

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF FIRE DISTRICT #1**

REGULAR MEETING

April 24, 1996

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, Sitting as the Governing Body of Fire District #1, was called to order at 12:45 p.m., Wednesday, April 24 , 1996, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Melody C. Miller; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Paul W. Hancock; Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Richard Euson, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. Jerry Harrison, Assistant County Manager; Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, Bureau of Public Services; Mr. Fred Ervin, Public Affairs Officer; and Ms. Susan Crockett-Spoon, County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that all Commissioners were present.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, February 28, 1996.

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners present at the Regular Meetings of February 28, 1996.

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Minutes of February 28, 1996.

Commissioner Miller seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, April 24, 1996

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul W. Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much. Next item."

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, March 20, 1996.

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners, except Commissioner Schroeder, were present at the Regular Meeting of March 20, 1996.

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Minutes of March 20, 1996.

Commissioner Miller seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul W. Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Abstain
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, April 24, 1996

NEW BUSINESS

A. MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WICHITA TO MERGE CITY AND COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT FLEET MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.

Mr. Gary Curmode, Sedgwick County Fire Chief, said, "The Sedgwick County Fire Department and the Wichita Fire Department have agreed to do a one year pilot study on merging the City and County Fire Department fleet maintenance divisions together for more economy as a scale. Recommend that we approve the agreement and I am available for any questions."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Schroeder."

Commissioner Schroeder said, "Do we save money in this process? I know you sent me a ton of information, but for the record, would this be of benefit and a cost savings to us?"

Chief Curmode said, "Yes it would. Where we're going to see the actual cost would run us between \$24,000 and \$25,000 per year. We will close our shop, except use it for joint storage for both City and County Fire Departments, extra apparatus and equipment. We'll also be able to, at this time, we don't have an administrative supervisor, other than myself, over the mechanics so they have to do a lot of administrative functions. So we're getting maybe 50 to 60 hours of actual mechanic work done on our apparatus. To hire the same type of administrative personnel with administrative aid for them would run us about \$100,000 and with this agreement, we'll be able to get those services for about \$15,000 and we'll be able to be put on a data base; be able to keep our apparatus so the down time will be less, and so forth. What you will see here, is the County fleet is about 33% of the total fleet, yet we have two mechanics and the City has three. We have 40% of the mechanical ability to handle 100% of the fleet so we're getting a little bit more efficiency in that respect. What the apparatus will do, if say a County apparatus comes in that is front line, that means that it is used day to day on an activity from that fire station, there is a City fire apparatus that is a reserve apparatus that comes in, they can put up to four or five mechanics on the County apparatus and get it in and out quicker. This allows our mechanics to work 80 hours a week on what they enjoy; working and fixing apparatuses and so we'll improve probably between 30 and 40 hours of actual productivity of our mechanics and that's going to be a tremendous savings in that respect."

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, April 24, 1996

Commissioner Schroeder said, "Okay, thank you. Thank you Chairman."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "How long ago did you and Chief Garcia propose this idea?"

Chief Curmode said, "January of 1995."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, if I may interrupt. If you remember, it was in March of 1995, it was mentioned at a luncheon."

Commissioner Schroeder said, "Their problems were uniforms at that time."

Commissioner Gwin said, "And as I recall, at that luncheon, whether I was lucid or not, I suggested a six month pilot program. Does anyone else recall that?"

Commissioner Schroeder said, "No."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I also remember at that time that the response to that from across the street was that I was being naive in thinking we could do this without having any problems. What pleases me now is, that obviously my naiveté has gone away and I'm delighted to be able to approve this. This makes good sense. My point at the time was, why don't we test this in reality instead of theory? Let's put the mechanics together and see how it works. If there are problems, then we'll know from the real day to day operation, we won't look at it on a piece of paper and guess what might work or not work. I'm delighted that you are finally getting it approved and I'm delighted the people across the street finally saw that this might make sense."

Chief Curmode said, "Commissioner, one really exciting thing. We just sent a couple of our mechanics to Pierce Fire Equipment to get some training. We'll be able to share this with the City fire mechanics to get them some additional educational opportunities here that won't be at any cost to them. Hopefully, we can trade off in these type of ventures and we'll be able to buy some supplies, tire purchases, those things, at a reduced cost. So I think the overall is a win-win situation for both City and County citizens."

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, April 24, 1996

Commissioner Gwin said, "I believe it is too. Thank you Chief."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. I just want to add two cents worth. I think one of the places where we are going to see a big improvement is in increased productivity. I believe we've got two very fine mechanics working for Sedgwick County, but I've been in operations where they've hired mechanics and a lot of mechanic kinds of work require some direct supervision and I'm not saying our guys aren't directed to supervise themselves, but with two mechanics, how do you hire a supervisor to hire two people. You just can't afford to do that and the same way with the City. You've got three mechanics and a supervisor, that is not optimum personnel. That is one of the things I'm going to be talking about in the budget season this year is how many supervisors do we have for people that they're supervising and if you can stretch that out, then you've got a better performance and reduced budget and a reduced budget becomes very important. So again, I think this is a good job and Chief appreciate your efforts in getting it put together. Commissioners, you've heard the recommendation, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Schroeder moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul W. Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much. Is there any other business to come before this Board? This Board is adjourned."

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, April 24, 1996

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS**

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman
Third District

MELODY C. MILLER, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner
First District

PAUL W. HANCOCK, Commissioner
Second District

MARK F. SCHROEDER, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Susan E. Crockett-Spoon, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 1996