



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
September 13, 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
Cindy Kabriel	Administrative Assistant II	Present	8:30 AM
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	8:30 AM
Christian Bright	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Manager	Present	8:30 AM
Sam Hennigh	KMAN	Present	8:30 AM
Amanda Smeller	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:20 AM
Bob Isaac	Planner	Present	9:23 AM
Michele Reid	Payroll & Benefits Spec & HR Associate	Present	9:23 AM
Perry Piper	Environmental Health Specialist	Present	9:23 AM
Steve Higgins	Zoning Enforcement Officer	Present	9:23 AM
Darrin Hobbs	Zoning Enforcement Officer	Present	9:23 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Ellermann reported there was vandalism at the Health Department over the weekend.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I listened in on the Council of Foreign Affairs State and Local Officials Webinar titled “Vaccines and Variants” with Dr. Leana Wen, Public Health Physician and former Health Commissioner for the City of Baltimore, Maryland. The discussion centered around how state and local governments can continue to prepare, approach, and respond to COVID-19, its variants, and other related public health emergencies. A pretty good question and answer session followed as you may expect as well.

Friday evening my intention was to make it to the 9/11 Remembrance in City Park, followed by Purple Power Play downtown in Blue Earth Plaza, however late Friday afternoon I twisted my left ankle and it left me pretty much immobile for the most of the weekend. Glad to see they had those events Friday, it is crazy to think it has been 20 years since the tragic event of 9/11 and to think of everything that has happened since the day. I’m also very happy to see Purple Power Play back downtown where it traditionally is. I guess remembering back to the very first one it just seems traditional in a sense it is here. Heard a lot of good things about both events over the weekend as well.

Glad to see that Bill Snyder Family Stadium was alive and well Saturday night. I know there is going to be concern with the pandemic still very much front and center, but having a crowd and normal football activities was just so very nice to see all things considered. The game proved to be interesting as well with the Wildcats winning a tight one 31-23. Wish all the best to starting QB Skyler Thompson with his injury that occurred as well.

Lastly, want to give a shutout to the Manhattan High football squad for beating Junction City 37-21 to bring back the Silver Trophy back to where it belongs.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I attended by Zoom the Upper Kansas Custom Watershed Discovery meeting. This was covering Geary, Riley, Pottawatomie, and Wabaunsee counties. They are working to revise the flood hazard maps for the area. They showed the maps that have been revised to date. They asked for attendees to add notes if there are any areas that needed revised. They completed the maps by counties. Wabaunsee County has been finished and the next counties to be worked on will be Jackson and Pottawatomie.

Later Thursday we had a tour of the newly completed addition to the Riley County Grade School. They added a gymnasium, several classrooms, a new entrance and a storm shelter large enough for all the students. The rest of the building was completely remodeled with new flooring, painting, roofing, and HVAC systems. Walking through it, it looks like a completely different building.

Friday evening we attended the 9/11 Day of Remembrance ceremony at City Park. I think the attendance was hurt by the fact that Purple Power Play and the Manhattan - Junction City football game were also on. It was really a great ceremony. It started with the 1st Infantry Division band. There is nothing better than a military band at an event like this and they were great. The featured speaker was retired Lieutenant Colonel Robert Darling. He was in the underground White House Bunker Complex during 9/11 and has written a book about it. He gave a minute by minute rundown of what happened in the first hours after the towers were hit and it was very fascinating.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday I attended the USDA/FEMS Floodplain mapping and Watershed Meeting via Zoom. It was mainly informational as Riley County had already been mapped. Some notes I took were as follows:

- Pottawatomie and Jackson County: Blue watershed and upper Kansas areas-base level engineering complete,
- Riley County households participating in the national flood insurance program: Manhattan - 419, Riley - 6, and Leonardville - 0,
- Risk areas could develop depending on releases from Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

Thursday evening I went to my church to make sure the casseroles and other food were ready for the meal distribution.

Friday morning I attended the 9/11 Hero's Breakfast for the day of 9/11 Remembrance at the Hilton Garden Inn. Spent some time afterwards visiting with Commissioner Dee McKee from Pottawatomie County.

Saturday I did work around the house and yard and then went to the KSU football game late afternoon and night.

Business Meeting

3. W. 32nd Bridge Replacement Project- Bid Recommendation

Move to approve the bid from King Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$1,284,589.40.

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

4. Agreement with Schwab-Eaton, P.A. for the Interim Bridge Inspections - 2021

Move to approve and sign the agreement for the Interim Bridge Inspections - 2021 with Schwab Eaton P.A., in the amount of \$5,800.00.

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

5. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

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

- Ryan Haag, a part time EMT, in the Ambulance/EMS Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 27, 2021.
- Paulina Gatica, a new hire, as a COVID-19 Contact Tracer, in the Health Department, at a grade B step 9, at \$15.80 per hour.
- Steve Higgins, a Zoning Enforcement Officer, in the Planning & Development Department, for Separation from County Service, effective September 30, 2021.
- Natasha Walker, a new hire, as a Clinical Rotation Student, in the Health Department, at a grade Student.
- Carmen Walker, a new hire, as a MCH Intern, in the Health Department, at a grade Intern.
- Tatym Rundel, a new hire, as a Clinical Rotation Student, in the Health Department, at a grade Student.
- Lauren Shea, a new hire, as a Clinical Rotation Student, in the Health Department, at a grade Student.

Review Minutes

6. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Sep 9, 2021
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

Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

9. Bid opening for firefighting skid unit

The Board of County Commissioners opened the following bids for a firefighting skid unit.

Company	Estimated Delivery	Total Bid
CET Fire Pumps Mfg. 23 Balmville Road Newburgh, NY 12550	14-16 weeks	\$10,000
Heiman, Inc. 2320 NW Blvd PO Box 248 Ashton, IA 51232-0248	14 weeks	\$15,000

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 Christy Rodriguez, Flint Hills Regional Council Director**10. Flint Hills Regional Council update**

Rodriguez said she would like to recognize Commissioner Focke for serving on the Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors and Janna Williams who works really, really hard and has accomplished quite a bit for our organization.

Rodriguez presented a Flint Hills Regional Council update.

Rodriguez thanked her staff and the board for all the hard work they do.

9:30 AM Press Conference**11. Presentation of retirement plaque to Steve Higgins - John Ford (3-5 minutes)**

Ford presented a retirement plaque to Steve Higgins for 23 years of service.

Higgins thanked the commissioners.

Higgins said he has been here just over 23 years and has seen a lot go on over the years.

9:50 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services**12. Administrative Work Session****13. Pending County Projects County Counselor**

Holeman reviewed the pending county projects list.

10:10 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

14. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented a Public Works project update.

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

15. Sign Letter of Support for Flint Hills Regional Council's EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Application

Smeller presented a letter of support for the Flint Hills Regional Council's EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant application.

Move to approve signing the letter of support for the Flint Hills Regional Council's EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant application.

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

10:37 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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