



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
October 16, 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
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	8:30 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Rhys Baker	Volunteer Coordinator Meadowlark Hospice	Present	8:30 AM
Chase Hageman	Mercury	Present	8:33 AM
Dani Hallgren	Konza Prairie Community Health & Dental Center	Present	9:00 AM
Cy Smith		Present	9:00 AM
Vernon Turner	Flint Hills Veterans Coalition	Present	9:15 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:40 AM
Stephanie Peterson	Manhattan City Community Development Director	Present	9:40 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:40 AM
Lori Muir	Real Estate Specialist	Present	10:02 AM
Susan Boller	Elections Supervisor	Present	10:02 AM
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	10:30 AM
Emily Wagner	Manhattan Emergency Shelter Director	Present	10:30 AM
Heather Germann	Leonardville Nursing Home	Present	10:40 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Ellermann announced a structure replacement project on Madison Creek Road is scheduled to begin Monday, October 23, 2023. The project is located approximately 4/10 mile north of LK&W Road. Madison Creek Road will be closed to through traffic during construction from LK&W Road to Walsburg Road. The project is expected to be completed by Wednesday, October 25, 2023 weather permitting.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Friday afternoon I spent some time in the office going over today's meeting notes.

I also had a meeting with County Attorney Barry Wilkerson on several issues, including the Opioid Task Force that he wasn't able to attend last week.

I also spent some time on the phone with Shelly Woodard on the Keats project.

Saturday, I attended the opening of the new Leonardville ambulance station. There were quite a few local residents and press in attendance. The station is designed and finished very well, with several items still needing to be completed. EMS is planning to move in today. It is a great service for the northern county residents.

Saturday evening I watched the KSU-TCU game with some friends. What a great job the team did and it was exciting to see the backup quarterback do so well with a record of five touchdowns.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had the October Teams call with NACo's Veterans and Military Services Committee. Chair Trista Martinson, Commissioner, Rasmey County, Minnesota made some opening comments and introductions followed by our guest speaker Nathaniel Saltz, from the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. He talked about ways the state of Minnesota is combating veteran homelessness. Rachel Mackey, Legislative Director for Human Services and the

Veterans and Military Services for NACo gave a legislative update from Capitol Hill. Rachel Mackey and Chair Martinson then gave an update on the Operation Greenlight for Veterans Initiative. That followed a general discussion and close of the meeting.

Also on Thursday afternoon I listened in on a special Council on Foreign Affairs Virtual Public Forum “Update on Israel-Hamas War”. This was an on the record discussion about the escalating violence in the Gaza Strip and Israel and what it means for the Middle East and what we can expect globally in the days and weeks ahead. Steven Cook, Eni Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies and Director of the International Affairs Fellowship for Tenured International Relations Scholars at CFR, Farah Pandith, Adjunct Senior Fellow, CFR, Ray Takeyh, Hasib J Sabbagh Senior Fellow for Middle East Studies, CFR were part of the panel with Michael Froman, President, CFR moderating.

Friday morning I met with the new nutritionist at Stormont Vail via video call just to start getting some ideas on how switch some things some up on diet to balance out with a new exercise routine moving forward I have some other changes on the horizon to hopefully get over this latest wall I’ve hit but with the holiday rapidly approaching we will have to see.

Friday evening Manhattan High went to Lansing and picked up the win 42-0 against the Lions to run their record to 6-1 on the season, so good for the Indians.

Saturday morning I did attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for the new Leonardville EMS Station. I thought the event went very well and was well attended by staff and members of community too. After everything it took to finally get to this point it is great to see it will be open and operational this afternoon for those rural citizens in the north part of Riley County.

Saturday night I watched as K-State got a much-needed victory versus Texas Tech in Lubbock 38-21. The Wildcats move their record to 4-2 but more important they stay in the Big 12 Championship race at 2-1 looks like they may a quarterback controversy on their hands as well so we will see how that plays out.

Sunday watched the Jacksonville Jaguars beat Indianapolis Colts 37-20 in Jacksonville to move to 4-2 and take the division lead in the AFC South.

I wanted to mention that it has been announced by Governor Kelly that a new public comment submission is now open for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) for the Initial Proposal

Volume 2. Comments made will help with the 5-Year action plan Volume 1 and 2 and help the state identify the area of need for high-speed internet and outline the proper requirements to access grant funding. Those comments can be sent to [Broadband - KDC Submission Manager \(submittable.com\)](https://kansasdeptofcommercebroadband.submittable.com/submit) <<https://kansasdeptofcommercebroadband.submittable.com/submit>> until November 12th.

Lastly I wanted to give my condolences to the City of Manhattan on the passing of long-time employee and Public Works Director Rob Ott. Rob was a truly dedicated professional in his field a good all-round guy and engaged in the community while fighting a longtime and courageous battle with cancer. He will be truly missed by a lot of people here in the community and my thoughts go out to his family.

McKinley's Comments:

Over the weekend my kids and grandkids were at our house for an early Christmas present. They brought rakes, chain saws, and a log splitter to clean up our back land. They hauled twelve pickup loads to the brush and tree dump. They split up a face cord of firewood for this year and cut up some wood for next year. It was needed and very much appreciated.

The big event this weekend was the opening of the new ambulance station in Leonardville. There was a nice crowd of people and the building looked great. I have heard from a lot of people this last week about how much they appreciated this facility.

Business Meeting

3. Notice to Township Board - Cereal Malt Beverage License for Chad Myers (Stagg Hill Golf Club)

Move to sign the Notice to Township Board - Cereal Malt Beverage License for Chad Myers (Stagg Hill Golf Club), 4441 Stagg Hill Road Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

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

4. Bid Award for RCFD #1, St. 102, Ashland

McKinley asked if only the base bid is awarded.

Stukey said yes. He believes they can solicit separate electrical and HVAC.

Move to approve Riley Construction base bid in the amount of \$199,200.00 as the best bid, to include plumbing, and direct staff to proceed with the project.

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

5. National Hospice and Palliative Care Month - November 2023 Proclamation

Move to sign the Sign National Hospice and Palliative Care Month - November 2023 Proclamation for Meadowlark Hospice.

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

6. Proclamation for Veterans Day 2023

Move to approve the Veterans Day Proclamation 2023.

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

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Oct 12, 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

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Dani Hallgren, Konza Prairie Community Health and Dental Center

10. Konza Prairie Community Health and Dental Center update

Hallgren presented an update on Konza Prairie Community Health and Dental Center.

9:15 AM Vernon Turner, Flint Hills Veterans Coalition

11. Flint Hills Veterans Coalition update

Turner presented the Flint Hills Veterans Coalition update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

12. Presentation of National Hospice and Palliative Care Month Proclamation - Kathryn Focke and Rhys Baker (2-3 minutes)

Focke presented the National Hospice Care Month Proclamation to Rhys Baker.

13. Presentation of Veterans Day Proclamation - Kathryn Focke and Vernon Turner (2-3 minutes)

Focke presented the Veterans Day Proclamation to Vernon Turner.

14. Fall Soil Preparations program - Gregg Eyestone (2-3 minutes)

Eyestone said Extension will conduct a “Fall Soil Preparations” program at Blueville Nursery on Saturday, October 21st beginning at 10:00 a.m. Eyestone said now is the time to work compost or other organic matter like tree leaves into garden soils.

15. General Election - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported voter registration closes Tuesday, October 17, 2023 and Advance Voting opens Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Vargo said the General Election Day is November 7, 2023.

Vargo said there is a video demonstrating the new tabulation equipment at the polling places this year.

9:40 AM

Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

16. Amend the Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan to amend the Future Land Use Map and remove reference to three separately bound documents.

Webb and Peterson reviewed the proposed amendment to the Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 101623-57, A Resolution amending the Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan, dated March 2015, by amending the future land use map and eliminating reference to three separately bound documents."

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

10:10 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

17. Security of Election's Division Space-CPE 4th Floor Renovation

Vargo presented the request to hire an architect to develop plans for the remodel of the 4th floor of the CPE Building for the Elections Division.

Move to approve John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer and Rich Vargo, County Clerk hire an architect to develop

plans for remodel of the 4th floor of the CPE Building for the Elections Division.

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

10:25 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

18. Administrative Work Session

No report.

19. Pending County Projects County Counselor

10:30 AM Emily Wagner, Manhattan Emergency Shelter Director

20. Emergency Shelter update

Wagner presented the Manhattan Emergency Shelter update.

Holeman discussed the upcoming Riley County Legislative Conference. Holeman proposed November 30th, December 11th, 14th, 21st, or 28th for the conference dates.

10:40 AM Cory Meyer, IT/GIS Director

21. Imagery Flight Agreement

Meyer presented the request for the Imagery Flight Agreement.

Move to allow staff to proceed with the purchase of imagery flights through EagleView for the next 6 years or 3 flight which would be completed in 2024, 2026, and 2028 to be paid for from the IT/GIS Budget starting in 2024.

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

10:55 AM Heather Germann, Leonardville Nursing Home

22. Letter of Support for a grant application for the Leonardville Nursing Home

Germann presented a letter of support for the Leonardville Nursing Home.

Move to approve a Letter of Support for a grant application for the Leonardville Nursing Home.

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

11:10 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

- 11:10 AM 23. Executive session to discuss confidential legal advice regarding pending litigation issues

Move the County Commission, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, recess into executive session on pending litigation for the purpose of consultation with Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, and David Cooper, Fisher, Patterson, Sayler, and Smith, attorneys for the commission, a matter which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 11:35 a.m.

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

- 11:35 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

11:38 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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

12:00 PM Law Enforcement Agency Meeting

24. Law Board Meeting Agenda