



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 30, 2026**

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

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Family & Child Resource Center, Room #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
Derick Schroller	IT Specialist	Present	8:30 AM
Michele Reid	Human Resources Manager	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:30 AM
David Ball	Technician Assistant/Training Coordinator	Present	8:30 AM
Joshua Gering	Assistant Emergency Services Director	Present	8:30 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed/HHW Director	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Molly Mathis	REACH Vice Chair	Present	8:32 AM
Keane Adolph	Parts and Purchasing Agent	Present	8:30 AM
Stacy Kohlmeier		Present	9:23 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:34 AM
Mike Dodson		Present	9:38 AM
Dennis Mullin		Present	9:41 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief	Present	10:05 AM

Pledge of Allegiance**Public Comment**

Mathis presented the Employee of the Month Award to Keane Adolph, Public Works.

Hansen stated General Dodson has requested to speak to the Board on a matter today. He was not scheduled today and asked the Board to make a motion to add him today or another day.

McKinley suggested Public Comment to give the Board what he would like to speak on.

Focke agreed with speaking at Public Comment.

The Board agreed by consensus for Dodson to present during Public Comment the subject he would like to get on the agenda.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Friday morning I attended the third public discussion on Functional Zero Poverty over at the Lincoln Center. Very well attended event this time out with many different community partners in attendance for this discussion. There will be more to come later for sure. I stopped in downtown to see the progress of the downtown offices and chambers. It's just about done. Furniture was back in the offices, and the board chambers was set up as well. The crew was in putting the new televisions and other electronic components in. Look like we can start setting things back up here shortly.

Friday evening I attended the Riley County Farm Bureau's Member Appreciation Event which was held at the Fink Family Beef Genetics Barn over just past Randolph. It too was very well attended, the facility was amazing, dinner was catered by The Farmhouse and there was live music, a raffle, and other events for both the adults and kids as well. Really was a great evening overall.

The weekend I spent pretty much at home although I did sneak out and checked out the Farmers Market Saturday morning and bought a few items as well. Watched all of the NCAA Tournament including yesterday's Duke-UCONN thriller. Royals and Braves played each other to start the MLB season in Atlanta, with the Braves taking two of three, and Utah took two of three from K-State over the weekend as well.

McKinley's Comments:

Friday we had to make a trip for family business to Johnson County. Having to drive around just the Olathe/Gardner area reinforced why I do not want to live there.

Sunday I went to my brother's house to work on the McKinley reunion we are having this summer. To be truthful my brothers and I talked with each other and our wives worked on the plans.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday, after our meeting, I spent some time with Elizabeth Ward and then Jacob Hansen joined us for a discussion on the job description for a County Administrator.

Later that afternoon, I had a follow up appointment for my left eye that had a cataract removed in December. I will need to have a laser done on the lens to clear up the blurriness and light distortion. That will be in a couple weeks.

Saturday I spent some time working on today's agenda and then stopped by the open house at Be Able. There were quite a few people there touring the facility and getting information.

Saturday evening, I attended the Riley County Democrat's spring fundraiser at DoubleTree. There were 12 statewide candidates that had information tables. They all did short presentations. It was a well-attended event.

Sunday I attended the church's Palm Sunday service and practiced with the choir on a joint piece with the bell choir for next week.

That afternoon, I did some work in the yard, took the dog to Keats Park for a long walk, and then finished reviewing today's agenda and documents.

Business Meeting**1. Aggieville Substation Lease Agreement**

Move to approve the Commercial Lease Agreement with Midtown Land Company, LLC for the new Aggieville Substation for RCPD.

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

Review Minutes**2. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Mar 26, 2026 8:30 AM**

Move to approve the minutes of March 26th as presented.

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

Review Tentative Agenda**3. Tentative Agenda**

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

4. Executive session for attorney-client consultation

9:00 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the Riley County Commission, Rich Vargo, County Clerk, and John Ellermann, Public Works Director, recess into executive session pursuant to the attorney-client consultation exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, regarding confidential legal advice on disposal of Riley County property 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**Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer**

5. 2027 Budget for Administration Department

Phillips asked the Board how she can assist in developing the operational budget for the 2027 Administration Department Budget.

The Board agreed by consensus for Phillips to develop the operational budget for the Administration Department.

The Board agreed to place the PIO, Human Resources positions, and the Budget and Finance Officer position in the administration department budget.

9:30 AM**Press Conference**

6. Public Notice - Alvin Perez (1-2 minutes)

Ellermann said a culvert replacement project on Stockdale Park Road is scheduled to begin Monday, March 30, 2026. Project is located approximately 6/10th mile east of Blue River Hills Road. Stockdale Park Road will be closed to through traffic from Blue River Hills Road to the Stockdale Park Campgrounds on Blue River Hills Road during the project. The project is expected to be completed Friday, April 3, 2026 weather permitting.

9:35 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

7. Administrative Work Session

Hansen said property tax legislation, HB2745, has passed. He said it is still subject to protest petition.

8. Staff Update

9:45 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

9. Lasita Rd Vacation

Ellermann presented the Lasita Road Vacation petition.

Ellermann suggested April 27th or 30th for the hearing date.

Move to approve the petition as legal and hold a hearing on April 30th.

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

10. Township Road Maintenance Agreement

Ellermann presented the Township Road Maintenance Agreement.

10:05 AM

Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

11. CIP Work Session

Phillips presented the CIP Work Session information.

The Board agreed to postpone any decision on the Pottorf Hall foundation repair and have the Budget and Planning Committee review for a recommendation.

Move to place \$75,000 for the Playground Equipment for CiCo Park.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke

AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke
NAYS:	John Ford

The Board agreed by consensus with the following (CiCo Park playground equipment was not a consensus, it was a 2-1 vote with Ford being opposed for full amount).

TR	FACILITY	Replace chairs/Benches	\$ 12,680
NW	EQUIP	Boom Mower w/ Mulching and Mower Attachments	\$ 113,239
PW	EQUIP	SUV - Health Department	\$ 50,000
PW	EQUIP	3/4 Ton 4x4 P/U w/ Plow and Spreader	\$ 78,000
PK	EQUIP	72" Zero Turn Mower	\$ 30,000
PK	EQUIP	Shelter - Cico Dog Park	\$ 45,000
PK	FACILITY	Playground Equipment to CICO Park (Amendment)	\$ 75,000
LEC	EQUIP	Generator	\$ 350,000
LEC	EQUIP	Jail Camera Upgrade - Amendment	\$ 20,000
LEC	EQUIP	Jail Cell Food Ports	\$ 15,000
EMS	EQUIP	Ambulance Remount	\$ 334,021
EMS	EQUIP	Zoll "X" Series Advanced Cardiac Monitor	\$ 48,367
EMS	EQUIP	Stryker PowerCot	\$ 37,239
		2026 Totals	\$1,208,546

Move to approve projects as discussed.

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

10:35 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

12. Executive session for attorney-client consultation

10:26 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the Riley County Commission, and John Ellermann, Public Works Director, recess into executive session pursuant to the attorney-client consultation exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, regarding confidential legal advice on County Sewer Districts and the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:45 a.m.

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

10:45 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

Adjournment

10:46 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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