



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
October 02, 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
Shelley Woodard	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	8:30 AM
Joshua Gering	EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director	Present	8:30 AM
Darrin Hobbs	REACH Chair	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resource Director	Present	8:30 AM
Brandi Castro	EMS/Ambulance Department	Present	8:30 AM
Greg Steere	RCPD	Present	9:21 AM
Brian Fuemmeler	McCownGordon	Present	9:30 AM
Kathy Ray	Crisis Center Executive Director	Present	9:30 AM
Tychelle Jones	Crisis Center Outreach & Engagement Director	Present	9:30 AM
Robbin Cole	Pawnee Mental Health Services Director	Present	9:30 AM
Barry Wilkerson	County Attorney	Present	9:30 AM
Brian Peete	RCPD Director	Present	9:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:43 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	10:00 AM
Laurie Harrison	Emergency Management Coordinator	Present	10:00 AM
Jacob Kuluth	Sink, Gordon & Associates	Present	10:02 AM
Steve Schurle	Appraiser's Office	Present	10:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Hobbs presented the October Employee of the Month to Brandi Castro, EMS/Ambulance Department.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Friday morning I was in the office and got caught up on phone calls, e-mails, and went over the agenda and documents for today's meeting.

Later, I had a meeting with County Attorney Barry Wilkerson about several issues. They have been really busy with current and upcoming trials. I also had a meeting with Elizabeth Ward concerning human resources questions that I had.

Later that afternoon, I attended the retirement reception for Craig Cox. It was great to meet some of his family and friends. It is going to be a real change not having him here.

Saturday, I caught up on household and yard chores and some shopping. Downtown was super busy with "Pumpkin Patch" being held there.

Sunday, I had lunch with Senator Reddi. We caught up on various issues in the community and the upcoming election. We also discussed legislative issues and the Keats wastewater issues. She will try to help up with grants, etc. I'll send her some information.

I watched some of the Chiefs game Sunday night.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I met with Michelle Sink, Area Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters to discuss their upcoming Annual Fundraiser that is taking place Thursday night out at Prairiewood. I dropped off some items for the auction and discussed some plans possibly for the future as well. Hope all goes well Thursday evening.

Also Thursday I met with my doctor at the Stormont Vail Facility here in Manhattan for my monthly visit. I think it is safe to say it is time to change the routine a bit and we are working on a plan to do just that and to get moving forward once again. I have to admit I have grown a bit stagnant here over the summer months so we will see what happens.

Friday I stopped down here at the BOCC Chamber for the retirement

ceremony of Craig Cox. Had a really good turnout for the event and I have to say I really enjoyed working with Craig on legal and tax concerns over the 4 ½ years I have been here as a commissioner, and from the sounds of it he will be missed by many here at the county and I wish him and his family well into the future.

Friday afternoon I had a Zoom with members from the City of Manhattan, the Manhattan Area of Chamber of Commerce, and the Flint Hills AUSA Chapter to discuss and prepare for next week's trip to the AUSA Conference in Washington, D.C. Most of the concerns centered around possible late minute changes that would have to be made if the government shutdown had taken place, but it looks like we will be good at least for this trip. Looking forward to discussion and interaction next week.

Friday night Manhattan High got back to its winning ways easily disposing of Emporia 51-7, up next is rival Junction City this Friday night at Bishop Stadium.

Saturday I went out to Fort Riley and enjoyed Apple Days for the second straight year. It is always fun to walk around and see all the displays and this year the museums were open including the gift shop as well, which was an extra plus. I got over there early before it got hot outside so that too was a plus. I urge everybody who hasn't had a chance to check that out to definitely do so in the future it is absolutely worth it.

Also on Saturday because K-State didn't play I watched my other Wildcats from Kentucky play and easily dispatch the Florida Gators in Lexington 33-14 to run their record to 5-0 to start the season.

Sunday morning I watched my Jacksonville Jaguars beat the Falcons 24-7 in an early start in London and also the watched the Chiefs beat the Jets later Sunday night as well.

McKinley's Comments:

Friday Master Gardener was about flowers in the morning. In the afternoon we toured several local facilities including Kansas Forest Service, the transfer station, community gardens, the Zoo butterfly garden, and the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Department. Justin Brenner at HHW did a great job of explaining the facility.

At the end of the day I attended the retirement event for Craig Cox. I had a good talk with Craig.

Friday night I attended the Manhattan High football game. It was their

homecoming game and they took care of Emporia very quickly.

Business Meeting

3. Standing Up Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction Proclamation

Move to sign the Standing Up Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction Proclamation.

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

4. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Move to sign the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation for October 2023.

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

5. National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week Proclamation

Move to sign the National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week Proclamation.

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

6. Sign Riley County Employee Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Employee Action Form for Wyatt Voth, a paramedic, in the EMS/Ambulance Department, for Separation from County Service, effective September 15, 2023.

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Sep 28, 2023 9:00 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

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Shelley Woodard, Deputy County Counselor

10. Administrative Work Session

Woodard discussed Craig Cox's retirement.

9:20 AM Vivienne Leyva, PIO

11. September 2023 Communications Update

Absent

9:30 AM Press Conference

12. RCPD Update - Greg Steere (3-5 minutes)

Steere presented a Riley County Police Department update.

Steere discussed the "Community Night Out" event tomorrow evening at the City Park.

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

No update.

14. Presentation of Standing up together to promote Mental Health in Construction Proclamation - Kathryn Focke and Brian Fuemmeler (3-5 minutes)

Focke presented the Standing Up Together to Promote Mental Health in Construction Proclamation to Brian Fuemmeler.

Fuemmeler thanked the Board for the Proclamation. Fuemmeler said the Associated Contractors Safety Network has partnered with many local companies.

15. Presentation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation - Kathryn Focke and Kathy Ray & Tychelle Jones (3-5 minutes)

Focke presented the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation to Kathy Ray.

Ray discussed the importance of domestic violence education and prevention.

Wilkerson discussed the importance of domestic violence awareness.

16. Presentation of National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week Proclamation - Kathryn Focke and Robbin Cole (3-5 minutes)

Focke presented the National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week Proclamation to Robbin Cole.

Cole thanked the Board for the Proclamation. Cole discussed the importance of the National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Proclamation.

Peete discussed the impact on our community and Pawnee Mental Health's work.

10:00 AM Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

17. Position Classification Change

Stukey presented the position classification change.

Vargo discussed concerns for the request.

Ward stated her reservation is if this department needs this level of work. Ward stated other departments with Administrative Assistant II positions and have a larger workload.

The Board asked for more clarification on how the position will work with Human Resources and how it will be paid for.

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

18. Staff Update for month of August 2023

Stukey presented the Emergency Management/Fire District #1 staff report.

10:15 AM Jacob Kujath, Sink, Gordon & Associates

19. 2022 Riley County Financial Statement Audit

Kujath presented the 2022 Riley County Financial Statement Audit.

Kujath stated the Adverse and Unaudited Opinion is the highest level of opinion to obtain under KMAAG.

10:35 AM Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director

20. Employee Day update

Ward presented the tentative agenda for the 2023 Riley County Employee Day, Monday, October 9, 2023.

The Board agreed to host the Joint City/County/County Meeting at the Public Works Training Room to discuss the topic of CiCo Park on

Thursday, October 26th.

11:18 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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