



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
September 09, 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
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Bryant Parker	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:36 AM
Michael Rezkalla	Pawnee Mental Health Services Director	Present	9:15 AM
Eric Martin	Pawnee Mental Health Services	Present	9:15 AM
Mark French	RCPD	Present	9:20 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:21 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	9:30 AM
Michelle Horstmeier	Administrative Assistant	Present	9:30 AM
Luke Berning	Kansas Forest Service	Remote	9:42 AM
David Russell		Present	9:35 AM
Jake Konrardy	Deputy Fire Chief	Present	9:35 AM
Scott Howe		Present	10:05 AM
Emma Loura	Manhattan Mercury	Present	9:05 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	10:39 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Olds thanked the Board for achieving keeping the budget below the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR).

Olds thanked Riley County for the trifold Budget Brochure. Olds suggested placing them in public locations.

Olds encouraged the City of Manhattan and Riley County to find a way to separate out RCPD's budget on the RNR statement.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I met with Phil Anderson and Tracy Anderson at Anderson Knight Architects to look at the new plan for the Riverfront Development. They have really done an excellent job on the long range plan and would like to do a presentation to the BOCC soon.

Friday, I caught up on some work at home and did some planting. I spent some time working in my office and went over today's meeting documents, caught up on e-mails and calls. I received a complaint from a business owner in the Village Plaza, off Anderson, concerning the street construction and the effects it is having on business owners, especially the entry and exits.

Saturday, I watched the football game, which was quite a cliff-hanger, but we had another win.

Sunday afternoon I attended the opening of the Democratic Headquarters on Fort Riley Boulevard. A lot of people came through to volunteer and I enjoyed talking to many of them.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday after our meeting I met with Bryant Parker and went over a number of things going on.

Saturday was a busy day. Started the morning at Warner Park for a granddaughter's cross country meet. They stopped at the car show at Midwest Dream Car parking lot. Went home and watched the K-State football game that kept my attention until the last seconds. Later we went to church and out to eat. Then we went to the Symphony on the Plaza. This was the Manhattan Symphony Orchestra playing at the courthouse plaza. The weather was great and there was a large crowd.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had my monthly visit with my doctor. All is still going well and I'm actually down nearly 25 pounds since the beginning of June and still counting. So, we are all happy currently.

Also Thursday afternoon there was a September meeting of the Riley County Mental Health Task Force. Items of discussion included approval of last month's meeting minutes, introduction of some new members, and an update from the Crisis Innovation Committee and the members of this subcommittee moving forward. Other discussion including the launching of mobile crisis, Safe Places to Go, and the continued integration of 988/911.

Friday morning, I met with Josh Brewer, Director of Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Flint Hills to discuss some housing related issues and programs here in the area and to discuss some possible options for workforce housing in the rural areas of Riley County. It was a very creative and productive discussion.

Also Friday afternoon I took a tour of the construction of the new EMS/Ambulance Headquarters just off Claflin Road. Big thanks to EMS Director David Adams and members of the BHS team for walking around the site and answering some questions for me as we toured the facility. It's coming together fast, and it was nice to finally see just what it is going to look like. Can't wait to have it operational.

Friday afternoon I had my Pre-Law Board meeting in advance of the September 16th Law Board meeting that will take place in the City of Randolph. We will have a rather large agenda compared to the last couple of meetings. We also discussed some recent activity that has taken place here in the community and at the jail as well.

Also Friday afternoon I attended the Standing Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction forum at the new event space at the new Foundation Building up on K-State. It featured a moderated panel from both the local construction industry and the area mental health sector to discuss the challenges and issues the industry faces currently. We also heard two testimonies from Wayne Sloan from BHS Construction and Brian Fuemmeler from McCownGordon Construction. This was a packed house event and a very real conversation as well.

Saturday morning, I watched the K-State and Tulane game which was on ESPN. Not an easy game to watch but at least the Wildcats came away with a win 34-27 to start the season off 2-0.

Sunday afternoon I attended the 9/11 Day of Remembrance Family

Event and Picnic at the Wefald Pavilion at City Park. We gave nearly 400 pairs of shoes to some needy children in the community and enjoyed some BBQ by RCPD as well. Big thanks to the K-State Baseball team, Clovia House at the University, K-State Police, RCPD, Manhattan and Riley County Fire Departments for assisting with the event as well.

Business Meeting

3. Preservation of Ballots and Election Records

Move to approve the Democratic Party Chair Carl Reed and the Republican appointee Marvin Rodriguez to observe the destruction of the 2022 State General Election votes.

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

4. Sign Riley County Employee Action Form(s)

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

- Sara Thielenhaus, for a status change as full time to As Needed, as a Paramedic, in the EMS/Ambulance Department.
- Julie Winter, a status change of retirement, as an Administrative Services Manager, in the Public Works Department, effective December 20, 2024.
- Kaisha Lawrence, a MCH Intern, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 1, 2024.
- Kenna Hiebert, an Intern, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective July 12, 2024.
- Julie Gibbs, a Health Department Administrator, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 29, 2024.
- Shelley Hays, an Administrative Analyst, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 29, 2024.
- Megan Lewis, for a promotion, as a Community Corrections Director, in the Community Corrections Department, at a Range DD, effective September 14, 2024.

5. Discuss Good Morning Manhattan

Attendees: All BOCC, Clancy, Bryant and Rich.

Review Minutes

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Sep 5, 2024 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
SECONDER:	Kathryn Focke, 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.

9:15 AM Michael Rezkella, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director

10. Pawnee Mental Health Services update

Rezkella presented the Pawnee Mental Health Services update.

Martin discussed September as National Recovery Month.

9:30 AM

Press Conference

11. LEPP Grant - Amanda Webb (1-2 minutes)

Webb said Riley County received a \$50,000 Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP) grant from KDHE to assist low-to-moderate-income property owners with repair and replacement of wastewater systems and components.

The application window is open now through October 4, 2024.

We will open subsequent application windows until all of the money is expended.

The application and information sheet are available on our website. People can also call or email Planning & Development.

We've received one application so far.

12. RCPD update - Captain Mark French (3-4 minutes)

French presented a Riley County Police Department update.

9:35 AM

Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

13. EM / Fire Staff Update for the month of March

Stukey presented the EM/Fire staff update.

14. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Stukey and Berning presented the Community Wildlife Protection Plan.

Move to approve adoption of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

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

9:55 AM Anna Burson, Appraiser

15. Appraiser's Office September Staff Report

Burson presented the Appraiser's Office staff report.

10:10 AM Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director

16. Request to Fill Health Department Director

Ward presented the request to fill the Health Department Director position.

Move to approve the request to fill the Health Department Director position for recruitment.

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 Health Department Director, in the Health Department, at a Range II.

10:25 AM Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

17. Letter of Support for Creekside at Fall Color Farm's Tourism Grant Application

Webb presented the Letter of Support-Fall Color Farms Grant.

Move to approve signing the letter of support for Scott Howe's, dba Creekside at Fall Color Farms, grant application.

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

10:40 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

18. Administrative Work Session

19. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Holeman presented the Commission Projects List.

Holeman discussed an upcoming fence viewing.

11:00 AM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

20. Staff Report - Riley County Historical Museum

Hensler presented the Museum staff report.

21. Out of State Travel Request for Museum Curator of Education and Design, Melanie Highsmith

Hensler presented the out of state travel request.

Move to approve the Out of State Travel Request for Melanie Highsmith to attend the Mountain Plains Museums Association Annual Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota to be funded by the Riley County Historical Society.

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

11:03 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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

