



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
February 19, 2026**

2101 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Family Child and Resource Center RM #124

8:30 AM

[District 1 – John Ford, Vice-Chair](#)

[District 2 – Greg McKinley, Member](#)

[District 3 – Kathryn Focke, Chair](#)

8:45 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
Jacob Hansen	County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Michael Hawthorne	Assistant County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Specials Projects Director	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Rob Voelker		Present	8:33 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:38 AM
Daniel Skucius	Extension Director	Present	9:52 AM
Brandon Peoples	KMAN/Manhattan Mercury	Present	10:00 AM
Brian Peete	RCPD Director	Present	10:06 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday post BOCC meeting I had my monthly visit to the doctor. This month everything is status quo, nothing really good to report and nothing really bad either. Considering how January went I should count my blessings, I suppose.

The weekend was rather quiet except for K-State Athletics maybe. K-State baseball started off with a huge bang which is great, and I hope they continue the momentum moving forward. K-State basketball all things considered, got past Baylor for another Big 12 victory.

Monday for President's Day I watched a couple of biographies and documentaries highlighting all of our presidents on the History Channel.

Tuesday I listened in on a MakeMyMove webinar hosted by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, and the customer relations team from MakeMyMove, as well as some area business leaders from the public and private sectors. It was a great dialog and hopefully it becomes a useful tool in their recruiting of new talent.

Tuesday was also the monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce. After a call to order the agenda was approved, and on that agenda was approving the minutes from the December 16, 2025, and an update on financials through January 31st, as well as membership accounts. Considered action on support for the Kimball project with John Conley and Jason Smith. Discussed recruitment strategies related to NBAF with Allison Muth and a debrief from the recent Growth Summit with Jason Smith. There was time for board member comments and staff gave their usual update on events and what they were working on as well.

Tuesday night enjoyed some delicious pancakes during the Pawnee Mental Health's "Pancakes for Pawnee." It was a beautiful night but windy to enjoy this all-important community fundraiser for a wonderful cause.

Wednesday afternoon I attended the monthly Policy Board meeting of the Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization. After a few welcomes and introductions, we had time for public comments which there were none, got a financial update as well as updates from staff and KDOT. Action items included approvals of the following: January meeting minutes, the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan Amendment #3, the Safety Performance Measure in which we had a great discussion on, the Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1, and of myself being chair again for 2026 and Geary County Commissioner Keith Ascher as vice chair. We plan on meeting again in April.

McKinley's Comments:

I missed several things over the weekend because I did not want to spread the germs.

Tuesday was the Law Board meeting. Nothing too much at the meeting but we did start discussing what we expect to see for the budget presentation this year.

Yesterday I met with Rich Vargo to go over a lot of miscellaneous things.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday, February 12th evening, I attended a community meeting in Keats for information on the upcoming wastewater project. Myself, Amanda Webb, and Brian Foster gave information on the project to the community members. Information included the project description, a general construction sequence discussion, construction considerations, and the project schedule. The project is currently out to bid with bid openings by the BOCC on March 19th. Amanda has not been contacted by Senator Moran's office on the potential grant for Keats. She has left numerous messages with no return calls.

Sunday evening, I attended the RCPD Employee Recognition Dinner and event at the Midwest Dream Car Museum. It was a really nice event and I enjoyed visiting with many of the employees and guests.

Tuesday I attended the Law Board meeting held at City Hall. We had a rather lengthy agenda and good discussions, especially concerning budget items.

Wednesday, I was downtown for an appointment and stopped by our offices. Nothing has been done with the carpet but most of the lighting and ceiling tiles are complete. I also touched base upstairs with the County Counselor's office. Did a long walk in Anneberg Park in the afternoon and enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather. In the evening, I attended bell choir practice and Ash Wednesday services afterward.

Business Meeting

1. Permanent Sanitary Sewer Easement- UP Lagoon Project

Move to approve the Grant of Permanent Easement with David Chizek for the University Park Wastewater Facility.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Ford
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

2. Tax Roll Corrections

Move to approve the Tax Roll Corrections.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

3. Riley County Employee Action Form

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Employee Action Form for Michael Shuman, a new hire, as a Volunteer Firefighter, in the Fire District #1 Department, at a Range TASND.

Move to approve the requested Employee Action Form.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Ford
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

4. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$769,070.82 and the following warrant vouchers for February 20, 2026:

2024 Budget

Univ Park W&S Cap Reserve	\$ 3,729.94
TOTAL	\$ 3,729.94

2025 Budget

County General	\$ 69,219.85
Health Department	2,006.42
Motor Vehicle Operations	2,008.77
Emergency 911	809.12
County Building	46,031.90
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	912.91
2023 R&B Project Sales Tx	5,812.70
Hunters Island Water Dist	20.86
Deep Creek Sewer	157.02
Konza Water Operations	228.93
KDOC Juvenile Services	115.56
TOTAL	\$ 127,324.04

2026 Budget

County General	\$ 494,298.32
Disaster Fund	372,108.71
Health Department	70,352.74
Court Services	150.00
Register Deeds Tech Fund	60,337.48

Motor Vehicle Operations	156.08
Capital Improvements Fund	136,580.37
Emergency 911	2,575.17
Solid Waste	221,120.76
County Building	11,088.25
RCPD Levy/Op	41,448.45
Landfill Closure	543.53
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	32,828.64
Riley Co Fire Dist CapOut	91,779.06
2023 R&B Project Sales Tx	120.44
University Park W&S	6,602.88
Carson Sewer Benefit Dist	640.06
Deep Creek Sewer	6.86
Valleywood Operations	303.45
Terra Heights Sewer	1,655.75
Konza Water Operations	197.97
Lakeside Heights Sewer	1.37
University Park Lagoon	570.64
KDOC Adult Services	15,581.91
KDOC Juvenile Services	5,611.90
KDOC Juv Reinvestment	1,245.71
BJA Grant	3,125.94
City Alcohol Funds	814.05
Caroline Peine Grant	35.00
GMCF Grant	224.09
Daniel Keating Foundation	37.20
Adult Services Carry-Over	39.38
Juvenile Svcs Carry-Over	39.39

TOTAL \$1,572,221.55

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

Review Minutes

5. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Feb 12, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of February 12th as presented.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford

NAYS:	None
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Review Tentative Agenda

6. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics**9:00 AM****Jacob Hansen, County Counselor**

7. Executive session for attorney-client consultation regarding benefit districts

9:00 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, and Michael Hawthorne, Assistant County Counselor, attorneys for the Commission, and Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director, recess into executive session pursuant to the attorney-client consultation exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, regarding confidential legal advice on Sanitary Code Enforcement and the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 9:20 a.m.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

9:20 a.m. Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

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

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

9:20 AM**Jacob Hansen, County Counselor**

8. Administrative Work Session

Hansen discussed SB 244 legislation regarding public restrooms, multiple occupancy public space. He discussed the difficulty enforcing it.

Hansen discussed HB 2745 regarding protest petition for tax increases above 3%. The

protest petition has to be signed by 10% of the electors who participated in the last Presidential Election.

9:40 AM David Adams, Emergency Services Director

9. December 2025 and January 2026 Staff Updates

Adams presented the Emergency Services/Ambulance staff update.

10:00 AM Daniel Skucius, Extension Director

10. Extension Staff Update

Skucius presented the Extension staff update.

10:15 AM Brian Peete, RCPD Director

11. RCPD Update

Peete presented an update on RCPD.

Adjournment

10:24 a.m. Move to adjourn.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None