



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
November 04, 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	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
Bryant Parker	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Jacob Hansen	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Gary Olds		Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:30 AM
Emma Loura	Manhattan Mercury	Present	9:00 AM
Mark French	RCPD	Present	9:20 AM
Greg Steere	RCPD	Present	9:20 AM
Christian Bishop	Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce	Present	9:25 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director	Present	9:37 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Olds discussed his 2023 tax statement. He looked at the cost attributed to RCPD. Olds stated he has compared our law enforcement cost, and it is less per capita than Geary County law enforcement.

Olds said law enforcement in Riley County costs his family \$110/month. He stated the cost of law enforcement is necessary, but we have to look at it.

Ward discussed scheduling department head evaluations. Ward suggested November 25th and December 9th.

The Board agreed with holding department head evaluations on November 25th and December 9th.

Holeman asked to add an executive session to his administrative time.

Move to add an executive session to Holeman's administrative time today.

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

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

No comments.

McKinley's Comments:

Slow weekend after a long day here Thursday.

I had to miss a lot of the K-State football game but was home in time to watch the fourth quarter collapse.

I did have a phone call chewing me out for making the half day office hours.

Ford's Comments:

Friday morning, I met with Dawson Maring, District Representative for Congressman Tracey Mann to discuss the upcoming Economic Development Reauthorization Act and where it stands currently and how the congressman feels overall about it. This is the first time since 2004 a reauthorization is taking place.

Friday afternoon I joined the Established Business Leaders for their Lunch and Learn over at the Rockin K's event space during the lunch hour. Jason Smith, President/CEO of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce presented the new Economic Growth Plan they just had done and answered some questions and went through the plan in depth including the recommendations attached in it.

Friday afternoon I met with Judge Bannister here in the BOCC Chambers to discuss the indigent defense panel, jury selection, and court and judicial needs as a whole. Had a very good dialog and appreciated the time spent discussing these items.

Friday night I listened to the Manhattan High School playoff game as the Indians beat Wichita North 59-0. The Indians are now a perfect 9-0 on the season as they move on to play Maize next.

Saturday afternoon I watched as K-State went into Houston and lost a tough one 24-19. Marking another year of losing a game they really should have won. The loss drops the Wildcats to 7-2 on the season with another bye week ahead.

Glad to finally see some measurable rain over the weekend and finally fall like temperatures as well, looks like that is going to continue to persist throughout the upcoming week as well.

Business Meeting

3. Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans Proclamation

Move to approve the Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans Proclamation.

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

4. Sign Riley County Employee Action Form(s)

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Employee Action Form for Lexi Ziolo, an EMT, in the EMS/Ambulance Department, for Separation from County Service, effective November 12, 2024.

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Oct 31, 2024 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

6. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

7. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM **Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services**

- 9:00 AM 8. Administrative Work Session

Move the County Commission, including Chairman Ford, Vice Chairman McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, recess into executive session on potential litigation with Clancy Holeman, County Counselor; and Bryant Parker and Jacob Hansen, Deputy County Counselors, attorneys for the commission, 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 9:20 a.m.

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

9:20 AM Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive

session.

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

9. Pending County Projects County Counselor

9:20 AM Bryant Parker, Deputy County Counselor

10. Mental Health Task Force Resolution

Parker presented the Mental Health Task Force resolution.

The Board discussed the proposed resolution.

Move to approve “Resolution No. 110424-48, A Resolution recognizing the Riley County Mental Health Task Force to be the professional community organization serving and supporting Riley County Mental Health organizations and providers.”

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

9:30 AM Press Conference

11. Presentation of Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans Proclamation - John Ford and Christian Bishop (3 minutes)

Ford presented the Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

Proclamation to Bishop.

Bishop thanked the Board for honoring Operation Green Light.

12. RCPD Update - Mark French (3 minutes)

French presented the Riley County Police Department update.

13. Soil health program November 16th - Gregg Eyestone (2 minutes)

Eyestone said the Fall Soil Improvements program will be held Saturday, November 16th at 10:00 a.m. at Blueville Nursery, 4539 Anderson Avenue. Learn about soil testing and organic materials to improve the soil and selecting the necessary fertilizer.

14. 2024 General Election - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported 11,655 people have voted as of the close of business on Saturday, November 2, 2024. He said by state law advance voting closes at noon, Monday, November 4, 2024 at both locations.

Vargo said the polls will be open Tuesday, November 5, 2024 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. He encouraged voters to go to www.rileycountyks.gov to look up their sample ballot, polling place location, and map.

9:40 AM

Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

15. ARPA Obligations

Move to approve the dedication of ARPA funds to the following projects.

North County EMS (completed)	\$ 1,395,096.48
Fairmont Heights (completed)	97,500.00
Keats	800,000.00
EMS HQ	10,262,108.00
EM Renovation	2,245,000.00
Archimages (for all projects)	1,063,331.00
University Park Fire Station	273,000.00
Total	\$16,136,035.48

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kathryn Focke, County Commissioner

SECONDER:	Greg McKinley, County Commissioner
AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley

9:50 AM**Charlene Brownson, Riley County Genealogical Society Vice President**

16. Approval of historical marker at the Genealogical Library

Brownson presented the request of a historical marker at the Genealogical Library.

Move to approve the request of a historical marker at the Genealogical Library.

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

10:00 AM**Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director**

17. EM/FIRE Staff Update for October

Stukey presented the EM/Fire staff update.

Stukey discussed a truck to purchase for the Fire Department. Stukey said he will bring a purchase authorization request for the truck.

Parker discussed the Fire Reporting Software.

Parker discussed tower lease agreements. He said if the Board would like he can work on tower lease agreements with private companies.

The Board agreed by consensus for staff to work on tower lease agreements.

10:12 AM**Adjournment**

Move to adjourn.

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

AYES:	Ford, Focke, McKinley
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