



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
November 13, 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
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:55 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Thursday evening I attended a holiday open house at Eclectic Charm, that houses an interesting group of vendors that have all sorts of items for sale, including crafts, antiques, and other home décor. There were a lot of people there and I got to talk with a lot of folks.

Friday morning, I attended the Veterans Day Honor Parade, from the beginning of the parade on the review stand, and the Commemorative

Program at the Peace Memorial Auditorium. The parade had a lot of participants. The theme of the day was “Veterans of the Cold War.”

The Commemorative Program included the “Posting of Colors,” recognition of invited guests and high school essay winners. The guest speaker was Bill Turner, Director of the Kansas Commission of Veteran Affairs who recalled his many commands, deployments, and other assignments throughout his career in the Army. He retired as a Brigadier General. His career included time serving during the Cold War, which many people don’t know or remember that period of time in our history.

Later that afternoon, I met with a couple that live in Keats but have been gone most of the summer. I updated them on our work and meetings with the Keats residents and landowners. They plan to come to the public meeting on Thursday.

Saturday, I attended the KSU/Baylor game. The score was a little surprising, but a great win for the team.

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had the November National Teams call with NACo’s Veterans and Military Services Committee. After a few welcomes and introductions from our Chair Trista Martinson, Commissioner, Rasmey County, Minnesota we heard from John Boerstler, Chief Veterans Experience Officer with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He spoke on Veteran employment challenges, benefits, and services and how the nations counties can use resources to help. Rachel Mackey, Legislative Director for VMS gave as an update on what is happening on Capitol Hill and she followed with an update on activities going on and surrounding Operation Green Light. We finished out the call with a general discussion and talk of Veterans Day events from all over the country over the weekend.

Also on Thursday afternoon I listened in on the Council of Foreign Affairs State and Local Officials Webinar titled “Israel and Palestine: Past, Present, Future” Steven A. Cook, CFR’s Senior Fellow for Middle East Studies gave an update on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, background on the Israeli-Palestinian relations and implications for the future of the region. A very solid question and answer session followed.

Thursday evening I attended the November meeting of the Flint Hills Mental Health Task Force. We met at the Riley County Law Enforcement Center and took a full tour of the corrections facility lead by Captain Mark French. It was a very comprehensive tour as we went

through each of the jail pods and unit of the facility, talked about current trends and challenges as well as future plans and needs both from an infrastructural and personnel side. The tour was insightful, informative, and put together visually all the things that have been discussed verbally in recent times. I urge the other commissioners to reach out and take this tour as well.

Friday morning was the Annual Veteran Day Parade and Ceremony here downtown. I started the morning off with a biscuit and gravy breakfast at the VFW and got the chance to meet and talk to some of our local veterans in the process. I then made my way over to the parade and rode in the Fire Engine number #1 with other local officials through the parade to the downtown view stage where I saw the rest of the parade. Then we moved inside for the ceremony where several awards were given for artwork and essays and then we heard from Bill Turner who spoke about the Cold War, he gave a really good historical background as well as personal account of his time spent while serving through those times. The weather was picture perfect for the event, which for me was the first time this has happened. I thought the turnout for the event and parade was great as usual. It was also a pleasure to have all of the immediate command staff from Fort Riley present as well.

Friday night Manhattan High's luck ran out as they dropped a heartbreaker to Derby at Bishop Stadium 23-21. The Indians end their season at 9-2 and look to still have a very bright future ahead of them in the high school ranks.

Saturday afternoon I watched K-State easily dispatch Baylor at home 59-25. That win puts them at 7-3 and 5-2 in the conference with losses by a few teams still keeps the chances for a Big 12 Championship berth alive and well at the moment which is good.

Watched my Jacksonville Jaguars get absolutely throttled by the 49ers yesterday in a very ugly game 34-3. They couldn't seem to do anything right and it was extremely frustrating to watch. Hopefully they get back to their winning ways this next weekend.

McKinley's Comments:

Friday we delivered and picked up the barricades for the Veterans Day parade. I want to thank the volunteers: Clancy Holman, David Adams, Dawn Munger, Amy Manges, and Sherie Taylor. Some members of the crew thought this was too boring and are looking at adding something next year.

Friday evening attended the K-State men's basketball game. The other

team was not a known name but was a very disciplined team with some good shooters and they made it a game.

Saturday I was only able to watch the first half of the scoring explosion at the bill. It was a good warm up for the trip to the flaw on the Kaw next Saturday.

Business Meeting

3. Sign a Tax Roll Correction

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ford, 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 Riley County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

- Joseph Kieffer, a new hire, as a Public Works Operator II, in the Public Works Department, at a Range 7, at \$23.98 per hour.
- Trevor Zinkus, a new hire, as an As Needed Volunteer Firefighter Stipend, in the Riley County Fire District #1, at a Range TASND.

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Nov 9, 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

6. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

7. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Rich Vargo, County Clerk

8. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditure reports.

9:15 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

9. Public Works Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works projects update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

10. Change of Canvass Date for General Election - Rich Vargo (2 -3 minutes)

Vargo announced the change in the Canvass of the Election from Monday, November 20, 2023 to this Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 9:50 a.m.

Vargo stated by state law the Canvass cannot be held until the Secretary of State's Office approves the audit.

Vargo said the Election Audit Board will audit the election today.
Vargo stated the Write-In Board will process write-in votes tomorrow.

Vargo reported there are 123 provisional ballots to present to the Board of County Canvassers.

9:35 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

11. Administrative Work Session

12. Pending County Projects County Counselor

Holeman presented the Riley County Commission projects list.

Holeman discussed the Riley County Legislative Meeting, Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Focke discussed the request for professional evaluation for Riley County. Focke stated with her experience as a design consultant she has developed a preliminary workspace analysis form for department heads to fill out.

Ford disagreed and stated we need professional guidance. Ford said the previous study showed at the time we need 42,000 square feet we don't have.

Vargo discussed the history of studying space needs for Riley County.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the County Officials Luncheon.

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

12:00 PM

County Officials Luncheon

13. County Officials' Luncheon Agenda

The Board attended the County Officials Luncheon.