



**Board of Riley County
Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 24, 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
Alejandra Garcia	The Makers Guild Inc.	Present	8:30 AM
Arturo Mauricio	KMAN	Present	8:30 AM
Michael Rezkalla	Pawnee Mental Health Servies Director	Present	9:00 AM
Michele Reid	Human Resources Manager	Present	9:01 AM
Russel Stukey	Emergency Management/Fire Director	Present	9:11 AM
Michael Boller	Noxious Weed/HHW Director	Present	9:12 AM
Justin Brenner	Hazard Waste Program Coordinator	Present	9:12 AM
Megan Lewis	Community Corrections Director	Present	9:13 AM
Anna Burson	Appraiser	Present	9:16 AM
Brittany Phillips	Budget and Finance Officer	Present	9:24 AM
David Russell	Division Fire Chief	Present	9:24 AM
Jacob Konardy	Deputy Fire Chief	Present	9:24 AM
Robert Cox	Emergency Management Planner I	Present	9:24 AM
Mackenzie McGinnis	Fire Administrative Assistant II	Present	9:24 AM
John Ellermann	Public Works Director/County Engineer	Present	9:31 AM

Bob Isaac	Planner	Present	9:43 AM
Amanda Webb	Planning/Special Projects Director	Present	9:49 AM

Pledge of Allegiance**Public Comment****Commission Comments**

Ford's Comments:

On Thursday post BOCC meeting I met with Megan Lewis, Director of Riley County Community Corrections to discuss things and challenges pertinent to her department in more depth and some ways we can engage the appropriate state agencies moving forward as well. We took some time to discuss the grant process, personnel, and space needs for the department, and had a great dialog on the recovery court process and future funding needs as well. Big thanks to Megan for taking the time and effort to chat with me. Later Thursday afternoon, I met with my nutritionist via Video Conference. We had a good dialog, and we have collectively decided it is time to make some wholesale changes to my diet and start working on a complete transformation. It will take some time and effort of course, but it's long overdue. Also Thursday afternoon, I briefly attended the ribbon cutting for the new L. Eldon Gideon Agronomy Research & Innovation Complex up in the Edge District. This event had a huge turnout, and several university officials spoke on the importance of the facility and what it adds to the school and the community as a whole. Thursday evening I attended the Big 1st Republican District "Road the Victory" tour that took place at the Manhattan Country Club. It was a very well-attended event and dinner with state executive and legislative officials and candidates in attendance as well as local and regional people. We also had Congressman Mann and U.S. Senator Jerry Moran in attendance too, plus officials from the county, district, and state parties to boot. Great time to network and chat with everyone from across the area and the State of Kansas.

On Friday morning, I was planning on working in the morning, but due to some technical issues I wasn't able to, which was great as I was able to catch up on some personal errands, including finally getting my 2026-2027 Fort Riley installation pass. As usual, everyone at the Welcome Center was extremely helpful, friendly, and professional in getting that taking care of. Friday afternoon I had lunch at Tallgrass Taphouse with Brian Fuemmeler from McCown Gordon. We discussed some of the construction projects they will be working on locally moving forward and some potential candidates for the County Road and Bridge Advisory Board as well. It is good to catch up with our area construction and building professionals and to look forward as well.

The weekend was rather quiet and not a bad one to be out and about. Finally, I got caught up on some correspondence and worked on some relevant conversations and issues that will be coming up here shortly. Thankfully, this is the last weekend without real football till February.

McKinley's Comments:

On Thursday afternoon I met with David Adams to go over the health department and the county in general.

On Friday I met with Amy Manges to go over some questions I had about the Register of Deeds. She clarified the things I was asking about.

I later met with Corey Meyer to discuss the county in general.

Focke's Comments:

On Friday, I had a long appointment with my dentist in the morning. After lunch, I had an appointment with my Neurosurgeon's P.A. to go over some back issues.

On Saturday, I got caught up around the house and yard and did some cleanup on my lawn mower that hadn't been used for about two years. I have hired a new person to do the lawn and other landscaping and he'll be using the mower.

On Sunday, after church I went with a friend to the Weaver Hotel Restaurant in Marysville. After lunch we got a tour of the historic house/hotel which was very interesting. They renovated the building, and it is in-use as a hotel. After that we drove around town and enjoyed all the historic homes in the area. It was a great drive to the northern county. Everything is so green this year. Later, I reviewed today's meeting agenda and documents and got ready for the week ahead.

Business Meeting

1. Plaza Reservation Request for The Makers Guild, Inc. for October 12, 2026

Move to approve the Plaza Reservation Request for The Makers Guild, Inc. for October 12, 2026.

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 20, 2026 8:30 AM

Move to approve the minutes of August 20, 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 Michael Rezkalla, Pawnee Mental Health Services Director**

4. Pawnee Mental Health Services update

Rezkalla presented the Pawnee Mental Health Services update.

9:15 AM Megan Lewis, Community Corrections Director

5. Staff Update

Lewis presented the Community Corrections staff update.

9:30 AM Press Conference

6. Presentation of retirement plaque to Russel Stukey - Kathryn Focke (3-5 minutes)

Focke presented a retirement plaque to Russel Stukey, EM/Fire District #1 Director for six years of service to Riley County.

Stukey said he appreciated his time at Riley County.

7. Commercial Income and Expense Questionnaires going out this week - Anna Burson (2 minutes)

Burson presented during Press Conference that Income and Expense Questionnaires are being mailed this week. As part of the State-mandated reappraisal process, the Riley County Appraisers office is conducting a survey of multifamily/commercial/industrial properties and respectfully requests your participation. We are studying trends in the local real estate market regarding rents, occupancy, and operating expenses. Income and expense questionnaires will be mailed this week. The information we receive from the surveys returned will be maintained confidential in accordance with Kansas Law and standards of professional appraisal practice. The information will be used to calibrate our valuation models, and it WILL NOT be used to value the specific properties from which information is provided. It will be used in conjunction with data on other properties of similar use to find typical rents, occupancy, and expenses for the particular use type (retail, office, multifamily, etc). We value your time. If it's easier to print out an income and expense report, Rent roll, or IRS tax statement please provide that information to supplement the survey form. Additionally, the forms being mailed can be accessed on the Riley County Appraiser's Office web page under Real Estate>Income & Expense Questionnaires. The completed questionnaire and/or additional documentation can be returned by email, mail or dropped off no later than September 18th, 2026 to our office.

9:40 AM John Ellermann, Public Works Director/County Engineer

8. Federal Fund Exchange

Ellermann presented the Federal Fund Exchange Agreement.

Move to approve the Chair to sign the Request to Exchange Federal Funds with the State of Kansas and to deposit the funds in CIP for use on future transportation-related project.

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

9:50 AM**Bob Isaac, Planner**

9. Amend the Riley County Land Development Regulations

Focke opened the public hearing.

Isaac presented the Riley County Land Development Regulations resolution.

No public comment.

Focke closed the public hearing.

Move to approve "Resolution No. 082426-41, Resolution amending the Riley County Land Development Regulations in Riley County, Kansas" (Section 5.2.A; Section 5.6.A.2; 7.2.B; 6.8.C; 5.2.G; Table 5.1-Land Uses of, and add Section 5.2.AI).

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

10:10 AM**Jacob Hansen, County Counselor**

10. Administrative Work Session

Hansen said the Indigent Defense contracts are due to be renewed this year.

11. Executive session for attorney-client consultation

10:13 a.m. Move that the County Commissioners, including Chairwoman Focke, Vice Chairman Ford, and Commissioner McKinley, with Jacob Hansen, County Counselor, attorney for the commission, recess into executive session pursuant to the attorney-client consultation an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, regarding confidential legal advice, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:30 a.m.

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

NAYS:	None
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10:30 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 no binding action was taken during the executive session.

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

Adjournment

10:31 Move to adjourn after the Intergovernmental Luncheon.

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

12:00 PM

Intergovernmental Luncheon at Rockin K's

12. Intergovernmental Luncheon Agenda