



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
December 30, 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
Bryant Parker	County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Jacob Hansen	Deputy County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Kathy Oliver	Court Administrator	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	County Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Jared Tremblay	MPO	Present	8:30 AM
Emma Loura	Manhattan Mercury	Present	8:40 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:55 AM
Greg Steere	RCPD	Present	9:35 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Public Comments

Ford said he has to leave early due to water plumbing issues.

Hansen asked the Board to amend the executive session at 9:35 a.m. from one hour to 10 minutes and move up the final item.

Move to amend the agenda to shorten the 9:35 a.m. executive session from one hour to 10 minutes and move up the last item on the agenda.

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

Tremblay invited the Board to the Connect 2050 open houses to learn about the areas long range transportation plans.

McMillan announced the Transfer Station will be closed on New Year's Day.

Commission Comments

2. Commission Comments

Focke's Comments:

Going back to before Christmas, on December 16th I attended the EBL Social sponsored by the Chamber. It was a well-attended event, and I caught up with a lot of friends.

The afternoon of December 17th, I took Diane Creek, the new Health Department Director, on a tour of Riley County. We went to Randolph, Leonardville, Riley, and Keats. Also drove through some main thoroughfares in Manhattan. We were able to visit Officer Hagemeister at the Riley County Police Department. It was a good time to visit and get to know each other.

I left for Virginia on Thursday, December 19th to spend Christmas with my daughter and husband, returning on the night of December 27th.

McKinley's Comments:

Quiet holiday week for county business. Quiet week at home also because all of our family celebrations were earlier in the month.

Thursday was an exciting game to end the K-State football season.

Ford's Comments:

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful and Merry Christmas, as my usual tradition I spent the holiday with friends out in Ellis and Barton counties, and really enjoyed the time away this year.

Thursday night I watched K-State vs. Rutgers in the Rate Bowl in Phoenix. I didn't really like the 4:30 p.m. start time but it ended up being quite the game with the Wildcats winning 44-41 to end their season once again at 9-4. Now onward to 2025.

Friday evening, I attended the Retirement Ceremony for Kurt Moldrup out at Pottorf Hall in CiCo Park. Glad I had the opportunity to congratulate him on nearly 40 years of service to RCPD and the community. Speaking of CiCo Park it is an end of era as demolition has started on the ballpark over the northeast corner. It looks a lot different without the structure there and I have a lot of fond memories growing up at those ballfields but I'm sure it will look great and be of better service once the project is complete.

Lastly wanted to send my condolences on the passing of our 39th United States President Jimmy Carter, who passed away yesterday in his hometown of Plains, Georgia at the age of 100. He was serving as President when I was born in September of 1977, and I have vague memories of his time in office.

Business Meeting

3. Purchase Authorization for a used fire truck

Move to approve the Purchase Authorization for a used 2006 Spartan/Central States pumper for the Riley County Fire District #1 Department in the amount of \$85,000 with funds to come from RCFD #1 fund 184.

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

4. 2025 Special Alcohol Funds Grant Agreement with the City of Manhattan for Riley County Court Services

Move to approve the 2025 Special Alcohol Funds Grant Agreement with the City of Manhattan for Riley County Court Services.

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

5. Highway Use Permit, Evergy - 10209 Allan

Move to approve the Highway Use Permit granting Evergy permission to install four poles along Allan Street to move existing power line according to the details shown on the map.

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

6. Advisory Board appointment letters and Resolution

Move to approve the following appointments and “Resolution No. 123024-57, A Resolution appointing Riley County representatives to Council/Advisory Boards.”

Sharon Eckhoff Comm Dist 1	Fair Board 4 year	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2028
Andrew Rombeck Comm Dist 2	Fair Board 4 year	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2028
Bria Taddiken-Williams Comm Dist 3	Fair Board 4 year	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2028
Jeremy Sutton Comm Dist 2	RCPB\BOZA 3 year	December 30, 2024- December 31, 2026
Kirk Crabtree Comm Dist 1	Rural Economic Development 3 year	December 30, 2024- December 31, 2025

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

Move to approve the First Amendment to Agreement for the Management of the Correctional Health Care Contract for Riley County, Kansas with Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.

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

Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Dec 23, 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

8. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9. Discuss Press Conference

9:00 AM Bryant Parker, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

10. Administrative Work Session

Parker said Hansen will discuss the Prairiewood appeal, on agritourism that is scheduled for March 11, 2025.

9:20 AM Board of County Commissioners

11. Discuss Law Board resident appointment

The Board discussed the resident Law Board appointment position.

The Board agreed they would like to reconsider the resident law board appointment.

Move to replace the resident Law Board appointment Gary Olds with Orville "Wes" Maupin.

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

9:30 AM Press Conference

9:30 Commissioner Ford left the meeting.

9:35 AM Bryant Parker, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

- 9:35 AM 12. Executive session to discuss a performance matter involving non-elected personnel

Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairman Ford, Vice Chairman McKinley, and Commissioner Focke, with Bryant Parker, County Counselor, and Jacob Hansen, Deputy County Counselor, attorneys for the Riley County Commission, Rich Vargo, County Clerk, and Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director, recess into executive session on a performance matter of non-elected personnel, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of hearing the appeal of a disciplinary action, and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:45 a.m.

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

- 9:45 AM Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

Move the record reflect action shall be taken consistent with the following consensus reached in executive session.

The County Commission approves the disciplinary action reviewed today in executive session and the County Counselor shall notify the parties.

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

9:45 AM Board of County Commissioners**13. Advisory Board appointments**

The Board discussed the Armed Forces Memorial Board appointments.

McKinley recommended Mike Riley and Greg Burnett for the Armed Forces Memorial Board.

McKinley suggested Adena Weiser for the Armed Forces Memorial Board.

McKinley and Focke discussed Evelyn Jasper and Phillip Preston for the Riley County Council on Aging.

Move to appoint Mike Riley, Greg Burnett, and Adena Weiser to the Armed Forces Memorial Advisory Board and Evelyn Jasper, District 2 and Philip Preston, District 3 to the Riley County Council on Aging.

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

9:55 AM Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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