



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
July 20, 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	Absent	
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
Kirk Crabtree		Present	8:30 AM
Vanessa Gray	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Arturo Mauricio	KMAN	Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	9:01 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed/HHW Director	Present	9:15 AM
Alvin Perez	Operations and Fleet Manager	Present	9:15 AM

Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment

Crabtree discussed the grant application the Board approved for \$31M. He stated the correct name of the grant was not approved it was simply stated DOJ grant. He discussed concerns of what was specifically stated about the grant and what was not. His concern was the facility would be primarily a holding facility for illegal aliens.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Friday morning, I met with David Adams, Riley County Emergency Services Director and Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director to discuss some items related to the Riley County Health Department. I know we will discuss this in full during Thursday's meeting, but it was certainly good to have a conversation beforehand to get some thoughts and ideas on the table.

Friday afternoon I met with Stephanie Pierce, Director at Innovate24 to get an update on everything they are working on and bounce some ideas around as to how they can be a better partner for Riley County moving forward. Had a great dialog and I'm sure we will be discussing a few more ideas down the road.

Saturday morning, I attended the Riley County Republicans Coffee Talk at HyVee. As you can imagine, it was a full house with local officials, and lots of state candidates including the Governor in the house. Had a chance to give a short Riley County update that included the 2027 budget, on-going discussion on the Riley County Health Department, county administrator position, and the fairground discussion. Answered a few questions and tried to keep it within five minutes.

Also, over the weekend I paid attention to updates and dialog coming in from the 2027 National Association of Counties Annual Conference and Exposition that is taking place in New Orleans, Louisiana starting on Friday and running through early Wednesday. Lots of good things being tossed around during this event.

Sunday I watched the FIFA World Cup final at Met Life Stadium in New Jersey. Spain outlasted Argentina 1-0 in a rather uneventful final for the win, but it was fun to watch none the less.

Also, NFL Training Camps opened up over the weekend so the first signs of football are now on the horizon.

McKinley's Comments:

No comments.

Focke's Comments:

Absent.

Business Meeting

1. Riley County Employee Action Form

Move to approve the Riley County Employee Action Forms.

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

The Board of County Commissioners signed Riley County Employee Action Forms for the following:

- Catherine Jones, for a status change as a temporary lead, as an Interim WIC Coordinator, in the Health Department, at a Range 15, at \$45.88 per hour, effective May 11, 2026.
- David Adams, for a status change as a temporary department head, as an Interim Health Department Director, in the Health Department, at a Range JJ, effective May 11, 2026.
- Tammy Feldkamp, for a status change as a temporary lead, as an Interim MCH Coordinator, in the Health Department, at a Range 16, effective May 11, 2026.
- Kayla Mathis, for a status change as a temporary lead, as an Interim Clinic Coordinator, in the Health Department, at a Range 18, effective May 11, 2026.

Review Minutes

2. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jul 16, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of July 16, 2026 as presented.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

3. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

4. Administrative Work Session
5. Staff Update

Hansen discussed work on contracts and MOU's.

9:15 AM David Adams, Riley County Emergency Services Director

6. EMS/Ambulance Staff Update

Adams presented the EMS/Ambulance staff update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

7. Public Notice - Alvin Perez (1-2 minutes)

Perez said a culvert replacement project on Walsburg Road is scheduled to begin Monday, July 27, 2026.

Perez said the project is located at the intersection of Walsburg Road and Alembic Road

Perez said Walsburg Road and Alembic Road will be closed to through traffic on Walsburg Road from Crooked Creek Road to Alembic Road, Alembic Road from LK&W Road to Senn Road during the project.

Perez said the project is expected to be completed Thursday, August 6, 2026 weather permitting.

8. Primary Election update - Rich Vargo (2-3 minutes)

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

Vargo said the deadline to return your ballot by mail has been extended by a court order. If your ballot is postmarked on or before Election Day and received by close of business on the Friday after the election it will be counted.

12:00 PM**Law Enforcement Agency Meeting**

9. Law Board Agenda Packet

Adjournment

9:33 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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