course of time. Certainly good to break the ice and continue to keep an open line of communication moving forward.

Thursday afternoon I also had a Zoom with members of Administrative Services and the Planning Department to create some dialog and discussion on the challenges and issues we are facing with county code and more importantly the enforcement of those codes. Thought the dialog was good and hopefully some new direction and fresh approach and guidance can be achieved to resolve these issues moving forward.

Also Thursday afternoon I listened in on NACo's National Membership Call on the US Treasury's new guidance on pre-award requirements that outlines immediate steps counties need to take to receive future direct payments from the U.S. Treasury under the coronavirus state and local fiscal funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act. By following these guidelines and certifications, counties will be better positioned to receive payments quickly and efficiently. Funding should start coming through these mechanisms here in the next 60 days and from the discussion the full timeline on both allocations will go out to December 2024. Specific guidelines for each of the 3,000 plus counties will also be based on population and needs based on housing, health, infrastructure, and job retention to name a few. NACo is putting together a national recovery clearinghouse dashboard that will be county by county help in this process as well and guidelines continue to be developed.

Friday and Saturday I attended the Annual State Republican Convention, which was here in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn. This was the first major event at the newly expanded conference center and it was very well attended with over 800 people. It was great being able to catch up with people from across the state that I hadn't seen in person in well over a year plus. Saturday evening's dinner included Matt Schlapp and Governor Kristi Noem from South Dakota

Sunday afternoon I zoomed in on the K-State Staley School of Business Leadership Studies Celebration and Awards Ceremony. The reason for the Zoom was Julie Gibbs and the Riley County Health Department received the Outstanding Public Leadership Award. Congratulations to everyone at Health Department and this is certainly a well-deserved award and congratulations to all of the award winners overall during this celebration.

I lastly wanted to send my thoughts and condolences of the passing of Judy Davis longtime Director of the Crisis Center. During my six years on the City of Manhattan's Social Service Advisory Board I worked with her and the organization and always found her to be very compassionate and a stalwart with dealing with the challenges and issues of domestic violence locally. This truly leaves a huge void to be filled for the community

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday after our meeting here, we had a tour of some of the roads and bridges in the area. John Ellermann and Gary Rosewicz showed us some of the projects that have been completed using the road and bridge sales tax and some of the future projects needed. The completed projects were well done to serve the residents' need for that area. At the bridges and culverts for the future list it was obvious the problems each location had and what was needed for new structures.

Friday morning I was allowed to accompany Senator Moran on his tour of the NBAF facility. It is a huge facility. We saw the various areas where livestock can be kept, the labs, and other work areas. Of course the big issue brought up was safety. They have looked at the near 2,000 comments the city recently received and said most came from just fourteen individuals. The facility is built to withstand an F5 tornado. The exterior is thick concrete walls with added steel beams and plates. Anything coming out of the facility whether it is solid, fluid or air, there are double and triple systems to be sure everything is clean before it leaves.

Friday afternoon we took a quick trip down to Branson for my wife's birthday. At the Sight and Sound Theater we saw the current show, which is Jesus. All of their productions are bible stories and include live animals. The stage wraps around part way back on each side of the audience and there are two main aisles through the audience where cast and animals sometimes enter and exit the stage. Animals coming through the theater aisles included horses, camels, sheep, goats, and pigs. It is a huge production and lasts more than two hours.

Focke's Comments:

After the meeting last Thursday, I joined the road and bridge tour of bridges and culverts in the south west part of the county. Some had been completed and some were in various states of repair. I would like to see the list prioritized according to the highest need and amount of people that use them. It was a good learning experience for me as we go forward with a sales tax initiative.

Later that day I called a friend of an acquaintance on a complaint against the appraiser's office on his residential appraisal. On Friday, I met with Greg McHenry about the person in question and we discussed the issues that have been on-going in the case. Greg is going to get back with me the first of next week on getting this issue resolved.

On Friday morning, I met with Tim DeNoble, Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Design at KSU, at the old Christian Church property. That afternoon, I asked Rich Vargo to add an item to the agenda at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday that will address uses of the church building that were not considered in the 2006 study. Dean DeNoble and Kathy Dzewahowski of the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance have agreed to come before us and discuss possible renovation issues of the property. I wanted to discuss it with other two commissioners before adding it to the Thursday, April 29th agenda. I'll also provide copies of an article on the church history in the Preservation Alliance newsletter written by Ms. Dzewahowski in February of 2020. I believe we need to seek opinions from a range of sources on the best approach to take with the building.

On Saturday I went to the Smithsonian exhibition at the Volland Store. The exhibit is closing today. The theme is "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" and Volland was one of six locations in Kansas where the traveling exhibit is being hosted. It was developed to spark fresh thinking and conversations about the future and sustainability of our rural communities. Further information and recorded presentations are available at vollandfoundation.org and thehollandstore.com.

Business Meeting**3. Sign Mental Health Month 2021 Proclamation**

Move to sign the Mental Health Month 2021 Proclamation for May for Pawnee Mental Health Services.

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

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 22, 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

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Robbin Cole, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director

7. Pawnee Mental Health Services update

Cole presented the Pawnee Mental Health Services update.

9:15 AM Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer

8. Bid opening for 2021 Asphalt Overlay Program

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for the 2021 Asphalt Overlay Project:

Company	Alternate #1	Alternate #2	Alternate #3
Shilling Construction Company, Inc. PO Box 1568 Manhattan, KS 66505	\$1,273,555.70	\$1,415,825.70	\$1,440,925.70

Move to refer the bids to staff for evaluation and recommendation.

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

9:30 AM

Press Conference

9. Presentation of the Pawnee Mental Health Month Proclamation - John Ford and Robbin Cole (3-5 minutes)

Ford presented the Mental Health Month 2021 Proclamation for May to Robbin Cole.

Cole discussed the COVID-19 impacts on mental health in our community.

Cole thanked the Board for the Proclamation.

9:50 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

10. Request to fill vacant Administrative Clerk II-Utilities position

Ellermann requested to fill the Administrative Clerk II-Utilities position.

Move to approve filling of the Public Works Administrative Clerk II - Utilities 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 an Administrative Clerk II-Utilities, in the Public Works/Administrative Services Division, at a grade I.

10:00 AM Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

11. Bid opening for two 3/4 ton 4x4 trucks

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for two 3/4 ton 4x4 trucks:

Company	Each	Total Bid
Don Hattan 6000 Hattan Drive Wichita, KS 67219	\$35,500.00	\$71,000.00

Move to refer the bids to staff for evaluation and recommendation.

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

12. Commercial Design Proposal from architectural firm with established relationship on previous fire station projects

Stukey presented the request for the University Park & Ashland Fire Station design proposal.

Move to approve Commercial Design Proposal with Anderson Knight Architects to facilitate the construction of the University Park and Ashland fire stations and authorize Director Russel Stukey to oversee the projects.

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

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

13. Administrative Work Session

Holeman asked the Board to add an executive session to his time.

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

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

10:13 AM

Executive Session

Move that the County Commissioners, including Commissioner Ford, Commissioner McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, along with Elizabeth Ward, Human Resource Manager; Russel Stuke, Emergency Services Director; and Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor; attorney for the County Commission, recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss an applicant's interview for the position of Deputy Chief, discuss compensation and possibly make a conditional offer of employment, and to protect the privacy of the applicant, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:30 a.m.

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

10:30 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

14. Pending County Projects County Counselor

10:30 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

15. Request to fill as-needed position - County Clerk

Vargo requested to fill the as-needed position.

Move the board approve the position of As-Needed Clerical Assistant for the Riley County Clerk's office.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an As Needed Clerical Assistant, in the Clerk's Department, at a grade D.

Ford stated he would like to schedule the discussion on the First Christian Church to begin with our Public Works Director first and then Brent Bowman.

Ford said he does not see a path forward with the First Christian Church building given the space needed.

Focke stated she has been in and out of the building and seeking different opinions on the facility. Focke said she would like for the commission to hear different opinions on the facility.

McKinley said one way or the other we need to make a decision and if we keep the building it has to be maintained and if not it needs to be taken down.

McKinley asked if either of the other two commissioners are interested in discussing the county mask mandate.

The Board discussed the county mask mandate.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the Intergovernmental Luncheon.

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

12:00 PM Intergovernmental Luncheon

16. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda

The Board attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon.