



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 07, 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
Shelley Woodard	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Steve Schurle	Appraiser's Office	Present	8:30 AM
Craig Cox	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:07 AM
Gina Snyder	Downtown Manhattan	Present	9:19 AM
Luke Breault	RCPD	Present	9:20 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:33 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	10:00 AM
John Martens	Assistant Fire Chief	Present	10:15 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday evening, I helped serve the Thursday night community meal

at First Lutheran. After that, I had a committee meeting at the church.

Friday morning, I spent most of the morning dealing with a personal issue. That afternoon I met for several hours with some residents of Keats to update them on our progress on a lagoon location. I also checked in with Brian Foster at BG Consultants on his progress. He should have some preliminary drawings sometime this week.

Saturday, I did household and yard chores and later stopped by Everybody Counts for a short time and then did some grocery shopping.

The rest of the weekend, I caught up with paperwork and scheduling for this week.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon KAC had another webinar presentation “Update on Kansas Department of Transportation Road Usage Charge Study” Burns & McDonnell a transportation consultant is working with KDOT to study the state Road Usage Charge (RUC) might be a better option to replace declining motor fuel tax and its revenue. This study focuses on identifying how a RUC system will reflect midwestern values and needs that will help fund transportation investments. They are currently in Phase 2 of this study and were reaching out to key stakeholders on what all of this could mean and to gather input as they work into a Phase 3 pilot program.

Also Thursday afternoon I listened in on the Council on Foreign Affairs State and Local Officials Webinar “Building a Competitive U.S. Workforce” Bo Machavo, Director of Federal Government and Public Affairs at Micron Technology and Rebecca Shearman, Program Director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships at the National Science Foundation discussed the demand for technical talent in the current age of automation and AI and how to foster a competitive workforce. Sherry Van Sloun, National Intelligence Fellow at CFR moderated and shared resources available through the CHIP and Science Act as well as other places.

Also Thursday there a meeting of the Crisis Intervention Team as done bi-monthly. A couple of items that were discussed was the CIT training that took place last month, was well attended and put together with great resources. Hope is that will continue to grow, and other organizations and officials can help expand it. There also was an open dialog of making this group a regional task force including other area partners, and discussions are continuing on how we can get a crisis holding and or resource center for the area that will help with

transitions, holding, evaluations rather than having to go to the CSU, hospitals, or area jails.

Friday morning, I met with a group of constituents over breakfast and coffee at HyVee to discuss several county related duties and functions including elections, appraisals and the valuation process, county budgeting in general, and I discussed the LATVR, demand transfer loses from the state and many of the unfunded mandates that local taxpayers are being forced to pick up the tab for too. It really was a good conversation and dialog, and for the record HyVee has some amazing choices and options for breakfast too. I also got along of great feedback and compliments from the group on the work and efforts of the employees and staff in general and their high level of customer service and professionalism.

Spent the weekend watching some preseason football, keeping up on all of this NCAA Conference realignment and enjoying the beautiful late summer weather.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday after our meeting I met with Evan McMillan to look at the possible locations for the University Park lagoons. There is a possible location on their property but still looking at a couple of other options. There are at least two more landowners he will be contacting.

Saturday my brothers and I had a family reunion in Topeka. Some people of course had conflicts, but we ended up with 40 + people ages 2 to 71. Family that had not seen each other much were able to catch up. It was a great day.

Business Meeting

Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Aug 3, 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

4. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

5. Discuss Press Conference

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

6. Administrative Work Session
7. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Holeman presented the Commission Project List.

9:20 AM Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

8. 2023 G.O. Temporary Note for University Park Sewer District and Lakeside Heights Sewer District

Phillips presented the following bids to the Board.

Company	Interest Rate
Riley State Bank 201 S Broadway Riley, KS 66531	4.00%
KS State Bank 2627 KFB Plaza, Suite 202E Manhattan, KS 66503	6.00%
Commerce Bank 727 Poyntz Ave Manhattan, KS 66502	4.42%

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

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

9:30 AM**Press Conference**

9. RCPD Update - Luke Breault (3-5 minutes)

Breault presented a Riley County Police Department update.

10. Downtown Manhattan Update - Gina Snyder (3-5 minutes)

Snyder presented the Downtown Manhattan update.

11. RNR Statements - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported the Revenue Neutral Rate Statements will be mailed August 9, 2023.

Vargo emphasized they are not tax bills but an estimate of the 2023 taxes for properties based on 2024 budgets and the preliminary valuation.

9:45 AM**Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director**

12. Planning & Development - Staff Update

Webb presented the Planning & Special Projects update.

The Board discussed the logo.

Move for the Comprehensive Plan use the standard Riley County Logo.

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

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

13. RCHD Request for Approval to apply for KDHE grant

Gibbs presented the Health Department application for the Workforce Development Funding through KDHE.

Move to approve of the RCHD applying for the workforce development funding through KDHE.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ford, 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

10:15 AM

Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

14. Proposed Stadel Road sewer benefit district

Webb presented the potential Stadel Road sewer benefit district City of Manhattan benefit district.

Martens, Riley County Fire District, stated the triangle is the Fire District's property and they do not intend on having facilities in the issue.

Move to approve the inclusion of 300 Johnson Road into the Stadel

Road Part C sewer benefit district.

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

10:45 AM **David Adams, EMS/Ambulance Director**

15. Building Update

Adams presented an update on the North County EMS Station and Public Safety Headquarters.

Ford discussed the Annual AUSA meeting. Ford said two local organizations have asked him to attend. Ford stated he understands this is not what the Board originally discussed. Ford said he supports all three commissioners attending the conference.

Ford said he was recently appointed the NACo Military Committee. Ford stated he would like to go.

Ford said he is going to proceed with making arrangements to attend the Annual AUSA meeting.

11:07 AM **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn.

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