

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

August 15, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Kelly Parks; Commissioner Gwen Welshimer; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. David Miller, Budget Department; Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Community Development; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Mr. Joe Thomas, Senior Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Mr. Joe Thomas, Senior Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Sharon Fearey, Vice Mayor, City of Wichita.
Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Kansas Taxpayer's Network.
Mr. Kent Brown, City Administrator, City of Clearwater.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor George Granberry of Heartland Community Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, July 25, 2007

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the regular meeting of July 25, 2007.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, you've had the opportunity to review the minutes of July 25th meeting. Are there any additions or corrections?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 25, 2007.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

NEW BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 12-520c 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

Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As noted, this is an island annexation where you're required to make a finding whether or not this proposed annexation will hinder or prevent the proper growth and development of the area or of any other city. I have you a map up on the screen. This is a request from Clearwater. They provided us a certified copy of their resolution, requesting this finding be made. We received that on July 26th. We have a 30-day requirement under the statute, so we're within thirty days. This is not a public hearing item, but you certainly can take comment. We do have the city manager from Clearwater, Ken Brown, here to answer any questions if you have those.

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According to the map, what we're looking at 79th Street toward the north and this parcel is just to the west of 119th in this red shaded area. These light blue shaded areas that I'm moving my arrow on are previous island annexations that you approved back in 2005. An island annexation of course is when the parcel is not touching the current city limits, and as you can see this is about two miles away from the current city limits of Clearwater down here.

The reason for this requested annexation is they need water, they can't get served by the rural water district. It's within the Rural Water District #4 boundaries, but they don't have lines in the area. The well water is used by some of the parcels in that area, but it's kind of spotty it seems like, so this land owner, this five-acre parcel is being developed for residential purposes and he wants to hook up to the city water and they want him to be annexed to provide that service.

MAPD has prepared a report. They have noted that this is outside of the growth area of Clearwater on the City of Wichita/ Sedgwick County comprehensive plan. It is also not contained with the planning area of the City of Clearwater. However, comprehensive plans as we all know are guides and not binding documents. In this particular case, it makes sense to provide water services and you did approve the previous two island annexations back in 2005.

So having said all that, we have a recommendation from MAPD that I would also second that you do approve . . . make the finding necessary to approve this annexation. And again, we have a representative from the city to answer any questions. I'll answer any questions if you'd like, and otherwise I think you should make the finding."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Bob. We do have a question. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you. Bob, I guess just to recap, a couple of items. It's both the determination, our actual guidance is to determine if this would hinder the growth of any other community and MAPD, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, has looked at this issue. You've looked at this issue from our legal standpoint, and it appears to both you and MAPD that this will not hinder the development of any other community. Is that correct?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "That's correct. I brought up another map on the screen if you want to look at real quickly, that shows the relationship to for example the City of Haysville over here on the right and the City of Wichita. As you can see, this is no where near those cities, so it's pretty clear this isn't going to hind or prevent the proper growth and development of any other city."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you. And I guess Kent Brown is here and I would

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have one question for Kent. Kent, there had been some discussion about how this project was financed and how the arrangements were made in the first annexation that happened some time ago for a couple of homes. Could you explain how the financing of this project, the water delivery is going to be handled.”

Mr. Kent Brown, City Administrator, City of Clearwater, said, “Well this came about because a group of residents up there came to the city. They had first gone to the rural water district, asked for help from them. It was either prohibitively expensive or the rural water district did not want to extend lines in the area, didn’t have enough customers to want to extend lines.

They came to the city requesting assistance. After various set of circumstances, the city came up with a project that involved 44 different properties and the group of properties is responsible for 70% of the water line project that included a boost pump station and a couple of miles worth of water line, and the city at large is responsible for 30% of the project. So that any properties in between the city proper and these group of properties that is about a mile to two miles north of the city, if any other properties have gone, then the city would be able to charge them because they would benefit from the line. And so that was the situation that was set up. The group of properties, and this one is responsible, as is the rest of the quarter section that’s around it, there’s about 26 properties in that quarter section, they’re all five-acre lots, when they hook onto the line, they’ll need to request to be annexed into the city because we aren’t going to provide services without them being part of the city. And so there may be, as these properties get built on, there will be others that will come up and ask to be annexed and we’ll have to do the same thing, coming to ask the county commissioners to make a finding that it doesn’t hinder the growth of any other city.

And this is one property, they’re paying about \$8,500 to \$9,000 in principle for the waterline itself and then they’re actually going to connect to the waterline now. They’re having to pay whether they use it or not at this point.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, well thank you very much. And city council at Clearwater are still supportive of this project and believe that they’re providing a good service to these folks?”

Mr. Brown said, “Oh absolutely. The waterline is in, the fire hydrants are in. They’re already receiving a benefit on their home insurance because of the better water service in the area.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, well thank you very much Kent. We certainly appreciate your being here. And I would like to thank the manager for making sure that you were first on the agenda so you didn’t have to wait through our budget.”

Mr. Brown said, “I appreciate that as well.”

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Commissioner Winters said, "I'm ready to make a motion, but there may be somebody else here that wants to speak."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Commissioners, any one else have a question for Mr. Parnacott or Mr. Brown? Just a question I had, Bob. This sort of process where we island annex one at a time, piece by piece, is not a particular issue for us or for the process?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "No. That unfortunately is the way the statutes are worded. They can't use an island annexation to piggyback other annexations around it, so they'll have to come back to us every time, until their city limits have grown up to that area."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, and if there's no other questions for Bob I would . . . this is not a public hearing on this particular agenda item, but is there anyone else here who wants to speak on this annexation. We will give you this opportunity. I don't see anyone asking to speak, so Commissioners, if there no other comments, then Commissioner Norton, we'll be ready for a motion . . . I mean Commissioner Winters."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to make a finding that the proposed annexation will not hinder or prevent the proper growth and development of the area or that of any other incorporated city located in Sedgwick County; and adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Bob. Thank you, Kent. Next item please."

PUBLIC HEARING

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B. 2008 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE RECOMMENDED 2008
SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's my pleasure to present to you the . . . this is the last public hearing on the budget. You will recall that this process began clear back in January, department heads, division directors, elected officials, assistant county managers began the process of examining what our needs might be. We began talking to you about the budget process in March. You heard from elected officials, other elected officials, division directors, assistant county managers about what they thought were the resources necessary to deliver quality public service in 2008. You have worked diligently on a financial plan, trying to figure out the consequences of making decisions this year or next year and what those consequences might be for the next four or five years.

We had a public hear . . . the budget was presented to you, the recommended budget was presented to you July 1st. We had a public hearing on July 25th. And I would just like to take a moment to remind you of where we've been. Our mission and goals continue to be the quality public service for present and future well-being of the community. Partnership, we've tried to make sure that service is delivered in this community, not necessarily by us but certainly by lots of non-profits and others who we contract with. We try to recognize our employees for diligence and quality service that they provide. We try to build trust and teamwork and make informed . . . so that citizens and you have informed decisions. And we try to provide essential services that meet the changing needs of the community and those needs continue to change and we try to be as flexible as we can with those delivery systems.

We had since 2001, we've had a sluggish economy, after that, this year has seen a turn around and began to be robust again. We've had elimination of demand transfers from the state that caused several million dollars to be striped from our budget. We've had exemption on commercial machinery and property ta . . . equipment removed from our ability to tax business and industry, again, several million dollars reduction. We reduced operating costs over those years. We reprioritized. We eliminated and froze positions. We laid some people off. We maintained our high credit rating.

As we continue with this budget process, we continue to have competing values of efficiency and representation and how we try to be as efficient as we can. But when you put that in juxtaposition

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with representative government, and asking people what they think should happen, that's not a particularly efficient way to get things done. We see this conflict played out certainly in the arena, where we have taken our time diligently to ask the public about what it is that they thought, rather than just starting to dig a hole in the ground.

You put those in juxtapositions of delivering service that are socially equitable and it doesn't matter where your income level, what you look like. As a matter of fact, we go out of our way if you've been clobbered physically or mentally to make sure that you have a place in this society. And our police officers, sheriff's officers continue to, as do our courts and others, work diligently at protecting individual rights and property rights, even when they are in conflict with each other.

We all have different priorities. Some of you are more concerned about safety, others about jobs and growth, others about recreation and quality of life and all three of those activities are certainly competing for the resources that Sedgwick County has. And then we have the underlying responsibilities of doing the good work that we've done in the past, providing the services to our courts, to the Register of Deeds, to assess property, to make sure meals are delivered, to make sure seniors and those underprivileged are taken . . . have access to healthcare and systems and so we continue to take care of those underlying responsibilities, certainly in roads and bridges and highways.

We've gone through the long-term financial planning process and we've done the base budget targets, commission budget discussions. You see the commission review, the public comments and again we're going to have some comment today and this is the day when we're talking about adoption.

Let me remind you that what's proposed in the 2008 budget is continuing to delivery quality public service, the sound financial management and maintain a high credit rating. This is not Bill Buchanan saying this, this is independent, private business that qualifies our debt, certainly by Fitch as the highest rating possible and by Standard and Poors and by Moody's as the second highest rating. This is quite an accomplishment and something we should be proud of as a community, because there's very few local governments that have those kinds of ratings.

In this budget we hope to adequately compensate employees with a 4% salary adjustment pool. That does not mean a 4% increase. That means the salary pool is 4%. For those on pay-for-

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performance, that may mean more and some will remain less than that. Budget appropriately for operating costs, a half a percent increase in contractals and commodities are not much, but we're asking folks to figure that out and how they can use those resources to continue to deliver the services that they do. And we continue to meet the communities need, public safety, alternate programs, center for aviation training, and the downtown arena.

Quality public safety services, phase two of the adult detention facility is in the budget, construction of EMS Posts 3 and 10 for about 1.6 million. Additional EMS crews in Maize and Valley Center, which will help stem the tide of the increased service requirements and make sure that our response times are within the range that we need them to be in. We're going to have additional call takers at the 9-1-1 center. Those are five full-time equivalents for emergency communication. The volume of calls continue to increase and we need to be responsive to those increased demands for service.

We're going to provide Clifton Channel drainage improvements for about 1.5 million dollars. We have a channel realignment at 55th and Oliver for about \$300,000 and the new FEMA requirements on the Big Ditch, we have arbitrarily taken a guess that it's going to cost about half a million dollars in 2008 and probably another half a million dollars in 2009 to make sure that those levies are certified and people along the Big Ditch can continue to receive proper insurance.

Quality health services, we'll provide for overflow shelters, we're continuing to work on the homeless taskforce. We have an ad hoc taskforce that is studying the issue of people who are mentally challenged, who have disability and also have a violent tendency or a disruptive behavior that causes people in programs and systems to be treated in ways by their colleagues, staff and colleagues, treated in ways that are unhealthy and not helpful to the situation. There's a growing trend, we've discovered that, we've worked on it. The state has no solution to this issue yet. We hope to help lead the state in this effort, so that our citizens can, when they receive care for county-funded programs, that they're done so in a safe way. We've also increased the fund . . . dental hygienist in the health department, which will go a long way in providing children and adults with basic dental care.

The fire district, there's no mill levy change. The ISO rating, this is the insurance rating by which is determined your homeowner's policy, we changed the way we did business and put tankers and redistributed our equipment in ways that are different than they were in the past. It affected several hundreds of homes and several million dollars of savings to those people affected and it was a great piece of work by our fire department. We're going to relocate Station 37 and remodel Station 34 and we're going to . . . construction of the water tender facilities in Andale and Furley, which will again help those ISO ratings in those areas.

So the recommended budget, total budget is \$386,459,272. The Sedgwick County government is \$371,000,000, the fire district is \$15,000,000. There's no increase. You see on this chart is where the resources come from. Cash and reserves, the ad valorem tax that's the real estate tax is 33%,

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7% is sales tax, 5% is motor vehicle, inter-governmental is the things that we receive from . . . over here on the bottom left, 12% is a big chunk and then charges for services is Medicaid . . . mostly payments from Medicaid.

Again, how our expenditures are expended, public safety is \$131,000,000, general government is 33 cents at \$125,000,000 and health is 19, public works is 8, culture and recreation is 3 and community development is 3. There was some question about the large number in general government. I would remind you that there are seven departments: the Board of County Commissioners, the Manager's, Clerk's, Register of Deeds, County Counselor, Election Commissioner's, and ERP make up 8.5% . . . or 8.5 million of that \$125,000,000.

Health is a big, health insurance payments is \$25,000,000. Debt service is \$26,000,000. Fleet is 12 and that's buying new vehicles and paying for the gas. Facilities, heating and lighting and making sure that the building . . . this building and all our buildings are maintained is \$6,000,000, technology is \$10,000,000 so you can see that it's quite a melting pot of government services in that particular item.

So the recommendation is to hold the public hearing, Mr. Chairman. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. We want to recommend that you adopt the budget, 2008 budget, operating budget in the amount of \$371,433,581 and then adopt the fire district budget in the amount of \$15,025,691. If the commission . . . if it would please the commission, I'd answer any questions or I would suggest you open the public hearing."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Bill. Commissioners, are there any questions at this time of the manager? Seeing none, at this time I will open the public hearing and we'll ask any of those who want to speak to try to move to the side of the room over behind the podium, but we have city councilperson, Vice Mayor Sharon Fearey here, who has asked to speak early because of other commitments, so Madam Vice Mayor, if you have . . . if you'd say your name for the record, well we will hear your comments."

Vice Mayor Sharon Fearey, City of Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "First of all, I am here to speak about Cowtown and the relationship that the city and the non-profit at Cowtown and the county have had for many years. I want to thank the county for the partnership that we've had together and certainly over many years your leadership in the Cowtown issue.

I've especially enjoyed over the past few years working with former commissioner Sciortino and currently with Commissioner Parks. I very much enjoyed the bi-weekly meetings that Commissioner Winters and Unruh and the mayor and I have had and this has been one of the topics for the past several weeks we've discussed several times. I want to thank you for all the support

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you've given Cowtown over the years, and I also want to thank the board of Cowtown publicly for everything that they've gone through in the last few days of getting this worked out. As you know yesterday we did formally end the lease agreement between Cowtown and the city for the land on which Cowtown sits and the buildings. Now the city will have control of all that. There will be a non-profit board. They even went out and met with Mark Reed at the zoo to find out about how the zoo model works and that is something that we aspire to, but of course the zoo has been working on that for many years and Cowtown recognizes that it will take us a long time to reach that point. Councilmember Schlapp would have liked to have been here this morning. She had previous commitments and we do have John D'Angelo here if you have any specific questions.

As you know, all of this with Cowtown has happened very quickly. The city yesterday along with having . . . accepting the termination of the lease agreement, also has agreed to fund any budget shortfalls that Cowtown will have over the next years. We've also agreed to put . . . we just moved yesterday \$3,000,000 in our capital improvement plan over to funding of museums. The majority of this will probably go to Old Cowtown to start working toward the goals that were set out in the consultant report that the county had done a couple of years ago. We have been using that report and setting long term strategies and want to use that report with some of the capital improvement monies that we have.

Also I do understand that there's a concern on the part of the county with wanting to have a satellite building for particularly Exploration Place to build maybe their own exhibits that then they can take out on the road, like the exhibits that have come in here. I went back to the city yesterday and have already talked to the manager and the mayor about that. We feel that that's something that we can certainly move forward with and having this money in our CIP can help with that effort.

What I am here to ask of you today, I know that you have money for Cowtown in your budget currently. I'm asking that you try to keep that money in there. As with any new venture, an organization needs money up front to get it going, to get it moving quickly in the right way, to let the public know that we're all still in this together and committed to making Cowtown the premier attraction that it can be. I think we'll all agree that we've lost a couple of our attraction and I think

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that with getting Cowtown going again, it can be a premier attraction for conventions and visitors and all that kind of thing. It will be much easier to work through this first few years if we can have county support on this and you've been so supportive in the past. We don't intend to keep this going every year, but if we could have some kind of a phase-out with that money, I think it would be very helpful in our efforts to make Cowtown the attraction that we all know it can be, so with that I'll say thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Madam Vice Mayor. Commissioners, are there any questions directly . . .? We do have a comment from Commissioner Norton, if you can hold on a minute, Sharon."

Mr. Norton said, "Sharon, talk a little bit about the Prairie Wranglers. I know you hadn't signed a contract with them. Is that a pretty sure thing? I mean, there's been a lot of talk in the media about that. Does that look like that's going to be a piece of this solution?"

Ms. Fearey said, "Yes. The first piece of this had to be the lease termination. The Prairie Wranglers wanted to deal just with one entity and this time that one entity was the city. At the same time that we were going through the lease termination, our lawyers were already starting to negotiate with Village Charters, who is the management group now for the Prairie Wranglers, so those talks and negotiations are already in progress."

Commissioner Norton said, "What is the thought or the plan for where they're going to perform? I mean, the old Empire House is in great disrepair. Are they going to be in the visitor's center for right now?"

Ms. Fearey said, "Yes, that's the plan is to have them in the visitor's center and since it is so much smaller than where they were at their old location, they're still exploring all their possibilities, but they're looking at two shows a night in order to fit the crowds in that they need."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay. That's all I have right now."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "The contract that you're dealing with them on now, is that going to be an exclusive and are they going to be able to do shows on their own outside of that and in light of that, Mr. Vorhies has made an offer to Wild West World. Is there anything that keeps them from divvying up that pie, as we might say, and performing somewhere else and taking away from Cowtown."

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Ms. Fearey said, “That’s part of the negotiations and I can’t speak to them a whole lot, but I know we’re working with them on seeing if there can’t be some radius, I guess is the best word I can think of, limits on their other performances unless Cowtown has something else going on that night, which would prevent them from being at Cowtown. Then it didn’t seem like it might be fair to have them not be able to be any place, but we’re certainly looking at that. This is designed to be a Cowtown event.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Any other questions? Sharon, thank you for being here. Next speaker.”

Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Kansas Taxpayers’ Network, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Appreciate the opportunity to visit with you this morning and update a little bit some of the concerns that I think this community faces on a fiscal side and one thing that I think important for you all to remember and some of the comments that you heard earlier on taxes and what’s occurring in that area, appraisals . . . the most recent data I’ve seen, valuations have increased about six percent this year over last year and that’s been growing on a regular and significant basis and I was looking back, back in the 1990s when the mill levy for the county was about 25 mills instead of the 31 mills that it is today, and that’s about a roughly 25% increase over that period of time and that’s not insignificant when you have both valuation increases and a mill levy increase.

I say that because obviously when you’ve got changes in how that process occurs at the state level and the County Manager Buchanan mentioned about how some of the changes in the state law have had an impact. There have been offsetting factors, and that’s something that needs to be kept in mind from a budget perspective.

The two major challenges I see the county facing budget-wise, one is tied to the takeover by the county of the old Wichita Technical College and may be having a name change and where that goes, and I think it’s important that as the comment was made earlier in the county manager’s presentation about where the other category is covered, the education portion of the county commission budget is really, really significant and I think that should be broken out. And I would not hesitate to say that I think you might even look at the community college model. I know it’s not

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an exact what we're doing with the Wichita Technical College or whatever the new name it may have and its new innervations, but we have three counties surrounding us that I can think of that have community colleges and I think from a budgetary point of view separating out the educational component I think is important and deserves attention, especially in light of the significant costs that may be coming there in the future.

I know this may not be a part of specifically this budget, but coming up in front of it I had the privilege yesterday of hearing one of the commissioners speak and he talked about the fact that one of the budgetary expenditures that's being considered is the \$50,000,000 to expand . . . a jail expansion to create 384 beds. By my math, that's \$130,000 per bed and I think that's a cost that is far in excess of what is reasonable, considering the needs. I mean, we're literally talking the price of a house by the county at \$50,000,000 divided by 384 beds. This community can afford many things, but I think that's an expense that goes beyond what would be appropriate. And since we've got county, city, roughly 20 incorporated municipalities here in Sedgwick County, we've got ten school districts that are based here. There is a significant tax burden that exists and I think people need efficiency and performance on the part of government, so I present this information today as thoughts, maybe not specifically for the 2008 budget, with the cost per bed, but I think as you move on down the line and I appreciate the commissioners time and attention this morning and if you have any questions, I'd be happy to take them."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you Karl. Commissioners, any questions for Mr. Peterjohn? I see none, thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak during this public hearing? I don't see anyone asking to speak. I don't want to be hasty in closing the hearing. Seeing no one moving to the podium to speak, then I will close the public hearing and declare the hearing closed and I will ask the Clerk to call Item B-2."

2. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2008 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET AND THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Buchanan said, "You have before you the 2008 budget. You have a resolution in front of you that establishes the operating budget of \$371,433,581, with a \$40,986,441 in capital expenditures.

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The total operating budget includes a certified legal budget of \$255,012,317 and partially funded by a mill levy of 31.315 mills, or \$125,839,525 of property tax levy. I would recommend that you adopt this budget.

You have talked, up and down the hall, and have talked to me about a number of things and one of the things that you have suggested is the, despite the public hearing comments, that we eliminate the Cowtown contribution, allocation of \$519,609 and put that in a reserve or put that in a cash reserve earmarked for two things: one would be election needs and certainly the other would be for any proposals that might come from Cowtown. And so Mr. Chairman, maybe the first action that needs to be taken is what kind of adjustments do you want to make within that budget before you adopt it.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you Mr. Buchanan. We . . . Commissioner Winters is asking to speak.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well thank you. I . . . right now, I have hardly any suggestions, but one of the things that I would like for us to consider and again, as we look at this \$519,000, we have been presented a request by the Extension Service for \$40,413, which would put them basically, since their relationship with Sedgwick County is one that’s sometimes difficult to explain. They do have several funding sources. We are the largest of those funding sources, but with this request for \$40,000, it would put them back in that pool of being able to offer salary adjustments to the folks that work at the Extension office. Without this amount, they would be back in almost less than a half a percent increase, and so I would like to propose, and Mr. Chairman, as you remember in the past, we often just don’t necessarily take a vote, but get a consensus of commissioners of whether there’s at least three commissioners that are interested in that. But I would certainly like to propose that out of that \$519,000 that we allocate \$40,400 to the Extension Service.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, thank you commissioner. The implication, what you’re saying is that you are suggesting that we pull the Cowtown 519,000 from the budget and use part of that money for the Extension.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Right, and I would be . . . and I think there may be one or two small item that folks would like to consider, but then I would be certainly supportive of then leaving the remainder in contingency, set aside fund, that we would be able to respond to Cowtown in some manner, with some part of that money.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Well perhaps then as we have a discussion here among us, we can keep track of these suggestions and do a motion then that modifies the budget in

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this way before we approve the budget. Is that an appropriate thing, Mr. Manager or should we vote on each one of these suggestions individually?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "You can do it anyway that you desire sir."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, well I think it might be easier if we vote on these as a group, and if that breaks down, then we can do them individually. Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I had another item, but we'll do that first. Did you say \$40,000?"

Commissioner Winters said, "\$40,413, and would you like to vote on those then and would you like for me to make a motion, or how do you want to do that?"

Chairman Unruh said, "It looks like we may have a lot of discussion, so in order to keep it . . . well, in order to maybe keep it simpler, let's do it one at a time, so why don't you make a motion on this particular proposal."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, Mr. Chairman, I would . . . and I guess before I make the motion, we're talking about again allocations out of this \$519,000. Is that correct?"

Chairman Unruh said, "That is correct and that probably should be part of the motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved that we take out of the \$519,600 that we allocate \$40,413 to the Extension Council.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, "We have a motion and a second. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well I'm in support of putting money into the Extension Council. However, I don't know that we've had the full discussion on whether we all want to take the whole amount out of Cowtown or not. We're kind of assuming that that's what we're going to do. As I talked with Councilwoman Fearey and Councilwoman Schlapp yesterday, I think they understood that I've been very supportive of Cowtown for a lot of years. I've done a lot of volunteer work out there, I've helped organize and I think, you know, it is one of those entities in our community that creates a lot of emotion, because people either love it passionately or could care less if it goes away

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and becomes a dust . . . ghost town. I think we need to have that discussion, to be sure that we're all in lockstep to move that money out.

Several staff meetings ago, as we talked about this subject, I had talked about a phase-out, where we gave them an indication of not all of it is going to go away, but that it would incrementally go away over a few years, which gives them a chance to understand what the funding is going to be from the county and maybe they don't need it all or maybe they do, but at least it graduates out, so that it's not an all or nothing at all at the last minute. They have just made those decisions to take over Cowtown. I know that's been gut wrenching for them and the board and even for us to watch it, and I think we need to be sure we have some conversation, number one, that we want to take all that out of our budget, but that we don't leave our partners across the street totally hanging. Now if we do take it all out, I really believe that we should at least some how communicate to them that we're going to earmark we think a certain amount of that for Cowtown if they need it.

One of the things I read in all the information that I got about Cowtown is that it could work out that they don't need that money, that they have sufficient monies coming in, if they change some of the ways they do business, if the Prairie Rose Wranglers really makes an impact. All of the sudden, by the end of '07, '08 may look rosier and it may change the dynamics. If we continue to fund the rest of this year at the level we have, that might get us a lot less of a commitment and I think we need to have some discussion about that before we start pulling money out of there. Now I'm okay with whichever way it goes, if that's the way we vote but I think we should discuss it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, I appreciate the comment. This no way impacts what we're doing in 2007."

Commissioner Norton said, "No."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Well, we'll continue the discussion. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "Well some of those things that Commissioner Norton brought up and discussed here I had in my notes, but I do think we owe it to the city to have a firm . . . if we are going to leave something in there, have a firm number. The money this year, there's still some money out there and I'm certain that those drafts will go. There's a memorandum of understanding out there also that that can go to certain things. We may need to review that and let them use the money they see fit on that, to go back on that and look at that. That will be a decision that can be made down the line, later this year but we're in kind of a situation here today that we need to set our budget. I mean, our budget is set and we need to know what's going on with the present issues.

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I did a little bit of figuring on percentages of population, just to throw something out there, 78% of the county is City of Wichita and the 78% of this \$519,000 would be \$118,000 if that's something we could discuss here a little bit. I don't know if that's something that could be firm, that we could tell them that they had this amount of money in there for them because there's quite frankly this last two weeks has been . . . since the city decided to take this over, there's been a lot of people trying to jump on the bandwagon and we've seen this, I guess manna from heaven that we can see. Well we can take the money from Cowtown and do this and I'm going to be supporting Bill Gale, some of . . . his \$25,000 request and I proposed that that would come out of that amount also, somewhere."

Commissioner Winters said, "That's already in the budget."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Right."

Commissioner Parks said, "Well I was of the understanding this morning that it wasn't, so okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "It is."

Commissioner Parks said, "There may be another commissioners that wants to put more in that fund, I don't know but there's all these . . . some of these supplementals that we're looking at and I . . . but that's just one figure that I threw out there. I don't know that I'm supporting the 118,000 as a firm figure, but that may be something that we can work off of and I would like to hear the other commissioner's ideas about that. And I think in 2009 that we should be completely out of the picture on that and we owe it to the City of Wichita to tell them that, if that's what we're going to. I do know it is tough to just cut something off all of the sudden, but I think with . . . they have a great future with their entertainment venue out there and the rest of this year and the money that they can use, that we've appropriated for this year and then have something for sure for next year that we can say that 118,000 may go for a dynamic director. You know, that would go a long ways to hire a dynamic director, like we've seen in another venue, Exploration Place, take off with the help of a dynamic director, so that's it."

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

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I of course would like to see us put money back for voting machines if we need them, and the other thing that I'm concerned about that we've not taken into consideration that we have our coliseum site that's going to be a financial drain on us. We have a \$500,000 a year loss right now, is that right?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Approximately."

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Commissioner Welshimer said, “Yeah, and we’re going, you know, obviously lose the property tax and the land rent and the jobs and so forth from the track. That’s going to affect us and then Britt Brown, what are we going to do with that. It’s going to . . . what, a million, two million to tear it down. And whatever we do, we’re going to have to spend some kind of consultant money or something. That’s been one of my big concerns since I’ve been here is that coliseum site. And so I’m a great admirer of Cowtown and I’ve enjoyed it very much over the years. We’re facing with a large debt coming in the next few years and I honestly don’t think we’re preparing for what’s really ahead, and so I have a problem with, you know, allocating all our funds.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Well we have a motion and a second before us, that includes adding the Extension Council for \$40,413 and is it part of that motion, Commissioner Winters, that we at this time pull the funding for Cowtown?”

Commissioner Winters said, “My motion was that that \$40,400 come out of the \$519,600 that has been allocated to Cowtown and it’s my understanding from listening to the manager that he was suggesting that that entire 519 be pulled out of the budget as it’s related to Cowtown and put in a contingency fund to be adjusted later. My motion is that this \$40,000 come out of that, but I still am committed to making some amount available to Cowtown, but I’m not sure I would support 519,000.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. Well, we have a motion on the table on the Extension Center. Let’s deal with that motion first and then we can make a formal action on the Cowtown money and then we can hear what other commissioners have to say. So commissioners, if that’s agreeable, I’m going to call the Clerk to call the vote please.”

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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Chairman Unruh said, “Well now commissioners, I think it’s appropriate that we take a formal action then on Cowtown, if we’re going to be spending money out of that amount of money and whether or not we’re going to keep it in our budget for the full amount of 519 or whether for this discussion we’re going to make the motion to pull it out and then talk about any other issues that we have that we want to advance and then see what that balance is. So Mr. Manager . . .”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Let me tell you, if it please the commission let me talk a little bit about my rationale for making that suggestion. In the budget that the City of Wichita for the council meeting dated August 14th, 2007 which is yesterday, has a budget for 2008 for Cowtown. In that budget there is \$519,000 contribution from Sedgwick County, an estimated contribution of \$291,000 from the City of Wichita, which would cover any deficit. I guess I need to understand further how that might work, what would happen if Cowtown were outrageously successful, would our subsidy still be required, would we share in that glorious victory? How do you work on the downside, what that all means and so I think we have some time to figure that out, but to assure that we know what we’re talking about, I would suggest that we also move that money to a contingency fund that gives us the flexibility to do whatever you want with it.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Commissioners, do you have any questions about what the Manager has just explained or suggested? Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well I don’t know that that’s totally my preference, but I think it’s maybe the way that we’re starting to move. If we were to do that, I think it’s imperative that immediately, the chair and our pro tem meet with the mayor and the vice mayor to start describing what that might look like in a phased out thing, or what we’re going to do for one year, because I think this is part of the . . . it’s an icon of our community and we can’t just back away from it and, you know, say that that’s good enough.

So I wouldn’t want to put the money in there and then just let . . . remain silent until the middle of next year, when we decide if we’re going to spend it. I think we need to give the city some indication relatively soon, before this year sunsets of what we think we’re going to do and that’s going to require some more discussion from us. That keeps the money available. I think we can deal in good faith with the city on that. Hopefully it sends the message that it’s not all off the table, that we’ve got some money available but we’re not sure at what level yet we want to help out and what level would need to be . . . we would need to be at to help out, because things may change as this whole thing evolves. But I would urge us to make sure that we don’t let it sit for a long time without having discussions with the city as our partner.”

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Chairman Unruh said, "Well, thank you and I think that's consistent with comments by Commissioner Parks a little bit ago. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "Well I just wanted to say that to be fair to the city, I'd prefer a minimum but I guess we can go along with this and do that. I'd kind of like to hear again from the city, but I know that's back and forth and there's one representative from the city council here, but . . . and they will have to make some decisions over across the street, but I really think that to be fair to them, we should have some kind of minimum that they know what they can work with. That's it."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well the other thing that mixes into that money is we've already decided that 40,000 of the Extension will come out of there. That leaves \$479,000. We don't know how much the voting . . . the whole voting machine thing will take, whether it takes any or it takes some. I'm not sure, what was the ask from the Voter's Coalition? I think I had that written down."

Chairman Unruh said, "It was \$600,000, just over 600,000."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I think it's eight."

Commissioner Norton said, "If we funded all of it."

Chairman Unruh said, "If we funded their entire . . ."

Commissioner Norton said, "Their ask, yeah, and we're not convinced, based on our presentation from Bill Gale yesterday that the whole 600,000 is even needed. Maybe we need to have some discussion about that a little bit. Maybe the public needs to know that we spent 45 minutes yesterday listening to Election Commissioner Gale give us feedback on the election, on what advanced voting looked like, what the future looks like and maybe what his thoughts were to counterbalance maybe what the voter's coalition and the League of Women Voters are saying too. I think it's important we have all that information on the table so maybe we talk about that for at least a second, because that's kind of what we're thinking we're going to encumber some of this money for maybe."

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Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. We have Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I think along that line we should set aside at least 30% of that, a third of that, which would be 200,000."

Chairman Unruh said, "30% of which number?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Of the 600,000 that the voter's coalition wanted."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "Well I think that this last election showed that we're . . . people are voting, 50% of them in advance and I think a lot of those that I visited throughout my district on Election Day were going fairly smoothly and I think those things that weren't going smoothly, Bill Gale has told us for \$25,000 he can correct that. I would like to see another voting, general election spotting the City of Sedgwick. I had some comments about that. They had to drive quite a ways to get in. However, I think we're light years away from . . . apart, or I am with the amount that the voting coalition asked for. I believe they were . . . their \$600,000 was reflecting on the Election Day voting and I think this is changing and the process is changing over time and I just think that . . . it would be a waste of money I think to do that at this point."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "I agree. I don't think I could support that amount. And one of the things that again in listening yesterday, we see this . . . a couple of things struck me. We see this trend all over the country, where people are beginning to take other options than voting out of voting polling place on Election Day. And when we think about the options that people have, they can vote early at the Election Office, they can go to one of the satellite locations the week or so before the election and vote at any, no matter where you live, you can vote at any one of the satellites. You can request a ballot be mailed to your home. It used to be you had to be on vacation or out. That's not the case now. By just requesting a ballot, you can have the ballot mailed to your home. If you get to the polling place and there's too many people standing in line, you can request

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a paper ballot and vote a paper ballot at the voting place and hand that in. And then of course you can go to your polling place on Election Day.

So I think with all of those options, people have more choices now and it just becomes extremely expensive to gear up an entire operation that you use once every four years. Now it's not to say that an election once every four years is not important, because it's extremely important, but again it is extremely expensive to have a system on Election Day, once every four years, where people can just walk into a polling place and be out of there in five minutes. That just can't happen. So I think that we've got a fairly good system. We've had county folks involved with the Election Commissioner and I would be supportive of again reserving this money, and continuing to think about and work about elections but I think the system is working."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you commissioner. Well my comment on the particular topic under discussion right now is that I take a great deal of . . . I give a great deal of value and credence to Election Commissioner Bill Gale and his comments at our meeting yesterday and his indication was that he thinks we need to get through the '08 election as is, with the equipment and the system that we have in place. And our local staff, who were involved in it, seem to be supportive of that. So if it can be described to me that we have a crisis that needs attention immediately, you know I could be persuaded otherwise, but right now it appears to me that we're trying a new system. We have to give it an opportunity to work. We have granted a supplemental request to further educate the public to what the options are and I think we ought to give it an opportunity to work before we start gearing up for a crisis that we don't know exists. So I would be inclined to reserve that money till there's some other evidence saying that we need to appropriate it. Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I just would add a comment that I think we need to look at our priorities and take care of that which is our responsibility and much of the time, we're looking at things that are really not our responsibility. They're responsibilities of others, and we've tried to be helpful to everyone. And we know that our financial situation is not going to be good in the next two or three years, and so the voter convenience for our voters is very important to me and that is our responsibility.

Cowtown, you know, I know we have continuously funded Cowtown and I understand the need for that funding, but we don't own Cowtown. The city owns it, the buildings and the land, is that right?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "And then they've also taken over the board and so on and I think we have to start turning around and looking at what our own responsibilities are and we have some that we have not even addressed, so I'll not make a motion to put the \$200,000 in for the voter machines, but I hope that we keep something back in the event that we need them."

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Chairman Unruh said, "All right, I think we can do that. Well, at this point . . . this is, I think we're started on a larger discussion, but at this point I would like to at least deal with the motion that's on the table and that is to use \$40,413 of this anticipated savings for the Extension Center."

Commissioner Winters said, "We already voted."

Commissioner Norton said, "We voted on that."

Chairman Unruh said, "I'm sorry, I'm . . . we did, all right. Thank you. I was going to vote again, make sure we did it. All right then, at this point let me suggest that we do take action on whether or not we're going to leave the Cowtown funding in total in the budget. Is there any one that wants to make a motion regarding that? Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "I don't know if I want to make a motion, but as I look at the money, you know as we talked five, six weeks ago and worked on 'financial live' I thought that 300,000-200,000-100,000 for three years and then sunset it was a logical way to go. That's kind of what we talked about. And as I look at the money we've got, it's 479,000. If you put 150,000 kind of earmarked, maybe not budgeted but earmarked for voting if we needed it and 329,000 earmarked, maybe not budgeted but available for conversations with the city, then that kind of serves all three of those masters and we maybe don't hard budget it, but we move it out of there, put it in contingency with at least a comment that that's kind of the way we'd like to split it up."

I don't know if that hard budgets it, I don't even know if you can do that, but if we move it out of there and Sharon and John have heard us say that, then that gives them at least something to start with, to understand maybe how much could be available and . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "Would you say those numbers again. I wasn't listening."

Commissioner Norton said, "329,000 for Old Cowtown as a maximum, and 150,000 earmarked for voting. Now, if we negotiate different with the city, then more could go to voting. If voting turns out not to need all of that, then we could move more to Cowtown but that becomes kind of at least the conversation, so that we're not just walking away totally from Cowtown and we're not sending a message to the city that we don't want to play at all and we're not sending a message to the voter's coalition that we're not considering anything that they have to say, which I don't think is good either."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, thank you commissioner. And I sure hope my remarks didn't imply I wasn't considering anything they had to say. I mean, I heard them and I understand their

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argument and I appreciate the hard work they've done on the issue. I just think we need to give our current process a chance, but I'm glad you didn't make a motion, because before we parcel this out in this way, I think we do have a need at the Sedgwick County Zoo that needs to be addressed.

Sedgwick County Zoo is one of our premier attraction and under the direct responsibility of Sedgwick County government. And one of the great things about the zoo is that we have a wonderful partnership with citizens in our community and the way the zoo has developed and grown is that generous and concerned good partners in our community have contributed to exhibits out there. But being our zoo, we're responsible to staff those exhibits and with the recent addition of the penguin exhibit out there, the penguin cove that is a very generous contribution from Cessna Aircraft, we have the need of two new zookeepers, so we need to expand our staffing table to cover that. And you know this is a relatively standard procedure we have to go through. We will end up with the property. Our citizens get to enjoy it, but our county commission is taking responsibility for staffing it. And the two new zookeepers, I believe the number . . . the dollar amount they need to handle the penguin cove is about \$75,000. And Mr. Manager, I don't know if you might happen to know the exact amount?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "74,612."

Chairman Unruh said, "74,612. And I would actually commissioners I would make the motion."

MOTION

Chairman Unruh moved to that we include the expansion of the zoo's staffing table and provide for the staffing of two zookeepers at Sedgwick County Zoo.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Parks said, "Can I have that figure again?"

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Chairman Unruh said, "74,612."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Is that from this Cowtown budget?"

Chairman Unruh said, "That would be from this potential savings that we've been talking about from Cowtown. We don't have other sources, so that's where we're going to have to make this manipulation. So we have a motion and a second, and we do have folks that want to speak and I kind of interrupted. I don't know, Commissioner Parks, did you want to speak on this motion?"

Commissioner Parks said, "Not necessarily on this motion, but I was just kind of replying to Commissioner Norton's phasing out. If we remember back in budget live, for the people out there that don't know what budget live is, we have a computer program that's provided to us by finance and they project out revenues and they project out what future budgets may be. In seeing the red areas increasing in 2009 and 2010, that's just why I would not want to commit anything for 2009 and 2010 at this time. That's all I have to say."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "It must have been an old light."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay, as I do my math again, if we took the 75 out, then that gets us to maybe 300,000 for Old Cowtown and 100,000 for voting. And it's interesting, the 300,000 is what I talked about six weeks ago, so I'm okay with that. And 100,000, I don't know if that gets Commissioner Welshimer where she wants to be. Once again, that doesn't have to be a hard budget number to me. It's at least conversation about how we may want to proportion what we're going to do with that money, and it could be that we have some kind of really tough issue come up in January of next year and all of that's off the table, I don't know."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. I don't know who was first. Commissioner Winters."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Just a quick question for Commissioner Norton, and I'm believing that I could probably support your suggestion here. One question is so before any of that money would be expended, the money you've set aside, the 100,000 on voting equipment and 300,000, we would have an opportunity to vote on that at the time that took place and somebody would have to present their case, and explain why that's needed."

Mr. Buchanan said, "If you do the action that you're planning on . . . that I think you're about to do, then to move then to use that . . . to move it out of contingency and to spend the money elsewhere, yes would require affirmative action, yes."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you. That's the only question I had."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "Well one of those questions answered by Commissioner Winters statement there, that we're sitting here and we have essentially a department head that came to us at . . . appointed by the state, election commissioner, saying that he needed \$25,000 so I'd just stand it at that and I guess the other questions have been answered."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "And just, Mr. Manager, perhaps a little clarification, that \$25,000 supplemental request is in your recommended budget."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, we did those adjustments, yes."

Commissioner Winters said, "So he will definitely have that fund."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks, your point was is that he wasn't asking for any more. Is that what . . .?"

Commissioner Parks said, "Right."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Well commissioners, is there any . . . we have a motion and a second in front of us, dealing with addition of two zookeepers. Is there any further discussion on that motion? Hearing none, Madam Clerk call the vote."

VOTE

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Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "I'm still concerned, Mr. Manager, or is it necessary that we take a vote to say that we pull the Cowtown funding. We have not specifically done that I don't think, and establish a balance reserve."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, any time the commission can provide clarity, it is always helpful and I would recommend that you do so."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well I would be glad to make that motion. I don't know if that motion then is going to put the whole budget to bed or we'll make that motion and that will kind of deal with the Cowtown fund and then if others have other discussion points we could."

Chairman Unruh said, "That would be my intent and impression."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to take \$519,000 that was in our recommended budget and distribute \$40,413 to Extension Council, \$74,612 for two zookeepers, and that the remaining be placed in a contingency fund with the anticipation that if that \$300,000 could be spent at Old Cowtown and \$100,000 could be used for voting enhancements in 2008, if needed.

Commissioner Welshimer 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 Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, now commissioners, is there any further discussion on the budget, on particular items of adjustment? Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I have some questions for the county manager."

Chairman Unruh said, "He is on his way back to the podium."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes ma'am."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I know we had several discussions and hearings and budget discussions. Somewhere I missed the . . . looking through the budget, I see some pretty big increases in contractual services for different departments. Do you have your copy of the budget?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes I do."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Page 57, the Division of Finance, percent change from '07 to '08 is 22.6% for contractual services."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Which page are you on, ma'am?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "That's a pretty big increase. Page 57."

Mr. Buchanan said, "57."

Mr. Dave Miller, Budget Director, said, "If I could speak to that, commissioner, that's in regards to the merchant's service fees that the county pays."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "The what?"

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Mr. Miller said, "The merchant service fees, when citizens pay their county bills, their tax bill, their vehicle taxes by using a credit card, we pay a service fee upon that service. In the past, that budget has been included within the Treasurer's budget. It's about \$600,000 for 2008 because Finance overlooks all the operations within the county. The budget has been built to transition that amount from the Treasurer's Office into the Finance budget."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "So this is taken out of one budget and added to this one."

Mr. Miller said, "Yes ma'am."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "So the Treasurer's budget would go down 22% for contractual services."

Mr. Miller said, "It's not completely 22% because we also see an increase, a very strong increase in the use of credit cards within the county."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "The choice commissioners would be to eliminate that service to citizens or get the state law changed so that we can share in the cost of that fee with citizens. We've chosen to continue to make this service available to citizens. We get our money faster. It's more convenient for them and it's expense to us."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "On page 73, we have a 68.2% increase in debt service for the Division of Finance in bond and interest. What is that?"

Mr. Miller said, "If I could also address that commissioner, what we've done in the 2008 budget is, in the past we've included some of our debt service payments within the operating budgets within specific departments, corrections for the JDF facility, for the Juvenile Court Facility within the District Court. For 2008, we've transitioned those payments out of those operating budgets and have consolidated it all into bond and interest fund, so that all of those payments come out of this budget within the bond and interest fund as opposed to out of the general fund within the operating budgets of each of those departments. That way it makes it much easier to communicate to citizens how much we're really paying for debt service."

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Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay. On page 75 we have a 62% increase in the Division of Finance for contractual services. Is that something similar to what you've been telling me?"

Mr. Miller said, "That is a reflection between the 2007 revised column and the 2008 budget. As we went through 2007, we've drawn down some of the contingencies for various projects and some of those things is the 3.3 million dollar payment to the Airport Authority for the 50 year lease for the Center of Aviation Training. Another thing is \$600,000 for the WAT support that wasn't included in last year's budget but it was included within a contingency. We spent \$120,000 on the recent special election, so those are some of the things that have drawn down that balance in the '07 revised column, but if you compare to the 2007 adopted column, you'll see that the numbers are very steady."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay, so this is a combination of contractual services, come from different budgets."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioner Welshimer, this is a budgeted transfer into operating reserves, so these are the monies that we have budgeted in 2007, we budgeted \$12,000,000 but we've spent a lot of that so we've adjusted the budget down to 7.5 million dollars. We anticipate again in 2008 to have a budgeted transfer, an operating reserve of \$12,000,000 and we'll see how that goes."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay. Page 91, contractual services, Metropolitan Area Planning Department."

Mr. Miller said, "Our agreement with the city commission is that we fund half of the MAPD budget and they fund half of the MAPD budget and the city is the managing partner within that agreement, so this is half of the budget that was adopted by the city."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay. DIO is up 20%? And that would be page 97, contractual services, 19.2% increase."

Mr. Miller said, "I see that also commissioner and I am trying to grasp . . . I believe part of what's contributing to that is if you look also at some of the other budget items in there, you see that equipment has declined by 47% and you see that commodities have declined by 17%, so as that department submitted their budget request to us, they made a decision that they wanted to allocate their funds in a different manner than they have in the past. They wanted to purchase less equipment than they had in the past and put more of that money within contractual services."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "On page 369, workforce development, is this 68.9% less?"

Mr. Miller said, "It is a decline, but it's related to that one-time land lease with the Airport

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Authority of 3.3 million dollars, as we discussed in the contingency reserve, so the action that was taken was to move the 3.3 million from the contingency and make that actual payment to the Airport Authority out of the workforce development budget. And because that was a one-time item, you see a decrease there of 68%.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Okay. Well there’s nothing in this budget that has anything to do with the coliseum site, right?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “That’s correct. The plan for the coliseum site is that the coliseum will be fully operational in 2008 and that during the 2008 year, we will come to you with a decision about what to do with that building after the fall of 2009. There’s nothing that we can do until the new downtown arena is open. We have contractual obligations, so I don’t see any action on that building occurring until at least 2010. We’re going to be operating, we’re going to have concerts, we’re going to have events there up and through September, October of 2009.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Okay, and is there anything in this budget for . . . do we have arena money in here?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “The arena money is in a separate.”

Mr. Miller said, “It’s a capital project.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “All right. Are we going to approve that, as a commission? I mean, are we anticipating an ’08 budget for that arena?”

Mr. Miller said, “That action had already been taken when the capital budget for the arena was adopted.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “So that takes care of whatever problems we’re going to run into in construction or demolition for ’08?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “We have a budget for the demolition and construction of the new arena that’s been approved by the board of county commissioners. We’ll know September 14th what the construction costs will be. And if we need to come back to adjust the budget in any fashion, we’ll do that after the 14th of September. But in this budget, the arena is part of the capital improvement plan, which lays out the capital projects for the next five years.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Our budget for this year is \$386,459,272. What is the total for

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the '07 budget? In other words, how much more are we going to be spending this year than last year?"

Mr. Miller said, "The total budget for 2007 as revised is \$374,059,547 and I need to do that calculation to give you the exact amount, which means I'd have to find my calculator. So if I could commissioner, that's a total increase for all operating funds within the county's budget of 12.4 million dollars."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "What kind of an ending balance do we have? I know we talked about a small reduction in the mill levy. Every time we talk about that, we talk about it and then it just seems to disappear and if we reduce the mill levy lets say a quarter of a mill, what would that do to this budget?"

Mr. Miller said, "If you were to reduce the budget by a quarter of a mill, that would be approximately a million dollars. My recommendation to you is, if you would take that action, it would be fiscally appropriate to identify what items to cut to contribute to that million dollar reduction."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay, I think when we discussed this once before that it was a possibility and that we might not have to make specific cuts. So that has changed?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "I don't think it's changed. I think there's been any indication from staff that a tax levy reduction would not come with some consequences."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well, I don't think the budget was put together looking at that and I've asked for it since my first day on this commission."

Mr. Buchanan said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "And it has not . . . you know, it has not been considered. It hasn't been . . . I don't think there's been any effort to go in that direction, and I think that it could have been done, and so I'm probably not going to vote for passing this budget as a result of that, so that's all I have. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "Along those lines, when I talked with Mr. Miller from Finance, when the final figures are in from the assessor's office and we look at the assessed valuation and the value of property, that mill levy could go down, could it not?"

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Mr. Miller said, "It could. At this point, it's . . . the budget is based on an estimate of the assessed valuation that we received from the Appraiser's Office. That number will likely, possibly, slightly increase or it could likely possibly decrease."

Mr. Buchanan said, "The levy will be set November 1st, it's set by the Clerk by November 1st and so any adjustments or fluctuations that occur between now and November 1st will be taken into consideration, so it has over the past 15 years it's gone down . . . more often than not has gone down and only slight increases."

Commissioner Parks said, "But in our management figures, and finance workings, we have erred on the side of it going down instead of going up."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Parks said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Is that all, commissioner? Are there any other comments?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well, one more."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Just to elaborate a little bit more, valuation increases are just a way that we're able to increase our budget. And I know that our expenses go up every year, but they also go up for the taxpayers and with every year of valuation increase and they receive their tax bill and then it . . . see, we didn't increase taxes this year, which is not true. We're asking the taxpayers for 12.4 million dollars more than we asked them for last year. So I realize that this is the only year that we could, within any reasonable manner, reduce that amount and 12.4 million, if we could reduce it to 11.4 million, that would be a help. I don't know, you know, how much longer taxpayers can go on with higher tax bill every single year and it just has not been a priority and I think it should have been."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. We have talked a lot about assessed valuations during the many, many budget discussions we've had over the past four months. One of the things that I think is interesting to note is a change in assessed valuation has gone up about \$7,000,000 this year and out of that \$7,000,000 about \$1,000,000 of that has come from increased values on existing properties. Three and a half million dollars has come from new investment, new building, new construction, activity going on. Two and a half million dollars of that has come from property that has moved out of either agriculture or residential into commercial, so 2.5 million of that has come from again real growth issues and not growth in valuations. I do agree with Commissioner Welshimer, that we need to be very attentive to that number, but I think that those numbers with almost \$6,000,000 out of \$7,000,000 coming from real growth, real additions to the community is a pretty significant number. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. And of our increase in our budget from last year, there's only a total of \$7,000,000 coming from increase in property taxes, so the numbers that Commissioner Winters was talking about, so \$387,000,000, the increase in property tax is \$7,000,000 and only \$1,000,000 of that is from a change in someone's existing property. And that's as you said something we can't ignore but as people discuss it, they need to be aware of those facts. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well to elaborate on that a little bit, I mean 12.4 million, some of that is additional grants, additional Medicare flow through money, only \$7,000,000 of it is property tax and of that only about a million and change is from the increased valuation times the mill levy. So if we really want to affect people's property tax burden as an individual property owner, not on the new building and not on the change of valuation based on probably some action they've taken to move it out of agriculture and develop it or take it out of residential to put a commercial property on it, that's a million dollars."

One of the things that I'd like to comment on is that we've had plenty of conversation about the mill levy rate and the budget. As we did budget live, and I think we did three or four of them, I know I led a pretty spirited debate on some of the ways that we could reduce the mill levy and to be honest with you, I don't think I heard anybody really saying we were going to buy in to taking the WSU mill levy and reducing it or changing our fund balance policy or looking at what the assessed valuation does, or all of those kind of things, so you know I think easily, if we wanted to that we could figure out a way to do some of those things if we had to, but the truth is we came to, I think, a pretty good consensus that where we were going with the budget is where we came to today. I didn't hear where we would take other things out of the budget or change.

We had dialogue about Cowtown. We certainly have gone through those dialogues, but I thought

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from my perspective that we had a pretty spirited discussion about some of the major decisions we'd have to make, not only about '08, but about the next five years and how they all tie together. And one of those was about what our fund balance policy was and I think we talked a lot about that.

Chris Chronis certainly led us through some discussions about what his thought was and how that affects our bond ratings and many other things we have to do.

Some of the things we're going to be faced with over the next few years are just some of those conversations, and it's not all about '08. Some of it is about '09, '10, '11, '12 and maybe years past that, but I thought we had plenty of discussion about that. Now whether we agreed on how we would reduce it and what the money would look like and what we wanted to give up, that's a whole different issue, but I thought we had pretty good discussion about that along the way. That's all. Now I've got other things later."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. I think Commissioner Welshimer was next."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well just one more comment. When you talk about the new properties on the tax roll, as they move on to the tax roll, they also pick up that valuation increase and so just a little bit off there, but I agree with what you say and I still think that a million dollars wouldn't have been hard to have taken out of this budget, with a mill levy reduction. It was a matter of priorities and it wasn't one."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "I think we're getting pretty close to voting on this issue, so I wanted to say my little piece on this. My vote will reflect not only my study of delivering services, but also opinions and voices of my constituents. I don't think there are any secrets about my stand on essential government services. I'm not going to put any more of that hot air in the room. We have enough warmth in the State of Kansas today with the hot temperatures, so it would just be more hot air I guess if I sit there and tried to repeat some of those things that we've had that dialogue and I want to move on.

I've also been honest and straightforward with those entities of what to expect in 2009. One of the other commissioners touched a little bit on WSU and I've told leadership there what they can expect from me and my views on that also in 2009.

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I think from a national view, we need to plan for a mild recession. I think the events of the last couple of weeks, maybe four weeks at the national level has affected some things that will bring on a mild recession and I believe that will effect our local revenues. So I'm trying to look at this thing in the long run and those red areas in 2009 and 2010 and plan for the future. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you commissioner. So you're comments indicate you're not going to be supportive?"

Commissioner Parks said, "Well, unless I heard something different here in the next few minutes."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, okay. I guess I wanted debate, but we'll wait till later I guess. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "I have some . . . as I look through the supplemental request summary, I've got some things that I'd like to ask about. Mowing, ditches and mowers, we've pretty well decided Dave that you can do that next year within the confines of your budget. Is that correct?"

Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, Public Works, said "Yes, I was just talking to David Miller about it. Budget impact would be zero. We will reallocate resources to do it. The technical question was whether you needed to make a motion to approve these 12 temporary mowers. The manager has already temporarily approved them for a year, so I don't know that it's necessary at this point. It's a technical point, but we will reallocate and get the 12 temporary summer mowers and do that."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay. As you look at the supple . . . No, not the supplemental budget, on page 388 of the budget book under capital improvement, and do we do the capital improvement budget separate from the actual budget, or it is all included when we do the motion?"

Mr. Miller said, "It's all inclusive."

Commissioner Norton said, "All inclusive. There's \$8,000,000 for projects in cash. I assume that's preventive maintenance, selected roads and I would like to have some discussion about in the out years, and if you look on page 389 in 2011 we have put back a million five for the 47th Street corridor improvement. And we now know that the worst bridge in the county is the one that goes over I-135, at 47th Street, and that is just part of about an \$18,000,000 project that will be a state project, because that's a linking highway. I've talked about this in many, many staff meetings and other times but I would like to move that money up to 2008 to have it available. Not only does that bridge need to be fixed for safety reasons. It needs to be fixed for corridor enhancement reasons and it needs to be fixed for economic development reasons. Right now we've got a developer I think that's going to spend multiple million dollars down there if we could get the infrastructure

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fixed, which would be very good for the south side. But knowing that that bridge needs to be replaced, it's one of the worst bridges. I would like to move that forward. If we could find other monies to take care of it that's fine, or have some dialogue about whether it can fit into that 8,000,000 and I'll throw that on the table."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I think David Spears would like to respond."

Mr. Spears said, "I better make a few comments about that, commissioner. Number one, let it be understood that's not a county bridge, that's a state bridge. Number two, the money that's shown in there, that one and a half million, is a matching number for construction, whenever it would be constructed. We would want to partner with the city and the state and all of us contribute to maybe a 20% part of the construction. Now just yesterday, at the WAMPO meeting, state people were there and that very question was asked by Councilman Skelton about 47th Street and there is no money available at this time at the state for construction, so to move that money up, I don't think that's a good idea right now because they're not going to construct it in '08. We're trying to guess at what year they might construct it, and that's our best guess of where we put it in there. Plus, if you try to move that up now, you're going to have to move something else out, some other project."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioner, let me remind the commission when these opportunities have presented themselves, we have always found a way through our contingencies of adjusting budgets to be at the table and take advantage of whatever comes from the state and federal government and David Spears and Chris Chronis have been able to do that for you. And so if that moves up, I assure you that we'll have the funds . . . we'll have our share ready."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I just want to participate. It is an important project. I've gone to several meetings in Topeka. I've been working with Jim Skelton to try to be supportive. We've worked with Deb Miller at the state. I just think that's a very important project and now that we know that it's not only a corridor that needs to be fixed for ingress, egress and its economic development, but now that we know that it's rated as one of the most deficient bridges in our community, I think it rises to the level of us thinking about it more, and you're right, it's not a county project, it's not a county bridge but it is at the epicenter of my district and really effects Commissioner Welshimer's district a lot too and we need to think about what our participation is. So maybe it's not critical that we have it moved up, but I wanted to be sure we had the conversation during a budget time that I want to . . . I'm still committed to participating in that project to make sure it moves along and that it stays in the psyche of this community because it is important. That bridges is dangerous, we know that."

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I'm going to move over onto the CIP cash-funded projects. Years ago, I really started the dialogue on storm water management. I pulled out the old drainage plan that we had that kind of set on the shelf and really pushed us to look at that. But as I look, right now, at the Clifton channel and the channel realignment at 55th and Oliver, I believe there's two projects that are more important and unfortunately I have to advocate for them because they fall in my district. But one of them, with all the groundwater problems we've had on the south side, I think we need to be looking at part of the Bluff drainage portion that's in some out-years, because it affects 103rd Street and all that groundwater flooding that I've had this year. I think that needs to be somehow moved up.

And then there's a drainage project for South Haysville where all their growth is I think is important, so I'd like to have some conversation about shifting our priorities on the Clifton channel and the 55th and Oliver realignment and encumber that money for those other two projects and do the Clifton channel and the 55th and Oliver maybe in other years. I just don't think that they're as critical at this point in time as some other projects and I've studied that storm water management plan probably more than anybody, so I'd like to have some discussion about that."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, I just have a question. On this particular improvement, Mr. Spears, I mean is that going to wreck any of our plans, I mean what the commissioner is suggesting here? I mean, I'd like your comment on it I guess."

Mr. Spears said, "You know, those projects are all . . . go through the CIP Committee. We've had several meetings and talked about them. That was how it was . . . I just should say that was how it was prioritized by the committee, okay, not to say whether that was right or wrong, but that's how the committee prioritized it and that's how it's in the CIP so I would . . . if you want to change it, I think it's a commission decision to move it around if that's what you want to do. I think you need to look at and make sure it's dollar for dollar. If it doesn't match exactly, it will affect something and I don't know what the exact match is in dollars, but I think it's more or less at this point then a commission decision, because the CIP Committee has ranked it in that manner."

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

Mr. Spears said, "I might mention, those projects, see those don't come out of sales tax. Those compete with also the improvements made up at the courthouse and those types of improvements, so they're sort of in a different category than our roads and bridges."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "Something that Commissioner Norton said about the mowing, I'd like to direct this to David Spears. This won't affect the cold mix projects that you have in the CIP will it?"

Mr. Spears said, "No sir."

Commissioner Parks said, "Timeliness or anything like that?"

Mr. Spears said, "No, no it won't."

Commissioner Parks said, "Thank you."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Commissioner Norton, the projects you're talking about, are they listed on page 283 . . . 382 or . . .?"

Commissioner Norton said, "The 103rd is kind of a hybrid of . . . let's see is Bluff on . . . it's probably on a CIP page."

Mr. Miller said, "Commissioner, if you look at that table on page 382, to the left is a page number column. And what you want to look for is 446 for that project."

Chairman Unruh said, "446, David?"

Mr. Miller said, "On page 382."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. So it's planned for 2011 at \$190,000. Is that correct?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, the actual big project is 2012. I think the 190 is the design one, a million six is the project. Now to fix the groundwater down there we don't have to do the whole project right away. We can do the 103rd Street hybrid that we've been talking about, but I can tell you there's got to be some relief down in that area and I'm just advocating for a situation that it needs to be fixed pretty quick. It can't just be languishing out in the out years, where I think some of these others that just came out of the basin study could be moved around, put in subsequent years. But once again, I'll . . . I'm just raising it for a discussion to let people know how I feel about these two projects, they're pretty important."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well I have attended a couple of meetings with you, on the other project you mentioned too, the one southwest of Haysville and have listened to the discussions about that and again think that that's one of those places where if Haysville is going to continue to grow, it looks to me like that's the only place. Now do we have that on this capital improvement program yet, or is that still . . . that hybrid that you had talked about."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well that one is continuing to kind of languish out there and I think it's another one of those we can't wait for out-years. We need to have some discussion because it's a priority. I mean, it is critically important to that area. Within a year, we're going to shut down the growth on the west side of Haysville without some look at that."

Chairman Unruh said, "Is it possible that . . . I mean, the projects that you've identified are about, in cash-wise, an even trade, approximately. Is that correct?"

Commissioner Norton said, "I think that amount of money would probably do both projects, or pretty close."

Chairman Unruh said, "So if the commission wanted to do that, is that something we have to decide this day? I mean, if the numbers are the same, so that Commissioner Norton . . . I mean, our finance and public works and the CIP people, we can all get together and do this right. I mean, I'm not trying to do just a delay tactic or anything. I just want to do it in order if we don't have to do that this morning."

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Department, said, "What you will be adopting today is a capital improvement program that is in this budget. That will merely serve to earmark funds for specific projects, but you're familiar enough with the process to know that we frequently come to you with amendments to the CIP as the year progresses, as projects become more important or less important, as project cost estimates change. So it's entirely possible for you to adopt the CIP that's before you today, and then subsequently shift money around to delay some projects and expedite others, as long as we stay within the aggregate amount of money that is in the CIP for 2008, you have considerable flexibility to do adjustments down the road."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, and the way I read this, that aggregate amount of money is . . . the projects we're talking about are pretty much equal. Is that correct?"

Mr. Chronis said, "Well on those individual projects, for 2008 I don't know that is it about equal, but in the total CIP there is certainly sufficient money to do that."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. Well commissioner, I don’t want to stop the discussion. I think you make a strong persuasive argument and I’m inclined to be very supportive. I don’t know if we want to just do that today. If you’d prefer to, we can go ahead and push on with this.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I think . . . I’ll yield to what the commission wants to do. I just want to be sure that it’s in people’s brains that I’ve got two projects here that are way out that need to be done posthaste. They just cannot . . . they cannot wait, and if anybody studied ground water and storm water and that basin study, it has been I because I studied that thing when I was mayor of Haysville. I’ve been very attached to drainage and all those problems the whole time I’ve been a commissioner and I believe that these are two major projects that stand above any others that we’ve designed or looked at. Most of the others we’ve done came out of the basin study and they were just things that we’ll plod along and get done over the years. These others are almost like emergency kinds of things that if you don’t do them pretty soon, you don’t need to do them ever.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well, I think the argument is good and I know the need is there and I’m willing to be supportive if we want to go through the appropriate process to bring this before us.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I think I’ve made my point and if the money could be available later, and earmarked, and we can make some inroads into moving some projects around, I’m okay with that.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. We have more comment however. Commissioner Winters I think was next.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well I’ll certainly follow your lead and if you think it’d be best to plant the seed today and do some real work with Public Works and Finance before the end of the year, I’ll be very supportive of that. I don’t . . . I know that over the course of time, you have talked to me a lot about these two projects and I probably understand these two projects even though they’re not in my district, probably understand them more than any other outside my district, so I would certainly support your desire to pull these out and let’s have some serious discussions about moving them up.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Commissioner Parks.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Part of this basin study includes northwest Sedgwick County that we’ve had some flooding problems in that area, even though that’s not Eagle and the other townships up in that area are in Commissioner Winters district, we need to remember that there are some other flooding issues that some private people have taken on a lot of responsibility for in the

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past also. I didn't anticipate that that would be in there. But on the other issue, on the bridge, I think that when they start calling you about the bridge, I would actually like to know what rating that is also. I haven't heard what their . . . if that's a critical structure to be replaced or not, but the event that I look at there is that we're looking at the peripheral areas on each side of the bridge to improve that, but that is a state project and when your constituents call you, I'd give them the governor's phone number or something to call the state to see where . . . or whatever appropriate agency, Department of Transportation."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Well commissioners, are there any other comments on the budget that we have presented before us and with all the modifications that we . . . and motions that we've made leading into it? Mr. Manager."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commission, in this . . . I wanted to clarify some confusion about housing fees. Housing fees, you in July passed a resolution imposing housing fees on municipalities. We have included that 3,000,000 number within the 2008 budget. In our financial plan, we have concluded that we may collect less than that because of some things we've heard in the paper and by some of the responses we've heard from councils and mayors and managers. But I need to make sure that we all understand that we budgeted \$3,000,000, we need the \$3,000,000 and if we don't receive that, we'll have to use contingencies or other funds to make up the difference. But I wanted to make sure that we all understood that in the 2008 budget those housing fees are in the recommended budget."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Well we're going ahead with that, so we should have it included in our budget. Well, I don't see any other requests to speak or ask a question."

MOTION

Chairman Unruh moved to adopt the Recommended Resolution for the 2008 Sedgwick County Budget that includes an Operating Budget of \$371,433,581, and the 2008 to 2012 Capital Improvement Program of \$195,486,589, which includes \$40,986,441 in capital expenditures for 2008, the total operating budget includes a certified legal budget of \$225,012,317 and is partially funded with a property tax levy of \$125,839,525, which is approximately equivalent to 31.315 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments.

Commissioner Winters 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 Parks	No
Commissioner Welshimer	No
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “So the 2008 budget passes and with a vote of 3 to 2 and at this time I will recess the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.”

C. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING.

The County Commission recessed into the Fire District #1 meeting at 11:05 a.m. and returned from recess at 11:10 a.m.

Chairman Unruh said, “I’ll call back to order the Regular . . .”

Commissioner Winters said, “Let’s take a break.”

Chairman Unruh said, “We have . . . we can take a five minutes break, so we will be in recess for five minutes.”

The County Commission recessed at 11:10 a.m. and returned from recess at 11:18 a.m.

Chairman Unruh said, “I will call the meeting back to order. So we will continue with the agenda, however I did want to make a comment at the end of our budget process, and I’m sorry that our CFO Chris Chronis and our Budget Director David Miller is not here but to the Manager and Mr. Chronis and Mr. Miller, I want to thank you all for a lot of hard work in putting this together and perhaps it was a little more tedious this year, in light of the fact that we started our discussions earlier in the year, but I think it helped make the commissioners more informed on what the budget was about, the process was good and I’m satisfied that we will continue on the work of Sedgwick County government in an appropriate manner to provide quality services in the most efficient way that governments can provide services. So anyway, Mr. Manager, thank you and if you’d thank your staff, we appreciate their effort.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “We will do so. Thank you very much.”

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

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NEW BUSINESS (continued)

D. PROPOSAL FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK MASTER PLANNING AND AUTHORIZATION FOR INTRA-FUND TRANSFER OF BUDGET AUTHORITY.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Today we’re requesting approval of a proposal and funds to update the master plan for Sedgwick County Park. A staff committee worked with the county’s on-call architectural firm, which is Wilson, Darnell and Mann and developed a scope of services to accomplish a master plan. The cost of the project is \$29,500.

Now I’d like to clarify what we’re talking about when we talk about a master plan. For Sedgwick County Park it’s a plan to be used as a guide for future development. It would identify areas of passive and active recreation, improve vehicle and pedestrian circulation, consider aesthetic qualities and identify and locate needed services, infrastructure and parking.

Sedgwick County contains over 460 multi-use acres in an area west of the zoo boundary to Ridge Road, bounded on the south by 13th Street and on the north by 21st Street. The original master plan was written in 1979, when there was a horse arena, polo fields and a zoo sewage lagoon on that site.

The master plan was then updated in 1988, and that’s the guideline we’ve been using for the last 20 years. The area has changed in 20 years and the park itself has changed to meet the needs of the recreational user.

What I’d like to do is kind of take you on a tour of Sedgwick County Park. I . . . trying to figure out the best way to demonstrate what’s there now and what the needs are and the comprehensiveness of the park, I thought a visual tour through the park might be the easiest way to do it. I talked with Tony Guiliano, who is our communications and photography expert. He had a few file photos, but last Wednesday morning I went out, my expert self, and took some pictures and you will definitely be able to tell the difference between the professional photos and the ones that I did.

So, moving forward here, okay Sedgwick County Park, let me describe . . .”

Chairman Unruh said, “This is not one of your photos, is it Irene?”

Ms. Hart said, “No, this is from our GIS Department. The northern boundary is 21st Street, along the west side is Ridge Road, and it stretches for a mile down to 13th Street. The eastern boundary of the park is the western boundary of the zoo. The park is generally in two not quite halves, divided by a slough or a stream or a creek, rivulet, woodland area on the western third of it. The east part is more of a traditional park setting and the west side has some more specialized types of services and

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facilities. My tour will start on the northeast corner, go west on 21st Street, skipping the slough, we'll come back to the entrance of the park, go through the park, coming out the south exit and then go west on 13th and up Ridge Road, so prepare for a circuit of the park here.

On the northeast corner of the park, you can see they've constructed a wall that visually separates traffic from the bicycle path that goes around the perimeter of the park. As I took these pictures last Wednesday morning, I must say I was really impressed by the diversity of activities that are in that park, by how clean it was, and how heavily it was used at 8:30 in the morning. Boundary wall continues on. You can see, just in the distance you'll be able to see the first of several fishing lakes in the park. Going west, past the park entrance, this is one of my pictures you can tell, that sign really says 'Sedgwick County Extension Arboretum' and off of 21st Street it's one entrance into a nature trail that's been developed by the master gardeners at Extension.

Going west of 21st Street, you'll see . . . going west on 21st Street the bicycle path continues and then you'll see the north side of the Extension building. This is where the farmer's market is every Saturday, where there's all kinds of vendors, pedestrians, traffic. The 1988 plan did not include an extension building. We've got a master plan that the corner of 21st and Ridge Road is vacant, so that's one of the major changes that has occurred since that plan was last updated.

In the southeast corner of the Extension parking lot is the entrance to the nature trail. It's got all kinds of trees and bushes and shrubs and they're labeled and it's a nature setting and it follows the slough, and appears again up on 21st Street.

As you go in the park entrance, you run into the first of several fishing lakes. You'll notice the sign that says 'Keep the Cars Off the Grass'. There's some paved parking in the area. All the grass is naturally irrigated, and if it don't rain it don't get irrigated. There's one park around one of the shelters that does have a sprinkler system but the grass is pretty natural.

Parking, like I said, there's some limited paved parking, but other parking occurs on the dirt shoulders of the road. Just as an example of should there be increased capacity to handle the cars, is this causing erosion, is it causing silting into the fishing lake, so there's some questions that we have about that.

You'll notice, this is obviously a different season and a much better picture. It's one of Tony's pictures of people actively using the lakes. These are fishing lakes. Swimming and motorized kinds of recreational activity are not allowed in there. We've got another . . . this was such a great picture, and the blue was so pretty, I wanted to include that one and we even have some successful fisher-folk out there.

Now one of the unique aspects of Sedgwick County Park is the partnerships that the county is

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involved in. We were approached by the West Side Rotary to install a Boundless Playscape in the park for children of all abilities. This is about a \$2,000,000 project that comes to us fully sponsored by the Rotary. They're doing fundraising. They've done the design work. Here's a . . . it's a small picture, and this is not one of mine of course, but it's a picture of the master plan for that Boundless Playground, located in Sedgwick County Park. On the ground, this is where that would occur, an approximate location, but what we don't have is a master plan that tells us what the traffic circulation would be, where the parking should be, are the restrooms adequate, how can we best configure this particular part of the park to support the visitors that we intend to have there. This Boundless Playground opportunity arose well after the 1988 update to the master plan.

We also have active recreation with some fine, quality tennis courts through the park. We have playground equipment. That's obviously one of my pictures, where there is a runner emerging from that shadow. The bike paths are heavily used by runners, by people out strolling, by skaters, by dog walkers. This is an active park and it was active at 8:30 last Wednesday morning. It was so active that there were places where people aren't even there, but you know they're out there somewhere. Obviously, a school group or someone has left their bottles there and they're out running or biking or doing something somewhere out there, and I think that finger on the side of the picture is mine.

It's also a place where people can quietly enjoy the morning, read the morning newspaper. It's also home to some other really noisy groups, as this group of geese that . . . I didn't want to get in there. They were pretty noisy and rowdy.

Exiting south, onto 13th Street and going west, you see there's maintenance occurring here at the West Urban Baseball Parks. The county has a partnership with three organizations and it totals about 60 acres, and the organizations run their programs, they maintain the facilities. It continues to be county-owned facilities, but they're operated and fundraised by the sponsors. This is the West Urban Baseball group. We've had an arrangement with them since 1980. The facilities there are excellent, they're well kept and over time, since 1980, the facilities have grown and expanded. They are included in the 1988 update, but not the growth and expansion that's occurred since then.

Here's one example, around the ballparks, of circulation issues that, as you can see the gravel road moves back and forth. It's empty now but you can image what it's like when people are bringing their children to come and play, when games are switching, when there's traffic and there's ballplayers moving back and forth across that area. Here's another view of the West Urban facilities. As you can see, it's just a facility to be proud of.

Moving forward, moving up north on Ridge Road, we run into soccer fields, the AYSO Region 208 has several soccer fields in that area and then further north on Ridge Road, the Two Rivers Youth Club has quite a softball complex. So there's quite a lot of intensive activity going on in the southwest corner of the park at 21st and 13th Street.

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Further north of the softball field, the master plan says that this area that you see right here is a recreation and tennis complex, so you can tell that's probably one area that differs from what the master plan had envisioned. This is another approximately 60 acres. As you go north on Ridge Road, you continue on the bike path and then finally you come to the Extension Center. We have thousands of people each year who attend activities at the Extension Center and once again, it wasn't included in the master plan.

So that's the end of your visual tour, unless there's any of those that you'd like to see again, the geese or any of those others. Those are examples of everyday activities that go on in the park. What I wasn't able to show by taking pictures on a Wednesday morning are the special activities and the event usage and I'll give you two examples. In 2006, there was an event called Woofstock. It involved lots of people and dogs and fundraisers and event activities. Eight thousand people attended Woofstock in 2006 and they expect that to grow for this year. Another example is the Renaissance Festival that's held twice a year draws 5,000 people to each one of those events. Cars park where they can park, they park on the grass. There's just quite a lot of activity, with pedestrians, car parking and the event activities, etcetera.

What we have requests pending right now for other special events at the park, but we don't know when is an event too big to hold in that park? What is the current capacity of cars and of traffic and bathrooms and concessions, and just general foot traffic? What are those problems? Could they be remedied if we had different kinds of facilities, if there was a difference in design that might make vehicles and pedestrians safer? So those are the kinds of questions that we don't have answered, but we need to have answered because the public demand for use of this park continues to increase.

So why are we coming to you now out of the budget cycle and asking for funding and approval to update the master plan? Well there's three major reasons. One, we have that increasing number of community requests to have special events in the park and we have increasing opportunities for special sponsored projects, such as the boundless playground and a public art proposal that you'd had earlier this year.

Secondly, in the next five years in the capital improvement plan that you all just approved we're planning to install over 1.5 million dollars in capital improvements with parking improvements, restroom replacements and sewer lines. In addition, we've identified another more than \$5,000,000 worth of parking, sewer and additional restroom needs, primarily on the southwest portion of the park.

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And thirdly, the current master plan has served as a guidebook for development but it's 20 years old and it's reached the end of its useful life. It can't give us the answers that we need to insure that we're making the most affective investments and have the most effective policies for the health of the park and its visitors.

Well, in determining that we needed a master plan, we looked at our internal resources and Sedgwick County has staff who are experts in their field. We can build buildings and we can manage parks, but we don't have the on-staff professional expertise and experience to develop a master plan, so we worked with our on-call architectural firm to develop a scope of services and identified the cost and those are presented for you today.

You know a good example of the difference between people who kind of know what they're doing and people who really know what they're doing, I think we can evidence that by those pictures I just took. Obviously, I'm not Tony who takes professional pictures. I made a stab at it, at least I can delete those pictures and go back and take some better ones. We're not professional landscape architects. We're not experienced in developing master plans. We can make a good stab at it, but if we make a mistake, we've already built a restroom or a sewer line or paved a parking lot and it may be a couple or three, five, ten years before we really understand the magnitude of the mistake that we did and we can't just delete it and go back and change it.

What would we receive for our investment in this master plan? We'd have an evaluation of and mapping of existing facilities. We'd have vehicle and pedestrian circulation analysis and recommendations to improve those. We'd have parking capacity identified and location or any new facilities, that would be recommended. We'd have a handbook that would guide the order and the nature of the improvement. We'd have an implementation plan on how to go about the improvements that at least are the ones that we've identified already.

We'd also have guidelines for evaluating requests to hold special events and sponsored projects. Once approved, we'd have the results of this master plan in about three months. In the audience today, since I'm obviously not the expert on either facilities or park management, Mark Scroufe, Stephanie Knebel, Ron Holt are all here to help answer questions that you might have. The funding for this project would come from the operating reserves in the general fund and would be happy to try to answer any questions you might have."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Irene. Good description of the challenge and I think it's appropriate that we do this. Not only is the property we have out there very valuable and should be developed appropriately, but it's valuable to all those people who use it, so we need to make sure that it's meeting the needs of citizens in the best possible way as we go forward. I know that on the west side of the park, where all those athletic fields are, there is a parking problem over there, because I've been there with my grandkids. The time the games change, it's a real challenge to get

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in and out and not have somebody get mad at you, so you know, that will be part of the study I assume is how to develop parking and getting in and out of the athletic fields.”

Ms. Hart said, “Yes sir, I think the safety of the athletes is important too. You know how kids are when they’re through with a game or getting ready for a game, they don’t watch where the cars are coming and going and I think a good recommendation on improving that circulation would be very helpful.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well I think all the rationale makes sense and I think it’s something we should do, to provide this opportunity for our citizens. And at the beginning of your remarks, you talked about passive recreation. Just to make sure we have plenty of passive recreation for guys like me.”

Ms. Hart said, “We need to leave open spaces. Sometimes, you think about ‘Well, what can we put in this space’, but the open space itself has the value and we need to organize that in a manner that we can protect that and still respond to the opportunities that arise.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, very good, thank you. We have a comment from Commissioner Norton I believe is first.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I think part of this should be a gap analysis on what is missing in our community in total, and that might fit into that space. Obviously, we want to keep some of that space unencumbered because it is green space, but we need a gap analysis to understand the greater community and what amenities that other communities have that maybe we’re missing and could fit into that area. We obviously have soccer and baseball out there, but there may be other things like a cricket field that is emerging, because we have an international population in our community. There may be other things that we aren’t even thinking about that we need to put in, as a gap analysis for our overall community. And if it doesn’t end up fitting there, where else can it fit. I mean, there may be other logical places in our county that that could fit, on property we own or property that we’re working on.”

Ms. Hart said, “This opportunity comes at a good time. The City of Wichita is doing a park, recreation, and open space plan that talks about the greater community and what’s going on, identifying gaps and needs. It’s also hooked up with a Visioneering project in making that a regional effort, so this will fit in nicely into a regional effort that would hopefully avoid duplication and maximize all our resources.”

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

Commissioner Parks said, “We didn’t have any staff that could do this study or proposal?”

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Ms. Hart said, “We don’t have any staff with expertise in master planning and organizing space. That’s a specialized kind of need. We can implement it, we can manage it but when it comes to the design, we just don’t have that expertise. I figured the cost of the project, if you look at the 29,000 compared to the 1.5 million that’s already in the budget, that’s about 2% of the cost of the planned improvements and it comes to less than one-half of one percent of those that we have forecasted. So in my opinion I think it’s a good investment, to make sure that when we do it, we do it right.”

Commissioner Parks said, “And an RFP wasn’t considered because of the cost of the study being around \$30,000.”

Ms. Hart said, “Two years ago, we had RFPs and went through the whole bid process for on-call architects, so we went through that and that’s what we . . . one of the things we use the on-call architect to do.”

Commissioner Parks said, “And this company has other projects of like that they’ve done and . . .”

Ms. Hart said, “I believe they do. Stephanie Knebel can probably answer that much better than I can.”

Commissioner Winters said, “They developed a master plan for the zoo.”

Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Director, Facility Projects, greeted the commissioners and said, “You’re exactly right.”

Commissioner Winters said, “They’re the folks who developed the master plan for our Sedgwick County Zoo, which is right next door.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Very well.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Is that all commissioner? Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you. Well I’m going to be supportive of this. I want to compliment Mark Scroufe and his crew for really doing an excellent job, particularly interacting with the public. But one of the reasons that I support this is because of Mark and to help Mark. And that’s because Mark is a very accommodating county employee and if somebody brings a good idea to Mark, Mark tries to figure out how to do it and if somebody’s got a good idea about ‘can we

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put this there' or 'can we put that there' Mark will look around the park and say 'Sure, put it right over there'. And he's called me several times and said 'You know, what do you think about this' and I said, 'sure that sounds fine'.

But I think at the end of the day, or the end of 25 years, maybe we don't have any more open space or maybe we have something someplace where we really didn't think about it being in the proper place. So I really think this will just let Mark manage the facility in a lot better manner and he could know some places where, after the commissioners look at, they say 'no, we're not touching this area', we're just going to keep it as open as possible, or you know, we are going to have some really high intensity, high activity events happening here, so I think it's a good idea and a good plan."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you commissioner. I don't see anyone else asking to speak. We're ready for a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to accept the Proposal and authorize intra-fund of budget authority.

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE

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E. COMCARE.

1. AGREEMENT WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES INC. FOR DIRECT BILLING TO MEDICAID FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH A SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is a renewal of an agreement that we have with Catholic Charities to provide psychosocial rehabilitation groups and services to adults with serious and persistent mental illnesses. Catholic Charities provides the services and they bill through COMCARE. COMCARE provides payment to Catholic Charities and we receive the revenue from Kansas Health Solutions, which is the new Medicaid payer in Kansas. The contract spells out all the services and the reporting conditions and we’re recommending that you approve the agreement.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. We have a question from Commissioner Parks.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Is there any other . . . kind of give me a history on Catholic Charities. How long have we been doing this?”

Ms. Cook said, “I don’t know how many years, but a long time. This particular contract is for a group of somewhere between 27 and 29 adults and that just varies from year to year, whose mental illness impairs them to the point that they can’t function without structure all day long, so this is . . . Catholic Charities is really the only organization in town that provides that day long place for them to be and then many of them go home to group homes at night.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Any other comments, commissioners? What’s the will of the board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Welshimer 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 Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item."

2. CONTRACT WITH UNITED METHODIST YOUTHVILLE FOR GROUP PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION, SHORT-TERM RESPITE CARE AND PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE FAMILY CARE FOR YOUTH.

Ms. Cook said, "This is a renewal of a contract that we have with UMY to provide the services that were just mentioned, group psychosocial services, short term respite and a new service that is now being offered through Kansas Health Solutions called Professional Resource Family, which is family care for youth that are in a state of crisis that need to be removed from their home for a little while, with work toward getting them back there once the crisis resolves."

The contract spells out the service definitions and the expectations that we have of UMY and all the services that they provide require prior authorization by COMCARE. We are recommending that you approve this contract as well."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

Commissioner Welshimer left the meeting room at 11:46 a.m.

3. CONTRACT WITH URBAN LEAGUE OF KANSAS, INC. TO PROVIDE GROUP AND INDEPENDENT PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION AND ATTENDANT CARE SERVICES.

Ms. Cook said, "Like the previous two items, this is a renewal of a contract that we've had with the Urban League. The contract allows them to provide . . . allows us to pay them for services they provide for group and individual psychosocial services and attendant care for youth. Once again, any service they provide need to have prior authorization by COMCARE. The contract also spells out the service definitions and requirements we have of the Urban League. We are recommending that you approve this contract as well. Last year they served around 30 children under the contract."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Absent
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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

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Commissioner Welshimer returned to the meeting room at 11:48 a.m.

F. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 9, 2007.

Mr. Joseph Thomas, Senior Purchasing Agent, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of August 9th results in one item for consideration.

**1) SYSTEMS FURNITURE FOR CHADSWORTH TAG OFFICE- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
FUNDING: CHADSWORTH CENTER TAG OFFICE**

The item is systems furniture for Chadsworth Tag Office, Facilities Department. Recommendation is to accept the quote from John A. Marshall for \$33,781.64.

I'll be happy to answer questions and recommend approval on this item."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "The only comment I would make is that this is purchased off of the state contract. Is that correct?"

Mr. Thomas said, "Yes sir, it is."

Commissioner Winters said, "And just as a side note, one of the things Kansas Association of Counties is trying to promote among all counties is the use of that state contract. I know we do use it in several instances in several places, but a number of counties don't, so this is just one place where we are taking advantage of that state contract."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, and we take advance where it's beneficial to us and other times perhaps it's not and we get our own bids on different items. Is that correct?"

Mr. Thomas said, "Yes sir."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "This coalition of course, our local vendors are a part of that process, correct? And how is that communicated to them? I guess I just want to know how that's

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communicated to them to know that they can do that and maybe even they can make some sales around the state.”

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The State of Kansas has a vendor list and when vendor’s apply on the Purchasing website, we share opportunities with the city, opportunities with the State of Kansas and there is a networking of sharing that information with those vendors. That’s part of our job is to educate vendors of opportunities that are out there. And John Marshall has several distributors throughout the state supplying this product.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, any other questions commissioners? What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you Joe. Next item.”

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CONSENT AGENDA

G. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Plat.

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2006 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Martin Estates Second Edition

- 2. Office Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant Application titled "OJJDP FY 2007 Building ICAC Forensic Capacity."**
- 3. Schedule public hearings (2) for August 29, 2007.**
- 4. Schedule post annexation public hearing for October 24, 2007.**
- 5. Payroll check register of July 27, 2007.**
- 6. Order dated August 8, 2007 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 7. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of August 8 – August 14, 2007.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it and remind you that there's only 138 more days till the sales tax stops."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, "And Commissioner Winters, you have a comment?"

Commissioner Winters said, "I have a question on item 3 and I'm sorry I didn't ask this before the meeting, but it's to schedule two public hearings. Can someone tell me what those are?"

Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "One of them is for

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the consolidation of the two drainage districts up in Mount Hope, one of them is with Eagle Drainage District and the other is to add an individual property into the drainage district as combined.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, thank you. I know I’ve mentioned to Bob Parnacott but would it be possible to publish that in the Mount Hope Clarion or a paper that’s right there in that particular neighborhood and I don’t know that it needs to be official notice but some kind of notice?”

Mr. Euson said, “I believe there’s been some discussion with the county clerk about that and we’ll make sure that that gets to him.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you very much.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioner Parks.”

Commissioner Parks said, “I know some of those people in that area also get the Ark Valley News, so some kind of display ad in there would be good too. Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Any more discussion on the consent agenda? Madam Clerk, call the vote.”

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “We’ve come to the end of our agenda, commissioners, so now is the time to speak on other issues of interest. Is there anyone that would like to make a comment? Commissioner Norton.”

H. OTHER

Commissioner Norton said, “Well I did want to let the commissioners know that the parking work group did not meet on Monday, but I think we let everybody know that, that we wouldn’t do that

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this Monday because of the vote canvas. But I did get around and get the map to all commissioners that we had committed to. Hopefully, if you've got questions about the legend or how that map works or what it communicates to you you'll let me know. I assume that Commissioner Winters and our group will . . . and I will meet next Monday. It's on the calendar and hopefully I'll report again next week. I have done some pretty extensive work on trying to take the Walker study and map it to the big map and figure out the correlation of what their recommendations are with what the map looks like, as far as the map that we've created, because that's a county-created map and it didn't have to do with the Walker study but I'm trying to make a correlation there and I'll report on that next week.

Just a reminder that Codex Atlanticus, the interactive drawings of Leonardo DaVinci is still at Exploration Place through August 26th. It's a great way to get out of the heat and to understand one of the geniuses of our world.

I wanted to let everyone know that I met with the Merit Task Force, which is the medical information task force that talks about KU Med and how we can continue the residency programs that are very important to the community, not only in training doctors for this part of the state, but also creating a system of residents that work in our safety net clinics and provide services to our community. That's an ongoing taskforce that will have some legislative agenda, pretty important to our community as we try to make sure there are educational values at every level and I'm working kind of as the government representative for that taskforce.

We've also met recently, the steering committee on health access. After the summit, we committed to put together work groups. We are now ready to put together the three workgroups and that will be an ongoing work on trying to understand how we get health access in a medical home to the 50,000 uninsured in our community. It's interesting that there's a national policy debate coming up in November that will be the National Institute of Health Policy institution in Washington and they're going to be talking about issues that we're talking about here and I hope to get some feedback from that particular thing.

And then finally, this afternoon I'm having a meeting on the groundwater problems on the south side of the county. I wanted to let constituents know that we're still working on that. We will soon have a town hall meeting that will bring staff and experts and the constituents back together that have been experiencing these problems. There's well over 150 homes and residents on the south

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side that are dealing with this issue and I'm dedicated at some point to try to come up with some kind of workable solution, so I did want to communicate that. That's all I have."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, commissioners. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "I'd like to thank Commissioner Winters and Norton for serving on that committee just briefly. I think that's good work that you're doing there and I am seeing some positive things coming out of that. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just to remind folks that there's no board of county commission meeting next Wednesday, August the 22nd. That's correct, right?"

Chairman Unruh said, "That is correct. Thank you."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, we won't be here."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Is there any other 'Other'?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I don't have anything."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well I think you do. I think you should tell us where you're going and what you're going to do, because I think that's interesting."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well, it's not next week. I'm the following week."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well okay, it's coming up but you won't be back. If we don't have a meeting next week and you're gone the next week, you won't have a chance to tell us about it."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Oh, that's right I won't."

Chairman Unruh said, "There's a week in between there but you can sure go ahead and tell us both times."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I'm going to Bangkok and Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where my son, who is an executive with Western Digital Corporation there, is going to be knighted by the five sultans and sultan king of Malaysia. I'm looking forward to that."

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Commissioner Norton said, "You're looking forward to the plane ride?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "No. It will be 36 hours from door to door, 11 hours over the ocean."

Commissioner Norton said, "You must really love that son to do that, I can tell you."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well, I do."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, give our congratulations to him, that's quite an honor and does any of that accrue to you? I mean, do we have to curtsy to you or anything?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Yes, I think you will."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay."

Commissioner Norton said, "I don't mind bowing, but I ain't curtseying."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well I think this is a real good time to adjourn, so we shall."

I. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

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

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

KELLY PARKS, Commissioner

Regular Meeting, August 15, 2007

Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner,
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2007