

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 10, 1996

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, January 10, 1996, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Mark F. Schroeder; with the following present: Chairman Pro Tem Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Paul W. Hancock; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Stephen Plummer, County Counselor; Ms. Becky Allen Bouska, Director, Finance Department; Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Bureau of Comprehensive Community Care; Mr. Sherdeill Breathett, Director, Animal Control; Ms. Louanna Honeycutt Burress, Administrative Officer, Department of Housing and Economic Development; Mr. Kenneth W. Arnold, Director, Capital Projects Department; Mr. David C. Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Services; Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department; Mr. Fred Ervin, Director, Public Relations Department; and Ms. Susan E. Crockett-Spoon, County Clerk.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mr. Renè Minshew of the First Presbyterian Church of Wichita.

Chairman Schroeder added, "I might also ask you that we remember Kevin Easter in our prayers today in this Invocation."

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CERTIFICATION AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Mr. Daryl Gardner, Controller, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I certify that there are funds available for those items that have been identified as requiring the expenditure of funds. A listing of those items has been provided to you previously.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Daryl. Before I go onto the next item, I want to extend, to Kevin Easter’s family, friends, fellow deputies and to the Sheriff’s Department and Mike Hill, a sincere and deep sympathy to them for their loss of Kevin Easter a couple of nights ago. I think most of you know that Kevin was killed in the line of duty. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to the community, which he loved and one which loved him and he will be deeply missed. We want to send our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

“Next item please.”

NEW BUSINESS

A. BUREAU OF COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CARE.

- 1. CONTRACT WITH MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO SEVERELY AND PERSISTENTLY MENTALLY ILL CONSUMERS.**

Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Director, Community Support Programs, Bureau of Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The first contract is actually the compeer contract, which is an annual contract to fund the matching of volunteers to individuals with serious mental illness. This years goal is 145 matches in the community. Any questions?”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you. Questions or comments? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Miller second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

- 2. CONTRACT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES, COMMISSION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION SERVICES (SRS/MH & RS) TO SET FORTH THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY ORGANIZATION AND SRS/MH & RS.**

Mr. Bomhoff continued, "Commissioners, in addition to the important function of funding all of our affiliate agencies with County mills, State aide and State grants, this particular contract is really historic in many ways. It places the Comprehensive Community Care Bureau in a position of being the Community Developmental Disability Organization. We will be the single, and now functioning, as the single point of entry for everyone with developmental disabilities into the system. We will be screening those individuals who go into state hospital placements, intermediate care facility placements.

"In addition, this particular contract eliminates the waiting list, which you hear about so often for the next six month period, with all agencies agreeing, through

refinancing, to serve all adults in need and eligible for services.

“We also have a new role and an important function as Quality Assurance Providers to assure the services and set in place the mechanisms that those services are of high quality for the citizens for Sedgwick County. This also centralizes all information as to eligibility, demographics and service plans of all clients with developmental disabilities in this county.

“So you can see the significance of this movement first set in place by the Developmental Disability Reform Act and now taking place and operational through this contract. I’d be happy to entertain any questions that you may have.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you Kevin. Questions on this item? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Gwin second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thanks, Kevin. Before we go to the next item, I’ve been derelict in my duty, the Manager asked me today to give him a moment to introduce a new director here in Sedgwick County. I’ll let him make that

introduction.”

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “It’s my pleasure and this is one of the fun things to do is to introduce someone who is going to join our organization and that’s Sherdeill Breathett. Sherideill is going to be the Director of Animal Control functions of the county. Sherideill has worked in this community and worked with us and he is certainly a bright and shining star of this community and we’re just delighted that he is part of the organization and have great plans for him, not only where he is currently, but some other things that we have been working on together. So Sherideill is going to be a very important part of this organization. Sherideill?”

Mr. Sherideill Breathett, Director, Animal Control, greeted the Commissioners and said, “First, I want to say thank you for the opportunity at this position and thank you to the County Manager for those kind words. I started to look around me to see who he was talking about. However, I’m glad to be a part of this organization and I believe that I have a lot that I can contribute to it. I think it’s a fine establishment and I think we’re heading in the right direction and we truly live up to the motto to be the very best that we can be. I’d just like to say thank you once again.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Welcome aboard.”

Audience applauded.

OFF-AGENDA:

Chairman Schroeder said, “Commissioners, with that I would move that we take an off-agenda item related to this appointment.”

Commissioner Gwin asked, “Is that a motion?”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Yes.”

MOTION

Chairman Schroeder moved to take up an off-agenda.

Commissioner Gwin second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Schroeder said, “Mary Ann or, I’m sorry Irene. I never know who’s doing what, sorry.”

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Bureau of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Often times, when we go out looking for people to fill functions in the County, we often start looking at an entry level for people who can accomplish the job. Sometimes we get applications from people who are bright, talented, capable and experienced and we need to bring those people in at a little higher salary than a basic entry level. So, I’m asking for your permission today to hire an Animal Control Director at range 20, step 7. I would be happy to answer any question you might have.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Irene. Discussion on this item?”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Mr. Chairman, just a...Irene, I’m going to support your request because of the capabilities and experience of Mr. Breathett and further, because of, and as Mr. Buchanan said, not only what he can do for this department, but what he can do for the entire organization and I will certainly

support your request.”

Ms. Hart added, “I would add that this does not exceed the budgeted amount in the ‘96 budget.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Schroeder asked, “Thank you. Other questions or comments? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commisisoner Gwin moved to approve the appointment of an Animal Control Director at Range 20, Step 7.

Commissioner Hancock second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Irene. Next item please.”

B. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPLEMENTING OF A QUALIFIED MORTGAGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM; APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN ELECTION NOT TO ISSUE \$35,344,395.00 OF QUALIFIED MORTGAGE BONDS, A NOTICE OF MORTGAGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, MORTGAGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE OPERATIONS MANUAL, COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO.**

Ms. Louanna Honeycutt Burress, Administrative Officer, Department of Housing and Economic Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Since 1990, Sedgwick County has administred a qualified mortgage credit certificate program in partnership with the State of Kansas. What we want to do now is to continue that program into 1996. The State allocated to Sedgwick County the balance of the funds in the private activity volume cap authority for 1995 and that's what will be used in this program.

"The amount will be \$35,344,395.00. The credits will be given on a sliding scale to the home buyers with lower income, home buyers receiving a higher percentage than those with higher incomes. That scale has not been worked out yet, but we'll be working that out with the State. Joe Norton, Bond Counsel, and Jack Ranson is with us this morning if you have questions that we need to address."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Okay, thank you Louanna. Commissioner Gwin?"

Commissioner Gwin asked, "Louanna, on that sliding scale and credits available, that's different than it's been done before, isn't it?"

Ms. Burress said, "Yes."

Commissioner Gwin continued, "And the credits were available, I guess, on the same basis no matter what the person's income or ability or whatever else?"

Ms. Burress replied, "That's correct. In our program, the percentage has always been 25%. Some may be 25%, but then some may be less than that, so that we can make the allocation go as far as possible."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I think that makes sense. That sounds like a nice change. Thank you."

Commissioner Miller said, "Yes, Louanna, I'm supportive of the action recommended today, but I would like to also expound on some things that I've been able to talk about early on in the 1995 season. That is the issue of target areas with mortgage revenue bond money and target areas with mortgage credit savers and mortgage credit certificates. I understand this is a reallocation of the balance that's left over, is that...?"

Ms. Burress replied, "No."

Commissioner Miller said, "Explain, please."

Ms. Burress said, "This is a new money allocation."

Commissioner Miller said, "Oh, it is a new money allocation."

Ms. Burress said, "That's correct. Therefore, there will be a set aside for the target area and for the underserved counties."

Commissioner Miller said, "What I would like for we, as a Commission Bench, to be able to do with newly allocated monies, in both this program and the mortgage revenue bond program is to tailor our RFP's and I believe we're doing that with the mortgage revenue bond money, such that we do get some results in the target area, as opposed to continuing to carry that balance over again and again, and basically it just spills out into the larger community."

"In essence, it's just a fetus of the whole premise of targeting a target area with this amount of money. It goes into the big pool. So I'm hopeful that we, as a Commission, will really look at how it is that we tailor the RFP's in order to get the

true results that we're looking for and that's for, I know, I see Mr. Ranson in the audience there. Thank you."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you. Other questions or comments? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt the Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign appropriate documents.

Commissioner Gwin second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

2. LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL TO BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SUBZONE DESIGNATION FOR TEXACO INC. TO FOREIGN TRADE ZONES BOARD, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Ms. Burress concluded, "Recently, the Board of Commissioners made a decision to sponsor Texaco Incorporated in its seeking of a Foreign Trade Subzone for the El Dorado Refinery. What I'm asking you to do today is to approve the transmittal

letter that will be submitted with the application document. Next week, I'll be giving you a report on my annual report for the whole Foreign Trade Zone project.

"This morning, I'm just asking you to take action on the transmittal letter."

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a transmittal letter.

Commissioner Winters second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you, Louanna. Next item please."

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE 1995 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP).

- 1. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT; CIP PROJECT #1995 PB310**
- 2. APPRAISER'S OFFICE; CIP PROJECT #1995 PB311**
- 3. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; CIP PROJECT #1995 OR118**
- 4. ELECTION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE; CIP PROJECT #1995 PB312**

Mr. Kenneth W. Arnold, Director, Capital Projects Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've briefed you on these four items and if you concur, we can go ahead and take all four of them together. These are being set up as CIP projects to transfer leftover 1995 funds from departments into 1996 to do this work. They include the one that Susan read, as well as the Appraiser's Office, District Attorney's Office and the Election Commissioner's Office. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you, Ken. Discussion on this item? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the amendments to the 1995 CIP.

Commissioner Hancock second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thanks, Ken. Next item, please."

D. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' JANUARY 4, 1996 REGULAR MEETING.

Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have before you the minutes from the January 4th meeting of the

Board of Bids and Contracts. There are three items for consideration this morning.

(1) 800 MHZ RADIO SYSTEM MAINTENANCE - EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
FUNDING: EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICES

“Item one, 800 MHZ radio system maintenance for Emergency Communications for the 1996 fiscal year. It was recommended to accept the sole source bid of Motorola Incorporated for \$35,760 even.

(2) IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER CONTRACT - INFORMATION SERVICES
FUNDING: INFORMATION SERVICES

“Item two, IBM personal computer contract for Information Services. It was recommended to accept a contractual agreement with IBM PC Direct Corporation for an estimated amount between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 in PC and related peripheral purchases for the 1996 fiscal year.

(3) SYSTEMS FURNITURE - CAPITAL PROJECTS
FUNDING: 1996 CAPITAL PROJECT

“Item three, systems furniture contract for Capital Projects and various other county departments. It was recommended to accept the contract, which is a State of Kansas authorized contract for Herman Miller systems furniture through Goldsmiths Incorporated. This is an extension of a contract that we have with Goldsmiths Incorporated for an estimated total purchase for 1996 of \$500,000.

“I recommend that you approve the recommendation as presented by the Board of Bids and Contracts.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Darren. Questions? Commissioner Miller?”

Commissioner Miller said, “Just a point of clarification, Darren, on number two.”

Mr. Muci said, "Yes, Ma'am."

Commissioner Miller asked, "Is it typical for us to vote on or approve an estimate purchase amount. The \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 before it's actually itemized out?"

Mr. Muci replied, "In this particular case, what we're recommending is the ability to work directly with IBM. They provide a price list, which is for government and educational entities. Because of the various configurations for the PC that we will be buying, we don't know exactly how much we're going to be spending."

Commissioner Miller asked, "So will it come in front of us again, with an actual amount or are we just simply approving within that range?"

Mr. Muci replied, "You're approving within that range and no, it will not come back to you with an actual amount."

Commissioner Miller said, "Okay. Thank you."

Mr. William Buchanan, County Manager, added, "If it would be helpful, those computer items have been identified in each department's budget and go through a process of internal approvals, through either the bureau chief and end up on my desk or Information Services; so that they're sized correctly. There's several methods by which we involve ourselves to assure that we're not buying things that we don't need."

Commissioner Miller said, "I would just like to see the final tally. I'm almost assured that, through the expertise, that indeed it will be the proper or the appropriate piece of equipment that's purchased. I just wonder if we'll see the actual end-all-tally."

Mr. Buchanan replied, "Yes, and we'll be happy to provide that."

Commissioner Miller said, "Okay. Thank you."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Okay. Commissioner Gwin?"

Commissioner Gwin asked, “Darren, on item three, systems furniture. The Board’s recommending a continuation of the contract with the State of Kansas. As I understand it, if we utilize that contract we get a fairly substantial discount.”

Mr. Muci replied, “That is correct. It is a 72% discount from a list price. Again, this was negotiated by the State of Kansas and is available to all State of Kansas agencies, as well, of course, Sedgwick County. Goldsmiths is the local regional supplier of the Herman Miller furniture.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “That’s great. Makes good sense, thank you.”

Chairman Schroeder asked, “Other questions or comments? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Miller second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thanks, Darren. Next item please.”

CONSENT AGENDA

E. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. The following Section 8 Housing Contracts are being amended to reflect a revised monthly amount due to a change in the income level of the participating client.**

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V861006	\$221.00	\$224.00
C873018	\$215.00	\$210.00
V93087	\$304.00	\$337.00
V95062	\$324.00	\$351.00
V94091	\$160.00	\$350.00
C95037	\$289.00	\$235.00
V94069	\$154.00	\$149.00
C95093	\$271.00	\$337.00
V95111	\$360.00	\$262.00
V94067	\$ 73.00	\$113.00

- 2. Orders dated January 1 and January 3, 1996 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 3. Plats.**

Approved by the Bureau of Public Services. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 1994 and prior years are paid for the following plat:

**Baalmann Third Addition
Vyne Second Addition
Meyer's Lake Addition**

- 4. Project Manual to remodel the third, fifth and sixth floors of the Historic County Courthouse, Project #PB-208 (HCH).**

5. **Consideration of the Check Register of January 5, 1996.**

6. **Budget Adjustment Requests.**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Type of Adjustment</u>
950853	Aging/PD	Transfer
950854	1995 Capital Imp.	Supp. Approp.
950855	District Attorney	Transfer
950856	Finance General	Transfer
950857	Capt. Impv. Fund	Supp. Approp.
950858	County Manager	Transfer
950859	Appraiser	Transfer
950860	Election Commiss.	Transfer
950861	Racetrack Imprv.	Transfer
960007	Finance Gen'l/Personnel	Transfer
960008	Youth Residential Shelter Grant	Supp. Approp.
960009	Auto License	Supp. Approp.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend that you approve it as presented."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Okay, thank you. Questions? I have one question, Mr. Manager, item 950861, racetrack improvements. Somebody tell me what that's all about? It looks to me like it's a leftover of \$31,885."

Mr. Buchanan replied, "The budget adjustment for this indicates the reason for the adjustment is to close out of that fund and if you remember the Board of County Commissioners assisted in developing the ramp and some other capital improvements programs for the racetrack several years ago. That, in consolidating a number of our accounts, there was some \$31,000 left in that account and we're

going to transfer that to our bond and interest account.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “So it’s a simple transfer then?”

Mr. Buchanan replied, “Yes.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Okay, thank you. Other questions or comments?”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Consent Agenda as present.

Commissioner Miller second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you. Next item please.”

SELECTIONS

F. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN DURING 1996.

Chairman Schroeder said, “Commissioners, I’d entertain nominations for this position.”

Commissioner Hancock said, “It would be a privilege, at this time, to nominate Commissioner Tom Winters as Chairman for the Sedgwick County Commission for 1996.”

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to nominate Commissioner Thomas G. Winters as Chairman for the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners for 1996.

Commissioner Gwin second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "Congratulations, Tom."

Audience applauded.

Commissioner Schroeder said, "It's my honor to present to you the proverbial gavel, which I didn't have a chance to use but once this year when I was Chairman, but I'm sure it will be used wisely. We wish you the best of luck in the year of 1996 and we're here to help you if we can."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much."

Audience applauded.

Chairman Winters said, "Mr. Chairman, ex, it's my privilege, on behalf of the rest of the Board of County Commissioners, staff and the citizens of Sedgwick County to present this plaque to you in appreciation of the time that you have served in this past year as Chairman. You are our senior member, we look to you for wisdom of the past experiences that you've had being a Commissioner at Sedgwick County

and we'll continue to rely on that in the future."

Commissioner Schroeder said, "Thank you, Tom, I appreciate it."

Audience applauded.

Commissioner Schroeder said, "Did you see how quickly he shoved my stuff over? I know Tom is going to want to say a few words, and most appropriately, but I just want to say again, thank you, to this Commission for allowing me to serve you in 1995. It was a tremendous year. We had a lot of accomplishments, which I went over Monday, in a press conference, and I want to thank the Manager and his staff for a job well done. Without this supreme staff that we have, that does such a wonderful job for us, we wouldn't have accomplished what we did last year and in previous years. It's been just an extreme pleasure working with the Commissioners and the Manager and his staff and also, people on the outside who assist us in a lot of our programs, I want to thank them also and some of them are here today.

"We just look forward to a good year, Tom and I know you'll do a good job."

Chairman Winters said, "Alright, thank you very much. Madam Clerk, the next item of business."

G. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN PRO TEM DURING 1996.

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

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Commissioner Hancock said, "Mr. Chairman, it is, with as much pleasure and pride, I would like to nominate Melody Miller as Chair Pro Tem for 1996."

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to nominate Commissioner Melody C. Miller as Chair Pro Tem for 1996.

Commissioner Schroeder second the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Commissioner Gwin said, “Congratulations, Melody.”

Audience applauded.

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you very much. Before we adjourn, I’d like to say a couple of things. One, I would like to acknowledge that my family is in the room this morning; my wife Gerry and sons Todd and Mark are here, along with my mother-in-law, Mary Jane Rieckenberg from Mount Hope. So, it’s nice to have family here.”

Commissioner Miller said, “They should stand up.”

Commissioner Gwin said “Make them stand up. Go ahead and stand up, we dare you.”

Audience applauded.

Chairman Winters continued, “I’d like to take, just a few moments, to make some remarks and comments about the coming year.

“Just before Christmas, there was an article in the New York Times talking about a theme that was a prevailing political topic of discussion in the past year. According to the Times, the debate goes back 200 years. It is as old as the

Republic itself. The debate centers around the nature of American Federalism. Should we have a centralized government, or a de-centralized government? Has Washington simply gotten too big?

“There are many people who have become champions of states rights and favor a limited federal government. They believe more responsibility should be given to the states and local government. These individuals also feel a government closest to the people is best, because the people can then keep a close watch on it.

“The Times article then goes on to remind us that it is not only a group of new Republicans in Washington who have worked to shift power back to the states, but that even President Clinton, a former Governor, campaigned in 1992 as someone who upheld the notion that states can’t look to the federal government to solve every problem.

“There can be no doubt that we, as a nation, will witness a downsizing of Washington government in the coming months. There are few in the federal government that believe policy should flow towards, and not away from, Washington. What does this mean to us here in Sedgwick County? It means that we will be affected in three separate and distinct ways.

“First, the actions of our State Legislators will become more important to us than ever before. I don’t want to spend too much time on this particular issue, but I will say that communication is the key. Newton’s Third Law of Motion states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction, and this law can be applied to politics as well. There are many things the state legislature could do that would directly affect Sedgwick County and it’s citizens. As the State Legislators move through this session, we will need to effectively communicate with them concerning programs they will start, reduce or eliminate, and programs they will pass responsibilities for to counties and cities.

“The second area which is being affected by the downsizing of our federal government is the importance of locally elected officials. Elected officials, such as the Board of County Commissioners, other elected county officials, and all City councils will be challenged.

“As locally elected officials, we are involved with a decision-making process that involves conflict, compromise, and a willingness to change. Add to this equation the trend I referred to earlier that is crossing the nation, including Sedgwick County, that ‘government closest to the people is best’. Citizens want to see public officials at work. They want to see us involved in this art of conflict, compromise and change. Citizens do not want to observe our professional staff involved in conflict, compromise or change as they analyze options, because they cannot directly affect any of the participants.

“Several months ago, I suggested that I would like to investigate whether or not the Office of the Treasurer, Office of the Clerk and Register of Deeds should be appointed positions instead of elected ones. After visiting with, talking to and debating with many people, my constituents tell me they do not wish to have fewer elected officials. They just want those elected officials to be held to a higher standard. Most citizens do hold firm the belief that a ‘government closest to the people is best’, and citizens believe that their best opportunity to support local government or change local government is at the ballot box.

“As County Commissioner, I believe it is part of our responsibility to assist each elected official in the Courthouse to be the best they can be. We do this by working through the political process which includes conflict, compromise and change. For the other elected officials, this assistance will include the resources to do their job. For citizens, it means that, as Commissioners with budget check and balance responsibilities, we will watch how dollars are spent to achieve desired results. In doing so, we will be providing citizens with a Courthouse that provides services which are well operated and cost efficient.

“The third area that will be affected by the political wave coming from Washington will be felt by our professional staff.

“John Nalbandian, Professor and Mayor from Lawrence, Kansas, has written an article on the logic of contrasting politics and administration. Dr. Nalbandian suggests that even though we speak the same words, politicians and professional staff members often talk a different language. This is caused because each person’s perspective on a particular situation is different.

“On one hand, we have technically trained, local government professionals that expect the governing body to deal with public policy as if it were just another administrative committee. On the other hand, we have elected officials that do not understand the fact that their staff has goals and objectives, and every time an elected official asks for something from the staff, some administrative routine is more than likely upset. Same words, different language, different perspectives.

“We are not perfect here in Sedgwick County, but because we have full-time elected officials and a talented staff, we have a well-functioning partnership. There is a bridge between professional staff and elected officials, and as this wave from Washington comes closer to Sedgwick County, it will be more important that we continue to build, refine and improve that bridge.

“New ways of thinking will be required. Strengthening the partnership will be required. We will also need to challenge certain county paradigms. Dr. Edward Deming, a pioneer in quality management, has said ‘the worst problem organizations have are the sacred cows’.

“As we work together, elected officials will continue to ask staff certain questions. Why is this program or project important? It is necessary? Is it cost efficient? Is it result Oriented? And will we continue to talk with the Sedgwick County Staff about the politics of conflict, compromise and change? As Commissioners, we will need to work hard on refining the unique combination of full-time elected officials and a professional staff. It is an excellent system; we need to work it to it’s best.

“Neither Washington, nor the State will not solve the challenges this county faces in 1996. We will. We will work diligently on our juvenile detention problem, solid waste and landfill issues, crime and justice problems adult detention facilities, people to meet and solve them all

“Before I conclude, I would like to share one thought with the local media. I agree with Buzz Merrit when he states in his book Public Journalism and Public Life that ‘government and journalism are locked into a symbiotic relationship. Neither can get along without the other. Neither can survive if the other becomes dominant. We cannot accomplish our goals if either partner abandons or poisons the relationship’. He goes on saying that ‘journalists need to insure that citizens understand and know the true choices they have about issues concerning the

community'. That makes good sense.

"But then as elected officials, it is our responsibility to take one of those choices concerning an issue involving the community and make it work. We must be confident that our choice is made with the best interest of the public as the objective. It is up to us to make the particular choice work.

"When the media criticizes the government body for 'failing to do the right thing', they are writing or speaking about the nature of their thinking. They fail to appreciate the fact that what is best for the community is rarely subject to right or wrong decisions without someone adding their own values and judgments.

"I hope during the coming year, the media and this Commission both work towards what is in the best interest of the county. We have the systems in place to meet the challenges of 1996. The people who work for Sedgwick County are ready to go to work.

"Commissioners, is there any other business? Before we adjourn, I would like to invite everyone here to a brief reception that we will have immediately following this meeting. I would like to ask that the Commissioners join me, down in the reception line, particular Commissioner Miller as we congratulate you on being Chair Pro Tem and particular you, Commissioner Schroeder, as we thank you for the work that you've done in this past year.

"Any other business? If not, we're adjourned."

H. OTHER

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

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

MARK F SCHROEDER, Chairman
Fifth District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman Pro Tem
Third District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner
First District

PAUL W. HANCOCK, Commissioner
Second District

MELODY C. MILLER, Commissioner
Fourth District

ATTEST:

Susan E. Crockett-Spoon, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 1996.