



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
June 8, 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	Absent	
Greg McKinley	County Commissioner	Present	8:30 AM
Rich Vargo	County Clerk	Present	8:30 AM
Jacob Hansen	County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	8:30 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief	Present	8:30 AM
Laurie Harrison	Emergency Management Coordinator	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	9:00 AM
Michele Reid	Human Resources Manager	Present	9:05 AM
Alvin Perez	Operations & Fleet Manager	Present	9:05 AM
Joshua Gering	Assistant EMS/Ambulance Director	Present	9:25 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:27 AM
Donna Borgerding	Vehicle Supervisor/Deputy Treasurer	Present	9:27 AM
Tande Lentz	Assistant Vehicle Supervisor	Present	9:27 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:32 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	9:34 AM
Michael Huffman	Traffic Control Technician	Present	9:30 AM
Jason Rodgers	Asphalt Road Supervisor	Present	9:30 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	10:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance**Public Comment**

Stukey discussed the tornado sirens not going off last week at the City of Riley during the tornado. He said when tested the previous week the sirens worked. He said residents should have multiple ways to be notified during a storm.

Stukey said a watch was not issued by Kansas City due to being a 2% chance for a tornado.

Phillips asked the Board, with Commissioner Ford not here today if they would like to reschedule the appropriations discussion.

The Board agreed by consensus to reschedule the appropriations discussion.

Harrison stated with the flooding in multiple areas they are holding water back at the lake, roads are being flooded. She said they are watching the lake levels closely.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Absent.

McKinley's Comments:

Friday was the Pre-Law Board meeting. The main point at the regular meeting will be to adjust the budget from the published amount. There will be a meeting for an executive session only on June 10th.

Spent time reviewing the appropriation requests for today's meeting.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday afternoon the dentist's office called and they had an opening to have a tooth removed (it was scheduled for today), so I went and got it over with. Unfortunately, I had to go back later that evening to get the bleeding stopped. It was a rather crazy ride during the storm to get through the water on the road (I wasn't driving). The water in Wildcat Creek was up very high in my backyard throughout the night and next day.

Friday I came into the Riley County Counselor's office to sign an Emergency Declaration for the damage caused by the storm on Thursday. Later that afternoon, I attended the Pre-Law Board meeting at RCPD. Commissioner McKinley and I met with Brian Peete to discuss the upcoming two meetings. There is a special meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10th and the monthly meeting on Monday, June 15th at noon.

Saturday and Sunday were pretty quiet and I caught up on some work at home, reviewed

agenda and documents for today's meeting and on Sunday, attended church and went to lunch with a friend.

Business Meeting

1. 2027 Budget Request

Move to approve the 2027 K-State Extension request as presented.

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

Review Minutes

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

Move to approve the minutes of June 4, 2026 as amended.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

3. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

4. Year to Date Budget and Expenditures

Vargo presented the year to date budget and expenditures report.

Vargo reported the 2026 June Certified Value of \$909,136,566, equates to the value of the mill being \$909,136.

9:15 AM

John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

5. Monthly Project Update

Ellermann presented the Public Works monthly projects update.

9:30 AM

Press Conference

6. KAC Awards Presentation - Kathryn Focke (5 minutes)

Focke presented KAC Awards to the following:

8 years

Michael Huffman

Jason Rodgers

Scott Ten Eyck

32 years

Jerry Howard

40 years

Donna Borgerding

9:40 AM

Executive Session to discuss department head evaluation

7. Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

9:40 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, and Commissioner McKinley, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the commission, Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director, and Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects 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 10:10 a.m.

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

10:10 a.m. Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

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

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

10:10 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

8. Administrative Work Session

Hansen stated that Riley County was successful in the Prairiewood Case.

Hansen discussed de-annexation.

10:30 AM Budget and Planning Committee - Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

9. Cash Flows

Phillips presented the cash flow reports.

10:40 AM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

10. Staff Update for April and May, 2026

Hensler presented the April and May Museum staff reports.

11. Request to Fill Position: As-Needed Museum Assistant

Hensler requested to fill the As-Needed Museum Assistant position.

Move to approve the request to fill the As Needed Museum Assistant.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an As Needed Museum Assistant, in the Museum Department, at a Range TASND.

11:00 AM Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

12. 2027 Appropriation Budget Work Session

Will be rescheduled.

Adjournment

10:57 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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