



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 3, 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
Vanessa Gray	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	8:30 AM
Evan McMillan	Assistant County Engineer	Present	8:30 AM
Arturo Mauricio	KMAN	Present	8:37 AM
Michael Hawthorne	Assistant County Counselor	Present	8:47 AM
Gina Snyder	Downtown Manhattan Director	Present	9:30 AM
Scott Hajek	RCPD Captain	Present	9:30 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:30 AM
Daryl Ascher	RCPD Major	Present	9:30 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:30 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	10:22 AM
Amy Manges	Register of Deeds	Present	10:25 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	10:31 AM
Megan Lewis	Community Corrections Director	Present	10:42 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

McMillan reported they are burning at the Transfer Station beginning today.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Actually not a lot going on over the end of the week and over the weekend as well. Thursday post BOCC Meeting I met with Anna Burson, Riley County Appraiser and Amy Manges, Register of Deeds to discuss everything going on in their departments and discuss some thoughts and ideas for the future of the services they and staff provide.

Also on Thursday I had a little afternoon monthly appointment with the bariatrics team. Not a lot to really report just kind-of staying status quo for the moment.

Friday morning I met briefly with the doctor via video conference just to catch up and go through a couple of things as we move into fall.

The weekend was rather quiet I did manage to get a couple of things done outdoors since it was relatively nice out for this time of year. It also marks the last weekend without real football as Thursday will officially start the NFL Preseason with the Cardinals vs. the Panthers in the Hall of Fame game.

McKinley's Comments:

After our meeting Thursday I met with Lori Muir and then Anna Burson to go over miscellaneous county business.

Saturday was a McKinley reunion. It included my brothers and their families and several cousins, about 40 total. Included people from Manhattan, Topeka, Kansas City, Kirksville-Missouri, and Spain. We started these when some of the grandkids said they would like to see their funeral cousins in a different setting.

I think I have mentioned this before but my wife needs your sympathy cards. As of yesterday, she has been stuck with me for 51 years. The fact that she was a kindergarten teacher for years probably explains how she has dealt with me for all these years.

Focke's Comments:

No comments.

Business Meeting

1. Riley County Extension of Contract -Trash Services—Howie's Enterprises, Inc. dba Ecowaste Solutions

Move to approve the Extension of Contract with Howie's Enterprises, Inc. dba

Ecowaste Solutions for Riley County trash services.

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

Review Minutes

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

Move to approve the minutes of July 30, 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

3. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics

9:00 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

4. Administrative Work Session
5. Staff Update

Hawthorne discussed the tax foreclosure sale.

6. Temporary Right of Entry and Access Agreement

Hansen presented the temporary right of entry and access agreement.

Move to approve the Temporary Right of Entry and Access Agreement for sewer lagoon access for Deep Creek Sewer Benefit District.

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

9:20 AM

Evan McMillan, Assistant County Engineer

7. Resolution for reducing the speed limit on Roever Road, Ady Drive, and Daniel Avenue

McMillan presented a resolution for reducing the speed limit on Roever Road, Ady

Drive, and Daniel Avenue.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 080326-38, A Resolution declaring reasonable and safe maximum speed limits on Roever Road, Ady Drive, and Daniel Avenue, in Riley County, Kansas."

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

9:30 AM**Press Conference**

8. RCPD update - Captain Scott Hajek and Major Mark French (3-5 minutes)

Hajek presented the RCPD update.

9. Downtown Manhattan update - Gina Snyder (3-5 minutes)

Snyder presented the Downtown Manhattan update.

10. Keats groundbreaking/Construction schedule - Amanda Webb (1-2 minutes)

Webb announced the Keats Wastewater System Groundbreaking will be Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

11. Horticulture Programs - Gregg Eyestone (2-3 minutes)

Cancelled.

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

Vargo reported advance voting in person closes today at noon, per State Law. He said 3,526 voters have participated as of the close of business on Saturday.

Vargo said the polls will be open Tuesday, August 4, 2026 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

9:45 AM**Major Daryl Ascher, Riley County Police Department**

13. Armed Security Changes at Riley County District Courthouse

Ascher stated they will be arming two of the court screeners at the Courthouse.

9:55 AM**Michael Hawthorne, Assistant County Counselor**

14. Approve Resolution Submitting to Voters Ballot Question on a .20% Countywide Retailers' Sales Tax Funding Road and Bridge Improvements

Hawthorne presented the .20% Countywide Retailers' Sales Tax Funding Road and Bridge Improvements Resolution to consider submitting the question to the voters in November of 2026.

The Board discussed the proposal.

The Board agreed by consensus to wait and consider it for November of 2027.

10:15 AM Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

15. Data Centers work session

Webb presented the Data Center work session.

Focke asked to have someone speak on the noise generated in the facilities.

10:45 AM Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer

16. 2027 Budget Work Session

Phillips presented the 2027 Budget Development Work Session.

Phillips presented the opioid funding discussion.

Move to approve the opioid funding for Community Corrections at 75% and the Health Department at 50% of the requests for 2027.

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

Move to reduce the 2027 CIP transfer to \$4,435,032 reflecting 38.012 mills.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley
SECONDER:	Commissioner Kathryn Focke
AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke
NAYS:	John Ford

Adjournment

11:07 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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