



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
July 08, 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
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:43 AM
Sam Hennigh	KMAN	Present	8:53 AM
Gary Rosewicz	Assistant County Engineer	Present	9:15 AM
Tami Robison	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:18 AM
Amanda Smeller	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:20 AM
Jason Smith	Chamber of Commerce	Present	9:42 AM
Janet Nichols	Chamber of Commerce	Present	9:44 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	10:00 AM
Alice Massimi	PIO	Present	9:30 AM
Debbie Nuss		Present	10:03 AM
Brandy Lucas	Emergency Response Coordinator	Present	10:00 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	11:01 AM
Amy Manges	Register of Deeds	Present	11:30 AM
Kevin Howser	IT/GIS Director	Present	11:39 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Hopefully everyone had a safe and wonderful Fourth of July holiday weekend. I spent the weekend in western Kansas with some close friends. Saturday evening I caught a live show at the park in downtown Hays. The 1980's band Firehouse played with an 80's cover band called Paramount opening for them. Was a fun time and brought back a little nostalgia as well actually. Sunday headed over to Great Bend and spent the day and evening enjoying great food, great company, and lots and lots of fireworks. Great way overall to enjoy Independence Day.

Last Thursday afternoon I did an impromptu interview with Becky Goff with WIBW on the work and needs of the Riley County Courthouse. Much like our tour on the previous Monday I showed and explained to her the areas of concern and discussed both the process and solution to accomplishing the necessary work and repairs. And it gave our beautiful courthouse some much needed and deserved television time in northeast Kansas as well.

Also last Thursday I spoke with Sara Obermeier from the University of Kansas Medical Center via Zoom on a research project they are working in regards to HB 2016 from last year and the effects and direction it had both positive and negative on the Covid-19 pandemic both last year and up and into the present, some other health and pandemic related came from dialog as well. For me it was very interesting as it was the first time I had to review and look back on everything that occurred during the beginning of this health emergency and throughout 2020 as a whole. The interview went very well from that perspective

Wednesday night I attended the Ogden City council meeting. I updated them on the progress of our .2 sales tax initiative and ballot question, which we will be discussing later today. Thanked them for working with me to provide a letter of support for the endeavor as they have a lot of interest with their municipal split at stake and for what appeared to be an outstanding Fourth of July Fireworks display downtown as well.

McKinley's Comments:

On Saturday I attended the Independence Day celebration in Randolph. My youngest daughter, her son, and his friend went with us. It looked like a larger crowd than I remember. I think people are anxious to get

out this year. I was told they had 150 cars at the car show. I wanted to spend more time looking at the cars, but with two 8 year olds in tow, we did not stay in the same place long. I was in the parade. The boys enjoyed throwing out candy and I did not get booed so I think it was success.

Tuesday night I attended the Leonardville City Council meeting. Nothing new going on there.

Wednesday night I went to Randolph for their city council meeting. I was the only one there, because the meeting is actually next week.

I spent some more time looking at the budget and other items for today's meeting.

Focke's Comments:

Friday, July 2:

In the afternoon I went with Pottawatomie County Commissioner Dee McKee to do a driving tour of their county, seeing some of the projects and we discussed potential projects, roads and bridges. We also went by the new school under construction. It was an interesting and educational tour, as I hadn't traveled most of the rural roads we were on. We went through the towns of Wamego, Belvue, and St. Mary's. I was amazed at all the developments throughout their county, especially in Belvue and St. Mary's. We went by the new Catholic Cathedral being constructed north of St. Mary's. It is going to be 12 stories and designed much like European Cathedrals. St. Mary's has really grown both in residential and commercial construction and has a very active business district.

Saturday, July 3:

I did some yard work and then went on the evening dinner train out of Abilene (highly recommend). It was the first dinner train in over a year and was a great time. They bring out the historic steam engine on holiday weekends. The next one will be over Labor Day weekend.

Tuesday: July 6:

I attended the second task force meeting of the chamber that is studying an entrepreneur center that might be located in the lower level of the new Aggieville parking garage. Their consultant, Mark Tarleton, presented the results of a survey of 60 local businesses that focused on types, ages, locations, gender, and race questions of business development. There is PowerPoint presentation available that I will be studying more before the next meeting in August.

The processes of the consultant guiding the task force for the three meetings were identified as #1 Discovery, #2 assessment (of the survey), and #3 recommendations going forward (or not) with the center. I had watched the video of the first meeting held on June 8th prior to the meeting. It ended with an open discussion between members and the consultant. In the afternoon, I worked with IT on setting up a zoom connection on my iPad for next week when I'm out of town. I'll be here on Monday, but will zoom into the commission meetings on Thursday the 15th and Monday the 19th. Back on the 20th.

Wednesday, July 7:

Attended the ATA Board meeting. Because the June meeting didn't have a quorum, we approved prior minutes and the budget that was presented last month, but not voted on. There have been no changes since their presentation to our BOCC. The budget was approved.

CARES funding has been extended for 3 months for rural operations. New routes will be up and running by August 16th with a Saturday morning bus to the Farmers Market that has been added. New signage and shelters are being worked on and will be in place by fall.

A discussion was held about recruiting new board members with some non-voting members. Will have more on this later.

I was voted in as the Vice Chair, with Aaron Estabrook continuing as Chair for the coming year. I'll be getting with Anne Smith for further orientation to the board.

ATA will be hosting the first annual picnic for all county employees on July 24th at Tuttle Creek. There is an invitation in everyone's e-mails with details. RSVP's need to be in ASAP. The next board meeting will be held on August 4th, in person, at the ATA building.

Business Meeting

3. Highway Use Permit, WTC Communications, Inc.

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting WTC Communications, Inc. permission to work in the right of way to bore and plow new fiber optic cable along multiple roads in the Zeandale area.

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

4. Highway Use Permit, Everygy

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting Everygy permission to work in the right of way to relocate poles to accommodate the widening of Thomas Wiard Road.

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

5. Discuss Joint City/County/County Meeting Agenda

No items.

Review Minutes

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jul 1, 2021
8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

7. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

8. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

9. Administrative Work Session

10. Approval of KAC Legislative Request Forms

Holeman presented the KAC Legislative Request forms.

The Board agreed by consensus to submit the Constitutional Protection of Existing County Home Rule.

The Board agreed by consensus to submit the "Dark Store" legislation forbidding use of "Hypothetical" appraised values.

The Board agreed by consensus to submit the LAVTR-Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund and other Stated "Demand Transfer" funds to resume funding by the state legislature.

11. Possible Cancellation of Beer Sales at the Kaw Valley Rodeo During the 2021 Riley County Fair

Holeman stated the necessary documentation has been received to proceed with the Kaw Valley Rodeo beer sales.

9:20 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

12. First Christian Church Asbestos Abatement & Demolition

Ellermann presented the bid documents for the asbestos removal and demolition. Ellermann stated they can go out to bid as early as August 5, 2021.

Move to approve bidding the asbestos abatement project.

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

Focke said since the last vote was made she has looked at the 1961 blue prints and the structural walls are still in place. Focke stated there is 44,000 square feet in the building, which could be used.

Ford stated 44,000 square feet or not is not going to get the county facilities where they need to be. Ford said he feels we will be going into a money pit. Ford said we will end up with an empty lot with no building or an empty building. Ford stated he is still in favor of the original motion.

McKinley said he has not changed his mind and feels the building needs to be demolished.

Holeman stated the hearing is set for August 7, 2021 and said if the Board wishes to oppose, it must be filed prior to the hearing. Holeman said formal opposition through a notarized statement can be submitted. Holeman stated the public facility can still be designated as a historic site.

McKinley and Ford agreed to have Holeman draft a notarized statement opposing the designation of the former First Christian Church facility to be on the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

9:30 AM Tami Robison, Budget and Finance Officer

13. Fairmont Heights Sewer Funding Proposal

Robison presented the Fairmont Heights Sewer Funding proposal.

Move to approve funding the additional costs for the Fairmont Heights project with ARP funds.

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

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

14. Economic development update

Nichols presented an update on the Military Relations Committee.

Smith presented an economic development update.

10:00 AM Julie Gibbs, Health Department Director

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

RESULT:	ADOPTED [2 TO 0]
MOVER:	John Ford, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, McKinley
AWAY:	Focke

15. Riley County Health Department Monthly Update

Gibbs presented the Health Department monthly update.

16. Request to prohibit smoking in county parks.

Gibbs presented the request to prohibit smoking in county parks.

Ford stated he is shocked it is not already done. Ford asked how it would be enforced.

Nuss said during the 10 years in the City of Manhattan, RCPD has authority to issue tickets but none have been issued. Nuss stated RCPD has just given warnings and education to discourage behavior.

McKinley said he has checked around and no one has complained about smoking in a county park. McKinley stated he does not see a need for it himself.

Focke asked if there are statistics on secondary smoking outside.

Nuss said there is evidence smoking outdoors can have a negative impact.

Move to approve the recommendation to allow for the creation of a resolution that prohibits smoking, including vaping, in county parks.

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

17. Riley County Health Department Airport Testing Project Discussion

Gibbs discussed the airport testing plan.

Focke stated she has a real problem with this and feels it may be a waste of time and energy. Focke said it should be the airlines responsibility.

Ford said he has concerns as well.

McKinley expressed concerns as well.

Lucas discussed the benefits of the airport testing process.

Holeman expressed concern with the process.

The Board asked to table the item at this time.

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

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

10:50 AM Budget and Planning Committee - Tami Robison, Budget and Finance Officer

18. Monthly Cash Flow Reports for June 2021

Robison presented the monthly cash flow reports.

11:05 AM Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer

19. Request to Fill Solid Waste Operator II Position

Rosewicz presented the request to fill the Solid Waste Operator II position.

Move to approve the Solid Waste Division advertise to hire the Equipment Operator II 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 a Solid Waste Operator II, in the Public Works/SW Division, at a grade I.

11:10 AM Amanda Smeller, Planning/Special Projects Director

20. CDBG-CV Determination of Level of Review

Smeller presented the CDBG-CV Determination of Level of Review.

Move to approve the Chairman to sign the Determination of Level of Review for Hibervine LLC.

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

11:20 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

21. Draft Sales Tax Presentation

Ellermann reviewed a draft sales tax presentation.

11:40 AM Tami Robison, Budget and Finance Officer

22. 2022 Budget Work Session

Robison presented the updated 2022 budget worksheets.

McKinley asked to review the revenue estimates.

Ford suggested reducing the Economic Development by \$100,000 and CIP by \$250,000.

The Board agreed by consensus to reduce the Economic Development transfer by \$100,000 and the CIP transfer by \$250,000.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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