



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
June 20, 2024**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

9:00 AM

[District 1 – John Ford, Chair](#)

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

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Member](#)

9:00 AM

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Ford	County Commissioner	Remote	9:00 AM
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	9:00 AM
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	9:00 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	9:00 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:00 AM
Julie Winter	PW Administrative Services Manager	Present	9:00 AM
Emma Loura	Manhattan Mercury	Present	9:00 AM
Darrin Hobbs	Planning Compliance Specialist	Present	9:00 AM
Eve Clark	Administrative Clerk II - Utilities	Present	9:00 AM
Shannon Sterling	Legal Assistant	Present	9:00 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	9:00 AM
Bryant Parker	Deputy County Counselor	Present	9:00 AM
Lori Muir	Real Estate Specialist	Present	9:00 AM
Betsy Hughes	Customer Service Representative I	Present	9:00 AM
Danna Rivera	Administrative Clerk I	Present	9:00 AM
Heather Ritchey	Child Care Licensing Supervisor	Present	9:40 AM
Shelley Hays	Administrative Analyst	Present	9:46 AM
Gary Fike	County Extension Director	Present	10:00 AM
Brian Peete	RCPD Director	Present	10:03 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	10:21 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	10:23 AM
Jessie Hubbard	Administrative Assistant II	Present	10:29 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Sterling presented the Employee of the Month to Danna Rivera, Public Works Department.

Holeman asked the Board of Commissioners to add an executive session to his administrative time today.

Move to add an executive session to the counselor's administrative time today.

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

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Tuesday, I had a morning dental appointment which took most of the morning. Later, I had my backyard down to the creek cleared out by a lawn care company. They trimmed trees, cut back weeds and mowed, and cut out a few bushes. It was quite a job but looks great. I've been delayed in getting it done with all the rain we've been having. That afternoon I had a committee meeting at the church

Tuesday evening, I attended a "meet the candidates" event with the Riley County Democrats at Fairmont Park. It was well attended with about 65 people sharing a meal and hearing presentations.

Wednesday, I had a cleanup day at the house, did some shopping and caught up on documents for this morning's meeting.

This morning, I attended Good Morning Manhattan at Four Points by Sheraton. John Ford did a presentation on Riley County issues.

McKinley's Comments:

After our meeting Monday I met with Anna Burson to go over some appraisal items. I also went up to see the new office arrangements.

Tuesday, I met with Mike Rezkalla, the new director of Pawnee Mental

Health. It was my first chance to meet one on one and get to know him. He went over the things Pawnee does and how he thinks they will operate. We also discussed the CCBHC designation and what it will mean for their services going forward.

Wednesday morning, I received a call from a resident in Bala Township regarding changing to a county unit road system. He said when township officers have been in the clerk's office, they felt they were being pushed to be in favor of the unit system. I told him we are just asking around to see what others think about it. We are also looking into what it would cost and how it would be implemented. No decisions are coming soon. He is the second person to tell me that someone running for the township office in Fancy Creek is promising to turn all the township roads over to the county for maintenance at no cost.

Wednesday was also the meeting for the Juvenile Detention Facility. Three times a year this is held in one of the other counties and this time it was in Republic County. After the letter from Geary County last month the questions were looked into. They gave us copies of the email correspondence with Judge Coppola. She has no concerns with the facility and is pleased with the educational system they have. DCF made their once a year surprise visit to the facility. We were given copies of the report that showed they passed the audit with no issues or concerns. We passed the budget for 2025 and should receive the final request soon. It looks like it will be a little less than we show now. Angela Whitebread gave a report about the current population. Before entering the facility 50% have been victims of sex crimes, 63% have attempted suicide, and 44% have been victims of parental abuse. Also 13% are parents of children. There were a lot of other disturbing statistics.

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I attended the June meeting of the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency Law Board at the Manhattan City Commission Room. Among the items of discussion was approval of the consent agenda, and during the general agenda we had Public Comment, and updates from both the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #17, and the Community Advisory Board. Director Peete discussed RCPD's efforts to get the dispatch center accredited and what the next steps are. We had a public hearing and discussed the 2025 budget with a 4-3 vote. It was voted to approve the proposed budget number 2 with the overall 5.88% increase landing the overall budget for 2025 at \$28,781,942.00. I chose to vote "NO" as once again I thought the overall increase was too large. Lastly, we had an executive session to affirm the discipline that was given.

Later Monday afternoon I had a Zoom call with Daryn Soldan and Allison Muth from the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce along with Kelly Gourley, Economic Development Director, Lincoln County to discuss their efforts and contract with MakeMyMove and to get a solid sense of how it came together and how it is working for them overall. Really great dialog and they have come up with some really great incentives to go along with the program.

Tuesday afternoon I attended the monthly Board of Directors Meeting of the Manhattan Area of Chamber of Commerce. Among the items of discussion were approval of both the current agenda and the consent agenda. Discussion items included an updated presentation from the City of Manhattan on the East Manhattan Gateway presented by their consultant Stantec, and discussion and approval of new and updated chamber programs for 2025. There will be more to come on those as we move through the rest of 2024. There was a quick update on the Evergy switching station project down in Ashland Bottoms. Staff gave their usual updates and reports and then the board moved into executive session to discuss the Chamber's position on possible sales tax proposals by the City of Manhattan. Didn't stick around to see how those discussions played out.

Thursday morning, I attended Good Morning Manhattan hosted by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce at the Four Points by Sheraton. I had the opportunity to speak about the past, present, and future of Riley County as the guest speaker for this month's program. Thanks to the Chamber for the opportunity to be able to do this as well.

Looks like the Special Session of the Kansas Legislature was indeed a quick one as they debated and passed a compromised tax reduction bill, and passed some components of a STAR Bond package that might bring the Chiefs and or the Royals over to the Kansas side.

Business Meeting

3. Supplemental Agreement No. 1 University Park Wastewater Lagoon Facility

Move to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for Professional Engineering Services with SMH Consultants for the University Park Wastewater Lagoon Facility.

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

AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley
--------------	-----------------------

4. Sign Tax Roll Corrections

Move to approve the Tax Roll Corrections.

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

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jun 17, 2024 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

6. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

7. Discuss Press Conference

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

9:30 AM 8. Administrative Work Session

Move the Riley County Commission, including Chairman Ford, Vice Chairman McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, recess into executive session on pending litigation for the purpose of consultation with Bryant Parker, Deputy County Counselor, attorney for the Riley

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 9:40 a.m.

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

9:40 AM

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

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

9:40 AM

Heather Ritchey Health Department

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

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

9. RCHD Child Care Licensing Discussion

Ritchey presented the Child Care Licensing information.

Move to approve the Health Department's request to the State of Kansas for additional funding of the Child Care Licensing program administered by Riley County.

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

10:00 AM Gary Fike, County Extension Director

10. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Fike discussed the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

10:15 AM Brian Peete, RCPD Director

11. RCPD update

Peete presented the Riley County Police Department (RCPD) update.

10:30 AM Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

12. 2025 Budget Work Session

Phillips presented the updated 2025 Budget Development Worksheets.

Adjournment

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

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
----------------	----------------------------

MOVER:	Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	John Ford, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

4:00 PM Joint City/County/County Meeting (at County Offices)

13. City/County/County Meeting Agenda

The Board attended the City/County/County meeting.