



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 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
Vanessa Gray	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
Jared Tremblay	MPO	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Rob Voelker		Present	8:31 AM
Arturo Mauricio	KMAN	Present	8:36 AM
Shilo Heger	Treasurer	Present	9:30 AM
Donna Borgerding	Vehicle Supervisor/Deputy Treasurer	Present	9:30 AM
Tande Lentz	Employee Day Committee	Present	9:30 AM
Steve Schurle	Commercial Real Estate Analyst	Present	9:38 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:40 AM
Heather Ritchey	Child Care Licensing Supervisor	Present	9:41 AM
Megan Lewis	Community Corrections Director	Present	10:50 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Tremblay asked the Board to consider attending the City/County Meeting on September 17,

2026 on the Hwy 24 Corridor Study.

Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Monday post BOCC meeting I met with Amanda Webb, Riley County Planning and Special Projects Director to discuss how things are happening in her department including the Data Center conversation, Home in The Heartland Grant, the Comprehensive and Strategic Plans and several other items in regard to planning and zoning.

Monday afternoon I went back and watched Session One of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Series "Pulse of Public Health: A Commissioner's Guide – The Value of Public Health and How it Strengthens Your Community". It was a discussion to help clarify what public health really is, why it matters to your communities and the critical role county leadership plays in protecting the health of its residents. Unlike the third installment this was a bit better to follow and understand and was rather informative as well.

Tuesday I took the day off and watched the Primary Election returns. Obviously I was entrenched in the local returns and I'm thankful for all who were willing to vote for me, but I too was interested in state and other local returns from around Kansas as well. I also want to give a large shoutout to our Elections staff, workers and everyone who had a hand in making this round a success. I have heard nothing but compliments from everyone I've engaged with.

Wednesday morning, I spent at work helping to get caught up on orders and product and other various things.

Wednesday afternoon I met with Kam Hutton SFC with the USARMY 11D to discuss some military relations and other items pertaining to Fort Riley as a whole. Had a very in-depth discussion and dialog and it really gave me some things to consider moving forward on several accounts.

Wednesday evening, I listened in on a Telephone Townhall hosted by 2nd District U.S., House Representative Derek Schimdt. Even though he doesn't serve our district he does serve part of the Fort Riley Installation and is on the Armed Services Committee so I was curious what he might say in regard to that and what questions would come up as well. With that said there was dialog on issues of federal spending, social security, the SAVE Act, and the farm/agriculture bill to name a few. Interesting conversation all around to say the least.

I ended Wednesday with a trip over to Ogden to attend their city council meeting. Gave everybody a quick update on everything going on with Riley County and stuck around to listen to them finish their city business and other items.

McKinley's Comments:

No comments.

Focke's Comments:

Tuesday I attended the Worship Committee meeting at my church. We worked on the September schedule for services and went over our budget for 2027. After the meeting, I came to the office to catch up on some work.

Wednesday I attended the Military Luncheon at the DoubleTree event space. The guest speaker was Brigadier General Matthew J. Hardman, Deputy Commanding General. He discussed the various deployments and re-deployments at the Fort. It's been a real busy time. The schedule for fall activities is pretty full. Apple Days will be in September this year.

Later that afternoon, Gregg Eyestone came by my house to look at a large evergreen tree that has some dying branches. Unfortunately, it wasn't good news, but the tree may hopefully survive. After that, I reviewed the agenda and documents for today's meeting.

Business Meeting

1. Tax Roll Correction

Move to approve the Tax Roll Correction.

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

2. 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, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

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

- Malik Johnson, a new hire, as a Volunteer Firefighter, in the Fire District #1 Department, at a Range TASND.
- Lauren McCaffrey, an Intern, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective July 29, 2026.
- Russel Stuke, retirement, as an Emergency Management Director, in the Emergency Management Department, effective September 11, 2026.

3. Approve payroll/accounts payables (when completed)

Move to approve the payroll vouchers in the amount of \$774,525.23 and the following warrant vouchers for August 7, 2026:

2026 Budget

County General	\$ 897,542.36
Disaster Fund	55,578.32
Health Department	83,413.93
County Auction	908.85
Community Corrections	1,085.84
Capital Improvements Fund	177,354.72
Economic Development	7,500.00
Emergency 911	635.79
Solid Waste	17,607.33
County Building	9,312.62
Road & Bridge Cap Project	4,612.80
RCPD Levy/Op	2,157.26
Riley Co Fire Dist #1	16,624.38
2023 R&B Project Sales Tx	3,507.62
University Park W&S	4,427.02
Hunters Island Water Dist	3,290.46
Carson Sewer Benefit Dist	19.39
Deep Creek Sewer	284.19
Moehlman Bottoms	1,329.31
Valleywood Operations	556.44
Terra Heights Sewer	302.29
Konza Water Operations	8,798.53
Lakeside Heights Sewer	9.69
KDOC Adult Services	5,317.88
KDOC Juvenile Services	3,923.95
KDOC Juv Reinvestment	711.36
RL Salary Appropriations	1,160.54
Daniel Keating Foundation	800.00

TOTAL. \$1,308,772.87

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

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Aug 3, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of August 3, 2026 as presented.

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

Review Tentative Agenda

5. Tentative Agenda

Press Conference Topics**9:00 AM Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director**

6. Human Resources Staff Update

Ward presented the Human Resources staff update.

9:15 AM Russel Stuke, Emergency Management Director

7. Emergency Management Staff Update for July 2026

Stuke presented the Emergency Management staff update.

9:30 AM Anna Burson, Appraiser

8. Appraiser's Staff Update

Burson presented the Appraiser's staff report.

9:45 AM Tande Lentz, Employee Day Committee

9. Employee Day 2026

Lentz presented the agenda and budget for the 2026 Riley County Employee Day.

Move to approve the agenda and budget for the 2026 Riley County Employee Day.

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

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

10. Planning & Development Staff Update

Webb presented the Planning & Development staff update.

10:15 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

11. Administrative Work Session

Hansen said he has been in contact with Crawford County Counsel regarding working

together on the nuisance abatement law.

Hansen stated this morning he received a proposed MOU on moving the County Fairgrounds.

The Board suggested working on the Riley County Legislative meeting.

10:35 AM Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

12. Battery Energy Storage Systems work session

Webb presented the Battery Energy Storage Systems work session.

10:55 AM Megan Lewis, Community Corrections Director

13. 2027 Community Support Funds Advisory Board Funding Application — Juvenile Services

Lewis presented the 2027 Community Support Funds Advisory Board Funding Application-Juvenile Services.

Move to approve the 2027 Juvenile Services CSFAB Special Alcohol Grant for submission to the City of Manhattan for funding consideration.

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

14. 2027 Community Support Funds Advisory Board Funding Application - Adult Services

Lewis presented the 2027 Community Support Funds Advisory Board Funding Application-Adult Services.

Move to approve the 2026 Adult Services CSFAB Special Alcohol Grant for submission to the City of Manhattan for funding consideration.

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

11:00 AM Amanda Webb, Planning/Special Projects Director

15. MakeMyMove contract

Webb presented the MakeMyMove contract.

Move to approve the contract with MakeMyMove and authorize the Commission Chair to sign.

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

16. Home in the Heartland grant application

Webb presented the Home in the Heartland grant application.

Move to approve the submittal of the Home in the Heartland grant application and authorize the Commission Chair to sign the application.

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

Adjournment

11:09 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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