

**Sedgwick County 3rd District
Citizens Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes

April 1st, 2019

Goddard School's Santa Fe Room

7:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order – Meeting called to Order by Lamont Anderson

Swearing In – Sherry Livingston was sworn in as an official member of the District 3 Citizens Advisory Board by Karen Bailey.

Approval of Feb Minutes – Janice Manlove moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Pat Gaughan. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None

NEW BUSINESS

Update from the Election Office – Tabitha Lehman, Election Commissioner

Commissioner Lehman briefed the board on how elections work in Kansas and the Election Office's role in executing elections and managing voter registration rolls. She also updated the board on current happenings impacting both the county election office and elections in general.

Gaughan asked if the federally-mandated voter list maintenance processes were determined by state law or the Secretary of State. The processes are specified in state law and should be uniform across all Kansas counties.

Livingston asked if the vote center legislation would require all counties to provide vote centers. The proposed legislation makes vote centers optional because some counties do not have the technology to execute the vote center model.

Manlove asked why voter signatures on ballots are not compared to the signature on the vote-by-mail application instead of the registration. The Office required by Kansas law to compare the application signature to the registration card signature first. Then the ballot signature can be compared to the application.

Manlove stated that the screens on the voting machines were small and unable to fit all the candidates' names in prior elections. The number of candidates and the amount of information that is required to be attached to each candidate's name exceeded the space available on the screen. The software was

functioning as designed. The design was based on research that indicated an increase in incomplete ballots and errors when the screen was too crowded with information. Voters must hit “more” to see a separate screen with the remaining candidates. The order in which the candidates appear rotates evenly. Any fix would require federal and state certification, as well as county testing.

Manlove asked if there was regulation governing the order in which each office appears on the ballot. Yes, that is mandated by state law.

Gaughan asked why provisional ballots were counted differently between Sedgwick County and Johnson County. The county commissioners received different legal advice during the vote canvass. The Secretary of State is looking to provide more education on the issue moving forward.

Gaughan stated that his signature today looks nothing like it did when he first registered to vote in Sedgwick County, so he does not opt to vote by mail. The method of comparing signatures seems antiquated given the technology available. Commissioner Lehman has received training in handwriting analysis from the FBI. If Senate Bill 130 passes, it helps to resolve a part of this issue in that any signatures challenged require the county to alert the voter in question.

Ailslieger asked if poll workers saw signatures on driver’s licenses during in-person voting. Poll workers do not compare signatures. Voter ID itself verifies the voter when done in-person.

Gaughan asked if it was legal to return vote-by-mail ballots for someone else. Yes, as long as you are not helping them fill it out and you fill out the affidavit on the envelope. ☐

Gaughan asked Commissioner Lehman if she was personally comparing signatures since she has the FBI handwriting analysis training. Yes, every ballot that is rejected for signature is reviewed by Commissioner Lehman before vote canvass.

Gaughan asked how many spare express vote machines the county has. We have 900 total machines, nearly all will be deployed in the 2020 election, with a few kept in reserve.

Livingston asked about staffing on Election Day and if an all vote-by-mail system would be easier. The County does provide some employees to help with IT and other issues on Election Day that saves a lot of taxpayer dollars. Half-days are offered, but it is difficult and costly to find and train two individuals to fill one position. An all vote-by-mail system would be easier to administer. In the long-term, it would probably be less costly, but the costs do shift between personnel, fuel, paper, postage, etc... depending on the model.

Gaughan asked if a person who applies for a vote-by-mail ballot can still vote in-person instead. They can fill out a provisional ballot or drop off their vote-by-mail ballot at a polling location.

Gaughan asked how a person that wants to vote in-person can preview their ballot before they show up to vote. You can go to <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/elections/> and click on the “view sample ballot”

link, input your information, and bring up a pdf of what your ballot will look like. Alternatively, you may call the election office and they will mail you your sample ballot.

Manlove asked how early the sample ballots were available. Typically 5 to 6 weeks before the election. Sometimes things can change in the intervening time.

BOARD AGENDA

Manlove asked about an accident in Clearwater. Chairman Dennis met with the county Traffic Engineer and Deputy Director of Public Works. They determined that rumble strips were a feasible solution. Director of Public Works David Spears agreed. Trees near that intersection (71st and 135th) that may have obstructed the view of a stop sign were also removed.

Livingston asked about the stop signs at the intersections. The stop sign is a 48-inch diameter sign with a 12 in red flashing light. The person who ran the stop sign was traveling at 70mph. ☒

Manlove noted that there were a number of “fees” attached to her vehicle registration that are simply a means of increasing revenue while claiming “taxes” are not increasing.

Shafer asked if there was any discussion at the state or county level to collect from out-of-state tags. Chairman Dennis and Commissioner O'Donnell have discussed it with Sheriff Easter in the past. The Sheriff is not in favor of such an effort because the cost in manpower would exceed the cost of additional revenue. Shafer stated it is a fairness issue more than a financial issue. ☒

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONER DENNIS

1. District 4 is starting a Citizen’s Advisory Board.
2. The BOCC is looking for candidates to interview for the open County Appraiser position.
3. The BOCC is looking into budgeting for additional County Appraiser staff in 2020.
4. The BOCC is interviewing 2 candidates for the open Fire Chief position tomorrow.
5. Legislative Agenda:
 - a. The 911 modernization fee is currently inadequate 62 cents. An increase is currently being worked on in conference committee.
 - b. SB 130 (voting centers and signature issues) passed the house unanimously. It is in conference committee in the Senate. There is some opposition in to vote centers coming from Johnson County.
6. A public forum on land use related to commercial wind and solar energy was recently held at the Zoo. Public comment is still available at www.sedgwickcounty.org until April 26. The BOCC will make a decision in the context of land use issues.

7. Tom Stolz is the new County Manager. Tim Kaufman is the new Deputy County Manager. He will still oversee Public Services. Tania Cole is the new Assistant County Manager of Administrative Services.
8. Chairman Dennis recently attended the following events:
 - a. A law enforcement meeting hosted by Sheriff Easter where he learned that the last five seconds of most recent data can be extracted from cars involved in accidents as long as the cars are not restarted beforehand.
 - b. A VFW/VA suicide awareness seminar. The VA site has resources available.
 - c. The American Legion held an event in honor of Vietnam War veterans.
9. Path improvements at the Sedgwick County Park near the 21st Street entrance are complete.
10. State Secretary of Transportation Carlson called Chairman Dennis to ask about the Northwest Bypass. They discussed commissioning a study to evaluate the project more closely.

Other

ADJOURNMENT