



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
October 28, 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	Absent	8:30 AM
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	8:30 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	8:30 AM
Jacob Hansen	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Clancy Holeman	Counselor/Director of Administrative Services	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Michele Reid	Payroll, Benefits & Employee Relations Manager	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Michael Rezkalla	Pawnee Mental Health Services Director	Present	9:00 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:06 AM
Emma Loura	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:45 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	9:15 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	9:19 AM
David Adams	EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	9:21 AM
Joshua Gering	EMS/Ambulance Assistant Director	Present	9:21 AM
Megan Lewis	Community Corrections Director	Present	9:47 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

McMillan said they will be replacing two water valves today in the Konza Water Benefit District and they will be under a boil water advisory.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Absent.

McKinley's Comments:

Friday afternoon we went down and watched the K-State Homecoming Parade. There were a lot of people down watching and everyone was enjoying it. We went out for dinner and waited with the crowds.

Later Friday we went to the Manhattan High football game. It was another runaway victory. The second half we sat on the Washburn Rural side with my nephew and his family. His stepson was the quarterback for Washburn Rural. His wife was very excited when John ran it in for their second touchdown.

Saturday I attended the K-State football game. I don't take blood pressure medicine, but I could have used some. Kept everyone at their seats until the final minutes.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday morning, I headed to Overland Park for the Annual Board of Director's Retreat for the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce. We started the retreat by hearing from CEO/President Jason Smith on how the Chamber operates and went through each department of the organization and what they do and the events and functions they maintain. Over the lunch hour we heard updates and reports from each of the various ex-officios. I gave one of these reports on behalf of Riley County and went through some of the highlights of 2024 so far and went through what we will be working on for the rest of the year and into 2025. After that Matt Tarleton consultant for the new Economic Growth Strategy Plan joined us from Atlanta to go through the specifics of the plan, as well as recommendations, answered questions, and went through a tabletop exercise to see in theory how this plan could be introduced and operational.

Thursday night I enjoyed dinner and a network session at Q-39 BBQ. Amongst our group we had a very solid dialog on numerous topics both locally and regionally and I answered some questions in regard to efforts here in Riley County as well. Dinner was excellent as well.

Friday morning at the retreat we heard from Dr Marshall Stewart,

Executive Vice President for External Engagement and Chief of Staff at Kansas State University and Hans Coetze, Interim Vice President for Research and they went through updates to K-State Next-Gen and 105 Plans, and changes they are making to the community engagement and their economic development visions. I then travelled back to Manhattan after the conclusion of the speech.

Friday afternoon I met with RCPD Assistant Director Kurt Moldrup. He had some items he wanted to discuss as he prepares to retire from the department at years end. We also discussed the promotion process in depth, challenges that still are occurring in corrections, the challenges with inmates and medical expenses, and cultural law enforcement in general. Had a very good dialog and we will certainly miss his 35 plus years of experience from within the department.

Friday evening, I was also able to catch a large majority of the K-State Homecoming from downtown on Poyntz. It was a very large event this year with some absolutely amazing and creative floats from the kids at the university and they had to have put in a lot of time of making them. It was a perfect picture day to have a parade as well.

Also, on Friday there was an official proclamation made by Governor Laura Kelly that was signed for “Operation Green Light” which will be taking place next week November 5th-11th leading up to Veterans Day. So glad to see the State of Kansas is getting involved with this event too.

Also want to give a shout out to Manhattan High who finished the regular season undefeated at 8-0 and won the Centennial League outright and will be the number two seed in the west bracket of the Class 6A playoffs.

Saturday night I went to the Homecoming K-State-Kansas game with a friend from high school and his family. It was a beautiful night for football, but the game was difficult and stressful throughout before K-State finally pulled it out at the end 29-27 over the Jayhawks to move to 7-1 on the season and 4-1 in the Big 12. For better or worse this marks the best start for a Wildcat team since 2012 which is saying something as well.

Sunday night I had some friends come into town who I haven’t seen in nearly two years. We had dinner at Texas Roadhouse and had a chance to catch up and discuss some other things including a possible business proposition that may lay on the horizon. Also took some time to get caught up on everything for the week as well.

Business Meeting

3. Native American Heritage Month Proclamation

Move to approve the Native American Heritage Month Proclamation.

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

4. Sign Riley County Employee Action Form(s)

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

- Chuck Baker, a new hire, as a Volunteer Firefighter, in the Fire District #1 Department, at a Range TASND.
- Cearra Douglas, a new hire, as an Election Day Worker, in the Election Department, at a Range Election.
- Oscar Casasaguayo, a new hire, as an Election Day Worker, in the Election Department, at a Range Election.

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Oct 24, 2024 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

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

Press Conference Topics

6. Discuss Press Conference

Review Tentative Agenda

7. Tentative Agenda

Ford discussed holding a County Officials Luncheon in November.

9:00 AM**Michael Rezkalla, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director**

8. Pawnee Mental Health Services update

Rezkalla presented the Pawnee Mental Health Services update.

9:20 AM**Shilo Heger, Treasurer**

9. Request Permission to fill the Office Building Receptionist Position

Heger presented the request to fill the Office Building Receptionist position.

Move to approve the request to fill the Office Building Receptionist position.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an Office Building Receptionist, in the Treasurer's Office, at a Range 1.

9:30 AM**Press Conference**

10. Native American Heritage Month Proclamation - John Ford and Nathan Dixon (2-3 minutes)

Ford presented the Native American Heritage Month Proclamation to Nathan Dixon, Riley County EMS/Ambulance Department.

Dixon, thanked David Adams, his boss for being very supportive.

Dixon thanked Riley County for their support.

11. Public Notice - Evan McMillan (1-2 minutes)

McMillan said a structure replacement project on Wildcat Creek Road is scheduled to begin Monday, November 4, 2024. The project is located approximately 2.5 miles west of N. Scenic Drive. Wildcat Creek Road will be closed to through traffic during construction from N. Scenic Drive to Saddle Rock Road. The project is expected to be completed by Friday, November 15, 2024 weather permitting.

12. 2024 General Election - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported as of Saturday, October 26, 2024, 6,690 have advance voted. He said the last day to request an advance ballot by mail is tomorrow, October 29, 2024.

Vargo said advance voting in person continues through Monday, November 4, 2024 at 12:00 (noon) at both the County Office Building and KSU Student Union, Bluemont Room.

Vargo presented a wood carving from Craig Fletcher, a local woodworker.

Vargo said the carving reads "Vote" "It Makes A Difference".

Vargo stated he will place it on the front counter in the Election Office.

9:35 AM

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

13. Administrative Work Session

14. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Holeman presented the Commission Project List.

Holeman said today at 5:00 p.m. is the deadline for the submission of the Indigent Defense Panel Agreements.

9:50 AM

Megan Lewis, Community Corrections Director

15. Staff Update

Lewis presented the Community Corrections staff update.

9:51 AM**Adjournment**

16. Move to adjourn.

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

12:00 PM**Intergovernmental Luncheon**

17. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda