



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
May 11, 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
Craig Cox	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Laurie Harrison	Emergency Management Coordinator	Present	8:32 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:43 AM
Shelley Woodard	Deputy County Counselor	Present	9:00 AM
Judge Grant Bannister	District Court	Present	9:08 AM
Darell Edie	Budget & Finance Officer	Present	9:08 AM
Kathy Oliver	District Court	Present	9:08 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:22 AM
Michele Reid	Payroll, Benefits & Employee Relations Manager	Present	9:22 AM
Jason Smith	Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce	Present	9:36 AM
Daryn Soldan	Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce	Present	9:36 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	9:50 AM
Christian Bishop	Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce	Present	9:36 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	10:32 AM
Kile Morrison	Archimages	Present	10:34 AM
Patrick Scwab	BHS Construction	Present	10:45 AM
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	10:47 AM
Kevin Larson	Riley County Council on Aging	Present	11:12 AM
Linda Morse		Present	11:12 AM
Julie Govert Walters	NCFH Area Agency on Aging	Present	11:20 AM
Scott Voos	Be Able	Present	1:15 PM
Jared Garren	Be Able	Present	1:15 PM
Robbin Cole	Pawnee Mental Health Services Director	Present	1:15 PM
Lori Feldkamp	Big Lakes Developmental Center Director	Present	1:36 PM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	1:50 PM
Vernon Turner	Flint Hills Veterans Coalition	Present	1:50 PM

Michael Boller

Noxious Weed Director

Present

2:04 PM

Pledge of Allegiance**Public Comment**

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Monday, after our lengthy meeting, I participated in the Groundbreaking Ceremony at the new North County EMS facility location in Leonardville. There was a good turn-out of local people and press. The ground work had already begun that day and they were getting a lot of dirt moved and leveled.

Tuesday, I had several appointments that were postponed due to the incoming weather, but I was able to do a little landscaping and went to a 1:00 p.m. meeting of the meal coordinators at my church. It was cut a little short because of the storm, and I barely made it home before the hail and wind hit my house. Later I went back to the church for a personnel support meeting that had some business before breaking for the summer.

Wednesday, I spent the afternoon in the office, going over meeting materials for today. Lots of paperwork...

I also met with David Adams concerning the Public Safety Headquarters project. We discussed the three options that the group will be presenting today.

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the North County EMS facility in Leonardville. After a year's plus worth of planning and development for this facility it is comforting to see it finally coming to fruition. Thought the turnout for the event was great and I look forward to seeing its completion in September and it being

fully operational at that time as well.

Also Monday I had a phone call with a constituent up in the Madison Township on the county/township system and our discussions in reference to it. He was neither in favor nor against the discussed changes but wanted to provide some thoughts on a couple of items. It was a productive conversation, and the dialog gave me a couple of other things to consider and take into consideration as we continue along with discussions on the road subject.

Tuesday afternoon, as we are all aware, we had a bout of severe weather come through the area. Grateful for the 2¾ inches of rain, but it seems there are still challenges and confusion over the use of sirens and emergency alerts during these events. I'm not sure what the answer or solutions are to this dilemma, but some further education and information may be needed moving forward.

Wednesday morning, I listened in on part of a KDOT webinar on Safe Streets and Roads for All funds that are available for the state. This is something we (Jared Tremblay from the MPO and Angela Schnee from the City of Ogden) are looking at as a possibility to fill in some gaps to help Ogden. There will be some follow-up conversations throughout the summer, and we will look to see what other county related projects can fit into the funding as a group as well.

Wednesday afternoon I met with David Adams, Riley County EMS/Ambulance Director and Russel Stukey, Riley County EM/Fire Chief to discuss the Riley County Public Safety Headquarters and the recent proposed changes to the plans ahead of the morning discussion on the subject. I still have some concerns about several of the changes and wanted to hash those out and get further clarification on them.

Thanks to WIBW television in Topeka for highlighting the Riley County Fire District in their "Salute Our Hero" segment and in particular the volunteers who make this happen. As mentioned in the video it has been a tough year on all of them and I would also mention the same for 2022 as well. Always grateful when other entities acknowledge the work and efforts of the employees of Riley County and those who volunteer their time on behalf of the county as well.

McKinley's Comments:

After our meeting here Monday we had the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the North County EMS facility. Since then I have received a large number of comments thanking us for this project.

Tuesday I was on In Focus on KMAN. Russel Stukey came along and

gave a timely update on severe weather actions. While we were there you could see the storm system starting up around Norton. He also discussed the fire department's new stations and recruitment. I talked about the groundbreaking, budgets, and Marlatt projects.

Tuesday evening we went to McCain to see Menopause the Musical. I wasn't sure what to expect, but it was very funny.

Wednesday I attended the Flint Hills Veterans Coalition. Starting plans for the Veterans Day parade. They had a presentation on the Kansas Veterans Cemetery regarding who is eligible and what services they offer. It was also discussed that the Fort Riley Museums would be reopening June 13th after being closed for almost three years. This group gives out scholarships to veterans attending K-State, MCC, and MATC each year. Yesterday they had each of the scholarship winners come to the meeting, introduce themselves, and mention their plans. It was good to actually see and hear from the students.

Business Meeting

3. Mobile Command Post Vehicle to Wamego July 4th Celebration

Move to approve deploying the mobile command post vehicle to Wamego for the July 4th celebration.

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

4. Recommendation for Pre-Cast Box Culverts Quote

Move to accept the quote for one pre-cast concrete box culvert from McPherson Concrete in the amount of \$29,261.34, funded from the Public Works Budget.

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

5. Discuss Joint City/County/County Meeting Agenda

Review Minutes

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - May 8, 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

7. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

8. Discuss Press Conference
- Rich Vargo - Election Filing Deadline

9:00 AM Craig Cox, Deputy County Counselor

9. Administrative Work Session

Cox discussed an appellate brief he is working on the Kilner property.

Cox discussed Rob Taylor's proposed commercial industrial park across from the Riley County Public Works Facility.

Cox discussed the High Plains Ranch Road assessment process.

Cox said staff is still trying to locate property for the lagoon for Keats.

Cox recommended the Board finalize the Animal Control Resolution.

Cox discussed the Animal Shelter.

9:20 AM Judge Bannister, District Court

10. 2024 DISTRICT COURT BUDGET

Bannister presented the 2024 District Court budget request.

9:30 AM Shilo Heger, Treasurer

11. April 2023 Revenue Reporting - Riley County Treasurer

Heger presented the April Treasurer's Report.

12. Request to Fill Customer Service Representative I Position - County Treasurer

Heger presented the request to fill the Customer Service Representative I.

Ford suggested reviewing and doing something different to help retain entry level positions.

Move to approve the request to refill the Customer Service Representative I position.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Customer Service Representative I, in the Treasurer's Department.

9:45 AM Jason Smith, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

13. Economic development update

Soldan discussed entrepreneur development and workforce development.

Bishop, Military Relations Manager, discussed her work with the

military.

10:00 AM Jason Smith, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

14. 2024 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REQUEST

Smith thanked the Board for their continued partnership with the Chamber.

Soldan and Bishop presented the 2024 Chamber of Commerce appropriation request.

10:10 AM Budget and Planning Committee - Darell Edie, Budget and Finance Officer

15. Monthly Cash Flow Report for March 2023

Edie presented the monthly cash flow reports.

10:20 AM Ron Fehr, Manhattan City Manager

16. Manhattan City General Update

Fehr presented the Manhattan City General update.

10:50 AM David Adams, EMS/Ambulance Director

17. Public Safety Headquarters Update

Adams presented the Public Safety Headquarters update.

Ford stated his concern is a segregated EOC.

Adams stated a reason to have an EOC in the EM facility is to include a backup dispatch.

Morrison said his thought is #2 & #3 would go together and material could be purchased.

Stukey said with a big EOC event we could expand it to the storage

areas.

Morrison said a big help on the cost is not having to do the north parking. Morrison stated they did not use bays for office due to storage and EOC needs.

Focke said we need to be sure to have room for expansion into the future.

McKinley suggested going with #2 and leaning towards #3.

Move to approve staff's recommendation, based on budgetary parameters, to accept Options #2 and #3 with a potential backup dispatch center in #3 for a projected cost to not exceed \$14,375,000.

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

11:35 AM Kevin Larson, Riley County Council on Aging

18. 2024 COUNCIL ON AGING APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Larson presented the 2024 Council on Aging appropriation request.

11:45 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

19. Request to fill Customer Service Representative I position

Ellermann presented the request to fill the Customer Service Representative 1.

Move to approve filling of the Public Works Customer Service Representative I position.

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 Customer Service Representative I, in the Public Works Department.

1:15 PM Robbin Cole, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director**20. PAWNEE MENTAL HEALTH APPROPRIATION 2024**

Cole presented the 2024 Pawnee Mental Health appropriation request.

1:30 PM Jared Garren, Be Able**21. 2024 BE ABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Voos and Garren presented the 2024 Be Able appropriation request.

Ford asked if there is a request for an amount.

Voos said new monies would go to staffing.

1:45 PM Lori Feldkamp, Big Lakes Developmental Center Director**22. 2024 BIG LAKES DEVELOPMENT CENTER APPROPRIATION**

Feldkamp presented the Big Lakes Development Center appropriation request.

2:00 PM Vernon Turner, Flint Hills Veterans Coalition**23. 2024 FLINT HILLS VETERAN'S COALITION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REQUEST**

Turner presented the 2024 Veterans Coalition appropriation request.

2:10 PM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director**24. 2024 MUSEUM BUDGET**

Hensler presented the 2024 Museum budget request.

2:20 PM Shilo Heger, Treasurer

25. 2024 TREASURER, MOTOR VEHICLE AND TREASURER TECH BUDGET REQUESTS

Heger presented the 2024 Treasurer, Motor Vehicle and Treasurer Tech Fund budget request.

2:30 PM David Adams, EMS/Ambulance Director

26. 2024 AMBULANCE AND EMS GRANTS

Adams presented the 2024 Ambulance and EMS Grants budget requests.

2:45 PM Michael Boller, Noxious Weed Director

27. 2024 Riley County Noxious Weed Budget Request

Boller presented the 2024 Noxious Weed/HHW budget request.

3:06 PM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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