



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 6, 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
Michael Hawthorne	Assistant County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Derick Schroller	IT Specialist	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Diane Creek	Health Department Director	Present	8:30 AM
Kaylyn Speth	WIC Supervisor	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	9:24 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief	Present	9:24 AM
Mark French	RCPD	Present	9:30 AM
Bill Dunn	Paramedic	Present	9:30 AM
John Griffin	Assistant County Attorney	Present	9:30 AM
Joshua Gering	Assistant Emergency Services Director	Present	9:30 AM
Brandon Peoples	KMAN/Manhattan Mercury	Present	9:45 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment**Commission Comments**

Ford's Comments:

Hopefully everybody had a safe and happy Easter holiday weekend. The weekend was reasonably nice to be out and about with family and friends for sure.

Thursday afternoon I attended the April meeting of the Riley County Mental Health Task Force via Zoom. After some opening remarks and introductions, we heard a series of updates from all the community partners that were in attendance. We then discussed the Community Snapshot and some of the latest trends we are seeing. We followed that with a discussion of local and community system barriers in our area and followed up the discussion with some strategic initiatives that we can start putting into action as we move ahead.

Friday morning, I was finally able to get my truck in and get it serviced. I have to say it was very overdue, and it was there for quite a bit.

The weekend overall was pretty quiet and got caught up on some things at home and started reorganizing a few to get ready for the move back to the downtown offices here this week.

McKinley's Comments:

Last Friday I met with Elizabeth Ward to go over some reorganization plans.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday we adjourned the April 2nd meeting at the newly remodeled Commission Chambers at the CPE building. The transformation is truly amazing! We made various decisions for staff to organize and get ready for this Thursday's meeting there. We will need to set up an open house when it is completed.

Friday was a busy day for me. I had my car in for a tire repair and had other personal business to complete. I attended church services that evening.

Saturday I spent most of the day cleaning house and did some yard work. I also worked in my office purging some files, etc. and reviewed today's agenda and documents.

Sunday I played in the bell choir at church for both services and then went for dinner at some friends' house. Later, I took the dog to Keats Park for a long walk, went over today's meeting agenda again plus followed up on e-mails and some phone calls.

Business Meeting

1. Change Order #2 Transfer Station Tipping Floor

Move to approve Change Order #2 with NF Construction for the Riley County

Tipping Floor project in the amount of \$5,500.00 for a total of \$597,640.00.

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

Review Minutes

2. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 2, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of April 2nd 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 regarding potential litigation

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, recess into executive session pursuant to the attorney-client consultation an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, to provide legal advice regarding potential litigation, 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

Kaylyn Speth, WIC Supervisor

5. KDHE Division of Health Care Finance - Riley County Health Department MOU

Move to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Board of Health.

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

Speth presented the KDHE Division of Health Care Finance MOU.

Move to approve and allow the Health Director to sign the MOU between KDHE Division of Health Care Finance and Riley County Health Department.

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

Move to recess as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.

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

9:30 AM

Press Conference

6. RCPD update - Captain Scott Hajek and Major Mark French (3-5 minutes)

French presented an update on the Riley County jail.

7. Recognizing Bill Dunn - VFW District 4 Paramedic of the Year - David Adams (5 minutes)

Gering recognized Paramedic Bill Dunn as VFW District 4 Paramedic of the Year.

8. Recognizing John Griffin - Kansas Narcotics Officer Prosecutor of the Year Award - Barry Wilkerson and Kathryn Focke (5 minutes)

Wilkerson and Focke presented the Kansas Narcotics Officer Prosecutor of the Year Award to John Griffin, Assistant County Attorney.

9:45 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

9. IT/GIS Remodel Contract Amendment

Ellermann presented the addendum with Baker McMillan Architects.

Move to approve Addendum No. 1 with Baker McMillan Architects PA for a \$53,753.00 increase in design services for the IT/GIS Remodel Project for a total design cost of \$132,603.00.

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

10:00 AM Russel Stukey, Emergency Management Director

10. Staff Update

Stukey presented the EM/Fire District update.

10:15 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

11. Administrative Work Session

Hansen said the legislative front is pretty quiet.

Adjournment

10:05 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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