



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
July 17, 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
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Michele Reid	Payroll, Benefits & Employee Relations Manager	Present	8:34 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	9:00 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:00 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	9:30 AM
Gregg Eyestone	Extension Agent	Present	9:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon the Riley County Commissioners, Rich Vargo, and Clancy Holeman met with property owners for a “fence viewing” on ranch property north of Randolph. We spent approximately two hours looking at the properties, fences, and hearing from the disputing

property owners. No decision was made that afternoon by the commissioners.

Friday morning, I tried to reach some Keats area landowners and left several more messages. That afternoon, I did some work in the office, going over paperwork, including the 2024 budget, e-mails, and today's meeting documents.

Friday evening, I joined some good friends for a birthday dinner at a local restaurant and had a good time celebrating another year.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I went through and watched the K-State Research and Extension July E-Call "Downtown Rural Revitalization." The call included presentations and discussions from Luke Mahin, Former Republic County Economic Development Director, and Kelly Gourley, Lincoln County Economic Development Foundation, and owner of Post Rock Fitness Center. They both went through the creative and innovative process to redevelop historic building and structures in their respective downtown areas using resources and grants available at the state level. Lots of great and dynamic questions followed throughout the call I thought as well.

Friday morning, I met with Mike Matson from the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce at Early Edition to discuss and ask some questions in regard to the LAVTR, as well as some other related property tax concerns and issues and where he thought the Chamber might stand on those. Had a good dialog but will probably have to revisit the conversation at some point in time down the road.

Friday afternoon I met with Robbin Cole, Executive Director of Pawnee Mental Health. I hadn't had a chance to catch up with her in quite some time, and wanted to get a more in-depth analysis of the move to CCHBC which took place on July 1st. I was curious to see what impact in the short term and long term the need to increase service (including personnel) will be and what space and facility requirements there will need to be in order to accomplish those goals. Overall, I think they have a good plan incorporated, but it may take closer to the end of year to truly know for sure.

Saturday morning, I joined the Riley County Republicans at their monthly "Coffee Talk" meeting. Barry Wilkerson, Riley County Attorney gave a presentation on American Exceptionalism and all he and his staff do in the office and for the community. I also gave an update on what the BOCC is working on including the 2024 budget, answered some questions and was able to get caught up on several events and items including a Candidate Forum that will be taking place

on October 5th at Pottorf Hall, more details on that to come later.

Lastly, I wanted to make everyone aware that I have earned an appointment to NACo's Veterans and Military Services committee starting immediately. This will allow me to have some input on issues and challenges that will affect Fort Riley and local military issues from the Federal level. Work on this committee will start in full sometime in September.

Was glad we got a considerable amount of rain on Friday, and I am looking forward to the start of NFL training camps this week. For me that's the first small hint of fall which can come along at any time now.

McKinley's Comments:

After last Thursday's meeting I met with Amanda Webb to go over a Catch 22 situation that a resident in Lakeside Heights was caught in. She had a solution that can be worked out.

In the afternoon I participated in my first fence viewing. An unusual part of a commissioner's job.

Friday, I attended a meeting to go over a Chamber of Commerce study on a possible event center relating to the fairgrounds. The study needs to be revised with information on the new facility K-State is building. There were a lot of comments relating to the rodeo and fairgrounds. Some seemed to think the county had a pot of money just waiting to be spent on facilities.

Saturday, I attended a class to learn how to turn a bowl on a lathe. This was a Father's Day gift from my kids. It was a fun and informative class, but it took us all day to make one cereal bowl sized project.

Business Meeting

3. Sign a Tax Roll Correction

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction.

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

4. Thank you letters to Riley and Leonardville for use of their facilities

for Riley County Commission Meetings

Move to sign thank you letters to Riley and Leonardville cities for use of their facilities for Riley County Commission Meetings.

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

5. Sign Riley County Employee Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Employee Action Form for Heather Bigwood, a new hire, as an As Needed Museum Assistant, in the Museum Department, at a Range TASND.

Review Minutes

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jul 13, 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

9:00 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

9. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditure reports.

10. 2024 Budget Development Worksheet

Vargo presented the proposed 2024 Budget Development Worksheet.

11. Indication of Revenue Neutral Rate for Riley County

Vargo presented the Indication of Revenue Neutral Rate for Riley County.

Move to approve the Indication of Revenue Neutral Rate for Riley County.

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

12. Indication of Revenue Neutral Rate for Riley County Rural Fire District #1

Vargo presented the Indication of Revenue Neutral Rate for Riley County Fire District #1.

Move to approve the Indication of Revenue Neutral Rate for Riley County Fire District #1.

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

9:15 AM

David Adams, EMS/Ambulance Director

13. Staff Update

Adams presented the EMS/Ambulance staff update.

9:30 AM

Press Conference

14. Public Notice - Evan McMillan (1-2 minutes)

McMillan said the Riley County Transfer Station will be closed on Saturday, July 29th for equipment repairs and reopen 7:00 a.m. on Monday, July 31st.

15. Garden program on Wednesday, July 19th and gardening exhibits at the fair - Gregg Eyestone (2-3 minutes)

Eyestone said there will be a discussion on current gardening practices on Wednesday, July 19th at 6:00 p.m. The location is 431 S. 5th Street (Be Able) Community Learning Center. It is free and all are invited.

Eyestone said the Open Class gardening exhibits can be brought to Pottorf Hall at the fairgrounds on Thursday, July 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon). They are released on Monday, July 31st at 5:00 p.m.

9:35 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

16. Administrative Work Session

Holeman discussed the KAC Legislative Policy Committee deadline for legislation that is to be submitted by Friday, August 11, 2023.

Holeman suggested the County limit this year's legislation to two items to include LAVTR and SB 162 Nuisance Abatement Authority in the unincorporated area.

Focke asked about the status of County Home Rule.

Holeman said Home Rule is still important but has not gone anywhere the last few years. Holeman stated it is stalled in the legislature.

The Board agreed by consensus to submit Legislative Request Forms for LAVTR reinstatement and SB 162 Nuisance Abatement Authority.

17. Pending County Projects County Counselor

9:52 AM

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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

12:00 PM Law Enforcement Agency Meeting

18. Law Board Meeting Agenda