

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**June 9, 2004**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:50 A.M., on Wednesday, June 9, 2004 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Commissioner Ben Sciortino; Ms. Kathy Sexton, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Fire Chief Gary Curmode, Fire District #1; Fire Lieutenant John Troyer, Fire District #1; Fire Division Chief Rick Brazill, Fire District #1 and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting, May 26, 2004

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of May 26, 2004.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 26, 2004.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

**Chairman Winters** said, "Next item."

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTION APPROVING AND SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN A STATEWIDE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE.**

**Fire Chief Gary Curmode**, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today, we're discussing a resolution approving and supporting participation in a statewide urban search and rescue task force. This is similar to what you approved one to two years ago for the hazardous material response team for the state. There are no funds needed by our Fire District to participate.

In the audience today, I would like to introduce Fire Chief Gary Denny from Newton, Kansas and firefighter/ paramedic Joel Zare, who was instrumental in leading this as a statewide effort.

Today, I will have Division Chief Rick Brazill and also Lieutenant John Troyer explain the concept and they will be available for any questions."

**Fire Division Chief Rick Brazill**, Fire District #1, Technical Rescue Coordinator, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're seeking your support this morning to pursue involvement in Kansas Task Force 1. Currently, the State of Kansas has no resource available to them for natural disasters, terrorist attacks, anything that would cause a rescue situation where we have occupants trapped, time sensitive rescue situations. Currently now we have USAR teams available to us, but it takes some time to get them deployed and to our area. The closest one now is in Lincoln, Nebraska and I believe the next one is in Columbia, Missouri.

So this would enable us to get resources within our region on the scene quicker if we would have an incident of this type. A little background on this subject, about three years ago I was teaching some classes at Newton Fire and I was approached by Joel Zane, a firefighter in Newton. This is kind of his vision, his idea. He approached me about this and I thought it was a great idea and I thought it would work but I knew it would be a lot of work. To tell the truth, when he first approached me with it, I didn't see how we could get it done. Joel has done just a tremendous job. He's probably done about 98% of the work on it and it is progressing rapidly. We've got several fire departments in the state on board and we have a short presentation we'd like to show you this morning and then ask you for support. And we'll be open for questions and also I have Joel here, he's the project coordinator, if John or I can't answer you, then we'll call on Joel.

But at this time, I would like to bring Lieutenant Troyer up and he'll do the presentation."

## **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Fire Lieutenant John Troyer**, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "First of all, thank you for the opportunity to talk with you about this. This is something that we have needed for a very long time in the State of Kansas. The federal government has seen a need for search and rescue, especially in collapsed structures, and those resources, as the Chief has said, are a long way away from us, so this is a way to alleviate that problem.

The main reason for this presentation is to give you a background on where the team has come from, or where the idea for a team has come from and where it's at right now. There is no team right now, it's an idea, and it's still in the conceptual stage. We would like to take it to the next step and a show of support from our governing body, which would mean you, would be a huge step in the direction that we need to take.

Like was stated earlier, this Search and Rescue Task Force will be a statewide team, staffed by several fire departments from across the state specifically trained in building collapse, which is something that we don't have in the state. There are very few fire departments and very few people in the state that are trained in building collapse. If a tornado were to hit downtown Wichita, if God forbid there was a terrorist attack in the State of Kansas and there were trapped people, resources would be tapped very quickly and we wouldn't be able to get to them as quickly as they need to be.

The team is structured, or the proposed team is structured exactly like a FEMA team. Why reinvent the wheel? Team structure is already there, equipment is already there, training requirements are already there so we decided to just go ahead and take that idea and use it. As stated, Weapons of Mass Destruction, natural disasters and there are some other things that the team would be able to do: high angle, water rescue, trench rescue and confined space.

To activate a state sponsored team would take a declaration, disaster declaration from the State of Kansas. This isn't something that, if we had a small incident here in Sedgwick County in Wichita that we could just drive over there, get the equipment and work on this. It would have to be . . . the team would have to be deployed by a disaster declaration from the state legislature. This would be a statewide resource instead of a local resource. However, we would be involved in it.

Anywhere in the state would be able to use it. If we had a disaster here, of course, our people would already be working, we would be able to draw a huge resource from everywhere across the state. People would come in with the equipment to lend a hand and assist, just like we would anywhere in the state.

The possibility of something like that happening in the State of Kansas, I mean all we have to do is

## **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

look back a few year's ago to Oklahoma City and we can see how very real the threat of something like this is, and the fact that we have tornadoes coming through here all the time.

The mission is to respond to disasters in coordination with local resources. In coordination with state and FEMA resources to extricate and provide immediate medical treatment for victims. We wanted to make sure that we were assisting local resources. We don't want to take over any of the response. Our goal is to assist and support the local resources, to try and get as many victims out of their predicament as quickly as possible.

It would be a group of 72 people on each deployment for a full deployment. We would be a self-sufficient team. We would not draw on any local resources for 72 hours. So having that many people with that long of a self-sufficient deployment is a huge logistical problem and that's some of the things that we would train on, if this team is approved.

Here's an idea of the structure. I know it's a little tough to see the green portions of it. This is the K-9 search and rescue team and at the bottom is structural engineers. We would fit in to the rescue specialists, logistics and basically, if you look at the top, there's a key. Fire departments would be responsible for providing all the people that are outlined in red.

Several different places that are involved in it. I'm not as well versed on that as Mr. Zare is and if you have any questions on that, he can fill you in on those, from the structural engineers, medical resources coming from MERGe, the statewide resource from mutual aid from EMS. There's a list of some of the departments that are involved. I don't think every one of them has official support and resolution like we are requesting today, but there is a list of some of the departments that are involved, mostly from south central Kansas and northeast Kansas. We're also soliciting support from departments in western Kansas also, so we can have team members spread throughout the state.

Here's a list: architects from AIA, medical support can come from numerous areas and that was one of the options that we have looked at. Search and rescue teams for K-9 and then we would use, as part of the hazardous materials contingent, we would use the system that's already in place with the regional response teams in the State of Kansas and of course MERGe for medical response.

Now the big question, where does the money come from? And it's a pretty sizable amount of money to fund and support a team like this. One hundred percent state sponsorship, whether it comes from grants or an act of legislature, it would be 100% supported by state sponsorship, much like the hazardous materials team.

Hopefully, and one of the avenues that we have looked at for the initial funding of the team, the initial equipment expenditure and the initial training expenditure would be Homeland Security

## **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

grants and then the most difficult thing that we have found is securing the annual funding to support the team and there are several different things that we're looking at.

There will be . . . and just like the hazardous materials team, we would deploy our team to assist. They would be on the clock with us and then the reimbursement would come from the state, just like the other teams.

Constant state of readiness and speed of response are the things that this team will provide. A sense of security, especially for areas of the state that have less resources than we have here. We have a tremendous amount of resources in this area to respond to something like this, to respond to some type of a disaster. However, we have found out that our responses are . . . our resources are overran very quickly in a major disaster, and in areas in the state where they have less resources than we do, that happens much, much faster. So speed is of the essences and that's one of the things that this team will provide.

Talking about a budget, initial budget of 4.5 million to start the team and an annual budget of around three-quarters of a million to upgrade training and maintenance for equipment.

How it would happen is if there was an incident of tornado, terrorist attack, of course we'd have our local resources respond, then they declare a local disaster, the governor is contacted to try and secure state disaster and then of course, if it progresses beyond that, such as the DeBruce Grain Elevator, we would call for federal assistance also.

As Chief Brazill stated, the closest teams we have are Lincoln, Nebraska and Columbia, Missouri. Those are federal task forces, in DeBruce, it was nearly 24 hours before we had anybody actually on the site and work. The away teams were there quicker, but it took a long time for us to be able to get people actually working with us to try and rescue.

We already talked about the funding."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Would you go back to that last slide please?"

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "Certainly."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "What was that last line? What does that mean?"

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "Without a formal show of support . . ."

### **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “No, no. What does that mean, ‘Each city and county to approve and support their resources to participate’? What does that mean?”

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, “Human resources, personnel.”

**Ms. Kathy Sexton**, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “If I may, Commissioner, that means approving this agenda item today.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Okay. Just needed that. It says support with our resource, I just needed to know what that . . .”

**Ms. Sexton** said, “They just mean passing this agenda item today. Does that make sense?”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Well, approve makes sense, but support is what I don’t understand. Would you clarify what that means, Kathy?”

**Ms. Sexton** said, “He’s not talking financial support. They’re just talking that the County, as the Fire District Board, that you would authorize.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Okay, but when these personnel are out deployed, who pays their salaries?”

**Division Chief Brazill** said, “If I may, real quick Commissioner, what that means is we’re asking your support to allow our personnel to obtain the training, and if they are deployed, participate in this Kansas Task Force One. If there’s a disaster in Great Bend or Salina, we deploy our people with Kansas Task Force One. Yes, Sedgwick County does pay their salaries while they’re deployed there, but we would be reimbursed from the state for those salaries. So what we’re asking for today is a resolution saying that you’ll support this concept, at no cost to Sedgwick County. Again, we’re looking to the state legislature for funding and the support from other communities. So that’s really what we’re doing here. When we’re saying resources, we’re wanting your approval for our personnel.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “I understand. I got it.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Okay. Are you all ready for questions?”

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "Yes, that was the conclusion of the presentation. I would be open for questions."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "How many people do you anticipate will fall into this from the Sedgwick County employee pool? I mean, this is a statewide effort, and you need 72 people, so how many will come out of the Sedgwick County pool?"

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "We have pledged to support, on an activation, seven personnel."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "And what protocols will those seven personnel be experts in? Obviously, they'll get training to fit into the group, but will they be search and rescue with dogs, K-9, or will they be HazMat?"

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "Structural collapse technicians."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "So they'll be trained to understand these new protocols then. Is that correct?"

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "Definitely, yes."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay, thanks."

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "And five of the people from the seven will be structural collapse technicians and the others will be chiefs, such as Chief Brazill here, people in support and in command."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner McGinn."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Thank you. Well I think it's unfortunate that we even have to really talk about this, especially in light of what's happened the last few years. But there are some . . . We, you know, have the natural disasters, such as tornadoes and then the situation that happened, the DeBruce Grain. And when we talk about those that are experienced in this kind of thing being so far away, Columbia Missouri and in Nebraska, I think we do need something here closer to home."

## **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

Part of your presentation, when you talked about those that were going to help fund it, it made me think about after 9/11 Commissioner Winters and I went to Washington D.C. and one of the things that we had talked about was the Ready to Respond program that Sedgwick County had gotten off the ground in our local community and shared that with some of our leaders in Washington D.C. and those who are tied with some of the security things. And what came out of that as well had to do with the homeland defense security funding and one of the things that we advocated for that whole following year was when they talked about putting together homeland security funding, as local government, we're the ones that are first on the scene and we had suggested to them please let us be part of that planning. Don't let something get stopped at the state level because it's those that are on the scene first that understand how we need to use those dollars most efficiently.

So when you talked about this being a state funded program, I think that's great, but you also said you were going to work on Homeland Security grants and I hope that that is part of what they had all talked about, of how those dollars need to come to the local level, because when a disaster strikes, it's the local level that has to deal with that, and so this sounds like very much a program that you're trying to create and have that local level experience when we have to deal with a disaster, so I'm certainly going to support this.

I also . . . I thought of one of the things that Commissioner Norton has been working on and that's the Heartland Defense Center. You know, when we talk about training, we need to talk about regional training and who has the resources and those kinds of things to do that and in this whole metropolitan area, the four or five counties that surround Sedgwick County, you know I think we have a great deal of experience that we can offer the rest of the state and even some surrounding states as well and so I think this is a good program and I'm certainly going to support it. Thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you very much. Those are good comments, Commissioner. And I certainly believe we need to have real cooperation in this kind of . . . if these kind of events happen. I guess the question I maybe need some help with though, and maybe Chief Curmode, maybe you could help me a moment here. You know, and I know our backup says that there's no budget item here, it's not necessarily a money issue.



## **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

But you know, as I look at what our . . . I mean, and again I'm just speaking as one person, I think that our main emphasis in the Fire District is fire suppression and fighting fires and making sure that we're as safe as we can be. When we start off on these other projects, you know, I think even with the people involved, do we take away or is there a subtraction from what we have for our key mission out there of having our stations fully staffed and ready to go in case we get that call that our house is on fire? How do you start weighing that balance of when you start . . . and I don't want to call it extras, because I mean it's safety-related, but how do we still feel comfortable that we're not taking away from what our principle mission is?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Very good question, Commissioner. Basically, it's the same premise and concept that we use for the Hazardous Materials Response Team. We utilize our people that are off-duty, so the people that are on duty still can provide services to our people. We do not take them away from Sedgwick County and then have a down-time, if you will, of waiting for more people to fill their shoes.

What we do, we would get the call from Topeka requesting the team. That team request would probably come to myself and then I would delegate it on down to Chief Brazill. He would activate the team. It would be off-duty people, so it would not jeopardize any of our equipment in Sedgwick County. The rescue apparatus that you recently purchased that will be here in August, that's still stays in Sedgwick County, that does not leave. That's to protect our citizens. And the equipment, cash for equipment, that will all be bought by the state and kept at a certain location that will respond.

And so again, I can assure you, there will be no demise to any of those services in our state. If anything, I think it's going to enhance them because we're going to be able to get increased training. Example if I may, on the Hazardous Material Response Team, the regional team we had, there were only six calls in the state in 2003. We made three of them. Two of them were in our county. We got reimbursed for those costs that we never got reimbursed before. The third one was in Oswego, Kansas. They had a team of firefighters responded out and some other hazardous material trained people, they got exposed with material, we sent a team of five people and one chief there that worked several hours and I just received the two checks for those two calls for over \$5,000 last week. So again, we were out no money. We were able to receive some training.

We sent a contingent of two people up to help provide support for the presidential visit in Topeka for four days. That was reimbursed, for the people that filled their shoes and also the people that went up, for expenses, so we again were out without no money.

### **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

So again, it went along with your concept that, since I've been here, help thy neighborhood basically, and Ready to Respond. We try to do that again and we've done it in a, I think, a fiscally responsible way and we have sought ways to not cost us even one dime. And so I think it is only going to enhance our team and improve our service for our own community."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Yeah, chief I'm a little con . . . I think I like what we're trying to accomplish here but I'm a little confused too. Has the state already approved this? I mean, they've already approved those monies and the operating costs and everything? That's already done?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "No, the funding mechanism is still being looked for. There has to be at least support from the emergency response team communities to show that . . . the needs is there, and we have the response communities that are involved and they can also provide . . ."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay. So these resolutions will be used to show the state that this is what we would like for you to do, state."

**Chief Curmode** said, "That's correct. And I think Lieutenant Troyer has one thing to add to that."

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "While pursuing this idea, we ran into that problem early on. Searching for funding, the state will not fund an idea. They have to fund a team, so by organizing support and organizing a team, that gives them someplace to go. That gives them some place to fund, if it's going to happen. So we need to build a team first, and then ask for financial support from the state."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay. But now, what happens if the state supports it with caveats. Could there be an argument that you would be coming back to us and saying, 'Well, the state supported it but they wanted 50/50 participation or they want you to pay for all of the equipment'. So this idea of no budgetary item, does our support put us on the slippery slope that we may have a budgetary item?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Commissioner, on that, one of our stipulations was to stay involved. I said our department would probably support that, but we cannot involve any county funds at all, I mean 0% and so that was one of our stipulations, that if we participated, if they come back with that caveat that you mentioned for any percent, we will not be involved. And likewise, when this comes to fruition, we will bring that contract back to you and bring it to you, after we've discussed it with Legal to make sure everything is kosher, and then we'll bring it back to you for your final

## Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004

approval.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Okay. The one other thing very quickly, and you really satisfied me by saying that there will be sufficient people trained so that only those off-duty . . . so we’re going to train more than seven people, we’re probably going to train everybody because we never know whose off-duty. Is that right?”

**Chief Curmode** said, “Well basically, we’ll have seven people that are assigned to the team, but say they’re on duty and that call comes, they will not . . . in that event, we would not let them respond on the call till their replacement came there, so we’re still covered for the County. In the event the County has a collapse in our own area, say a trench rescue at a gas station, they’re building a new foundation, and that team is out there and we get a call to respond, we will not respond anyone until our emergency is under control and all people are back in the service.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “All right, so let’s talk about we have a trained team member, he’s on duty or she’s on duty, whatever. Do we now call . . . we’ve got a call, do we now call an off-duty person to come in and replace that person that is on-duty, so that that person can go?”

**Chief Curmode** said, “Basically, yes but again, let me give you an analogy. When we had the DeBruce Elevator explosion, I requested to Oklahoma City that I had some of their technical rescue team members come up here and assist us. They were on their task force down there. And they were in a four-alarm fire at the time. They said, ‘We’ll call you back as soon as the fire is under control’. So we worked with our own regional and local resources, our own technical rescue team and at that point, about an hour and a half later, I got a phone call from Oklahoma City, the fire is under control, the chief in charge called me and said, ‘How many people do you need, we’ll send them immediately’. So the same thing would work here.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “One last question. Have other states already done this?”

**Chief Curmode** said, “Right now, there are about . . . I believe there are between 12 to 18 task force teams funded by the federal government.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “No, no. I mean is there any state doing what you’re asking the State of Kansas to do?”

**Chief Curmode** said, “States are now looking at it, yes.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “No. Has any state already done it? What we’re asking the State of Kansas to do, has another state already done?”

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

**Chief Curmode** said, "They state the State of Oklahoma."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Is almost done?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "In several states."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "So the answer is no."

**Chief Curmode** said, "No, State of Oklahoma does have a team and several states are looking at forming a team like this."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "He said almost done. I don't want to belabor it. Has any state already implemented a state disaster program, agreed to the funding and what have you? Is that already done? No is a good answer. I mean, it's not a bad answer."

**Chief Curmode** said, "The State of California has several task force teams, because of the size of their state."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Is that it? Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I think Commissioner Unruh was . . ."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Well I think your light was really on first, but if you want him to go."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "It doesn't matter. I've already gone once. Just letting everybody weigh in. Where will the training, where will you have to go to get this kind of training? I've been an advocate, as Commissioner McGinn said, of putting together a state of the art training facility here, in confluence with the National Guard and the Heartland Defense Center and now we're going to train all these folks in this kind of search and rescue and everything. Where will they have to go to get that training?"

**Lieutenant Troyer** said, "The training will be completed here by an outside contractor, hopefully at the new training facility."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay. From your mouth to God's ear. Thanks."

## **Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

**Chairman Winters** said, “Commissioner Unruh.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What you’re asking us to do here is just to approve first steps to expand our capability and capacity to respond to these homeland security threats. It seems like it’s consistent with what we’re doing. You know, the role of the fire district is changing, as technology changes and so forth and as different threats arise, so it seems to me like it’s an appropriate thing to do, especially in light of the fact it’s going to make us better, more responsive to citizens’ needs, and it’s not going to have an impact on our budget. So I’m going to be very supportive. It seems like we should move on.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right. Well I’m going to be supportive also, and I don’t want my comments to seem like that I’m not supportive or that I don’t want to be cooperating with our neighbors around the state, because I want that to happen. But we continue to work with these issues about making sure our fire district is whole and capable and I know, this afternoon, we’re going to get a call to go fight a fire some place. And I want to make sure that, again not try to suck in and not be a good neighbor, not participate in programs, but when programs that are above and beyond start affecting the principle mission of the organization, I just think we need to think about that very clearly and those are the kinds of things that I’ll be thinking about, as we get into the budget session again is trying to make sure we’ve got as many resources doing our fundamental mission as we can have. And again, I’m going to be supportive of this and want us to move forward and think this is the kind of program that the state and the federal government ought to support with Homeland Defense funds. I mean, because this is something that one of the reasons we’re doing it now is because of that threat of terrorism and it goes along . . . well, I mean the natural problems are there also, but if we go ahead and this will be expensive, some day for somebody and I would hope that this is the kind of thing that Homeland Defense money would support.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Just to dovetail on that, I think you’re right, Chairman. One of the things that’s really upset me is that we’ve taken that Homeland Defense money that’s trickled down, and we’ve given, in our effort to make sure everybody is engaged, we’ve given a little to every entity out there and they’ve maybe bought a couple of gas masks or something that goes in a closet, because they may never use it. And that density of forming a team that can go out and help whoever has that disaster makes a lot more sense to me than letting everybody have a little bit of the money just to make them feel good, but they really don’t build any capacity at all, and what you’re talking about with this collaboration is building a capacity to solve these big issues when they happen, and the chances of an event happening are going to be slim in a lot of areas that don’t have much capacity. It’s going to be much more important to handle it when it happens, wherever it happens.”

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you. Commissioner McGinn.”

**Commissioner McGinn** said, “I appreciate your comments, Commissioner Winters, but you know I guess the thing that comes to my mind, when I think about a disaster, whether it’s natural or manmade, who do we see on the news? It’s our fire department. They’re the ones that have to be on the scene and figure out how do we get people out of there quickly or secure the area. I mean, I don’t know any other entity in our organization that has to be there first and tackle that job.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you. Commissioner Sciortino.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I share the same concern that you or focus. I mean, we have a . . . in my opinion, one of the best fire departments in the nation, with the training and the quality of people, but I want to make sure that we don’t overload those people. I mean, you know, whenever we get into contract negotiations, the union is, the one thing they tell us is we’re right here right now and, as far as stressing our people and keeping our people fresh enough to handle the primary mission, and my concern is is this going to put extra pressure on us that these people won’t be ready to handle the primary mission. It doesn’t even deserve a comment right now. It doesn’t even need a comment right now, it’s just that I’m sure you all have been thinking that through thoroughly and feel that this is something that we can still take on and not in any way jeopardize that or jeopardize our existing personnel when they’re trying to carry out their mission. So I’m definitely going to be supportive of this.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right then, Commissioners, are we ready for a Motion? Someone make a Motion.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

Chairman Thomas Winters                      Aye

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you all for being here and thank you all for being with us too.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Chief, just one other thing. Do you have a sense as to how soon the state will be dealing with this issue, so that we’ll know ‘Yes, no, maybe so’?”

**Chief Curmode** said, “No, at this time, no. I’m sure it’s ongoing, the discussion, they’ve been working on this for three years. They’ve talked to a lot of . . . Senator Kerr and a lot of different people. Of course, he’s retiring, but I think it’s an ongoing discussion and then we’ll look again at budget priorities and funding grants and so forth.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Well, let us know if we can help you in that.”

**Chief Curmode** said, “Thank you, Commissioners.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Joel, thanks for being here. Chief Denney, it’s good to see you again. Is there other business? And we do need to have an Executive Session in the Fire District. We need an Executive Session in the Fire District now and then we’ll come back and conclude the other meeting and have our bit of other business.”

**B.     OTHER**

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved that the Board of County Commissioners recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/ client relationship relating to legal advice and matters relating to employer/ employee negotiations and that the Board of County Commissioners return from Executive Session no sooner than 10:49 a.m.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

**VOTE**

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

**Chairman Winters** said, “We are adjourned into Executive Session.”

**The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m. and returned at 11:10 a.m.**

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, we are back from Executive Session in our Fire District #1. I’ll call the meeting back to order of Fire District #1. Madam Clerk, let the record show that there was no binding action taken in Executive Session. Is there any other business to come before the Fire District Board? Seeing none, the Fire District meeting is adjourned.”

**C. ADJOURNMENT**



**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

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

---

**THOMAS G. WINTERS**, Chairman  
Third District

---

**DAVID M. UNRUH**, Chair Pro Tem  
First District

---

**TIM R. NORTON**, Commissioner  
Second District

---

**CAROLYN McGINN**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

---

**BEN SCIORTINO**, Commissioner  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

---

**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, June 9, 2004**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2004