

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

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 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 11:13 a.m., Wednesday, December 9, 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. Jarold D. Harrison, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief; Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Fred Ervin, Director, Public Relations; and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT CASH AWARD FOR DIVISION CHIEFS AND DEPUTY CHIEFS.

Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The DeBruce grain elevator incident occurred June 8th, 1998. The incident lasted 32 days and ended July 10th. The community, media, non-emergency and emergency agencies formed a true partnership during this emergency. They did a tremendous job. The Sedgwick County Fire District #1, upper echelon staff, which consisted of a Fire Marshall, a Deputy Fire Chief, eight Division Chiefs, and our Chief Administrative Officer, they did a superb job in this event. They worked around the clock many times. They did a tremendous effort. This put a tremendous emotional, mental, and physical impact on them but they came out of it with flying colors. They did a tremendous job. On behalf of the Fire District, I am recommending a management cash award for these positions. The efforts of these individuals at the command level were outstanding and I'm very proud of their efforts. I'm available for any questions."

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "I have a question."

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Chairman Schroeder said, "Yes, I'm sorry."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Gary, have you given us . . . you probably have and I don't know if you have it in front of you, the amount of overtime that the County expended on this for the firefighters and lieutenants?"

Chief Curmode said, "Yes, Commissioners. I did give it to you. I don't have the exact figures. Over the top of the cuff, it was well over \$89,000 and I don't have the exact figures. I apologize for that."

Commissioner Gwin said, "That's okay. It just occurred to me that that was something that we'd have to remind ourselves of, too, while we were thinking about this."

Chief Curmode said, "The Commissioners and the County Manager approved overtime during when that initial incident started. They gave a blank check, basically, and said whatever you need handle it. We appreciate the efforts of the budget department. We had an Assistant County Manager right there in the EOC with us the entire time and I had direction connection with my boss, Jerry Harrison, at that time. We kept in contact. We were able to call whatever we needed in the overtime efforts and we said we'll take care of that financing. Finally, after seven months we're just about there on all the financing reports and everything."

Commissioner Gwin said, "This request today is extraordinary because of the extraordinary circumstance and extraordinary effort of these people who are salaried people, correct?"

Chief Curmode said, "That's correct, their exempt, they're salary. They don't expect this, they didn't even expect anything. It was a tremendous effort. Probably, they did three or four full time as much as we reported. Again, they weren't asking for anything. I thought it was a way to enumerate them for an outstanding job. It did take a toll on them. I think everyone's fine. COMCARE assisted us. We've had debriefings for all the emergency and non-emergency workers that were at the scene. Again, I just thought it was another way to give thanks, a small token of our thanks for them."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you."

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Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you, Chief. I just say that the entire Fire Department did a wonderful job of dealing with that incident. A lot of them were honored last Friday out at the 4-H Building with awards for all that our firefighters did on that scene and in other areas of the Fire Department. They did a wonderful job and I know it was taxing for them and their families and also other volunteers. The entire Fire Department, including the officers and firefighters themselves worked together as a great team, along with the other organizations that came from all over the country, to assist in this disaster. I just want to thank the firefighters and staff and all the captains, lieutenants, that assisted in that because they did put a lot of time into it. It was a very difficult situation and I know we're all very proud of what our Fire Department did for us and for our community and specifically for that company and those families who lost loved ones in that incident. Thank you, again. We appreciate that. Commissioner Hancock."

Commissioner Hancock said, "I just wanted to ask Gary, the non-exempt, hourly, were they paid overtime?"

Chief Curmode said, "Yes they were. The lieutenants and firefighters were paid overtime. The captains were later paid, also under a management cash policy that you approved. Basically, this is over the full financing except this last cash award if you approve it today."

Commissioner Hancock said, "Thank you, Gary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Schroeder said, "You bet. I want the public to know where this says cash award, maybe that's not the best way to describe this. I describe it as paying somebody for working overtime in an extremely difficult incident. All of our people did a good job out there. It is well deserved. Commissioners, I'd entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the proposal.

Commissioner Miller 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	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you. Other business? If there is no other business we'll adjourn this meeting."

B. OTHER

C. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

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

MARK F. SCHROEDER, Chairman
Fifth District

BILL HANCOCK, Chairman Pro Tem
Second District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner
First District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

MELODY C. MILLER, Commissioner
Fourth District

ATTEST:

James Alford, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 1999