



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Special Meeting
Minutes
May 1, 2026**

2101 CLAFLIN ROAD
MANHATTAN, KS 66502
www.rileycountyks.gov

Cindy Kabriel
785-565-6200

**FAMILY & CHILD RESOURCE CENTER ROOM
#124**

11:00 AM

[District 1 – John Ford, Member](#)

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

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

11:00 AM Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kathryn Focke	County Commissioner	Present	11:00 AM
John Ford	County Commissioner	Present	11:00 AM
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	11:00 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	11:00 AM
Jacob Hansen	County Counselor	Present	11:00 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	11:00 AM
Diane Creek	Health Department Director	Present	11:00 AM
Michele Reid	Human Resources Manager	Present	11:20 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	11:20 AM
All Health Department Staff		Present	11:25 AM

11:00 AM Board of County Commissioners

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

11:00 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; Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director, recess into executive session pursuant to the personnel matters of non-elected personnel, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, regarding the working conditions of specific employees 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

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

11:30 AM Board of County Commissioners

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

McKinley suggested the last session be an open session.

Move that the next session not be an executive session and be open.

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

Focke thanked the Health Department staff for attending the meeting.

Focke said we want to speak with you directly to share some important information.

Ford said the Board values the staff's work, passion, and professionalism. Ford stated the services you provide are critical to the community, and we are committed to maintaining the integrity and strength of these programs.

McKinley said we understand that this may create uncertainty, but our priority is to ensure a stable, compliant, and effective Health Department moving forward.

Ford said the Board can answer questions.

Adams said Reid will be working directly with staff. Adams said Reid will have an office in the administrative office. He said they will meet with every program on Monday at 8:00 a.m. Adams said they are here to help the staff.

Focke asked if there are any questions or concerns.

They asked the nature of the investigation.

McKinley said they cannot say due to being a personnel matter.

Rose asked who will conduct the investigation?

Ford said Ward and Hansen will conduct the investigation and report to the Board.

Reid said they have a schedule outlined and can adjust.

Adams said he and Reid are here to assist with operations only.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn.

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