



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
July 6, 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
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Vanessa Gray	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Gina Snyder	Downtown Manhattan Director	Present	8:30 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Rob Voelker		Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	8:50 AM
Michele Reid	Human Resources Manager	Present	8:50 AM
Arturo Mauricio		Present	8:40 AM
Gary Olds		Present	9:15 AM
Major Mark French	RCPD	Present	9:20 AM
Cory Meyer	IT/GIS Director	Present	9:31 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Hopefully everyone had a safe and wonderful Fourth of July holiday and was able to spend it with family and friends.

Thursday afternoon I met with my bariatric doctors for my monthly visit, nothing new to report we are keeping things status quo for the most part moving forward.

Friday I headed out to Hays to spend the holiday with some friends. Had a good time as usual. We kept things pretty simple this year with both the cookout and fireworks, and the weather turned out to be pretty nice particularly after sunset as well.

Sunday afternoon I came back from Hays and got some chores done at home and got caught up on some correspondence and got ready for the upcoming week.

McKinley's Comments:

Went to Randolph after lunch to see the car show and other things going on. Went back in the evening to see the fireworks. It was a great show and it was easy to get out to go home.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday after our meeting, I met with Amanda Webb to discuss the Keats groundbreaking in August. We discussed timing and involving the community. We may schedule it in the early evening so that working people in the town can attend. John Ellermann was still in the Commission Chambers, so he joined us. The construction meeting is this Wednesday, July 8th and after that we can make more concrete plans for the event.

Friday, I spent most of the morning doing some much needed weeding in the yard.

Saturday, the same weather was going on, so I cancelled my plans and instead did some house cleaning.

Over the weekend, I reviewed the agenda and documents for today's meeting. I spent a lot of time reviewing budgets and focused on the Health Department. I'm starting to understand the fiscal and organizational parts of the department, but there's a lot to comprehend.

Business Meeting

1. Change Order #4 Transfer Station Tipping Floor

Move to approve the Change Order #4 for the Riley County Tipping Floor project in the amount of a reduction of \$4,000.00 for a total of \$600,290.00.

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

2. Highway Use Permit 2026-008 J&K Contracting

Move to approve the Application for Highway Use Permit granting J&K Contracting LC permission to install an 8" wide trench for sanitary sewer on Stadel and Johnson Roads.

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

3. Plaza Reservation Request for Downtown Manhattan, Inc.

Move to approve the Plaza Reservation Request for Downtown Manhattan, Inc. on Thursday, July 16th from 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Special Meeting - Jul 1, 2026 1:00 PM

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

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

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

Move to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 2, 2026 as presented.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

6. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

7. Administrative Work Session

Hansen discussed working on the criminal nuisance abatement law.

Hansen said he will have the alcohol sales at the Riley County Fair before the Board on Thursday.

9:20 AM Evan McMillan, Assistant County Engineer**8. Transfer Station Rate Increase**

McMillan presented the rate increase for the Transfer Station to \$72.00 per ton.

The Board discussed the rate increase.

Move to approve the rate increase for the Transfer Station to \$72.00 per ton.

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

9:30 AM Press Conference**9. RCPD update - Captain Scott Hajek and Major Mark French (3-5 minutes)**

French presented the RCPD update.

10. Primary Election update - Rich Vargo (2 minutes)

Vargo reported voter registration closes on July 14, 2026 for the August 4th Primary Election. He said advance voting in person and by mail will begin Wednesday, July 15, 2026. He said advance voting will be open through Monday, August 3, 2026 at 12:00 (noon).

9:35 AM Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer**11. 2027 Health Department Budget Presentation**

Phillips and Adams presented the 2027 Health Department budget.

The Board discussed the Health Department budget.

Adjournment

9:54 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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