



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 19, 2024**

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
Bryant Parker	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:35 AM
Emma Loura	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:44 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	9:00 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:15 AM
Amy Manges	Register of Deeds	Present	9:27 AM
Gregg Eyestone	Extension Agent	Present	9:28 AM
Bill Hanson		Present	9:00 AM
Robert Olson		Present	9:00 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday morning, I attended Good Morning Manhattan at Four Points

by Sheraton. Guest speakers were from the Manhattan Technical College and the Manhattan Christian College. I'm looking forward to the Manhattan Technical College Ribbon Cutting on August 29th.

Friday and the weekend were pretty quiet with a lot of yard work, such as cleaning out several areas of weeds that were easy to pull after the rain and mowing the yard.

Sunday, I went to lunch with our lunch group and got caught in the deluge of rain when leaving. Later I reviewed today's meeting and documents.

McKinley's Comments:

Saturday morning was a meeting of the Riley County Republicans. Heard from the local candidates for state representatives and senate. Discussed a lot of local and state issues and the upcoming election.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had an official Teams meeting with the new chair of NACo's Veterans and Military Services committee. The purpose of this meeting was to hear from new Committee Chair Sid Conklin from Randolph County, Missouri, and have introductions from all of the vice chairs most of whom are new. We all discussed the 2024-25 committee schedule and some of the areas of priority and focus including work on full implementation of the PACT Act, legislation dealing with veteran suicide and mental health, development of a veteran court that counties can transition into if they so choose, and continued work on Operation Green Light which will occur in the fall.

Friday afternoon we had a similar teams call with NACo's Community Economic and Workforce Development Committee. We heard from our new Chair Angela Conley from Hennepin County, Minnesota. We went through some of the details in the 2024-25 welcome packet and started discussing some committee priorities as we work through the legislative session. We are also putting together a survey to better help understand the goals and priorities for the year.

Saturday morning, I attended the Riley County Republicans for breakfast over at HyVee. We heard from several of our general election candidates, I spoke on a few county related items and discussed elections and taxes in particular. We also heard an update from the City of Manhattan, and events that will be taking place right during the election cycle including a combined democrat and republican debate on September 25th.

Saturday evening, I had some friends come into town that I haven't seen for a while, so we went out to dinner and caught up. The rest of the weekend I caught up on things at home and got prepared for the upcoming week.

Business Meeting

3. Sign Riley County Employee Action Form(s)

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

- Duru Dogan, a new hire, as an Elections Assistant, in the Clerk/Election Department, at a Range TASND.
- Kirsten Bundy, a Medical Clerk, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 24, 2024.
- Lauren Darrah, a WIC Intern, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective July 31, 2024.

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Aug 15, 2024 9:00 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

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Rich Vargo, County Clerk

7. Fancy Creek Township Trustee tie break

Vargo presented the Fancy Creek Township Trustee tie break for candidates Bill Hanson and Robert Olson. Both candidates received 14 votes.

Vargo stated he would flip a coin to determine the winner.

Chairman Ford chose Mr. Hanson to call the coin toss.

Hanson called heads.

The flip of the coin landed tails.

Mr. Olson won the toss. Mr. Olson is the Republican Fancy Creek Township Trustee Candidate.

9:15 AM David Adams, EMS/Ambulance Director

8. Staff Update

Adams presented the EMS/Ambulance staff update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

9. Public Notice for Ober Road - John Ellermann (1-2 minutes)

Ellermann said a structure replacement project on Ober Road is scheduled to begin Monday, August 26, 2024. Project is located approximately 4/10ths mile west of the Ober Road/Droll Road intersection. Ober Road will be closed to through traffic during construction from the intersection of Ober Road/Droll Road west to the intersection of Ober Road/North Fork Road. The project is expected to be completed by Friday, August 30, 2024 weather permitting.

10. Grass Class and Pollinators - Gregg Eyestone (2-3 minutes)

Eyestone said the Fall Tall Fescue Grass Planting and Care Program is Saturday, August 24th beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Blueville Nursery.

Riley County, K-State Research and Extension Master Gardeners will be at the Flint Hills Discovery Center on Saturday, August 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to teach about pollinator gardens. The next class for new Master Gardeners begins on Thursday, September 5th. Contact the Extension office for details.

9:35 AM Amy Manges, Register of Deeds

11. Request to Fill Open Records Assistant I Position

Manges presented the request to fill the Open Records Assistant I position.

Move to approve the request to fill the open position of Records Assistant I.

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 Records Assistant I, in the Register of Deeds Office, at a Range 4.

9:40 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

12. Administrative Work Session

Holeman presented the KAC Legislative Request Form. He stated the deadline for legislative request is Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

Ford suggested constitutional home rule, short-term rental enforcement, and vehicle registration fees.

McKinley discussed distribution of sales tax to counties.

Focke suggested KAC can rewrite a new statute for LAVTR.

McKinley discussed the legislators attempts to control property tax.

The Board agreed by consensus to present constitutional home rule for counties, short-term rental enforcement, and motor vehicle registration

fees.

13. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Holeman presented the Commission Projects List.

9:50 AM

Brynne Haverkamp, Pawnee Mental Services

14. Riley County Mental Health Task Force

Haverkamp presented the Mental Health Task Force report.

The Board agreed to support the Mental Health Task Force work.

10:08 AM

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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

12:00 PM

Law Enforcement Agency Meeting

15. Law Board Meeting Agenda