



District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

April 3, 2023 | 7 p.m.
Goddard District Conference Center
315 S. Main, Goddard

Board Members in Attendance: Sharon Ailslieger, Joe Brown, Rhian Collins, Cameron Dawson, Patrick Gaughan, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter, Michael Mitchell, Stephanie Wise, David Wright

County Representatives: Commissioner David Dennis, Brandi Baily, Treasurer

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Call to Order – Chair Kevin McWhorter
 - i. Chair Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Chair Kevin McWhorter
 - i. Joe Brown motioned to approve meeting minutes from March 6, 2023, and Cameron Dawson seconded. **The D3 CAB approved the meeting minutes with a vote of 10-0.**

2. PUBLIC AGENDA

- a. The public agenda allows members of the public to address the District 3 Citizens Advisory Board.
 - i. None

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Sedgwick County Treasurer's Office – Brandi Baily, Treasurer
 - i. Treasurer's office collects and distributes taxes, does not set the tax rate.
 1. Distribute to 105 different tax authorities.
 2. Distribute 5 times a year
 - ii. Tax Bill Survey
 1. Asking citizens what they would like to see on the Bill, what they would like more information on, what they do or don't understand, etc.
 - iii. The back of the Tax Bill shows where the funds are being distributed to.
 1. JM asked, have there ever been errors on the bills that had to be changed?
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied, yes. The bill's information comes from the Clerk's office. There have been times when after the bills have been sent to be mailed that the Clerk's office has let the Treasurer's office know that they found an error. But it is too late to fix it. There was a time there was a vendor error that caused people to get multiple bills.
 - b. Commissioner Dennis said the last error caused a problem for people with mortgages because the Tax Bill showed the owner owing thousands more in taxes so the mortgage company wanted thousands more that people couldn't afford. The Treasurer and Clerk worked very fast to make sure the banks didn't foreclose or charge their customers.
 2. Patrick Gaughan asked, why would we collect taxes for cemeteries?
 - a. Baily replied Cemeteries can be considered a government entities and be a tax district.

3. Cameron Dawson asked, is there a way or a plan to allow us to get our tax bill digitally?
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied, there is, will cover it later in the presentation.
4. Kevin McWhorter stated I'm surprised the bill design isn't statutorily mandated.
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied part of it is, but we put out more information than required.
5. David Wright asked, the tax bill shows the tax distribution, I would interpret this as the entire county's budget, but it isn't, correct?
 - a. Commissioner Dennis stated that the County gets funding from a lot of different sources
 - b. Treasurer Baily stated property taxes don't completely cover the County's Budget.
6. David Wright stated, do you know the history behind special assessments?
 - a. Treasurer Baily stated, I don't know how they came into the bill, but it would have had to go through the legislature to allow it.
 - b. Commissioner Dennis stated the county allows special assessments to run for 15 years to help developers.
 - c. Sharon Ailsieger stated, I think Sedgwick County is the only county that does special assessments because it helps the contractors.
 - d. DD stated special assessments are paid by bonds and reimbursed by taxes.

iv. Tax Foreclosure Auction

1. Happens once taxes are delinquent for 3.5 years.
2. Goes through District Court and Sheriff's Office
3. Treasurer's office will work with anyone who is behind but would prefer to work with you before it gets to the 3.5-year mark because all fees and court filings have to be paid.
4. 1-2 auctions a year.
 - a. Now done online rather than in person to save on costs and manpower.
 - b. The first online auction was in December 2022.
 - c. The next auction is in August 2023
5. Patrick Gaughan asked, are they all residential properties or commercial as well?
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied, there are both, whatever is delinquent that has gone through District Court.
6. Kevin McWhorter asked, is there a sales minimum, i.e. over 10k gets 4k?
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied, nope, no minimum.
7. Kevin McWhorter asked, for this particular sale, was the amount brought in more or less than the outstanding taxes for 2022?
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied this sale was over the amount owed. Also pays fees to other departments and businesses. Anything left over (proceeds) will go to the homeowner.
8. Janice Manlove asked, if the City would like those properties, can the city pay off taxes and get them from the homeowner before the sale?
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied, trying to get the City to go in that direction.
9. Patrick Gaughan asked, do you qualify the buyers before the auction?
 - a. Treasurer Baily replied we do. Buyers cannot have any delinquent taxes, they cannot be buying for a relative. They have to go into the office and sign legal documents stating they are not buying for a relative. The name was given to the vendor for online bidding.
10. Commissioner Dennis stated the reason we send the notices out in multiple languages was because of a situation where a house sold at auction and before the homeowner knew what was happening because of a language barrier.

v. Tag Offices

1. Renewal Line is new since Brandi Baily became Treasurer.

2. Q-Less line is only for title work now.
3. Making an Appointment for title work is also new.
- vi. Other Updates
 1. During tax season, a Tax Clerk is stationed at each tag office to accept property taxes.
 2. All year there is a Tax Clerk at the Douglas office.
 3. The website is being updated to streamline and make it better.
 4. Email Tax Bills – Johnson County took the lead, Bill working through the legislature to allow for email bills.
- vii. David Wright stated, your customer service is tremendous, tag office is much easier to access.
- viii. Kevin McWhorter asked, are there places outside of Wichita to get tags done?
 1. Treasurer Baily replied no. Previously there were 5 tag offices and they've gone down to 2 during budget cuts. Working on a pilot program to have a clerk at city halls to provide services in other cities in the county. Tag offices are being funded off of user fees so there are not enough proceeds to open more offices.
- b. Discussion of future meeting agenda items
 - i. Nicole Gibbs went over the currently scheduled topics.
 - ii. Possible topics: Goodwill, Exploration place presentation or tour, Zoo Tour, 911 walk-through after remodel

4. BOARD AGENDA

- a. Janice Manlove asked how the tax bill (HB169) will affect Sedgwick County
 - i. Commissioner Dennis replied, there are several things. Sedgwick County will lose about \$4.5 million if the Food Tax goes away. There is also an amendment that would allow property taxes to only go up by a max of 3% a year. Lobbyists are working with us on these.
- b. Commissioner Dennis Update
 - i. Veteran's Court will start on July 1
 - ii. Commissioner Newsletter comes out monthly
 - iii. Senator Marshall visited and talked with Commissioners about the state legislative agenda
 - iv. 167th and 21st Intersection, doing an engineering study to find the best solution
 - v. Laura Rainwater is the new Election Commissioner
 1. Janice Manlove commented, there is the perception that the over 8,000 fewer voters in the November election were because the Commission didn't allow for the advance ballot application to be mailed. I hope you guys consider going back to mailing those out.
 2. Patrick Gaughan asked, where is the legislative action now on the ballot drop boxes?
 - a. Commissioner Dennis replied that is not moving forward as of right now.
 - vi. Veteran's Day Parade will be on November 11 at 11:00 am. The parade will end at Exploration Place
 - vii. Air Museum had a visit from DC's Eisenhower School to see how we build airplanes
 - viii. The July meeting will be on the 4th Monday of the Month, Manager will be there to talk about the budget.
 - ix. No August Meeting
 - x. Budget gets passed at the end of August, with 2 public hearings.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, May 1, 2023, 7 p.m.,**
at Goddard School Conference Center, 315 S. Main, Goddard, KS.*