

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

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 23, 1997

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, Sitting as the Governing Body of Fire District #1, was called to order at 10:57 a.m., Wednesday, July 23, 1997, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Paul W. Hancock; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Melody C. Miller; Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief; Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, Bureau of Public Services; Mr. Fred Ervin, Public Affairs Officer; and Ms. Linda M. Leggett, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, June 25, 1997

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of June 25, 1997.

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, you've reviewed the Minutes, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 25, 1997.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul W. Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 1998 FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 BUDGET.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, said, "Commissioners, Commissioner Schroeder mentioned earlier his desire to meet with Gerald Frantz about assessed valuation is an excellent point. We've had an increase in the assessed valuation since the budget was prepared. Again, we are trying to hone that down so there is a number where we are real comfortable with. We certainly don't want to come back to you later and say oops, we've made a several million dollar mistake and we now have to cut. We are anticipating from a 4% to a 7% increase in assessed valuation in the Fire District, which would increase our ability in some other areas. We are not proposing to reduce the mill levy yet in the Fire District. What we have done is added some capital fund projects and need to correct personnel costs. We had that anticipated before but this is clearly, this \$64,000., a portion of this needs to be done to make sure that budget balances. We are recommending the cap, as you described it, be placed on the Fire District Budget at \$8,729,320. Now it would be time to hear from the public."

Chairman Winters said, "At this time we will open the public meeting. Is there anyone here in the Board room who would like to address the Commissioners regarding the 1998 budget of Fire District #1? Is there anyone here who would like to address us concerning the Fire District Budget for next year? Seeing no one, we will close the public hearing. Madam Clerk, would you call the next item?"

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B. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY MANAGER TO PUBLISH A NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 1998 SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 BUDGET.

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, you've heard Mr. Buchanan's report. Do you have questions or comments or what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to authorize the County Manager to publish a notice of hearing and establish August 6, 1997 as the final hearing date on the total 1998 Sedgwick County Fire District #1 Budget of \$8,729,320., with \$6,752,763. budgeted in ad valorem taxes or approximately 14.504 mills, subject to confirmation and calculations by staff.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul W. Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. We have one other item business in the Fire District under New Business. Can you tell me how long that will take Chief? Will it take long?"

Mr. Gary Curmode, Chief, Sedgwick County Fire Department, said, "About a minute or less."

Chairman Winters said, "Madam Clerk, would you call the next item in the Fire District?"

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NEW BUSINESS

C. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS ARSON STRIKE FORCE.

Chief Curmode greeted the Commissioners and said, “Today, we are presenting a proposal on the interlocal agreement with South Central Kansas Arson Strike Force. Division Chief, Ken Cox, with our Fire Prevention Bureau has been instrumental in bringing this to the Commission. I am going to have Chief Cox explain this briefly.”

Mr. Ken Cox, Division Chief, Fire Prevention Bureau, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Basically what the Interlocal Agreement is, is a reciprocal agreement with agencies from seven counties in the South Central Kansas area. This reciprocal agreement is for arson investigators. It gives us the opportunity to use about 21 different arson investigators on any fire that we would have in our fire district. It also gives us the ability to go and assist those agencies from those seven counties and those 21 investigators, if they have fires in their area that they didn’t have enough personnel or the expertise to work and that is basically this agreement. It is a reciprocating agreement and there are no funds that would exchange or be caused to be used from the Sedgwick County Fire District #1.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, Chief Cox, I think you have taken the time to explain this to each of us and I want to commend you and your folks for sticking with this. I know you have been working on it for quite a while. I think it sounds like an excellent opportunity to do some regional work with other districts in this close region and we all realize that the best time to solve an arson crime is as soon as possible. If you don’t do it quick, the trail dies real fast. Commissioner Schroeder.”

Commissioner Schroeder said, “Ken, you and I and the Chief discussed this at quite some length in my office a few weeks ago. I think the question was asked, being probably the largest fire department in this region, the City of Wichita, are they a part of this process or included in this Agreement?”

Chief Cox said, “No sir, the City of Wichita was invited to take part in the planning phase of this before we asked for a letter of commitment from each of the agencies, from each of the departments that would be a part of this reciprocal agreement. When that was asked, the City of Wichita declined at that point not to be part of the arson strike force. So, no, the City of Wichita is not involved in it at this time.”

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Commissioner Schroeder said, "Do you know why? Is it the way we are doing it or is it something else? You would think it would be an advantage to them and us to have them as part of it."

Chief Cox said, "We thought it would be. The other agencies involved, the other fifteen agencies that are involved in this, they thought the same thing as well, that it would be an advantage for them as well as us to be a part of it. It broadens our ability to investigate a fire with the more investigators that you have. I'm not real sure why they opted out of it, but we have left the door open for them if they would like to come in at another point in time, we would be more than happy to have them as a part of it."

Commissioner Schroeder said, "No reasons given, but when the case comes that they want assistance in an arson investigation, then what is the process for us? Obviously, we help them. We never turn anybody down."

Chief Cox said, "The Sedgwick County Fire Department itself would respond and assist the City of Wichita because we have an agreement between the two agencies. In order for the arson strike force to assist them, I don't know how much luck we would have getting the strike force to take part in the city. As individuals, there may be arson investigators who may volunteer their time to come down and assist the city. But as a strike force, with them opting out of it, they wouldn't be a part of it."

Commissioner Schroeder said, "I assume they will come some time."

Chief Cox said, "I hope so."

Commissioner Schroeder said, "Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, you've heard Chief Cox's report, what's the will of the Board?"

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MOTION

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

Commissioner Miller seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul W. Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much Chief Cox on this project."

Chief Cox said, "Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

D. CONSENT AGENDA.

Budget Adjustment Request.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Type of Adjustment</u>
970407	Fire	Transfer

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the Consent Agenda before you and I recommend you approve it."

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Hancock seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul W. Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Is there other business to come before the Fire District? Seeing none, this meeting is adjourned."

E. OTHER

F. ADJOURNMENT TO ITEM E OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman
Third District

PAUL W. HANCOCK, Chairman Pro Tem
Second District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner
First District

MELODY C. MILLER, Commissioner
Fourth District

MARK F. SCHROEDER, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

James Alford, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 1997