

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

August 25, 2004

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Ben Sciortino; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk; Mr. Chris Duncan, Operations Manager, Health Department; Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. Ron Holt, Director, Division of Culture, Entertainment and Recreation; Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum; Ms. Monica Cissell, Program Manager, Department on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Dr. Cindy Burbach, Director, Health Surveillance and Disease Prevention, Health Department; Mr. Richard Vogt, Chief Technology Officer, Division of Information and Operations (DIO); Mr. Ken Keen, Technical Support Manager, DIO; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. David Waldie, Member, Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

Ms. Janice Godecki, Administrator, Crawford County Health Department.

Mr. Troy Carlson, Chair, Fair Fares.

Mr. Ted Knopp, Attorney, Rural Water District #1.

Ms. Betty Taylor, 10460 N. Oliver, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Warren M. Kellogg, 10610 N. Oliver, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Dion P. Avello, 825 Honeybrook, Derby, Ks.

Mr. Greg Dye, 623 S. Grove, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Wil Johnson, 920 S. Rock, #216, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Scott Wuuf, 318 W. Lincoln, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Roger Haynes-Robertson, 840 S. Clear Creek.

Mr. Ken Thompson, 3548 Rushwood, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Bill Weatherwax, 1833 Griffith, Wichita, Ks.

Ms. Jill Nestelrood, 3325 E. English, #101, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Gary Wright, 4319 E. Waterman, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. John Todd, 1559 Payne, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Troy Frantz, 805 N. Mission Road, Wichita, Ks.

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GUESTS (CON'T)

Mr. Charles McAfee, 2600 N. Grove, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Ken Short, 6917 Stonegate, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Robert A Campbell, 12120 W. 14th Street, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Kathy Dittmer, 823 Litchfield, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. John Andrade, 1100 S. Terrace, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Patrick Quaney, 9111 W. 21st Street N., #70, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Gardner G. Calhoun, 8103 W. 17th Street N., Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Ed Wolverton, 100 N. Broadway, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. J.T. Manuszak, 1034 W. Riverside, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Lyle Blue, 9140 E. 111th Street S., Mulvane, Ks.
Mr. George Fahnestock, 14330 Tipperary Cr., Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Karl Peterjohn, 11328 Texas, Wichita, Ks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Reuben Eckels of New Day Christian Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that Commissioner McGinn was absent.

APPOINTMENT

A. RESOLUTION APPOINTING DR. DAVID WALDIE (COMMISSIONER NORTON'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PHYSICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, we've prepared a resolution of appointment. The resolution setting up this board requires these appointments to be four-year appointments, and so the backup is not entirely correct. The expiration of this term would be August 25, 2008 and I recommend you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, you've heard the presentation. What's the will of the Board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Commissioner Norton, did you have a comment before or shall we do the swearing in?”

Commissioner Norton said, “We should do the swearing in.”

Chairman Winters said, “Yes. If you’d please come forward, County Clerk Don Brace will do the honors of swearing you in.”

Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk, said, “Good morning. Please raise your right hand.

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disability Advisory Board, so help me God.”

Mr. David Waldie, Member, Physical and Developmental Disability Advisory Board, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I do.”

Mr. Brace said, “Congratulations.”

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Commissioner Norton said, “Well, I’ll kick it off and then we’ll ask Dr. Waldie if he has anything to say. But I’m tickled to have Dr. Waldie as my appointment. We visited several weeks ago and he did some due diligence, showed up at a couple of the meetings to understand exactly what he was getting himself into and he still came back and said, ‘I think that’s something I could make a difference on, I’d like to be your appointee’. So, I’m very proud that he’s accepted that. I think he’ll serve well. I think he has a big heart for this and I think he understands what the dynamics of some of these boards are now, by having attended some of the meetings. So I really appreciate it and I’ll defer to Dr. Waldie, if he has anything to say.”

Chairman Winters said, “Do you have any comments, sir?”

Dr. Waldie said, “No, other than I very much look forward to the opportunity.”

Chairman Winters said, “Well, we appreciate your willingness to assist and we do look upon these boards with a great deal of interest and input. We do respond and respect what advisory boards say, so we appreciate very much your willingness to serve. Thank you very much. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Before we go on, I think we’d be remiss without letting Chairman Winters brag a little bit. He’s been gone for the weekend for a very important reason and it’s one of the reasons we’re all in public service and that’s to try to initiate the future for our kids and their kids. And you know, you’ve got an extra grandkid to talk about, so you’re beaming now, so go ahead and tell us.”

Chairman Winters said, “Well, thank you very much. I was going to talk about that at the end of the meeting, but you bring it up and we were very fortunate, Monday our son and daughter-in-law in Dallas had a baby daughter and so we’re grandparents of a daughter grandbaby.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Wait a minute, give the vitals, the length and weight.”

Chairman Winters said, “We’ll do that at the end of the meeting, but everybody is healthy and happy.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “You got pictures?”

Chairman Winters said, “No pictures yet but I will tomorrow. Thank you very much for bringing that up. Next item.”

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DONATION

B. DONATION OF A MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC VAN, RECENTLY DELETED FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY FLEET, TO THE LOWER EIGHT OF SOUTHEAST KANSAS BIOTERRORISM BOARD.

Mr. Chris Duncan, Operations Manager, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Back in April, you voted to delete the RV that we use for mobile services, in lieu of going with a smaller van. And at that time, it was recommended that we look for somebody in the state that we could donate this to. And after a lengthy search and some contacts, we found the Lower Eight, which is made of Chautauqua, Cherokee, Crawford, Elk, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho and Wilson counties. So together they're going to split the costs and the maintenance and they're going to use it for bioterrorism, they're going to use it for health fairs, they're going to use it for everything, so we'd like to seek your approval for that and if there are any questions, some of them are here today to receive it."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Is there some from these counties that are here today? Yes, would you please . . . if you're here, please come forward. All of you, please come up. We need to introduce all of you. Back by the microphone so we can pick up your voices in the microphone and if you'd each . . . one of you identify everybody or identify yourselves and tell who you're all with."

Ms. Janice Godecki, Administrator, Crawford County Health Department greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're very pleased to be here today. I have Dennis Monn from Wilson County, environmentalist. I have Debbie Baugher, Labette County, administrator, health department and Dennis Rogers from Labette County, and I'm Janice Godecki from Crawford County Health Department, administrator."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Well, I remember on the day we decided not to use this health van, we made the comments from the bench that if there was some way we could find a way to keep this van in use someplace else in the state, we certainly wanted to do it. And so we appreciate Chris and others who went about that process of finding someone who could use this and we're certainly glad they were able to do that. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, I just want to say something about Crawford County if I can."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, tell us about Crawford County."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, they’ve got a well kept secret in Chicken Annie’s and then right across the street Chicken Mary’s. I’ve got a lot of relatives that live in Pittsburgh. I lived in Fort Scott for a while, it’s in Bourbon County, but good neighbors. So you all do a lot of work and we’re just real happy we can help in some small way.”

Ms. Godecki said, “Well, we’re delighted, as you all know. We’ve already had opportunities we could have put it to use, with the tornado in Labette County, tornado in Crawford County, and so we’re real excited about being able to utilize this vehicle. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, well thank you for coming to our meeting today, we appreciate it. Maybe we better take some action.”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the donation.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you all again for being at our meeting.”

Mr. Duncan said, “Now I can officially give you your keys.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

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PRESENTATION

C. PRESENTATION OF FAIR FARE\$ UPDATE

Mr. Troy Carlson, Chair, Fair Fares, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have many of my colleague here, in a show of support today for Fair Fares. We just want to share with the county a few important items to really stress the importance of how important of an economic development bonus Fair Fares is for south central Kansas and the State of Kansas.

Because of AirTran coming here as a discount carrier, Wichita/ Mid-Continent Airport has gone from one of the highest fares in the United States to very competitive fares with surrounding airports today. We've seen unprecedented growth in air travelers coming out of Wichita Mid-Continent since inception of Fair Fares and that number has grown by 500,000 passengers, with an initial 1.1 million passenger base, so it's been 50% expansion and growing and there's more market to be had.

The other impact that we've seen from Fair Fares is additional flights have come to Wichita, not only with the discount carriers, but also the legacy carriers and other carriers as well, and that has made a huge difference, particularly for businesses that need good schedules to fly in and out of Wichita.

If AirTran goes away, all of this goes away, all of the economic development efforts that we have. Our fares will go back up, we'll be back where we were in the late '90 and this major economic development infrastructure bonus goes away.

A good example of that was in 2003, February 3rd, AirTran when they initially came to Wichita did a flight to Chicago, a direct flight from Wichita to Chicago. Fares flying to Chicago were \$59. On February 3rd, 2003 AirTran flew its last Chicago flight. On February 4th, 2003 rates went up to over \$500 that very next day.

I personally experienced the impact of discount carriers no longer servicing a market. We lost last spring Great Lakes Airlines, which was servicing Frontier and where you could get a walk-up fare for roughly four, five hundred dollars, I paid a \$1,200 ticket to go to Denver. The point is is that we have other airlines coming to Wichita. That's great but the keystone to this whole concept is having AirTran here.

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And it is such an important and critical piece that we have to have the support of the county and what we would ask of the county is urge your employees to fly AirTran at every possible opportunity that's reasonable for them to fly. And the other ask is, we would like to have an opportunity to meet with Bill Buchanan the county manager to talk about how Fair Fares, the City, the surrounding area can partner with the county to make sure we keep AirTran here.

Now we've got a little bit of a gift for all of you commissioners and a few of you folks up front and anybody else in the room who would like one. We have a yo-yo and this yo-yo has a very simple message. On one side it says 'With AirTran Coming Here' . . . I know I have to stay behind the podium for the cameras, so I'm going to do my best to try to keep this high, but AirTran is in the market, fares go down. If they leave what happens? They go up. Very simple message, so what we would like is to make Sedgwick County a partner with Fair Fares, moving forward and making sure that AirTran stays in Wichita, Kansas. Thank you very much. Do you have any questions?"

Chairman Winters said, "All right, Troy we appreciate very much the update and we will continue to have this discussion and I think we need to continue to encourage county folks, anytime they're traveling, to use AirTran. We believe that your organization and your Fair Fares and the whole team that you've put together are doing good work and we need to stay engaged in this marketing phase of the process. So we appreciate very much your taking the time to come to us today and we will continue to have that dialogue and discussion and we'll encourage Manager Buchanan to continue meeting with you."

Mr. Carlson said, "Thank you very much, appreciate it."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

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Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

PUBLIC HEARINGS

D. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PETITION NO. 8 FOR ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY TO RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS.

OVERHEAD PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor, County Counselor's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Let me get a map up on the screen for you, with the able assistance of our Communications Director, Kristi Zukovich. Although we call this annexation, it's probably more appropriate to call it an attachment. And we've done these before, as you can see from the different shadings. This is the eighth one, I suppose but the first one I've been involved in, so you'll have to bear with me for a second, I'll run you through the procedures and some of the comments and of course it's a public hearing that we'll want to open and hear any public comment.

This is Rural Water District #1, which lies in . . . primarily in Commissioner Unruh's district it looks like. I think you can tell the location from there. It's around Bel Aire and Kechi also, so those cities are involved. There are several different methods of attachment under the statute. Sometimes you have 100% consent, where all the landowners want to be in and it's fairly routine there. This particular situation is where we have the . . . of the hatched areas you see are the areas being proposed for attachment to the district and more than 50% of the landowners but not all the landowners have signed off on these attachments.

The landowners that . . . all the landowners have been notified, as required by statute and they may be here today to speak, if they're interested. We also have notified the water engineer and we have an affidavit of mailing, so all the appropriate notices have been sent out. In addition, there was a notice in the official county newspaper that's required by 19-270 and that also has been published in the appropriate timeframe.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear the public comment on the attachment and then you're charged with the duty to make a finding as to the truthfulness of the statements in the petition and I'll get to those in just a second, and that notice has been given.

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A couple of the parcels are in what we call the fringe area of Bel Aire, which does a couple of things. First, it adds some additional considerations that you should look at in determining whether to approve this attachment or not. And it also requires a super-majority vote to approve those two parcels. The City of Kechi has consented to these attachments. They don't have any problem with these attachments in their area.

The key elements of the petition that you need to find are truthful are essentially that these hatched areas can be economically served by Rural Water District #1. That Rural Water District #1 has the facilities to serve them. The area does not currently have an adequate water supply and that the attachment will promote the public health, convenience and welfare.

We have Ted Knopp, the attorney representing the Rural Water District on behalf of the petitioner. He'll be here to speak as well. So, having said all that, I think at this point, unless you have other questions, I might recommend you open the public hearing, hear any public comment. Then after that's finished, you can close it and we can talk some more about what needs to happen next."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, at this time I will open the public hearing for our item D, which is regarding annexation into Rural Water District #1. Is there anyone here in the audience who is here to address the county commissioners on our item D concerning this rural water district annexation? This is a public hearing for the rural water district annexation. Is there anyone? If there is, this is the time, because we're going to close. Come forward, come to the microphone. Please give your name and address and your remarks are limited to five minutes."

Mr. Warren Kellogg, 10610 N. Oliver, Valley Center, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "And really we don't want to be annexed into water district, Water District 1, primarily because Water District 2 already has a line serving the area that's much closer than their line. That's the reason we're opposed to this one parcel. The rest of the parcels are not."

Chairman Winters said, "Which parcel are you located in? The one up at the very top?"

Mr. Kellogg said, "This small quarter section."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, is there anything else?"

Mr. Kellogg said, "That faces Oliver and Water District #2 has a line running down through there and most of the residents on Oliver are connected to it now."

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Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much, sir. Is there anyone else? Is there anyone else? If you came to speak on this water district issue, this is the time. Yes sir, please come forward.”

Mr. Ted Knopp, Attorney for Water District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Rural Water District . . . I would like to tell a couple of items about Rural Water District #1 and this annexation petition. Parcel three is a parcel . . . in connection with some internal matters that bore on the district, we began looking at our territory and realized that parcel three we are providing service to a couple of individuals in the southeast corner of parcel three. We’d apparently gone across the road to service somebody and we are providing service in this area without having it technically within our boundaries. So we looked at annexing that parcel and we obtained consent of a majority of the owners for annexation of parcel three.

Similarly, parcel four has a small, suburban development called Turtle Creek in it and the district currently is providing service in that area as well. Parcels three and parcel four are within the fringe area of Kechi and Bel Aire. As for parcel three, the City of Kechi lies between the City of Bel Aire and parcel three, serving basically as a cap over that territory and would generally preclude the City of Bel Aire from economically serving that as a water source. And parcel four, we already provide the service to a large number of residential users in that area.

Parcel one and two, parcel one we have a line that runs down the center of Section 12 and that’s the line that we would propose to extend down to serve all of these individuals. With looking at parcels one and two together, we have a clear majority of the owners in favor of that and Mr. Kellogg, who lives at the south end of parcel three may in fact be closer to a line of Rural Water District #2. However, Rural Water District #2 has not petitioned to annex them and we are here to offer to serve them and have the consent of the majority of the owners of parcels one and two. Be glad to answer any questions the commission has.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right. Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Mr. Knopp, did you say that there is a line already going down the middle of that section, in parcel one I guess it is, in tract #1?”

Mr. Knopp said, “Without having a service map in front of me, I believe the line runs from the east, down section . . . the middle of section 12 to serve all of section 12 and that line would be extended into . . . I think I misspoke . . . well, yes, into the east half of section 12 and that line would be extended into the west half of section 12 and then extended south to serve the northwest quarter of section 13.”

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Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Now and you indicated that a majority of the folks in tract one and two are in favor of this annexation?"

Mr. Knopp said, "Looking at them as a combined tract, they are. And looking at them in isolation, I don't know. Mr. Kellogg, I don't know exactly how much acreage he has and so how that would play into tract two, but looking at the two of them together, clearly we have a majority of the owners of those two tracts requesting annexation into Rural Water District #1."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. That's all the questions I have."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much. Thank you, sir. Is there anyone else? Yes, please come forward. Please state your name and address."

Ms. Betty Taylor, 104600 [sic] N. Oliver, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "And it's my understanding, I talked with Rural Water #2 and we have two properties. We have one that's already on #2 that's up the road, and it's my understanding that Water District #2 is across the street from the residence of 104600 [sic] and all you have to do is ask to be put on. You don't have to be annexed in, but it goes up the street, probably an eighth of a mile where it ends, and it runs in front of Mr. Kellogg's property and our property, but it's across the road. And all you have to do is ask and they will let you on at any time."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, all right, thank you very much ma'am. Is there anyone else? Is there anyone else who would like to speak to the commission on this rural water district issue? If not, I'm going to close the public hearing. All right, I'm going to close the public hearing. Bob, do you have anything else?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "No, I don't think so. We've heard all the commentary now. If we'd heard some commentary with anybody involved with Bel Aire, there were some considerations in terms of accessing that relationship and the improvement of this attachment. But at this point, I think you just need to determine, again based on what you heard, whether the statements in the petition are truthful and whether you should approve the attachment."

Chairman Winters said, "Well Mr. Unruh, I would kind of look to you for your . . . this is in your district and it would appear to me there would be two things. We've held the public hearing now, so we've given the public and I'd say, if there was some reason you'd want to defer this to really check out these couple of properties, or if it's your recommendation we move forward."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, can this annexation be taken in pieces, or does it all have to be taken together under this petition?"

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Mr. Parnacott said, "In my opinion, I think you could approve only part of the annexation. I don't think the statute prohibits you from approving part of it, so that would be one option. I guess I was remiss in forgetting to remind you that one of the . . . there is a timeframe in this. Once you've closed the public hearing, you're required to make a decision within 30 days. So if you want to delay this, we may want to reopen the public hearing and leave it continued for that period."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, rather than do this in pieces, if we have that much time, perhaps we should defer it until everyone is totally comfortable with this and we can bring it back as early as next week, probably."

Chairman Winters said, "Well, I'd be comfortable bringing it back, and I'd just like, if you or someone would check out Mr. Kellogg and Ms. Taylor's thoughts about District 2 and if that's really right, maybe we need to at least factor that in, but I don't know that I have all the information about that."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, and I have had no comment on this negative until this morning, and so probably it would be the wise thing to do is to wait until we've had time to process that information before we make our decision."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay. Well, let's either say one or two . . . let's say two weeks."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to defer Item D for two weeks.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

Chairman Winters said, "We have a Motion and a second to defer this item for two weeks. And Bob, in that two weeks then, can we consider that we've had the public meeting and the public meeting is closed? And then of course if somebody wants to call Commissioner Unruh they certainly can, but . . .?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "Sure. If you can take action within two weeks, there's no reason to continue to keep the public hearing open. You can keep it closed, and we'll just have 30 days to make a decision."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, unless something changes, we'll consider to have already taken the public comment then."

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Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, that would be good.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, we have a Motion to defer for two weeks. Is there any other discussion? Seeing none, Madam Clerk call the vote.”

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you very much. Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

E. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED DOWNTOWN ARENA AND THE FUTURE OF THE KANSAS COLISEUM.

Chairman Winters said, “Commissioners, before we begin this presentation and this public comment, I would like to say that Commissioner Carolyn McGinn regrets that she is unable to attend this hearing. When we decided to have this public hearing at our regular scheduled BoCC meeting, this was the only date we could find to schedule this meeting. And Commissioner McGinn was already scheduled to make a presentation to the Kansas Water Authority Board, which is meeting today and tomorrow in Newton.

She is a Lower Arkansas Basin Advisory Board member and involved in many water initiatives in south central Kansas. She wants me to assure you all that your comments are very important and she will be watching this hearing on tape or on our Internet site after today. So with that, I’ll turn back to Ron Holt.”

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

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Mr. Ron Holt, Director, Division of Culture, Entertainment and Recreation, greeted the Commissioners and said, “At your July 14th weekly Board of County Commissioners meeting, you voted on the county’s proposal for a downtown arena. By taking this action, Sedgwick County took a leadership role on a downtown venue to accomplish several goals. Sedgwick County . . . you indicated that Sedgwick County is prepared to insure that our community has a world-class entertainment venue.

That this plan allows citizens the opportunity to vote on whether a downtown venue is desirable. That all project costs will be covered through a voter-approved, county-wide sales tax. This plan provides a simple, easy financing plan with a pre-determined ending date for the tax, rather than raising several different taxes on citizens.

You also indicated that because counties are limited in financing options, generally through property tax, that you believe that seeking short-term, county-wide sales tax increase is more equitable and Sedgwick County will work with the legislature to obtain this authority following a community election.

And lastly, the county will own and operate the facility. It makes sense that we are accountable to the citizens for the financing of the project. And to do that, we’ve had a number of means by which citizens can provide input to you and/or get information on this project.

Beginning July 14th, we had published or established on the county website an opportunity for citizens to participate through an on-line public forum. We’ve had several meetings for citizens to provide input through what we’re calling community engagement meetings, which are non-traditional public hearings. Those meetings are designed to give citizens an opportunity to have their say or input before September 1 and for the county, city and others who are involved in this project to provide information to citizens.

And then today you’re having a more traditional public hearing at your weekly BoCC meeting, so with that introduction, Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that you open the public hearing and receive public comment from who are present.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much. It certainly is the desire of the Board of

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County Commissioners to get input and information from as many folks and ways as we can. And again, I would remind folks that may be listening on television, today is Wednesday the 25th, this evening at . . . from 7 to 9, at Aley/ Stanley Neighborhood at 1949 S. Martinson, that's at Martinson and Seneca, South Seneca, there will be another public discussion and community meeting and then tomorrow evening at the Atwood Neighborhood Center at 2755 E. 19th Street and if you want to go get a hands-on, talk one-on-one with folks, there are two more opportunities to do that.

The procedure today will be that we're going to limit remarks to five minutes. I am going to ask the Clerk to set the timer for four minutes and at four minutes, I am going to stop you and tell you that you have one minute left, so if you still have five pages to go, get right to the heart of your argument or the heart of your comments, I guess. I mean, we don't plan on arguing, we plan on commenting and having some communication.

I would ask if there are any elected officials in the audience that would like to address the commission? We will open it to any electeds to begin with. So at this time I will open the public hearing to talk about the downtown arena proposal. Is there any elected officials? Yes, we do have at least one."

Mr. Dion P. Avello, 825 Honeybrook, Derby, Mayor of City of Derby, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have lived in Wichita since 1981, came here from Albuquerque, New Mexico. When I got here, downtown was a vibrant area, people on the street, businesses going on, restaurants open, people having places to meet and do their business.

I'm also on the Fair Fare board, so I know what economic development means to this community. I live in a community that had a vote on a DRC, Derby Recreation Commission. It just passed by 75 votes. That was 18 years ago and today it is the jewel of Derby and you cannot get into it. It is funded by tax dollars and we are looking to expand that.

I think that the downtown arena is a needed project and should be voted on by the people of this community. We are a community of 19 cities. We're not a community of scattered 19 cities. We need to act as one to bring back the vibrant economic development of this community. So for those reasons, I think that we should go ahead with this project.

I know it's a lot of money. It sounds like a lot of money. We are also building an aquatic park, or have built an aquatic park in Derby that is being funded by sales tax, half cent sales tax. Projects on that were to be paid out in 15 years. Today, opened only 60 days and collecting sales tax for about six months, we are now projecting that that will be paid off in 11 to 10 years. So sales tax is the way to go with the project and it would also bring what I feel is bigger acts into this community.

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Far too long, Wichita has been a one stop, overnight area for these people to come into. I think Wichita needs to be made a destination, rather than a stopping off place for a one night stand. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Mayor, thank you very much for being here. Is there any other elected official in the room that would like to address the commissioners? All right, I see none, so at this time we’ll open it up to citizens. Please come forward.”

Mr. Greg Dye, 623 S. Grove, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I lived in the City of Wichita for 60 years, still living here. I’m going to read this to save time, the downtown arena problems.

Will Wichita follow in the mistakes made by a number of other cities who built large arenas? The Astrodome is now used as a rodeo arena. The Kingdome in Seattle has been demolished but still carried a debt of \$127,000,000. The Silverdome in Detroit and the Metrodome in Minneapolis were disasters that were never paid. The Superdome in New Orleans had 60 national conventions held inside it, but sports was not the main attraction. The Superdome cost \$163,000,000. According to a New Orleans’ magazine article, only 30 to 35% of income actually came from sporting events.

There are 452,869 Sedgwick County citizens who will foot the arena bill that is currently projected at a cost of 141.5 million. Any interest cost will increase the price tag. This will cost every citizen an average of \$311 per person, or 1,245 for a family of four.

The City of Wichita has previously spent tax funds for the Family Inn Hotel at the corner of Broadway and Kellogg. This hotel stood empty for years before it was finally sold. The city also subsidized Old Town development with only mediocre results with many of the firms in this area, like the Pasta Mill and Chicago Cab Company, as two examples, failing.

This arena proposal is coming at a time when other projects, notably the River Walk and the Coliseum renovation, involving considerable taxpayers’ expense are also going forward. All of this cost is hitting a local economy that has suffered large layoffs in aircraft and other local industries, with over 5,000 at Boeing alone. We don’t need more taxpayer-funded projects siphoning tens of thousands of dollars out of the pockets of already overextended taxpayers.

If an arena is truly needed, it should be funded by private investors and not forced upon families and workers. This arena should be financed privately. However, many financial institutions may be skeptical of this high-risk project.

It is historically clear that taxes increased for any project such as this rarely, if ever, are actually rescinded. Look at the temporary sales tax hike enacted in 2002. This is regardless of the political

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promises made. This sales tax increase would place burdens on families at the precise time when gasoline, grocery and utility costs are skyrocketing. This position paper wants to place an important fact upon the record. These facts might be considered unpleasant, but it is a reality we cannot ignore.

I'm going to make a little personal comment. It seems to me that our population in 1962 or thereabouts was about 265,000 people living in Wichita. Forty years have gone by and we're under 400,000 in the City of Wichita. All the county commissioners and the city council members have tried to make this city grow. I don't think 200,000 growth in 40 years is growth. All these different projects have been taking place and, in my opinion, one of the solutions to the problem would be an airport hub in Wichita. An airport hub would most certainly help out the people who have to catch two or three planes to get to Wichita, the center of the United States, and the Air Capital of the World. Why we don't have a hub, I have no idea, but that's been the centerpiece of my position for years, is we have to have direct flights into the city."

Chairman Winters said, "Sir, that's four minutes, you have one minute."

Mr. Dye said, "Okay. We need a factory that's going to employ people and build something besides airplanes. Having the main industry aircraft all these years that I've lived here is putting your eggs in one basket. The \$140,000,000 should be given to a factory to build something, car parts or other, that's going to employ a whole lot of people. By the time the arena is going to be built I think that project could be off the ground. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you sir, we appreciate your comments. Next speaker, please come forward. State your name and address for the record please."

Mr. Will Johnson, 920 S. Rock, #216, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have a script, in order to stay within the time. Gertrude Stein, an author during the 1920 and '30s made an intriguing comment about the city of Oakland, California. She is famously quoted as saying 'There is no 'there' there.' I take that to mean that for her the city lacked a focal point, no place that was so compelling, visually and functionally, that when you arrived there you'd know that you were in Oakland.

When I moved to Wichita in 1972, I was thrilled to discover Century II and A. Price Woodard Park, yet I was amazed to learn that those wonderful places became a reality through a considerable amount of tumult stirred up by those that opposed the project. I'm glad the people who dream great dreams for Wichita did indeed prevail.

When we think of major cities, we often think of a particular place: Chicago's lakefront, Manhattan's Time Square and the mall in Washington D.C. For me, the core area was Century II and A. Price Woodard Park has always been Wichita's 'there'.

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The more the core area is enhanced, the more of a magnet it becomes and I believe the arena and other projects in the works promise to make the core of this city a more exciting place of local people and for visitors. When I go to an event at Century II or the riverfront, I'm grateful for those people of 30 years ago who worked to bring these good things to our city. I've not taken a poll, but I'm pretty sure that a majority of Wichitans today are glad that we have those good places to enjoy and they probably don't even think what they cost 30 or 40 years ago.

I'm not a fan of rock concerts. It's a generational thing. I don't go to a lot of sporting events, but I believe there should be a centrally located place to accommodate those activities for the thousands of our people who do enjoy them. Rarely, but now and then, the arena maybe will host an activity that I will enjoy. Hooray for those occasions and hooray that I'll not have to drive eight or ten miles out in the country to enjoy it.

Wichita's core area is an exciting place to be during the River Fest when thousands of people fill the streets and parks. Similarly, I anticipate that when an event is scheduled at the arena, Wichita's core area will be animated with a lot of other enjoyable, and for the business community, profitable people activity."

Chairman Winters said, "Mr. Johnson, thank you very much for being here. I've got these gentlemen in the back. Would you come . . . standing up, come on forward, take care of you guys. Name and address for the record please."

Mr. Scott Wuuf, 318 W. Lincoln, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've been a Wichita citizen for 42 years, all my life. As a child, there was a plan to build a new zoo in Wichita, Kansas and in Sedgwick County. Children across this town drug in their pennies. Today, we have one of the most vibrant zoos across the country. Yes, the children at ages four, five and six, were willing to make the sacrifice for things based on their future. We need to make these sacrifices today for our future today.

The arena will not only bring all the entertainment but the growth around the entertainment area will also bring new businesses. Those businesses will grow in this town. Property tax bases are falling. By increasing traffic flow into that area, the new development will increase the tax base, reducing the burden on each and every one of us as we grow. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much, Mr. Wuuf. Come on forward, sir. Name and address for the record."

Mr. Roger Haynes, 840 S. Clear Creek, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here

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today to express my support for building a new arena in downtown. I think that this new building will be a great benefit for the community and will meet the needs of our region for years to come. A big reason that I support the downtown arena is because it will be so much closer to most of the county residents. I was very surprised that about 50% of the 452,000 residents of Sedgwick County live within five miles of downtown. This means that getting to and from a downtown arena will be quicker and easier for almost everyone. It will also cut those long drives back and forth from the Kansas Coliseum and save gasoline.

Another key fact from the open house meeting is that over 21,000 people work in downtown. In my view, it makes perfect sense to put the arena in a place where so many people come every day. I want to thank the county for putting on the open house meetings. It was great to talk to people about the arena plan at my own pace and have a chance to attend a meeting that fit my schedule.

In terms of other feedback on the plan, I think the county should use a one-cent sales tax for the shortest amount of time. The arena construction should also move forward immediately and we should include the endowment fund. While parking is important, I think the parking described in the original plan is adequate, and that the 3,200-space garage is not needed. The downtown arena will make our community a better place to live. I urge the commission and the community to support the arena when it comes up for vote in November. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Roger, thank you very much for coming today. Yes sir, come forward please, name and address for the record.”

Mr. Ken Thompson, 3548 Rushwood, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’ve lived in Wichita 26 years and I came from Oklahoma City, where my parents still live and I’m very familiar with the Brick Town area down there that’s been created, where they have their ballpark and parking garage and that whole area is a vibrant area and Old Town can become that. But I don’t think an arena is a way to do that, because of the parking situation and trying to access that whole area when there’s a major event going on is just impossible. The parking is terrible. You have to pay, either in a parking garage \$5 or in privately owned parking lots \$5 to \$7 for the evening and they’re typically full.

It’s a detriment to go down there if you don’t think you’re going to find the street parking. I talked to the folks last night at the Boat House about the parking situation and they have a map showing where all the big parking lots are but most of those are pay lots. They haven’t really got a plan about, you know, are we going to do the parking garage or not. That parking garage, for 3,000 parking spaces, is another \$40,000,000 that’s going to come out of our pockets. And if we’re going

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to spend that kind of money, hopefully we're not going to be paying for parking as well as paying for the building.

If the arena is a viable thing from a business point of view, then it should be funded and constructed totally by private money. If it makes sense to do it from a business case, then private industry, without having to dip into taxpayers' money for either tax breaks for tax bonds or any of that other stuff, if it makes a business sense, then private industry will do it. If it doesn't make sense to do it, from a business point of view, then why would the public want to fund it? I guess that's all I had."

Chairman Winters said, "Mr. Thompson, thank you very much for being here. Next speaker, please come forward sir."

Mr. Bill Weatherwax, 1833 Griffith, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "My opinion of this is not good, and the reason being is I had to drive around here for 30 minutes to find a place to park where I could park for two hours, downtown here, to find a parking meter and I had to walk three blocks to get here.

And sometime back . . . I lived here since '81, my wife has lived here all her life. She had a 40 year East side reunion down at the Hyatt here in town back this summer. And I got so irritated, I had to go down and spend \$3 to park in something that's not a viable thing from an economic point of view for this town, because it's been very well pointed out that every business the City of Wichita has gone into it's ended up supporting. I wouldn't vote for it until I had seen a balance statement on every piece of commercial property the City of Wichita owns or has a major interest in. Because the Hyatt has gone broke and we had to take it back. And after paying \$3 to pay for parking for her high school reunion, I had to pay \$11 for a pair of drinks, which I thought was totally atrocious for just ordinary bourbon and water.

And I'm for private business. I see no reason that if this is such a viable financial thing, private individuals couldn't do it with their own money. I mean, I just don't see the need for it and the parking, the city goes down here and spends a half a million dollars for the intersection at Douglas and Main and yet they haven't got a decent parking place in town. And they want to bring in the Bass Pro Shop. No one is going to pull in a quarter of a million dollar motor home up into a parking garage with a \$25,000 boat behind it in the City of Wichita or any other town to go into a parking garage.

And if no one has ever been to Springfield or been to Grapevine, Texas or Oklahoma City and look at the parking facilities at . . . I forget the gentleman's name, I've been around Springfield quite a little bit, but he has more parking at his bait shop on Sunshine and Campbell, I think the street is, than this whole town has got. And I just think it's ridiculous to try to put anything downtown. You get enough businesses down here, fill up the buildings, I don't think you should depend on this to fill up the buildings. There's been a reason that all these businesses have left town. When I came

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to town there was a real nice men's shop right down here on Douglas and it's gone and I'm sure it was a lot because of parking.

I know . . . I think I read that Channel 5 moved out further out of town because of parking. And I think parking is the . . . the absence of it and the . . . I've always wondered who on the city council owns a dang brickyard when they started building all these intersections here. I'm sorry that I may seem like such a killer of progress, I don't know, but I think that . . . I'm all for private enterprise. I see that if it's . . . I don't think the city or any government ought to be into private enterprise. I think they ought to be . . . I don't think they ought to have to compete with people that are trying to make a living at whatever. People that own a hotel shouldn't have to compete with city owned Hyatt. Thank you and I'm sorry I've been so negative. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, sir, we appreciate you coming. Next speaker please. Please come forward, ma'am."

Ms. Jill Nestelroad, 3325 E. English, #101, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here today in support of the downtown arena. I have been a resident of Wichita for over 20 years and it is very important that this community continues to prosper. In reviewing the arena plan and learning about the proposal, I have come to realize that downtown is the community living room. It is one area of our community that has activities for all races, ages, genders, ethnicities and incomes.

Downtown is in close proximity to my home and is the first area of this city that I consider when I think of entertainment and most importantly, it is the part of the community that I attend for entertainment.

There are many activities to consider in the downtown area beyond businesses. County residents and tourist from across the region come downtown for activities like the River Festival, sporting events like the Wichita Wranglers and cultural events like the Music Theater and symphony.

We also have Cabaret at Old Town and the Mosley Street Melodrama, offering live theater. Performance spaces are at the Orpheum and Century II and dining experiences are found in downtown as a central attraction to the residents and tourists.

In addition, downtown has 13 museums. Among those are Botanica, Exploration Place, Museum of World Treasures, Mid-America All Indian Center, Old Cowtown, among the rest and these areas provide a range of activities for local residents and tourists to enjoy.

By consolidating entertainment options downtown instead of spreading them all over the county, the area and these other cultural activities can work together and feed off of the activity generated by each other to create more synergy and business activity than separate users.

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This synergy created would only enhance the quality of life for everyone. I urge the county and area citizens to support the downtown arena plan. I believe that the county should use a one cent sales tax for the project and construct the building as soon as possible. I also support the endowment fund. However, I do not think we need to build the parking garage. I would like the arena greater than 15,000 seats, but in perspective, it should be enough. I appreciate your attention. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Ma’am, thank you very much for coming. Yes sir, name and address.”

Mr. Gary Wright, 4319 E. Waterman, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I thank you for this opportunity to speak today. I’m not going to speak today about my opposition, whether I oppose the downtown arena or oppose it or how strongly I oppose it. Instead, I’d like to take this opportunity to say that the debate period should be after we’ve decided all the particulars on the arena: what size it’s going to be, whether we’re going to do parking or not and the contingency. All that and after that comes about, then we should have debates. I also believe that when the time to debate comes, we should also have a specific location decided upon, because I believe it’s unfair for property owners in the downtown area to not know whether they’re voting to be relocated or not. I believe that it’s only fair to those property owners to know how this is going to impose upon their lives if it becomes a reality.

And as far as the debate period, I’d freely offer my services to debate one side of it and I hope we have plenty of opportunities to debate this in September and October, once the final package is decided upon. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “I just had one question, Mr. Wright. And I hear what you’re saying, but at today’s meeting could you say whether you think that the concept is good or whether the concept is not good?”

Mr. Wright said, “I opposed it two years ago and I still oppose it.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much. Next speaker.”

Mr. John Todd, 1559 Payne, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m a licensed Real Estate broker. I’m here before you in opposition to the proposed downtown arena. The taxpayers of Sedgwick County are being asked to invest 141.5 million in a downtown arena with a location to be determined. We don’t know the exact parcel of land it’s going to be built on. This in itself makes the project suspect for the prudent investor.

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Who owns the land? Is the land for sale? Why is the property owner selling the land? Has the liability for potential groundwater contamination been considered? Has the county secured a contract to purchase the land with an exact sales price? All of these are very important questions that need to be asked before you ask the voters of the county to make an informed decision in the voting booth. They need to know these answers.

I believe that the people who are promoting this project need to put their own money forth and invest in it if they believe in it and they need to leave the taxpayer out of the loop. If the need for a downtown arena is market-driven, I believe that the private sector will be acquiring the land and building an arena for their own prospective gain. Is it possible that the proponents know that the project will never make money and therefore they want the taxpayer to not only pay for the property for the project, but also to absorb future potential losses. I would actually ask what the motivation . . . question what the motivation of the proponents. Are they looking for work? Are they looking for design projects? Is there some personal gain in the reason they're promoting this project?

The 141.5 million dollar price tag is an exorbitant amount of money to take out of the local economy. I believe that we could do more economic good if this money were left in the hands of the people who produce it to be spent or saved on the things that they want, rather than spent by government for a project where there is little hope of return for them personally and for a project that they're going to be paying for for a long time. A sales tax, once in place, generally stays in place forever, so I'm real suspect of a sales tax also.

Sedgwick County residents already own the Kansas Coliseum arena. We are told that it breaks even and that's good. The reason it break even, I'm told, is because the rent from the pavilions supplement the loss that they would have if we had just the main arena. The Coliseum has adequate parking. They have, I'm told, 3,500 parking spaces. The downtown arena, in my opinion, in order to accommodate the crowds, will have to build the additional parking garage at a cost of 33.5 million. That's not included in this 141.5 that you talked about.

The Coliseum has plenty of land for potential expansion. It has good highway access with the necessary infrastructure in place. Based on recent data that I've been reading in the Eagle, it would appear that the 10,000 seat Kansas Coliseum is about the right size for the Wichita market. We don't need a larger, 15,000 seat arena."

Chairman Winters said, "Sir, you have one minute to go."

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Mr. Todd said, "Thank you, sir."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you sir, Mr. Todd, we appreciate your being here. Next speaker, please come forward, sir. Name and address for the record."

Mr. Troy Frantz, 805 N. Mission Road, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I just want to hit on a bunch of points. I have a million things I could say, but I just basically wanted to hear what some of the people said ahead of me and maybe answer or give my retort on some of the opponents of the arena.

I think first, it's very, very important that people understand exactly the taxes and how this arena is going to be funded, versus the taxes and how it's going to fund the re-furb of the Coliseum. It seems like most things that I see on the forums, you know people talking on the news, you know you're getting citizens. They think that if they vote yes, they're voting yes for taxes. If they vote no against the arena, they're saving money. This \$60,000,000 re-furb on the Coliseum is going to be funded through property taxes. Property taxes that can . . . I mean, it's going to come out of the general fund, but you know, who knows what kind of impact it's going to have over the 15 or 20 years that the money is going to be raised.

The downtown arena is going to be raised over a period of 33 months, through a sales tax that, from some figures, is going to be 25% of the total \$200,000,000 is going to be raised through tourism and nobody ever talks about that. We had 3.3 million people come through Wichita in 2003. Those people who came through spent \$355,000,000 in this town. That's a lot of money and when you've got a sales tax that's hitting 1% from everybody that spends a dime in this town, those that are against taxes, probably very frugal people, they can choose when to buy their car, when not to buy their car, they can do whatever they want, but these people that come through our city are going to spend money. They're going to spend money on hotels, on cars, on going out to clubs, doing whatever they do. I mean, it's shown that when people travel and they're outside, they're going to another city, they spend a lot more money than people that live here.

And like I said, the numbers have been out there and no one has talked about them, but 25% of this \$200,000,000, which is about . . . oh, \$50,000,000 is going to be raised by people that don't even live around here. You know, that sounds to me like a lot of the benefits in entertainment that we get are going to be paid by other people, other people's money. There's nothing better than other people's money, right? You know, we've got growth, all the growth, all the hot stuff that's going on is going on downtown. It's not going on out in the cow pasture, eight miles out of town. I mean, you know, Old Town is growing. I heard someone say Old Town was failing. I mean, I've been watching for the last eight years, nine years or whatever. It's just extended block by block by

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block. I go down there, enjoy a movie, I enjoy dinner, I walk around out there and see people sitting around, chatting and see buses going by full of students, screaming party buses, everybody is having a great time.

And another thing is is that there's very little crime. I mean, I don't have the exact statistics, but I don't ever see anything going on that's down there. You see a few officers driving around. You'd think with bringing all these people together and having these big parties and developing your downtown, you think all this crime comes and we turn into this horrible place like some of the big cities you hear about. But I go down three or four dozen times downtown to Old Town a year and I see nothing but vibrancy, growth, you know, people spending money.

People do not go down to Old Town, into refurbished areas or revitalized areas, without money in their pockets. They're not going to go down there and go to a restaurant, go to a club, go to a movie, you know they're not going to go down there without money, so people are spending money.

Bringing the arena, which . . . You know, another thing, people talk about like this is some brand new thing, like we don't have an arena. We've got events that go on at the Coliseum. Many of those events are going to be moved down to this downtown arena. This arena is not going to just have to create 3,000 new events to go down there. One thing I'd like to see changed possibly is a new idea regarding the arena proposal is a new idea on how to eliminate competition between the Coliseum. I'd like to see the Coliseum blown up, you know, for 1.4 million. And put a pavilion, create an agricultural fairground, whatever you want to call it, down there. Take the pavilion out, put an outdoor arena. It could be you know a rodeo thing or could be something like the Sandstone in Kansas City.”

Chairman Winters said, “Sir, you have one minute remaining.”

Mr. Frantz said, “But I think if people are going to be able to see that a lot of the events at the Coliseum are going to be going downtown, you know it's not like we're going to have this horrible . . . you know, Albatross that's got to be paid for by the taxpayer.

Another thing to point when people talk about they don't want the government involved in private enterprise, it's been shown in a lot of documents, I wish I could have found it before I came down, that for every dollar that's spent downtown, it was . . . the city spent, I don't know . . . the county spent \$100,000,000 or \$200,000,000 that there were \$300,000,000 in private investment. It was like, for every dollar there was another dollar and a half to two dollars of private investment. The money follows the investment of the city.

It's important to know that that's happened and you can see the revitalization. You get the River

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Walk going, you get all these other things, the downtown . . . Old Town continuing to grow, then you throw an arena down there and you throw eight to ten to fifteen thousand people every other weekend coming down there for some of the same events that are going on right in the Coliseum. People are going to restaurants, you're going to see businesses pop up everywhere. And remember, the largest demographic in Wichita is a 35-year-old group. We're going to be the ones that are going to be using this for the next 20 years."

Chairman Winters said, "All right sir, thank you very much. Next speaker, please come forward."

Mr. Charles McAfee, 16 Crestview Lakes, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We just cut the ribbon on the final project of the MPSE project in Oklahoma City and that project was their downtown transit center. That downtown transit center makes everything else in Oklahoma City work. Those buses will take people to every event in downtown. In addition to that, we run at least two lanes out of there for express buses to some football program south of Oklahoma City . . . O-something or other, they play against Nebraska, so I don't really remember what their name is, and also to Oklahoma State.

What happens is that Wichita very, very slowly, maybe too slow for a lot of us, but Wichita very slowly has a whole bunch of things already in place. Our problem right now is getting to the crown jewel that pulls all of this stuff together.

When the city council was in competition . . . or put people in competition to build a single hotel, I told Frank Ojile, who was mayor at the time, I said, 'Frank, let me tell you what Andy Young would have done in Atlanta'. You had four developers who really wanted to develop a hotel, private developers. Andy Young would have called all four of them in, assigned a staff person to every last one of them, smiled at all of them and said, 'Invite me when you're ready for ground breaking' and let them go out the door.

What we did was we picked one, made three mad. I don't care whether you're playing baseball or shooting basketball, those are lousy percentages and Wichita got a reputation for not being a very friendly place for developers.

Once this arena is in place and as we . . . and when I say in place, I'm saying as vote is taken, immediately you're going to see all kinds of additional things happen along what I consider our most valuable asset and that's that river. Along that river we can have all kinds of additional developments. We need at least seven or eight other hotels close to the downtown proximity.

I'm really tired of working all over the country and when I say 'I'm from Wichita, Kansas' everybody says 'Why?' I went to Atlanta, my first project in Atlanta was a \$35,000,000 rapid rail station and the people in Atlanta look at me and said, 'There are no subways in Wichita'. I said, 'I know, but it's Kansas taxpayers' money that's helping pay for this sucker and I'm coming to get my

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share of it' and that's the way I've operated out of Wichita all my professional life.

We have the other supported projects in place. The transit center, some of the rest of the things, Old Town, all of those things are really going to help the beginning of this whole process.

I want to tell you that there are two things that I'm in favor of. I'm 120% in favor of a downtown arena, but not at 15,000. Kansas City just passed an initiative for at least 20,000 and I want to make certain that all of you analyze the relationship that Kansas City put together to get that thing passed.

They also used a private developer and sold the rights to manage this thing for \$50,000,000 of the 250,000,000 they expect to spend. They also went into an extensive program of inclusion in the community, not that the senior mayor was one of my favorite people, but as a politician, I think he really understood that you've got to give everybody a little something. And I think you could have three or four significant projects to this issue to give other people a reason to do this.

In Oklahoma City they had the new library. We don't need one."

Chairman Winters said, "Sir, you have one minute. Conclusion."

Mr. McAfee said, "They had a new cultural center. We don't need one. We've already got them. I'm just saying that Wichita has a lot of the things that these other places are trying to get. Let's get this one to finalize the program that we need and make this happen. And I really am serious about one other thing. If this town doesn't start talking about inclusion, it's going to be left way, way behind the rest of the United States of America. I worked on the Dallas arena and also on all of the Olympic projects and the one thing about the Kansas Coliseum is it doesn't meet any of the ADA requirements that are out there now and you'd have to tear that building apart to make that thing work. We have the red phone from the justice department at the Olympics and I know what it takes to get that done. So, you've got my support, but I'm looking for inclusion."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Charles. Next speaker."

Mr. Ken Short, 6917 Stonegate, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm glad I deferred to my high school classmate. I'm a native Wichitan. I've worked in and out of Wichita all my adult life. I've, for a long time wished, wished that Wichita had an adequately sized arena. We're surrounded by about almost a half a dozen arenas of 18 to 20,000 seats within a modest days drive.

We have currently two undersized arenas, nice as they are, but I can't understand why we want to build a third undersized arena. We need to think, it seems to me, in terms of 18 to 20,000. As I think about the next ten years, probably the next generation of arenas will be in the 35 to 40,000 seat category, much like football stadiums today.

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As far as funding is concerned, it seems to me that a sales tax for this kind of a project would be almost a penalty on purchasing and I think, and I would support property tax, a modest property tax addition wouldn't hurt most of us and to include even those for-profit corporations that are exempt currently from the property taxation. They could participate in this, it seems to me, as well and with a great deal of pride that we could have support for this kind of funding. So I support an arena, but I'm not sure if I'm ready to vote for a 15,000 seat arena."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much, sir. Next speaker, please come forward. Your name and address for the record."

Mr. Robert A. Campbell, 12120 W. 14th Street, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm an investor. I manage a Kansas municipal bond portfolio, which has roughly \$140,000,000 in it, of which probably 30-40 million dollars is in local issues, Sedgwick County, Wichita, you name it.

I believe the downtown area needs some revitalization, but I don't believe the arena is probably the way to go. I've seen lots of white elephants proposed, developed, named after some dignitary and that's what they become, a white elephant.

Approximately a year ago, the county decided to speed up and went ahead with the plans to renovate the Coliseum. If you think that you can probably use some of that money to use on this project, the arena project, I suggest you check the legalities of the documents. I don't have them in front of you, but I think you had a contract with the bondholders on what your plans were and if you change that, you might have problems.

I think that a sales tax sounds good if you're taxing the outside people, but it's not going to be taxed just to the visitors to Wichita. A sales tax is regressive, and I think you should consider that. Whether or not property tax will sell, I don't know. Fortunately, we will get to vote and I'm surprised that the City has passed all of the responsibility and running of this to the county. They've been one of the main supporters of this, it appears to be, and I guess I sort of also look at the comment somebody else made about the success of some of the city involved projects. I was reading where the Exploration Place was not up its budget of usage and therefore is going to need public support, more than what was planned.

You've got the hotel and assorted other things around the area that probably are more of a private operation but are being managed by public people. So I suggest that hopefully the people will

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speaking. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Please come forward, next speaker. I would like to take a moment right here, at this point, I know some of you who have spoken may have other commitments that you need to go to and I just want to tell you how much we appreciate all of you coming and sharing your thoughts with us today. So, if you do have to leave because of scheduling we understand that but we certainly want to thank you for being here. You’re certainly welcome to stay for our entire meeting, but if any of you started to leave, I wanted to make sure you knew that commissioners appreciate your presence. Next speaker, name and address.”

Ms. Kathy Dittmer, 823 Litchfield, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I have a little brief statement to read to you.

I am hopefully optimistic that once the plans and financing are finalized and presented to us on the ballot, the downtown arena will receive my vote. Anytime we invest in the downtown area to improve the quality of life and expand the employment opportunities there, it will have a positive rippling effect that benefits the entire community.

I would ask the commissioners and those private businessmen engaged in this process to continue to engage the citizens of this entire community and to dialogue with them. I really appreciate the open meetings you’re having at this time but I’m asking you to further engage the citizens in public meetings, in civic groups, social groups, small town hall meetings and neighborhood meetings and I thank the people involved for coming to our neighborhood association meeting in October. You really need to talk more, one on one, with the people. Point of correction, Exploration Place receives no city dollars at this time. The Hyatt is paying for itself. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, Kathy. Next speaker, please come forward. Please give your name and address.”

Mr. John Andrade, 1100 S. Terrace, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “And my thing is the bottom line is everybody knows is money. If you don’t have the money, nothing goes. And I’m going to quote an article that was in August 22nd’s paper, ‘Arena Viewed Too Big for The City of Wichita’. There have been figures given about the Kansas Coliseum: in the year 2000, the biggest record attendance was 10,000, 2001-7,000, 2002-10,000, 2003- 9,000, 2004- 9,000. Now if we already have an arena type complex and that’s what we’re getting right now, then how can we see that we could get any more if we build a bigger one downtown and also I’m thinking of also not only the money factor but also the elderly, because whether we like it or not, one day we all will be elderly.

I’ve lived here for 39 years, which is still young to most people, but I work at a grocery store and most of my customers are elderly and most of my customers are quite well-to-do. And they have all

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told me that they probably won't go to the downtown arena, because they've already got the Kansas Coliseum to go to and plus they say that . . . what I've been hearing is that they tell me budget. Everybody worked under a budget and they say the City of Wichita has so many projects going now that they don't understand how we could afford to put another thing in with our budget.

Because you can only go so far with your money until you're tapped out or you have to declare bankruptcy and what I'm looking at is most of the bigger cities that are successful and are doing things and everything, most of them have all got lower taxes. And what I'm wondering is how come every time we want to start something, we have to increase taxes, when most of the people in Wichita are barely struggling to make it as it is now.

And the other comment is that I hear from elderly people is if you go downtown between the hours of four and six in the evening, they tell me it's like a madhouse because you're trying to get into where you're going, plus everybody is trying to get out from getting off of work and everything. And what I've been hearing is that if we put a downtown arena in, that it will be okay, the streets are pretty much okay but from what I've been hearing from the elderly is that I'm thinking and they're thinking that if we put in the arena and it's voted for, that we need to consider making all the streets downtown two-way, so that it's easier to get in and get out, because when you have that many people downtown, which you probably do anyway on a given day, or every day anyway, but you never have it at one spot and all of the sudden trying to get out.

And what I'm thinking is would there be consideration, if it hasn't already been, to making the streets two-way, so that people could get in and out better and see that maybe you could bring more elderly that might want to go down to something like this that do have the money, that could afford to support something like this, because as it is now, most of the elderly that I've talked to say that they won't support it if there's not an easy way in and an easy way out."

Chairman Winters said, "Sir, you have one minute to conclude."

Mr., Andrade said, "Okay. And the other thing is that as it is now, if you missed your turnoff, you could go three to four blocks out of your way and that would make it very difficult if you're trying to get in and out of something that big and if you want to stop the congestion and also stop all the accidents that could happen. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "John, thank you very much. Next speaker, please come forward. Please give your name and address."

Mr. Patrick Quaney, 9111 W. 21st Street N., #70, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd like to make a couple of comments to define my credibility, credentials and maybe give credibility to my later comments.

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I'm 72 years old and I grew up on the west side, by Friends University, went to old St. Joseph's Grade School, the old Cathedral High School, graduated in 1950, just in time for the Korean War, returned, went to Wichita State and got a degree in engineering.

Then I spent three years with Continental Can, back on the east coast, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and different places until I was recruited to the west coasts by Hunt Foods, up in the bay area, two years there and then they promoted me down to southern California and I remained there for another 40 years. I just returned to Wichita three years ago.

And I must compliment . . . I was a frequent visitor during that time, but I didn't realize how many good changes had been made in Wichita and it was done by a lot of people, proceeded us, many of them are gone now, but their work is outstanding here. This is a great city. I can compare it, if I had time, to Los Angeles or Orange County bit by bit. This is a great place to live and it's going to be better.

And it's mandatory that we look ahead and not for me, I'm 72 years old, but I have a daughter and three grandchildren here. What will they have, you know? To the arena specifically, some of the compliments that some of the changes, the zoo, the botanical garden and many of the other people have mentioned, great, great additions to this area.

In fact, there are a lot of nay-sayers about a lot of those and I remember the nay-sayers that didn't want us to tear down the old Forum and put in Century II. Can you imagine the city right now having the Forum as its center of the city? That's ridiculous. That would be like some of the old cities back in the east.

Anyway, the arena itself is a great idea, I'm totally in support of it, but I think it's too small. I think we've got to look ahead to what will be 30, 40, 50 years from now, because that's how old the arena was and I think we've got to look at an arena of about 25,000 people.

And the other thing that I have a little disagreement with is the location. I read in the paper that people are saying they want to put it down there next to the railroad and Kellogg. Well, I think it should be put over south of Kellogg and west of 135, in that area, because that gives great access from the surrounding counties and the people from the east and the west and what have you. As a matter of fact, we do get a lot of people here. I attended some of the music concerts out at the Barn and the people sitting next to me are from McPherson and they never miss one. You know, they drive down all the time.

And the other comment is I've heard people up here say, 'How is it going to pay for itself?' Well, if you look at the return actually on itself there, they maybe have a point, but look what it's going to

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do for the area. I mean, it's going to increase a lot of things. There's going to be a lot of money generated, not only there but by surrounding places that we'll be paying taxes to.

And the other thing, on the size, I think we should do 25,000 and I'm willing to pay the sales tax, I think it's a great way to finance it, and it could be extended from 33 months to say 50 months at one cent to pay for the addition, as long as we know it's going to be cut off.

It's a mistake to concentrate on the profit from the arena. That's a mistake. Anyway, I just totally support it. I think the location should be changed, because you have great access there. Parking, you could put asphalt parking in that whole area, free parking. Parking is an issue when you go the Angels or the Dodgers. I've seen these things in Seattle, the Kingdome was built wrong."

Chairman Winters said, "Sir, you have one minute."

Mr. Quaney said, "So, I'm in support of that, but I'd like to take my last minute to suggest a couple of other things that might be considered here. We just finished a bowling conference here. I'm retired but I work part-time for Hertz out at the airport. Do you realize how many people came in? We had 100 vans and couldn't keep them in stock, you know. I mean, the people spent . . . I have a friend that works at VonMaur, she said they came in and spent money, because they were usually older, a lot of them older, retired women that had money and that's what we need to do in this town.

I suggest that we . . . they have three bowling congresses form one, they don't have a home. I suggest that we propose to them Wichita be their home, we build them an office building between the boat house and on the river, and then the hall of fame for league bowlers behind it and then over to Main Street, a 40-lane bowling alley. They could get the profit off the bowling alley during their time here. We would want them to say they would have their thing here for the next 20 years or something like that. It's a great opportunity that needs to be explored."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, your time . . ."

Mr. Quaney said, "I'm going to take one more minute."

Chairman Winters said, "No, about 10 seconds."

Mr. Quaney said, "We need a walk of fame for the aircraft industry, like Hollywood has for the

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entertainment industry. We need a hall of fame for pilots, because we are an aircraft . . . and we need a hall of fame of pilots and I appreciate the time and I thank you very much and I support the issue and I think you had very good foresight, you and the city council. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Winters said, “Patrick, thank you. And somebody write down all of Patrick’s ideas. Next speaker, please come forward.”

Ms. Gardner G. Calhoun, 8103 W. 17th Street N., Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “And I am in support of the arena but I’m not in support of the sales taxes. Many individuals that I work with on a day-to-day basis are individuals with disabilities and elderly and they’re living on a fixed income and to increase the sales taxes for them would be a devastation.

Many of them are having to decide whether they’re going to buy prescription drugs or to pay for food. What extra money do they have to pay for the necessity utility that they have to make to pay for on a day-to-day basis? So to use sale taxes to support this is a devastation to many of the individuals and they will not be able to use the arena. You know, and there are no other extra monies that they’re having.

Many of them, I’ve been told, recently have had their SSI and other individual things decrease and so there is no extra money for a lot of individuals. Thank you and I think that we should consider all citizens. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you very much for your comments. Next speaker, please come forward.”

Mr. Ed Wolverton, 100 N. Broadway, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Before I get started, I’ll tell someone they left their glasses. This year, the community is poised to make an investment in the downtown arena. We have two choices really, or maybe even one. This November, we’re going to vote on building a state-of-the-art, modern arena in our downtown. If that vote fails, this community will be investing in renovating the Kansas Coliseum. That investment is going to be made, one way or another. After analyzing both these options, I’m here this morning to voice my support for developing a new arena in downtown.

There are a number of reasons why this public facility should be in the central business district and I’m going to focus my comments really on two issues. First, healthy community needs a healthy downtown. Over the past 15 years, we as a community have made great strides with commercial, residential, cultural projects into our center city. They include things like Old Town Square, the Warren Theatre, Eaton Place, the museum district, Delano, Innes Station and many, many more.

We’ve made much of this progress at a gradual pace, one step at a time, one project at a time. This

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year, work is already started on the Water Walk project and the community will be making a big leap forward when that project is built and open in 2007. We're going to be turning a blighted, under-performing area of our center city into a dynamic, mixed use, vital cultural area that will grow the tax base, grow the residential base and create many benefits for our community.

Teaming an arena with this development will create more investment and more growth in downtown in three years than we seen in the last decade and as I mentioned, this growth means more jobs for area residents and better property tax growth for our community that helps everybody.

The second reason for the downtown arena is downtown's return on public investment. I mentioned some of the things that have occurred downtown over the past 15 years or so. And one of the things that's happened is, as you look at public investments and let's take the Kansas Coliseum as an example of this. In the 25 years since the Kansas Coliseum has been built, there's really been one, private sector, complimentary use that the Coliseum has helped nurture and grow and that's the Wichita Greyhound Park. You look at downtown and it has a proven track record of bringing in new private investment based on government seeding or nurturing or helping to grow that investment.

Since 1990, the city and the county have invested about \$165,000,000 in various downtown projects for roads, parking, financing businesses, land acquisition, things of that nature. In return, the private sector has matched and exceeded government investment by bringing in almost \$248,000,000 worth of investment, private investment I should add. This again grows the property tax and many of these also pay sales tax, again good for our community.

To conclude, a downtown arena is a good investment for our community. It's good for our quality of life and it's good for our future. I'd urge the county commission to support the plan, as well as the public, as it comes up to vote on November 2nd. Thank you very much."

Chairman Winters said, "Ed, thank you very much. Next speaker, please come forward sir. Give your name and address."

Mr. J. T. Manuszak, 1034 W. Riverside, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I recently retired from the Internal Revenue Service after 31 years of public service.

I wholeheartedly support the downtown arena project. I believe, with forward-looking leadership and effective marketing, there is going to be plenty of room for the downtown arena, Century II and the Britt Brown Arena, as long as we have the good sense to find a way to ensure that these three facilities will work cooperatively, rather than to compete with each other.

As a little side note to what I'd planned to say, and I'm not here to engage in debate, but don't even

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think about property tax. It's bad enough that the Real Estate market is already driving us to annual increases.

But going back to my purpose in being here, while I fully support this and I certainly hope that both the public and some of our lawmakers can see beyond the price tag to the great benefits of the future of this, I do adamantly reject funding this arena project with yet another special sales tax increase. They don't go away.

While I commend local government for making the effort to inform the public through town hall meetings that we've had, such as the one I attended at the Boat House last night, I deeply resent the fact that the only choice I was really given there for funding was some form of sales tax in one degree or another, as if there were no other choices to consider. This is an unfair and I know this is the tool you have, so I can't call it manipulative, but it almost would seem so, because the survey then just has a yes or no vote to a single funding option and this creates the illusion that there is no other way to fund the project and this is enforced then when media reports it, because sales tax is all that's being offered. It's all they had to report and that furthers the notion to the public that that's all there is.

I spent enough time in government to be aware of the management mentality that says: Be careful, if you give people choices, they might make one. The continued use of sales tax to fund special projects, in general I agree with those before me that said it's unfair. It's regressive. You turn to it because it's cheap and easy to administer but it's lazy government and it's the path of least resistance.

It's unfair because it's regressive to those of us on low incomes or fixed incomes, but it's also because the lower income working people who end up paying it often have neither the means nor the knowledge or a lot with two or three jobs have not got the time to fight it or to be heard with their alternative proposals.

So my proposal is to let those who will benefit most from the arena fund the arena. I endorse a tourist tax assessed on lodging facilities, vehicle rentals eating and drinking establishments large enough to qualify for IRS regulations regarding allocated tip income.

I, for one, in that way would be willing to participate in arena funding, because I would every time I went out to eat. But it's not fair to ask me or anyone else to pony up every time we buy groceries, or a roll of toilet paper or prescription drugs or household supplies or other day-to-day necessities.

And a sales tax increase is certainly not fair to vendors of big ticket items, air conditioners, appliances because it makes them less competitive. I recognize that in proposing this, the county is the wrong venue. You can't directly act on this kind of proposal but the arena is a cooperative project between the city and the county and it is my hope that the county would carry my proposal

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back, during some of your other discussions, to the city and have it carefully considered.

Further, I recognize that Wichita and Sedgwick County have to compete with Tulsa, Kansas City Omaha, OKC, other mid-size metro areas for all things and I recognize it takes money, it takes solid commitment, it takes vision beyond the budget problems of the immediate fiscal year to make these things happen.”

Chairman Winters said, “Sir, you have one minute.”

Mr. Manuszak said, “Yes, sir. As a more permanent source of funding for what I call these visionary projects, those which may not show an immediate return tomorrow, I would propose that the sales tax be frozen permanently at the state-mandated level and a payroll tax be put in place instead.

I’m a relative newcomer to Wichita, since 1977, but all these years I’ve never seen a lot of money being earned in this city, in this county and being taken and spent out of the county or out of the state. It’s a valuable source of revenue and I think it would make our county even more competitive in the retail area by then freezing that sales tax at the lower area.

So, let’s get the city and the county to cooperate, to quit turning to the quick and dirty and instead implement a payroll tax to provide permanent funding for the arena and other visionary projects. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you for your comments. I can tell you put a lot of thought into that and we appreciate it. Next speaker.”

Mr. Lyle Blue, 9140 E. 111th Street S., Mulvane, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here because I wanted to face the elected officials on this issue. I went to the Derby meeting and got there at 9:15 or 9:20 and there was no elected officials there and I went around and talked to the various people providing the information. I did talk to this lady right here and several other people from the county about some of my concerns.

The issue that I look at on this downtown arena is whose going to pay for it and what the heck is wrong with user fees. You know, when Mr. Holt was up here, he said he thought that was the most equitable way of treating the subject, by having a sales tax and in your propaganda sheet that you hand out at the meeting it says, ‘We also know that the sales tax is a heavy burden for lower income families than for those that have high incomes’. So what? What are you doing about that?

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I said, 'Can't we forget about taxing food, taxing medicine?' and they said, 'Oh, there's a problem there, we have to do what the state tells us'. You know, I think if we can get six gorillas from Africa and take care of them for the next 50 years, we ought to be able to figure out a way to make the cost of building this arena charged to those people who want to use the arena or those people who want to benefit from the arena.

You know, when you talk about visioning, it usually ends up in my back pocket where my billfold is. I look at it as simply this, you can't make money with this arena. Your propaganda sheets tell me that you even have to have a \$30,000 slush fund so that we can pay for all the losses that we expect to ensue in the next 20 years on it.

These are all types of things that I think are . . . would be categorized as high risk and shouldn't be look at as an endeavor that the county should want to do. I know that the county has lots of projects and they've done lots of good things, but I don't know where it became for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to life, liberty and please entertain me. I don't want to be entertained. I don't want to pay for her entertainment. I don't want to pay for his entertainment. I want them to pay for it.

If I chose to go out to be entertained, I will pay the money and when they talk about wherever the thing goes, the arena goes, why don't you put an enterprise zone around it. All these people that say we're going to be generating all of this money, where does that come back and pay it back to you folks, it comes back to us, all I hear is business will follow, business will make money but you foot the bill. I don't think that's an adequate or even fair proposition to ask the people.

Now they say, 'Well, you're either going to have a new downtown arena or you're going to have to live with the old Kansas Coliseum fixed up'. And by the way the Kansas Coliseum hasn't really made money, hasn't lost money, but it cost \$10,000,000 25 years ago and you're going spend \$60,000,000 on it now to make it where it will be, so you're \$60,000,000 in the hole over the last 25 years.

What is this monstrosity going to be and it's going to be 25,000 seat arena, I don't know why we want to put good money after bad. I know I've got a minute. And as far as I'm concerned, if you could make it pay for itself, pay as you go, I'm for it. I think that everybody ought to be able to enjoy something, but I don't think Mr. Norton, Mr. Winters, Mr. Scortino, Mr. Unruh, that you ought to have to pay for me to have an enjoyable evening out. I think that when that comes time for me to do that, I'm willing to do that myself. Thank you for your time."

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Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, sir, for your comments. Next speaker, please come forward, name and address."

Mr. Karl Peterjohn, 11328 Texas, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I wanted to . . . with the commission's approval, Mr. Jerry Winkelman asked me to present his reasons and he apologizes for not being able to be here today, and he opposes the sales tax proposal for a new downtown arena and I'd like to present his testimony, officially for the record if that's all right. I also have written copies of my own testimony and for the interest of time, I will present that as part of my presentation.

A brief bit of history. As the executive director of the Kansas Taxpayers' Network, back in 1993 our organization headed up the opposition to the half cent sales tax proposal to build a downtown arena at that time and we sent out a mailing earlier this month to see if our supporters here in the community were as opposed now as they were opposed then to this proposal. And all of the responses that we have received indicate that the people who we view them as citizens, always validating or verifying expenditures, you might think of that as CAVE, citizens always validating expenditures, or looking for validation of what's going on with the expenditures here.

And we've got several problems with this proposal. One, the county doesn't have authority under state law right now, under K.S.A. 12-187, to raise any sales taxes and you're going to have to get the legislature to act and three things could occur. One, the legislature won't act and this of course presumes that there's a yes vote this November. They could act and say, 'Okay, we'll make it retroactive', in which case the tax would go into affect, but I suspect and I've been an advocate for taxpayers up in Topeka for the last 12 years, they're most likely to say 'Okay, we'll change the law but you're going to have to then hold a binding election', and this election before us is actually advisory and I view that as a major problem that hasn't been addressed.

Another problem is that you've heard some proponents say that this is a positive for economic development. I recently did a Google search and came across an expert economist from Smith College named Andrew Zimbalist and I'd like to quote him. 'The independent economic research that's been done on the question of whether sports teams and sports facility have an economic impact on an area have uniformly found that there is no positive impact. By having a sports team or a new stadium or arena, you don't increase the level of per-capita income and you don't increase the level of employment. There is no direct economic benefit. Jean Ross, writing in the Sacramento Bee July 25th, 2004, because they're going through a similar situation there, wrote 'Economic studies show that sports facilities do not promote economic development and the public subsidies from arena and stadium construction do not pay for themselves by generating increased tax revenues'.

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Now these are not isolated studies. You can go to Heartland Institute or the Kato Institute where similar studies agree with those points. There's an excellent book out by Mark Rossentrop called 'Major League Losers' and this details that the flaws in arena and stadium proponent's claims that have been repeated throughout the United States, because we're really . . . we're not alone in going down this route.

Now, we've got a proposal of putting this on the November ballot, but a lot of people have expressed concerns about, you know, we don't have a specific location, we don't have a specific cost, we don't have a specific design for the arena and we don't have a specific tax. But in addition, I went onto the county's website and I appreciate the excellent work the county has had in holding the hearings, and on the county's website it talked about the costs and some people have used the figure 141.5 million, but on the county's website they also have a figure on other options and I think the downtown parking garage would be an absolutely necessary option and the fact that we're looking at operating losses for this arena . . . I know I have one minute.

That we're looking at a cost of \$210,000,000, which would be as much as \$467 per person, if we use that larger figure, or over \$1,800 for a family of four here in Wichita. So, I'd close by saying no sales tax hike. There is no support in this community for property tax hike, although there is support for voter approval on those tax hikes.

And the model that you should follow is right here in Wichita. Koch Arena's remodel cost \$25,000,000 and didn't cost a penny in tax funds, so there should be no tax hike for entertainment. I appreciate the commissioners' time and attention and I will provide you with copies of my testimony. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right Karl, if you'd just give those to Kathy, she'll make sure that we all get a copy. All right, next speaker, please come forward."

Mr. George Fahnestock, 14330 Tipperary, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As you may know, through the years, I've become affectionately acquainted with this thing called a downtown arena and arguably perhaps I've become privy to perhaps way too much information.

But let it be known that this certainly has been a process, this downtown arena is a process and it's yielded among other things considerable public appeal. Certainly, and not in any order of importance, the backing off of the downtown arena initiative five years ago in support of the U.S.D. 259 school bond issue was very critical, I think, to the successful passage of what now is becoming

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a reality for school children in our community and that is being comfortable so that they can be educated properly.

The ultimate decision of Wichita State University to embark on a campaign that was called roundhouse renaissance and today the reality is we have Koch Arena and a grand facility for now a venue that can be . . . can attract nationally competitive student athletics to one of the finest universities in our community.

This process has also yielded a thing called tax-itis. Tax-itis was passed at the state legislative level to level the competitive tax playing field for our county across the state. And finally, a couple of years ago, the dyna-plex was taken off the ballot because of the state budget gap because of the record unemployment in Sedgwick County and certainly a distressful economic condition.

Ultimately, you the Sedgwick County Commission, in an effort to comply with ADA , the ADA issues at Britt Brown Arena, unveiled a \$55,000,000 plan for the Kansas Coliseum complex and until you were presented with a better plan, that was the stake in the ground and that's what we were going to go with.

The continuation of the process, in a collaborative effort with the City of Wichita and the private sector, which I am a representative, you the county commission unveiled a new plan that has been introduced and defined over the last several weeks. A simple, straightforward initiative designed to build a downtown arena with the permission of the public through a public referendum. As a representative of the private sector, we have now sought and received support of various members of the coalition, this three-legged stool if you will, including the Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Sports Commission, Downtown Development Group, BIG. I simply would ask that the citizens of Sedgwick County engage in the process of finding out all they can about the importance of a downtown arena and how it might affect the future of our community.

And then to exercise their right and their privilege to cast their ballot on November 2nd based on their findings. And I'd also ask that you, our elected officials, as you desire to continue to share your leadership, your expertise and your passion, to assist in the advocacy campaign to bring about a successful defining moment in the history of our community. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much, George. Next speaker? Are we reaching the end? Are there any other speakers here in the audience that would like to address the Board of County Commissioners concerning this downtown arena? All right, we'll close the public comment and again, I want to tell you how much the commissioners thank all of you for coming. Everyone was well informed and had their comments thought out and I don't think we could have asked for more information to be shared with commissioners. You all did an excellent job.

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For those of you who are watching today, which is August the 25th, Wednesday, there are two more community meetings that you can participate in. One is this evening at Aley/ Stanley Neighborhood Center at 1949 South Martinson, Martinson and Seneca. The one Thursday evening is August 26th at Atwater Neighborhood Center, 2755 East 19th Street. Those meetings are not exactly like today's traditional public hearing. They are informational in nature. Citizens can go and go to various locations and visit with experts on the various issues of other arenas in other communities, how parking and traffic could be handled, cost and financing options, the economic impact, what will happen out at the Coliseum if this passes or fails and what's the timeline.

Now it's my impression that after today's meeting and after we have two more community meetings we will take all of the information that has been shared and presented to the commissioners and at our meeting next Wednesday, September 1st, we will finalize a ballot question that our intension is to place on the November 3rd ballot. I think most of our intentions are for it to be a simple, straightforward question that folks can easily understand and then, in the months of September and October, the debate, as Mr. Wright suggested earlier, will begin in earnest with the information that is placed on the ballot.

We've gone through this period in August of trying to communicate and gather input from citizens and I believe we've done that and now we will craft a question that we can get on the ballot and the citizens will have a chance on November ballot to make a decision of which way they want us to proceed.

Commissioners, are there any other questions? If there's not, we need to take a Motion to receive and file. I think there are a number of things, again, from the expressions of people here, I would ask whether you live in the City of Wichita or in one of our surrounding communities, that you continue to think about what does this arena mean for the community where I live. And if each of you will investigate it under those terms of thinking about the entire community and the 19 other cities besides the City of Wichita, I think we can come to some conclusions.

Commissioners, if there's no other comments, I would entertain a Motion to receive and file all of these comments."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

Chairman Winters said, "Do you have additional comments?"

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Commissioner Unruh said, “No, I don’t, no I don’t. I just didn’t know that there was a specific thing we were receiving and filing.”

Chairman Winters said, “Just the comments that citizens have given us today and we’ll again use those in crafting a ballot question.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I have an additional comment. Have we had a Motion and a second?”

Chairman Winters said, “We have a Motion and a second.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, I just wanted to echo what you said, Mr. Chairman. I’ve attended most of the open house meetings and I’ll be there again tonight and now we’ve had the more traditional meeting and what energizes me is that I think the county commission has made an honest effort to go out to the people and expose them to this concept, try to give them as much information that we have so that they can make an informed decision. I’m on record as saying, personally I am in wholehearted support of this, but I think the more the public can know about this or learn about this, perhaps maybe the more they can like it or embrace it. But it certainly helps that we have not tried to say, ‘Okay, we’re going to have a traditional hearing, you all have to come at 9:00 during our commission meeting’. You know, we’re holding nine meetings, it’s in the evening, we’ve had it at various locations in Sedgwick County.

What I gather from the amount of people that are coming, I think they are appreciative that we have made an honest effort to get the message out to as many people and to be exposed ourselves to as many people so that they can get as much information as they can so that they can make an informed decision. So win, lose or draw, I think this process was the correct one.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much, Commissioner. Are there other questions or comments? We have a Motion to receive and file all the comments we’ve received this morning. Seeing no other questions, Madam Clerk, call the vote.”

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh Aye

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Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you. At this time, we’re going to take a 10 minute break.”

The County Commissioners recessed at 11:11 a.m. and returned from recess at 11:32 a.m.

Chairman Winters said, “This is the August 25th meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. We’ve been on a short recess. I’ll call the meeting back to order. Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

NEW BUSINESS

F. DIVISION OF CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION.

1. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE LAKE AFTON PUBLIC OBSERVATORY.

Mr. Holt said, “This is a request to approve an agreement between Sedgwick County and Wichita State University for the maintenance and operation of the Lake Afton Public Observatory. In 1986, we had an operating agreement that was adopted between W.S.U. and the county. The terms of that agreement have expired. This new agreement is designed to capture the current operating situation, which is generally the county continues to have overall responsibility for maintenance of the observatory and its surrounding grounds, while W.S.U. continues to be responsible for the day-to-day programming and operations.

If you approve this agreement today, then it would go the Wichita State for signature and because it’s an inter-local agreement, then it has to go to the attorney general for final sign-off. So recommend you approve the agreement, authorize the Chairman to sign.”

Chairman Winters said, “Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Ron, I’m a little confused on the agreement. Our backup says up to \$25,000 in cost center. Who pays what to whom?”

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Mr. Holt said, "The grounds and the buildings are maintained by the County and in the past, when we've had maintenance issues out there and in fact this past year we had a roof situation that we had to fix, so the county would continue to, if we had maintenance issues, up to \$25,000 the county would be responsible for that. If we go beyond that, we would have to get into a discussion, it wouldn't be automatic. We'd have to get into a discussion about who and how that would be funded. Probably we might come back to the CIP but that's not an automatic, based on this agreement."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, and do we pay anything to W.S.U. for what they do?"

Mr. Holt said, "No, they have all of the operating responsibilities. They set the program, they set the hours of operation, they run the telescope."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "They pay for all of the personnel and everything? All we do is maintain the facility. Is that correct?"

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct, right, that's correct on the Lake Afton grounds."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah, okay, thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, are there other questions or comments. Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye

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Chairman Thomas Winters Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Ron. Next item."

2. **KANSAS COLISEUM MONTHLY REPORT.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The report today is on our activities during the month of July. We had nearly 9,300 people through our doors, nine events, 17 individual performances and net revenues were in excess of \$57,000.

Highlights for the month . . . It's always nice to have the stage crew working with us. We had two horse shows, the Stars and Stripes Benefit Show and the Pride of the Prairie Pinto Show. Between those two, we had almost 4,200 people in attendance. We had paint . . . Tornado Alley, a little outfit from the Derby area, had their third paintball tournament in the equestrian arena, the arena building, draws about 450 people. There are teams from Oklahoma, Nebraska and Missouri coming to town and spending the weekend to take part in the paintball tournament.

Unfortunately, we had our first attempt at an outdoor concert at the West Bank Stage featuring the band Lynyrd Skynyrd. The morning of the show, the lead singer's father was taken seriously ill, in fact he died the next week, so unfortunately that show had to be canceled. Just to let you know, we had some partners in the show. We are going to try again, probably next summer, but some of the unforeseen things that can happen. And we had nearly 4,000 people attend two Stealth indoor football games.

Coming up, we have Rod Stewart in concert tomorrow, Crosby, Stills and Nash in concert on the 31st, Metallica in concert on September 1st. We're going to be doing our first regional high school cross country meet with Valley Center High School. We have about 12 teams from the area coming into Valley Center. We put in four different courses, through Wiedemann Park and down through the grounds and we're going to run cross country just about all day on September 7th. Tim McGraw is in concert on September 15th. Once again, on September 28th, The Kansas Coliseum and Sedgwick County will be featured on national television, World Wrestling Entertainment is going to bring in their Smack Down event. It will be filmed on the 28th to be broadcast on Thursday, the 30th on UPN in primetime at 7 p.m.

If there's any questions, I'd be happy to answer them at this time."

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Chairman Winters said, “All right, do we have any questions of John?”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, John. Next item.”

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – DEPARTMENT ON AGING

G. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING FOR CENTRAL PLAINS AREA AGENCY ON AGING TO PROVIDE COORDINATION OF A KANSAS SENIOR PHARMACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Ms. Monica Cissell, Program Manager, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Today I have an agreement from Kansas Department on Aging for the Kansas Senior Pharmacy Assistance program. Central Plains Area Agency on Aging will provide coordination of this program in Sedgwick, Harvey and Butler Counties starting September 1st and ending July 30th. This project will allow our information and assistance staff to assist 1,138 eligible low-income older adults in applying for a 70% reimbursement for their out of pocket expenses on prescription drugs.

The Central Plains Area Agency on Aging will be reimbursed \$10 per completed application by Kansas Department on Aging. The recommended action is that you approve the agreement and

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authorize the Chairman to sign.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you. Commissioners, are there questions or comments?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, Monica. Next item.”

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – COMCARE

H. AGREEMENT WITH ANDREW LAURONILLA, M.D. TO PROVIDE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES TO PATIENTS AT COMCARE’S OUTPATIENT SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICES.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is an appointment agreement with Dr. Andrew Lauronilla, who is a board certified psychiatrist who received his medical training from Southwestern University in the Philippines. He did an internship in internal medicine at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and a psychiatry residency at the University of Texas in Galveston, where he graduated with a clinical excellence award.

He’s been working for Area Community Mental Health Center in Dodge City, being the only psychiatrist in that community for the last five years and recently moved here and he speaks

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English, Philippino and conversational Spanish. So we're happy to have him as part of our staff. He will be dividing his time between our crisis program and our outpatient program. The recommended action is that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, you've heard the report. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Marilyn. Next item."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

I. GRANT APPLICATION TO KANSAS JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY FOR FUNDING OF A DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT PILOT PROJECT IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2005.

Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Congress has mandated that states address the high number of minority youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has formed a statewide task force to address the issue. The task force is called the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee.

The state committee has developed a three-year pilot project to study and identify solutions to the problem. The project began in three pilot counties: Sedgwick, Finney and Riley. Project activities actually began last spring with training, planning and analysis of data needs and capabilities. Each

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of the pilot counties has now organized a structure to carry out the project activities and is now eligible to receive approximately \$50,000 each year for three years in Federal Title II funding from the state.

In Sedgwick County, I serve as the project director on this. Tom Kimbrel at the Intake and Assessment Center serves as the project coordinator and your advisory board, the Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board is the committee that oversees this work.

Before you this morning is a funding application that contains our plan for the first year. We're eligible to receive \$50,589. Our plan is to use roughly \$36,000 to build and refine the necessary data fields and interfaces to extract the needed information at each of nine different contact points in the juvenile justice system and \$10,000 to contract with Wichita State University Self-Help Network to reach out and engage the community, once we have the data in problem-solving and the remaining \$4,500 is for three local representatives of the project to attend a national conference specializing on this topic in November.

Commissioners, while this is a new initiative statewide, here in Sedgwick County it's not a new initiative. Disproportion of minority confinement is what this was previously called and your work on juvenile detention reform, creating alternatives to detention, your work on juvenile justice reform where you actually approved and put a program in place that's still in place called the detention advocacy service program that operates down at the detention facility and provides specialized legal representation for minority and low-income youth at detention hearings, as well as teams up case managers with that legal team to provide the court with alternatives to release those youth to their homes with someone to help connect them to services, which possibly has been in place since 2000 and some of your prevention programs also address this issue.

I was able to share our experience, because we are really far ahead in this state on this issue, on the recent governor's conference on juvenile justice in July that was very well received. Again, the purpose here is to insure equal and fair treatment of every youth in the juvenile justice system, regardless of race or ethnicity and I ask that you approve the funding application."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you Mark. Will this be . . . and you maybe said this and I didn't catch on, but are these funds going to be used over this three-year period to enhance some of the things that we're already doing or is there more out there that you think we need more folks

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and more commitment to.”

Mr. Masterson said, “Both. First, it’s to implement a new federal model that’s been developed to look at different decision points and get the data and what that does is take a look at these nine decision points and kind of help you focus in. Like taking vital signs and saying ‘there might be something here’ and taking a closer look to get down and find where there might be areas that we could intervene and impact this issue. That’s the first phase of the project, to do that and that’s what the funds are needed for in the first year.

After that, it will be a year to year process on how we might best use those funds to actually intervene in different neighborhoods or areas, and so it will be determined. We’ll follow the data, see where it leads us, involve the public and make decisions as we go along.”

Chairman Winters said, “Okay, we have a question. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “If I understood what we’re trying to do, we have a disproportionate number of minority juveniles in our detention center and into our incarceration area or whatever. Right?”

Mr. Masterson said, “That’s what we want to study.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, we know that we have that and we’re studying that. What’s our goal? What do we hope to achieve? Less minorities in the juvenile justice system or what?”

Mr. Masterson said, “Well, I think ideally that would be the goal but to ensure that fair and equal treatment is occurring at each of the decision points. And so one of the interventions might be, like we’ve done at juvenile detention, is to implement an objective risk screening tool that’s used to determine admissions, who gets admitted and who can be released home. But those types of tools can be implemented along the juvenile justice continuum at different points that help ensure fairness.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Now, in you study, because we’ve been on this for a while, have you found any evidence that Sedgwick County is treating these people unfairly?”

Mr. Masterson said, “I think as we’ve added alternatives, those alternatives have been used fairly. And so where we have alternatives to detention, they are being used in a fair and equitable manner. Again, there’s a new federal model and we actually have technical assistance from the federal government coming in on September 10th to help us look at our data to help determine if there are points that we might be able to look closer at and design interventions to try to affect.”

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Chairman Winters said, "But could I interject right now?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah."

Chairman Winters said, "But as you said, we are a bit ahead of the curve on this because we've already tried to make sure that if some juvenile is brought to our facility and there's nobody advocating for them to get them through the process, we recognize that now and address that. Is that not correct, Mark?"

Mr. Masterson said, "That is correct."

Chairman Winters said, "So we're not letting somebody just sit there because they don't have anybody out there trying to work for them and trying to determine what it is."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I mean, it seems like the federal government and the rest of the state needs to get their curve up to where we're already at."

Mr. Masterson said, "We're certainly the leader in the state on this, which is why we wanted us as one of the first communities involved."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "All right, thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "But in response to these comments, I mean, it sounds to me like what we're doing is using some federal resources to continue to improve and make ourselves better in this area and they're going to fund us and give us the ability to improve ourselves."

Mr. Masterson said, " And we're going to implement the new model and expand. Where we've focused is on confinement and detention and having alternatives and objective screening about who gets in there. This really broadens that to arrests, to filings, to who gets probation and who doesn't, who gets sentenced to correctional facilities. It broadens that look at the system into a much broader look than we have taken so far."

Commissioner Unruh said, "And we have wholehearted support from our advisory board to

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proceed with this, I assume.”

Mr. Masterson said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “All right, that’s all I have.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, do we have a Motion to take the recommended action.”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this Application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, Mark. Next item.”

J. HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

- 1. AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FOR PROVISION OF COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS FOR A WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EVENT.**

Dr. Cindy Burbach, Director, Health Surveillance and Disease Prevention, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The first item I have is an amendment to the first contract that we got from the federal government that funds MMRS, which is Metropolitan Medical Response Systems of \$240,000. We have had this money already, we have been spending it. You had a

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budget in the past. This is a contract that needs a signature and I would recommend that you'd approve it and sign the contract. Any questions?"

Chairman Winters said, "All right, are there any questions of Dr. Burbach? If not, is there a Motion?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Amendment to Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

2. GRANT APPLICATION TO FEMA FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM PROGRAM.

Dr. Burbach said, "This is an additional MMRS grant. This one looks a little different than the first two did. The first two were contracts which asked for deliverables. This one is a grant. The federal government changed their way of doing business just a little bit. This one is for the fiscal year '04 and it will be for \$415,000 to really expand some of the things that we've already been doing.

All of these monies roll over from year to year. However, they do have to be kept in separate budgets and we would ask that you would approve that one and sign that one also."

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Chairman Winters said, “Does this application then go directly to FEMA and not to state organization, or does it come through . . .”

Dr. Burbach said, “This one is directly through the feds.”

Chairman Winters said, “Commissioners, are there other questions or comments?”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this Application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

Chairman Winters said, “We have a Motion and a second. Any discussion?”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Yeah, I just have one question, if I could. It says here ‘The contract provides partial funding for an epidemiologist, but you said . . .’”

Dr. Burbach said, “Wrong one. No, that’s number three that I have.”

Chairman Winters said, “Is that the next one? That’s the next contract we’re going to talk about.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Oh, that’s the West Nile Virus one. Okay.”

Dr. Burbach said, “I have four total.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, wait a minute, I’ve got page 125.”

Chairman Winters said, “No, we’re on page 71 to 124.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Oh, I’m sorry. I thought this was . . . we just approved number two.”

Chairman Winters said, “No, we just approve number one.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “Sorry, no questions at this time but I reserve the right to call you back at a later time.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, we have a Motion on item J-2 to take the recommended action. Is there any other discussion? Madam Clerk, call the vote.”

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Next item.”

3. CONTRACT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (KDHE) FOR GRANT FUNDING OF AN EPIDEMIOLOGIST POSITION.

Dr. Burbach said, “Before I mention that, I will say that there will be another one coming that has to do with bio-terrorism preparedness in about two weeks and that is the one that’s coming through the state. So you will see another one, so if you’re not confused now, you probably will be by then because it’s quite a mess.

My item J-3 is a state grant that we have received every year for the last several years that funds a portion of an epidemiologist. This year’s grant went from about \$45,000 down to \$30,000 and so we have to dip farther into our local funds to keep that person there as part of our epidemiology team. And we would request that you approve and sign this contract for the next year’s grant, which started in this past July.”

Chairman Winters said, “Okay. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “What does KDHE say as a justification for such a dramatic reduction in the funding?”

Dr. Burbach said, “No more money.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “And they just picked out ‘We’re going to cut you . . .’”

Dr. Burbach said, “They get less from the CDC because this money actually comes to them from the CDC and we were told that they got less from the CDC for this kind of activity.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “But yet they still almost mandate that we continue the project, so it’s ‘Let the county pay for it’. Okay, thanks.”

Chairman Winters said, “Are there any other questions? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, “Next item.”

4. GRANT APPLICATION TO KDHE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.

Dr. Burbach said, “Again, a grant proposal to KDHE for West Nile Virus control. This is the first money that we have even had available to us from the state or really from anybody else for West Nile Virus. The good news is that this year, as of right now, we have one confirmed case in Sedgwick County. That is the only confirmed case of West Nile Virus in the state. There are four probably cases in the entire state and we have one other probable case in Sedgwick County. What that means is all the tests aren’t in yet.

This time last year, we had approximately 10 to 12 cases in the entire state. So one versus 10 to 12 we feel like is a real improvement. We had one death in the state by this time previous year. So we

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feel like we're going places in terms of getting ahead of this.

Now this grant that we're asking for from KDHE, they've put this money out there for West Nile Virus control and prevention. We have asked for \$10,000 and our intension is to have it pay for a temporary person to work just in the summer to do a lot of the work that our Mansour Tahir has been doing.

There's a lot of this tromping around in the mud and assessing water places that he could really be used much better on . . . basically, on his expertise in dealing with communities and dealing with public education, dealing with being the expert, as opposed to tromping around and putting briquettes in water. So we're going to try to use this money, should we get it, for that field work that we can hire somebody just in the summer. We'd ask that you approve this and sign the grant proposal, which we won't know about until about next month. I think it's due in the mail next week."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioners, are there questions or comments?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the proposal and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this proposal; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Next item."

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K. DIVISION OF INFORMATION AND OPERATIONS (DIO).

1. GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SCIENCES CONFERENCE REPORT.

Mr. Richard Vogt, Chief Technology Officer, Department of Information and Operations (DIO), greeted the Commissioners and said, "About two years ago, our technical support manager Ken Keen approached me with an idea to host the International Conference for the Government Management Information Sciences. It's an organization, technology organization with which DIO is affiliated.

Although DIO had never hosted such a conference, I felt confident that Ken could pull this off. That would give great visibility to our community and bring dollars, modest, but dollars into the community. This faith was rewarded, as this past June a very successful conference was held. One of the many positive comments came from the attendee in Alabama. He said, 'You are a great host and I'm sure the internationals and all GMIS members will remember this year's conference as one of the best they've ever attended'. They were also very impressed by the hospitality of the conference committee and the people of Wichita.

We're here today to say thanks to Chairman Winters for coming and giving the welcoming speech, to all the commissioners for your strong support, to the manager who is not here but I'm sure Kathy will pass it on and also to Kathy, very strong support throughout the organization for letting us go out on a limb a little bit.

Ken Keen here is here to just kind of point out the people, the key people who were working on this, so I'll have Ken come up. In the meantime, we have little gifts that come from GMIS. And I want to point out that this conference was entirely funded by GMIS. This was not a county funded project, except for the resources, the staff resources. So, Ken."

Mr. Ken Keen, Technical Support Manager, Division of Information and Operations, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's almost getting to the point where we can look back on it and say it was fun, but not quite. An awful lot of work went into it, primarily by these four individuals to my right. GMIS stands for Government Management Information Sciences, by the way and there was a

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great deal of arm twisting on my arm that was done at the '01 conference, simply because they had never been to Kansas before. They had been to a number of states, none immediately surrounding us, but they were putting the twist on us to see if they couldn't come to Kansas.

So, as Richard mentioned, we did kind of acquiesce to that and we didn't know what we were getting ourselves into but we picked a theme and since it was harvest time in Kansas, we decided that we would invite our guests from around the country and international guests to 'reap a harvest of new ideas' while harvest was in full swing here.

We got busy with the logo and the hotel details and all that sort of thing and I think what really made the conference a success is that we kind of had the behind the scenes motto is this is a conference we would like to go to, and these four ladies I think did a wonderful job of pulling that off. I mean, we had attention to details that you just wouldn't believe, name badges with names on them big enough that you could read from across the room, that sort of thing. Probably the most useful notebook that the organization has ever produced, with maps and a section on where you are in Kansas, to give them some background of our community.

We concentrated on fast check in and a group photograph and keeping costs down and all that kind of good stuff. Following that, we had to pay attention to some of the things that went into it, so lest you think this was just a bunch of people at a hotel, there was a golf tournament that was associated with it, there was an international guest tour of the city, a pre-conference class with an instructor from the University of Georgia. We had an evening at the Mid-America All Indian Center and another one out at the zoo. Vendor exhibits from 21 different vendors. We had a special day devoted just to information security and a concluding banquet.

Some statistics, real briefly, about 103 attendees with 40 vendors from 19 different states and four countries besides the United States. Over half of the attendees, when polled, this was kind of from the front poll, but over half of them had never been to Kansas before and we estimate that it contributed about \$425,000 to our local economy.

So our notebook listed 28 different individuals and groups but I won't go into all of those but certainly our local community did us very proud and one of the comments, I believe it was one of the Swedish folks, they had decided to walk from the Marriott a little ways and had gotten totally lost on where they were going and everything else, but the comment was made, 'Every time we were just walking down the street, if we saw anybody, they always said hi'. And Richard missed one that I thought sure he was going to tell, but evidently some of them had gone over into the Delano district and had gotten kind of lost. They thought they would be able to jump in a cab and tell them, 'Take me back to the Marriott' and no cabs were to be found. They hailed a lady who

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came by and you know, 'Could you tell us how to get out of this jam' and what did she do? She took them to the Marriott. And that's the kind of hospitality you get in Wichita.

So, just thanking some of the organizations, the Convention and Visitors' Bureau helped us out a lot, the Marriott, the Mid-America Indian Center, the Zoo. And I would be remiss if I didn't thank our predecessors, the Utah Chapter of GMIS, who helped us a ton with giving us stuff and helping with the website. And of course you, Commissioner Winters, for being our kick-off speaker and Kathy and Richard and the Manager, we discovered that with our bosses support you can do almost anything and without it you're toast.

So this special group really made it happen. Karen Leslie, stand up Karen, and Pam Postier, she was our draftee that Richard kind of gave to us to make sure that we were on the right track and next thing you know, she's volunteering and we got her into the swing and she carried more than her share of the load, and Debbie Varner and Brandi Quinones. These folks know details, and details and details and details and that's what makes for a successful conference and I'm thrilled to death with the work that they did. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, well thank you, give you a round of applause. We want to thank all of you for putting together a great conference and I'll tell you, there were decision makers in town for that period of time that the conference was in place from all over the United States and four or five foreign countries and I was pleased to go out there. It was a bright, sharp group of folks and I was surprised when Ken asked them, at the very opening portion, how many was this their first trip to Kansas and it was a huge bunch of them this was their first time ever in Kansas and so I'm glad we were able to put our best foot forward. So thank you Richard, Ken and all the rest of you for your work on the conference. We do really appreciate it. All right, Commissioners, do I have a Motion to receive and file?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh Aye

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Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you all very much. Next item."

2. ADJUSTMENT TO THE DIO STAFFING TABLE TO INCLUDE ONE NETWORK SUPPORT ANALYST POSITION, B324.

Mr. Vogt said, "Commissioners, network cabling costs for the county have steadily increased over the last few years, to the point where it is more economic to have a cable technician on staff than to acquire installation services from a vendor. We've gone from about \$40,000 in 2002 to an estimated \$78,000 projected for next year.

An on-staff technician will not only give us cabling costs at a lower hourly rate, but it will also give us expertise in-house to help make and review cabling design decisions and an opportunity to clean out cable no longer in use. I urge you to approve the addition of one network support analyst position to the DIO staffing table. I'm available for any questions."

Chairman Winters said, "And Richard, I would assume that with this move that . . . and no longer needing outside services from an outside vendor, that will pay for this position."

Mr. Vogt said, "That's correct. It's a revenue neutral move."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, very good. Do we have a motion to approve the adjustment to the staffing table?"

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the adjustment to the DIO Staffing Table.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye

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Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Richard. Next item."

L. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2004.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The referenced meeting results in three items for consideration today."

1) CHANGE ORDER- CONSTRUCTION FOR MUNGER BUILDING REMODEL-FACILITY PROJECT SERVICES
FUNDING: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The first item is a change order for the construction of the Munger Building remodel for Facility Project Services. Recommendation is to acknowledge a change order with Alcon Construction in the amount of \$77,894.

2) POINT OF SALE CASHIERING AND PERMIT SYSTEM- SEDGWICK COUNTY & LAKE AFTON PARK
FUNDING: LAKE AFTON PARK EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Item two is a point of sale cashiering and permitting system for the parks. The recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Custom Fit Incorporated, included trade-in equipment, to execute a contract which includes three years maintenance, for a total cost of \$38,987.

3) SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS
FUNDING: SYSTEMS & SECURITY

The third item, software maintenance renewal for the Division of Information and Operations. The recommendation is to accept the quote from Information Builders in the amount of \$33,253.28.

Be happy to answer any questions and recommend approval of these items."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, Commissioners are there questions or comments? Seeing none, what's the will of the Board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Iris. Next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

M. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. One Easement for Right-of-Way and one Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project 634-E 1/2 30, 31; 63rd Street South from Buckner to Rock Road. CIP# R-237. District #5.**
- 2. Resolution formalizing findings made by the Board of County Commissioners related to an annexation hearing August 11, 2004.**
- 3. Agreement with Commerce Bank N.A. for lease of space used by COMCARE's Center City Program at 154 North Topeka, Wichita.**

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- 4. Addendum to Agreement with Carl and Betty Linder for space used by the Department of Corrections' Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center at 1720 East Morris, Wichita.**
- 5. Amendment to Lease with Kansas Highway Patrol for space used by the Murdock Tag Office at 200 North Murdock, Wichita.**
- 6. Addendum to Contract with State of Kansas for provision of developmental disability services.**
- 7. Notice of Public Hearing scheduled for October 13, 2004 regarding the Sedgwick County Housing Authority 2005 Annual Plan.**
- 8. Waiver of policy to hire a Director of Family and Children Community Services at B327, step 4.**
- 9. Order dated August 18, 2004 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 10. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of August 18 – 24, 2004.**

Ms. Kathy Sexton, Assistant County Manager and CIO, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Have reviewed the consent agenda and recommend your approval."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Is there a Motion?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye

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Chairman Thomas Winters

Aye

Chairman Winters said, "All right, that concludes our regular business. I do not believe we need an executive session today, do we Mr. Counselor?"

Mr. Euson said, "No, sir."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Does anybody have any community comments? Commissioner Unruh."

N. OTHER

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, Mr. Chairman I would just let everyone know that I'm going to attend the workshop that's being hosted by the Board of Trustees of the Wichita Area Technical College this afternoon to help clear up concern, questions and comments from the stakeholders and partners that are relevant to technical education in our community. I'm looking for a productive meeting that should answer a lot of questions and should help advance this whole initiative on our part to bring some stability and security to technical training in our area. So I will be at that this evening from 4 to 6."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "And I don't know if Ben wants to comment on it, but he and I both were at the NCCJ Walk As One on Saturday and walked. Sheriff Steed was the chairman of that this year and I thought that was a great event, a good turn out, a lot of people there walking along the river and very active for our community. Talks about racial bias and issues of ethnicity."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, hey I was there. It was fun. I was surprised how many people were there walking. The only negative, you get an old man, early in the morning trying to get him to walk and then at 9:00 you're serving him shrimp and cocktail sauce and tacos. My stomach is soft-boiled egg and maybe a piece of toast, so my stomach kind of reacted differently, within about 30 minutes, to the food they fed us, but it was fun."

I just want to say one more thing about these open house meetings that we're having. And I know that all of us have been in attendance to them, not that all of us went to every one, but I got to tell you, I think we've hit upon a procedure that is being well received and appreciated by the public and I don't know if we can do this type of format in the future. But the main thing that I'm hearing, like we were in Goddard a couple of . . . last night . . ."

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Chairman Winters said, "Monday evening."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, I don't know what day or where I'm at . . . Okay, Goddard was Monday. Okay and those people were coming up to me and say, 'Well, we just really appreciate you coming all the way out here to talk to us', I mean like it was something they didn't deserve. And they do deserve government getting closer to those people being governed, and I think this is a good format. In retrospect, I think what we did today was very appropriate. I was amazed, 22 people, seemed to be a pretty decent balance between the pros and the cons and what have you. And I don't know how this is going to come out and we'll know after the November 2nd election, but the procedure that this county has done and the enormous work that Kathy, the staff has put into this to see into it that it was smoothly run I think bodes well and I hope the citizens appreciate that we made an honest effort to get this item out in front of them for their vote."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, well thank you. And just to follow up on Commissioner Sciortino's comments, today is Wednesday August 25th and if you're watching today, there are two more opportunities for open house meetings to talk about the downtown arena. One is this evening at Aley/ Stanley Neighborhood Center at Martinson and Seneca, the southwest part of Wichita and the other is at Atwood Neighborhood Center at 2755 E. 19th Street. If you have questions and want more information about the proposed downtown arena, I would encourage you to attend one of these open house meetings."

And again, just with a personal note, our son Todd and his wife Jennifer Winters, who live in Louisville, Texas just north of Dallas had their first baby, had this first child. Not much statistics really: a girl, eight pounds eight ounces, 21 inches long, and at this point in time no name yet. Healthy, mother and mom [sic] are just doing terrifically."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well Tom, I heard she was going to be called Thomasina."

Chairman Winters said, "No, I don't think so. As soon as I learn the name, I'll share it with you all. So, is there any other business to come before this meeting? Seeing none, this meeting is adjourned."

O. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

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

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman
Third District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chair Pro Tem
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

CAROLYN McGINN, Commissioner
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

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APPROVED:

_____, 2004