



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 05, 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
Gary Rosewicz	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Remote	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	8:30 AM
Sam Hennigh	KMAN	Present	9:01 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed Director	Present	9:04 AM
Tami Robison	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:20 AM
Amanda Smeller	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:22 AM
Debbie Regester	Register of Deeds Office	Present	9:23 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:28 AM
Joshua Gering	EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director	Present	9:43 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	9:43 AM
Ron Fehr	City of Manhattan	Present	10:32 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Gibbs reported there have been 104 new cases since last week with 3 more deaths and 7 deaths in two weeks. Gibbs said there are 10 COVID patients in the hospital with 1 of them being vaccinated.

Gibbs discussed the testing and vaccination clinics.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I met with Dennis Butler, Director of RCPD to discuss a few current items, questions I had, and a couple of other related topics. Conversation went well and I always appreciate him taking the time to sit down and chat when it is needed.

Tuesday afternoon I met with Ed Klimek, Director of the Westloop Business Association and several members from Hutton in Wichita, he was providing a tour of the area for them and wanted to them speak to somebody from Riley County. They are vested in area working on several projects in the area including the new Junction City High School, the Church in St. Mary's, and the remodeling of Hale Library on the K-State campus. Had a really good dialog and may have the chance to tour each of those projects at some point as well. Ed and I also spoke on a couple of local related issues as well and we will probably follow up on those sometime here in the near future.

Also on Tuesday I caught NACo's information session digging into various eligible uses outlined in Treasury's Interim Final Rule. This particular session focused on how counties can use allocations to support critical investments in broadband, ensuring residents have access to universally available, high-speed, reliable, and affordable coverage. Pretty basic stuff at the moment, but certainly can if needed open a realm of possibilities if counties across the country decide to go that route.

Wednesday afternoon we had another discussion via Zoom on the Aggieville parking garage. Looks like we are going to look at some other potential funding options moving forward so this is a conversation that is still very fluid at the moment and we will have to see how things transpire into the future.

Wednesday night I attended the Ogden City Council meeting. I gave them an update on our plans for the .2 cent Road and Bridge Sales Tax, and a few other related county items. Director Butler from RCPD gave them an update and they discussed some options for the Riverside lots that went unsold at the county tax sale event.

McKinley's Comments:

Tuesday night I attended the public meeting on the White Canyon area roads. They had proposed an improvement district to upgrade two of the roads. The cost for the two roads is estimated at \$150,000 for six residents. They want to proceed with the district. They also pointed out there are two more property owners included in the district. There are several steps to get this completed. There needs to be a lease agreement with the Corps of Engineers, because part of the road is on their property. Representatives from the district will be coming to our meeting to see if the county will contribute funds for the project. When everything is set up, Craig Cox will be presenting the district for our approval. The township has agreed to accept the road for their maintenance once the roads are up to township standards. A section of the road will still be underwater during floods, but this will improve the access to their property.

Wednesday I attended the Military Relations Committee lunch. It was good to get to talk to various people from the area and meet some new ones. The speaker was Andrew Brown who is Commissioner for Behavioral Health Services for Kansas. He discussed the behavioral health services available to enlisted and veteran military members. The state is also working on a suicide prevention coalition across the state.

Focke's Comments:

Tuesday I attended a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee at the Chamber of Commerce. Discussion centered basically on how I have been getting acclimated to the county commission, what my concerns and ideas are for the future, finance issues, and the upcoming sales tax initiative. I gave them a copy of the draft of our tax presentation that we received on Monday. I emphasized that it was not a final version. Also discussed were the boards and committees that I sit on, especially the Law Board.

I went up to Keats Park in response to a parent that lives there concerning the playground area being torn up for an excessive amount of time. While there I spoke with several people in the park. I have reported this to John Ellermann and he will be putting it on his radar and get back to me.

Later in the day I went to the new "Be Able" facility to plan for the upcoming community meal and haircuts to be held next Monday evening. Platinum and Company will bring about six or seven hair stylists.

Throughout the past couple of days I have had many discussions on mask requirements. There is some frustration and anger among vaccinated people that they are being punished, because of those who haven't received their vaccines for whatever reason. It is an issue that we will need to deal with soon.

Also on Tuesday I attended the meeting of Common Table. Under discussion was whether to open up our facilities for in-person dining. At this point, the First Presbyterian Church is the only facility able to accommodate seating in the "Presby Place" gym.

Wednesday I had an appointment with a retinologist in Topeka. My right eye has some problems that they will have to surgically fix. That is scheduled in Kansas City on August 17th.

That evening I went to hand bell practice, but had some problems with the music as my eyes had been dilated.

Business Meeting

3. South Otter Rd Bridge Replacement Project No. D.5-9.1

Move to sign and approve the Contract Agreement with Ebert Construction Co., Inc. for S. Otter Road bridge replacement in the amount of \$319,332.63.

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

4. Courthouse Restoration Project

Move to approve Mid-Continental Restoration to perform the extra work on the Courthouse in the amount of \$32,571.00 from the CIP fund.

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

5. Twin Valley Communication's Application for NTIA Funds

Move to approve the Letter of Support of Twin Valley Communications' application for NTIA funds for broadband deployment in Keats, Kansas.

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

6. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

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

- Gilbert Terrell, for a transfer from Public Works/Operations to Public Works/Solid Waste as a Public Works Operator II, , at a grade I step 17, at \$28.14 per hour, effective August 7, 2021.
- Lindsay Mason, for a transfer, as an Intern, in the Planning & Development Department, at a grade Intern, effective August 17, 2021.
- Emily Gilbert-Esparza, a new hire, as an Intern, in the Health Department, at a grade Intern, effective March 31, 2021.

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Aug 2, 2021
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

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer

10. Bid opening for asbestos removal from First Christian Church project

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for asbestos removal from the First Christian Church project:

Company	Total Bid
Associated Insulation, Inc. 701 Pecan Circle Manhattan, KS 66502	\$ 18,294.00
River City Remediation, LLC 304 S. Lee Street Clearwater, KS 67026	\$115,886.00

Move to refer the bids to staff for evaluation and recommendation.

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

9:15 AM Michael Boller, Noxious Weed Director

11. Riley County Noxious Weed Staff Update

Boller presented the Noxious Weed/HHW staff report.

9:30 AM Tami Robison, Budget and Finance Officer

12. 2022 Budget Work Session

Robison presented the 2022 Budget Development Worksheets with the proposed changes.

The Board agreed by consensus with the revised 2022 Budget as presented.

9:40 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

13. Request to fill an open Equipment Operator II Position

Ellermann presented the request to refill the Equipment Operator II position.

Move to approve the Public Works Department advertise to hire the open 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 Public Works Operator II, in the Public Works/Operations Division, at a grade I.

9:45 AM

Elizabeth Ward, Human Resource Manager

14. COVID-19 Personnel Policy Recommendation

Ward presented the COVID-19 Personnel Policy recommendation.

Gibbs discussed the most concerning issues regarding the hospital situation, the recent seven deaths and the low level of vaccinations. Gibbs discussed Via Christi Hospital Director Bob Copple's concern with hospital space.

Gering said in health care and EMS/Ambulance they are operating at a volume as high as any in the last 18 months due to the delta variant. Gering stated he believes the time for intervention is now.

Ward discussed other local entities mask mandates for staff and visitors.

Ward stated there is no longer any paycheck protection for employees as there was previously.

Ward said we recommend, with the support of the department heads, the commissioners enact a mask mandate for all county employees, whether

vaccinated or not, while indoors or in a vehicle, unless alone in a private office or vehicle, with a biweekly review of the policy.

Focke asked what percentage is vaccinated and can we mandate employees to be vaccinated.

Ward said we do not have the information now, but we can legally pursue the information and vaccination requirement.

Ford said he is okay with the department heads managing their departments.

McKinley stated in one of the paragraphs at the end up to 2/3's of the staff could come down with COVID. McKinley said to just tell us the facts and to not make it sound scarier. McKinley stated the write up was irritating.

Ford stated a number of our employees have had COVID and many vaccinated. Ford said he believes it would be beneficial to know how many are employees have been vaccinated.

Discussion followed on the proposed policy recommendation.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed by consensus to collect the data on the percentage of county employees vaccinated and if possible the number of employees who have had COVID-19.

Move to keep the current Riley County COVID-19 employee policy in place.

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

10:00 AM Amanda Smeller, Planning/Special Projects Director

15. Planning & Development - Staff Update

Smeller presented the Planning & Development staff update.

10:15 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

16. Administrative Work Session

Holeman discussed the dates to hold the Riley County Legislative Meeting with the local State Legislators.

The Board suggested holding the meeting November 8, 15 or 18, 2021.

17. Approve Resolution Submitting to Voters Ballot Question on a .20% Countywide Retailers' Sales Tax Funding Road and Bridge Improvements

Holeman presented the proposed resolution for the .20% sales tax for roads & bridge construction and improvements.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 080521-33, a Resolution to submit to the qualified electors of Riley County, Kansas the proposition of levying a one-fifth of one percent (0.20%) retailers' sales tax for the purpose of funding bridge and roadway construction and improvements, including maintenance and reconstruction in the county."

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

10:30 AM Ron Fehr, Manhattan City Manager

18. Manhattan City General Update

Fehr presented the City of Manhattan update.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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