



**Board of Riley County  
Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
August 01, 2024**

115 North 4th Street  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
[www.rileycountyks.gov](http://www.rileycountyks.gov)

Cindy Kabriel  
785-565-6200

**Leonardville Community Building, 118 N.  
Erpelding**

**6:30 PM**

[District 1 – John Ford, Chair](#)

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

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

**6:30 PM**

**Call to Order**

| Attendee Name     | Title                            | Status  | Arrived |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| John Ford         | County Commissioner              | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Kathryn Focke     | County Commissioner              | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Greg McKinley     | County Commissioner              | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Rich Vargo        | County Clerk                     | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Bryant Parker     | Deputy County Counselor          | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Michael Boller    | Noxious Weed Director            | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Anna Burson       | County Appraiser                 | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Joshua Gering     | EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director | Present | 6:38 PM |
| Chris Shoults     | Leonardville Mayor               | Present | 6:30 PM |
| Colleen Alexander | Leonardville                     | Present | 6:30 PM |

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

1. Public Comments

**Commission Comments**

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Tuesday, I had an appointment with a potential new dentist, had a short exam and set up a follow up.

That afternoon I attended a meeting with “Team Keats” where we

discussed the schedule going forward with the property owner and the design process. We discussed the funding reporting requirements, which have changed, and how we need to proceed. BG consultants will be at the BOCC meeting on Monday with a proposed design fee contract. We will need to communicate with the community on the process going forward. Sam Johnson will send information to Amanda Webb to use in a community e-mail and we need to schedule a meeting with the community in the next several months.

Wednesday, I spent hours going over quotes on homeowner and auto insurance policies, as I had received some notices on increases from the existing ones. I came to the office and picked up my mail and computer for tonight's meeting.

Wednesday evening, I attended the Keats monthly community meal. The organizers wanted to get more families involved, so they had some inflatables and other games for children. It worked well, as there was a large crowd that attended with a lot of new faces. It would have lasted longer, but a large storm started moving in and people left. When I got close to my house there was a huge "shelf" front almost on top of me and the wind was ferocious when I got inside. I was lucky that no trees came down, but there was a lot to clean up this morning.

McKinley's Comments:

No comments.

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I had a Zoom call with Tom Dobbins and Ben Lebo from MakeMyMove to discuss a couple of items, catch up on some prior dialog and to get a few questions of my own answered along the way as well. Appreciated both gentlemen's time and appreciated Tom stopping in Manhattan last month in person to chat as well.

Tuesday afternoon I had my monthly Civic and Social Responsibility Meeting with members of staff out at Florence Corporation. Among the items of discussion was continued dialog on employee volunteer opportunities with Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Flint Hills, the Manhattan Emergency Shelter and possibly others. We also discussed a school supply drive that can be done internally in the month of August and a clothing drive for both adults and kids to back that up in September and several events and drives that we will be working throughout the rest of 2024 and the holiday season. We will also start discussing appointments for this committee starting for 2025 as well.

Wednesday afternoon I attended the August meeting of the Riley County Mental Health Task Force. Action items discussed from the last meeting included work on possible sub-committees and discussion on legitimacy this task force in the future. New agenda items included approval of the minutes from the last meeting, a presentation from Deb Nuss at the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition on the “White Pages”, and an update from the Crisis Innovation Committee. This subgroup includes Crystal Pratt; CPT Mark French, RCPD; Becky Woodward, PMHS; Brynne Haverkamp, PMHS; Josh Gering, Riley County EMS; and Adam Johnson. This group’s three main goals will be to work on mobile crisis in the area, SAFE PLACE TO GO is the second one, and lastly integration of the 988/911 system. Dialog was had on having transportation needs met and where that might come from, and a shared definition of mental health circumstances and crisis in general.

Lastly wanted to mention that I have been reappointed to the National Association of Counties Community Economic and Workforce Development committee for the fifth year and the Veterans and Military Service Committee for year number two and I have been appointed to the Vice Chair position on the Veteran and Military Services committee for the 2024-2025 term as well. Excited for both opportunities and looking forward to working on both committees in the upcoming year.

### Business Meeting

### Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jul 29, 2024 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>        |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |

### Review Tentative Agenda

4. Tentative Agenda

**Press Conference Topics**

## 5. Discuss Press Conference

Shoults, Mayor of Leonardville, discussed the importance of the community to hold these small cities meetings regardless of little public participation. Shoults thanked the Board for supporting EMS/Ambulance, Fire, and Law Enforcement.

Shoults said he would like the rural county to be included in strategic planning.

Shoults discussed the viability of small communities such as Leonardville.

Shoults ask Riley County to consider doing grants for the small communities.

Shoults invited the Riley County Commissioners to attend the Leonardville Hullabaloo August 9th and 10th.

**6:45 PM****Bryant Parker, Deputy County Counselor**

## 6. Administrative Work Session

Parker discussed the new statute for nuisance abatement in unincorporated areas of Riley County.

**7:00 PM****Josh Gering, EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director**

## 7. EMS/Ambulance Station 5 Update

Gering presented an update on Station 5 Leonardville's operations.

**7:15 PM****Michael Boller, Noxious Weed Director**

## 8. Staff Update

Boller presented the Noxious Weed update.

7:18 PM

**Adjournment**

Move to adjourn.

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>         |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Greg McKinley, County Commissioner |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ford, Focke, McKinley              |