



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 27, 2026**

115 N 4th Street
Manhattan, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

Commission Chambers

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
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Present	8:30 AM
John Ford	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
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:30 AM
Judge Grant Bannister	District Court	Present	8:30 AM
Molly Mathis	REACH Vice Chair	Present	8:30 AM
Angela Lindsey	Administrative Assistant/Division III	Present	8:30 AM
Rob Voelker		Present	8:32 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:35 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed/HHW Director	Present	9:25 AM
Justin Brenner	HHW Program Coordinator/Assistant Director	Present	9:25 AM
Kolbi Harper		Present	9:35 AM
Michele Reid	Human Resources Manager	Present	9:35 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	10:55 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Hansen said the last item is the reorganization discussion. Hansen asked the Board to move the reorganization discussion to May 4th or May 7th.

The Board agreed by consensus to reschedule the reorganization discussion to the May 4th agenda.

Molly Mathis on behalf of REACH presented the Employee of the Month to Angela Linsdsey, District Court.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

I spent Thursday and Friday in Hutchinson for the 50th Annual Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference.

After some opening welcomes and remarks from our current KCCA President Robert Bever, Commissioner Montgomery County, we got a 2026 Legislative Session update from Mike Taylor, KCCA Strategic Consultant and Aaron Mays, Shawnee County Commissioner. We then heard from Sean Robertson, Saline County Appraiser and Dawn Harlow, Lincoln County Clerk on Budgeting Life Cycle and their roles in the process. We then had a moderated panel discussion on alternative energy with Bob Rein, Pawnee County; Sean Tasset, Ford County; and Oleg Alba, Arce Strong. Our lunch and keynote speaker was Trooper Ben. He spoke on the subjects of unity, safety, and Kansas. D Scot Loyd CPA, The Loyd group then spoke on fiscal stewardship and growth for counties. We then heard from both Joshua Svaty, Gencur Svaty Affairs and Patrick Hoffman, City of Salina Attorney on data centers, and electro-industrial economies. The last speaker for the day was Randy Bowman, Executive Director KALHD. He discussed the role of commissioners in Public Health.

Friday was day two of the conference and it started with a NACo update from Tammy Tincher, Former Greenbrier County Commissioner from West Virginia. We followed that up with a commissioner population group discussion, an announcement that KCCA will be in Atchison, Kansas for 2027, Bradi Bailey, Sedgwick, County Treasurer spoke on the commissioner's role in funding the Treasurer's Office, former Kansas Senator David Kerr discussed economic development in Kansas and major industry recruitment to end the conference.

Friday afternoon I attended the Retirement Ceremony for Lori Bishop as she is retiring after 41 years with the Flint Hill Volunteer Center. I had the opportunity to say a few words, and they will have big shoes to fill in finding a replacement in that role.

Weekend was rather quiet but certainly appreciate all the rain and moisture we were able to receive.

McKinley's Comments:

No comments.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday, I stayed in the office for several hours organizing some things, getting my passwords straightened out, and checked on e-mails and other messages.

Friday was a busy day with a fencing contractor coming by to discuss a project, and an appointment with my regular eye doctor. Later, an appliance specialist came to check on my failing icemaker. They will have to order a new one. I also studied a stack of papers for this week's meetings.

Saturday I did some household chores in the morning. In the afternoon, I went to a musical play at the Fort Riley Middle School. One of my friends teaches choir and drama to middle school students and puts on a bi-annual concert with her students. This semester was the musical, "Beauty and the Beast." The students did a great job.

Sunday was church, lunch and home for the afternoon. I spent time going over today's agenda and documents and got organized for today's meeting. It stormed most of the afternoon, so got some rest and did some cooking.

Business Meeting**1. 2026 Asphalt Overlay Program Contract - Shilling Construction**

Move to approve the Contract Agreement with Shilling Construction Company, Inc. for the 2026 Asphalt Overlay Program.

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

2. Museum Month Proclamation

Move to approve the Museum Month Observed in Riley County Proclamation.

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

Webb requested the Board authorize her to sign the Letter of Intent for a USDA Grant for \$248,000.00 for the Keats Sewer Project.

The Board agreed by consensus to authorize Webb to sign the Letter of Intent for the USDA Grant for the Keats Sewer Project.

Review Minutes

3. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Apr 23, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of April 23, 2026 as presented.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

4. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

5. Administrative Work Session
6. Executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel

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 commission, recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, in order to evaluate the conduct of employee(s), 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 no binding action was taken during the executive session.

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

9:20 AM Megan Lewis, Community Corrections Director

7. Staff Update

Lewis presented the Community Corrections staff update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

8. Presentation of America 250 Museum Month Proclamation - Kathryn Focke and Katharine Hensler (3-5 minutes)

Focke presented the America 250 Museum Month Proclamation to Hensler.

Hensler thanked the Board and the recognition for the Proclamation for the month of May.

9. Elections Office Closure - Rich Vargo (1-2 minutes)

Vargo reported the Clerk's Office Election Division will be closed for mandatory Kansas SOS Elections Training on Wednesday, April 29th from noon-5:00, Thursday, April 30th all day and Friday, May 1st.

9:40 AM Bob Isaac, Planner

10. Public Hearing for the final plat:Harper Valley Subdivision

Isaac presented the Public Hearing for the Harper Valley Subdivision final plat.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 042726-13, A Resolution approving the Harper Valley Subdivision plat and accepting the street rights of way, easements, and licenses as shown to be dedicated on said plat."

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

9:50 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

11. Executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel

9:50 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice

Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the commission; Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director, and Michele Reid, Human Resources Manager, recess into executive session for personnel matters of non-elected personnel, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and to protect the privacy of the employee(s), to discuss the conduct of employee(s), the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:50 a.m.

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

10:50 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

10:56 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the commission; David Adams, Emergency Services Director; Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director; and Michele Reid, Human Resources Manager, recess into executive session for personnel matters of non-elected personnel, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and to protect the privacy of the employee(s), to discuss the conduct of employee(s), the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 11:20 a.m.

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

11:20 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
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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

10:20 AM Board of County Commissioners

12. Work Session for Reorganization

Rescheduled for May 4th.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn after the Intergovernmental Luncheon.

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

12:00 PM Intergovernmental Luncheon

13. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda