

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

November 9, 2005

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, November 9, 2005 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Ben Sciortino; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Lucy Burtnett; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Ms. Caroline Hosford, Environmental Training Specialist, Environmental Resources; Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Ms. Leah Hill, Dental Hygienist, Dental Clinic, Health Department; Ms. Kerry Smith, Health Department; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Ms. Luella Sanders, Director, Center City, COMCARE; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Jerry Phipps, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Dennis Slone, Local Veterans' Employment Representative, Kansas Department of Commerce.
Ms. Anita Knotts, African American Museum.
Cadet Colonel Matt Robertson, JROTC.
Commander Sergeant Major Robert Braggs, JROTC.
Reverend Rueben Eckels, New Day Christian Church.
Ms. Carla Eckels, New Day Christian Church.
Mr. Kent Brown, City Administrator, City of Clearwater.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Bob Hartmann of Sharon Baptist Church, Wichita

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, October 19, 2005

Regular Meeting, November 9, 2005

Regular Meeting, October 26, 2005

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meetings of October 19th and October 26th, 2005.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, you've had the opportunity to review the Minutes of the meetings of October 19th and October 26th. Are there any additions or corrections?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 19th and 26th, 2005.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

PROCLAMATIONS

A. PROCLAMATIONS.

- 1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 2005 AS "HIRE A VETERAN MONTH."**

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, I have a proclamation to read for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

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WHEREAS, whenever called upon to defend our nation at home or abroad, the men and women who serve in the U.S. military have responded, placing the national interests above their own; and

WHEREAS, of the more than 48 million citizen soldiers who have served the United States of America, more than a million have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives, and another 1.5 million have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, today our men and women in uniform daily put their lives at risk, seeking to secure the blessings of freedom and liberty for oppressed people around the globe; and

WHEREAS, in 1944 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the G.I. Bill into law, he observed that more than anything else American servicemen and women wanted ‘the assurance of satisfactory employment upon their return to civilian life’; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November, 2005 as

‘Hire a Veteran Month’

in Sedgwick County in honor of all veterans who have served, and for those that are currently serving our country.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation. What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “And receiving the proclamation is Dennis Slone.”

Mr. Dennis Slone Local Veterans’ Employment Representative, Kansas Department of Commerce, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Again, thank you to the commissioners for the declaration, proclamation of ‘Hire a Veteran Month’. To the business leaders of our community, I want to say thank you to them also for hiring the veterans, as we do bring much to the community, to the businesses, and our knowledge, our skills and our abilities as employees. To the veterans, I want to say thank you to them also for their wonderful service to our great nation. Thank you, sir.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, well Mr. Slone just a moment, we have a comment. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you. You know, I can see a lot of good business reasons why a company should consider hiring a veteran. They’ve had tremendous training. They’ve been trained in discipline and leadership. Let’s just say that there’s a business watching us tonight and they’re now needing some people and they’d like to find out how to make contact with veterans, because what I’ve found out about the vets, when they come home they take their uniforms off, they adopt civilian life and they don’t stand on street corners saying ‘I’m a veterans’ and try to get people to applaud them. They just seem to feel that they’ve done their duty and they’re now wanting to get on with their lives, but is there a place through the Veterans’ Administration that people can call? Do you have a list of eligible vets that are looking for jobs or a way that they could get in contact with veterans?”

Mr. Slone said, “To get in contact with us, sir, I work through the Wichita Workforce Center. We’re a part of the employment and training services throughout the state. Any of the local Workforce Centers throughout the state, they can contact. We have disabled veterans outreach programs, specialists there also, we have local veterans employment representatives like me. We are specially employed to work with the veterans, to work with the business leaders, the businesses in our communities to help the two find each other.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Great. Now, not to put you on the spot, but do you happen to know the number that they might call, or what would they look up in the phonebook if they were wanting . . .?”

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Mr. Slone said, “All of the Workforce Centers are in the phonebook for the Wichita Work Force Center I’m located at 402 East 2nd, here in Wichita. Our phone number is 316-266-8600 and then they just ask for a veterans’ representative.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Great. Thank you so much.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Well Mr. Slone, we think that this is a very appropriate, meaningful thing to do to recognize our veterans this way, to express our honor for them and our gratitude for their service to our country, so we appreciate your being here today for this proclamation. Thank you. Madam Clerk, call the next item please.”

2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 12, 2005 AS “DORIS KERR LARKINS DAY.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, I have a proclamation to read for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Kansas African American Museum was established in 1974 under the name of the ‘First National Black Historical Society’; and

WHEREAS, Doris Kerr Larkins led the initiative to establish the museum and save the church in which the museum was housed; and

WHEREAS, the Doris Kerr Larkins Heritage Luncheon is named in honor of the museum’s founder and recognizes community persons for their life-long commitment to the development of our community; and to celebrate the rich heritage and artistic excellence of people of African descent; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Doris Kerr Larkins Heritage Luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 12, and will feature guest speaker, Actress Marla Gibbs. An eight-time NAACP Image Award winner, four-time Emmy Nominee, eight-time Family TV award winner, and Special Black Emmy Nominee Honoree, Ms. Gibbs is best known for her role of ‘Florence’ in *The Jeffersons*.

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Ms. Gibbs' most recent works include hosting a special for HGTV, *The Dish on Kitchens*, and a recurring role on NBC's daytime drama *Passions*.

WHEREAS, this year, honorees include Billy L. Breckenridge and Mary Breckenridge who will be presented Doris Kerr Larkins Heritage Awards, and Gloria McAfee and Sandra Rankin who will receive the Torch Awards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chair of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 12, 2005 as

'Doris Kerr Larkins Day'

in Sedgwick County and encourage all citizens to participate in this Saturday's Doris Kerr Larkins Heritage Luncheon and to visit the Kansas African American Museum.

Commissioners, you've heard the proclamation. What is the will of the board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "And Anita Knotts is here to receive the proclamation."

Ms. Anita Knotts, Board of Directors, Kansas African American Museum, greeted the Commissioners and said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kansas African American Museum, the staff and volunteers, we would like to express our appreciation to Sedgwick County and the county commissioners for this award."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Well, we thank you very much for being here and once again, this is an appropriate time to recognize this effort and we hope that you have a very successful weekend of events scheduled here."

Ms. Knotts said, "Thank you so much."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you very much for being here. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

3. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 15, 2005 AS "AMERICA RECYCLES DAY."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, I have a proclamation to read for your consideration."

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Americans generate nearly 232 million tons of municipal solid waste each year, or more than 4.5 pounds per person per day; and

WHEREAS, the average Sedgwick County resident generates approximately 6 pounds of waste each day, and more than one ton annually; and

WHEREAS, reduction, reuse and recycling activities can significantly impact the amount of waste going to local and regional landfills; and

WHEREAS, buying products that are made with recycled contents is the final and most important step in recycling; and

WHEREAS, participating in America Recycles Day is one way citizens, businesses, industries, government agencies and organizations can raise awareness about the need to reduce waste and protect our environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2005 as

'AMERICA RECYCLES DAY'

and urge every Sedgwick County citizen, business, government agency, civic group and every

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other organization to be a ‘Kansan Making a Difference’ by signing a pledge to renew their commitment to recycling.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation. What’s the will of the board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “And receiving the proclamation is Carolyn Hosford. Welcome.”

Ms. Caroline Hosford, Environmental Training Specialist, Environmental Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you very much for this proclamation, commissioners. Next Tuesday, November 15th, is America Recycles Day and in conjunction with that day, there’s a special web site that has been set up, www.americarecyclesday.org. Anyone can go to that web site, find out information about recycling and also if they pledge to try to step up their recycling effort, they can enter a contest and the grand prize happens to be a Ford Escape hybrid SUV, so it’s quite a nice grand prize. There are also prizes for children. I think they are aluminum bicycles, so I would encourage everyone to visit that web site, make that pledge and sign up to enter the contest.

And while I’m here, I’d also like to remind you of the progress that our own county government has been making in recycling, over the past few years. In 1999, our waste minimization team was formed and one of the things we started to do at that time was to keep track of how much we’re recycling in our county offices.

In 1999, we recycled just over 82,000 pounds of materials, and since that time we have added more and more materials that we’re able to recycle, and last year in 2004, we recycled just over 323,000

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pounds, so it's like a fourfold increase. We were really proud for that.

We think we've made a lot of progress, but we've also realized that it's not all about recycling. One of the things that we're trying to do now is to try to introduce the concept of reuse more and more within our organization and because of that, we've established something called the 'This and That Exchange' on e-line. Some of you may be familiar with it, where county departments who don't have need for a piece of equipment or furniture anymore, for various reasons, can host that listing on the This and That Exchange and then another department can take . . . it can be transferred to the other department for their use, so we think this is another way that we can minimize our waste. So we're trying to do more things than just recycling, but we do thank you very much for this proclamation today."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, well thank you Caroline. We do have a couple of comments, but folks can sign a pledge about this on-line?"

Ms. Hosford said, "That's correct."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, and what are the rules of the contest to win the car?"

Ms. Hosford said, "That car seems to pique everyone's interest, doesn't it. All you have to do is go to that web site and make a pledge to either increase your commitment to recycle, to say that you're going to try to buy more recycled products. It's all on the honor system and then once all those entries are made, then it's just pull a name out of a hat. It is a drawing."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Well, I'm still trying to process that I average six pounds of waste a day. That's hard . . . that's a staggering number. A comment from Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm amazed, I didn't know the numbers had increased that dramatically, since we started this program, and you have to start somewhere and we sitting as electeds can make decrees, pass laws and what have you, but we have to learn how to walk the walk, not just talk the talk and I think we're showing the community that this can be done in a dramatic fashion and if other businesses would maybe get their arms around this concept, there can be a difference. I think what we've done with household hazardous waste with that swap and shop program is tremendous. I forgot how many tons of hazardous waste are not

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just getting . . . and I'm sure in taking care of environmentally safe, but instead of just being thrown away, where people need to go buy new product, people are taking advantage of a half a gallon of paint or some polyurethane stain or what have you and it's been very popular.

On a personal note, I've always been told that paper has been the hugest, largest thing that gets . . . or just any kind of paper products, and being an avid reader of anything that Fred Mann has to say in the Eagle, I accumulate a lot of newsprint and my wife buys things on the catalog and it seems like once you buy something from one catalog, you get 27 more catalogs, and if you don't believe that, change the spelling of your name once when you buy something and see how many magazines with that new spelling. But in one of the kind of catalogs that we got, there was this old fashioned machine that you could take old newspaper and roll it up and tie it and make logs to burn in the fireplace. I'm now almost up to a half a rick of paper logs and this winter, boy, I'm going to reuse Fred Mann's columns and finally put it to good use, so you keep writing, Fred and I'll keep burning everything that you write.

No seriously, it's kind of fun and to me, it kind of makes me feel a little empowered, just like when you crush one Coke can and you set it aside to where you're going to dispose of it properly. It makes me feel like I'm doing a little something to slow down all the trash going into landfills or what have you. So anyway, wanted to mention that."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Well, Caroline, we just wanted to thank you for making this issue important, showing that it's really critical for our society and it's showing us that something can be done about it, and so appreciate your efforts, on behalf of the county and the citizens . . . all the citizens of Sedgwick County, thank you. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

4. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 7 – 13, 2005 AS "WICHITA JROTC LEADERSHIP WEEK."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, I have a proclamation to read for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, JROTC was officially implemented in American high schools in 1916, began in Kansas in 1917 and in Wichita in 1994; and

WHEREAS, cadet leadership programs were started in selected middle schools in 1997 making Wichita a leader in the Nation in this initiative; and

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WHEREAS, the JROTC and leadership programs are recognized in Wichita for building citizenship and good character in our youth; and

WHEREAS, there are now more than 2,350 Wichita youth participating as cadets in eighteen of our public schools.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chair of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 7-13, 2005 as

‘Wichita JROTC Leadership Week’

in recognition of these fine young men and women who are becoming better leaders and citizens for the future through their involvement in the JROTC and leadership programs.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation. What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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Chairman Unruh said, “And receiving the proclamation is Cadet Colonel Matt Robertson and Command Sergeant Major Robert Braggs. Gentleman, thank you for being here today.”

Command Sergeant Major Robert Braggs, JROTC, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On behalf of Colonel Ester and the JROTC programs, we gladly accept this proclamation and look forward to it being presented tomorrow at our Veterans Day ceremony.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well we thank you very much for your work in this program and we also want to commend the young men and women who are involved in it. This is . . . it provides us not just an alternative activity. This is really something that builds character and builds leadership capabilities and 2,350 of our young people who are involved in that is really quite commendable and we want to thank you and commend. We do have another comment from Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “I was just going to ask for more detail about the program that’s going to happen this Thursday. Is that correct? Time and place and number of participants?”

Cadet Colonel Matt Robertson, JROTC, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Sir, the entire corps of Wichita cadets will be involved, that’s roughly 2,350 cadets. It’s going to be at Century II tomorrow morning and there will be several visitors there.”

Commissioner Winters said, “And the time tomorrow?”

Cadet Robertson said, “I don’t know off the top of my head, sir.”

Commissioner Winters said, “I think it’s 10:00.”

Chairman Unruh said, “I believe it is 10:00, yes.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Okay, well I would just make a quick comment. Several years ago, Colonel Hester invited me to come to that event, and if you want to go and see a group of over 2,000 young men and women that you can look at and be very, very proud of and say, ‘These are the kind of young people that we want to support in our community’ this is a day, tomorrow, Thursday, that you can go to Century II and see a group of young men and women you’ll be very proud of and it’s a very impressive sight to see, from participants that you cannot tell that they were not from McConnell Air Force Base or one of the military installations, down to some of that are

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having a little more difficulty in getting their steps in cadence that are working very hard at doing that. So I would encourage anyone to be there, and again, would applaud the work that both of you are doing and of Colonel Hester, who has just done a marvelous job with the Junior ROTC, so thank you both for being here.”

Cadet Robertson said, “Thank you, sir. I could not agree more, thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, we have another comment. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Yeah, on just a sidebar sergeant, I’m going to make the assumption that you served our country in the military at some time in your career?”

Command Sergeant Major Braggs said, “Yes, I did, 30 years.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “And based on that assumption, I just want to say thank you, because it’s because of men and women like you that we enjoy the freedoms that we do today, including the freedom to speak out against the military and there were men and women that died to give those people the freedom to say and do as they please, and I just want to publicly thank you for your service.”

Command Sergeant Major Bragg said, “Thank you, sir.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Gentlemen, thank you for being here and I plan to be in attendance at your ceremony on Thursday, so looking forward to that.”

Command Sergeant Major Braggs said, “Thank you for having us.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

5. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 12 – 13, 2005 AS “NEW DAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEEKEND.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, I have a proclamation to read for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

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WHEREAS, New Day Christian Church was founded by Reverend Reuben and Carla Eckels on November 5, 2000; and

WHEREAS, New Day Christian Church strives to set a Christian standard through its commitment of service, and seeks to minister to the total needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed; and

WHEREAS, New Day Christian Church has made efforts to improve the lives of its members as well as members of the community by providing food, clothing and shelter to individuals in need; and

WHEREAS, we congratulate the members of New Day Christian Church for making a positive different in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Anniversary Celebration of New Day Christian Church will be held Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13, 2005.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 12-13, 2005 as

'New Day Christian Church Weekend'

and encourage all citizens to join us as we are 'Getting Ready to Soar'.

Commissioners, you've heard the proclamation and what's the will of the board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “And receiving the proclamation are Reverend Ruben and Carla Eckels.”

Reverend Ruben Eckels, New Day Christian Church, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I have never been this nervous behind a mike before.”

Chairman Unruh said, “I’ve seen you in the pulpit sir, and you don’t seem nervous.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Shall we start the organ, so you can get more into . . .”

Reverend Eckels said, “Maybe a little whooping here, to wake us up this morning, but thank you again on behalf of all the members of New Day Christian Church. We really appreciate this proclamation. We are doing our best, in our community, to help those who are in need. I’m just ecstatic about the congregation and everything at New Day Christian Church because whatever is needed, we try to reach out and help those that are less fortunate than ourselves, in the midst of all the economic downturn, the hurricanes and those types of things, we step up and try to do our best, because we never know when it might be one of us, so we want to help out and just to make sure that we’re doing God’s work and thank you very much again.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, very good. Well, we have a couple of comments. Carla, were you wanting to say anything before we go to our comments?”

Ms. Carla Eckels, Member, New Day Christian Church, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Just simply that we’re just thrilled and delighted that we’re in our fifth year. We really are getting ‘ready to soar’, that’s from Isaiah 40: 31 about they that wait on the Lord, he will renew their strength, and we’re excited about what God is doing at New Day Church.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, well we do have a comment. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of things, I don’t know if the public realizes that your congregation stood side by side with us, ready to help all of the

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people that might have been coming to us from Louisiana and fortunately or unfortunately, depending on what side of it you're on, we didn't have to take them, but we were ready and your congregation was shoulder to shoulder with us, ready to help.

But I want to talk about something a little bit more important and closer to my heart. Is there going to be any food this weekend?"

Reverend Eckels said, "Of course."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, of a particular style that I sort of like?"

Ms. Eckels said, "Are you talking about soul food?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yes."

Ms. Eckels said, "Absolutely, absolutely, greens, the whole thing, all of it."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, then I can tell Carol that I'll probably show up, with my backbone scratching my belly button. Okay, thank you, that's all I had."

Reverend Eckels said, "I just want to acknowledge our Chairperson over our anniversary, Ms. Jeanette Hamon. She has done an outstanding job. I just want to again publicly thank her for all her work."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And that's Carol's sister there too."

Ms. Eckels said, "That's her mother. That's my mom."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Oh great, her mother."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, we want to congratulate you and hope that you have a very exciting and rewarding weekend, as you celebrate this anniversary and that you will run and not grow weary and walk and not get tired. And Carla, I especially hope that you won't withhold your vote from a commissioner who can't be there."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'll eat enough for you, don't worry."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, well thank you for being here and congratulations. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

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APPOINTMENT

B. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BILL JOHNSON (COMMISSIONER WINTERS' APPOINTMENT) TO THE WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION.

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We have prepared a resolution to reappoint Bill Johnson to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. The county's appointments for this commission are four-year terms and the term will expire in November of 2009 and I recommend you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "And Bill Johnson is here and County Clerk Don Brace will administer the oath of that position."

Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Raise your right hand please.

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 Wichita/ Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, so help me God."

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Mr. Bill Johnson, Member, Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, said, "I will."

Mr. Brace said, "Congratulations."

Chairman Unruh said, "Bill, thanks for being here and we do have a comment from Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, and Bill, if you'd like to make a comment, you sure could. But I want to thank Bill for his continued service. Bill has been my appointee. This is a re-appointment. I think Bill has just done an outstanding job. He's a small business owner in District 3 in western Sedgwick County. I think he is in tune with what this commission thinks is important for the growth and development of our community, and I just want to tell Bill that I certainly, here publicly, appreciate all the work that he has done. I think, under the leadership of MAPD now, with Metropolitan Planning Commission, I think John Schlegel and his group have just pulled together a great group of folks that are really working well together. So Bill, I appreciate your work and your continued work and if you'd like to make just a quick comment, you sure could."

Mr. Johnson said, "Well, I'd just like to thank you for reappointing me. I want to second what you said about staff. John Schlegel I think is a real asset to the city, as well as the county. I think he does a tremendous job. He let's his staff do their job and I guess I would say, if it would have probably continued on the way it was going before, I don't know if I wanted to do this again, but with his help and meetings run a lot smoother and I think there's a whole lot more unity and not so much problems with things that are happening that people don't understand or don't like or whatever. But again, thanks for reappointing me."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you Bill."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Well, we need a good director of that agency, but we also need good citizens who are willing to give their time and energy to serve, so we very much appreciate what you do. Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

AWARD

DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- C. RECOGNITION OF THE ORAL HEALTH KANSAS 2005 DENTAL CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENT, SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S**

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CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC.

Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Oral Health Kansas is a statewide oral health coalition of over 100 members dedicated to helping Kansas become a national leader in oral health education, prevention and treatment. The coalition's main areas of focus are advocacy, public awareness and education.

Oral Health Kansas recently held its first annual awards conference, to recognize those agencies and individuals who make a difference in community oral health. The Sedgwick County Health Department's dental clinic was the very first recipient of the Annual Dental Champion award. The dental clinic, with their volunteer dentists, student hygienists and staff, Christy Hillard, Kerry Smith and Leah Hill were recognized for their dedicated contributions to oral health in Kansas. The dental clinic has been in operation for 30 years, and Christy Hillard has been the director for the last eight years and we are just so proud of their work and would like to present this award to Christy and I think she has a few words to say."

Ms. Christy Hillard, Dental Hygienist, Dental Clinic, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've been asked to share a story with you, a success of the dental clinic, of which there are many but I will tell you about a little ten-year-old girl that we have that was referred to from the school nurse, with a very large growth under her tongue. One of our volunteer oral surgeons took care of that, removed that for her. Fortunately, it was benign but later on, we got a call from the school nurse, letting us know just how much it had affected this child's life. Her classmates had mentioned that they could now understand her when she talked and that she was also able to eat. So, that is quite a story, that's why we're there and it really helps us when we hear those kind of stories. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well thank you and congratulations on the award and those sort of stories, as you said, I know are repeated often in the work that you're doing, but we really appreciate the work that you're doing and I think this commission has become more aware of how important oral health is to general health, and so we see how important your work is. Thank you. We have another comment. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well just that when we had our Health Assembly I think we went through a lot of challenges and knowledge learnings and try to figure out what we know about health and what we don't know and the one thing that really washed over me is how important dental health is and you really start that for children. I mean, it really starts at a very early age. In fact, many times when they really don't have much teeth yet, is really when you start it. But it's

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great work that we do in these dental clinics and hopefully there will be more of it, because I think there is so many underserved out there, not only children and adolescents, but adults that really need dental care to make sure that their overall health is as good as it can possibly be, but good work, congratulations.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, well thank you and Leah and Kerry, either one of you want to speak?”

Ms. Leah Hill, Dental Hygienist, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Well, I’ve been with the Health Department for a year, so I kind of came in on the shirrtails of these two, and they are absolutely fabulous, the work that they do, the way that they work with the kids, get the volunteers to line up to help the community is absolutely wonderful and they are just two of the greatest people you could ever have employed by the county, because they certainly pull their weight and great, great people and thank you for your support of our clinic.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, well thank you.”

Ms. Kerry Smith, Dental Hygienist, Health Department said, “Well, I’ve been with the dental clinic for nine years, and I just . . . we all feel that it’s a wonderful thing that we do there, we have such passion for it and just want to say thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well, thanks to you all. We appreciate your work and Claudia, appreciate your leadership in all this. Madam Clerk, call the next item please.”

Commissioner Norton left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- D. RESOLUTION TO FIND AND DETERMINE THAT THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION BY THE CITY OF CLEARWATER WILL NOT HINDER OR PREVENT THE PROPER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA OR THAT OF ANY OTHER INCORPORATED CITY LOCATED IN SEDGWICK COUNTY.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

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Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor, County Counselor's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I may need a little assistance, technically, to get a map up on the screen for you. While we're waiting for that, this is an island annexation, which is when we have the consent of a landowner, and the city wants to annex it, but it's not adjacent to or touching the city boundaries.

So what we have up on a map you can see, and this is in connection with some island annexations that were approved by this board on September 21st. In red, you can see a number of parcels that were annexed. The City of Clearwater is of course to the south, along . . . is that 135th? Yes.

The issue here is that these parcels needed water and they weren't able to get the service from the Rural Water District in the area, number four, so they approached the City of Clearwater to see if they could get water from there. Their wells were beginning to dry up and they needed some assistance there and Clearwater agreed to annex them, with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. So the red parcels are the ones that you've already approved. The blue parcel is the only parcel that's subject to island annexation today and it is, of course now touching other parcels that are in the City of Clearwater, but because of the way the island annexations statutes work, Clearwater cannot unilaterally annex other parcels that are touching on the island annexation until they've actually reached the island annexation parcels, through other development.

So we have a representative from the city here, Kent Brown, city administrator, to answer any questions. We have prepared a resolution consistent with your findings made earlier, with the other parcels that you could approve today if you'd like, or if you have any questions, we'd be more than happy to answer them. And at that point, I'll turn it over to you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Bob. Kent, did you want to make a statement?"

Mr. Kent Brown, City Administrator, City of Clearwater, greeted the Commissioners and said, "He's pretty well covered it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, what . . . Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well commissioners, I was going to say, as you know this is in my district and this is really just a continuation of a process that we thoroughly discussed about the water issues out here and this is additional properties so I really don't believe that this is anything that's unfamiliar with us."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved that this annexation will not hinder or prevent the proper

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growth and development of the area or of any other city located in Sedgwick County and that we approve the Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Absent
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Winters said, "I just have one quick comment, while we have the administrator from the city here. I know that we've been working on 135th Street, out there, and trying to really fix some sinkholes that were becoming very, very dangerous and Kent, we're working to have that open by this Friday. I know that folks have been very . . . probably put out with the detours around there, but it's just one of the things that you get with road construction.

I think one of the things I didn't realize is that fly ash that was put in there had to cure to a certain point, before they could put the asphalt on top, and so that's one of the reasons why it appeared as if nothing was really happening on 135th, but hopefully we're close to the end of that project and I certainly appreciate everyone's patience, as we work through that."

Mr. Brown said, "Several members of the community have been patient and they're at the point now where they're anxious, because they see the possibility it could be opening at any time, and which ever day it opens up, they'll forget about it soon enough."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, thank you very much and I certainly appreciate the patience of the citizens that have been detoured by that. But I'm also glad that we were able to work this project in and get those sinkholes fixed. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Kent, thank you for being here, Bob thank you. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

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Commissioner Norton returned to the meeting room at 9:45 a.m.

E. PRESENTATION REGARDING SEDGWICK COUNTY ARENA SITE SELECTION.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The goal for the Sedgwick County arena project is to construct a modern, first-class multi-purpose center, an arena facility, a sports and entertainment venue in downtown Wichita that will seat 15,000 fans for basketball, that’s up to 17,000 fans for concerts, depending on the staging and so forth, and of course to accomplish that goal within the 184.5 million dollar budget that is to be collected over no more than 30 months through the 1% sales tax that the voters of Sedgwick County approved last November. The state legislature authorized, over the 2005 legislative session, the passing of Senate Bill 58 in the spring and the governor approved with the signing of Senate Bill 58 on April 4th, 2005.

The collection of a sales tax commenced July 1st, 2005 and will end no later than December 31st, 2007, 30 months or two and a half years. The current plans are to open the new facility in late 2008 or early 2009. Plans for the exterior design concepts and interior design functionality are in the very early, preliminary stage of development. Further development of the exterior and interior design of the arena facility and development of the City’s arena neighborhood redevelopment plan project is dependent on a specific, defined location getting established for the new facility, so I’m before you today to recommend a final site, the location for the arena.

As you know, through this project, beginning in the summer of 2004, with the development of the arena plan and carrying through to the site selection process, we’ve followed a very thoughtful, open and transparent process, including significant engagement of the public. The media, both electronic and print, TV, radio, print media has been especially helpful in keeping the citizens of our community informed on the progress of our project and I think it’s appropriate to express our sincere appreciation for the role that they’ve played in this endeavor.

I think it’s appropriate and useful at this time to recap the site selection process and share with you the feedback we’ve received from the various groups and stakeholders throughout the process. From the very beginning of the site selection process, we informed citizens and the various groups and stakeholders that while the final site selection decision would be made by you, the county

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commissioners, we were very interested in hearing their thoughts, their ideas and their suggestions as to the location of the arena.

On April the 12th, the first public meeting was held at the Hyatt that introduced the process. That was followed by . . . and we were followed by giving the attendees an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas regarding the criteria that should be considered in making the selection. The city Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan consultant and steering committee, and I think there are a few members of that steering committee here today, worked on developing criteria to be considered in selecting a site from a downtown redevelopment perspective and have provided valuable input into the analysis and evaluation of each of the sites that have been studied.

After October the 31st meeting, the steering committee discussed the pros and cons of the central site and the east site, that was following the meeting where you had removed the north and west sites from consideration. Their report, dated November the 1st, 2005 of which each of you received a copy states it should be noted that 11 of 19 committee members were in attendance and that a majority of those present identified the central site as their preferred site, but a slightly smaller minority of the group present preferred the east site.

By consensus, the committee membership present, all but one, indicated that they would recommend the county look further at both the central and east sites. I think it is very fair to say that this group came to the conclusion that differences in the two sites from their perspective were marginal. Once a location for the arena has been determined, this group will begin its work in earnest to develop the Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan to be completed by next summer.

The Arena Design Consortium, and they are represented here today by Wes Darnell- Wilson, Darnell, Mann, Dan Wilson- Wilson Darnell Mann, Tony Bonitos who is doing really a great job at doing the administrative and support work for this time, Bill Livingston from Gossen Livingston and Jeff Vansickle from McCluggage Vansickle Perry. This team was hired and began working on data gathering and analysis relative to the site selection criteria.

As you know, the Arena Design Consortium was formed by four architectural firms in order to give Sedgwick County the benefit of their expertise related to arena design and in our case, that includes the analysis and evaluation of the location of the arena. Each of these firms has contributed to the process of the analysis of the arena site options. Again those firms that make up this consortium are: HOK Sport Venue Events from Kansas City, Gossen Livingston Architects from Wichita, McCluggage Vansickle Perry, Wichita, Wilson Darnell Mann, Wichita. Consultants on the Arena

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Design Consortium Team that also assisted with the site analysis are HNTB from Kansas City did the traffic analysis, Walker Parking Consultants from their Indianapolis office, they were parking consultants, Professional Engineering Consultants, Wichita, drainage and infrastructure analysis, Turner Consultants from Kansas City, cost consulting, ME Consultants from Denver, mechanical and electrical analysis, Wrightson, Johnson, Hatton, Williams from Dallas, communications and acoustical analysis and Bigelow Companies from Kansas City, food service analysis. There's one other consultant on this team that will be very instrumental in the design and constructability of the facility, and that's WP Moore from Kansas City, who are the structural engineers.

From August through November, the historic review process has been ongoing. It included our own consultants, historic building survey, it included our own consultants, historic building survey, a review of the survey data and discussion with the City Historic Preservation Officer and the State Historic Preservation Officer, as well as discussions with other interested parties and historic building preservation advocates.

We were interested in determining the historic buildings and historic district that are already listed on local, state or national registers, as well as those buildings and districts that are potentially eligible to be listed.

The second public meeting was held at the Hyatt on August 4th. Additional input regarding the site selection criteria, information regarding the land and property acquisition process and feedback regarding exterior arena design concepts was received at that meeting.

September the 28th the four site areas were announced at your regular BoCC meeting on that date. On September the 29th, our third public meeting was held at Eaton Place. Feedback on each of the four site areas, as well as feedback regarding the exterior arena design concepts was received. Survey results from this meeting rated the north site as a very distant fourth, the west site was rated third in preferability and the central and east sites, at that meeting, were virtually even from the public surveys.

On October 26th, we gave you an arena update where the proposed specific footprints for each arena site was announced. The fourth public meeting was held at the Bank of America on October the 27th. Feedback on the proposed specific footprint for each of the arena site areas, as well as feedback regarding the exterior arena design concepts was received. Survey results from this meeting still showed the north site as a very distant fourth. It showed the west site as less preferable after this meeting than at the September 29th meeting, third in preference and it was a

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distant second, or at least there was a difference in the first and second rating, much more so than at the September the 29th meeting, the central site was a clear first preference.

On November the 1st we held and made a presentation to the joint city council, county commission workshop meeting. The city council, after we presented the aspects of each site, while they indicated that they slightly favored the central site, they also indicated that either site would be acceptable.

On November the 2nd, we gave you another arena update. We gave you somewhat of a picture tour of each site, to identify buildings to remain and to be removed, as well as the historic significance of the buildings. At that meeting, the north and west sites were removed from further consideration. On November the 3rd, we made a presentation to the Metropolitan Area Planning Committee to give them an update on the project and they took no action, as no site preference was indicated from their meeting.

On September the 15th and November the 4th Arena Site Review Team meetings were held to really delve into various aspects of the criteria for each of the sites. From July through November the 8th, the Arena Steering Team has been meeting every two weeks to weigh in on site considerations and today we have representatives . . . some representatives from the Arena Steering Team here as well.

The Arena Site Review Team and the Arena Steering Team, as I mentioned, weighed in on site criteria as a team, as well as individual members, because of their knowledge, expertise and so forth. They've been hard at work assisting with the data gathering and analysis, as well as evaluating information that was being developed by the Arena Design Consortium on the site. And so the results from these efforts is what I will be reporting on today, November the 9th, for your consideration in approving a specific location for the Sedgwick County arena in downtown Wichita.

What criteria was used in the site selection? We've talked about this before, but again just a quick recap: economic generation, what would it take to keep people downtown for extended periods of time, not just for an event, to maximize the public investment, to look at the internal linkages, convenience of getting from one location to another and those linkages we've tied to Old Town, Water Walk and C II. External linkages, convenience in access to the area are very important. Then several means of transportation: pedestrian, automobile and transit. Parking and arena relationship, convenient parking within the urban grid and block framework, and again you'll recall

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we've used five blocks walking distance as the standard for looking at parking. Context and continuity, the scale side are amassing and architectural character in the downtown area was considered. Views from inside the arena of the surrounding area, views from the surrounding area of the arena and views of the arena from Kellogg were considered. Utilities and infrastructure criteria, there needs to be adequate utility provision and access available with minimal need to move major utilities or infrastructure elements, and that becomes a critical cost consideration.

Going on, the city-wide transportation transit criteria, what light utilities and road structure, the roadway and transit structure in downtown serves the greater community, so the location of the arena needs to be considered, as it can have a major impact in circulation in routing of traffic in and around the arena. Again, historic buildings, we wanted to look at districts and individual buildings that are either listed on a historic register or those that are potentially eligible for listing on a historic register. Costs, and these are just related to site costs, site acquisition, infrastructure and utilities as well as site improvement costs should be compared, one site to the other.

The physical safety, environmental remediation and zoning and planning issues were considered as a part of rating these two sites, one against the other. Business and development impact, and there we want to thank Ed Wolverton, President of the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation for work that he did in bringing forth information relative to potential tax base loss and especially business loss and potential employment loss, impact of each of these sites. It's important because the real reason that the county decided to do an arena in downtown Wichita was to act as a conduit or spur for redevelopment in downtown, so this played into the reasons we're doing the arena in the first place.

And then finally, the October 27th, fourth public meeting, we had four public meetings. A number of people came to all of those meetings. They asked questions. They responded with input and suggestions and we thought, based on that, it was very, very . . . generally, it's important to listen to the public, but based on the kind of following and information gathering that these citizens had done, it was very important to make sure we considered their input on this project.

So what did we discover and what are the results? Well, let's walk very quickly through each of the sites, and again we're only looking at the center, central orange site and the east site. From an economic generation point of view, the differences between the two sites are very marginal. The City's Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Consultant indicates that maybe the central site has some better amenities than the east site. However, Wolverton did a cursory analysis and he suggests that the east site might work better than the central site. The point being that we did take a look at those and I'll give you some summaries here in just a moment.

Internal linkages, the center site is closest to Century II, three blocks, four blocks to Water Walk

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and eight blocks to Old Town. External linkages, traffic circulation around four sides of the center site offer some better linkages for that site. Parking relationships, both sites have provisions for on-site parking and I might just say here that both sites also have the flexibility where parking structures can be added on-site, and so that's an important consideration, but it's true for both of the sites, as we go through this review. Right now, the graph shows 380 parking spaces on the center site.

Context and continuity rating, there was really very little differences in those two as well, same with the views, there's not much to say about that except they both offer kind of the same opportunities that will be further delved into after we get into design.

Utilities and infrastructure, while the overall costs right now of utilities and infrastructure, preliminary costs are about \$800,000 less for the center site than the east site. We did have an interesting and made a profound impact on us that the information that we got back from Southwestern Bell was that for the center site, to move their facilities would cost \$1,980,000 and it would take 18 to 24 months. Again the east site, which we'll talk about in a minute, that cost was \$50,000 and only for 6 months, so that was a very interesting aspect for site evaluation there.

The citywide transportation, both of these sites requires changing Topeka to a two-way street. However, the central site would require partial closure of Topeka. Historic buildings, there are potentially eligible historic buildings on this site that would have to be removed and we talked about those at last week's presentation and just to remind you, the two buildings that are really significant, they're not on a historic register, but they have significant interest from the local historic preservation folks, as well as the state, is the Greyhound Bus Station and the Labor Temple Lodge. The Greyhound Bus Station, as you know, located on Broadway and the Temple Lodge is located on English Street.

Going on with the other considerations of this site, the costs for site acquisition, site preparation, demolition and infrastructure improvements, and as we indicated to you last time, we need to make sure we continue to say these are very preliminary estimates. As you recall, we're going to have three appraisers. They're going to do appraisals. We'll hire a Real Estate broker to help us with relocations and negotiations on these properties, but from a comparative point of view, the costs for the acquisition of properties on the center site would be 20.7 million dollars. Physical safety and environmental remediation and zoning and platting were really not . . . considerations there were

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equal about each site and were really fairly minimal. And then at the October 27th public meeting, we had 56% of those attending weighed in that this would be the best . . . or those filling out surveys indicated this is the best site.

That's again the layout, you saw this last week, that hasn't changed, we would just again caution you that the site layout and building footprint, as directed . . . or as depicted are provided to establish context and allow pricing. This scheme may change, with further design study, so there's more work to be done in the next phase, as to what this actually . . . how the actual layout, although we don't anticipate any major changes to the layout.

What about the east site? Economic generation again, we mentioned that there was a little bit of a difference of opinion between . . . and really, at this point, it was a cursory view from the City's Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan as well, about which site offered the best opportunities. That will be studied over the next few months and we will have a formal report from that team that's looking at that aspect of the site.

The internal linkages for the east site, closest proximity to the linking areas, four blocks to Old Town, five blocks to Water Walk and five blocks to Century II. The external linkages, traffic access requires the least disruption of all. Traffic, of course St. Francis would be closed, Waterman to William. The parking again, there would be 260 spots on-site, opportunities, flexibility for parking structures, as we decide the number of new and added parking spots that need to be added. The context and continuity, the views pretty much will be dealt with in the next phase and are not important considerations for site selection at this point, between the two sites.

Again, the utilities and infrastructure, I mentioned a minute ago, the 1.9 million dollars and 18 to 24 months to move the Southwestern Bell facilities, versus \$50,000 for this site and four to six months to move those facilities. The city-wide transportation transit does require again changing Topeka to a two-way street and would have the least impact on the transit circulation, from the Transit Center there.

Again, the historic buildings, there are potentially eligible historic structures on this site that would need to be removed and we showed you the two significant buildings, buildings of significant interest that are potentially eligible for historic register on this site and they are what is referred to, the building on the left there is the Dancers Building and the Ray Sales Building, on the corner of Emporia and William Street.

Again, costs for site acquisition, site preparation and demolition, infrastructure costs, again preliminary estimates but it's based on the same assumptions, both sites, 20.7 million you'll remember at the Central site, 14.7 million on this site. The physical safety and environmental remediation, zoning and platting issues really are not of high significance, relative to site selection, between the central site and the east site.

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The business development impact, there's a potential loss of 21 businesses here and a potential employment loss here of 180 employees and I think I may have misstated that on the central site, there's a displacement I think of 15 businesses on the central site and 687 potential employment loss, which is a significant difference between the two sites.

And then, at the October 27th meeting, this public meeting rated, 67% of the folks rated this site as the preferable site. So what's the layout? Again, it continues to look like it did before, with the same caveat of qualified relative to this is not the final, but it gives us a great schematic or an indication of how the building will lay out on the site.

Again, I would indicate to you that there is opportunity, flexibility for parking structures, if we decide they're needed and again, that will be reviewed and looked at over the next few months.

Traffic ingress and egress, either of the two sites will require improvements to one major street to accommodate traffic and that's at Washington and Waterman. We'll need to install a left-turn lane.

We talked about that last week. If you look to the right side of this map, the three rectangular . . . I guess one is a square, little dotted areas there on the right side of the map, that represents the potential Real Estate that may need to be acquired. Again, we contacted those property owners. Once we get more detailed study done to decide exactly what needs to be done, we can define that and we'll be talking to those property owners in a more specific and definitive way about their properties.

So let me summarize, and do that by going through the rating, the center versus the east site. From an economic generation point of view and again, the following analysis and planning will be completed by the City's Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment plan consultant and the steering team once the final site is selected. The center site is slightly preferable. Internal linkages, the center site is slightly preferable. External linkages, the center site is slightly preferable. Internal linkages, the center site is slightly preferable. External linkages, parking, context, continuity, views are all evenly rated. Utilities, infrastructure, the east site slightly preferable. The city-wide transportation transit, while there are marginal differences, really rate it as even. Historic buildings, the east site is much more preferable because, even though there are two buildings that are now viewed as being . . . would be removed, we do have those buildings are at the edge of the site, we would have plenty of opportunity to talk about that, to lessen the impact, to work through mitigation without delaying the process by selecting the east site.

The cost, as we noted, the east site is much more preferable. The physical safety, environmental remediation, zoning and platting, the sites are rated evenly. Business and development impact, as we pointed out the numbers between the potential employment loss from one site to the other, 687 on the central site, versus 180 on the east site makes the east site much more preferable and again, the October 27th public meeting, 67% if you will voted for the east site and 56% voted for the

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central site.

So what's the summary? The Arena Design Consortium, our architectural and engineering team that have been working diligently on this project, prefers the east site, rates the east site highest. The Arena Site Review Team rates the east site through consensus, selected the east site. The Arena Steering Team, we reviewed this information with them yesterday and they weighed in on the east site being preferable and as I mentioned before, public meeting survey says the east site is preferable.

So staff recommendations are the east site, based on the summary from the various teams, as well as the favorable factors of historic buildings, cost of site acquisition, business development factors and the favorability ratings from the citizens who have weighed in on this project.

There are many components to the arena project that you see here. We developed the arena plan from June to September, '04. The campaign and vote for the sales tax, September to November of '04. The approval by the legislature to implement the tax, November to April, November of '04 to April of '05. The site selection, we're almost done, we're here today to make the recommendation for the final site. We've started this in April and we're completing it today, if you take action supporting the recommendation.

The future components, we have to go through design and programming, that's a process. We'll start that in November. It will take us through early 2007. Out of that will be, of course, a budget review, the exterior design, the internal functioning, all of that will be looked at during that process. Land acquisition process will start in November and end early 2007, we hope sooner. Construction would begin early 2007 and the arena would open in the end of 2008, early 2009.

Just like the site selection process, all of those future components would start with the preliminary plan, it would go through a very thoughtful, open and transparent process to make any final decisions. What are the future, some more specific aspects of the future components, budget again, we have a preliminary budget prepared to help with site selection, but a lot more work needs to be done with that and we will start that process after the site has been selected, the budget will be developed and the programming designed.

Parking, again as the analysis shows that within five blocks 90% of the events would be adequate parking. However, we know and heard from you and others that additional parking needs to be considered. We will let the city's redevelopment plan work through its efforts in the next six months. That will help us answer how much more parking is needed, and as such then, we can begin to develop a comprehensive strategy, which would include additional parking, as a parking plan before the arena opens. Again, parking will be addressed as is noted, both through the

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programming plan and the Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Steering Team. Traffic, again we have the improvements that will be needed to be made at Washington and Waterman and all of that will be further defined in the programming and design phase.

So, how do you get more information from the public's point of view? www.sedgwickcounty.org. There are fact sheets, interviews, on-line forum and we would encourage citizens to tell us what they think on that on-line forum and/ or get information from that web site. So, commissioners, on behalf of the county manager and all of the teams that are working on this project, again we appreciate the confidence you and the public, as well as the patience that you and the public have shown for the process we've used in the development of this project. It has been and will continue to be thoughtful, open, transparent endeavor, as we work toward reaching our goal of delivering a modern, first-class sports and entertainment and arena facility for our community that will seat 15,000 fans for basketball and we'll do it within the budget we've been provided of 184.5 million dollars. I'll be happy to answer any questions that you might have."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, thank you Mr. Holt, that was very comprehensive review of the whole process and I think it was a very . . . you gave us a very detailed account of the procedures that we went through to finally arrive at this day. I want to compliment you and the team members who all participated in getting to the point where you're ready to bring this recommendation to us and I appreciate the very logical, rational approach to boiling it down to a final recommendation, so you have our gratefulness for a lot of hard work done. At this point I think all the commissioners probably would like to make a comment. However, no one has asked to speak just yet, so why don't I just take the opportunity that we just go down by commission district and start with District #2, Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, you're #1."

Commissioner Norton said, "You're #1. I'll turn my light on then. Does that make it easier for you."

Chairman Unruh said, "It does. I can see that light."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well I have quite a few questions and just comments about this. It's

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been no mystery that I've tried to think through this process and understand it at a deep level. Truthfully, I've walked all the areas and I'm still concerned about several things that aren't solved by either one of these sites, as far as I'm concerned. Now, knowing that we're going to move this process forward, I understand that we're down to two sites, but I have some questions about both of them and probably will quit advocating for a hybrid third site, but am going to certainly challenge us on the sites that we do have.

The first thing, on the east site, it's next to the tracks and I really have a problem with it backing up to the railroad tracks. I think that blocks off one side of it. I know that if you say well, we're going to put the area where the trucks come in and the loading docks and everything up next to that, but I think that limits growth. Railroad tracks are never going to be really pretty or anything and I think it sets up a barrier, which leads me to the next thing.

You know, we're talking about the symmetry with Old Town, but I think the railroad tracks create a big barrier, and I know there's walking space that you put under Douglas, but I just believe that that barrier really separates it from Old Town, if you think that it's going to have that synergy with Old Town.

I have a little problem with building around historical sites and the remunerated site or reclamation site, kind of gerrymandering around those, I don't like that. I think it needs to be an open site that is not restricted by building around anything. I think that is something I really have thought about and I didn't like that about the north site, trying to do a saw-tooth around historical buildings, I really don't like that about the east site.

I think there's limitations for new growth. Now I know that's said that this is an economic driver, but if you look to the north, you're right into Douglas Avenue and downtown. You've got the Eaton and that whole area already started. You've got Naftzger Park, which is already pretty well started. If you go south, which there's potential there, you're going away from Old Town, as opposed to towards it, which is what you're trying to link to, so all your growth would have to go kind of south and west, which is away from what you're trying to link to.

I'm concerned about the ingress and egress. You know, you don't have that fourth side that has traffic flowing on it. There's a railroad track there, so I think that kind of blocks how you're going to get out and how you can take side streets and everything. It really boils down to I'm not a big fan of the east location for a lot of reasons.

You know I see . . . let's see, the central location has a front door on Broadway and I think that's a much better entryway than Emporia. I mean, I really consider Emporia kind of third level street. I

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mean, if you look at Main Street, Broadway, even Market and Topeka, those are much more identifiable streets in our community than Emporia and I guess, if you put the arena on it, that makes it identifiable. But I think if you ask people about the streets that are downtown, it's Main Street, Broadway, probably Market and it's not Emporia. And certainly, over by St. Francis and that area, those are kind of third-level streets as far as I'm concerned.

And I think that central location, unfortunately, affects too many jobs and businesses, so that really takes it off the table almost immediately for me, even though I like a central location a little bit better. Once again, I've always thought that there are other central locations that could be adjusted, that could fix for it.

The other thing that concerns me is because the east side is kind of now 'the site' there's no synergy with the river or Water Walk and that's where the new and shiny growth area, I think, is going to be. Let's face it, Old Town has been there for a while, it's established. Hopefully, it's got legs and life of its own and does it really need the arena right now. Well, if you're looking for a new downtown, a shiny downtown, something that is different that will compete with the suburbs, and I don't think we can discount that, I don't think you're going to get it in an old historical district. I think you're going to get it with building something new that ties with the new, and that's Water Walk.

Now, I know that's a private development, but it's got a lot of linkages to the city, and to let that fall apart and not have some synergy with the new arena I think is wrong. I think there needs to be a corridor that links to the river and to Water Walk. Now that's just a process I've gone through, because I believe this all has to compete with suburbia. Downtown is falling apart because suburbia offers people what they want. I mean, I was in that business for a lot of years and I can tell you why there's Target stores out on the fringes, because that's where people want it. So you're going to have to create something downtown that will draw people in and I think the new and shiny is being built along the river and that's where a lot of public money has gone, over the last few years, to recreate downtown. And to not have the arena pushed, at some juncture, that will create some synergy with Water Walk and the river, I think, is very wrong.

Then, that gets me to parking along the east side. I'm really worried, it says 260 parking spaces right next to it, but if there is VIP parking and you have to park for staff, those slots aren't going to be available to the public. I mean, and I really believe we have not solved this parking issue and I have a problem with not solving it or at least having a good idea of what it's going to be before I make the decision. Because I don't know that there's going to be good places for the kind of surface parking or stacked parking that we need in that east location. Certainly the railroad track eliminates a lot of that, as far as I'm concerned, where you might put it.

Now I've heard, 'Well, there's land on the other side of Waterman the city owns' and everything.

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Well, that's kind of in an industrial corridor. You put surface parking there, people have to walk under Waterman to get to it, under a railroad track that may or may not be updated with lighting and all of that. I don't know that people are going to want to walk through an industrial district to find surface parking, under a railroad track and everything. Just something that I worry about.

The last thing is, we talked about SBC, it's easier and cheaper. Well, easier and cheaper still doesn't make it the right site. I mean, if I was going to pick a place to put a home, easier and cheaper, there's a lot of places easier and cheaper, but it's where I want to put my home. You'll pay more to put it where you really want it, so I don't buy that easier and cheaper is going to force us to find the best site. Easier and cheaper may force us to pick the wrong site, and we need to really be caution when we think of that.

And I may have other things, as I go through my notes, but that hopefully gets us started in some dialogue and debate about making a decision."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you commissioner. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Fine, I'd be glad to go next, just a few comments. I do want to say that I have appreciated all the citizen input that has come. I have been in contact with several citizens and almost the majority of it has always been in a positive manner, so I've been very pleased and almost a little surprised by the citizen input that I've received, how positive it's been. It's been wanting to point up some benefits of a particular sites or some negatives of others and it's just almost without exception been very positive and I appreciate the citizens that have made a special attempt to talk about some of those pluses and I certainly realize that the center site has that connectedness to the core business community for which downtown relies on much of its strength.

But I do want to commend Ron Holt and his leadership in bringing together a group of folks and developing a ranking system, of which we can very much, out in the open, look at all the issues that are on the table for each site and, you know, I'm really convinced that there probably is no wrong site. I think we could make any of the sites that we have on the table, or probably some hybrid sites that we haven't talked about. I'm just not sure there's a real wrong place we could go.

So, with that, I then begin to look at all right, what are some of the issues, as we start looking at particular sites. And I think, as we look at these two sites, that are basically across the street from each other, which in a sense is a distance, I mean it entails several blocks. But when I begin to look about what is the ease of utility and infrastructure reconstruction, when I begin to look at what the committees have pointed out as historic building issues, and there are some in the community that will have very strong feelings about one of these sites or the other. When you begin to look at

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costs, and you know I'm still holding my breath to make sure that we can get all of the things that we want to have done with 184.5 million dollars done, so I think if we can start squeezing the nickels and dimes right here at the very beginning, we need to start squeezing nickels and dimes from the very get-go.

The business impact that the committees have talked about, I think does put a plus over on that east site. The number of jobs that are currently happening in downtown, I think, have an impact. So as I begin to count that up and I look at what the Arena Design Consortium, the three local architectural firms, along with HOK from Kansas City have come with a recommendation, the site review selection team has come to us now with a recommendation. The Arena Steering Committee, which has several people, City of Wichita involved on that team, as well as the site review team has city staff folks on that team, and then the staff recommendation that comes to us today, I think again, I appreciate all of Commissioner Norton's questions, and I think they're very valid and realistic, but I think really we could pick five more sites to analyze and we'd still come out with a pluses and minuses on each of them, so I just think we've done a good process of building to this point, through a matter of consensus building and consensus eliminations. So I appreciate Mr. Holt's presentation and I will look forward to other discussion, but I'm at the point where I believe I could support his recommendation. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Commissioner. Well, Commissioner Burtnett was playing by the rules and turned her light on and then I skipped her, but Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well, as Commissioner Winters has pointed out, the summary that was received today has been very helpful to show that there's a lot of equality in either site, but it is leaning towards the east site as budget-wise it might be a little bit better and we do only have a certain amount of money that we can use, so I think that is a big factor in our decision making.

One of the questions I did have for you, regarding some of the historic sites, I know that you have the Dancers Building and Ray Sales that are listed as potential historic properties. And we're dealing with those because they're easily on the corner of the site. But what about the other properties on that east site that are . . . let's see, they're called potential historic properties. Where do we stand with that? What has . . . the Historic Preservation people, have they looked at this?"

Mr. Holt said, "As I mentioned, we've talked to the state Historic Preservation office a number of times, we've talked to the local Historic Preservation Officer a number of times and that office, as you know, is a part of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department, and so we not only talked to the officer, but we worked with others including Mr. Schlegel within that office and of course we've had the local Historic Preservation Board to weigh in a bit and we've talked to a couple of historic preservation building advocates here in town. They're very passionate when it comes to preserving certain buildings.

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On the east site, there are I believe eight historic buildings. But only two are of significant interest, from all of the folks that we've talked to. On the east site . . . Sorry, on the central site, I think there are six historic buildings, with two being of significant interest, from all of those folks we've talked to. The two buildings that are of interest on the east site are on the corner of the site location, and therefore it lessens the impact of dealing with those buildings and in fact, we can work through mitigation relative to those two buildings without any delay to the project.

It's been made very clear to us that the two buildings on the central site, we can not work the site in any form or fashion that would keep us from removing those buildings. And while we may be able to, at some point, prevail if we wanted to go to the central site, I think it would be with a great degree of time and effort, which offers the potential for significant delay to the project. And again, when you weigh the two sites against each other, with all of those considerations in mind, talking to all of the folks who we believe have the best interest in those buildings, that it weighs . . . the historic buildings piece weighs heavily towards favorability to the east site."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, well thank you. That's really the only concerns I've had, when I look at all the other aspects of the east site, and I believe that we will be able to have good redevelopment around it. I trust that the downtown development people are going to be working hard to do that, along with the City Arena Redevelopment group. I really have a lot of faith that this is going to just work out fine."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, commissioner. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. I was tempted just to say I pass, but given what my initials are, that's kind of counter to my personality. I'm sort of reminded, historically, why we're even talking about locating our new arena in downtown Wichita. I mean, we had a plan in place to renovate the Coliseum area and it was at the encouragement of the City, Ed Wolverton's team, Bob Hanson's group that we really seriously consider building our new arena in the downtown Wichita area to help City of Wichita regenerate the whole downtown core. And we decided that was an important element and that's why we went ahead and started the ball rolling, a little over a year ago, in trying to develop and build a quality sports and entertainment venue in the City of Wichita.

So the continued input from the City of Wichita, Greater Wichita Economic Development group, the Sports Commission was very important to me too, because we were down here at their encouragement. I have to echo what everyone has said, Ron, and it's always cheaper to compliment than to compensate, so I want to compliment you once again on the type of work that you have done. I want to compliment the manager and all of our staff in how open we have treated this and will continue to treat this entire process. We hold public meetings. We don't have public hearings

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here, we go out to the people. We have tried, I think honestly, to make an attempt to keep the public informed and we will continue to do that every step of the way.

We're not looking for applause on that, but I think this is the way it should be done, especially given the magnitude this is our largest public project to date that we've ever taken on, so I applaud you for that. And I have to say, I have a lot of respect for Commissioner Norton. He had the courage to come up with a hybrid idea. He wasn't very comfortable with the sites that were selected within the infamous blue cloud that we had present to the public when they voted on it, and even though he was getting little or no support from the city or the MAPD or the architects, he still had the courage . . . you believe in it and he still believes in it and he had the courage to come up with an alternative idea and I do applaud you for that.

I just heard today another idea, that is kind of out there a little bit, but it was exciting. It's too bad for me that that idea didn't get generated a year and a half ago. That would have been something interesting in the mix. But there comes a time when you have to stop and make a decision, and I have to try to read . . . I understand I'm not an expert in everything, believe it or not. I know most of you believe I am, but I'm not. And we've had experts that say this one particular site, given all the information we've had on the sites, that this is the one that they would prefer. At that meeting that we had with the electeds at the City of Wichita, yeah I heard the same thing you did, Ron. I think they sort of liked the center area. Surprisingly, no one was really pushing for the west area, which would have been closer to Water Walk. I can't remember exactly why they weren't real high on the west one, but they weren't. I was very interested in a couple of things. One was what would the Arena Neighborhood Development group do with either one of the sites. And I asked John Schlegel that particularly, I asked that of City Manager George Kolb and both of them, what I heard was we could do equally well center or east. We don't have a big problem, one way or the other and that was a big load off my mind.

I also take into consideration the amount of employees . . . I mean, we're trying to encourage more people to live and work in downtown Wichita, so I took into consideration, or I am taking into consideration the amount of employees that might be displaced and those companies could have the option, well there's nothing else really left for us to go, so we're going to go out to the suburbs. Well, I don't want to discourage people from working in Wichita, I want to encourage them to work in Wichita.

Money is important. You could argue, in the big, grand scheme of things, \$6,000,000 difference isn't much, but you know, six million here, six million there, pretty soon you're talking real money

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and we have some concerns from the bench, and I think we were unanimous in these concerns, adequate parking, adequate parking and adequate parking. If it makes it comforting to me to know that we have space on either central or east site, for a parking garage if it's needed and I have confidence, given what we have said to folks, that we're going to have enough money in reserve that should we wind up needing additional parking, we'll have the wherewithal to establish it.

The third thing that I was interested in, all of us are, is that we bring this thing in on budget, \$184,500,000 and everyone has assured me that we will. Well, if we can start saving a dollar here, a dollar there that gives me more comfort that some of the unforeseen elements that will crop up in any development will have the money to do that with, and then also have sufficient reserve to handle any and all ongoing shortfalls that may occur in the operation of the facility, because one thing that we did say very loudly in the public meetings is that we're not going to come back to the public five years along saying, 'Well, it's not generating as much revenue as we thought it was, so we're going to have to ask you to pay more money'. We're going to have the money available and take care of it for the next 15, 20 years.

So, I'm very comfortable in making a decision today. I think this will show the public that we do have the courage to make a decision. I know that no matter what decision we make, there will be those of you that think that we made the wrong decision, but that's the job that we were elected to do, when it finally gets down to the final analysis, you have to fish or cut bait and I think the public expects its leaders to make a decision and then to stand by that decision and I'm ready to vote on this matter today. If something else comes up later on, none of us ever envisioned, we can always do something different, but armed with the information that we have been given today, I'm ready to vote on this item. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, commissioner. Well Ron, you haven't had too many questions. That's because you did such a great job in your presentation in giving us all the details. I just want to make a comment that I appreciate the comments that Commissioner Norton made. I think that all of his points have some validity and some reason for consideration, but I also think one of the things that Commissioner Winters said is true. That we could make a successful siting and make a successful project probably in any of the areas within the blue cloud. But I think, as we've walked through this process and got down to two sites, either one of which would be successful and workable for us, but we can only have one.

So what my process of trying to think through this is what are the reasons for choosing one over the other. And first and foremost for me is that this is the recommendation of both the professional people that we have involved and you named all the different . . . HOK and the Consortium and the people involved in the traffic and parking and the people who know about infrastructure. Those are professional people who have taken this project seriously and have come to the conclusion and our staff then and our strategy committee has filtered that information and come up with a concrete

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recommendation, so that carries as much weight with me as anything, trying to decide between the two, is what do the professionals and the staff people who have been working on it recommend.

Secondly for me is the issues of cost, which we've already talked about, \$6,000,000 is a big difference. The third issue in trying to decide between one and the other, how many jobs are going to be displaced, what might happen to those jobs, whether they leave downtown or not and how much do we want to gamble on losing maybe 250 jobs out at the center site from just one employer, 600 and some all together.

I think the historical challenges from the east site are less of a challenge to us than the center site. I think proximity to Old Town, although it's just really pretty close, I think it is an important consideration and I think folks from the Old Town area have let us know very clearly that they prefer the east site.

And then . . . I mean, that's some of the major issues. I guess one of the areas where I would probably have a different opinion, and Commissioner Norton, is that backing up to the railroad tracks, I think that provides great screening from that staging area, and this makes it, to me, a more logical place to put our back door, with all that sort of activity, in a place that can be screened easily.

But for all those reasons, I'm ready to move forward in accepting the recommendation that you've brought to us today. So at that point, I don't see any more lights and I'm open to have Ron make a comment or other commissioners at this time, before we make a decision."

Mr. Holt said, "I don't have any more comments. After you take a vote, depending on how it goes, I do want to recognize some people."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, very good. Well, we're at the point of making this decision, and Mr. Manager, have you . . . would you want to weigh in here anyway or you are leaving it to Mr. Holt?"

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, said, "Yes, I'm leaving it to Mr. Holt. The recommendation stands. The staff recommends the east site."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well commissioners, we either need to have someone ask for a question, a comment or we are ready for a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to that we take the staff recommendation for the east site for our Sedgwick County Arena.

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Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, we have a Motion and a second before us. Is there any discussion on the Motion that we accept that recommendation for the east site? Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I'm in a conundrum. It's either go along and make it a 5-0 vote I think or be the dissenting vote that still has a lot of questions and doesn't particularly know that he's ready to vote on it today and I guess we'll let it play out the way it does. I have to go first, with the vote, but I want to let my colleagues know that I will be very supportive of whatever the site is. I'll try to make it as good a site for the future of Sedgwick County and Wichita as a possibly can, but the truth is, I think it's important to have dissenting debate, as we try to find the best site for the next 50 years of the downtown area.

I mean, this isn't something that will change in a year from now if we make the wrong decision. It will be with us for a long time and I want to be sure that where there are questions and dissenting ideas, that they are voiced and that at the end of the day, whatever the final decision is, is I'll be very supportive of it and we'll move forward and I'll work as hard on economic development and all those things as I always have. I'm not sure how I'll vote yet, but know that even if it's a dissenting vote, that I'll be very active in trying to make it a very good site for the future of our community."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, commissioner. We do appreciate your comment and appreciate your willingness to be a team player. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well thank you and I'm certainly not going to attempt to ask you to vote one way or the other. I would encourage you again to think about all of the aspects of this that we've gone through to get to this point and also I guess, would think about if you have a suggestion, if you have a plan, if you have an issue that you want put on the table, if you want more questions answered, if you want us to do something, tell us what that is. We've heard your questions, which I agreed is a lot of them, those are questions that we need to work through, but I think we've got a great team in place to continue to address a lot of those questions.

Now we can't address the railroad tracks necessarily, but when it comes to all of the other issues to make sure that we treat the historical sites right so it doesn't look like they're cut out of the patchwork, I've got confidence that we can work on that. I think that we can help direct growth.

I think the downtown business development group are going to heavily weigh in and try to help grow, in the whole area, so with it having only one direction to the south, again let's work through that.

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The parking, of course is something we want to work on, so I think, Commissioner Norton, you've asked the right questions for us to proceed on with, but if you have other things that are specifically, if you want us to wait a week. You know, we said we were going to do it by next week, so we're really running ahead of schedule. If it's two weeks, I would just encourage you about let's move forward and address these questions together, as we move up. But again, I certainly appreciate your ability to have your opinions and not want to vote for this site, but I would at least encourage you to think about those comments."

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Again, I have nothing but respect for Commissioner Norton and if we go forward with this vote and he's the one dissenting vote, I think that's well within his right. I've been, occasionally the only dissenting vote and that's, I think, what five individuals have the right to do. If you don't believe in a certain project, you have the right to visit that, so there isn't just group think and let's all get along and Kumbaya. I mean, we're elected to represent the people. The theory is, there's five individual brains up here, that we have the right to express our feelings.

The only exception, Commissioner Norton, that I take is that I think we had a lot of meetings, even a lot of workshops, even . . . what, yesterday we brought up the arena again, and the only exception that I have is that I think all of your questions have been answered. Maybe not to your satisfaction, you don't like the answer, but if there were ever questions that hadn't been answered, those venues would have been the time to ask them, because we should have and we have the right to have our questions answered, but I don't know . . . I think, even yesterday there was very little questions being asked of staff, which would have been a good place to maybe get any additional questions answered.

I can understand not liking the answer, but I'm just a little curious as to if there were additional questions, why they weren't answered during my workshops and our staff meetings that we've had, kind of on a regular basis that last two or three weeks, but if you have good reasons why we need to defer this, I'll listen to it. If not, I'm ready to vote on it. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well certainly I can see that everybody is ready to vote. I don't know that I want to hold that up. I mean, the truth is, we have had staff meetings, we have had workshops, we have talked about it. Unfortunately, there wasn't a whole lot of public there and

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you know, if we make this transparent and we make it open, that some of these questions, some of these things that have been mulling around in my mind, that I've talked to my constituents about, because I've got to tell you, a lot of these aren't my individual ideas. These have come from people I've talked to in the grocery store and out in the community, certainly this is the forum. I've often said that we need to have the debate and the dialogue and the discernment where the public can see what it is.

We've done that at our workshops and our public meetings, but at the end of the day, when I have questions, doing it just at a staff meeting where there's no way to get that information out to the public may not be the best way to communicate what my thoughts are of us moving forward. Certainly, it may be time to vote today. We've got a Motion on the floor, I think it's time to move forward. I'm not ready to defer it and I think you know how I feel about my dissension on some of these issues and I don't know that I agree with Commissioner Sciortino, that's not bad. Occasionally, you can't be in sync with everybody else."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you commissioner. Any more discussion on the motion? Any more discussion? Seeing none, call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Mr. Holt said, "Commissioners, thank you very much and if you would allow me please to recognize, I know you've been giving me accolades for this work, but I'm just part of a team and it's the team that makes this go.

I want to recognize our Arena Site Review team from Sedgwick County: that's Stephanie Knebel, John Nath from the Kansas Coliseum Director, Paul Dreward, the Facility manager and director, Steve Klaussen, the Facility Director, Larry Pecenka, who along with Stephanie, is co-project manager on this project. From the City of Wichita, we had Jim Armor, city engineer, Greg Bowman, the special projects engineer, Dave Warren, director of water and sewer department, Don

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Kirkland, assistant director of water and sewer department, Paul Gonzalez, the traffic engineer, John Schlegel from the Metropolitan Area . . . director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department, and Chris Carrier, the Public Works director.

Others working on this team were Galen Evans, the City's Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan consultant, our A & E team, the Arena Design Consortium, and Ed Wolverton, from Wichita Downtown Development Corporation. I would also like to recognize the persons making up the arena steering team from Sedgwick County. That was Mr. Buchanan the county manager, Kathy Sexton assistant county manager, Stephanie Knebel the co-project manager on this team, Larry Pecenka, the co-project manager, Kristi Zukovich our communications director, Mike Borchard county appraiser, Andy Schlapp the community relations director, Chris Chronis chief financial officer, Rich Euson the county counselor, David Spears the director of public works and John Nath the Kansas Coliseum director.

From the City of Wichita is the city manager, Mr. George Kolb, again John Schlegel, director of Metropolitan Area Planning Department, Alan Bell, economic development administrator, Jessica Johnson the marketing director and Terry Cassidy, the development officer. Others on this team, Ed Wolverton, president of the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation, Bob Hanson, president and CEO of the Greater Wichita Sports Commission and John Roth, president and CEO of the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors' Bureau. Thank you for your vote of confidence and for allowing me the opportunity to recognize these folks who have done an extraordinary, wonderful job in working on this job today. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, thank you Ron and thank you for enumerating all those individuals, because we do want to express our sincere appreciate for their effort. Before we go to the next item, Madam Clerk, I'm going to call for a five-minute recess."

The Commission was in recess from 11:00 a.m. until 11:06 a.m.

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, we will call the meeting back to order after recess and Madam Clerk, would you please call the next item."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – DEPARTMENT ON AGING

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F. CONTRACTS (SEVEN) TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING NURSING HOME PLACEMENT.

- 1. GAYLE CLOUD**
- 2. KATHRYN COIT**
- 3. MARY CORRIGAN**

- 4. CINDY CRANGLE**
- 5. JODY LUJAN**
- 6. LOVELL SALEHEEN**
- 7. AILEEN VAUGHN**

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is a contract with seven individuals to provide assessments for people who are seeking nursing home placement, including individuals diagnosed with a mental illness, developmental disability or mental retardation. The contract amount for the level one assessments is \$35 per assessment, plus mileage. The contract period is for one year, with a month-to-month continuance pending a new contract.

Basically the care program is supply and assessment referral evaluation program. We use the funding from the Kansas Department on Aging to do this. It’s a requirement in the State of Kansas that anybody seeking nursing home placement must be assessed prior to going to a nursing home.

Now through this assessment process, the idea is that people are able to learn about the options and resources available to them, and also to determine the need for nursing home placement. This does not determine if they’re able to go or not. If they are Medicaid, if they do not get the appropriate score on a care assessment, Medicaid will not pay for the nursing home, but they’re still able to go if they can do private pay.

So, basically, when an individual calls to contact us about doing a care assessment, usually they’re in a crisis situation. The family member or individual has determined that they are needing a nursing home placement, but what we fear throughout the state very often they don’t know about the options available to help them stay in their homes, or their family members don’t know. Approximately 40% of the care assessments are done in the community. The other 60% are done in the hospitals, so when they’re seeking nursing home placements.

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We had about a little over 15.7% diversion rate in our area. We've been able to increase that over the last couple of years. It used to be about 14%, so we're doing a good job of doing those diversions and getting people the information. It's important to remember that usually when people call, they've . . . a lot of times, it's caregiver burnout. They have really reached their max. They've been able to provide services and keep the family member in the home as long as possible, so a lot of times, diversion is not really able to be managed at that point in time, but we're working on getting the information out about our program and about the services in our community at an earlier point, so we're really putting a lot of effort in doing the community education awareness, so that people aren't waiting till the crisis point to access information about resources.

So this program, like I said, we do receive the funding from the Kansas Department on Aging and then we subcontract out with individuals, professionals in our community to go out and do those assessments in the homes and in the community.

This is with seven individuals and you see those listed and the funding does come from the Kansas Department on Aging. There is no impact on our local mill levy funding and I would be happy to answer any questions and would request that you approve and authorize the Chair to sign."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you Annette. The geographic scope, is it just Sedgwick County or is it the whole Central Plains Area?"

Ms. Graham said, "It is the central plains area of Sedgwick, Butler and Harvey Counties who are responsible for the care assessments."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, and the individuals you're assessing, some of those that have mental health issues or developmental disabilities, are they also folks who are in the age category?"

Ms. Graham said, "18 and up."

Chairman Unruh said, "Just 18 and up, all right. Okay, thank you. Commissioners, are there any other questions? What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the Contracts and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Annette. Next item please.”

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – COMCARE

G. GRANT AWARD FROM KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR A “PROJECTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSITION FROM HOMELESSNESS” FORMULA GRANT.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, “COMCARE of Sedgwick County has been awarded a grant for the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, otherwise known as PATH grant, through the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. We’ve been receiving PATH grant money from SRS since the initiation of our homeless program 12 years ago, so this is not a new thing. The program of that provides those services in the Center City here, provides outreach, screening and diagnostic treatment and a whole gambit of mental health services and outreach services to this population.

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This year, COMCARE will receive \$101,906 through this PATH grant and this money is used to partially fund two outreach workers and one housing specialist. Over the course of this past year, COMCARE has provided outreach to 841 homeless individuals and provided services to 579 enrolled consumers, so they've gone from an outreach status to an enrolled status.

I'd like to tell you just about one of those individuals, to kind of see how this works and how this money is spent. I year ago last summer, we're going to call this consumer 'Danny', of course this is not his name, was living on the streets, having been evicted from a series of housing placements and from two shelters that serve single men. His homelessness stemmed from a variety of factors, as is often the case, had a severe and persistent mental illness and a co-occurring addiction to alcohol and then some cognitive impairment resulting from the long years of alcohol abuse that began when he was 13 years old and years of malnutrition and poor hygiene, that resulted from life on the streets, so he was not in very good shape.

The first time that Center City outreach case managers made contact with Danny, he was staying in a shelter and he really didn't see mental health services as a priority or something that he really wanted to participate in. But one of our . . . and several of our Center City outreach case managers persisted in small contacts with Danny and eventually, on one particularly cold spring day, he agree to accompany that outreach worker to our Center City program downtown to receive a pair of dry socks and a sleeping bag, so that was the incentive to go down to the program in the first place.

While he was there, that case manager or outreach worker gave him a tour of the building, introduced him to staff and talked a little bit about the services that could be available if he were willing to come in. As a result of that, Danny did agree to get mental health treatment another try and he did enroll in our homeless program services, and with the help of the case manager, he did secure housing, moved into a one-bedroom apartment eventually. Services were planned for him that were unique to his needs, and while he was enrolled at Center City, case managers helped guide him to therapeutic services there for his mental illness and some psychiatric medication management services that treated this co-occurring situation that brought him into that situation in the first place.

Danny has since transitioned out of Center City services, and he continues to live independently in the community. So it's one example that his story is unique, it's a fairly common occurrence for that program.

I'd also like you to know that this is the first year that this funding has been a competitive process. In the past, we have seen . . . it's been very steady funding of about \$95,000 a year, but this year and the subsequent years, this funding is going to be through . . . handled in a competitive way.

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There was a small formula change this year, Luella tells me, and SRS had a little bit of additional money, due to a formula change and they awarded all of that additional money to COMCARE's homeless program and this occurred because of the outstanding performance of our Center City homeless program. Luella told me that 46% of all the homeless individuals who are actually enrolled in PATH programs throughout the state come from outreach efforts that have occurred in Sedgwick County, so that's something we have to be really proud of.

And I'd also like to acknowledge Luella Sanders, who is here today, who is the manager of that program, for her leadership not only in our community, but she serves on a number of state and national committees as well, and is very invested in the issue of homelessness. We are recommending that you approve this grant award."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Marilyn. We do have comments from Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Marilyn, just in our backup it says 'This grant partially funds three case managers, the project directors and .5 clerical positions'."

Ms. Cook said, "Yes, that was changed and it is, as I told you this morning, is funding two outreach workers and one housing specialist."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And partially funds?"

Ms. Cook said, "Partially funds."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, and then it says that the cost to the county is \$41,776. It says 'Fee for service'. What does that mean? That we don't have to come up with 41,000 in cash, these people are already our employees or what does that mean?"

Ms. Cook said, "No, what that means is that part of the expectation is when people move from outreach to being enrolled in the program, they are eligible for some benefits and that is revenue that is generated, predicted revenue that's generated when we do provide those services, so that was factored in this as well."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So the assumption from you is that it's not going to cost the county any money out of its general fund to take advantage of this grant. We're receiving other monies from other entities to cover our portion of the cost?"

Ms. Cook said, "I don't know about the general fund. Do you . . . can you address that?"

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Ms. Luella Sanders, Center City Homeless Program, said, "I believe that the match is from the revenues generated through it."

Ms. Cook said, "But not from County general funds."

Ms. Sanders said, "Not from the county."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you."

Ms. Cook said, "Sure."

Chairman Unruh said, "Is that all, commissioner? Okay, well I'll just make a comment that I'm encouraged or pleased that the story that you've told us about that gentleman is just a frequent occurrence in this program, so the implication then is that it does have an impact and it's been a successful program, so I'm thankful for that and for your efforts in that. Commissioners, any other questions?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Grant Award and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as the Application; 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 Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Marilyn. Next item please."

H. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 3, 2005.

Mr. Jerry Phipps, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have the Minutes of the November 3rd meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts and there are three items for your consideration.

**1) FORD CHASSIS- FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

Item one is Ford chassis for the Fleet Management Department. It was moved to accept the low bid from Lubbers Ford in the amount of \$152,798.40.

**2) STREET IMPROVEMENTS- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: DEBT FINANCE**

Item two, street improvements from the Public Works Department. It was moved to accept the low bid from APEC Kansas in the amount of \$69,350.

**3) COMPUTER HARDWARE- EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
FUNDING: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (AVL/ MDC INTERGRATION PROJECT)**

And item three, computer hardware from the Emergency Communications Department. It was moved to accept the low bid of Dell Computers in the amount of \$44,109.

I'll be happy to take questions and recommend approval of these items as presented."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay Jerry, thank you. Commissioners, are there any questions relative to this recommendation from the Board of Bids and Contracts?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Jerry. Next item please."

CONSENT AGENDA

I. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Easement for Drainage for Sedgwick County Project 634-28 and 29, 63rd Street South between Hydraulic and K-15. CIP# R-247. Districts #2 and #5.**
- 2. Amendment to Agreement with Communities in Schools of Wichita/Sedgwick County, Inc., adding the Ready to Learn project.**
- 3. Applications for License to Retail Cereal Malt Beverages.**

<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Business Name</u>
Mark C. Reed	Sedgwick County Zoological Society

- 4. Payroll Check Register of November 4, 2005.**
- 5. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of November 2 – 8, 2005**
- 6. The following Section 8 Housing Contracts are being amended to reflect a revised monthly amount due to a change in the income level of the participating client.**

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V04073	\$220.00	\$260.00

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V04080	\$306.00	\$292.00
V20118	\$279.00	\$229.00
V20127	\$400.00	\$400.00
V20129	\$492.00	\$453.00
V99066	\$329.00	\$317.00
V010162	\$328.00	\$311.00
V04075	\$271.00	\$241.00
V03097	\$431.00	\$465.00
V99076	\$367.00	\$366.00
V2093	\$550.00	\$527.00
V04086	\$190.00	\$168.00
V04082	\$82.00	\$94.00
V040064	\$196.00	\$200.00
V99073	\$271.00	\$271.00
V04085	\$484.00	\$250.00
V04088	\$520.00	\$520.00
V20122	\$183.00	\$127.00
V04078	\$200.00	\$201.00
V03096	\$291.00	\$297.00
V04077	\$387.00	\$377.00
V94101	\$225.00	\$231.00
V04006	\$562.00	\$361.00
V04023	\$662.00	\$686.00
V03046	\$345.00	\$321.00
V05039	\$379.00	\$445.00
V2086	\$299.00	\$299.00
V01032	\$121.00	\$56.00
V05033	\$000.00	\$281.00
V020051	\$188.00	\$456.00

7. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V05061	\$246.00	Butler	Towanda Gables
V05067	\$274.00	3	Richard and Loretta Haines

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V05068	\$459.00	2	Bridgewater Apt. Homes
V05069	\$110.00	3	Uneeda Robinson
V05070	\$261.00	Butler	Walnut River Residences
V05071	\$286.00	2	Bridgewater Apt. Homes
V05072	\$318.00	4	Sundance Apts. Of Sedgwick
V05073	\$428.00	2	Bridgewater Apt. Homes
V05074	\$336.00	2	Bridgewater Apt. Homes
V04077R	\$387.00	5	Clayton Helms

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it.”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, we have come to the end of our agenda. We do not need an executive session, so this is an appropriate time if there are other items that you would want to talk about at this time. Commissioner Sciortino.”

J. OTHER

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I had something happen that was pleasant for me. There was a young lady that works downstairs in the cafeteria and she . . . I believe she’s a cook there, she prepares the food in some way and as you know, I’ve always talked about how much I like soul food, so she, I guess this last weekend, did a lot of cooking at her home and she brought me a plate.

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It has greens on it, it had yams, it had some kind of honey glazed thing over ham, homemade cornbread and I wrote her a note of thanks and told her that halfway through that food that I ate yesterday, I started getting this almost uncontrollable urge to go to a beauty shop and have an afro-perm, but then when I looked in the mirror I noticed that maybe being bald wouldn't give the operators there at the beauty salon much to work with, so I lost that urge. But I don't want to embarrass her, but her initials were Dorothy Harrigan down there at the cafeteria and just once again want to thank her for being nice enough to let me sample some of her home cooking. It was very much appreciated."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "On the 11th, at 11:00 is Veterans' Day celebrations around the country and I'll be in Haysville for that, because I think it's the appropriate time to encourage all folks at that particular time, you need to make it to a Veterans' Day ceremony or to at least send up a prayer and a thought for someone who has fought for our freedoms in the United States.

I also, Monday night, went to a showing of a documentary called 'Less They Be Forgotten' and it was pretty incredible. There were probably 200 veterans and I think seven or eight of them actually were at Omaha Beach on D-Day and this particular documentary was about that invasion and Omaha Beach and it was an interesting documentary, because it interviewed some of the remaining folks that were actually at Omaha Beach and the World War II veterans, which there are about a million left, we're losing about 1,500 a day and those stories are soon to be forgotten, and it was a wonderful documentary honoring veterans and I was very honored to be there, but just a thought that Veterans' Day is this Friday and the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is pretty special to folks that have fought for our country."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Commissioner. Well I would just want to let folks know that I participated in that mini-telethon with the Kansas Food Warehouse last Saturday and there were a lot of folks involved in that and hopefully that was very successful. It's a major effort in our community, where this particular organization serves 33,000 people every month in 85 counties across Kansas, so we're hopeful that was successful for them.

This morning I had the opportunity to sit in on the President's breakfast at Friends University, who is an important partner in our community and they've got quite a success story, they've really done some great things in the last 10 years or so, and really increasing their endowment and doing \$42,000,000 worth of capital improvements to their campus and that's quite remarkable for a tuition-driven university, so we want to tell them that they've done a great job and hope that they

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continue that good work in our community.

Well with that commissioners, I don't see anybody else requesting to speak and seeing nothing else come before us, I will adjourn the meeting."

K. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

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

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman,
First District

BEN SCIORTINO, Chair Pro Tem
Fifth District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

LUCY BURTNETT, Commissioner
Fourth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2005