



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 10, 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
Arturo Mauricio	KMAN	Present	8:37 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:50 AM
Michael Hawthorne	Assistant County Counselor	Present	9:18 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	9:28 AM
Gregg Eyestone	Extension Agent	Present	9:28 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed/HHW Director	Present	9:32 AM
Tammy Feldkamp	Social Worker	Present	9:32 AM

Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment
Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday afternoon post meeting I met with Brittany Phillips, Budget and Finance Officer to discuss both the 2027 and 2028 budgets and many other items pertaining to budget and finance

within the county. Appreciated the time spent and the conversation that was had.

Thursday afternoon I had lunch with Jared Loomis from Olsson Associates at Tallgrass Taphouse to discuss the Riley County Road and Bridge Advisory Board and a lot of other related items about it and upcoming projects we are all working on. Been a while since we had a chance to talk and it certainly was a worthwhile lunch and conversation.

Later Thursday there was the July meeting of the Flint Hills Mental Health Task Force. After some opening welcomes and remarks we got updates from some area community partners, reviewed all the discussed June action items, continued dialog on community snapshots and what we are currently seeing, a rather in-depth dialog on system barriers and strategic initiatives and what the focus should be moving forward. We should meet again sometime in September.

Thursday night is great to see the return of some NFL football although it is just preseason at this point, and a shoutout to K-State's very own Kaelen Culpepper who was called up by the Minnesota Twins and hit a home run in his first major league at bat.

Pretty much stayed inside for the remainder of the weekend, it was awfully hot and wasn't feeling overly well to go with it.

McKinley's Comments:

Friday afternoon was the Pre-Law Board meeting. Mostly just monthly update items. Should be a much calmer meeting than the last two.

Focke's Comments:

Friday I had a physical therapy appointment and then spent some time in the office organizing some paperwork. There is lot to go through after the past couple months. I also had a yearly review with my home/auto insurance agent to go over insurance coverages. It's good to review the options annually.

Friday afternoon I went to the Pre-Law Board meeting at RCPD. We went over the upcoming meeting on August 17th.

The weekend was pretty quiet, as it was too hot to do much outside, so caught up on some office work and house cleaning.

Business Meeting

1. Riley County Purchasing Card Request

Move to approve Riley County Purchasing Card Request Form.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner John Ford
SECONDER:	Commissioner Greg McKinley

AYES:	Greg McKinley, Kathryn Focke, John Ford
NAYS:	None

Review Minutes

2. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Aug 6, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of August 6, 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

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 expenditure reports.

9:15 AM**Jacob Hansen, County Counselor**

5. Administrative Work Session

Hansen discussed the Riley County Legislative Luncheon.

Hansen asked about legislative priorities.

Ford suggested asking department heads.

McKinley suggested a handout on the money the State has taken from counties which impact property taxes.

9:30 AM**Press Conference**

6. Gardening - Gregg Eyestone (2-3 minutes)

Eyestone discussed the following Back to Gardening programs:

1. Thursday, August 13 – Program on Ergonomic Gardening techniques at 12:00 (noon) at Pottorf Hall
2. Friday, August 14 – Program on Fall Vegetable Gardening at 10:00 a.m. at Blueville Nursery
3. Saturday, August 15 – Program on Fall Lawn Care at 10:00 a.m. at Blueville Nursery

Eyestone said the Fall Master Gardener class begins on Thursday, September 3rd with a few openings still available.

9:35 AM

Michael Hawthorne, Assistant County Counselor

7. 2820 Nelson's Landing Nuisance Abatement

Hawthorne presented the resolution ordering the abatement of public nuisance located at 2820 Nelson's Landing.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 081026-39 , A Resolution ordering the abatement of a public nuisance located at 2820 Nelson's Landing, unincorporated Riley County, Kansas."

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

9:40 AM

David Adams, Emergency Services Director

8. Grant Application with Memorial Hospital Association

Move to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Board of Health.

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

Adams presented the request to apply for grant funds from the Memorial Hospital Association.

Feldkamp discussed the areas reduced.

Move to approve the request to apply for grant funds, totaling \$27,500 from the Memorial Hospital Association.

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

Move to recess as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.

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

9:55 AM

Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

9. Executive Session to discuss confidential legal advice regarding personnel matters

9:50 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, along with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the Commission, and Elizabeth Ward, Human Resources Director recess into executive session for personnel matters of non-elected personnel, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and to protect the privacy of the employee(s), to discuss the work conduct of specific employee(s), and the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:05 a.m.

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

10:05 a.m. Move the Board of County Commissioners come out of executive session.

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

Move the record reflect action shall be taken consistent with the consensus reached in executive session.

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

Adjournment

10:06 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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

Announcements

The Riley County Planning Board/Board of Zoning Appeals meeting will be held

tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Plaza East Building,
115 N. 4th Street.