



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
September 28, 2023**

115 North 4th Street
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

9:00 AM

[District 2 – Greg McKinley, Member](#)

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Chair](#)

[District 1 – John Ford, Vice Chair](#)

9:00 AM

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Ford	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	9:00 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	9:00 AM
Shelley Woodard	Deputy County Counselor	Present	9:00 AM
Barry Wilkerson	County Attorney	Present	9:00 AM
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	9:18 AM
Brett Clark	Community Corrections	Present	9:31 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:39 AM
Stacy Olson	Manhattan Mercury	Present	9:39 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Director	Present	9:47 AM
Craig Cox	Deputy County Counselor	Present	10:00 AM
Julie Gibbs	Health Department Director	Present	10:50 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Monday I attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon at the KSU Foundation building event space. Presentations were made by the

Fairgrounds Task Force and Robbin Cole. Afterwards, I spent some time with Representative Sydney Carlin. Several topics were discussed, including the Keats wastewater project. She gave me the name and number for a contact in Topeka in charge of grants.

Wednesday, I spent time in the office going over paperwork for today's meeting, following up on phone calls and e-mails and studying state appraisal informational maps. I also studied the layout of CiCo park on Riley County's GIS website. That evening, I attended bell choir practice at the church.

Thursday morning I attended the "Good Morning Manhattan" breakfast with a presentation by Eric Reid, and announcements by Konza United Way, Leadership Manhattan, and Eileen's Cookies.

Ford's Comments:

Monday afternoon I attended the September Intergovernmental Luncheon at Rockin K's up on campus. Heard a presentation on the Fairgrounds Task Force by Riley County Extension Director, Gary Fike as well as Dave Lewis. Had a pretty good discussion and dialog afterward as well. We also got an update on the upcoming Mental Health Assessment Summit on October 10th from Pawnee Mental Health Executive Director, Robbin Cole. We also heard from Grant Hill from K-State on next year's Intergovernmental Luncheon calendar. The meeting was once again well attended over the lunch hour.

Tuesday afternoon I attended via Zoom the September Board of Directors meeting of Pawnee Mental Health. Some of items of discussion in the board meeting were from Colleen O'Connell who gave an update on the school-based service report, George Macko went through Pawnee's recent employee engagement and satisfaction survey, Robbin Cole gave her Chief Executive Officer Report which included details on Strategic Plan Area #3, as well as Pawnee's new vision/mission and motto, marketing and development discussed the items they are working on including "Pawnee Pulse" a new E-Letter they are getting out, the FY 2023 Annual Report, Pawnee's new logo, the upcoming "Driving the Dream" event on October 12th, and several other programs they are working on promoting as well. The finance committee gave their update on the July and August financials and review of current investments, and lastly the Executive Committee went through a review draft of Board Policy Manual changes that may be voted on in December.

Wednesday afternoon I listened in on the Council of Foreign Affairs State and Local Officials Webinar via Zoom on "Nuclear Fusion and

the Future of Energy”. Kim Budil, Director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California discussed the recent achievement of a net energy gain from nuclear fusion reaction and its implications of global energy. Carolyn Kissane, Associate Dean and Clinical Professor at the Center for Global Affairs at NYU moderated the discussion of live questions and answers then followed.

Thursday morning I attended Good Morning Manhattan hosted by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce at the Four Points by Sheraton. Guest speaker Eric Reid, Superintendent of USD 383 Schools spoke. Also Tara Claussen from Konza United Way spoke about the upcoming Annual Kickoff Campaign next Thursday. The Chamber also went through and updated us on some events upcoming including Leadership Manhattan.

Lastly just wanted to point out a quick couple of things since Monday, The Kansas Reflector wrote a pretty good article on the LAVTR fund that included dialog from Bruce Chladny, Executive Director of KAC and Miami County Commissioner Rob Roberts. This article really lays out the challenges counties and local units of government are facing without it as well as NOT being able to reduce the property taxes for their citizens on top of it. Speaking of KAC they had their Legislative Policy Committee meeting and they have agreed to support our SB 162 “Public Nuisance Abatement” in the unincorporated area as well as our call for reinstatement of the forementioned LAVTR Fund. Interestingly they tabled SCR 1611 the resolution to limit or cap property tax valuation increases for real property to October.

McKinley's Comments:

Monday after our meeting I attended the Intergovernmental Luncheon. The presentation was from the Fairgrounds Task Force. They covered what we had heard last week. The city seemed surprised we did not know all along what their plans for CiCo Park were. We also learned that K-State will be hosting next year at the Union.

After lunch I met with Kristin Little at Moran's office about some items regarding Fort Riley.

Monday evening I attended some of the freshmen and junior varsity football games between Manhattan and Washburn Rural. We were watching from the visitors’ seats because my nephew’s stepsons play for Washburn Rural. The visitors seating on the east side are very warm in the sun.

Tuesday evening I was at the Riley City Council meeting. One of the things discussed was problems they have been having with someone

driving a Mustang convertible. It is not a blue one but one of the council said they should be leery of anyone that drives a Mustang convertible.

Wednesday we had an update meeting with BHS and architect about the new EMS building. David Adams will be giving an update on everything next week, but the preliminary estimates are within our budget.

After that meeting I met with Michael Boller to discuss some questions that Riley had about hazardous waste disposal. We then talked about a lot of things in his department.

Business Meeting

Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Sep 25, 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

9:20 AM

Barry Wilkerson, County Attorney

6. Staff update

Wilkerson presented the County Attorney's Office report.

9:35 AM Cory Meyer, IT/GIS Director

7. IT/GIS Staff Update - September 2023

Meyer presented an IT/GIS staff update.

9:50 AM Brett Clark, Adult Intensive Supervision Officer

8. RCCC Awarded Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Agreement to Release & Assign Claims by Kansas Fights Addiction Act Grant Awardee to the Kansas Attorney General

Clark presented the Kansas Fights Addiction Grant.

Move to approve and sign the Agreement to Release and Assign Claims by Kansas Fights Addiction Act Grant Awardee to the Kansas Attorney General as required by accepting these grant funds.

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

9. Riley County Community Corrections Request for New Position

Clark presented the request for a new position.

The Board asked to review the position and need in 2 years.

Move to approve a new FTE Intensive Supervision Officer within Riley County Community Corrections to be assigned to Drug Court and paid with BJA federal grant funds.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an Intensive Supervision Officer/Case Manager-Drug Court, in the Community Corrections Department, at a Range 12.

10:05 AM Craig Cox, Deputy County Counselor

10. PACER Fees Class Action

Cox presented the PACER Fees Class Action Case, a court reporting system.

10:20 AM Anna Burson, Appraiser

11. Appraiser's Office Report

Burson presented the Appraiser's Office staff report.

10:35 AM Shelley Woodard, Deputy County Counselor

12. Administrative Work Session

Woodard discussed the work on animal control.

10:50 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 New Position Request

Gibbs presented the RCHD new position request.

The Board asked to review the position in one year.

Move to approve the request for the part time Drug Endangered Children Coordinator position.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Drug Endangered Children Coordinator, in the Health Department, at a Range 4.

14. RCHD Request to fill Medical Reserve Corps Unit Leader

Gibbs presented the request to fill the MRC Unit Leader position.

The Board said they would like to review the position at the end of next year.

Move to approve the request to fill the part time MRC Unit Leader position for the RCHD.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for a Medical Reserve Corps Unit Leader (Medical Reserve), in the Health Department, at a Range 7.

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

11:10 AM Shelley Woodard, Deputy County Counselor

11:10 AM 15. Executive session for preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property

Move that the Board of Riley County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, along with Shelley Woodard, Deputy County Counselor, attorney for the Commission, recess into executive session pursuant to the preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, to discuss a potential offer of purchase, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 11:30 a.m. Rich Vargo, County Clerk, will be present during a portion of the executive session to provide factual information.

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

11:30 AM

Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

Move the record reflect action shall be taken consistent with the consensus reached in executive session.

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

The Board discussed CiCo Park.

The Board asked to have a CiCo Park discussion at the next Joint City/County/County Meeting and to invite USD 383 to attend.

11:39 AM

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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