



*Sedgwick County...  
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District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting  
Minutes

Monday, July 29, 2019  
7 p.m.

Goddard School District  
Conference Center

**Board members in attendance:** Sharon Ailsieger, Lamont Anderson, Lauren Clary, Pat Gaughan, Nancy Hinten, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter, Sherry Livingston, David Wright, David Dennis – District 3 Commissioner, Staff: Tom Stolz – County Manager, Lorien Showalter Arie - County Budget Director, Lindsay Poe Rousseau – County CFO

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Call to Order** – Meeting called to Order by Chair Lamont Anderson

**Approval of April Minutes** – Janice Manlove moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Nancy Hinten. Passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review of the 2020 Recommended Budget – Tom Stolz, Lorien Showalter Arie, Lindsay Poe Rousseau**

Tom Stolz led a presentation of the 2020 Recommended Budget. The Commission wanted to keep a flat budget and not raise taxes. There is a slight increase in the budget this year due to increased assessed property valuation in the county.

The Board of County Commission (BoCC) had two themes this year that they wanted to keep in mind when creating the budget: take care of staff and mental health (COMCARE).

The County has approximately 40 departments which they have to take into consideration when it comes to creating a budget. Each department head or division director presents to the BoCC each year with their request for funding for the next year. This is a process that took about 15 hours over several meetings.

Tom noted that Sedgwick County still has not recovered staffing from the Great Recession; many departments are still suffering because of this.

The IT budget is around \$20 million. The Recommended Budget establishes a technology review board to try and cut costs and find areas where the organization can share software.

Public Works has bridges that are 70-80 years old and are in need of replacement.

The County has maintained great ratings through bonding institutions.

This year, 19 departments are being recommended for additional staff or funding for services/ programs. 911 is one of the departments they are looking to add 3 FTE positions, as they are not able to meet their benchmark of answering calls in 10 seconds with staffing currently. Elections and Central Services have increased funding for 2020 because of the election. Funding is also potentially included for the continuation of the Integrated Care Team (ICT-1) program which is a pilot program right now.

The County is hoping to have an Appraiser hired within a couple months.

Commissioner Dennis wanted to briefly talk about ICT-1 since it was just mentioned in the budget presentation. He is excited about the program and did a ride along Friday, July 26. He said they had a call to go to as soon as he got in the car, each professional knew their job. The Sheriff Deputy went to door first, once they made contact with citizen and determined it was safe, a Paramedic evaluated and determined citizen was stable. Then the Social Worker from COMCARE went in to evaluate the citizen. Dennis mentioned that he learned the Social Worker has more power to transport someone than EMS. The team also realized that in case there was a need to break in a door, the ICT-1 vehicle did not have the right equipment; it will be remedied soon. There will be reviews of the pilot program at 30, 60, and 90 day intervals.

Sherry Livingston wanted to know how ICT-1 was staffed.

Right now, Wichita Police and Sheriff's Office will rotate every two weeks to be in line with their pay schedule. It is same person from COMCARE every day. Paramedics rotate daily (from EMS, Wichita Fire, and Sedgwick County EMS).

Nancy Hinten wanted to know how the team prioritizes calls.

They have a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, as well as listen to calls as they come out. The ICT-1 team determines which calls they will go to from what they are hearing on the radio. They prioritize calls based on severity. While en route, the Sheriff Deputy and Social Worker were on their computers, looking through their databases to see if they could find any patient or location history.

Commissioner Dennis noted that the team has already saved lives.

Tom mentioned that other jurisdictions with similar models have seen a reduction of officer involved shootings.

Kevin McWhorter wanted elaboration on county-wide pay adjustments. What is the plan for multi-year adjustments?

Budget planned for a five percent adjustment, including the cost of benefits. The BOCC and leadership are aware that it is a multi-year effort to close the 14 percent average gap in pay with the rest of the market. WSU has been engaged to help determine the greatest disparities with a five, seven and 10-year plan.

Pat Gaughan understood that Sheriff's Office and the jail have staffing problems. Their pay scale is low and doesn't think that the 2.25 percent pay increase will be sufficient.

In 2019, the Sheriff's Office implemented a five percent step raise on an employee's anniversary date of hire. This is a 15-year plan. This strategy has also helped out salaried employees and made supervisor positions more attractive.

It was noted that across the state correction departments are struggling to recruit and retain staff.

David Wright mentioned the recent negative press about the water situation in Wichita and wanted what the County's role might be in remedying it.

Water within Sedgwick County is either owned by City of Wichita or a Rural Water District. Sedgwick County doesn't have a water utility but would support a regional water authority.

Kevin McWhorter wanted to know about the long term availability of water.

Availability and deliverability are two different things. City of Wichita gets water from the Cheney Reservoir and wells in Harvey County. The County will likely never be a water provider.

Pat Gaughan wondered if Sedgwick County purchased water in bulk from the City of Wichita, as other municipalities do.

Sedgwick County is just a user of the water, as any another business.

Manlove wanted to know how the budget for aging services is determined, specifically how senior centers get funding.

Each senior center submits a proposal to the Advisory Council on Aging. That group takes the proposals and makes a decision.

Manlove was surprised that more programs aren't funded or available for youth and seniors (intergenerational).

There is a national trend going back to that model. The County funds the Department on Aging and it allocates a portion of funding to senior centers. The goal is to fund programs throughout the county so all residents have access. Senior center funding is approximately \$600,000 a year.

Nancy Hinten wanted to know how much of the budget was funded through the State for Federal government.

The budget break-down is approximately 70 percent from Federal and State government and 30 percent local.

Hinten also wanted to know if there have been changes in the amount that has been funded from other government entities.

Funding has decreased but it has been coming back since the government is recovering from the Great Recession.

Pat Gaughan wanted to know how Public Works has been affected with the State transferring money from KDOT to cover KPERS.

Special projects such as the North Junction felt the reduction.

Last year a delegation from Sedgwick County went to Topeka to meet with the Transportation Secretary. The current Secretary took office in January and has been more than involved with Sedgwick County. The North Junction is a top transportation priority. Staff is hoping to get an INFRA grant in August, but if that doesn't happen the Transportation Secretary said that she would make the project happen.

McWhorter stated that over \$2 billion was transferred from KDOT to the State General Fund. \$1.1 billion of that was funded with long-term debt before transferred. He also mentioned that in the next 10 years, it is likely the treasury bonds will approach zero percent interest and wanted to know if the County would look toward financing more with bonds as it will be relatively cheaper and historically cheapest to finance money.

Staff would like the budget to pass with the proposed CIP which includes bonding for projects. The five-year CIP totals \$50.5 million, \$4 million of that would be for bridge work.

#### **Update on the Wind & Solar Energy Operations Moratorium – Tom Stolz, County Manager**

There are big issues when it comes to wind and solar power generation. Reno County didn't have votes from the commission and now is in a lawsuit with a wind generating company. Sedgwick County has a moratorium until they can come to a consensus to try and avoid what Reno County is going through. MAPC has heard about this twice and is now going to BoCC for final vote.

Gaughan missed the last CAB meeting when this was discussed and asked what the downside was to wind/ solar generation in Sedgwick County.

There are several things that can be a problem from wind turbines: noise (constant hum), flickering (flicker effect), horizontal air can affect aircraft, and there were many builders concerned about what it would do to developments.

Commissioner Dennis said the County has great interest from parties who want to generate solar energy. They have to have set backs from airports so there isn't a glare for the control towers. If people are approached, or want their land used for renewable energy, Commissioner Dennis wants people to

be informed. Their property will be assessed at the value of its use, which might be from agriculture to commercial, which will greatly change their taxes.

### **BOARD AGENDA**

Manlove thanked Commissioner Dennis and the County for donating \$100,000 toward a new building at the Sedgwick County fairgrounds, which was greatly needed. She was appreciative for getting a street sign placed at her rural intersection. And she received a bill from Sedgwick County EMS, six months after the transport and wanted to know what took so long.

It was determined that because the trip she was referring to was to the VA, that it probably took longer to go through their system for billing, as the County gets billing information from the hospital in which someone is transported to.

Hinten brought articles that were published in New Atlantic to the group's attention. They discussed the importance of having integrated neighborhoods and how it can teach youth about what there is in life and to hopefully get them out of poverty.

### **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONER DENNIS**

1. Congratulated Public Information Officer Kate Flavin on being awarded Wichita Business Journal's 40 under 40.
2. Mentioned the ground breaking for the new building #2 at the Sedgwick County fairgrounds.
3. Soon work will begin at Sedgwick County Zoo on a temporary entrance, so they can demolish the current one and begin construction.
4. There will be a staff meeting July 30, with a presentation on space planning for the County. One plan to tear down the Courthouse annex and build a new administrative building totals \$30 million.
  - a. Manlove wanted to know what was in the Historic Courthouse other than elections.
    - i. Print shop, IT, HR, Historic Court Room
  - b. David Wright wanted to know more about the mental health facility
    - i. BoCC is trying to get State to agree that we need a regional facility in Sedgwick County.
5. Still needing a CAB representative to fill a vacancy. Commissioner Dennis would prefer someone from the western part of the county/ district.
6. BoCC voted to purchase land for a new Andale Fire Station.
7. East bank proposal, County put in part of the money, hoping this is the last study and that a great plan comes from it.

8. New children's hospital owned by KVC, BoCC approved \$100,000 towards their capital campaign.

Other

ADJOURNMENT

Manlove made a motion for adjournment, Gaughn seconded. Anderson call the meeting adjourned.