



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 29, 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
Marvin Rodriguez		Present	8:30 AM
Tim de Noble		Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Remote	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:32 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	8:32 AM
Kathy Dzewaltowski		Present	8:36 AM
Alice Massimi	PIO	Present	8:37 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	8:46 AM
Tami Robison	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:00 AM
Greg McClure	Extension Agent	Present	9:03 AM
Shelly Williams	Community Corrections Director	Present	9:28 AM
Sandi Harper	ISO II - Adult, Community Corrections	Present	9:28 AM
Jessie Hubbard	Administrative Assistant II	Present	9:28 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	9:45 AM
Amanda Smeller	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	10:25 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	10:40 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Rodriguez encouraged the commission to let the mask mandate expire the sooner the better.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Monday at noon Riley County hosted the April Intergovernmental Luncheon meeting. I thought Vickie James' presentation on the Health in All Policies was extensive and solid. A lot of possibilities to consider moving forward for the region. As always it is great to get an update from all of our community partners and I was quite surprised that everybody is ready and willing to getting back to meeting in person in June. I tend to agree with the thought that talking networking and discussing in person is the best approach for this particular meeting considering everything that is involved.

Tuesday afternoon I had the monthly Zoom with the Pawnee Mental Health Board of Directors. As a member of the finance committee we got an update and made a motion to use some funding to pay off a foundation loan. Elected a new Board Treasurer and got a new member to the finance committee. We got an Executive Director report and will be working on development of a plan for a hybrid model and getting to in person meetings in August.

Later Tuesday I attended via Zoom the Pawnee Mental Health Annual Celebration to take review, celebrate a very difficult and challenging year, and to present some awards to a great and compassionate group of citizens and staff representing Pawnee and the community

I've also spent some time this week dialoging with vested and community partners on the masking issue that we will be discussing later this morning.

McKinley's Comments:

Monday at noon I attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon. The Flint Hills Wellness Coalition gave a presentation on Health in All Policies.

Tuesday evening I joined in by Zoom Pawnee Mental Health's year end celebration. They introduced their management employees. Then they acknowledged a couple of long term employees. They gave some Friends of Pawnee awards and then I lost my connection.

I have been studying information on the mask ordinance, the sales tax issue, and the church property, which we will be discussing today.

Finally I want to acknowledge that Rich Vargo will soon have a doctor in the house. Congratulations to Darnell.

Focke's Comments:

Monday, I attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon in the Commission Chambers.

The main topic of the day was “Health in All Policies”

A presentation was made by Vickie James, Co-Coordinator for the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant and the Food and Farm Council of Riley County and the City of Manhattan.

Other comments were made by the various participants, including the Riley County Commission, City of Manhattan, Chamber of Commerce, KSU, NBAF, and others. Clancy Holeman was not able to attend for a legislative update.

Meetings will hopefully move to in-person in June. With the next one scheduled for June 28th.

After the meeting and for the next two days, I’ve been communicating with various officials concerning vacating the mask mandate due to expire on May 16th. The general consensus is to continue with it until it expires.

Coordinated with Dr. de Noble and Kathy Dzewaltowski on the church property presentations they are making on Thursday to the BOCC.

I talked to several people who might be interested in serving on advisory boards. Will follow up later.

Business Meeting

3. Bid recommendation for two new staff vehicles for RCFD#1

Stukey presented the bid recommendation.

Move to approve the bid submitted by Don Hattan in the amount of \$35,500.00 each for a total of \$71,000.00 for two 3/4 ton HD 4 wheel drive, 4 door trucks for Riley County Rural Fire District #1.

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

4. Highway Use Permit, Evergy

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting Evergy permission to work in the right of way to replace seven poles east of Walnut Creek Road on Walsburg Road.

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

5. Peach Grove Rd. Culvert Replacement Project - Change Order #1 (Final)

Move to approve Change Order Number 1 for the Peach Grove Road Culvert Replacement Project with Reece Construction Co., Inc. for a decrease in the amount of \$7,150.00 for a final contract price of \$156,733.40.

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:

- Kyle L. Voth, for a status change (resignation rescinded), as a COVID-19 Contact Tracer, in the Health Department, at a grade B step 9, at \$15.49 per hour.
- MacKenzie Salzman, a COVID-19 Contact Tracer, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective January 30, 2021.
- Debra Jo Register, a new hire (temporary), as a Records Assistant I, in the Register of Deeds Department, at a grade F step 10, at \$19.41 per hour.
- Melanie Santiago-Ruiz, a COVID-19 Contact Tracer, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective January 30, 2021.
- Samantha Tyra, a new hire, as an Office Assistant II, in the Attorney's

Department, at a grade E step 4, at \$15.47 per hour.

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 26, 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

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM

Discussion of Church Renovation

Focke presented the following:

I became very interested in the First Christian Church building when it was purchased in 2020 by the previous commission. This purchase became one of the prominent issues put forth by constituents during my campaign last year.

The church building was originally designed by the same Architect that designed our County Courthouse and was a departure from church architecture of the time. It was designed to harmonize with the Courthouse and the Carnegie Library, both of which have been renovated and are used by the county. It was completed in 1909 with additions in 1938 and 1963. Although the two additions wrap around the original building, that structure can still be seen as you walk around and inside the property.

I have asked two professionals to speak to the County Commissioners today so that we can gain some fresh insight into the possibilities that exist for this property that has been in our community for 113 years. Each presenter will have approximately 10 minutes with some time for Q&A after each.

Timothy E. de Noble, Fellow, AIA, is Professor and Dean for the College of Architecture, Planning and Design at Kansas State University since 2009. He led the funding and completion of the 75M remodel and addition of the school's facility at Seaton and Regnier Halls. Dean de Noble has had an extensive and highly successful career, including administrative and academic experience in addition to private practice. To see more of his credentials, please access the Kansas State University web page.

I'd like to welcome Dean de Noble before this board to share his ideas on the church building going forward.

Next, I'd like to introduce Kathy Dzewaltowski who is a knowledgeable preservationist with 15 years of working in our community to preserve and protect cultural resources since 2006. She is experienced in bringing together stakeholders and experts to achieve successful project outcomes.

She is the Chair of the Polly Ogden Chapter, NSDAR; the Secretary/chair of the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium and created a memorial wall to commemorate local servicemen killed in WWII; an Officer/Director of the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance and has served as their Secretary, member of the board of Directors, and is their Newsletter Editor

de Noble said he supports the County Facilities remaining the heart of Manhattan and tied to the historic Courthouse and Carnegie Building.

de Noble discussed a similar project Seaton Hall, in which he developed the plans for renovation.

de Noble stated the current structure could be a piece of the space needs for Riley County.

de Noble advocated for a comprehensive study of space needs and incorporate the First Christian Church Facility.

Dzewaltowski discussed the history of the First Christian Church.

Dzewaltowski stated the facility may qualify for state and federal

historic registration, which would include credits for improvements.

Dzewaltowski said the Heritage Trust funds and Historic Preservation funds could be used for the project.

Dzewaltowski said the Local Preservation Alliance supports the renovation of the First Christian Church facility.

McKinley stated the original front of the structure looked nice, but much of it does not still exist.

9:30 AM Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director

10. FY22 KDOC Grant Applications

Williams presented FY22 KDOC Grant Applications.

9:50 AM Board of County Commissioners

11. County mask mandate

Gibbs reported thirty-four new cases since last Wednesday. Gibbs stated there is one current case outside the City. Gibbs stated last week we sent out 1,449 vaccination invites and 1,027 of those received vaccinations. Gibbs stated about 45% of the Riley County residents have received their first vaccination.

Adams discussed how the command staff reviews the current status.

McKinley stated one of forty-two is outside the City of Manhattan. McKinley said he received a lot of calls and those inside the City favor and those outside do not.

Focke said she is concerned to vacate it now with 2 1/2 weeks left. Focke stated we had a commitment with KSU and the City of Manhattan.

Ford stated a letter from Linda Cook at KSU says they support the mask mandate through May 16, 2021.

Ford said health care is not overwhelmed and people can still choose to wear a mask.

Ford stated he cannot defend why to continue the face mask mandate.

Ford suggested ending the mask mandate at the end of Sunday.

Move to rescind Local Health Order No. 21 on Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

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

10:05 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

12. Administrative Work Session

Move to add an executive session.

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

10:10 AM Executive session

Move that the County Commissioners, including Commissioner Ford, Commissioner McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, along with Elizabeth Ward, Human Resource Manager; Russel Stukey, 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 10:25 a.m.

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

10:25 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

13. A Resolution Extending a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency for Riley County, Kansas

Holeman presented a resolution extending a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency for Riley County, Kansas.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 042921-15, A Resolution extending a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency for Riley County, Kansas."

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

10:29 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

14. First Christian Church

Ellermann discussed the First Christian Church.

Ellermann said realizing no project will ever be any cheaper than it is right now, staff recommends to demolish the church and plant the area to grass until such time a new office building is constructed.

The Board discussed the First Christian Church facility.

10:43 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

15. Sales Tax Question

Ellermann discussed a proposed Riley County sales tax for roads and bridges.

The Board discussed a proposed Riley County sales tax for roads and bridges.

Move to approve Public Works coordinate with the Counselor and proceed with a 2nd Riley County Sales Tax for roads and bridges.

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

11:01 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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