

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF FIRE DISTRICT #1**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 21, 1998**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, Sitting as the Governing Body of Fire District #1, was called to order at 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, January 21, 1998, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Mark F. Schroeder with the following present: Chairman Pro Tem Paul W. Hancock; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Melody C. Miller; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Jarold Harrison, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief; Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, Bureau of Public Services; Mr. Fred Ervin, Public Affairs Officer; and Ms. Linda M. Leggett, Deputy County Clerk.

**GUESTS**

Mr. Jeffrey L. Cowley, President, Local 2612 International Association of Firefighters

**ROLL CALL**

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

**DONATION**

**A. DONATION OF \$500 FROM CENTRAL GAS SERVICES.**

**Mr. Gary E. Curmode**, Fire Chief, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would recommend we accept the donation and authorize the Chairman to send a letter of appreciation for this donation."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Thank you Chief. Discussion on this item?"

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Hancock moved to accept the donation and authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of appreciation

Commissioner Miller 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 Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**B. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION REGARDING EXPANSION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1.**

**Chief Curmode** said, "Commissioners, we have a citizen that is in northwest Sedgwick County that would like to petition into the Fire District and that is what this petition pertains to. This is open for public hearing and public comment and I would recommend approval."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Any questions before the public hearing? If not, I'll open the public hearing. Anyone who wishes to speak to this item please come forward. Is there anybody in the audience who would like to speak to Item B on our Fire Agenda regarding a Resolution expanding the boundaries of the Fire District? If not, we'll close the public hearing and limit discussion to bench and staff. Commissioners?"

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Hancock moved to adopt the Resolution and instruct the County Clerk to publish according to law.

Commissioner Miller seconded the Motion.

**Commissioner Hancock** said, "Is there one parcel or two parcels?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "There were two parcels and one of the citizens pulled it about a week and a half ago as they had further questions about the districts. We're going out to talk to them."

**Commissioner Hancock** said, "Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Thank you. Further discussion? If not, Clerk call the vote."

**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."

**CITIZEN INQUIRY**

**C. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING.**

**Mr. Jeffrey L. Cowley**, President, Local 2612 International Association of Firefighters, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would like to thank you for letting me speak to you today on the proper staffing for Sedgwick County Fire Stations and their apparatus. Already this year we have been under staffed at numerous stations, which has attributed to some equipment being off track or out of service. I attribute this lack of staffing provided by the current extra board list. This program has proven to be financially unfeasible.

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“At this time there are only three available extra board personnel to draw from in this case of need. Each extra extra board be trained and outfitted at a cost of \$3,500 for seven positions to complete the pool at a cost of \$24,500. In addition, the training time is approximately four months before they can be utilized and approximately 32% of that budget line item is solely spent on training and outfitting those employees.

"In November of 1991, recommendations of the staffing task force which you were given on December 17, were to hire more personnel as apparatus is placed into service. This strongly impacts the opening of Station #31 in Andale. In order to comply with the proper staffing levels, the hiring of nine new employees is required. This task force was implemented after the death of Todd Colton by the Manager's Office and this is the issue which is still outstanding. An unfortunate time we know that probably financially, it is impossible. They hired six full time firefighters and the relocation of three existing full time firefighters along with extra men for constant staffing or flexed staffing will be adequate to staff the new Andale station. However, to relocate these three firefighters will result in the under staffing of stations that they were taken from. The hiring of three new fire fighters, even the extra money for constant staffing will still only accentuate the shortage of staffing at this time. There are currently days when some stations are running below minimum recommended staffing levels. That stated in the task force report, even the proposed increases in staffing, the department will be working at an absolute minimum level. An increase in staffing capacity of apparatus without increasing the level of staffing proportionately is dangerous to lives and the well being of the firefighters and the citizens of Sedgwick County and their families.

"Since we started negotiations, we have been working on the staffing issue closely with the International Association of Firefighters in Washington D.C. on these issues, along with other issues that are impacting departments throughout the nation. Budgets seem to be shrinking, although the need for staffing is still there. The need for purchasing equipment that has been outdated has been policies before in the governments throughout the nation to have the money available and purchase it at that time. However, now the trend is that more departments are looking at the lease purchase plan because they can update their apparatus in a timely fashion and do it over a short period of time and be complete. These are some of the things we would like the Commission to look at and also I understand that you have been looking at the State statutes and who the Fire Chief does report to. We continue to support looking into that to see exactly how things should go between here, between the Chief and administration and the Commission. That's all I have, thank you for your time."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, “Jeff, thank you very much for your comments. I think there may be some questions for you. Commissioner Miller.”

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**Commissioner Miller** said, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. Jeff, I'd like to have a clarification actually. You are speaking to the issue of deficit staffing and you first began with hiring nine new employees and it seemed to me that you and the Union have considered that that may pose a problem in terms of budgeting, finding the moneys for, but it seems to me that it sounds like the optimum that you would feel is necessary."

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "Okay, I just wanted to make sure that I'm getting this logged in my mind correctly. Then you moved to six additional firefighters being hired with the movement of three currently there, is what I'm hearing that would staff Andale."

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Correct."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "Okay. Then, I heard you say that the hiring of three employees would just continue to accentuate the problem."

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Right."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "Is that what I heard you say?"

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Uh-huh. Because our other stations with the hiring of only three, we would have to pull from two additional stations and dropping their current staffing levels."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "Which fluctuates from day to day currently."

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Correct. We're just moving people to cover a new fire station, when the task force had a recommendation that was forwarded, I believe to the Manager's Office that this is what the task force recommended. That way then we keep our current staffing levels at an absolute minimum. We run at optimum level when we are staffed fully. One person short puts, possibly a piece of equipment off track. It also puts our firefighters in greater danger because they have increased their work load. It presents a heightened chance of injury because they know they've got to pull an extra load because they are understaffed. That has happened throughout different times throughout last year, the year before and also even into this year."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "And recognizing Chief Garcia from the City of Wichita, it possibly could even when you talk about being deficit in your staffing and then imposing upon the apparatus, that that could put a continued pressure on the first responder agreement that we have."

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**Mr. Cowley** said, "It will definitely impact that. The station that I am currently assigned to is a hazardous material station. If we're dropped one person that takes one specialized specially trained firefighter out of that station and basically not available in the initial response to that hazardous material incident along with their day to day firefighting duties. With my station we do backup the City of Wichita and the City has annexed a portion of the County along 53rd Street west of the river. We will be first in. We will arrive before a City unit will be able to arrive."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "Simply because of logistics where you are."

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Exactly."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "Okay. Thank you very much for clarifying that for me. I'll continue to listen. Thank you Mr. Chairman."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Thank you. Other questions or comments. Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Thank you. Jeff, currently when the staffing level goes below a certain number, we've first called extra board personnel and we've talked about that program and how in this date and time it really hasn't worked the way we hoped it has because if you guys don't leave there's no opportunity for those people to be hired in. They've got to go find jobs and in theory it sounded good but in practice at this time it isn't working. So we call the extra board, reassign lieutenants from Fire Prevention, we reassign the medical officer and division chief for fire prevention, then we reassign safety training officers and last on the list we call back full time personnel."

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Right."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "I would be interested in knowing, you don't have to tell me today, but discussion, if the extra board is no longer there and we flip flop that call back so that if levels go below an established number, the first thing we do is to call back full time personnel on a seniority basis."

**Mr. Cowley** said, "Correct."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "I would be interested in knowing what you and the firefighters think of that change. It would seem to me that there might be some certain advantages to some of the more senior people to earn additional money and I would certainly already have trained firefighters available who know what they're doing, who know how to protect themselves in the community."

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“So I'm going to have to balance that picture, which to me looks fairly encouraging against what the cost and the benefits are of additional personnel. I'm going to be looking at the cost and benefits of each of those pictures and so if we would change that flexible staffing program and flip flop it so that the first ones called back are full time personnel, I'd be interested in knowing how you and the rest of the firefighters in the County see that, that's to their advantage or the departments advantage.”

**Mr. Cowley** said, "It is a win win situation. The citizens of Sedgwick County are getting full time paid professional firefighters that are dedicated to their jobs and to the citizens of Sedgwick County and they are also getting the benefit of doing what they love to do. They are firefighters 24 hours a day, seven days a week, we're not 24-48 firefighters. If we see the need we take care of the need and I believe we have the full support of not only the Union, but the department as a whole, non union and union members. This is the way that throughout the nation it has worked very successfully and it is a win win situation for us and the citizens. The citizens are number one. They are the ones that pay the taxes to the district. When they call we're there."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “I appreciate that. I'm glad to see that we're discussing that change, a very substantive change, I believe to the call back issue. But as you and I discussed earlier before the meeting, I think we also have to be concerned about and I certainly am concerned about the issue of Fire District shrinkage. The City of Wichita is annexing at a break neck pace in the eastern part of this County. As that annexation occurs that removes those parcels from the Fire District which keeps us from that tax base. So I think we need to be real cautious and I know you all understand this too about how we spend the taxpayers money, what kind of staffing we're looking at. We have to be able to defend that when we are a geographically shrinking a district and losing a tax base. So I don't know yet where we're going to end on this. Your input is important. The fact that you all understand where we are as decision makers and that there are two sides to every story, I appreciate that. I appreciate so many of you being here to hear it and as we have the next item then to listen to some of the discussion and questions that occur. So thank you for your comments and thank you for being here. Thank you Mr. Chairman.”

**Chairman Schroeder** said, “Thank you. Commissioner Miller.”

**Commissioner Miller** said, “Just a follow up. Jeff, I think Commissioner Gwin has detailed how the call back system would work positively for not only the Union, not only the Fire Department, but as you stated the public, that's what our major interest is. Which one of these levels does that fall into in terms of hiring? Would you still feel comfortable with the hiring of three employees and enacting the call back system or . . .”

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**Mr. Cowley** said, "As we discussed earlier, nine would be the optimum because of the staffing task force that was implemented and submitted, their recommendations. If hiring six, and the money for the constant minimum staffing that would give us six people for the Andale station, their only impacting one person from another station to be pulled out of there to be permanent firefighter at the Andale station. Then using constant staffing money to staff leaves, be if vacation, funeral, injury, those types of leaves, doing three would only increase trying to keep those minimum levels. Because currently two of our stations have six and if there was actually only three as the end result then those two stations would be taken down to a lower level of staffing. The station at Haysville is responsible for the City of Haysville. They are one of our higher alarm load stations. They also service Vulcan. Those big industries are where personnel are important."

**Commissioner Miller** said, "So we're talking six. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairman."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Thank you Jeff. Appreciate your comments today. Thank you for coming. Next item please."

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **D. FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

##### **1. PRESENTATION REGARDING STAFFING.**

**Mr. Jarold Harrison**, County Manager's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In August, when you adopted the Fire District budget, you indicated that we were to bring back a discussion on staffing for the Fire District in January. This is that discussion. In preparation for this discussion, Chief Curmode and I have had conversations and discussions and he has provided me with a recommendation regarding Fire District staffing which is different than the staffing recommendation we had during the budget adoption process. Staffing is clearly in two parts. One part has to do with staffing of the Andale station and the other part has to do with what we have defined as relief staffing or what Jeff has called, call-back or leave staffing.

"I'd like to start with the staffing of the Andale station and then move into the second part of the discussion on staffing if I could.

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**SLIDE PRESENTATION**

“Based on the recommendation from the Chief, we developed this chart which indicates current staffing for Stations 31 through 38, 31 being the new station at Andale which is not currently open but which will be open in a couple of weeks we hope. I've driven by there and it looks great. I know the folks out in Andale are pretty excited about it. The proposed staffing column is the recommendation that existed at budget time. That recommendation was to reduce staffing at Stations 32, 33, and 34 by one person each. Transferring those three positions to the new Station 31, leaving the total staffing per shift at 37. In the recommendation that I currently have from Chief Curmode, the revised staffing plan reflects that. That reflects the addition of one additional person per shift or three firefighters and continues to effect the reduction staffing at Stations 32 and 34, making staffing at all stations except Station 31, as five person stations.

"The cost of this proposal for 1998 is approximately \$112,154. In order to fund this proposal, it would be necessary to eliminate the extra board funding and also to reduce the transfer to the special equipment fund for year end by approximately \$37,000. We have examined this. We've talked to the Chief about this. We've had the budget office run financials on it to make sure that we've got the right numbers. We've had Human Resources provide us with information to indicate the right faith, that we've calculated the right salaries in the process, and this is the recommendation that I currently have from the Chief for staffing for the Andale Station and we would recommend approval of this staffing. With that cost, that can be accomplished in the 1998 Fire District Budget.”

**Chairman Schroeder** said, “Thank you Jerry. I do have one question and then after that I’m going to ask Chief Curmode to speak on this. In Station 32 and 34, we show six individuals now.”

**Mr. Harrison** said, “Currently.”

**Chairman Schroeder** said, “Tell me why we have six there.”

**Mr. Harrison** said, “Chief will have to address that for you.”

**Chairman Schroeder** said, “Okay, I’ll let him do that.”

**Mr. Harrison** said, “Then I’ll come back and address the second staffing issue.”

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**Chief Curmode** said, "In answer to your question Commissioner. Under standards that have been set forth in NFPA 472, which are hazardous material standards, we have to have a minimum of ten people that respond on a call on a hazardous material situation and they need to be technician level trained. We respond in dual tandem with the City, which is Station 3 at 3257 N. Broadway, and that gives us twelve if everyone is there. Well, normally it isn't, it will be down one or something. When we respond out we will take the engine, the heavy rescue vehicle, which is our hazardous material truck, and we'll also take the mobile air unit. So to take that compliment of equipment to the scene, it takes six people."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "You need two people per vehicle."

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes. We have an agreement with the City that on all engine responses in the enhanced responder agreement that there will be three on an engine. So if that occurs, we will have three on the engine, two on the hazardous material van and then also one on the engine. At Station 34 in Haysville, what we do there, we have an aerial platform also. Now, in the past what we've one is one on a tender, three on an engine, and two on the aerial platform and they'll cross man with the squad. It was felt here that yes, if you take one person from each of those stations, yes you lose some slight options if you will, for strategy and tactical objectives at a fire. But we felt that if you look at overall staffing at all the stations, it was safer for the firefighters to have a uniform number of five at every station. So we'll reduce those two stations by one firefighter. That was the reason for it."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Okay, but we do have an agreement with the City of Wichita that says we'll respond a certain amount of people with this equipment?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "In the enhanced responder program, there had to be like response of engines, tenders, squads, and so forth. Because when you respond out, the CAD can only read out an address and it gets a total number of people there. So when that response comes, if we don't have the number of people on that, if the City sees a squad coming down the street, they anticipate that's two they can assign them to a tactical objective to search and rescue. If we only have one on it, they can't assign a search and rescue tactic, so it changes the way the instant commander will make operational decisions at a fire."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Have you had discussions with the City about this or have they had discussion with you about our staffing of that equipment?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, we have over the last two years."

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**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Are they concerned about it?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "There is some concern, yes."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "All right. Thank you Chief. Other questions or comments for the Chief? Thank you Chief. Jerry."

**Mr. Harrison** said, "The second issue has to do with relief staffing. As we've discussed yesterday, we have been analyzing the data. We have an estimate of leave and our concern is we've pushed a lot of numbers around in a short period of time and we want to make sure we're doing the right things with the right numbers. We're continuing to analyze that data. As a matter of fact, we have a team meeting this afternoon and another one tomorrow morning to analyze the financial impact for the Fire District for relief staffing for 1998 and future years. It is our intent that we would conclude that analysis and have a report back to this body in two weeks with a final recommendation on the staffing for relief and in that presentation we would also provide you with the financial analysis of the impact to the District for not only 1998, but for the future. I apologize for not having that piece done. As I said, we've looked at a lot of numbers in a short period of time and I really would like to have two weeks to make sure that I'm giving you the correct numbers."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Okay, thank you Jerry. Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. Jerry, if we see fit to adjust the staffing table for the Fire District today, that is three for Andale and then to fund that to eliminate the extra board. If we eliminate the extra board funding, I'm assuming that goes away instantly. Wouldn't you have to call-back? We'd still be operating on the old call-back guidelines or the newer ones we've discussed in the interim? You know what I'm saying?"

**Mr. Harrison** said, "I understand exactly what you're saying. I'm hesitating. You could operate under new call-back guidelines, but that will increase the impact of the cost of the program, which will increase the impact on the finances of the district for a period of two weeks until we can complete the analysis."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Okay."

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**Commissioner Hancock** said, "Mr. Chairman, I might say that I'm just commenting there are a lot of firefighters here today and welcome. Yesterday, we discussed this issue at our staff meeting and staffing preparation for the presentation today to try to understand the details better. We asked some questions, the Board of County Commissioners asked some questions yesterday that now Chief, Jerry, and the staff didn't have the answers to and it concerns financing and what it is going to cost us to do things a certain way. It is our intention right now, I think here on the Board to increase the staffing based upon the answers we get to the questions we asked them to bring back to us to make further decisions. I wanted the firefighters to know today that we're not closing the door on this, at three people, but we are continuing to look at it and see how we can operate as efficiently and what fits your program as firefighters. Am I correct in saying that?"

**Mr. Harrison** said, "I don't believe there is any fundamental disagreement here. I think it is a matter of how do the numbers work, what is the financing look like."

**Commissioner Hancock** said, "We asked some pretty strange questions yesterday that nobody could perceive in their right mind and anticipate that we would ask. It isn't your fault but we needed those answers before we go on to the next step. It doesn't stop here, we are going on and we are going to make some decisions about staffing beyond what we're doing today. I wanted everybody here to be aware that it is our intention to go beyond what we're doing today, some way or another."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Okay, thank you Commissioner Hancock. Commissioner Gwin has another question."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Chief, I have a question. The Chairman talked to you a little bit about the staffing levels at Station 32 and 34 and I need to go back and ask, does it effect if those go from six to five, does it effect our ability or either of those two stations abilities to do it's job if we go from six to five people?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, it will effect it to some degree. I guess again as a risk manager, I've got to weigh the benefits and risks and to operate at five at every station is better than to operate six two stations and three and four at others. So the decision is made to minimize the risk and liability if you will, to the Fire District and to the citizens and increase the protection. With a finite budget, I can do it by moving the manpower around."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "I just wondered because if you look back at the task force recommendation, one of their recommendations was that you have a minimum of five personnel at all stations, with a captain and a lieutenant at each. Are we meeting that with the exception of Andale?"

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**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, we are."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Okay. Automatic call-back guidelines, do we have those now?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "We have what we've been operating under that Mr. Harrison has talked about that basically we go through the process prior to 1998 through the extra board, then through the lieutenants and so forth. The eight hour staff people are called back and then we go to the fifth option which is call-back of full time personnel."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Okay. But we have discussed revising those call-backs, have we not?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Another one of the recommendations was an additional station in western Sedgwick County. Does Andale meet that recommendation in your opinion?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, it does."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "When the apparatus is replaced, adequate staffing be provided, have we met that one yet?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "I think we will in two weeks when we discuss the relief staffing issue."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "To have three training and safety personnel, have we met that?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, we have."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Three additional division chiefs, have we met or exceeded that?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, we have done that."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Additional personnel at Stations 4 and 7."

**Chief Curmode** said, "We have six at each station. Let me check on that one and get back with you."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "We may not have met that one and the constant staffing of apparatus."

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**Chief Curmode** said, "That's the one we haven't met yet."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Okay. First, I guess we need to compliment the department for meeting a number of these recommendations. I know there might be a couple of others that are still out there. Obviously, my concern is that we make sure that our department is prepared to meet the needs of the community and particularly as it involves the first responder agreement that we have with the City. That is a system that makes a great deal of sense to the taxpayers, as you must understand. We certainly don't want to do anything to jeopardize it in my opinion, to jeopardize that relationship or agreement. The taxpayers I don't think want us to. I continue to be interested in a number of issues here and over the next couple of weeks look forward to talking to you and Jerry."

**Chief Curmode** said, "Thank you Commissioner."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Thank you Commissioner. I want to echo again what Commissioner Gwin just alluded to and that was the first responder agreement with the City of Wichita. We have enough grief trying to work that out, as you well know, because of the distance driven by our companies and theirs. I don't want to do anything else to exasperate that problem so the staffing issue to me is very important from that standpoint. I'm very supportive of what we're doing here and Commissioner Hancock, a moment ago pretty well described what kind of a process we're in. It is a discovery process. We're trying to get all the information together, as Jerry Harrison and your staff have been doing to make the right decisions. Today, and I'm going to try a Motion Commissioners, if you will allow me to do that today, knowing and to repeat what Commissioner Hancock said, 'we're not done with this issue.' That in two weeks, staff is going to come back to us with additional information and possibly a recommendation. We may agree, we may disagree with that recommendation and/or information, but the process it not closed by any means, gentlemen. That's what I want you all to know today. It has become more involved that I ever thought it would be."

### **MOTION**

Chairman Schroeder moved to approve the addition of one position, which is three employees, that the extra board be eliminated, which is a funding of approximately \$75,000, and that amount be put into overtime use, and the staff return in two weeks with further recommendations and information regarding additional staffing issues.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

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**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "I want to say to the Chief, I appreciate your indulgence with us and some of our questions, being a little knave of exactly how the process works and exactly what the people are up against on a daily basis. It is hard to know that unless you experience it and I appreciate so many of you being here today. It is just absolutely wonderful to see so many faces of the people who serve our County well. In two weeks, we hopefully will have more information that will allow us to do more for you. With that, I want to thank all of you, Chief and your staff, and Jerry and your staff, for putting all this information together. We look forward to dealing with this again in another two weeks and hopefully coming to some resolution between us and the Fire Department and the people who serve the County."

**Chief Curmode** said, "Thanks Commissioner. I would like to recognize Fire Chief, Larry Garcia from the Wichita Fire Department who is here today."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Thank you for being here Chief, appreciate it. Thank you everybody for being here. Appreciate your patients today and we'll see some of you in two weeks. Thank you. Thank you Jerry. Next item please."

**2. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF DERBY, KANSAS FOR MUTUAL AID FIRE PROTECTION.**

**Chief Curmode** said, "This is a Mutual Aid Agreement similar to our other second and third class cities in Sedgwick County. Again, a Mutual Aid Agreement. That means basically, that they'll get to their fire situation and in the event they cannot handle the situation, they'll call for assistance. This allows for us to legally come in and assist them. I would recommend approval of the Agreement."

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**MOTION**

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

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 Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Absent at Vote
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

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

**3. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF DERBY, KANSAS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL FIRST RESPONSE SERVICE.**

**Chief Curmode** said, "We were approached by the City of Derby in the early part of December. They approached us about doing a first responder medical alarm type response for their community. We talked this over. We were in discussion many times again closely working with the Manager's Office on it. I have Tom Pollan also here today that can answer some of the medical questions and I want to personally thank Tom Pollan, Director of EMS, Dennis Mauk. They were a tremendous help in this. Jennifer Reschke from Legal, Diane Gage from 911. We went down there and had some meetings and ironed out anything and we took it back to our bosses and they walked the floor with you and it was approved. I think this is an excellent agreement. It shows a partnership of assisting areas in Sedgwick County and again the bottom line is serving that citizen in need out there. I would recommend the Agreement be approved and authorize the Chairman to sign."

**Chairman Schroeder** said, "Thank you Chief. Discussion on this item?"

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, January 21, 1998**

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Winters 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 Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Absent at Vote
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

**Chairman Schroeder** said, “Chief, thank you, to you and your staff and all the people who joined with you in this effort. This has been a long time coming and I know you worked hard on it. I appreciate it and I know the citizens of Derby appreciate it too.”

**Chief Curmode** said, “It is pretty exciting Commissioner and I think the citizens are going to benefit almost immediately as soon as the normal procedure this morning is to send it to Topeka for Carla Stovall to review. When she gets it back, we’ll be able to operate immediately.”

**Chairman Schroeder** said, “That sounds great. Thank you. Thank you Jeff for being here today, appreciate it. Commissioners, any other business to come before the Fire District? If not, we’re adjourned.”

**E. OTHER**

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, January 21, 1998**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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

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**MARK F. SCHROEDER**, Chairman  
Fifth District

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**PAUL W. HANCOCK**, Chairman Pro Tem  
Second District

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**BETSY GWIN**, Commissioner  
First District

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**THOMAS G. WINTERS**, Commissioner  
Third District

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**MELODY C. MILLER**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

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ATTEST:

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**James Alford**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 1998