



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
May 7, 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
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:30 AM
Gary Olds		Present	8:30 AM
Rob Voelker		Present	8:37 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed/HHW Director	Present	8:55 AM
Judge Grant Bannister	District Court	Present	8:55 AM
Kathy Oliver	Court Administrator	Present	8:55 AM
Amy Manges	Register of Deeds	Present	9:22 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:32 AM
Tande Lentz	Assistant Vehicle Supervisor	Present	9:32 AM
Donna Borgerding	Vehicle Supervisor/Deputy Treasurer	Present	9:32 AM
Michael Hawthorne	Assistant County Counselor	Present	9:53 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:54 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	10:25 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	11:39 AM

Susan Boller	Elections Supervisor/Deputy Clerk	Present	11:00 AM
Anita Cook	Elections Senior Analyst	Present	11:00 AM
Dana Mika	Elections Specialist	Present	11:00 AM
Joe Godown	Real Estate Specialist	Present	11:00 AM
Michelle Adams	Administrative Analyst - AP	Present	11:00 AM
Ashlyn Easterday	Payroll Clerk	Present	11:00 AM
Carley Harris	Administrative Analyst - Levy	Present	11:00 AM
Cindy Kabriel	Senior Administrative Assistant	Present	11:00 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:45 AM

Pledge of Allegiance**Public Comment**

Olds discussed the budget season. He challenged the Board to find a way to hit revenue neutral or below. He asked the Board to really look at the budget and even reduce workforce.

Olds complimented the Board in ways to find efficiencies through the consolidation of EMS/Ambulance and EM/Fire District #1.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Not a lot happened here in the early part of the week. I was home sick from work and other events on Tuesday and Wednesday. Looking forward to getting better and moving forward with all that is going on.

McKinley's Comments:

Tuesday I had discussions with Cory Meyer and Amy Manges on the reorganizations. I had a long session with Anna Burson about a church in Riley. They are having problems with their taxes. After that discussion we found two other churches that also have problems. Tuesday afternoon was the construction meeting for the EM/Fire building. They are still making progress and still expect to move in early July.

Focke's Comments:

Monday and Tuesday I had a physical therapy session, had a new icemaker installed in my refrigerator, and a committee meeting at the church.

Wednesday in the morning, I reviewed the agenda and documents for today's meeting, made numerous phone calls and then attended the Military Relations Luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel. The guest speaker was Colonel Gerald Nunziato, Fort Riley Garrison Commander. His presentation included a discussion on the 1st and 2nd Division training and deployments to various locations in the world. These are usually 5,000 troops and their equipment. He spoke on the critical need for support for families of the troops and partnerships with fifteen schools in the districts. Discussion was had on spousal employment opportunities, which is difficult to find. Later, I attended the Westloop Business Association meeting at Rockin K's meeting room. The guest speaker was Gene Taylor, KSU athletic director. His main topic was "big" financing in the college athletic programs, i.e. the transfer portal, money-making opportunities for students, streaming and other media money. It was a long presentation and very informative. That evening, I reviewed e-mails and messages, returned phone calls, read through the interview questions and resumes for the PIO interviews this afternoon. Bell practice was canceled, so had some time to catch up.

Business Meeting

Review Minutes

1. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Special Meeting - May 1, 2026 11:00 AM

Move to approve the May 1, 2026 Special Meeting minutes as presented.

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

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

Move to approve the May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes 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 **Judge Bannister, District Court**

4. 2027 District Court

Bannister presented the District Court 2027 budget request.

9:15 AM Michael Boller, Noxious Weed/HHW Director

5. 2027 Budget

Boller presented the Noxious Weed/HHW 2027 budget request.

9:25 AM Anna Burson, Appraiser

6. 2027 Appraiser Budget

Burson presented the Appraiser's 2027 budget request.

9:35 AM Amy Manges, Register of Deeds

7. 2027 Register of Deeds Budget

Manges presented the Register of Deeds 2027 budget request.

9:45 AM Shilo Heger, Treasurer

8. 2027 Treasurer Budget Request

Heger presented the Treasurer's Office 2027 budget request.

10:00 AM Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

9. 2027 Planning and Development Budget

Webb presented the Planning & Development 2027 budget request.

10:10 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

10. Executive session for attorney-client consultation

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 for legal consultation regarding pending litigation, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:25 a.m.

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

10:25 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

10:30 AM Executive Session to discuss department head evaluation

11. Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

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 Katharine Hensler, Museum Director, recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, in order to evaluate the performance of a department head, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 11:00 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

Move the record reflect no binding action was taken during the executive session.

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

11:00 AM Bob Isaac, Planner

12. Application for Administrative Rezoning

Isaac presented an application for administrative rezoning.

Move to sign the application to process the aforementioned request for an administrative rezoning of an unplatted tract of land from AG (Agricultural District) to I-1 (Light Industrial).

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

11:05 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

13. Administrative Work Session

Hansen reported the First Christian Church case was declined by the Supreme Court, so the case is dead now.

Hansen stated Hensler may have some insight into hurdles through the process.

14. Resolution Moving HR Division to Counselor

Hansen presented the resolution.

Ford stated he is not making a motion because he is not in favor of it. He said there is a lot going on so why create more issues.

Focke said there should not be any division.

Vargo spoke in opposition, in agreement with Ford.

Ward discussed the operational problems it creates.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 050726-16, A Resolution removing the Division of Human Resources from the Clerk's Office and designating the division under the Department of Counselor/Administrative Services."

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

AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke
NAYS:	John Ford

11:20 AM Cory Meyer, IT/GIS Director**15. 2027 IT/GIS Budget**

Meyer presented the IT/GIS 2027 budget request.

Ward said staff recommends moving Human Resources to David Adams' old office in the Health Department Administrative Building.

Ellermann discussed other office space which is available.

Adjournment

11:52 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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