

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

July 26, 2006

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., on Wednesday, July 26, 2006 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Ben Sciortino, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Lucy Burtnett; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Bill Gale, Election Commissioner; Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Dr. Timothy Rohrig, Director, Forensic Science Laboratories, RFSC; Mr. Mike Mueller, Employment Specialist, Human Resources; Mr. Jim Weber, Deputy Director, Public Works; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. James McComas, Senior Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department; Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Human Resources; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Bryan Derreberry, 282 S. Pershing, Wichita, Ks., Wichita Chamber of Commerce.
Mr. Allan Allford, 18 Sandpiper Court, Wichita, Ks., Sedgwick County Zoo Board of Trustees.
Ms. Barbara Andres, Breakthrough Club.
Ms. Judy Frick, Communities in Schools.
Mr. Gaylord Dold, Development Director, Episcopal Social Services.
Mr. Larry Turner, Sedgwick County Extension Chairman.
Mr. Michael Germann, Spirit Aerosystems.
Mr. Jim Kelly M.D., Sedgwick County Medical Society.
Ms. Janet Valente Pape, Catholic Charities, Inc.
Mr. Steve Rooney, 9005 S. Tyler, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Bob Brewer, 973 S. Glendale, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Richard Taylor, 1330 E. 1st, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Stephen Cole, 1318 Stackman Dr., 11E, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Joellen King, 720 N. Kessler, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Sam Schrepel, 326 N. Madison, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Katie Gibbons, Breakthrough Club.
Ms. Marsha Hills, Alzheimer's Association.
Ms. Judy Pierce, 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Laurel Alkire, 200 S. Walnut, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. John Winslow, 2516 20th St. N., Wichita, Ks.

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GUESTS (con't)

Ms. Carolyn Bunch, 334 N. Topeka (KANSEL).
Ms. Dawn DeArmond, Big Brothers/ Big Sisters.
Ms. Tracy Hert, 307 N. Willow, Derby, Ks.
Mr. Terry Reeves, 420 N. Topeka, #16, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Cornelia Stevens, 555 N. Woodlawn, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Melissa King, 538 N. McComas, Apt. 1, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Mella Lee Dillard, 1301 S. Bleckley, Apt. 310, Wichita, Ks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Mark McMahon of West Side Christian Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

The Clerk reported that all commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of July 5th, 2006.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I believe you've had a chance to look at the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 5th. What is your will please?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of July 5, 2006.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item."

PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY 26 AS "NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE DAY."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, I have a proclamation that I'll read for your review. It says:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) is our nation's oldest human relations organization; and

WHEREAS, NCCJ works to fight bias, bigotry and racism and to promote understanding and respect among all people; and

WHEREAS, their award-winning programs such as Anytown Youth Leadership Camp and All Students Against Prejudice Clubs (ASAP) engage youth, as well as adults; and

WHEREAS, locally the Kansas Region of NCCJ will be hosting its annual Walk as One walk-a-thon on Saturday, August 5, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County is committed to being an 'Agent for Awareness' in this year's walk-a-thon, with many individual county employees involved in fundraising and participating in the walk; and

WHEREAS, the NCCJ Walk as One walk-a-thon should not merely cause us to promote diversity

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for one day, but rather it should be a reaffirmation of the importance of this philosophy on a daily basis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim today, July 26, 2006 as

‘National Conference for Community and Justice Day’

and encourage all citizens to actively promote breaking down barriers and respecting differences.

Commissioners, that’s the proclamation. What is your will?”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Burnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Commissioners, at this point I am, on behalf of the NCCJ, accepting this proclamation. I happen to have the opportunity and honor this year to be a co-chair of the walk-a-thon. The county has participated in that in the past and co-chair with Jackie Vietti, President of Butler County Community College. And that event was always a fun event and I encourage those of you who want to join us for that morning walking and for the fellowship and some good food, Ben, free food.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, I’ll be there.”

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Mr. Buchanan said, “And if you’re unavailable to do that, we just would humbly accept your money and walk on your behalf. Jenny Glusak is one of the interns this year and is also . . . she’s running the operations, the county’s participation in this operation, so if you’ve not contributed money to her for this event, she’ll be visiting you, so thank you for the proclamation.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Jenny, you stop by my office and we’ll talk, right after the meeting. Okay, thank you. Next item please, Madam Clerk.”

PUBLIC HEARING

B. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE RECOMMENDED 2007 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, you have received the adopted budget . . . the recommended budget last week. This is the first of a series of public hearings. The next one will occur in two weeks on August 9th. This is the point in time when you need to hear from the public, so Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that you open the public hearing and begin that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Well, I guess at this particular time we’re going to open the public hearing to discuss the 2007 recommended budget. Could I have a show of hands of the people that are going to be wanting to speak to us today? Golly, it’s going to be a lot of fun and a lot of people talking. So okay, if I could just maybe get you to start maybe coming up closer to the podium and as you see the line starts to filter down, maybe get in line and start to talk to us.

I would like to ask you all if you could possibly limit your presentation to us to three minutes and then also start by giving us your name and address, just for the public hearing, so we’ll start with you, Mr. Derreberry.”

Mr. Bryan Derrebery, 282 S. Pershing, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I want to thank you, on behalf of the Chamber’s board of directors and 2,000 business members for the opportunity to proactively support the county’s effort to strengthen our region’s workforce readiness and availability through the funding and introduction of the new Jabara Technical Training System and Campus. Ever current metro employers that is in a business growth mode and perspective employers who are considering locating in our community will have as one of their top consideration factors the availability and skill level of the region’s current and projected future work force.

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Skilled labor is skyrocketing up the scale of critical business assets for a number of correlated reasons. Area development site and facility relocation magazines 20th annual survey of corporate executives planning to expand or locate a new business drives home the point of our community's need to excel in providing technically skills and readily available labor.

Business owners sited the availability of a skilled and relevant workforce as the third most important criteria for locating or expanding in a community, closely trailing only the cost of labor and quality of infrastructure. Business owners, in looking to grow their companies or start up new business locations, are going to concentrate on six basic attributes of a location: it's geographic position, labor supply, access to transportation, overall operating costs, presence of certain industries and other macro-level attributes. If any one of these attributes is lacking, negative or absent it will hurt our region's ability to maintain its current business mix and capacity to attract new entrants to our marketplace.

The daily competition for both employers and employees is real and is being heightened by a number of contributing factors. Probably the most significant factor is that in the United States alone, 18,000 economic development entities and metro areas are competing for the same pool of employees and employers. Our aerospace manufacturing cluster a prime driver of our regional economy is going to be a constant attraction prospect for competing national and international communities. New Mexico and Arizona recently put our relocation filler to our aerospace companies. The competition for these high paid, high skilled jobs and accompanying business will only intensify in the years ahead, with baby-boomer retirement and the growing global mobility of all business, including manufacturers.

Recently, I heard one of our area's leading business executives make a very straightforward statement about the strong hand we currently have. We have the high-paying, high-skilled manufacturing jobs here. All we need to offer these employers is the trained employees they need at the volume and skill level they are seeking. Other regions are trying to strip these jobs away, by investing heavily in the development of skilled employees and intellectual capital and then offering this readily available workforce as an incentive to move.

I would encourage you today to stay on the same track and plain that you have with funding the Jabara Technical Education Training System and Facility. Nothing could be more important to our future than to provide area employers with technically skilled and ready employees. Thank you

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very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you sir. Commissioners, unless I see a light from you, I’m just going to assume that you had no comments to make of the individual speaker, but if anytime if a speaker speaks, you want to comment, just light . . . okay, Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “I just want one quick affirmation from you, Mr. Derreberry. You used words like ‘every’ and ‘all’ implying that the entire manufacturing community and those who are . . . the phrase you used ‘prosperity drivers’ and those sort of phrases, I just want to be clear, this request for us to continue full steam with this technical training facility and universally supported by the businesses and manufacturing concerns in our community.”

Mr. Derreberry said, “Commissioner Unruh, if I had that kind of power, I’d probably be doing something other than what I’m doing right now. What I can assure you is that each of these manufacturing entities that’s in a mode of developing their workforce looks to needs in the future. One of the things I’ve prepared in the testimony, didn’t have time to get to it, is how many people will be retiring in the next 10 years. America is going to face the greatest labor shortage it’s ever faced. Somewhere between 30 to 45% of our aerospace manufacturing employee pool will be retiring, so they’re going to be looking for trained and skilled employees and our ability to provide that will impact our community’s ability to grow. And I think anybody that realizes the spin-off impact of attendant jobs and attendant industries that are depending on that cluster for its health recognizes that this is definitely an investment in our future and the future wealth and well-being of all south central Kansas, so they understand. They know it’s an investment, and they’re encouraged by the fact that you’re willing to make that type of commitment.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Well thank you for that additional emphasis, but I think it’s important, not only for us to fully understand that, but for our citizens to understand that this is a matter that’s vital to the economic health of our area, not only in growth but just simply in retaining and maintaining our current economic situation, so it’s an important issue. I appreciate your comments. Thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you very much, sir. Next speaker please.”

Mr. Allan Allford, 18 Sandpiper Court, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here this morning representing the Sedgwick County Zoological Society. I’m currently the president of the board of trustees of that organization. I’m here to make a few brief comments about our relationship with Sedgwick County, our appreciation for that relationship, that long standing good-funding relationship and to acknowledge that we believe this is a shining example of

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how a public and private marriage can exist and prosper over a long term.

As many of you know, the Sedgwick County Zoo entertains almost a half million, more than a half million guests every year. We see it as a great resource for education, family entertainment and conservation in Sedgwick County. We're here to acknowledge the budget challenges and pressures that the commissioners face. We're here to indicate our support in your hard work in reconciling these issues and here to thank you for the continued support and funding that the county provides to the Sedgwick County Zoo. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Commissioner Unruh once again."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will refrain from comment on every person that speaks, but I just want to say that Allan . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Either that or we're going to have to call out for lunch and dinner."

Commissioner Unruh said, "But I just want to say that Allan had made those comments at the zoo board meeting just the other day. That he appreciated the good working relationship that that board had with Sedgwick County and that board is made up of some outstanding community citizens who are really supportive of that effort and they put their time and energy and money where their heart is. So it's working very well and you have been very flexible when we've had to draw back on some of the request that you've made of the county and so you're a great partner and I just want to make the statement, as you did, it's a great working relationship and we appreciate the effort of that board."

Mr. Allford said, "Thanks, Commissioner Unruh."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Ms. Barbara Andres, Breakthrough Club, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd like to talk to you today a little bit about mental health and mental health funding. I was looking at the budget and I noticed that mental health funding is not going to be cut and that's a good thing. But I was also looking at the budget and I saw something is going to be cut. There is something that's going to have to be juggled and what I'm concerned about in the whole thing is that we'll look at the whole county system and say 'Let's make some cuts, two, three, four percent across the board and I want to let you know that if that would happen in the mental health system that that could be very devastating.

The best way I can give you an example of this is I want you think back, a long time ago, when we used straightjackets to bind up people because they were out of control. On television, you would

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see people screaming madly and just being out of control in straightjackets but the reality of it was people were bound up in straightjackets with tears coming down their face, not screaming and yelling, but saying 'somebody help me' inside.

And I want you to know, in our system here in Wichita that if we cut mental health funding in any way that it's like putting an invisible straightjacket on people who desperately need support in Wichita, support for good jobs, support to finish school, young people who are just starting to deal with symptoms of mental illness. They need that support to keep going and not to become disabled.

So I just wanted to say to you, and you'll probably hear it from a few other citizens of Wichita, that when you consider the budget, don't touch mental health funding. Please don't cut mental health funding. I had about 15 people who were courageous enough to come and talk to you but they gave me letters to give to Commissioner Unruh and Commissioner Burnett because they're closest to us in where we serve people at Breakthrough Club, so if you want these . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "You can maybe just give them to Mr. Buchanan and he'll see to it that the commissioners receive them. Thank you, ma'am. Okay, Commissioner Unruh's light is not on so next speaker."

Ms. Judy Frick, Communities in Schools, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to voice support for the prevention fund and I mean the fund as a whole, not just Communities in Schools. I've reviewed the budget and it's obvious you have some really difficult decisions, with increased demands and decreased resources. And these factors really can add up to a tax increase in an election year, which is a most difficult situation and I would like to point out however, there has been no increase since 1998.

And I thought there were two major themes in the Manager's budget summary, investing for jobs and protecting people. In regard to the job part of this, the prevention fund is really about preparing kids for life, helping them stay in school, helping them be productive adults and we have to have positive outcomes in order to be funded, so I feel like what we're doing is working. In regard to protecting people, well obviously if we had been able to put more money in prevention, we probably would not be having to build a new jail and we all know that. And I think that, you know, our ultimate goal is successful, productive adults who will be our future taxpayers.

And as far as Communities in Schools and I'm sure all of the organizations in the prevention funds, we are also facing increased demand and decreasing resources. In regard to the demands, for example, in the Derby school system in the last five years the percent of school kids in poverty increased from 22 to 32%, which is significant. In addition, looking at the Wichita school district since we've been around in 1990, the poverty rate has increased from about 30% for free and reduced lunch to over 64%, so the needs are really very great.

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And I'm sure probably you've seen some of the recent articles of dropouts. There was an excellent one funded by the Gates' Foundation call the Silent Epidemic. You know, what it all means is that I really hope that you will continue to invest on the front end and all of us who are funded by the prevention fund truly appreciate the commission's support for prevention and for the funding that you have provided. It's very . . . I'm not coming up with the word, but it does certainly show some foresight on your part and we hope that you will continue to fund this effort and continue to put the money up front so that we don't have to put so much money in on down the road. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "How about it's encouraging? Is it encouraging what we're trying to do? Would that be a good enough word?"

Ms. Frick said, "Encouraging? Yes. Well it shows some vision."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I like that word even better. Thank you. Next speaker please."

Mr. Gaylord Dold, Development Director, Episcopal Social Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You may have heard of us, I'm not sure. We're located at 233 South Saint Francis and I'm here to talk to you about the prevention funds as well. It's my understand that there's been a recommended reduction of 5% and I don't want to reiterate what Ms. Frick has said, but I thought the best way for me to talk to you about what the prevention fund does at ESS and to argue in favor of maybe restoring the 5% is to give you a little snapshot of what our program does at ESS.

We have two programs. The one I'm most familiar with is called the Teen Intervention Program. It's been in operation at ESS since 1995. We see about 250 to 275 young people from ages 10 or 11 years old all the way up to 18 years old. Most of them have committed misdemeanors: shoplifting, thefts, vandalism, sometimes they have scuffles at school. We've also begun seeing truants and one of the things that we know for sure is that . . . and KDOC tells us is that prisoners that show up in state prisons and county jails have always . . . well, mostly have had experiences as juveniles offenders. So the point of the TIP program is to try to prevent these kids from continuing on, through the juvenile system on into the big people system. Every prisoner in Kansas costs taxpayers \$29,000 a year to house and feed those prisoners and to run programs for them.

A little snapshot of the TIP program, if you can imagine Monday and Thursday night, all through the year, seven sessions of seven weeks each, we have about 20 to 25 kids who come in on Monday night and Thursday night with their parents. They have a long orientation session. They sign

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contracts to monitor their behavior. We also ask them that they go to school every day. We also have a director who oversees the program. Her name is Amber Hendricks. She's back here now. Amber, you want to stand up just briefly. I ran the program for a while as interim director, so I really know what's going on as well.

That Monday and Thursday night orientation is very important, because we ask a lot of the kids. This program is run not by paid people, although Amber is paid. We have an assistant who is paid, but we have 18 or 20 wonderful volunteers who come in every Monday and Thursday night all through the year. There's no stop. We don't stop for summer. We don't stop for January. We just keep going.

Those volunteers come in at 6:30 and they don't leave until 8:30 or 9:00 at night. We have sessions in which the kids sit around the table, four or five at a table, with two mentors and they write letters of apology. They discuss heroes and role models. They talk about their offenses. They really develop relationships among each other."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Could you just give us an example . . . we're trying to limit you to two, three minutes. Do you have about how much longer you're going to need here?"

Mr. Dold said, "Well, I'll just finish up. At the very end of the program all through the year, we monitor the kid's recidivism rates. At the present time, we've found that about 93 or 95% of those kids don't show back up at JIAC or at the District Attorney's Office after six months and 85 to 90% of them are not showing back up in the system after a year, so we think this is a very cost effective program. It's also good for the kids of the county and I think the taxpayers are really getting a good bang for their buck, so I hope you'll consider the prevention funds, not cutting them."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. Larry Turner, 7502 Reflection Court, Wichita, Ks., Chairman, Sedgwick County Extension Council Executive Board, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This morning I'd like to thank the commission. Because of your past support, the Extension Office is alive with activities that are having a positive impact on the quality of life in Sedgwick County. Agents send about 10 or 15 of these to share with you but I'm only going to pick three examples that reflect the kind of impact that you would expect from your investment in extension services.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program created an opportunity for 60,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Sedgwick County to make a decision on the cost, coverage and convenience of acquiring

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prescription drugs. As you know, this became an almost impossible task for many our seniors. At the extension office, we sponsored the SHICP, the Senior Health Insurance Counseling Program and we were able to make a gigantic impact in helping save money for our seniors, as they made that decision.

From our state Department on Aging we receive figures from the Center for Medicare Services, indicating that we saved the Sedgwick County seniors \$2,789,000 during a six-month period from November 15th until May 15th of this year.

The Earth Program has seen a 58% increase in participation over the last year in Sedgwick County. According to the Kansas Water Plan, the county's watershed is listed as a protected priority area. The Earth Program is a unique educational approach which promotes prevention and awareness to our youth as a way of protecting our watershed and groundwater. 813 students signed a KDHE clean water neighbor pledge as a commitment to follow through with at least one water-friendly act to preserve and protect our water resources.

And the third example I want to share is our agents have spent much time promoting farmers' markets to local fruit and vegetable vendors. As a result, the amount of farmers' markets in the county has doubled. In 2005, there were four markets. Now we have eight markets. The Kansas Grown Market is now the largest farmers' market in Kansas. Finding a parking lot spot on Saturday morning at the Extension Office is becoming a real challenge. But the biggest challenge facing Extension is in the agricultural horticulture area. Sedgwick County ranks among the top five or six counties in wheat production and has more farms than most counties in the state. As you know and have heard before, almost 20% of our jobs and employment in Sedgwick County is agriculture related, so the need to provide research based information for crop management, risk management, livestock management and natural resource management continues. And at the same time, with the growth of new homes and businesses in Sedgwick County comes increased acreage or turf grass, trees, flowers, gardens, golf course and so forth. This brings additional employment in the commercial horticulture industry and landscaping companies, lawn installation, landscape maintenance, tree planting, pruning, garden centers and more.

I come to you today asking that funding in the amount of \$50,000 be provided so that an agent

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position at the Extension Council has frozen since 2002 be filled. This position would be in the area of agriculture/ horticulture. When funding was decreased in 2002, we had an agent accept other employment and much like you had to do, we froze that position to make ends meet. As a commission, you have a great concern about jobs in public safety. This position would support your concerns. Education that could be provided would help individual farmers by teaching them risk management practices that would enhance their bottom line, and if their production is greater, they have more resources to buy equipment, fertilizer and seed locally, thus helping agri business. The urban sector would benefit from learning what grasses, trees and fertilizers to use that work well in this area.

From the public safety standpoint, not only would this position educate homeowners and farmers as to the correct application of chemicals, but teach efforts regarding the National Animal ID System, known as NAIDS.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Sir, you said one minute and you’ve already gone over it.”

Mr. Turner said, “Can I have 30 seconds.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, sure.”

Mr. Turner said, “There is a great concern about origin or animals because of food safety issues and agents have been working with Sedgwick County Emergency Management to develop a response plan in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak, we would be heavily involved locally in supporting that. We know that \$50,000 flies in the face of a tight budget, but we believe the payback on that investment would be far greater in terms of agriculture, job support, environment management and food safety from livestock and crops.

We hope you will view this request as an opportunity to make a good business decision. In closing, we appreciate your willingness to hear our request. I appreciate the additional time. Bev Dunning is here also this morning, if there are any questions, we would try to entertain those.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, sir. There’s no question. I have a comment to make too. While my sense is there’s tremendous support for the Extension Service on this board, you understand we give a grant to the board. There’s no comment needed to be made. That it is at the

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discretion of the board what to do with that grant, hiring people, not . . . that's a business decision that the board makes. It isn't that 'unless we give you this money, you can't'. It's a decision you make to do whatever you wish with the money that we give you. It isn't earmarked for specific jobs. That's a decision you prioritize what is the best way to spend that money. Okay, next speaker please."

Mr. Michael C. Germann, 3801 S. Oliver, Wichita, Ks., Spirit Aerosystems, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would also mention a couple of volunteer things that I've been engaged in here in recent years. One is the Kansas Technical Training Initiative. I serve on the board of directors. I also am the chairperson of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas and one thing that I've learned in my some 20 years here in the Wichita/ Sedgwick County community is the relationship between workforce development and economic development. As I look at my friends and neighbors and colleagues here in the room, the subject matter that's before you today is of great interest to our community. And though sometimes I think being a county commissioners would be fun, at this time of the year where you're balancing all the needs and the interest of your various constituents it's extremely challenging and I don't envy your position at this time of the year."

There are always more needs to be addressed than there are resources to address those needs and so part of your job, of course, is to sort that out and try to make the best decisions you can. I would certainly urge and encourage everything that you can do to maintain the course and continue to course of building the Jabara campus. The technical education that is envisioned to occur at the Jabara campus is critical not only for today's needs but also for the future. I know you need to balance today's needs, the whole issue of public safety, roads and everything else to come before you but do not forget what we're trying to do for our future and if we don't make the bold steps today, and have the vision, we will not be able to have the workforce and the business and the economy that we need for the next generation and the generation after that. So I compliment you for your vision on the Jabara campus and I urge you to maintain the course. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Commissioner Unruh, did you have a comment?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "I wanted to ask Mike a question about you mentioned the other groups besides Spirit that you're involved with, the Workforce Alliance and with Kansas Technical Training Initiative and so your comments are representative of the members of those groups."

Mr. Germann said, "Yes, sir."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Is that it? Okay, next speaker please."

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Dr. Jim Keller MD, Sedgwick County Medical Society, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here representing the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, specifically as Chairman of the EMS Committee. On behalf of the physicians of the EMS Committee, we want to express our deep appreciation for your longstanding commitment to the EMS program in the county. The Medical Society has had a longstanding working relationship with the county commissioners and its staff to help bring to the county a quality EMS program within the available financial resources.

The Medical Society has reviewed the current year’s EMS budget request and supports those requests, specifically for the addition of the training crew personnel, which we think will free up the training of the EMS people, without taking units offline and we think that this is very important, as it also impacts the quality assurance of the program.

We also support the acquisition of the requested medical equipment budget items that is specifically a reply to the upgrades for the heart and lung monitoring and treatment systems. Finally, the Medical Society wishes to convey to the county commissioners and the staff a ‘Well Done’. Four years ago, recommendations were made to this commission and staff on what can be done to improve the system. To date, over 50% of those recommendations have been completed, specifically the addition of a full-time medical director, an advisory panel.

Of the other 50%, they are very near completion, for instance the unified protocols for the entire system. They’ll be coming online in August and finally of those that are remaining, they are in the budget process currently, specifically the request for this training of positions and finally the upgrade in the communication department for the whole system, so the Medical Society also wants to continue to support the council and its staff and their efforts to provide and maintain a quality, countywide EMS system. Thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, doctor. One comment I will make is that some months ago, this board refocused its priorities and one of the key areas of that focus was public safety and I think we could say, without any reservation that Emergency Medical Services fall under the umbrella of public safety and I just want to thank you, doctor. We all remember the kind of trying times that we had a few years ago and the partnership that this county has had with the Medical Society was a good one and I think the end result is we’re having a much more improved EMS service and it’s because of your organization working closely with us and I thank you for that. Thank you. Next speaker.”

Mr. Ron Paschal, Deputy District Attorney/ Team Justice, greeted the Commissioners and said,

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“I’m appearing before you on behalf of Team Justice, your advisory board on juvenile justice issues. I wanted to start off by thanking the county commission for supporting delinquency prevention funds since 1998, and specifically thank the county manager for continuing to show support for those delinquency prevention funds in the current budget, in light of the difficult budgetary times that we are facing. And to borrow some words from other individuals that have spoken here today, that is both encouraging and does show vision, with regards to these important issues because this particular part of the budget is a wise investment in Sedgwick County. It’s wise on at least two fronts.

First of all, for the obvious reasons that we’ve talked about today, community safety but also I think we need to step outside the box when we’re thinking about this and realize this is a wise investment for community growth because common sense tells us that safe communities are communities where property values are maintained, common sense tells us that safe communities are communities that are desirable to live in and to remain living in. And I think that’s what we’re really all talking about here, the evidence and the literature is pretty much conclusive, prevention works. An ounce of prevention costs far less than a pound of cure, so I want to praise you for this continued support and I’m hoping that in light of the complex issues that this commission has to decide, that you stay the course in this particular endeavor. I know you’re busy, I don’t want to reiterate what a couple of other folks have said, so thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you and just a second, I do think we have a question or comment. Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well Ron, I just wanted to make one quick comment and that was to thank the entire membership of the Team Justice or the Sedgwick County Juvenile Correction Advisory Board. We know that you all spend a lot of time working on things. There is . . . I’ve been involved with this since the creation of Team Justice and the creation of the new Juvenile Justice Authority. There is not a time when a juvenile justice issue does not come before this board when we do not say what does Team Justice say about this particular process, so we look very

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closely at the recommendations that you all do to filter and sift through all of the things that you do. So even though we may not be very active on the day to day membership of your committee, please take back to the committee that your work is very valuable to us and we do look at your recommendation on all of the state and local issues we get involved with, so thank you.”

Mr. Paschal said, “I certainly do that and we do appreciate your efforts as well. I’ll just mention that our chair, Karen Langston, has submitted a letter for your consideration.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “We have it here. Thank you. Next speaker please.”

Ms. Janet Valente Pape, Catholic Charities Inc., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’ve been in this community for a number of years now, 15 years managing Catholic Charities for the dioceses of Wichita. Last year, we served over 20,000 people. I’m here this morning to talk to you about the net capacity as an administrator and to acknowledge to you that I certainly understand and appreciate the challenges you have with this budget. I also want to thank you for your partnership with us because we have several points of intersection with the county, different funding streams that come to Catholic Charities that help us balance our budget and help us to provide enormous service to this community, while at the same time we’re trying to do our part by aggressively fundraising and increasing our efforts to secure the resources we need. So I want to thank you for that partnership and all of those dollars that come to us for our aging services and mental health and our work with the disabled are very, very critical to us.

I also want to make some comments as a taxpayer. In looking at the tremendous, I think very skillful efforts that this county staff has produced in the last number of years to bring budgets to us that have not required an increase for eight years, I think that is more than commendable. And if you look at what we’re talking about this year and where these increases are coming from, the Jabara Technical Facility that ties into those important economic development issues for this county. If you look at the jail expansion and the alternatives issue, these are not frivolous things. Our county manager, I think, has gotten this all of this down pretty much to bare bones and anything more at this point, if we don’t have a tax increase, is going to necessitate really cutting in at the heart of a lot of very critical things for this community.

I feel as a taxpayer that if I’m really honest and it’s going to cost me another \$40 extra a year, I have a responsibility at this point to think beyond myself to the common good. I mean, \$40 when you consider what’s at stake here, I think if many of us are honest and again, think about the common good, is something that we can sustain after we’ve seen a county struggle for the last eight years to hold things without a tax increase.

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So, I'm going to encourage you to stay the course and I for one as a taxpayer I'm going to support that and to do my best, in my circle of influence, to tell people how reasonable I think that is. This is still going to involve eliminating jobs. You're going to be doing consolidations. I don't know that we can ask anything more. I think we all have to do our part. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Yes, we do have a comment or question from Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well no, I just wanted to make the comment maybe we should let Janet talk . . . give her a little more time. We appreciate the . . . thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Mr. Steve Rooney, 9005 S. Tyler, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "President and director of the Machinist Union. My business address is 3830 South Meridian. Recently I had an editorial in the Wichita Eagle thanking this commission for their foresight to back this Jabara Campus. I think it's much needed here. I'm here today to ask you to continue to stay the course on that. The aircraft industry is important to our community and to Kansas. The people in Wichita, Sedgwick County and surrounding communities enjoy a higher standard of life because of the aviation industry. Companies here provide high paying jobs, which translate to a strong economy for our region and the state.

Keeping and growing the jobs here is very critical to this community. Many of us have worked in the aviation companies for years. We hope to put Wichita and Kansas on the map as an aviation leader and want to continue that course. We want these jobs to stay here and we want to continue to raise our families here. No one likes tax increases. We know that you struggle with difficult choices to serve the growing needs for our metropolitan area, but we appreciate your understanding that helping our companies stay competitive is ultimately about keeping people in Wichita employed.

Your decision to create a flexible aviation technical training facility will help us learn new skills needed in a changing industry. We see this as a partnership in job retention and growth and will keep the unions strong. This is an investment in our companies, our community and our state. We appreciate your leadership and understanding the future, long term value of this investment and I believe we will all reap the benefit for years to come. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. Bob Brewer, 973 S. Glendale, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm with

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the Society of Professional Engineering Employees here in Wichita, representing engineers and technical workers at both Boeing and Spirit and the address for that is 973 South Glendale. And I'm here also to talk about the Jabara Training Campus. As Steve said very well, we all know that the aircraft industry is very important to the community here in Wichita. We do have a higher standard of living. We know that it's estimated approximately two and a half additional jobs are created for every aircraft industry job here in Wichita in some type of support role.

And from SPEEA, we look at the data constantly. We're kind of the brainy group. You know, we're call the nerds a lot and we've been watching the demographics at . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see a plastic pocket protector, but that's okay."

Mr. Brewer said, "We've been watching the demographics for several years and it's our belief that both Boeing and Spirit, given the age right now, are definitely on a demographic train wreck. And I see the training center a way out of that thing. The next ten years, there's going to be thousands and thousands of employees retiring, just from the south end of the campus down in where we're at. I think we have a great opportunity in front of us to address these issues and what that means is investing in our future. What a great opportunity for the community to come together with all the surrounding businesses, identify the future skills, do the assessments, figure out what the needs are, put together a training program so that you can spread this across the board. Put together a training package that would allow people to move to any industry here in Wichita, don't limit this just to aviation, although I'm kind of partial to it. But put people and give them the opportunity to transition into those jobs.

A lack of resources here is going to be detrimental to this community. I already personally know that we've seen work leave this area because the resources have not been made available and I think that's very critical. I think we need to do our part, step up, stay the course and all become involve and continue down the path that you're headed. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. I don't see any comment . . . I do have a comment here. Commissioner Norton please."

Commissioner Norton said, "I see Richard getting ready to come up, but Bob and Steve, I think

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it's admirable that for so many years we always thought that it was business and unions, you know, on both ends of the spectrum, and we understand now that the waters got to go up for all the boats to go up. We've all got to be in this together. That it's about jobs, but it's about business doing well so they can create jobs and create a trained workforce and I think we've been dedicated, we've worked on this for quite a few years, but I think it's certainly admirable that now it's everybody thinking about our community holistically instead of about their own boat. And I think that's wonderful that you're here representing your unions well, but also understanding that what's good for Wichita will be good for all of your workers too, so thank you for being here."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. Richard Taylor, 1330 E. 1st, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Business manager for the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union of Kansas and also for the Central and Western Kansas Building Trades. And there's already been a lot of positive comments for the Jabara Training Center and so I'm not going to get into a long spiel about it, but I do want to stand here and support representing the building trades that we do want to reinforce everything that has been said about the training center.

We understand the importance of continued training with our apprenticeship programs that we've had for years and years and this is not an imaginary thing, as far as the way the demographics are showing. It's not just industry. It's manufacturing industries, construction, nurses, all across the board there's going to be a shortage of trained workforce over the next ten to fifteen years, as the baby boomers start to retire, so we definitely are in favor of this and want you to stay the course. We appreciate your vision, your foresight, all the words that have already been used in this project, and do want to see you continue forward with it.

One statement or comment I'd like to make, I am involved in several committees and groups, you know, throughout the community and one thing I hear from a lot of the manufacturing type business owners is that they have already turned down substantial work just because they don't have the trained, qualified workforce, the employees to do the work. So that not only means . . . those are job opportunities for citizens of south central Kansas that could be filled. They're good, high paying, high quality jobs that are being missed out on because there's just not the training right now available for it. And so, if that training could be provided, it's going to be a positive thing. It's also going to produce a person working in a position making a good salary that's going to be buying goods and services from this community, spending their money, paying taxes and that's something that helps all of us. So again, just want to reinforce that. We stand behind you 100% and would very much like to see this project go forward. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you for those kind words, Mr. Taylor. Next speaker please."

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Mr. Stephen Cole, 1318 Stackman Drive, Apt. 11E, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “Without the mental health that I do get, it’s hard for me to say this . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “That’s okay. You just take your time, sir.”

Mr. Cole said, “I’ve lived on my own for 11 years. Without the mental health as it is, I would be in the hospital. And I go to Breakthrough, which is a very good place to help me. That’s about it.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you for speaking to us, sir. Next speaker please.”

Ms. Joellen King, 720 N. Kessler, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I have both received care and work at a job as a mental health service provider at different times in my life. Approximately 95% of the time, I function as a contributing member to society, using my post graduate degree, but when my brain chemistry becomes off balance, I use the mental health services that this county helps with financially.

Without this assistance, it would take much longer to return to gainful employment in our community. While I realize that this board of commissioners is trying to save all of us money, I firmly believe that the funds allocated for mental health services ultimately reaches that goal. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you for your presentation, ma’am. Next presenter please.”

Ms. Sam Schrepel, 326 N. Madison, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m a member of Breakthrough Club. I want to speak to you folks on behalf of your vision for the mental health. As Jody has said, most of us can function well. Jody and I have been substitute teachers in the past. I have worked on my Masters and occasionally we have dips. I’ve known homelessness myself and it’s at those times that we need the support. So it’s a proactive thing that I ask you to think of, that’s it’s more economically feasible for us to be given our supports continually, rather than to after the affect put a lot of money into rescue us from the homelessness of whatever the pitfall that we’re in, that you have the vision to keep our supports going and thank you for your time.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, ma’am. Next speaker please.”

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Ms. Katie Gibbons, 1119 N. Peterson, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I also work at Breakthrough Club, 1005 East 2nd Street. I just want to let you know that I have had a brother and a sister who have been in the mental health system as receivers of mental health services. They were both institutionalized for different periods of time. My brother, in the 1980s, was institutionalized twice for at least two or three years each time. I just want to let you know that in the '90s, when I first started working at Breakthrough Club, the agencies in this area pulled together and developed services around folks that helped keep them out of the hospital, helped them go back to work, helped them to live independently and you just don't see the long hospitalizations like you used to. And we need to have the services continue, so that we can continue to help people and I just hope that you'll continue to help support mental health funding.

The other thing I wanted to say is I agree with the previous presenter and I'd be willing to forego a few cheeseburgers this year so that if I need to pay more taxes to help provide services, I'm willing to do that, so thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Ms. Marsha Hills, 347 S. Laura, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association and we're located at 347 South Laura. We currently receive funding from the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging for one of our information and referral help line services. I want to thank you for helping to make this possible in the past and your insight of the issues facing our senior population.

You have many difficult decisions to make in your budget process. Please keep in mind the valuable assets this age population brings to our community. The programs and services you fund allow our seniors independence and a true quality of life. With this in mind, I ask when you are considering your budget for 2007, that you keep an eye to the future for all of us. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Ms. Judy Pierce, 3830 S. Meridian, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm president of the Wichita/ Hutchinson Labor Fed. I'm also here today to support the Jabara Training Center. Our members work here in Wichita. They live here in Wichita. They pay taxes in Wichita. They spend their money in Wichita. We have been the backbone of Wichita for a long time. We do need people trained. We need them trained to replace us. We've talked about all the baby boomers. I'm a baby boomer. I'll soon have 41 years at Raytheon Aircraft and I'm ready to retire

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in a few years and I'd like someone there to replace me, so that I have jobs that are available for my children, my grandchildren and for those people that do not want to go to college that want to go out to the plants and work.

So with that, I want to thank all the commissioners. Again, I will reiterate what the others have said, your foresight and vision in this, I think is great. It's great for this community. It's great for the people, so with that please stay on course and fund the Jabara Training Center. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. One thing I would just like to make a comment. Mr. Norton mentioned that he was very pleased that the private sector and organized unions have been working together proactively, but I do want to say I've been on this board now for eight years, and given the projects that we've started, like the arena and what have you, it's the first time in my experience that labor has come up and proactively said 'we want to be part of the solution' and it was very refreshing. So this Jabara Campus is actually going to be a partnership of business, like Commissioner Winters . . . Norton said, excuse me, government and labor and I am convinced . . . it's very trying times, but I am convinced that together, the three of us can accomplish this and make sure that the people that are presently employed in the aircraft industry will retain their jobs and they have the right to believe that the opportunity will be there for their children and their grandchildren.

And this board did reprioritize our focus for 2007 in job creation retention and public safety and I don't know how we're going finally shake out this budget, but I feel confident that I can speak for this entire board, Judy, when I say we will not abandon you. Thank you. Next speaker."

Ms. Laurel Alkire, 200 S. Walnut, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Executive Director of Senior Services Inc. of Wichita and I'm here to represent the seniors of our community. I want to thank the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners for your longstanding commitment to the seniors of Sedgwick County. You have been a solid source of funding for our programs and for other aging service providers. Without that mill levy funding, many of our senior programs would not exist and therefore older citizens would not be able to remain independent and involved in our community.

I realize that you have very difficult decisions concerning the 2007 budget. You have many priorities and must approve a balanced budget. As you make these decisions, I urge you to consider how essential your support has been to the most vulnerable segment of our population, our seniors. In-home services, such as our Meals on Wheels program or our Roving Pantry Grocery Shopping provide valuable assistance to help older adults remain in their homes, and out of care facilities, thus bringing tremendous tax savings to all of us.

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The Sedgwick County Commission has always been a major supporter of our area senior centers. You have always realized that these centers are more than just crafts and games. You understand that senior centers provide physical and mental stimulation, health promotion, important education on a variety of topics that affect our seniors and most important, socialization for many older adults who would otherwise be isolated without that support. I believe that the involvement of thousands of seniors in our area senior centers keeps them off our in-home services rolls, and saves all of us money in the long run. You also support our senior employment program, which continues to see large numbers of older workers seeking employment, whether because of financial need or a desire to remain involved.

In part because of your support of our program, last year we were recognized as the most affective permanent employment agency in our area. Putting older workers to work makes sense. They contribute to the tax rolls, to our communities, and stay off assistance programs that are funded by tax dollars.

Finally, I want to say that seniors in Sedgwick County are lucky to live in Sedgwick County, where our commissioners truly care about the welfare of our older residents. I am constantly surprised to learn that many service providers in other areas of the state do not have this type of local support, so I can't help but brag that I live in a place where our county leaders step up to the plate. I trust that you will do your best to assure that the needs of our seniors continue to be met. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Mr. John Winslow, 2516 E. 20th Street N., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a member of Breakthrough Club and I have had services from quite a few of the mental health places. But what I wanted . . . I want to thank the commission, the chair for allowing me the opportunity for a few minutes this morning. Really what I want to say is simple. I believe in get up, speak up and shut up. I just want to say that I know the commission does a good job in weighing everything, but I want to make a strong voice and say that my biggest concern is with the mental health budget.

And as I understand right now, COMCARE has been . . . the budget hasn't been touched. For that I

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am grateful, but in case other issues are coming up where you need to cut funding, I want to let you know that in Sedgwick County the mental health system is so fragile that it cannot stand a cut and if it's at all possible, when you go to cut other phases of your budget, remember that when you cut the mental health any lower, it could have tremendous conditions, I'll put it like that.

Because holistically speaking, it's not just mental illness but it transcends across a lot of things, homelessness, substance abuse, all kind of things are tied up into this one thing, so give it some consideration when you get your cuts and you have to make some more cuts and remember, right now in Sedgwick County mental health system is very, very fragile. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Very well said. Next speaker please."

Ms. Carolyn Bunch, 334 N. Topeka, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm just here to speak about the prevention funds, but after hearing . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now if you could just for the record please give your name."

Ms. Bunch said, "I'm sorry, I forgot. I'm Carolyn Bunch. I guess I figured you guys all know me so well. But I'm Carolyn Bunch and I'm the executive director of KANSEL at 334 North Topeka. And we receive funding from the prevention funds for at-risk youth. I also I want to say first I agree with Janet wholeheartedly. She's such an eloquent speaker, but as a taxpayer, I think that you've made excellent decisions in our community and I'm proud to live in this community, because we do have the best services. I think we saw that several years ago, when all of the agencies had to provide services after the tornado and after some other catastrophic events in our city and I'm just proud to see that.

We do appreciate very much the commission's vision, as Judy said, about the prevention funds because it works. We've had a prevention fund program now since 1997 and we can see the evidence of that. We know that anywhere from 95% to this last quarter 100% of the kiddos that come to our school do not re-offend and that speaks to protecting our citizens. We've got them busy, so they don't have time to go out and get in trouble. The next quarter they might, we don't know, but we do know that they don't re-offend. They get their GEDs, they finish their education and they go to work and that's what it's all about, or they go on to school and so it works. We know it works and we appreciate your support in our community and I certainly appreciate the decisions that you have ahead of you. Thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Ms. Dawn DeArmond, 310 E. 2nd St., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the

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president and CEO of Kansas Big Brothers/ Big Sisters and we're located at 310 East 2nd. I'm not going to talk to you a lot about our program, because most of you already know us very well, you've been on our boards, you're a donor, you've supported us for many years. I do want to talk to you a little bit about the prevention funds and how that helps our community through our kids. As you probably already know, but just a little bit more detail of what type of children we work with and who we work with. The kids range in age from five to seventeen and right here in Sedgwick County 90% of the kids that we work with come from a single parent situation. Ten percent of those kids live with a grandparent. Seventy-three percentage of the kids in our program are at or below poverty level. Forty-three percentage of the kids have been abused or neglected. Sixty percent of the kids are referred to us by a parent, 20% by their school and 20% by another resource: SRS, Mental Health Centers, that sort of thing.

One of the things you may not know too is we have, the last couple of years, we have really tried to stress the importance of matching children from incarcerated parents. We know that children that come from an incarcerated parent situation are seven times more likely to re-offend than their peers that don't come from that situation. We are a proven program. We have national statistics, scientific proof that our program does work and just a couple of points on that. Forty-nine percent of our kids are less likely to use drugs after being matched in our program. Twenty-seven percent are less likely to use alcohol. Fifty-two percent are less likely to skip school and thirty-three percent are less likely to resort to violence as a means of resolving a situation.

So through the funds that we get from the county, this is where your dollars are going, to support the children of the community, to make better citizens to go on to work in the aerospace systems and the other great programs that you support, so I'm just here to say thank you and I hope that the prevention funds stay in place, and we don't get cuts in that area. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am."

Ms. DeArmond said, "Oh, I also brought a packet that I can drop off with someone."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Why don't you just leave it with the manager right now, ma'am and he'll disperse it to us. Thank you so much. Next speaker please. Welcome."

Ms. Tracy Hut, 307 N. Willow Drive, Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have a son that's 11 years old that's been getting help at COMCARE MHA for seizures. He's doing better and hopefully by the time he's an adult he won't be in jail. He will be paying taxes and helping our community. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you ma'am. Next speaker please, sir."

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Mr. John Terrance Reeves, 420 N. Topeka, Apt. 16, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "If you want to Google me, my birthday is 4/16/45 or send me a birthday card. I'm here to speak primarily about mental illness this morning. I've had mental illness since about 1982, which a little over 30 years and how I haven't been particularly miserable with it, but have been struggling with it for all that time, a lot of different doctors, been hospitalized I think about five times. In all these hospitals here in town and once in Prairie View out there. I've been treated very well. I'd just like to say I think I work with MHA, Project Independence, COMCARE, Breakthrough, and they've all been a benefit to me. Sometimes a little painful working with them, they've helped me along and what they do is they give me opportunity.

Each one is a little bit different, okay, so you go to the one you might get opportunities in education. Well, working to go to another, you might get opportunities for a more social life and stuff and at COMCARE it's a different thing too, therapy and psychiatrists and things. So I've kind of kept on the move and managed with help to keep a good, positive attitude and my prognosis is psycho-effective. They just changed it, kind of fine-tuned it a little bit. I thought I was bipolar. I felt pretty good on the manic side, I know that. I think I'm a little that way this morning too.

But anyhow, I've been blessed by that. And one of the big things they've put in is COMCARE put in a crisis center for people who have difficulties and can get there. Their friends can get them there. They can hop the bus or whatever, it's 24/7 and that's, I think, one of the best things they've provided because it used to be you'd have to go to the emergency room and it was a mess. All you do is sit down and talk with these people and they can talk to you in about ten or fifteen minutes and find out whether you're on your meds and stuff and get you some help and you don't have to go to the hospital, necessarily. They put me up over one night at a motel, because I was pretty paranoid. That doesn't help any too often, but I talked to them and I was pretty rational, and they thought, 'this guy might have something to be worried about' so they put me up for one night in a motel and I thought that's a little money, unexpected of course.

I wasn't in the budget, but they found it somewhere. I'm thankful for that and anyhow, just doing quite well at this point and my Doctor Lauronilla out at COMCARE for my psychiatrist and Linda Jordan for a therapist, she's working very well. MHA provides Gabby, he's an Egyptian man for a case manager and then I've got two attendant cares, Dorothy and Pam that help me out with my housekeeping and run the errands and stuff so I'm getting excellent care and I would like to keep it. If you need to squeeze it a little bit, that would be okay, but I'd like for you to try not squeeze it but just keep it the same. So, that's about all I have to say.

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I did want to tell you that Abe Lincoln was a chronic depressive, everybody knows that, and they say that people visiting his house during the . . . it was the White House, during the Civil War, could hear him in his bedroom at night crying and praying, okay, and that touched me about him. And then also he was in a debate one time with Michael Douglas and Michael Douglas said, 'Mr. Lincoln, you sir are two-faced' and Lincoln said 'Mr. Douglas, if I was two-faced do you think I'd be wearing this one?' My three minutes is up. I've got to get for you guys."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much sir, and it was very refreshing and maybe you can come back some other time. I like some of your antidotes. Thank you so much. Next speaker please."

Ms. Cornelia Stevens, 655 N. Woodlawn, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the director of the COMPEER program of the Mental Health Association. We have many representatives here of the association to speak on behalf of mental health funding and I have heard, time and again, that at this point you are not considering any reductions but I would just like to speak on behalf of the Mental Health Association to encourage you to kind of maintain the funding as it is. We receive funding on behalf of allocations granted to us from Sedgwick County COMCARE and those funds are really used to help people have a quality of life that everybody in this community deserves. And they are used to help people gain employment, to finish educational goals, to live in homes and be independent and function by themselves.

I also am here speaking to you as a parent of a child who has a mental illness. Three months ago I adopted a child in foster care, 13 years old, that has three mental health diagnosis and I can say as a mental health professional that's worked in the field for many years, I honestly did not truly understand the importance of the services that we provide. Provided until I had someone living in my home that needed those services, and I found that really strange to say because I thought I had spent all this money on an education and all this money working in the Mental Health Association and I just knew so much and I just knew he'd move into this home and it would be no challenge and it wouldn't be a struggle at all and I can tell you that I had no clue.

I didn't understand the value and I now look at the services that are offered in this community in a very different light because it affects my home and I think if you all could just close your eyes and imagine what it would be like to have a child living in your home that is on several medications and is not able to control his behaviors due to chemical imbalances in his mind. And image how you would function as parents, then you would also understand, as I know you do, the reason for this funding, so thank you for your continued support of mental health and of our services. Thank you."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you so much. Next speaker please."

Ms. Melissa Ming, 538 N. McComas, Apt. 1, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a member of the Mental Health Association and I'd just like to say that they've helped me out immensely. It was about a year ago I was hospitalized, and after I got out of the hospital, I had a chance to join the Mental Health Association and the thing that's helped me the most is my job employment specialist, who that's a service they provide at Mental Health Association. She's worked with me closely and I've held several jobs in the community and am now a taxpayer, so I commend you on your former support of the Mental Health Association and the funding and I'd like to see that continued, so I thank you for your time and attention."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you so much for speaking. Next speaker please."

Ms. Mella Dee Dillard, 1301 S. Bleckley, Apt. 310, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've had mental illness since I was seven years old. We have good groups in MHA. They have jobs. They have education and all. I hope this don't get cut, because we need funds, just like anybody else. If they get cut, it's going to do a lot. I don't want to have depression again. I don't want to have isolating again and I don't want to be back in the hospital. I spent half of my life in hospitals and psychiatrists and therapists and I had a drinking problem and I've been in that 17 years in AA now and that helps, the meetings and everything, to go to that. I hope you think about, you know, keeping our mental health up and helping us."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you so much. Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to address us, pertaining to the proposed 2007 budget? Seeing none, I'll limit the comments to the bench. Commissioners, do you have any comments, based on the speakers that you heard today? If not, we can move on to Mr. Buchanan's presentation. Excuse me, we do have one. Go ahead, Mr. Buchanan, I know you're older and it will take you a while to get to the podium, so Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "I was just going to . . . maybe the manager has a . . . I think I know the answer, but we will also have, the day we adopt the budget, which is August 9th, a public hearing at that time. Is that correct, Mr. Buchanan?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Winters said, "The day we adopt the budget, we will also take public comment."

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Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes. The first agenda item that morning will be more public hearing."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, Mr. Buchanan, let's have fun."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Sciortino, I think you need to officially close the public hearing."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yes, I'm sorry. Officially, the public hearing is now closed and all comments will be limited just to the bench and we will have another public hearing on August 9th and if any of you would like to come to us again and speak to us on particular items, please feel free to do so. Mr. Buchanan."

Mr. Buchanan said, "It's the next agenda item."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, I'm sorry. Okay, next agenda item please."

C. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY MANAGER TO PUBLISH A NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE RECOMMENDED 2007 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, this is the part of the process where you adopt the upper limits of our expenditures so that we can advertise it in the newspaper, and that advertising establishes the clock ticking for the public hearing, for the next public hearing and the adoption. This is . . . there's a resolution before you that has a budget of 32.12 mills. It's a slight reduction from what was recommended to you at the recommended budget last year [sic]. It reduces the increase to 3.369 mills. We began this process in October/ November of last year and then not too long ago I reported to you that because of all the things on our plate that we were looking at a seven and a half mill increase and last week I presented you, after working diligently with the department heads and others, a mill levy increase of a little over three and a half mills.

You've asked me to come back with some other ideas and ask for some suggestions. I have some positive information, positive is that since last week, we finalized our healthcare benefit with a Request For Proposal. It is a . . . it saves, and you'll hear a little later on in the agenda at Bid Board a report on that, but we had to make a change because if we had maintained the status quo, the health insurance cost would have exceeded several million dollars more than what we're currently paying.

So we put together a group of employees from around the organization to look at healthcare, try to

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find the best systems and wrote a Request For Proposal that I think accomplishes that and will save this organization \$459,060, which helps us reduce the mill levy request, that's of course if you approve the plan at the end of the meeting.

This 3.369 mill, for a homeowner of \$100,000 house is \$38.74 annually, or \$3.23 a month. We remind you again that we've eliminated 97 positions and again, in the last two years, this year another 46, that's a total of 143 positions over the last three years, since 2003. You'll recall that in 2004 we based that 2004 budget, and this sounds like a shell game, we based the 2004 budget on 2002 expenditures, and then the next year, 2005, we reduced that again by 4%. The tax supported . . . excuse me, the local funded supported programs of Sedgwick County grew at a rate of 1.6%, 1.6% it grew.

I think we've done an incredible job of managing those resources. We have, with this budget, have met the changing needs in our community and we have a critical need, as you've heard, for skills work . . . for aviation workers and we have a need for increasing the jail because of the jail population. You asked that the Sheriff come address some of those issues, but before the Sheriff does, I'd like Bob Lamkey, as a key staff person for the CJCC, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, to walk through and remind us of where they have been. Bob."

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, "But today I'm speaking on behalf of the CJCC, reflecting on the CJCC master plan that was presented to you in November of last year. And if you recall, that master plan was really the culmination of over a year's worth of work by really the experts in criminal justice in this community and I'll later show you just a reminder of the folks that were part of that process.

And after much thought and after much gnashing of teeth and really looking at issues very significantly. A key recommendation to you from the CJCC is to expand the detention facility and implement alternatives at the same time. That a parallel track is the best way to address current and future needs. It's a better and more cost effective long-term criminal justice outcomes for our community.

And in that, we did a lot of work as a facility subgroup and with a larger group and came to you in partnership with the Sheriff with a recommendation for 384 direct supervision beds. Those are the most flexible configuration for inmate management and the Sheriff can address that a little bit more, and again, this recommendation was consistent with the CJCC guiding principles.

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A simple reflection here, on the next slide, this shows basically the adult detention housing trends. This does not include booking. The items in the red are the historical trends from 2000 to 2005 and they reflect the average daily population of the detention facility, the work release facility and out-of-county housing. It doesn't deal with the variations on a daily basis the Sheriff has to deal with, but it aggregates that data, average daily population over a year.

Through the first six months of this year, the average daily housed population, again not including booking, is about 1,440, which puts it essentially right on this track. This is an unaffordable track. We all understand that. We all look at that. The implications, if we continue just to build, are staggering for our community.

You have been courageous enough to invest in alternatives and we are starting that process now. Their inception, two significant alternatives are in their initial phases of development and whereas it's probably overly optimistic to say we'll flatten that line out, what I think is important, we'll change the slope of that line significantly so that it will be a longer time before facilities demand presses a future commission.

However, today the recommendation of the CJCC and these are some of the folks that were on the CJCC when those decisions were made, as you can see we have folks from the 18th District, the Municipal Court of Wichita, the District Attorney, the Sheriff, Commissioners, City Council persons, the County Manager, public defenders, city prosecutors, the Chief of Police, folks from our helping agency, COMCARE, Corrections, myself and we had a significant help in this process from non-voting members, Judge Owens from the 18th Judicial District, Kathy Sexton was involved in this process before her departure, Ed Randels, Delores Craig-Moreland brought the intellectual capacity of W.S.U., Paula Downs in Facilities, Bob Hinshaw who is now the Undersheriff, Linda Baughman with Technology and Mary Orr of Support.

So I guess what I would say to you commissioners is that the CJCC recommendation still stands, that it is appropriate for you to move forward both with the design and building of a jail addition and the implementation of alternatives, so I'll stand for any questions that you may have, again regarding this or our master plan."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see any questions at this time, Bob, but you might make yourself available should there be a question somewhere later on in the presentation."

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Mr. Lamkey said, "I'll be here, sir."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you."

Sheriff Gary Steed greeted the Commissioners and said, "And I appreciate the opportunity to speak today. Bob did a wonderful job here and said many things much more succinctly than I can. I have several pages of notes and I'm going to be able to cut through those pretty quickly, I think. I appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight here a little bit. I keep hearing public comments that the Sheriff wants to build a new jail. It's of course not quite the issue that we're talking about. It's not the Sheriff wants to build the jail. We need to expand our current facility. We're not building a new jail.

We're simply expanding it, but as you can see, it's an issue that's been studied quite detail for several months, in fact a couple of years now, to look at what the opportunities are, and we have set about a good plan through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee on a couple of simultaneous tracks to address the issues that I have to deal with over at the Sedgwick County Jail with the rising inmate population, so it's not just that the Sheriff wants to expand this facility. It's a master plan that we have developed, as county government, to deal with this rising inmate population.

There's a couple of points that I want to make here. First is that we're the only detention facility in Sedgwick County. All of the agencies in Sedgwick County bring their inmates to our custody and I do not control the ins and outs of this facility. We have to take all the inmates that come here. Now, we're not like the prisons or some of the programs that we have, where we can evaluate when we can handle those inmates. We have to be able to take those, when those inmates are brought to us.

And I don't want to bore the commission with a lot of numbers. I know that a couple of you are on the CJCC and are awfully familiar with the numbers and we've talked in private about those and we always talk about the average daily numbers and you know, we don't have to deal with the average daily numbers on the average day. We have to deal with the total number of inmates that we have. We can look at averages, but we have to deal with all of those inmates that are brought to our door and that we have to work through.

We have several current programs that help us deal with the inmate overcrowding that I know you're familiar with. Work Release is one of those programs that we have and as you know, we've

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already double-bunked Work Release. Work Release is full and I understand that there is a waiting list of Work Release of only about eight or nine inmates, so I think we're using that resource to the extent that we can use it.

And as you know, we send many inmates, in fact today we have about 230 inmates housed in other counties throughout Kansas at a considerable expense. That's a limited resource for us. We run out of inmates that we can send to out of county and we run out of . . . we can't send inmates that have behavioral problems. We can't send inmates that have medical problems and we can't afford all of the beds that might be available out there in Kansas. Some of those beds are a little bit more expensive than we can afford. It's not a good option for the inmates. It's not good because families can't visit and it's not a good option for the criminal justice system, because we have to have inmates available to be talked to by attorneys and prepare for court and have them back, so it bogs down the system. I think currently we're probably spending about \$4,000,000 a year housing inmates in other counties.

And of course we've begun the process that I consider one of our last-ditch efforts for dealing with the housing of inmates and that is double-bunking of inmates in our facility. And of course, as you know, in some talks that we've had, that is a limited resource for us as well. So plan to eventually double-bunk about 180 inmates.

Consequences of not building this facility or not adding to the facility of course includes an additional strain on an already strained facility. It creates dangers to inmates and staff. It creates some tremendous operational strain on the facility, in terms of our inability when we become overcrowded, our inability to operate according to the way the facility was designed and according to the way we have developed our policies and procedures to do our jobs, and we actually do it pretty well. We experience increased staff turnover and we have an investment in that staff. They are highly trained and well equipped and when we have staff turnover, then we start having personnel problems as well. It could increase the ability for us to be sued. As you know, I'm pretty proud of our record with lawsuits and how I've reduced the number of lawsuits that Sedgwick County and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office has been involved in. It reduces our ability to properly classify inmates and put them in the proper type of housing as well. And then, it also increases the possibility of just plain mistakes being made while we work. It burdens the entire criminal justice system, because it makes inmates late for court when we have so many inmates. You know most people don't realize we take between 60 and 100 inmates out of our facility every

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day and bring them over here to the courthouse for court appearances and sometimes those are delayed because of a strained and overcrowded facility.

And of course as you know, we don't know what legislation is coming at the state level so we don't know, over the next three years, and by the way it's my belief it will take one year to design the facility and two years to build. We don't know what kind of legislation is out there, over the next three years, that will impact our inmate population because that has been one of the things that has impacted it the most. And again, one of the greatest consequences of not building and building in a timely fashion is simply that we would run out of beds and not have a place to put all these inmates.

I believe that the CJCC must continue its work. I think we're on a good plan. It's a good program.

We need to continue that. I'm very proud of the operations of our current facility and the personnel that staff it. They work under very difficult circumstances and they do their job extremely well.

Recently I read that Wichita and Sedgwick County is one of the ninth best places to live and one of the reasons was because of public safety. The detention facility and the ability to incarcerate offenders and bring them to justice is an important part of public safety in our community. The detention facility is the gatekeeper to the criminal justice system and in order for us to have an effective criminal justice system and a safe community we must have an effective and well run jail.

With that, I would stand to answer questions."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Gary, before . . . there might possibly be some, but I believe I heard a number and I need you to authenticate that. About 80% of our inmate population right now are people that are . . . they're not guilty. They're waiting trial? Is that true?"

Sheriff Steed said, "That's a point I must have failed to make, but our trial [sic] is a pre-trial holding facility. Most of the inmates in our facility, I'm not sure of the exact percentage, but probably 80% is a good estimate, are inmates that are waiting to go to trial. They have not been convicted of the crime that they're in jail for. They may have a previous criminal history, but most of them are pre-trial and have not been convicted."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And there are certain, if I . . . I tried to study up on this last night, but isn't there certain different ways that they have to be treated, as opposed to a person that's already convicted?"

Sheriff Steed said, "Well, that's exactly right. That's kind of a simplification, but that's exactly . . ."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "That's the only way I understand it."

Sheriff Steed said, "Yeah, you have different constitutional requirements for someone who is convicted and a different way to manage people, just on a common sense basis. The average stay of an inmate in my facility is 21 days. I don't have the opportunity put them on any kind of rehabilitative programs or anything like that, as opposed to a prison, who has inmates for several years perhaps and has more of an opportunity to . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well the reason I asked that is because you know there's a lot of 'Why don't we have tent cities', 'Why don't we put these people out sweeping the streets' and what have you and if I understood it right, you can't do that to people that are not guilty of anything."

Sheriff Steed said, "That's exactly right. You can't put inmates on work programs and require them to do labor until they're convicted. And once they're convicted, I guess it could be part of their . . . you know, you can do a work program, if the judge requires that or something like that. But my job is to hold those inmates until they can go to trial, so until you're convicted, you can't be put on any of those programs. And by the way, the makeup of our facility is about 65% felons and almost all of those are pre-trial inmates and only about 35% misdemeanor convicted inmates."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you. We do have some questions or comments. I believe Commissioner Unruh, you were first sir."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. Sheriff, thank you for coming today and reviewing the need for this facility and its expansion with us today and hopefully our citizens who are watching will become educated also."

One of the questions that I'm asked frequently is why do we need . . . and you indicated an answer to this in your last comment, but why do we need a maximum security facility? Why don't we house just a minimum possible? Why do we have to build that type of jail?"

Sheriff Steed said, "Well, it's a pretty complex question, but I'll be as brief as I can. We don't really have a high security facility. We have one level of security in our facility, that doesn't require Constantia wire and a number of things like that but we have one level of security and within that, we have three levels of management: the dorms, the indirects and the direct pods. It all has to do with the classification of the inmates. You know, quite typically they'll say 'Well, we have a misdemeanor that can be housed in another type of housing arrangement'. When we get to looking at those, we can't pigeonhole these inmates. They're actually a misdemeanor and they have a variety of charges, with a variety of different jurisdictions within our community. They'll often have charges in the district court, the municipal court, Haysville and Derby as well."

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We classify primarily by behavior and quite often we'll look at inmates and we'll find that for instance they are a DUI. They have to be housed in a jail facility, so it has to have a facility that is found by you to be a jail facility as well. We house again by behavior, and so we have to evaluate how that inmate acts within our custody, what their criminal history has been, things such as that."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Well thank you, that's a good explanation and I know that in our conversations you've also indicated that this long term probably provides us the best flexibility, the best investment for the future and the best way to control our administrative costs, the best way to run that whole facility, and if we're going to do this, we need to do a facility and an expansion that's consistent with what we have and that helps our best projection going forward on what the administrative costs are going to be."

Sheriff Steed said, "One of the discussions that our Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee had was not should we expand, but what type of beds should we expand to and so that was included in this master plan as well."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, and the master plan was something that was indicated, suggested by our consultant, a group that we had in some time ago and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council came out of that. You've been consistently involved in the process and been consistent in your opinion that we need to have a master plan that includes the expansion of our facilities. So I just appreciate you taking the time."

Sheriff Steed said, "Certainly. I want to let it be known that I support the programs that are part of that master plan. I think they're desperately needed programs and I certainly support those as well. I have been a great advocate for the expansion of the facility, because that's my part of the pie in the criminal justice system."

Commissioner Unruh said, "That's all I had Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I think the key here is we need to let people know that this isn't something that we're worrying with just this budget season. We've been talking about this for over three years and two years ago is when we stood up the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, that this was a very complicated issue that five commissioners weren't going to just solve on their own with some time with the Sheriff. That it needed to be a holistic look at the whole system and so we embarked on that.

And I find that refreshing, because as I look around the state and many other entities around the

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country, jail has become a political infighting issue. I know Sheriff Steed, you've seen that in other municipalities or other counties, where that becomes a huge political infight about where you spend the money and how you spend it and who gets to control it and everything and that's not been the case here. We've really tried to look at what is the public interests, the good for the public interest and not who gets to control the money and why do you get it.

The other part of this is this is a four-legged stool and most people don't always understand that. You said, 'Hey, this isn't about the sheriff wanting to build a jail'. Well, truthfully it starts at the legislative level, with the laws that are created and we don't do any of that, either as county commissioners or sheriffs. Second to that is the judicial system takes those laws, interprets those and applies them to folks that have come into the system. And then your charge is to hold those people and protect the rest of the community until those people have gone through the judiciary system. And then finally the county commissioners has the least role, and that's to provide budget and facility for the sheriff to carry that out in our community.

But if you start at the toughest level, which is the legislative level, we have input on that. Certainly we go and testify. I know the sheriff does, to make sure that the laws serve our community the best, but the truth is, the laws are what they are and we don't have a lot of latitude as commissioners, or the sheriff to interpret any of those and change them to keep a few people out of jail or to make those decisions. We do have the ability to create the budget and to carry out that budget for our citizens and that four-legged stool can get out of balance and sometimes it makes us make decisions we really don't want to make. Building a jail, I mean, there could be legislative options to keep people out of jail. That can change at any time. It looks like though and it has appeared over the last few years that we have not relaxed the ability to put people in incarceration. Just the opposite, we've increased the numbers based on legislation and we have to live with that.

I'm not condoning, condemning or buying into any of it one way or the other. It is what it is and we have to deal with that. And we've come through three years of process to come down to the conclusion that we've got to work hard to keep people out of jail and find alternatives to building more jails, five and six, seven years from now, but we've got to take care of the Sheriff's immediate problem and that's overcrowding in the jail.

And truthfully, we have to understand that the people that are there are still citizens of our community and many of them will get out, be released without any conviction. They'll go on with their lives, go back to their jobs, go back to their families and we have the ability and the right and the obligation to take care of those folks while they're there. You know, that idea that they're all hard, fast criminals and need to be incarcerated for the rest of their life is just not true, if you really look at the numbers.

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This is going to be a tough decision. I've done some analysis myself and really the increase that we're looking at this year, obviously we talk a little bit about the Jabara Campus, but if you look about just public safety: jail, jail expansion, alternative program and the juvenile detention facility, with its debt service and its operating cost that just went on-line this year, is almost three mills. Now when you're only going to go up 3.5, there's three mills of it just in public safety that I think the public wants their community to be safe.

I think, at the end of the day, that's one of the first charges and responsibilities that we're given as county commissioners when we're elected is to make sure that the public safety and welfare of our community is taken care of. Now there's a lot of other things that we get involved with that are not quite as profound as public safety and we worry with those too, but we have to take care of these, and it's expensive. I mean, we're looking at a budget increase that I know people don't want, but three mills of it are strictly public safety.

Then if you layer on EMS, which I think is safety, the District Attorney, which is part of that continuum, district court, which is certainly part of the judicial system, you throw all that in there, it's 3.8 mills. That's more than we're raising the budget, right there. So truthfully, if we didn't do any of the public safety, we could probably keep the mill levy as it is and still build a Jabara Campus, put some money in affordable airfares, do some of the other nice things that we want to do, but the truth is, the thing that is profoundly affecting the budget this year is public safety and I think the community needs to know that.

That we have not willy-nilly gone out there and looked at a budget that is doing all the nice to have things. We started out doing the things that are hard and that we don't want to do and layered that on the budget and then still looked at the things like workforce development that we think is important too. So we haven't gotten to the final number of the budget, but as I analyzed it, the thing that has raised the mill levy over and above of where we've been in the past is all about public safety. It's not about all those other things that people want to talk about."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Commissioner Norton. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Sheriff, I've had a number of people . . . well, not a number, but I've had some people say with this type budget, perhaps you should just delay the construction of the adult detention center addition for a year or two years or three years. My first reaction is you started talking to us about this several years ago, about your trend lines that Bob showed earlier about the monthly population growth, so in affect, I think we've already delayed a

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bit. But how would you respond to somebody who says, 'well, let's just delay it for one or two years when maybe times are a bit different?'"

Sheriff Steed said, "Well, exactly what you've just said. We've already delayed the project for a couple of years, with additional study and we've always been able to look at that trend line, so we have already delayed the jail somewhat. The other significant portion of this is this is really one of the quickest fixes, because it takes one year to design and two years to build, and I've been saying that for three years now and you know, I've always said, I said a little bit ago when we were talking, one of our last ditch efforts as to what we're going to do with inmates is the double bunking and we have started on that double bunking process. And I'll point out here, I was going to leave this out of my presentation, but I have 1,032 daily use beds now. This expansion will bring us to 384 additional beds, or 1,416 beds. I have 1,500 or more inmates today. The inmate population is going up 10 inmates per month and over the next three years, that's 360 inmates. I'm a sheriff, I'm not an accountant. We might as some of the accountant folks, but that leaves us about 400 beds short, when this facility is built and you can add another 120 beds to that should we delay."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, well thank you very much Sheriff. That's the only question I had and I appreciate your partnership with the commissioners and working as a real team on this, which I think we have. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Also Gary, the thing that you pointed out that is very real is you can't deal on average day populations. If today there's 300 people being book . . . coming in, you have to deal with them, so you do have to figure out a way to deal with the peak levels, not just the averages and that was a good point to make. Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well, I appreciate Chairman Sciortino's comments, because he took the thunder out of what I was going to say. If you're still going to have to deal with three years of overcrowding and if we put this off any longer, you're going to have even more problems and it's going to cost us even more so I realize that these are hard decisions, but it's something that we have to look at for the future."

And in being on that Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and listening to the reports on alternative programs, this is one way I'm hoping in the next two years, as we implement those, that we can reduce that overpopulation somewhat, so that we aren't just bulging at the seams when this jail expansion is done. So I appreciate those comments, because it is so true."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, the commitment that this commission made some months ago about reprioritizing our focus on public safety, job creation/ retention was a very bold move and in an election year, and three of us are standing for election, it is not politically very smart if we do

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have to wind up approving a mill levy increase. That politically is not the smart thing to do.

Politically, the smart thing to do is for us to 'well let's figure out, we'll delay that, let's put the Jabara Campus on hold, let's do a bandaid' whatever it will make so we don't have to have a rate increase and maybe we can deal with this in a year I'm not running for election. That is the politically smart thing to do but it isn't the right thing to do. I don't know where we're going with this. I have some questions of the manager to maybe even further reduce whatever he has come up with and I'm sure some of my colleagues have too, but I am very proud of this commission, that we are going to do the right thing and I'm almost wanting to hire Mr. Norton as my campaign manager, but where he has clearly identified that if we were just to delay this one project, public safety, let's just delay it. We're not having that many murders on the streets, let's just delay it, get past this election year, we wouldn't have a mill levy increase at all. That isn't the right thing to do.

We could have told these people that came before us from the unions, 'don't worry, Spirit and Raytheon, Cessna, they've got all that bricks and mortar, they're not going anywhere, forget it, we're just going to put that on hold'. That isn't the right thing to do. The people that they represent have the right to expect the high quality job with the excellent benefits that they have. They have the right to expect that their children, their grandchildren will have the opportunity. And I am proud and my very strong sense is this board is going to have the courage and the leadership ability to do the right thing, not the politically astute thing. So Gary, thank you for your presentation."

Sheriff Steed said, "Thank you, commissioner."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Mr. Manager."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Thank you, commissioners. You have heard the stories at the public hearing about some of the programs that people were worried about. I unfortunately don't believe that there is any more trimming that we can do. In the last three years, we've done that. If there is a need for additional reductions, we've examined cutting the sheriff's patrol. We've examined making reductions in the EMS and even privatizing EMS. We've examined . . . you've heard the stories from mental illness about the effects of eliminating some programs. Judge Riddels' Boys Ranch, we don't have to do that but we have a system there in place where someone who has been off track, doing drugs, in a gang, his name is Joseph, graduated recently from high school and is now on a soccer team at a community college. That's the kinds of programs we're talking about.

Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that there are those kinds of reductions that would affect senior citizens, that would affect people with disabilities whose only surviving parent needs to now go into a nursing home and we provide a system for that disabled person, those kind of programs need to continue to exist. I recommend that you adopt the resolution in front of you that authorizes me to publish a notice of public hearing, that has an upward limit of 32.127 mills."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "What is the mill levy that you've . . . I'm sorry, what is the mill levy that you're proposing?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "32.127 mills."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Manager, this is just the upper limit. Does not imply that we have to take that amount. I mean, we can come in with a budget that's below that."

Mr. Buchanan said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "And every year that we go through this process, we come with a budget that's different than it is today, and almost al . . . invariably lower."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Well, I wanted to just make a couple of comments. Each of us I'm sure have had a lot of folks make comments, eliminate the waste, cut the fat, get more efficient. I notice here in the room today is Mr. John Todd, who represents a constituency that would say 'No increase is what we want, we'd prefer a reduction'. I think that's the attitude of that constituency. And this particular challenge that we have right now, you know it's under intense emphasis and scrutiny at budget time, now everybody says let's cut the budget, but the fact of the matter is that this whole elimination of waste and being efficient is a process. It's not a project. It's something that we need to work on and I believe that we are working on throughout the year and we never get completed in trying to be efficient because the target is moving. As we try to reduce the budget and make efficiencies and we do that and we also take on different programs that are required by our community and we combine things, we perhaps have to add some people or reduce some people, the target is always moving, so we have to continually work on efficiency and on cutting the waste and cutting the fat.

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And I think that I would commend this board of county commissioners and our staff for their single-minded effort in trying to accomplish that. We are working, I think, all the time trying to eliminate waste and trying to be efficient. At the same time, trying to be responsive to the needs of our community and trying to be transparent, as we go through that process. So the whole process that we've had today I think is healthy and it's what we should do. Allow people to advocate for their needs and also have people advocate to say we can't stand any more increase in our community.

So the whole process is healthy, but I just want to make a point that we're working on this not just at budget time and not just during an election year, but we're working on this the whole time that we've been here. I think that's partly validated by the Manager's review of what our budget goals have been since 2003, we had a big cut and then '04 we went back to the '02 levels and in '05 we reduced it by 4%, so we're working on it and I think we've been successful.

Now having said that though, Mr. Manager, I do have a couple of questions. One with respect to an issue that's been in the news lately, but we do have an involvement in Cowtown and I just wondered, in your budget, have you included an increase in that budget or an increase in the contingency? Are there other ways that we can look at our involvement in that particular enterprise that we're involved in."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, if I may offer a suggestion. If we could take whatever questions there are and perhaps I could respond to them at the end, this one may take a little . . . I want to make sure I give you accurate information, and so I might want to have you move on with the meeting, so I can respond to these questions. I think there is money in there, but let me make sure."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, so you want to see what we all have to say and then you'll . . . okay, that's fine."

Mr. Buchanan said, "If that's okay."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Will that be okay with you?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "That's fine with me, but may I ask another question before you vanish somewhere. What would be the effect if the . . . our emphasis on public safety is real and necessary, but can we massage our goal here in any way to offload some budget pressure, if we were to delay any of the alternatives to incarceration? Are there savings available to us there? I mean, we've got a big program, we're going full steam ahead, but can we relook at that and see if that has an impact on the budget?"

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Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, Mr. Chair, that's all I have."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I just would like a comment. These are good questions and thank you for them. Before I respond to those, I want to make sure that I don't . . . I make a suggestion that has unintended consequences, so I want to talk to the budget folks about this."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And that's why you're reserving comment until you get done with everything and then you're going to leave and try to . . . okay, that's fine. Will you be able to come back before this meeting is over?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "We will be able to come back real shortly."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, fine. Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well Commissioner Unruh asked one of my questions."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Everybody's stealing your thunder."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "I know. Well, this is only my second time at the budget. Last year, I thank goodness this is my second time at the budget, because last year there were no threats of increases and so we sailed through that pretty easy, so I learned a lot about reading a 500-page document and going through each department and trying to figure out which supplementals we should approve and so on and so forth. And also last year, since there was no threat of an increase, we did not have much public input. We had 28 speakers today, talking to us about how important their programs are.

Last week I asked the manager if the majority of this commission were to say 'We're not going to accept the budget as is, we do not want an increase' what would happen? What would you do if we just flat out said 'We're not buying this, you have to keep it at zero' and unfortunately, I believe his answer. We have to cut some programs and I just can't see cutting programs and cutting more people, so I realize that the bottom line to the taxpayer is what out of pocket expense they're going to have, but I also realize that the bottom line to the programs are helping the taxpayers and what are they going to be able to do for us.

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So I appreciate the comments some of the speakers had about increases and I'm willing to not have a couple of hamburgers, which is also healthier for them, so our health initiatives would be working for that, but I also understand that increases are in the eye of the beholder and there might be some things that some of our poorer people will not be able to afford if they have an increase, so it's a fine line I know that we have.

One of the things that comes out, and here's where I come to a question, one of the things that always comes out in the newspaper is what percentage. We talk about mills and you talk about a per \$100,000 home. What is this 3-point whatever it is . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "What is the mill levy increase that you're asking for, Mr. Manager?"

Commissioner Burtnett said, "3.369, right?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes ma'am."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Do you know what that percentage for those people with calculators that can do that? We were looking at a 12%. What does that come down to? And you can answer that later. It's just a question."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Okay."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "But if it's still in the double digit percentage, I think it would be easier to swallow. Exact 12%, so the 3.5 mill must have been a little over 12%, obviously. Okay."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And that is down from his original offer, which was about 26%."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Right, and I understand that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Sure I understand. It's real."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Again, if there's any more ways to cut, obviously we need to look at it, and I think it's at this point extremely, extremely difficult. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, a lot of our discussion is going to boil down to whose ox gets

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gored. I mean, it's always about whose program gets cut or who gets affected by this. And truthfully, we serve two kinds of constituencies. There's the individual constituency, and that's the individual that has a mental health problem or has a disability or has found themselves over 70 years of age and needing home services or whatever and then we have the holistic programs which are the jail, EMS, programs that serve everybody in the community and that we are obligated to try to construct and provide, as county commissioners. And people have a problem sometimes seeing those, because they haven't used EMS, that 'why don't you just cut that' but it's not as simple as that, because we're obligated to provide that service to everyone when their need arises and we don't know exactly when that need is, how it's going to manifest itself and we work hard to make sure that we've analyzed and understand those holistic programs that serve every constituency when they need them.

And then we also have to analyze those that people are already using, whether it be COMCARE or other services that are more individual in nature, and I think we'll struggle with that throughout this budget. As we dig deep into it, I'm sure there are areas that we can make some decisions to eliminate some monies, but what I found over the years, that it is just generally a drop in the bucket compared to if you really want to reduce the mill levy. You know, one mill sounds like one mill but when you determine that it's over \$3,000,000 in actual money."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Actually 3.7 million."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay, 3.7 you get rid of whole programs when you get rid of 3.7 million dollars. It's not that you're trimming a little out of COMCARE or trimming a little out of Aging, or trimming a little out of it, you start eliminating full mills on programs like that and you just get rid of the programs. You might as well, because you're going to diminish them so much that they're not going to serve the community at all.

The truth is, as we look at mill levy, mill levy is not all the money that's in this budget. The total budget is \$350,000,000, I'm not sure exactly the number. How much of that is mill levy money, Mr. Manager? Do you have that or David?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "\$121,930,000 is ad valorem tax levy."

Mr. David Miller, Budget Director, said, "34%."

Commissioner Norton said, "34% is the mill levy. The rest of the county budget, which is a lot of

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money, is grants, it's federal flow-through money, it's state money, it's earned income, it's provider pay, it's all of those other sources of revenue. So when people hear 'Gosh, you're spending \$350,000,000 and we're paying for that', well that's true. There's no money that we spend that isn't taxpayers' money, but what we obligate ourselves to at the local level is only a third of the total budget. The rest of it flows through our tax money that goes up to the federal level or to the state level and then comes back to us in a certain manner. We are only setting a third of the budget when we set the mill levy and that doesn't give us a lot of flexibility. The truth is, we just had Dr. Wong here and we talked about tax incidents and how all the taxes affect our constituencies, based on their adjusted gross income. And the truth is, property tax is a very small part of the tax burden that the people pay.

I know it's what affects them most and certainly the locals are who they can see and talk to and run in at the grocery store, but the truth is if you take federal taxes, state taxes, income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes that we set today as a county is going to be infinitesimally small compared to the total tax burden that a citizen pays. It all gets mixed together and local elected officials usually bear the greatest burden because we're the most accessible to the public.

I don't know how this will shake out but the truth is, we've got some important issues for our community that we can't dodge, that we need to take into great consideration and I for one am not going to nickel and dime all of the great programs that we've had, just to get small savings to eliminate a little mill levy. I think it's going to be very important that we analyze the budget, be sure it's good for the public good. That's what we've been charged to do as elected officials, and then make sure the budget fits the needs of the community and we've got another almost month to take care of that and make sure we make the right decision and I think that we probably will."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I'm going to have to say this in just Kansas kitchen English because I'm not an accountant. I'm not very sophisticated. But in order to have no mill levy increase, we would have to come up with savings of 12.5 million dollars. Commissioner Norton said it well. We could just delay all the projects that we want to do in public safety and we wouldn't have a mill levy increase. We could just abandon all of the hardworking aircraft people and just say 'We're just going to forget the Jabara Campus and trust that they won't move'. Either one of those, we could probably then have no mill levy increase. I for one am not going to want to try nickel and dime this budget down, but I do think we also have an obligation to the taxpayers to let them know that we have really made a concerted effort and hopefully, with some of the things that Commissioner Unruh and Commissioner Burnett have said, that the manager could come back and maybe this mill levy that he's proposing could even be reduced a little bit more so that we could at least show the public that we have done everything we could to not cut into meaningful muscle and bone.

The one thing I'll ask you to look at, just to see, I agree with Commissioner Norton, we should be nickel and dime cutting, but could you review all of the programs that we provide and see if there's

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a way that we could maybe just keep them at the 2006 level and not . . . if there was an increase, maybe they could just stay at the level they were in 2006 and see if that would have any meaningful impact, when you come back. I'm sure you're going to be looking at, like Commissioner Norton says, property taxes is a third and I'm sure you're going to be looking at other things maybe to look at as far as revenue too, but we'll be excited to see what you come back to and do we just then put this on hold and move on to another item?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "I would suggest you table it and we can go right . . . table this item by vote and then take up the fire department budget and we'll do that and then we'll excuse ourselves and you continue the meeting and we'll be back in 15 minutes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, fine. Well, can I entertain a Motion to table Item C?"

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved table item C.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. And at this particular time, commissioners, can we take a five minute break, because I'm having some. . . I have to go powder my nose. Okay, we're recessed for five minutes, folks."

The County Commission meeting was recess at 11:18 a.m. and returned from recess at 11:26 a.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, we're back now from our brief recess and at this particular time,

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I'm going to recess the Board of County Commission meeting."

The Board of County Commissioners recessed into the Fire District Meeting at 11:27 a.m. and returned from recess at 11:30 a.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, "I'll call back to order the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and ask the Clerk to call the next item, which should be Item E.

D. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING.

NEW BUSINESS

E. UPDATE ON ADVANCE VOTING OPTIONS AND ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES FOR 2006 ELECTIONS.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Bill Gale, Election Commissioner, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Appreciate the chance to be before you today, just to kind of give you a quick update on the election coming up, August primary election next Tuesday, August 1st as well as on advanced voting options and how it's been going so far, as well as other election preparations.

Advanced voting has been going on. We started mailing ballots out earlier this month and have been . . . the options to vote advanced, one is by mail, advanced also in person and also the final way you can vote is at your polling place on Election Day. We did begin mailing ballots out earlier this month. We've sent out just short of 10,000 advanced ballots by mail so far, with a few more days. We'll be mailing ballots out through Friday. Advanced in person voting started last Wednesday, in the Election Office across the street. Over, through yesterday, over 400 folks had stopped by, some of you had as well, and cast their vote in person. So as always, as has been happening the last few years, advanced voting becomes an ever increasing, more increasingly popular option for folks and hopefully in big part because it's more convenient and this year has definitely been no exception to that.

I mentioned advanced voting by mail. First you needed to send in an application for one. We, as I mentioned, we will continue mailing through Friday, so as long as we get your application by Friday, we will put the ballot in the mail to you to have back in time by 7 p.m. on August 1st in the Election Office. In person voting, as I said, we've been voting for a week now, in the Election Office. That will continue through noon on Monday. However also we, tomorrow, will start the

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advanced voting in the 14 other locations throughout the county, which is a large increase from the past, when we've had no more than two locations going at the same time, so we're continuing to make final preparations to be ready at those 14 sites that are available to voters that will chose to stop by. That will be this Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

And you see the times listed here, Thursday . . . I mean, for the Election Office. As I said through noon on Monday, as well as the 14 sites starting tomorrow will be noon to 7 tomorrow as well as noon to 7 on Friday and then we'll be open for voting 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday as well."

Commissioner Winters said, "And Bill, any citizens can go to any one of the locations on this advanced. You don't have to go to a particular one, is that correct?"

Mr. Gale said, "That's right. In fact, under benefits that's one. I should have mentioned that. Any registered voter in Sedgwick County can show up and vote at any of these 14 locations. And there will be some of the new voting machines available there as well and we will also have plenty of paper ballots, to be able to do the best we can to accommodate voters that might show up and take advantage of voting early at any of these locations."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Bill, could I ask you a question on that, because I did take advantage of the paper ballot. I found the paper ballot, maybe because way back when that's all we did, but I found that very easy and then you drop it in the slot. What would happen is a person blacked out a name and 'Oh, my gosh, I wanted no I wanted' do they go up and then just get that destroyed and then get another ballot that they can . . . if they accidentally voted for the wrong person, is that how it works?"

Mr. Gale said, "Exactly, that's right. If you accidentally make a mistake in voting, you can just come right back up and ask for a replacement ballot and . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And they destroy that one. I assumed that was . . . Okay, sorry to interrupt you. Go ahead."

Mr. Gale said, "No problem. And here's a list of those 14 locations so they will be open starting tomorrow, as I said, spread out throughout the county and the next slide gives you a visual, showing a map of those locations and where you'd find them. We have distributed flyers through the Dillons

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stores and other avenues to try to make folks aware of these locations and their hours and so right now it's really hard to predict how many will show up and take advantage of it, but we'll be there waiting and for those that do find it a more convenient option to cast their vote yet this week and not wait until Election Day.

And then finally Tuesday, Election Day itself, and just a reminder, many polling places have changed. There's been a large reduction in polling places. Your new registration card that was mailed out earlier this year will be probably the best chance to double check that and see where your polling location is, but if however you no longer have that or may have missed that, feel free to call our office at 660-7100 and we'll be glad to help you and let you know where your polling place is and the address. The media has been great partners in helping get the word out, not only for advanced voting but as well as for Election Day voting. I mentioned the flyers have been distributed, whether through Dillons stores or community festivals. A number of cities around the county have been helping distribute those as well, and we appreciate all the help from folks as we've continued to try to increase the awareness for this election that is coming.

And then also, the others, just want to be sure and thank them for the help and finally, again for any more information, feel free to call the Election Office between now and Election Day. And I do want to take a quick moment to thanks as well, because this is a big task, any election is and they always bring their own unique challenges, but this one seems to be extra challenging with the number of the changes that we're seeing this year, whether in requirements upon us for federal law, the Help America Vote Act specifically. However, we are working hard to meet that challenge, but its not without a lot of help from a lot of partners, as we touched on already, but I do want to thank you all for the hardworking staff at the Election Office, not just permanent staff, but temporary staff that we bring in during the busy election times, been doing a fantastic job, working long hours, which won't end for a little while unfortunately. But we've also got a great group of board workers that put in long days, especially on Election Day. A number of them will be staffing our advanced sites these next few days as well and we're very grateful for their help and that's another challenge each year, finding enough board workers to staff all our polling places and this year is definitely no exception. And we're continuing to work, make sure we're there and available to provide that service to the voters when they do show up and vote.

And then finally, I want to thank you all for your support as well as other county offices and

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departments that are very helpful every election time that we have, but especially so this time and even more so.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Bill. Did you have something, Mr. Holt?”

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, said, “Bob Lamkey, who is project leader, assisting Mr. Gale in the Election Office and getting other county staff involved is here as well if you have any questions of the specifics that they’re doing as well.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. Mr. Lamkey, did you have anything that you felt could be beneficial for the public to have knowledge of?”

Mr. Lamkey said, “Sure. Just to let you and the public know that we have been meeting with Mr. Gale for about a month now and developing a support plan to assure that every voter that turns out to vote, whether it’s an advanced voting site or on the primary day has the best possible experience.

I did a quick count this morning and there are about 60 county folks that are going to be involved in supporting this process. The bulk will come from DIO, but Communications has been involved and we’ve got folks across the county that have volunteered to help out at the advanced sites and the experience they gain there will allow them to help out at the primary sites.

We had a meeting here on Monday night, in which we kind of got our final training process, because virtually all of them went to one of Bill’s trainings last week, and as I looked across the names and the faces there, that you can be assured that it’s the best and the brightest that we have to offer so again we’re very committed to this process. I will have folks on primary day manning the call center with roll-over lines into the EOC.

We’ll actually have some community volunteers helping people find their polling places, in the event that they go to the wrong place and give us a call in that process. The EOC will be up, and we’ll be taking a log of all the events that occur, so that as we meet after this, because we’ve got a general election coming up, we’ll work with Bill and his folks to make sure that we learn from this.

This is a big change for the community. Again, there’s a lot of anxiety about the number of polling places and the new machines, but I think we’re going to handle this well and the best thing, outcome for me is that everybody that comes to vote has a positive and pleasant experience and we encourage everybody to come out and vote and the more that want to advanced vote, that’s great too.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Bob. You might want to stand around, just in case.

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Commissioner Burtnett.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Well, I have a question of Bill. I know I visited with you yesterday about a few things and I kind of want to follow up on that. When you said you mailed out 10,000 advanced ballots, was that 10,000 ballots or application for ballots?”

Mr. Gale said, “No, that was ballots themselves.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Okay. What’s the percentage of those ballots that come back improperly signed or not signed? Did you have an idea? I didn’t ask you that yesterday.”

Mr. Gale said, “I don’t know that I have a . . . usually it’s a small percentage.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Okay. Could you tell me about how many, and I’m sorry to put you on the spot with numbers, but do you have any idea of how many application for ballots you have sent out?”

Mr. Gale said, “Bob mentioned the call center and we . . . our office joined with the County Call Center earlier last year. That was over a year and a half ago, contributing staff and being a partner in that and we didn’t start sending them election calls until just a couple of months ago or so, because we knew there were going to be times like this when we . . . I mean, when we use them and use them heavily, and they’ve been a great help in this time. They in fact are able to take so many of those and send out, you know receive the calls requesting an application and send the applications out so I’m not aware of the total number of applications.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Okay, well I know the time is getting down to the wire, where if they want an application, by the time they get the application sent, get it back to you, you send the ballot, they get the ballot back, we’re getting into a real time crunch here and so I guess I would like to remind people and I’ve only done mail-in ballots once, when I was going to be out of town and you have to sign the back of the envelope and your address, is that correct?”

Mr. Gale said, “That’s correct.”

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Commissioner Burtnett said, "And if you don't do one or either of those, it is an invalid vote. Is that correct?"

Mr. Gale said, "Yeah, I mean, right, that tends to be the case, is the Board of Cavassers considers those."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, so I guess I just want to remind people that when you're voting, to be sure and fill out that envelope properly, when you send it back, because that's a lot of ballots. 10,000 ballots is a lot of ballots, so that's all I had. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Bill, the one question again, this is going to be a very interesting election cycle and it's a lot of new things, and I am encouraged that you have really tried now, I mean, to make this as easy as it can. But one question, just maybe out of curiosity, picking up a little bit from where Lucy was going, we've had . . . you have actually mailed to people requesting 10,000 ballots. Do you have any feel, historically, what percentage of those actually will be mailed back?"

Mr. Gale said, "Yes, that I have checked and in a similar August primary election generally about two-thirds of those come back and end up counting."

Chairman Sciortino said, "See, I would have thought 100%. I mean, they've asked for a ballot. You'd think they'd go ahead and fill it out, but only about 75% actually come back valid or even come back."

Mr. Gale said, "That's right and part of that is because some of those are on our permanent list, folks that are homebound and are currently on our permanent list, and so a lot of times ballots will go out and you know, election to election, and not get sent back and so that probably counts for the largest share of ones they don't return."

Chairman Sciortino said, "One other point, trying to keep with where Lucy is going, they've mailed in . . . they've got their ballot but boy, the time crunch is . . . can they fill it out and go to one of the advanced locations and just drop it in? I don't know."

Mr. Gale said, "Well, actually what we encourage people, because that's right, time is of the essence, when you get in this last week, you know turnaround time, so I'm saying send in an application, so we do what we can to let people be aware of those advanced sites to go and just go ahead and cast their vote there."

Chairman Sciortino said, "No, I understand, but I mean, a person has requested a mail out ballot. You've mailed it to me and I've kind of left it on the coffee table and said 'Oh my gosh, I better fill,

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oh I don't know . . .', can I then take that to one of the advanced locations and just drop it in, because now because of my being lazy or what have you I've delayed the time that maybe I could mail it in on time, but I have it filled out now. Can I just bring it to an advanced location and drop it in."

Mr. Gale said, "That's a good question. That's one I guess we haven't really thought of, because we haven't had that large of a number of sites available. Usually when they show up there to the advanced site they're just ready to vote and so if they show up, they could go ahead and cast the vote out on the advanced sites."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I mean, would they come in and they've got the advanced ballot. I guess they could say 'I filled this out at home' and then the decision is either to accept that or destroy that and give them another advanced ballot. I mean, I don't know what the procedure is. You might want to check on that. It would be interesting, just if that's something a little more accommodating that we could offer during these last few days, especially right at the end, when you're back down on Monday, just to your office, you know I've procrast . . . oh my gosh, I've forgot to fill it out. Can I run real quick down to your office with it, or can I just let them know, can we just let them know, look, if you procrastinate, you can still run down to the Election Commission Office today and vote. Find out for us if you could on that. Any other questions of Mr. Gale on this?"

Okay, well thank you very much on the update and good luck to you and Mr. Lamkey, we compliment you and all the hard working county staff that are going to be, I guess like customer service representative or a concierge or try to . . . and it relieves the pressure on the Election volunteers. They can just focus on what they have to do and you can accommodate . . . Yeah, very good. Okay, thank you very much. Next item please. Mr. Holt, is that all you needed to speak to about . . .okay."

F. SEDGWICK COUNTY ARENA PROJECT.

1. PRESENTATION OF PROJECT UPDATE.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now is there anybody, Kristi, over in that other place that needs . . .? Okay."

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Mr. Holt said, “The project leader for the Sedgwick County Arena Project in downtown Wichita. This is a pretty quick update but wanted to give you a sense about where we are on the arena project. At your regular meeting on Wednesday, May 24th you approve option B as the preferred exterior design concept for the new Sedgwick County Arena. You also authorize the architectural and engineering team to proceed with the schematic design phase of the project. I’m happy to report that the schematic design phase of the project is progressing quite well. We hope to be back within about 30 days or less to report the results of this work and to get authorization to move forward with the design development phase of the project.

Today however we wanted to give you an update on a couple of enhancements that have been made to the exterior design, as well as to provide you with updated information on the status of property acquisitions for the Washington Street properties, which are necessary due to the required street improvements at the intersection of Washington and Waterman, that’s caused by the arena project.

Before we get into specifics of the update intended for today, relative to the arena site or the arena building itself, let me again give you very quickly, I’ll run through this very quickly, an overall project schedule and update.

As you know, our goal is to build a modern, first-class sports and entertainment venue and arena that seats 15,000 for basketball. We have been working on this project in earnest for over two years now, starting in June, 2004 and you see there through May of 2006 the exterior design concept and of course we mentioned a minute ago that we’re in the middle of . . .about three-quarters of the way through the schematic design. You see those things that have taken place over the last two years that have been . . . that are listed there as completed steps.

On that previous list you saw the November date where the site was selected for the arena and you see here how the step in process for real estate appraisals, acquisition relocation and demolition started, again in earnest, with the hiring of a fee appraisers in March of 2006. That process will continue, taking into consideration demolition and clearing of the site, through February 2007. Two sets of properties, again, are involved in this project.

The properties that are on the arena site itself, and then the Washington Street properties, due to the street improvements there. Again, you see that in February 2006 a fee appraiser was selected. Appraisals then happened between March and May of 2006. The firm was selected to act as your agent in acquisition in April 2006 and then the acquisition process is occurring now, started in May,

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about the middle of May all offers in the arena site had been completed and we'll be continuing to work through that over the next several months. As a matter of fact, we'll have a next agenda item will be a imminent domain resolution relative to property acquisitions in the arena site.

Appraisals for the Washington Street properties started in June, we'll have that completed by August and we'll start that process of acquisition discussions with those property owners in September. Relocations, a relocation firm was selected in April of 2006. Relocations in the arena site are occurring in concert with or following along with the acquisitions and will go through May through December and then we would expect, soon after the acquisition process, in the Washington Street properties, that the relocations for Washington Street property owners would happen, would start in September through January. That should be January, 2007 there.

The number of arena site properties, there's 26 properties in the arena site, 45 businesses. Some of those properties of course have tenants. The acquisition costs was budgeted at 7.7 million dollars. The appraisal values run around 9.2 million dollars. Relocation costs for the arena site properties budgeted at \$2,000,000 and we've not yet have an estimate on what those costs will be, because we're very early in the relocation process there.

Well Washington Street properties, there are eight properties, up to eight businesses. We have one property that we're not sure exactly how much of that property we need to take and consequently, it becomes a question can we take up to the building line on that property and that's a partial take, or does that then require us to take the whole property, so we're working through that with the traffic folks at the city and with the actual property owner themselves.

Again, the acquisition costs for the Washington Street properties, we did not have any monies budgeted there. We are not sure yet what the appraisals will be. They haven't come in yet. We'll get those in August, and again the relocation costs there need to be determined as well. Beyond that then, the demolition process and we hope to start here in about 30 to 45 days with asbestos survey on properties that we've acquired and will be acquiring.

Asbestos abatement, as you see there. A contractor to be selected for the asbestos survey on August 16th. We hope to be here mid-August with a recommendation to you, asbestos abatement. We're working on an RFP and then those two things must happen before we can do demolition. The demolition costs including abatement, the budget was 2.2 million dollars and those actual costs are yet to be determined.

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Let me just spend just a quick minute here with the Washington Street improvements. You'll . . . to get oriented here, this is to the north, this is English Street here and you'll notice English comes through and then does a slight offset there, so the north part of Washington from Waterman will be improved up to English, and you see there then left turn lanes and right turn lanes being added to make easier access, ingress and egress out of the downtown arena, especially during arena events.

You'll notice to the south here then, the improvements goes clear down to . . . it's not noted here, but clear down to Dewey and then that gives us left turn lane and queuing that can happen then coming off Kellogg into the downtown area for arena events. You'll also notice that a right turn lane is being added for again ease of ingress and egress into downtown but especially during arena events.

So all of this, we're in conversation and working very closely with the City of Wichita and their traffic engineers. This has now finally been defined. This whole area has been driven specifically by the arena project and consequently, we are also talking about then what improvements need to happen from Washington and Waterman back to the railroad overpass. We're still working those out, but you see there, contemplated, turn lanes, giving easy ingress and egress out of the downtown area. We're also looking at if and how improvements there, the cost can be shared for those improvements. We're still working with the city on that and we'll be back in a few weeks talking about how we've worked that out and what all that means and what impact that will have on our budget.

Again, in addition to the real estate appraisals and acquisition/ demolition, you see there those dates. The naming rights, sponsorships and premium seating evaluation are still going on. The public/ private contract management evaluation is in process in earnest now. We would hope to have, late this year, a recommendation for you on public versus private management.

Other steps in the process, the city's Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan is still progressing and we're still meeting from time to time with those folks to see what that plan looks like in response to the arena project, as well as the rest of the downtown redevelopment. We're also working with the city and other interested parties in developing an integrated comprehensive mobility parking. This is foot traffic, vehicular traffic and the interaction thereof, including parking. A plan for downtown Wichita that takes into consideration not only the arena project, but Water Walk and what future plans, if any, might be for handling traffic at Century II, as well as the impact then on all of that parking on Old Town as well as Delano.

So all of that will be considered and we are quite frankly an opportunity here, we've heard for years and years and years about downtown parking issues. This is an opportunity to take a more comprehensive look at that and we think spending time and effort with all of these groups, working together, we'll have opportunity for a great solution for downtown parking, integrating foot traffic and vehicular traffic together and then thinking how we can use the MTA or shuttle system to

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support all of that as well. Again, the additional part of naming rights, sponsorships and premium seating will take place, the actual sale of that, the marketing of those late in the fall and will go through 2008 or until they're completed.

Let me get back, very quickly on the arena design itself. You will recall preliminary programming phase of the design work started in September. We completed that in February. We then embarked on the exterior design concept phase of the project. That was a February through May and on May 24th you approve option B. We now in the process of schematic design phase. Once we get through that phase and get approval, we then move into design development. Schematic design is, as I think about it, it's really the floor plan, developing the floor plan. Design development then is refinement of that floor plan, as well as the kinds of materials and so forth that will be used, flooring materials, wall material that will be used in the project. Construction documents phase, schedule now calls for that to start January '07 to be completed by May of '07.

And then by the way, we will be here just to throw in a piece, a piece that's a part of this project is the Kansas Coliseum renovation. We will be at the BoCC staff meeting in August to talk to you about that project. We've taken a look at it again, updated the numbers and because there's some long lead times there on some materials, we would be looking at and we'll be talking more to you about this in August, to go out for construction bids in November. Construction then would start there in May of '07 going through August and that means then the pavilions at the Coliseum, May '07 through August '07 would be closed down. Britt Brown would continue to operate, and then the pavilions would reopen in September '07.

Back to the arena itself, construction bid process, we're looking at May through July '07, construction starting in the late summer '07 and the arena opening in early 2009. Again, design phase, schematic design phase is in process. Late August, early September, within a month or so we'll be back to talk about the floor plans, whatever other and we'll show you a couple of tweaks to the exterior design today and whatever other tweaks that might be made to the site layout and also a budget review at that time.

Again in August we'll be back with approval of an asbestos vendor. We're going to talk today . . . or present to you today the approval of a resolution to proceed with condemnation and sometime late this year we would hope to be done with through the design development phase of the project. I'm going to call on . . . we have representatives here now from ADC. We have Bill Livingston,

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local architect, Brad Clark from HOK, Rick Martin from HOK, Wes Darnell from local firm here, all part of the Arena Design Consortium. Brad is going to come in a minute, just give you a quick update on a couple of prospects of the project.

Again, as was discussed in May this year, we said whichever option of the exterior design concept was selected, that much more work would be required. That as we develop the interior of the building, as we continue to look at the building design tweaks, refinements, enhancements would be necessary. You'll remember the term was used 'this design concept will blossom' and the update today is to show you a couple of things that have happened, how the exterior design has blossomed to date.

The basis for that blossoming of course were comments identified out of the public process, as well as what we heard from you as a part of the May 24th presentation and what you've heard from constituents otherwise.

Changes to the site layout plan are under consideration, as well as changes to the north entry. You'll remember there was a lot of discussion about what happens with the north entry. What does the north facade of the building look like and how do you make it more integrate with the surrounding area. All of those are aspects of the blossoming that are under discussion and what we want to do today is to share with you that the architects have looked at three specific aspects that lends itself to that blossoming. One is a little reconfiguration of some of the premium seats to help with sight lines for all patrons using the building. The other has to do with the south elevation, removal of the outside stairway, what that does for the elevation, south elevation of the building. And the other piece you'll be looking at today is the . . . you'll remember the large post rock element that was in the big lobby there in the front. That has been increased, in fact made more functional and Brad will talk about that with you now.

Let me call on Brad to give you that update and then we'll be happy, between the architects and myself and/ or Stephanie will be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Brad."

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Brad Clark, Arena Design Consortium, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's great to be here today to talk to you about just those elements that Mr. Holt was talking about. At the ADC, we are excited about the progress that we've made on the project throughout our schematic design phase and hope that you enjoy the update that we give you here today.

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Just by way of orientation, as Ron said, the site plan continues to be an element that we're working on, in terms of exact placement on the site and the disposition and location and aesthetic appearance of the north entrance. This plan, with north oriented to the left on the screen is the May 24th site plan that illustrates the scheme as it was approved in May. And the purple circles on the plan locate the three entrance points into the building. We are, again, continuing to refine that and it's something that's ongoing as we speak.

Wanted to talk very briefly about some bowl progress and updates in that area. If you will recall, one of the concepts of the bowl design which formed sort of the heart of the project that we built the three exterior schemes around was the consolidation of premium seat elements on one side of the building. In the case of the site plan you just saw, they were on the south side of the building and we had oriented the number of club seats in the very middle there. There's about 300 club seats and then flanking either side of that where what we call loge boxes, which are sort of open, almost mini-suites if you will, they're open into the bowl. Those we had flanking either side of the club seats.

Our idea and as we worked through this, through our design process, it became apparent that there was a more efficient way to do this in terms of providing optimal site lines for the adjacent seats on either side of the loge box elements themselves, so with that this building section, which is a cross-section through the very center of the basketball court or ice, shows the idea. If this is the south side of the building, with the entrance lobby, the lower bowl seating in this location, you'll see the two sort of blue circles with the 'L's in them, those are indicating two tiers now of the loge box elements, again with access to a lounge space behind and then the two stacked suite levels, which are the yellow circles.

The two tier arrange, in plan, looks like this. You'll notice that there's a single row of loge boxes that progress around the very upper part of the bowl here. The white area behind that is a wide, what we call cross-aisle. It's an aisle area that you can access into the back of those loge boxes. And then immediately in front of those, in fact there's 24 of those arranged around the back, immediately below that is a next tier, which has 16 in that location, so we still have a total of 40 loge box elements, but rather than extending all the way down to the court, they form sort of a crown around the back of the lower bowl.

And then we've done a very sort of schematic, three-dimensional representation of this seating bowl. If you'll recall, we have about 22 rows of total seating in the lower bowl. You see that wrapping around the entirety of the playing surface. And then beyond, you're seeing in the view, the other tier of seating which is called the upper deck and in that location we have about 20 rows of seats to get our total seat count up to the 15,000 for basketball. And that upper deck, as you

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recall, is not continuous. It's sort of a 'C' shape. It terminals at each end of this premium level, if you will, that's shown on this side.

So here are the two tiers of loge boxes, the rear tier with access from behind and one of the real advantages of this layout that we think is an advantage is the fact that each of those 24 are accessible by wheelchair, so they are direct roll-in from the very back cross-aisle and then in front of that are the 16 boxes that you see here. And typically there are two boxes between each of the rows that extend down through the seating bowl.

This particular view is taken from sort of the very corner of the upper deck, at the lower portion of it. In addition to . . . and you'll see a few other views of this, but in addition to the two rows of loge boxes, the lodge space behind that and then suite level one, suite level two. Then on either end of this is . . . it's almost a tower like element that contains the functional elements of restrooms, suite pantries and those sorts of building functions.

We've come back a little bit farther, to the end, a little higher up in the upper bowl. This gives you maybe a more overall view of that side, from the general seating deck. The roof structure shown in here, diagrammatically. I don't think it's going to be turquoise blue, but as a diagram, this illustrates the long span structure that allows us to have obviously what is necessary as a column free environment in the seating bowl.

And here we're down in the lower portion of the sideline, at the lower deck, looking back up to those elements, back across, again this is a little lower in arena, looking from the 22nd row of the lower deck. And then one last view, where we've actually shot from the lower tier of suites, looking back across the playing surface.

So, we've very pleased about this layout. We think it's efficient. We think it's economical and maybe more importantly, we think it's very unique in the marketplace. I think this is something that will separate this building from other arena facilities of its size in our geographic area.

This is the view that everybody saw in the newspaper as the approved option B scheme for the exterior design, and as Ron said, there were a couple of . . . along with that approval came a couple of design tweaks that we heard from the input of yourselves and the feedback that you got from the general public. This illustration showed a large, expansive exterior stair element that led up to the principle entrance, which is right here. At the time of this design, it was envisioned as about eight feet above ground level to the main entrance and I think there was some concern about wintertime traversing of those steps, ice, those sorts of functional and sort of real issues. So the new design will show that those stairs are now gone and we have entrance at-grade.

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The other element that Mr. Holt pointed out was this . . . we called it the post rock, which was . . . metaphorically, it was a relation back to sort of the limestone posts that you see in fencerows around this part of the country and in this case, it was truly . . . it was a functional element, in the sense that it was structural and helped hold up the canopy of the grand entrance lobby. But I think you'll see in the updated image of this view. Clearly, a much more technical drawing generated, as a computer-generated image, but the post rock element now has become, it's larger, but it's also functional in the sense that it houses one of our principle exit stairs in communicating stair element between all the levels. So whereas before it was maybe a little bit more ornament than anything, we think now it has a real purpose and functions very well from a efficiency standpoint, of getting people out of the building in the case of an emergency. And then, as we said, you see down here now, back underneath the overhang of this prow-like element is the principle entrance doors into the building.

The other thing that is a little bit of a revision or update from before is whereas before the glass container extended past the post rock element, and contained it as part of the lobby, we've now pulled that enclosure back to integrate and to tie into the architectural feature, the stair tower and introduced exterior terrace elements that become places for fans to come out and have a smoke or just go out and experience good weather in the times we have that sort of weather and all of that is sheltered under the extension of the roof over the terraces. So we're quite excited about the developments of this and continue, on a daily basis, to do refinements and bring it up to the point that everybody in Sedgwick County will be very proud of the building."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see any . . . I do see one now. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I just have one quick comment which I'm sure some folks are wondering and Brad and Rick, we certainly appreciate your coming to our meeting today. The north side is still a work in process. I think a lot of people are concerned about that. We want it to be just right and so the reason there were no drawings of that today is that's still being developed and refined and so we'll look forward to that at a future time. Thank you both for being here today. That's it."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to say that this is the beginning of the blossoming. It's doing a good job. If you all recall, I was a little bit of a reluctant 'B' voter, but I really think this looks go. It's something to get you excited about, so I'd just say I like it, keep

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going. Thanks.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Well, I just have one comment. I just want to kind of remind everybody why we’re even in downtown Wichita. I mean, we were really prepared to build a new facility on property that we already owned. Argument is there wouldn’t be any of this hassle that we’re going through, no problems with parking and what have you and the only reason we stopped what we were doing was at the request of the City of Wichita. They wanted to develop the downtown area and they had tried for a number of years to get something going with the downtown arena and were unsuccessful, for whatever reason and they asked us that if we would build a downtown arena, they were convinced that it would really help them in developing, or redeveloping this entire downtown core area.

Just a few days ago, or at least I had a meeting with Mr. Schlegel and I think it was Mr. Wolverton, talking about the neighborhood area and what they were hoping we could do to further assist them. And they were talking tilting or tweaking and architecturally I don’t know what works or doesn’t work, but I would hope that staff, the consultants that we hired, would work with these people because what I don’t want to have happen, that the very reason we were here turns out to be a detriment to what they were trying to accomplish, as opposed to being complimentary to what they’re trying to accomplish. Don’t know what that entails, but I want to make really sure that the city and this neighborhood . . . Arena Neighborhood . . .”

Mr. Holt said, “Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Right, whatever he said, is . . . that we are actually helping them and not hindering them. Because what I don’t want to have accused of is all of the sudden that doesn’t work and they said, ‘Well, gee if you would have done what we would have recommended, it would have been successful’ but since oh no, you wanted to put it over here, that negated our entire impact. So however we do it, I would hope that they’re onboard and very happy and pleased and that this is really going to be something that will help them. I know they had some concern about accessing the west side. I don’t know, but just try to work with them and make sure they’re comfortable with what we’re trying to do. That’s all I had.”

Mr. Holt said, “Thank you, commissioner.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Did you have anything, Mr. Buchanan? You were looking at me.

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Okay, I guess that's all and I guess the only thing we have to do here is just receive and file your report?"

Mr. Holt said, "Yes."

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next item please."

2. RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONDEMNATION OF REAL PROPERTY REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ARENA.

Mr. Holt said, "You have before you a resolution providing for the condemnation of real property required for the construction of the Sedgwick County arena. Again, this resolution relates to properties only in the arena site. As we mentioned earlier . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Could I just make one recommendation? I believe Mr. Buchanan is back with whatever . . ."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I would take this item first, Ben."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Take this item and then come to you. Okay, fine, thank you."

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Mr. Holt said, “We still have properties on Washington Street to be acquired and those properties are not included in this resolution. Again, during a series of meetings that were held in 2005 to educate the public about a site acquisition and to receive public comment about the site, in August 2005 the county distributed printed information regarding the anticipated property acquisition and property relocation processes. This information stated that the county would offer fair market value. To that end, the county hired an independent fee appraiser, through a competitive RFP process, after having selected the arena site on November the 9th, 2005.

The real property appraisals were completed and offers to purchase we made based on those appraisals beginning in May, 2006. As the offers were made, each property owner received a complete copy of the appraisal. To date, three of the 26 properties have been acquired for the arena site. One parcel is the City of Wichita, so this leaves 22 properties that we are including or asking you to include in this resolution. The resolution authorizes the county to begin the condemnation process in order to acquire land required for construction of the arena. The county and the property owners have been unable to reach agreement on the issue of just compensation and the county needs to acquire all necessary properties in order to proceed with the arena project in a timely fashion.

Again, 22 properties would be included in this resolution. During the condemnation process, Grubb, Ellis, Martens Commercial will still act as the county’s acquisition team and will continue to try to reach agreement when the possibility of purchase appears to be realistic. Again, the point is even though we began condemnation proceeding, an element of those proceedings allows for continued discussion and if possible to reach agreement, remove that property or those properties from the condemnation process and if any other new items come up that would require us, we could remove properties from the process. This allows us to move forward, to begin this process and we would recommend that you adopt this resolution.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioners, any questions of Mr. Holt? I see none, so what is the will of the Board on this item please?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

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Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	No
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Before we take the next item and we also have an off agenda item we have to discuss, but Mr. Buchanan, have you been back after the questions and what have you that . . .”

TABLED ITEM

C. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY MANAGER TO PUBLISH A NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE RECOMMENDED 2007 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

OVERHEAD PRESENTATION

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, we’ve examined some of the suggestions and questions you had and the first one had to do with funding of local partners that Commissioner Sciortino asked, and how they did in 2006 compared to the 2007 budget. You can see that, for all these items on this page are partners in providing service and you will see that in all those cases they are the same funding as they were in 2006: Junior Livestock, Sedgwick County Fair, Historical Museum, African American Museum, Arts Council, Derby Recreation Commission, Area Sports Commission, GWEDC, Metropolitan Transit and that’s a contract for service in Oaklawn, that a little different, it’s a mediation center, K-96 Association and the Governor’s Military Affairs Council

Chairman Sciortino said, “Now wait. So I asked you . . . so you’ve already done what I asked you to please consider doing, is that right? You’ve held everybody to 2006 levels?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “We’re reading your mind in March and April. Also, we also wanted to point out that there are two agencies that receive less funding in 2007 than they did in 2008.

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This first one was the health . . . and I want to talk about each one, is why I want to focus on it. The health benefits you'll have later in the meeting. We also took a look, the question was about some of the programs around the jail, and in discussion earlier with the Sheriff and earlier with our budget analysts and Bob Lamkey and others, we think the programs that we have in place now, the two programs that we've funded, the day reporting system and the assessment program for the mentally ill, we think that that may help reduce and I think it's worth attempting to way help reduce the need for out of county housing so I would propose that we reduce that bite out of the budget by \$317,000."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, if I'm understanding what you're doing, these are the reductions you're recommending and then the next column shows the reduction in the proposed mill levy. Is that right."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Let me make sure, the guy with the glasses is nodding his head too. Is that correct? Okay. Well he's the accountant or whatever. Okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "The question was asked by Commissioner Unruh about Cowtown. We had put in a contingency fund \$200,000 more than what we have funded them in the past. We had thought that this might be needed for some additional programs or for the potential bail out, it appears that that's not going to be necessary in 2007 and I would recommend we reduce that."

We can delay some of the jail alternatives that were budgeted. One was including the second phase of double bunking. We are not there yet and there are other jail alternatives that we could . . . that were proposed to be begun in 2007, mental health court and the work center. I think both . . . that we have a small amount of funding in the 2007 budget to begin late in 2007, I think we're all comfortable with waiting to see how these first two programs work and I think it would be advisable to reduce that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, now before you move, so everybody knows, we're not talking about delaying anything with regard to the expansion on the jail. These are alternatives that we're implementing that hopefully in the future will reduce recidivism, but we're not cutting anything out of what we need to do, as far as the construction of the jail is concerned."

Commissioner Unruh said, "And these are not yet implemented programs."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Right, these programs are not yet implemented."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Still in the planning stage. And finally, we did some calculations on the

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assessed valuation and discovered that the assessed evaluation has been up a little bit, from 5.1 to 5.4%, which would give us a revenue of \$351,000 more. That total produces a budget of \$349,502,609, mill levy of 316.85, a total increase of 2.927 mill.

Then if you're going to do the math and add up all the numbers on the page, and subtract it from the top, it's not going to work. It's not going to work because the budget is based on expenditure, so you have four reductions in expenditure, and one, the last one is an addition to revenue. So if you add . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, got it. All right, thank you, but I am right in my assumption that you have dropped the increase from 12.7 million dollars a year down to 10.8, taking the 3.7 million per mill, times it by the 2.927."

Mr. Buchanan said, "It's 10 something."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yeah, but I mean, it's dropped from what it was this morning, which was 12.7 I believe, or something like that."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "You've figured out a way to, with adjustments either in revenue or cutting costs, we've dropped another good million dollars, if not more. Okay, all right."

Mr. Buchanan said, "1.9 million."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yeah, 1.9 million. Okay, and what . . . and now, going on, what Lucy had asked for earlier, the 3.5 was about a 12% increase. What would this number be, roughly?"

Mr. David Miller, Budget Director, said, "10.2."

Chairman Sciortino said, "God, I'd love to get that magic number below 10. Okay, and if we approve this, this is just the absolute highest dollar. If all of the sudden you could find some additional revenue sources or something, that could even go lower. Right?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes. We would be locked into a budget of not more than \$349,000,000."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And a mill levy increase of not more than 2.927, but we still have a couple of weeks to find out if there's some other revenue sources or something else, another idea, so this could go down further."

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Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Boy, I sure encourage you to try to . . . I don't know, see if you can get it below that magic number of 10%."

Mr. Buchanan said, "We're going to be looking all . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "If it can't be done, it can't be done. Okay. Commissioners, any further questions? Commissioner Unruh, did you get your questions answered?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "The manager addressed both of my questions from earlier."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "I'm sorry, I had to step out for just a moment. What's the bottom line there?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "That would be the new proposed budget, \$349 . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "No, adjustment from 5.1% to 5.4%."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioner, we talked to the Appraiser's Office recently and the assessed value went from . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "I got you."

Commissioner Unruh said, "And so that means, we've been talking about the impact on \$100,000 home, that's \$2.80 a month then, right?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "Wait a minute, I always like this guy over here with the glasses."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I'd like David Miller to look at that."

Mr. Miller said, "33.66."

Mr. Buchanan said, "\$2.80 a month."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, so . . ."

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Mr. Buchanan said, "The \$33 is half the price of a ticket to the Rolling Stones."

Chairman Sciortino said, "That will get you a vote, I'll bet you. So it's \$33 roughly, 66 cents, based on \$100,000 home. Is that what we had used before, and this morning it was \$40. Is that right? But the key element here, if I understand it right, this morning when we were looking at 3.5 mills. Is that the number that we had this morning, that we were first looking at?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, sir."

Chairman Sciortino said, "We were looking at \$12,950,000 and we're now down to about \$10,800,000, if I did my calculation correct. 2.927 times roughly 3.7 million per mill, is 10,829,000 so you have just successfully cut off about a little over \$2,000,000. Those calculations work for you Mr. accountant? Okay, well you saved us \$2,000,000 in about 15 minutes, why don't go back out again for another 15 or 20 minutes. Okay, I'm not trying to be trite here, but I do compliment you. Every time one of us have come up with an idea of thought, you have I think made a pretty good effort at trying to figure out what we can do, as far as reducing it. I am resigned to the fact now, commissioners, that we will not be able to get by without a mill levy increase and I'm also convinced that the only reason that we are going to have this mill levy increase for 2007 is because of our belief that we have to focus on public safety and job creation/ retention. If we were to eliminate one of those, we decided that public safety wasn't a priority, we wouldn't have a mill levy increase. If we decided that the Jabara Campus and protecting those jobs and actually in fact insuring the fact that those jobs would be here in the future wasn't important, we wouldn't have a mill levy increase and I'm comfortable that if those are the two reasons that are causing this mill levy increase, I can support what is being proposed this morning. Any other questions or comments?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, we need the resolution in front of you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I've got it. Are we ready to go with this? Doesn't this have to be readjusted?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "If David has handed out the new one."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well this new one still says . . . oh, 31.685, is that the one that's

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2.927?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to authorize the County Manager to publish a notice of hearing regarding the Sedgwick County 2007 budget of \$349,502,609, the total budget includes a certified legal budget of \$232,979,573 with a \$120,312,501 ad valorem tax levy, which is approximately equivalent to 31.685 mills, subject to revenue and technical adjustments and establish August 9, 2006 as the final hearing date on the recommended 2007 Sedgwick County Budget.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, "A motion has been made and seconded. Any further comments? The only comment I'll make to the people in the audience and to the people watching on television and to the media is that this is the absolute highest it can be. The manager has committed to us that he will continue to look at trying to find additional revenue sources or if someone can come up with another idea of how we can trim this a little further, there's every indication that this could be lower within the next two weeks, but it can't be any higher. The worst case scenario is that there would be approximately a 10.2% increase in property taxes. Is that correct? Okay, that's the figure and that again is the worst-case scenario and that is a far cry from what the manager originally wanted, when he first came to us. He had asked for a 7.5 mill levy increase and that would have been a 26% increase and I thank you very much for working with this board, Mr. Manager, in trying to be as efficient as we can, and I do appreciate your work, but I encourage you to keep working. We still have two more weeks. Thank you. I don't see that there's any other comments, so clerk call the roll please."

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VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. At this time commissioners I think it would be appropriate up this one off agenda item that we have."

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to consider an off agenda item.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

OFF AGENDA ITEM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AUGUST 16, 2006 REGARDING ISSUING UP TO \$175,000,000 IN SINGLE-FAMILY MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS.

Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, the current single family mortgage revenue bond program is almost out of money. In January, we issued the program for \$125,000,000 and as of yesterday there's less than 10% of that left. Last week, homebuyers, first time homebuyers across the state of Kansas used seven and a half million dollars to buy homes. Approving this request will allow the notice to be published

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August 1st, a public hearing to be held August 16th and on that same day I'll bring a resolution to you to allow or adopt another program, the 2006B that will issue up to \$175,000,000 for first-time homebuyers across the state of Kansas. If you have any questions, I'll try to answer them for you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "One thing, Brad, I think you need to make very, very clear to the public. We just got through this budget process and it's been very challenging. You want us to issue \$175,000,000 in single family mortgage revenue bonds. That does not impact the Sedgwick County taxpayers one penny. Is that correct?"

Mr. Snapp said, "No, it does not. Right, that's allocation we already have received from the state previous years, private activity bonds from the state."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Nothing that we're doing here has any dollar impact on any of the taxpayers of Sedgwick County."

Mr. Snapp said, "Exactly."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any other questions or Mr. Snapp and if not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the notice of public hearing.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Brad. Next item please."

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G. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER (RFSC) TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR A JOHNSON COUNTY CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE.

Dr. Timothy Rohrig, Director, Forensic Science Laboratories, RFSC, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to outline an agreement between Johnson County, specifically the Johnson County Crime Laboratory and the Regional Forensic Science Center in the training of one of Johnson County's forensic scientists. The ability to attract a court qualified, trained firearms examiner is extremely difficult throughout the nation. It's a problem that has plagued crime laboratories for the last several years.

Johnson County has been unable to attract and retain a court-qualified, trained examiner. And because of that, they elected to hire . . . or actually they've promoted one of their individuals in their laboratory system to be trained as a firearms examiner.

This training must be provided under the tutelage of a qualified, court-qualified firearms examiner. Johnson County reached out to the State of Kansas KBI for that training and the KBI denied their request. We are also currently in a similar situation, where we have one qualified examiner who is nearing his retirement age, but given the foresight of you and others in county government, we have identified an individual in our laboratory who has begun his training. Johnson County became aware of this and reached out to us and requested a partnership, where we could train one of their examiners, along with our own, for this particular forensic science. And if this memorandum is approved, we will provide that training for that individual.

In addition to outlining the training program, this MOU of partnership with Johnson County will also provide a funding source for Sedgwick County. That is Johnson County will compensate Sedgwick County for that training in that those dollars will be used to offset the salary of our trainee, so it will have a good impact on our budget. If you have no other questions or if you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer them. If not, I'd recommend that you approve the MOU and authorize the Chair to sign."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Doctor. I don't see that there's any questions. Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Doctor, thank you very much. Next item please.”

H. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WORKFORCE ALLIANCE OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS FOR RENTAL OF OFFICE AND WORK STATION SPACE AT THE WICHITA WORKFORCE ALLIANCE CENTER.

Mr. Mike Mueller, Employment Specialist, Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The Wichita Workforce Center, located at 150 North Main, just down the street, serves as a single point of entry to a network of employment, training and educational services and providers. The center assists employers to find and retain a qualified workforce and helps job seekers to obtain job training, job assistance and helps them in their job searches.

To help provide and coordinate these services, a number of partners have co-located down at the workforce center. In order to strengthen these partnerships, the Sedgwick County Work Force Development Department requests to rent office space at the center for its project manager Marv Duncan. This will place him in close proximity to the other stakeholders as they work through issues concerning training, access for regional employers to state and federal funds and workforce development.

No additional employees are requested for this service. Additionally, Sedgwick County Division of Human Resources wishes to locate one employee at the workforce center to provide employment services for the county. This employee will coordinate the posting of positions, application processes, applicant screening services, qualification of applicants, background investigations and so forth. In addition, this employee will provide information assistance to applicant customers seeking employment with Sedgwick County. Again, no additional employees are requested to support this service.

Marv Duncan is also here in the audience to answer any questions you may have. If you have no

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additional questions, I would request that you approve this memorandum of understanding.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. I don’t see that there’s any questions.”

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you very much. Next item please.”

Chairman Sciortino left the meeting room at 12:45 p.m.

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES

I. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE.

1. AGREEMENT WITH HEARTSPRING FOR COMCARE TO PROVIDE

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CHILD PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION AND EVALUATION SERVICES.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is a renewal of an agreement that we have with Heartspring to provide psychiatry services for the kids at Heartspring who have serious developmental disabilities and mental health issues. Dr. Deann Jenkins of our children’s program, who is a board certified child psychiatrist, is the one that providing these services. She has felt all along, she joined our staff a year ago, that the fact that there are very few board certified child psychiatrists in this area, it’s an obligation of hers to provide that special expertise to Heartspring and they pay us very well for that. The agreement is for eight hours a month and both parties are very satisfied with the arrangement. We’re recommending that you approve this agreement.”

Chair Pro Tem Burtnett said, “Commissioners, are there any questions of Marilyn? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Absent

Chair Pro Tem Burtnett said, “Next item.”

Chairman Sciortino returned to the meeting room at 12:47 p.m.

2. AGREEMENT WITH KATHERINE GRIMSLEY, M.D. TO PROVIDE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES.

Ms. Cook said, “This is an employment agreement with Dr. Katherine Grimsley. She’ll be working two days a week at our out-patient program and one day a week at our crisis program, doing those

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things that psychiatrists do medication evaluations and so forth. She recently graduated from her psychiatry residency at the University of Kansas, as so many of our psychiatrists have. She completed her undergraduate degree from Cornell University at Ithaca, New York. She obtained her medical degree from Emory University of Medicine in Atlanta and then she also, in addition to all of that, did a year of combined internal medicine and psychiatry residency in North Carolina, at Wake forest Medical Center. She did spend her third year of her clinical rotation with COMCARE working in our CSS program. We are very, very thrilled to have her be part of our team, even though it's only part time. We are recommending that you approve this agreement."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Is Dr. Grimsley in the audience so we might recognize her?"

Ms. Cook said, "No, she is not."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioners, what's the will of the board on Item I-2?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, Marilyn. Next item please."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- DEPARTMENT ON AGING

J. CENTRAL PLAINS AREA AGENCY ON AGING FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007 AREA PLAN.

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Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Every year, the Kansas Department on Aging requires that an Area Agency of Aging submit an area plan which details how the agency will plan to use the federal dollars and this is for fiscal year October 1st, 2006 through September 30th, 2007. This is required to be sent to DOA by August 1st. This program that you have in front of you outlines how we will spend the dollars that provide services for in-home and community-based services, nutrition services that are both home-delivered and congregate, health promotion and disease management, medication management and caregiver funds, along with our funding for the administration of this program.

This plan covers the tri-county area of Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick Counties. This has been taken before the Central Plains Advisory Council on Aging at their June 21st meeting and has also been approved by the both the Butler and Harvey County Commissions that authorized the governing board for the Sedgwick County government to authorize this. This is a mill levy matching funds are required, 8.5% for most of the programs. However, for a large program, the meal programs, that is matched with state funds and the caregiver program is also matched by KDOA. The cost of that match money is \$71,569. That has already been approved by the County Commission on a previous time for our annual budget and this does bring in 1.7 million dollars of funding that goes to provide services to older adults in our county. So, I’ll be happy to answer any questions.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Annette. I don’t see that there’s any questions.”

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to approve the FY 2007 Area Plan; and authorize the Chairman to sign the Application and other related documents necessary to complete the grant process, including the notification of grant awards.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, Annette. Next item."

K. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 20, 2006.

Mr. James McComas, Senior Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of July 20th, 2006 resulted in four items for your consideration.

1) EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL AND PHARMACY BENEFITS- HUMAN RESOURCES
FUNDING SOURCE: HUMAN RESOURCES

The first item is employee health, dental and pharmacy benefits for Human Resources. The recommendation is to accept the proposal from Preferred Health System, option 2, for items one and two, for an estimated first year cost of \$20,008,004 and an estimated three-year cost of \$65,588,238 and a low proposal from Delta Dental for item 3 for an estimated first-year cost of \$1,547,456.94 for an estimated three-year cost of \$4,909,011.43 for an estimated combined total one-year cost of \$21,555,460.94 and an estimated combined three-year total cost of \$70,497,249.43 to establish and execute contract pricing for three years, with two one-year options to renew.

2) OUT REACH MARKETING/ MEDIA SERVICES- HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Item two is outreach marketing media services for the Health Department.

2.1 OUT REACH MARKETING/ MEDIA SERVICES (RADIO)
FUNDING SOURCE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Item 2.1, which is for radio services, the recommendation is to accept the proposal from Intercom for stations KDGS, KFH, KNSS, KFBZ, KEYN, Clear Channel Radio Wichita for stations KRBB, KTHR, KZCH, KZSN, TCV Publishing for station KSJM, and the Journal Broadcast Group for stations KFDI, KMXW, KICT, KFXJ, KYQQ and KFTI, to establish and execute contract pricing for one year with two one-year options to renew.

2.2 OUT REACH MARKETING/ MEDIA SERVICES (TELEVISION)
FUNDING SOURCE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2.2 for television, the recommendation is to accept the proposal for Cox Communications, KCV

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Publishing, Fox/ UPN Kansas, KSN and KAKE to establish and execute contract pricing for one year with two one-year options to renew.

2.3 OUT REACH MARKETING/ MEDIA SERVICES (BILLBOARD) FUNDING SOURCE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Item 2.3, billboard advertising . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Can I ask a question.”

Commissioner Burnett said, “Just let him go through it, because I have something . . . this is what I wanted to deal with.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, well I was just going to . . . Who is TCV?”

Mr. McComas said, “TCV, they’re the main player. They represent four companies that are functioning together in this proposal.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, I’ll get that later. Go ahead.”

Mr. McComas said, “Item 2.3, outreach marketing services for the billboards, the recommendation is to accept the proposal for Clear Channel Outdoor and TCB Publishing to establish and execute contract pricing for one year, with two one-year options to renew.

2.4 OUT REACH MARKETING/ MEDIA SERVICES (BUS) FUNDING SOURCE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Item 2.4 for bus advertising, recommendation is to accept the proposal from TCB Publishing to establish and execute contract pricing for one year, with two one-year options to renew.

3) ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE- FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUNDING: FACILITIES MAINTENANCE/ PUBLIC WORKS/ CORRECTIONS

Item 3 is elevator maintenance for Facilities Maintenance. Recommendation is to accept a low proposal from ThyssenKrupp Elevator for groups 1, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 to be paid on a monthly basis for an annual cost of \$22,800 and a low proposal from KONE, Incorporated for group 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 to be paid on a monthly basis for an annual cost of \$37,860 and execute a contract for five years, with three additional one-year options to renew.

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4) AIRPLANE LEASE- FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET AIRPLANE

Item four, airplane lease for Fleet Management. The recommendation is accept the quote from Charles Howear Servicenter for an estimated cost of \$70,000.

I'd be happy to answer questions and recommend approval of these items. And for the record, Jo Templin and Kevin Nash from Human Resources would like to make a statement regarding item one."

Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We would just like to take this opportunity to say that with the health benefit recommendations, we believe that this recommendation is a very quality and competitive benefit package for our employees. However, we also understand that the transition and the change will impact every employee of this organization, as well as their family members. So we want to assure you that we will be very concerned about the changes and the transition and helping employees understand what that means. The county manager, the HR Director, myself, benefit manager Kevin Nash are planning to do educational tours in departments and divisions to help employees understand the changes.

We've communicated changes on E-line. We are going to be scheduling meetings with divisions and departments and we will be working with Preferred Health Systems, who have already set up a link called Sedgwick County to help employees understand the changes and the transitions. We have Brian Rose and Mike Howell here from Preferred Health Systems if you have specific questions about the plan and would be happy to entertain any questions that you might have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, this has more to do with a holistic look at budgeting than it does with Bids and Contracts. I know that Jo and Kevin and a group of other employees have worked real hard to try to put together a package of benefits. The truth is, it's over \$20,000,000. It's a huge budget item for Sedgwick County and I think it's indicative of what the manager and staff have tried to do this year in reevaluating how we spend money. And I think the communication to the public is it's not about bidding with Blue Cross/ Blue Shield or Preferred Health or whoever, it's about reinventing how we spend our money at the county and in this case, we're changing the employee benefit plan, when it comes to health and dental for every employee to try to, number one, offset some costs but also reinvent how we provide benefits to our employees at a time when budgets are very, very tight. And I think it's just another example, in the budgeting process, of how we try to reinvent ourselves to provide good service to our employees, but also be a good steward of taxpayers' money who pay the bills. So it's more holistic than just the bid board today. It has to do with \$20,000,000 worth of budget that we're trying to spend in the most

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efficient, effective manner. That's all I have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. I know Commissioner Burnett has something about number two, but if I'm reading this going back to my old media days and if I'm a media buyer, in essence all we've done is said, 'Would you send us your rate card' and we haven't made a buy yet, but just send us your rate card so we can see what rates you would charge us if we made a buy and now that we know what your rate cards are, then we're going to have our media buyer figure out what's the most efficient, what's our demographic we're going after and now we'll know the rate that we can figure out what our buy would be. Is that basically what you've done on this item?"

Mr. McComas said, "That is correct."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Back in my old radio days, if I could find out what your media budget was, I would put together a package that would be less than the per spot rate, the radio station is not . . . is this their just single rate? I mean, don't they have . . . you know, if they could garner a certain number of dollars from you, won't the rate go down or . . . I don't know how radios work. One radio guy is sleeping back there, so I can't ask him."

Mr. McComas said, "There would be no guarantee that your rate would go down. The rate that you see for the radio is a not to exceed, so that would be the highest that we would pay any radio person for a particular spot."

Chairman Sciortino said, "All right, so this is just a single spot. I want to buy a spot morning drive on Monday, it's \$45 if I did it on KDGS."

Mr. McComas said, "Correct."

Chairman Sciortino said, "All right. So this doesn't give you any flavor. I mean, how does this help you when you're putting together a media buy?"

Mr. McComas said, "What it does is we've requested in there, we evaluated all of them, but we also asked for their demographic area, so departments would be able to look at the demographic areas and select the demographics that they're trying to hit, find that target medium and know what an estimated cost is going be for them."

Chairman Sciortino said, "You're going to trust some radio salesman telling you what the demographics are, or are you going to analyze an arbatron book, because they . . . trust me, I used to be a radio salesman, and we can do a frontage lobotomy on somebody that isn't too up on how to make a radio buy. Do we have somebody on staff qualified enough to go through this whole maze and come up with something appropriate?"

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Mr. Buchanan said, "We thought that this was a good opportunity to try to determine, for all department. We have so seldom do we use radios for public education. Mostly we do it ourselves. We do have a small grant that's available to us to do some public educations for health and part of that grant was to do some advertising."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, this is a good beginning, Mr. Buchanan. Let me just tell you, after having spent eight years in radio, anything I could do to help you make an efficient buy, I'll be very happy to donate my time."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Great. We're not ready to do that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yeah okay. I mean, I think this is a good start, and I think . . . I'm excited that we're going to be using radio, because the really neat thing about radio, there's no . . . you can't shut off the radio, your ears are always open, and you could be doing something and still get the message, because there are no eyelids on a radio station and now a paid political announcement. Okay, what have you got?"

Commissioner Burnett said, "Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your comments but I was actually going to make a motion to defer that item 2 through 2.4 for a week because I have some issues I want to discuss with both the Bid Board and some of the people in the bids."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, but . . . that's fine, but I mean they're not making any buy. They just went out and basically said 'What is your rate'."

Commissioner Burnett said, "We realize that."

Mr. Buchanan said, "We want to talk to some of the bidders who have some questions, who have protested and we want a week to do that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, okay. So you want to just pull item 2."

Commissioner Burnett said, "Item 2 through 2.4 till next week."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Item 2, the entire item 2. Okay, Commissioner Unruh, do you have a question on anything other than item 2?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "Yes, other than item 2, I don't know how we handle this. Do we go ahead and vote on item 2?"

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Chairman Sciortino said, “We’ll make a decision on items 1 . . . how many items are there total? One, three and four.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “My question is to Jo about the change in our health system or health coverage. This will not, as far as we can analyze it, doesn’t impose a serious burden on our employees? I mean, this is going to be basically cost neutral or offer them more choices, less choices? I mean, can you give me just a quick reassurance about this?”

Ms. Templin said, “I guess, in a one-minute summary, the premiums will be lower, the deductibles and co-pays will be higher. It will either have a minimal, neutral or slightly higher total out of pocket cost.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “So we have all three choices available, depending on how we want to manage our own healthcare.”

Ms. Templin said, “Depending on whether they have PPK or Blue Cross now, if they elect . . . there will be two options, a base plan and a premium plan, so employees have a choice on selecting which plan they want, based upon their own medical experiences.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, so we have plenty of flexibility.”

Ms. Templin said, “They will have a choice.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, thank you. That’s all I have Mr. Chair.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. If there’s no further questions, what is the will of the board on items 1, 3 and 4?”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts on items 1, 3 and 4.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “And Commissioner, do you want to frame a . . .”

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to defer item 2 on the bid board for two week.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioners, is there anything more to come before . . . Pardon, yeah, next item.”

CONSENT AGENDA

L. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Park sewer access by the City of Wichita for the Sedgwick County Sewer Installation Project.**
- 2. Request to the Kansas Department of Corrections to approve grant program line item adjustments.**
- 3. Request to the State Juvenile Justice Authority to approve program line item adjustments for the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program and the Juvenile**

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Case Management Program.

- 4. Agreement (renewal) with Kansas State Department of Education allowing the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections to receive meal reimbursement funds.**

- 5. Lease Agreements (two) with USD 259 for space used by the Health Department for its Women, Infants and Children Program located at Colvin Elementary School, 2820 South Roosevelt, and Stanley Elementary School, 1749 South Martinson.**

- 6. Order dated July 18, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**

- 7. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of July 19 – 25, 2006.**

Chairman Sciortino said, “Would you ask the Manager if he’d like to present the consent agenda.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it.”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “I do believe there’s an executive session we have to attend, but is there

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anything under the 'Other' category that anyone would like to discuss? Commissioner Burnett.”

M. OTHER

Commissioner Burnett said, “Just want to remind everyone to get out and vote.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Well actually, you know that is a good one and I do believe that is something that everybody should exercise, is their right to vote and regardless of who you're voting for, make the effort to vote. Anything else on 'Other'? Okay.”

MOTION

Commissioner Burnett moved to recess into Executive Session for 10 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/client relationship relating to legal advice and preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property for public purposes and that the Board of County Commissioners return to this room from executive session no sooner than 1:15 p.m.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “We are now recessed into Executive Session.”

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into executive session at 1:05 p.m. and returned at 1:19 p.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, “Let the record show that there was no binding action taken during

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Executive Session. Mr. Euson, Is there anything else to come before the board? Mr. Buchanan?
This meeting is adjourned.”

N. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

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

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman
Fifth District

LUCY BURTNETT, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner,
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2006