

Regular Meeting, Sewer District, October 2, 1996

VOTE

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CASH MANAGEMENT SERVICES WITH BANK IV, KANSAS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Jim Weber, P.E., Director, Sewer Operations and Maintenance, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We are here this morning with a request for your approval of a Resolution establishing certain cash management services with Bank IV. Currently the Department of Sewer Operations and Maintenance processes quarterly bills for approximately 3,500 sewer customers. Our customer base is currently growing at a rate of three to four hundred customers a year. In late 1995 we received an employee suggestions through the County's Employee Suggestion Award Program. The employee suggested that we allow our customers to use an automatic bill payment system to pay their sewer bills. These systems have become quite common in this age of electronic communication and Sedgwick County already utilizes a similar type system for direct deposit of payroll to employee accounts. Our review of the employee suggestion was completed in February of this year and we found that implementation of this suggestion would indeed save the County some money. Just as importantly we found that our customers would save money and time and probably the most important benefit for the Sewer District was the prospect of receiving our payments in a timely manner and potentially lowering our already low delinquency rates. Since that time the Employee Suggestion Award Committee has reviewed our report and indicated that that has merit. Actual recognition of the suggestion cannot occur until the program is implemented and a true financial impact is assessed.

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“Unfortunately, I can’t wait that long. I brought Linda Bowlin...she conspired with us this morning. She is the employee that made the suggestion and she has done almost all of the follow-up work in contacting the bank, our Financial Department, the County Counselor’s office and she keeps pushing me along. If you have a technical question today, we will let her answer it. We have met several times with the Legal Department and the Finance Department and the staff at Bank IV. All are supportive of the program and agree on the form of the Resolution.

“Your approval of the Resolution would actually designate certain County officials to work with the bank on the creation and the maintenance of the auto draft system. The system would be similar to those used by K.G. & E., Multimedia Cablevision and The Wichita Eagle about every other major utility in town. We are excited about the program and if you approve the Resolution today, we will begin promotion of the program by incorporating it on to the back of our billing statements that will go out later this week. On the back side will be a form that they can sign and fill out and start with the process. Actual auto drafts will not occur until the bills that go out in January. So we have about three months to promote the system and get people signed up and get it going. If you have questions either Linda or I will be happy to try to answer them.”

Commissioner Miller said, “Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is just a pleasure for me to hear you, Jim Weber, talk about Linda Bowlin who is the suggestor and as a member of the Employee Suggestion Award Program and a member of the Board of County Commissioners also. It really is interesting to see how a department moves right ahead before the process is actually finished. I am sure that Linda is appreciative of this and I am sure that the department and the consumers are those that actually receiving the bills and going to pay them are going to benefit in the long run. So I just simply had to say that publicly because usually we don’t hear these stories until we are handing the award and then the department head or the supervisor comes forward and says what a great deal this is but you are here even before that. Congratulations and keep up the good work. I am very supportive of this change.”

Mr. Weber said, “I think it is really important to note that in this particular case we cannot implement the suggestion without your direct cooperation.”

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Commissioner Gwin said, “Just a question real quick, Mr. Manager. Are there other opportunities in the County for this kind of service to be available to the taxpayers or basically all the other payments have to go though the Treasurer’s Office?”

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “I was just thinking out loud to see if there was a way to get Linda more money.”

Mr. Weber said, “I suspect that our situation is unique and that we send out uniform regular bills. I personally can’t think of another department that would have a similar.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “I was just trying to work on Linda’s behalf. Well Linda this will work in this one. I’m real pleased. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Commissioners you’ve heard the report by Mr. Weber, what’s the desire of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Schroeder moved to approve the Resolution.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

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CONSENT AGENDA

B. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Right-of-Way Instruments.

Two Easements for Sanitary Sewer for the Gilder's Gardens Addition
Sanitary Sewer Project. District #1.

2. Budget Adjustment Requests.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Type of Adjustment</u>
960609	Sewer Improvement Projects	Supplemental Appropriation
960610	Gilder's Gardens	Supplemental Appropriation

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

MOTION

Commissioner Schroeder moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

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Chairman Winters said, "Is there any other business to come before the governing body of the Sewer District? Seeing none. this meeting is adjourned."

C. OTHER

D. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman
Third District

MELODY C. MILLER, Chair Pro Tem,
Fourth District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner,
First District

PAUL W. HANCOCK, Commissioner,
Second District

MARK F. SCHROEDER, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Susan E. Crockett-Spoon, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 1996