

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

REGULAR MEETING

January 7th, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 10:51 a.m., on Wednesday, January 7th, 2009 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Tim R. Norton; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Kelly Parks; Commissioner Gwen Welshimer; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Dave Thompson, IAFF Local 2612 President; Chief Gary Curmode, Fire Chief; and Ms. Kristi Vermillion, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION TO CHAIRMAN WINTERS FROM IAFF LOCAL 2612.

Mr. Dave Thompson, IAFF Local 2612 President, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm going to be joined by Fire Chief Gary Curmode. I realized he was here this morning as well so we might as well do it in tandem. This morning I'd like to take the time on behalf of the membership of members of Local 2612 in acknowledging your appreciation by our members and our department for your 16 years of service as a Fire District Board Member. That's a long outstanding career that not a lot of commissioners attain or see as far as longevity. Often we recognize you as a Commissioner because you are an elected Commissioner. Today you're sitting as the Chairman so a lot of times we refer to you as both. As a Commissioner and Chairman, your support and commitment to the mission and goals and members of our department over your tenure has experienced change and improvements within our fire service. Notable items of dialog and debate, I have listed are Certification for ISO within the Fire District. That's a huge improvement that we have overtaken in the last two years. Andale Fire Station #31; maintaining that, keeping it open through tight budgets; the Goddard Fire Station, Station #35 and its future relocation and the relocation efforts within the Fire District of five of our stations, overall growth and deployment and the accreditation of FSCD #1. I actually had a person send me one, something about diesel emissions. That must have been before my time. During this time, Commissioner, you took a leadership role in times that were good and

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, January 7th, 2009

sometimes that were bad and we recognize that as well. Our members, Local 2612, during the 16 years, you've managed to make sure that we've been fairly compensated, adequately funded within the Fire District and you've made every attempt to provide a safe and well equipped workforce for all of us. As you leave office, the members of Local 2612 want to acknowledge your service and leadership to our members and most of all the citizens of Sedgwick County and we just want to say thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. I am going to come down there Dave."

Mr. Thompson said, "That would be fine."

Chairman Winters said, "Oh my gosh!"

Mr. Thompson said, "On behalf of the members of Local 2612 a token of our appreciation and we are happy to make that presentation to you and a copy of the notes."

Chairman Winters said, "Well, thank you, thank you very much. This is very surprising and very much appreciate. You know, I said a number of times when...particularly when we have retirees coming, we have many great departments in this County that do great work for our citizens but public safety is one of the highest that you can be involved in and when it comes to protecting citizens I think we have a remarkable group of employees that are dedicated to that and none more so than the firefighters and those members of the local union. We are in the middle of a great...Chief, step over here a little closer too...we are in the middle of a great process in the Fire District by relocating a number of Fire Stations that are going to give thousands of homeowners a better fire rating because of the quality of service that the men and women of Fire District #1 are going to be able to provide. It is a great profession. We know that it has tremendous amount of risk involved with it and so certainly on my behalf but I think I can say for all of the Board of County Commissioners we appreciate the work that your Local does and I especially am pleased with this token of appreciation so, Dave, thank you very much for being here at my last meeting."

Mr. Thompson said, "Anytime."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you."

Chief Gary Curmode, Fire Chief, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would like to say just a few words too to echo Dave Thompson's comments. Commissioner Winters was the remaining Commissioner when I came 14 years ago and he gave a broad vision and a challenge to me as a Chief at that time as I recall in 1995 to be the best we can be, show us the road to go, if you don't know find out and help us get there and that challenge I will never forget and he has been very supported through all these years. Many things...we have had some tough times.

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, January 7th, 2009

We've had tornados, we've had floods, and we've had some real tough times in drought. We've had the DeBruce Grain Elevator explosion, one of the top 10 in the world as far as a major industrial disaster. And again during that whole 32 days that we were there, all the Commissioners at that time and the Manager and his staff were there to help us out 24 hours a day and I will never forget that. That was really...it meant a lot to our entire department. As I think of...there are so many things that all the Commissioners have helped steer us towards in the past 14 years that I have been here but I can say this, the DeBruce Grain Elevator stood out very well in my mind of support from the Commissioners and the staff and also then again the tornadoes that we have had and other things that we have been able to achieve with your support financially has been the accreditation. We have just been reaccredited a second time. Again, that's an entire department, men and women effort but it can't be done without the vision of the Commission and the support from the Manager and his staff so I thank you for that. I will remember about four and a half years ago, my staff and I were called down to the Commission chambers and had a short meeting and Commissioner Winters walked in and he said 'Gentlemen, we need to help improve our ISO rating, we need to improve our infrastructure of our Fire Stations; many of them are over 40 years old; let's get a plan together' and that plan was adopted by the Commission. We have worked hard. Two of them have come to fruition. We are going to finish...start three in the next year and this year of '09. And again that vision to this date has moved where we had 47% of our population within five miles of a fire station, it is going to be over 78% now. That is going to be over \$3.3 million and again I give that credit to you and the Commissioners we have today and the Manager and his staff and the public's for supporting the increased funding for these fire stations because it is going to be over \$3.3 million a year that continues year after year and we are continually challenged by the Commission to look for other things and we have some things that we are looking at in 2009 that is also going to be again that you emphasize for us to look for and increased ISO savings for our taxpayers. So on behalf of the men and women of Sedgwick County Fire District #1 we would like to give you these suspenders behind glass and you are now in our Wall of Flame and we will hang you proudly in Fire Station #32."

Chairman Winters said, "Alright, thank you. Well just to clarify, that \$3.2 million that Chief spoke about, that is not increases, that is \$3.2 million in savings to property owners in Sedgwick County and that will continue year after year. Again, Chief and Dave I can't tell you enough that I have been very proud and very pleased to have been associated with part of Fire District #1. You guys are doing a great job and I am very proud to be a part of it."

Chief Curmode said, "Ok, thank you sir."

Chairman Winters said, "Alright, thank you."

Commissioner Norton said, "Clerk, we are the other part of the Fire District, there is nothing else. I will adjourn the Fire District meeting."

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, January 7th, 2009

B. OTHER

C. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner,
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner,
Second District

KARL PETERJOHN, Commissioner,
Third District

KELLY PARKS, Commissioner,
Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner,
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Kelly Arnold, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2009