



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 17, 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
Cindy Kabriel	Senior Administrative Assistant	Present	8:30 AM
Jacob Hansen	County Counselor	Present	8:30 AM
Vanessa Gray	PIO	Present	8:30 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director	Present	8:30 AM
Elizabeth Ward	Human Resources Director	Present	8:30 AM
Arturo Mauricio	KMAN	Present	8:30 AM
David Adams	Emergency Services Director	Present	8:30 AM
Anna Burson	Appraiser	Present	8:30 AM
Katharine Hensler	Museum Director	Present	8:30 AM

Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment
Commission Comments

Ford's Comments:

Thursday evening, I attended the long-awaited groundbreaking for the Keats Sanitary Sewer Project. Had a great turnout considering how incredibly hot it was. After well over a decade's worth of discussion and planning this project finally is getting built. Huge thanks to all the community partners and officials who worked diligently through the years to finally make this necessary rural infrastructure upgrade a reality.

Friday morning, I had a video call with the doctor. It merely was just a status quo update to see where the status of things are and how to keep moving forward with the plan in place.

Saturday morning, I attended the Riley County Republican Coffee talk over at Hy-Vee. Had various local candidates and officials available and had a really good number of people in attendance as well. Gave an update on everything happening here at the county and answered a few questions along the way too.

Saturday I had some friends come into town and we had lunch at Texas Roadhouse, judging by the traffic and activity around town I would say the majority of people are back and ready to go for the upcoming school year.

Saturday I did watch some preseason NFL games including my Jacksonville Jaguars who came back to beat the New Orleans Saints 24-20.

Glad once again to receive some more rain over the weekend after how hot and humid it was over the last week. The rest of the weekend I spent at home worked on some various things for the upcoming week which should prove to be busy.

McKinley's Comments:

Thursday evening was the groundbreaking for the Keats Sanitary Sewer Project. A nice crowd to see this long lasting project.

Friday we went to Concordia. In the afternoon we went to the Orphan Train Museum. I have a friend whose grandfather came out on the orphan trains. It was a real interesting education and I found the story of his grandfather's life. His family name is on one of the buildings. We also went through the Cloud County Museum. It is really large and has a lot of interesting materials. In the evening we went to the Tyrus show which is why we went to Concordia.

Saturday, I attended the Riley County Republicans meeting for a short while. I was able to explain the appraisal process to a couple of people. I later attended the Fall Lawn Care class by Gregg Eyestone.

Focke's Comments:

Thursday after our meeting, I had lunch downtown and then packed my car with items for the groundbreaking at Keats. Thursday evening, I attended the groundbreaking for the Keats Sanitary Sewer Project. It was well attended, but pretty hot, so we had an informal gathering in the shelter's meeting room, where project managers were present to answer questions from attendees and residents. We provided some refreshments and it was a successful event, and great start to the year-long project.

Friday afternoon I took items back to my office and went over the agenda for today's meeting. Later I had a physical therapy session and picked up the Law Board packet for today's meeting.

Saturday, I spent most of the morning and afternoon going over the Law Board packet and the proposed grant for the building remodel. I have received a number of calls about the grant and have studied it several times to understand the pros and cons of the issue.

The rest of the weekend was pretty quiet, so was able to catch up on paperwork and reviewed today's agenda and documents again.

Business Meeting

1. EM/Fire Remodel Substantial Completion

Move to approve the Chair sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion of the Riley County Emergency Management Remodel Project.

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

2. CIP Project Activations

Move to approve the CIP Project Activation Form for the AV equipment replacement for the IT/GIS Department for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$87,824.39.

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

3. Riley County Employee Action Form

Move to approve the Riley County Employee Action Forms.

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

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

- Addison Birkes, for a status change, from Intern to As Needed, as an On Call Juvenile Intake Officer, in the Community Corrections Department, at a Range 1, at \$18.87 per hour.
- Stephanie Rodriguz Contreras, a Child Care Provider, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 13, 2026.
- Pamela Ngankem, a Child Care Provider, in the Health Department, for

Separation from County Service, effective August 13, 2026.

- Taylor Haas, a Child Care Provider, in the Health Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 13, 2026.
- Caden Hickel, an Intern, in the IT/GIS Department, for Separation from County Service, effective August 13, 2026.

Review Minutes

4. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Aug 13, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of August 13, 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 John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

6. Project Update

Ellermann presented a Public Works project update.

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

7. EMS/Ambulance Staff Update

Adams presented an EMS/Ambulance staff update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

8. Public Notice - John Ellermann (1-2 minutes)

Ellermann said Riley County will begin chip seal projects on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 and should be completed by Friday, August 28, 2026. Welsch Road, McDowell Creek Road, and West 32nd Avenue will be chip sealed. Traffic will be allowed through these projects, but drivers should expect delays of up to 15 minutes. Take alternate routes when possible. The schedule may change due to weather and scheduling delays.

9. Public Notice - John Ellermann (1-2 minutes)

Ellermann said a culvert replacement project on W. 62nd Avenue is scheduled to begin Monday, August 24, 2026. The project is located 4/10 mile south of Anderson Avenue. West 62nd Avenue will be closed to traffic at the intersection of Anderson

Avenue and Wildcat Park will be closed to the public during construction of the project. The project is expected to be completed Wednesday, September 16, 2026 weather permitting.

9:35 AM Katharine Hensler, Museum Director

10. Historical Museum Staff Update

Hensler presented a Museum staff update.

9:50 AM Jacob Hansen, County Counselor

11. Administrative Work Session

Hansen said he has only had one response from the legislative delegates so far for the legislative meeting.

Adjournment

9:51 a.m. Move to adjourn.

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

12:00 PM Law Enforcement Agency Meeting

12. Law Board Agenda Packet