



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 16, 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](#)

8:30 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
Jacob Hansen	County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Vivienne Leyva	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Jana McKinley		Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed/HHW Director	Present	9:00 AM
Justin Brenner	HHW Program Coordinator/Assistant Director	Present	9:00 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	9:00 AM
Vickie Greenwood		Present	8:30 AM
Barbara Wright		Present	8:30 AM
Ginny Petersen		Present	8:30 AM
Kathy Garvin		Present	8:30 AM
Elaine Shannon		Present	8:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon post BOCC meeting I did have my monthly Teams meeting with NACo's Veterans and Military Services Committee. After a few opening remarks and welcomes from our Chair, Sid Conklin, Presiding Commissioner Randolph County, Missouri, we got several updates including a wrap up from last month's legislative conference and an update from Capitol Hill. We also discussed part of the CVSO Act which is also part of provisions in the Elizabeth Dole Act which was recently passed. We will be discussing some upcoming policy resolutions as well.

Also on Thursday I had my monthly meeting with my doctor and we went through some recent lab work and may try working with a dietitian directly to see if we can get the needle moving again.

Friday morning I met with Riley County Treasurer Shilo Heger to discuss some things pertaining to her office and the reorganization discussions we are currently having as well. Thought the conversation went well and will continue as we move along here in the spring and summer.

Also, on Friday I met briefly with Michael Rezkalla, CEO from Pawnee Mental Health to discuss several items. Hadn't had a chance to catch up with him in quite some time so it was good to have a dialog and get back to square one. Lots going on still in the organization, so it was good to get an update as well.

Also on Friday I worked on trying to get a new phone and all that set up and taken care. Had to order a new phone which will hopefully be here either today or tomorrow.

The weekend was pretty quiet overall. Stayed at home and got caught up on a couple of TV shows and documentaries I have been wanting to watch and worked to get prepared for the upcoming week.

McKinley's Comments:

No comments.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon I had an appointment with my neurosurgeon at his Topeka office. The appointment went well, with some suggestions for "back/spine care" going forward. They won't schedule any future appointments unless I have pain problems – yea!

Friday, Amanda Webb, Jacob Hansen, and I had a meeting with State Representative Bloom concerning the Keats wastewater program. We updated him on the project and its financing. He had a conversation with Senator Moran's office on a grant they had earmarked for the project. We have been unable to get follow up calls with their office. Amanda was going to reach out to the person in D.C. and will let us know the outcome.

Saturday, I applied some systemic insecticide to a hedge in the yard. It was a difficult and

time-consuming project but will hopefully prevent additional mite problems this year. Afterwards, my dog and I went to Wildcat Park for a walk/run. It was a beautiful day, unlike Sunday.

Sunday, I went to church and then had lunch at Parkside Café with several friends. It was Parkside's last day. Later, I reviewed today's BOCC agenda and documents. I also reviewed the Law Board packet for today's meeting.

Business Meeting

1. Downtown Parade of Quilts Proclamation

Move to approve the Downtown Parade of Quilts Proclamation.

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

2. Riley County Purchasing Card Request

Move to approve Riley County P-Card Request.

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

3. Riley County Employee Action Form

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

- Ed Walton, new hire, as a Volunteer Firefighter, in the Fire District #1 Department, at a Range TASND.
- Stephanie Dewey, a new hire, as an Appraiser 1 - Residential, in the Appraiser's Department, at a Range 6, at \$24.98 per hour.
- Vivienne Leyva, a Public Information Officer, in the Clerk/Elections Department, for Separation from County Service, effective March 27, 2026.

Move to approve the requested Riley County Employee Action Forms.

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

Review Minutes

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

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

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

Review Tentative Agenda

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

6. Administrative Work Session

Hansen discussed SB 404 regarding motor vehicle fees.

Hansen said SCR 1616 on property taxes is scheduled for a hearing today at 11:00 a.m.

Hansen said HB 2745 on property tax has had several revisions to include a cap of 3% with no exceptions and if protest petition is limited to the previous year's budget.

Hansen discussed additional legislative activity.

7. Staff Update

Hansen presented the Counselor's Office staff update.

9:15 AM

David Adams, Riley County Emergency Services Director

8. Staff Update

Adams presented the Emergency Services staff update.

9:30 AM

Press Conference

9. Presentation of Downtown Parade of Quilts Proclamation - Kathryn Focke and Ginny Petersen or Vickie Greenwood (3 minutes)

Focke presented the Downtown Parade of Quilts Proclamation to Ginny Petersen.

Petersen said the Konza Prairie Guild has been around for 48 years. She discussed the Downtown Parade of Quilts activities.

10. Recognizing Michael Boller - Public Relations Award - Vivienne Leyva (5 minutes)

Leyva recognized Michael Boller, Noxious Weed/Household Hazardous Waste Director, for receiving the Public Relations Award at the 88th Annual Kansas Weed

Conference.

Boller discussed the Public Relations Award.

Adjournment

9:40 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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

12:00 PM

Law Enforcement Agency Meeting

11. Law Board Meeting Agenda/Packet