



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
July 12, 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
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	8:39 AM
Sam Hennigh	KMAN	Present	9:10 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	9:10 AM
Kaylyn Speth	WIC Supervisor	Present	9:10 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:30 AM
Tami Robison	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:47 AM
Greg Vahrenberg	Raymond James & Associates	Present	9:48 AM
Craig Cox	Deputy County Counselor	Present	9:49 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had my bi-monthly Zoom meeting with the Riley

County Mental Health Task Force. Among the topics of discussion during the meeting were an update from Robbin Cole on the “Stepping Up” program. She and possibly Director Dennis Butler from RCPD will be in soon to update us on the program and to get us to sign a new resolution for it. Bruce Johnson gave us an update on the Community Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Center, the facility continues to be busy and active with the numbers of assessments and admissions that were presented. Brynne Haverkamp RCPD/PMHS Co-Responder wasn’t able to be present so Bruce Johnson gave us that update as well. Maggie Rasette from Ascension Via Christi gave an update on mental health activities at the hospital.

Thursday evening, I attended the USD 383 School Board forum that was hosted by the Riley County Republicans at Pottorf Hall. I helped do the livestream to Facebook. Five of the ten candidates were present and answered a handful of questions on numerous related topic. I thought the event was very well attended and with recent developments was very professional and civil.

Friday morning I attended virtually the National Association of Counties Committee on Community Economic and Workforce Development during the 2021 Annual Conference being held in Prince George’s County, MD. We passed by both virtual, and in person voting 15 different county related resolutions including increased funding for CDBG funding, New Market Tax Credits, Low-income based tax credits, Workforce innovation and other related opportunities, and several low-income housing and infrastructure related resolutions. We also heard presentations from Dennis Alvord, Acting Asst. Secretary for Economic Development at the EDA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; Brent Parton, Senior Advisor, U.S. Dept. of Labor; Arthur Jemison, Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary, office of Community Planning and Development; U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development; and lastly Mary Keating, Director of Community Services, DuPage County, Ill, and NACo Board member.

Saturday afternoon as part of NACo’s 2021 Annual Conference I did listen to the live broadcast presentations by Pete Buttigeg, Secretary of the U.S. Transportation Dept. and Marcia Fudge, Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and lastly there was a performance by John Ondrasik, Singer, Songwriter, Five for Fighting.

Want to congratulate former K-State pitcher Jordan Wicks, for becoming the first Wildcat player to be selected in the first round of the MLB Draft last night as the 21st pick of the Chicago Cubs. It has been suggested that he could be with the big league club as early as next year so I wish him the best moving forward.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I attended a zoom meeting for the NBAF Community Liaison Group. A good update on the activities at the NBAF site.

The first item covered was the disinformation campaign and their efforts to correct it. This is the group that bombarded the city commission with emails a month ago. Someone with a podcast is leading the scare tactics with a small group using bots, etc. to make them look larger. From comments being made, you can tell it is not a local group. Just a group trying to instill fear in people. NBAF communications has been putting our correct information on social media to better inform people.

The Biorisk Management team discussed the work that will be done to ensure safety of the work. One key objective is to be preoccupied with failure. There are several levels of protocols in place to be sure nothing is released and all systems will be checked daily. They have 90% of the staffing in place and have started training. All backup systems will be in place before any lab work is started.

The construction update said they are 97% complete. Homeland Security is building the facility and will be turned over to USDA for operations. So far the utility plant, security, and IT services have been given to USDA.

They are now using the main gate off of Denison and there are cars in that parking lot. They have 86% of the operational staff hired, 36% are Kansas natives with 33 states represented, and 44% are veterans.

When operations start there will be a two year period where NBAF and Plum Island are both running. Plum Island has one research unit and when fully operational NBAF will have three units. Each unit studies a different type of disease.

They believe they are close to having a vaccine for the African swine fever, which is very important. In some parts of the world it can wipe out a major food source for an area quickly.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon/evening I helped with the common table meal at First Lutheran Church. The numbers throughout the community are approximately 70-80 per evening. Some numbers have spiked up

sporadically in one location. We are planning a community haircut for August probably at the “Be Able” location.

Friday I followed up with phone calls and e-mails and reviewed paperwork for the following week.

I had another eye appointment on Friday afternoon due to continuing problems. I’m waiting to hear if I can travel or have some surgery done. Hopefully, I will know by Monday if I can go on my trip this week.

Friday evening I attended a meet and greet for three of the candidates for the School Board primary election.

The weekend was spent catching up on things at home and church business.

Business Meeting

3. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

- Elise Herr, a new hire, as an Office Manager, in the Attorney's Office, at a grade N step 3.
- Kristi Franks, a new hire, as a Covid-19 Contact Tracer, in the Health Department, at a grade B step 9, at \$15.80 per hour.
- New hire, as a Temporary Election Worker, in the Election Department, at a grade Temp step Elec for the following:
 - Ava Hornung
 - Abigail Pride
 - Lynda Bachelor
 - Vicki Brodersen
 - Jerome Ellis
 - Beth Riley
 - Sandra Stephens-Avalos
 - Marlyn Walters
 - Earl Willich

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jul 8, 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

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

Holeman asked the Board to add an executive session to Holeman's Administrative Services time.

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

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

9:00 AM Rich Vargo, County Clerk

7. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditures report.

9:15 AM Julie Gibbs, Health Department Director

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

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

8. RCHD WIC FY2022 Budget Approval

Gibbs presented the Health Department WIC FY2022 Budget.

Move to approve the Kansas WIC Local Agency Budget for FFY2022 to continue WIC services to the Riley County, Fort Riley and Pottawatomie County residents.

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

9:30 AM

Press Conference

9. USD 383 Primary Election - Rich Vargo (1-2 minutes)

Vargo reported the USD 383 Primary Election will be Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Vargo said the voter registration deadline is Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Vargo stated advance voting will begin in person and by mail Wednesday, July 14, 2021. Vargo said the Primary Election will reduce the number of candidates from 10 to 6 for the General Election.

9:50 AM

Greg Vahrenberg, Raymond James & Associates

10. 2021 Riley County Preliminary Refinancing Analysis

Vahrenberg presented the 2021 Preliminary Refinancing Analysis.

Move to approve “Resolution No. 071221-27, A Resolution of Riley County, Kansas, authorizing the public sale of the county’s General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series B, 2021, in the principal amount of approximately \$2,545,000.00; setting forth the details of the public sale and providing notice thereof.”

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

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

11. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works projects update.

10:25 AM Craig Cox, Deputy County Counselor

12. Public Hearing - Fairmont Heights Sewer Benefit District

Cox presented the Fairmont Heights Sewer District special assessments notice.

Move that the Board approve the “equal share per owner” method for calculating assessments for the Fairmont Heights Sewer District project and sign the Proposed Assessment Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing.

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

10:40 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

13. Administrative Work Session

14. Pending County Projects County Counselor

10:40 AM

Executive Session

Move the County Commission, including Chairman Ford, Commissioner McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, attorney for the 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 11:00 a.m.

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

11:00 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 no binding action was taken during the executive session.

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

11:00 AM

Executive Session

Move the County Commission, including Chairman Ford, Commissioner McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, attorney for the 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 11:10 a.m.

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

11:10 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

11:00 AM

Cheryl Collins, Museum Director

15. Riley County Historical Museum Staff Update

C. Collins presented the Museum update.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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