

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, September 2, 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 D. Harrison, Assistant County Manager; Ms. Becky Allen-Bouska, Director, Bureau of Finance; Mr. David C. Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department; Mr. Fred Ervin, Director, Public Relations; Ms. Linda Leggett, Deputy County Clerk; Mr. Nile Dillmore, Member Sedgwick County Correctional Housing Board; Ms. Kathy Sexton, Interim Budget Director; Ms. Jan Kennedy, County Treasurer; Mr. Douglas King, Records Manager, County Manager's Office; Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services; Mr. Kenneth W. Arnold, Director, Capital Projects; and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Coleen Atherton Wiley, Executive Director, Literary Resources of the Metropolitan Area.
Dr. Joe Pisciotte, Professor of Public Administration, Wichita State University.
Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Executive Director, Kansas Taxpayers Network.
Mr. Wess Galyon, President and CEO, Wichita Area Builders Association.
Mr. Roger Bell, President, Security Abstract & Title Company, Inc.
Mr. Alan Cobb, Manager of Kansas Government Affairs, Koch Industries.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mr. Pete Morris of the Christian Businessmen's Committee.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, August 12, 1998

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of August 12, 1998.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Chairman Schroeder said, "Commissioners, you've received the Minutes of the meeting, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to adopt the Minutes of August 12, 1998.

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	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

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

CERTIFICATION AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Ms. Becky Allen-Bouska, Finance Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have previously received the certification of funds for expenditures on today's regular and sewer district agendas. I am available for questions if there are any."

Chairman Schroeder said, "I see no questions. Thank you. Next item, please."

PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 8, 1998 AS "INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Commissioners, I have that Proclamation which I'll read into the record."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September 8, 1998 has been identified as International Literacy Day - a time of world-wide awareness by Literacy Resources of the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, 44% of the adult population in the United States is deemed to have reading and writing problems; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to be the most possible productive citizen is denied to a high percentage of our electorate, Sedgwick County residents are encouraged to support all education and literacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, educators, volunteers, business leaders, public and private organizations and others collaborate to eliminate the problems of functional illiteracy through the efforts of Literacy Resources of the Metropolitan Area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mark Schroeder, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 8, 1998

“INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY”

in Sedgwick County as a time of special concentration for a more literate citizenry.”

MOTION

Chairman Schroeder moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Miller seconded the Motion.

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

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

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, "Today we have the Executive Director Coleen Atherton Wiley with us to accept the Proclamation. Coleen it is good to see you."

Ms. Coleen Ahterton Wiley said, "Thank you. With me today is Serita Coleman and John Willis. Both of them are employees of the organizations but they also have been tutors of the organization, which means they have tutored some adults in learning how to read and write better. We're very pleased with this Proclamation because as we near the 21st Century, we like to think that we're getting nearer to having a more literate citizenry of the United States. Thank you, very much."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you, Coleen. Thank you, to both of you, for being here. We wish you the best success. I know it is a difficult job from time to time. I've been to a couple of those meetings. I wish you the best of luck in the next few years. Thank you. Next item, please."

APPOINTMENT

B. APPOINTMENT.

1. RESIGNATION OF LEONARD BIGGS FROM THE WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY CORRECTIONAL HOUSING BOARD.

Mr. Richard A. Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This resignation has been tendered to you and we ask that you accept it."

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to accept the resignation.

Commissioner Miller seconded the Motion.

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

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

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."

2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING NILE DILLMORE (COMMISSIONER MILLER'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY CORRECTIONAL HOUSING BOARD.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this is a 21 member board with appointees selected by the Board of County Commissioners and by the City of Wichita. This particular appointment would fill the resignation just created and it is for a term to expire on February 4, 2001. We ask that you approve the Resolution."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Hancock 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

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you. Is Mr. Dillmore here today? Please come forward. The Clerk's Office will swear you in."

Ms. Linda Leggett, Clerk's Office, said, "Raise your right hand and after I administer the oath say I do swear.

"I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of Wichita/Sedgwick County Correctional Housing Board, so help me God."

Mr. Nile Dillmore said, "I do swear."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Congratulations. Thank you. As always, Mr. Dillmore, we appreciate you volunteering to serve on a Board. We like citizen input and participation and obviously your participation will be very well needed and we appreciate you being here. Thank you. Next item please."

PRESENTATION

C. PRESENTATION OF REPORT BY CITIZEN'S TASK FORCE ON REORGANIZATION OF ELECTED OFFICES.

Dr. Joe Pisciotte, Task Force Chairman, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I live at 4225 Ironwood Court. For the past month, I've had the pleasure and honor of serving as Chairman of the Citizens' Task Force on Reorganization of Certain Elected Offices. Of all the many assignments for public service I've undertaken in the past 20 some years, this has been one of them."

Chairman Schroeder said, "I thought you were leading up to something, Joe."

Dr. Pisciotte said, "No, it was a pleasure. We had a great group of folks who I will introduce shortly. What I want to do for a few minutes is just go through the activities and recap briefly what it is that we undertook during the past month. As you know, this was all initiated when you charged the City Manager to appoint an internal committee to review the County Treasurer, the Register of Deeds, and the County Clerk, as to the possibility of improved effectiveness and efficiency within those offices.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bob Lamkey, they undertook the study. They reported to you in their opinion that these efficiencies and effectiveness could take place by eliminating the elected offices of those three offices and merging them into an appointed treasurer to undertake those offices disbursed throughout the County government. They also recommended that the proposal be put before the voters in November for approval or rejection.

“Our charge, the Task Force’s charge, was to review the report and then make a recommendation to you to whether or not it should go forward before the voters. We undertook this very seriously and let me tell you who was on the committee: Mr. James Barfield, President of Barfield Enterprises; Roger Bell, President of Security Abstract and Title Company; Alan Cobb, Manager of Kansas Government Affairs, Koch Industries; Wes Galyon, President and CEO of Wichita Area Builders Association; Beth Garrison, Account Manager, Snelling Personnel Services; Karl Peterjohn, Executive Director, Kansas Taxpayer’s Network. Incidentally, this entire process is being conducted under the auspices of a state statute which does allow County government to undertake these kinds of studies. Let me also pause here, just for a moment, and tell you that we were literally blessed with some very fine staff work. Kathy Sexton and Matt Benoit staffed it and it makes the job of a Chairman very simple. They did excellent work. They were very responsive. I want to commend you for having people of that caliber in County government.

“We initiated our deliberations among ourselves on August 12. That’s when we came together and decided what it was that we were going to do to meet the charge of the Resolution. At that time also, we had three elected officials come in and talk to us. They put their thoughts in writing and we engaged in, what I thought, was a good dialogue with them. At that same meeting, we had Committee members who put the report together at that session and we engaged in a dialogue with them as well. On August 18, we conducted what constituted a public session. We invited members of the public in and we engaged in some round table discussion. We then took their findings under consideration and got a good deal of input from that session as well.

“On August 25, Mark Dick, Certified Public Accountant, was engaged to verify the report from the original committee. He came and spent some time with us and talked about the methodology that was involved in the initial study. Also, at that session, Jan Kennedy, County Treasurer, came back and presented some materials to us, because we were unable to get her material in writing at the first session. She gave us some additional information which we took into consideration.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“At that August 25 meeting, we took a vote on a Motion, which stated as follows: ‘Should the task force recommend to the County Commission to place a question on the November ballot to allow the voters to decide whether County offices should be reorganized as recommended in the reorganization study committee report.’ The vote among the Task Force was four not in favor of the Motion and three in favor of the Motion. Meaning that by a vote of four to three, we’ve recommended to you that the committee report putting this question on the ballot not go forward. That concluded our deliberations, our findings, and we have several members of the task force here this morning who I’m sure would be glad to present to you their thinking that was behind their vote on this particular Motion. With that, Mr. Chairman and members of the County Commission, I’d be glad to answer any questions.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Okay, thank you, Joe. At this time, I’m sure the Commission is wanting to hear from these individuals, if they wish to speak, but let me say that we understood the seriousness of this task and that’s why we put together a public sector committee, if you will, to work together with our internal committee that the Manager put together. There are some excellent people on both of those, just excellent groups. We don’t take this very lightly either, as you had mentioned. This is one that we’ve dealt with before back in 1987 and we are constantly being pushed, asked, to be more efficient in government.

“I have to say that I think that’s the main motivation here is to provide a more efficient government for our taxpayers. There have been some comments made that possibly this is something that the Commission wanted to do to gain more power. Not necessarily. That is not our goal. Our goal is to be more efficient and maybe to have better control over some of those operations. So as it is, the committee has recommended that we not place the issue on the ballot. I think that decision was a decision that was not influenced by anybody on this bench, as far as I know. In talking with all the Commissioners, we were very comfortable with our appointments. We gave them the task to confront the issue and make the decision and bring that decision to us, which you have. I appreciate that. I appreciate all seven members of the public committee for giving us the time and effort to take on this challenge. I know it was not an easy one, but I appreciate your sincere deliberations, which I know you had. I appreciate the internal committee’s work as well.

“It took a long time to put together this information. Some of us who have been here a while have seen ups and downs in the process, but I think our staff did a wonderful job in preparing the information I have seen. I know you made your decision based upon what you thought was best for your committee and your County. I really do appreciate that. Joe, you’ve done a good job in trying to bring us the best information that you can from that committee and you’ve done. We really appreciate that.”

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Dr. Pisciotte said, "My pleasure, Mr. Chairman. I would add that this was a free and open deliberation. We received no outside influence. The members took it very seriously and they were a great group of folks and, if nothing else, we had an unspoken understanding that we could agree to disagree and it was a worthwhile process."

Chairman Schroeder said, "I thought the panel represented an excellent cross section of our community and I think you did an excellent job in trying to make that decision. Commissioners, at this time, if there are any of the committee members who would like to come forward, task force members, and speak to us, we'd be glad to hear from you."

Dr. Pisciotte said, "We have six of us here this morning, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Okay."

Dr. Pisciotte said, "Would you like to have each of them address the Commission in a minute or two or what is your . . ."

Commissioner Hancock said, "Only if they want to."

Chairman Schroeder said, "It's their pleasure. Commissioner Winters, you're light is going off and on, do you want to. . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "I thought maybe they were going to leap forward. I've got a couple of questions I'd like to ask Karl Peterjohn if he would be willing. Karl has been before this Board a number of times on various issues. Karl, I had two questions I guess I'd like your response from. One, I see we have this chart over here and I don't expect anybody to go through and explain the chart or the plan, but I would think that the proposal looks like a smaller simpler organization, a smaller simpler kind of government. I've heard you talk a number of times about simplifying, consolidating, bringing things together into smaller components. So, I wondered if you had a comment about that? Secondly, one of the things that I think was on the Agenda was this issue of allowing citizens to vote. I know you've been before us before advocating that we need to have the citizens vote on issues, particularly as it concerns some tax issues. I know you advocate that. Could you speak to those two components?"

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Mr. Karl Peterjohn said, “Certainly Commissioner. It was a real honor and privilege to be able to speak to the other members of the task force, to hear from the public. I’d like to second Joe’s comments in terms of the excellent staff work that was done by Kathy and Matt. They deserve credit, especially since we were operating under a very tight time constraint because of the state law that obviously wasn’t in the control of the task force and puts you, as Commissioners, at this point, in a relatively tight time bind, too.

“What I would like to do, in terms of answering your two questions, Commissioner, is the idea, what we were looking at as presented to us, basically the plan that was presented to us, we only considered that plan. We were constrained, in that same way, by that plan, so that we considered and voted on was that plan and that plan alone as various people saw it and interpreted it. As I see that, it was a restructuring. People were moved from this department to that department and an elected position became appointed in terms of like the County Treasurer. I don’t really see that it was necessarily smaller. In terms of simpler, on the surface level that may be true in terms of, you eliminate three elected positions and you shift the responsibilities within the remaining departments.

“However, the major concern that I had in coming out in opposition to this was about the fact that because of the state statute, this is not referring to any individual and I guess I ought to be more specific. I am not referring to the County Appraiser in a personal manner but under state law, he has a responsibility to the property valuation division, which plays a key role. I brought for the Commission to consider, copies of a letter to the editor that appeared in the Wichita Eagle earlier this week concerning problems with the property valuation division. It is written by a representative from western Kansas, named Gayle Mulenkamp, but signed by over a dozen other legislatures, both republicans and democrats, expressing concern about the property valuation division. I would like to say and quote briefly from it, at one point, and this is strictly talking about the agricultural use valuation process and how PVD is administering this law. Since this plan that we had proposed in front of us would put a large part of the responsibility under the Appraiser, who has this responsibility to report to PVD, I had a real concern in terms of where the local control was going and what we would be giving up to the state. In this letter, Representative Mulenkamp says and I’m going to quote in part, this is in the middle paragraph, ‘clearly, the property valuation division is violating Kansas law when it attempts to use soil grouping instead of landlord rental income to determine the value of the pasture and range land.’ Later on, he goes on to say, ‘since the landowner has to pay to prove that the property valuation division is incorrect, the burden of proof is placed on the landowner not with the property valuation division.’

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“My concern is not to get into the use value issue, specifically, but more into property valuation division. If we’re going to make this switch that is being considered, we’re going to be giving PVD . . . one of the outcomes of this proposal would be to give PVD more of a say, in terms of how this whole system of administrating taxation here in Sedgwick County would be handled. It was something that I personally, as one of the seven members of this committee, was not comfortable with. In terms of the idea of tax referendum votes in particular, Commissioner Winters is correct. I have spoken many times in support of mandatory tax referendums. My concern with this was that with the recent vote on consolidation that occurred in August, I saw no public support in the one public hearing we were able to hold for the idea of going forward with this, while there did seem to be some opposition. I didn’t see any effort in terms of a real organized push by any group within this community to support the idea of going forward with this consolidation. I heard a lot of questions raised, some maybe more valid than others. I really didn’t think the idea of placing this on a ballot would be all that productive and useful. I’m sorry for the length of my response to your question, but I wanted to give you the details behind my thinking, Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, thank you, very much.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you. Are there any of the other task force members that would like to address the Commission?”

Mr. Wess Gaylon said, “Never pass up an opportunity to follow Karl. I’m with the Builder’s Association and I wanted to tell you that I appreciated the opportunity to be involved with this issue. It was an honor and privilege to be involved and serve with my colleagues on this. I just want to echo what Karl has already said. It was a similar concern that I had regarding the potential influence of the property valuation division and the state’s intrusion into the business of the County beyond the point that I think many of us would find acceptable. Some of us recall in the late 80s, where we had a problem and it was very difficult to get an audience to talk about our concerns, when we were going through reappraisal and after reappraisal and classification was adopted. That was on my mind as one of the participants during the whole deliberation of this.

“One thing that I want to speak to that is a little bit different than what Karl spoke to and it goes to the question of what Commissioner Winters asked, it has to do with the efficiency issue. I think there was a general interest in all the members of the task force, if not they can say so, but I think there was a general question on everyone’s mind, can a greater degree of efficiency be obtained via the process as followed and service delivery, via the upgrading of some computer equipment and that sort of thing. I guess my gut feeling is that yeah, that is probably possible and to the extent that it is possible, I as one of the participants feel that it is an area that ought to be looked at.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“We here, in the private sector, from time to time about inefficiencies in terms of who has access to certain bits of information, how that information gets inputted into a system, how systems are integrated together. It seems to me that a good look at the systems that either are in use or could be put in use and how information is entered in by whom and who has access and on what basis is something we ought to carefully examine. That in my view would bring about an enhanced degree of service delivery. It should enhance efficiency and I don’t know if it will be less cost, but I think the public has a tendency to measure costs in terms of how responsive government is to them in many cases. But it should create some efficiencies across the board, I think.

“The other thing I think it will do is probably address some of the concerns that people have about, not necessarily the behavior, but the learning curve that some elected officials go through, because some are more proficient than others, when they get in office. That being the case, learning a definitive system that is consistently in place on an ongoing basis, adapting to a system kind of avoids this ‘recreating the wheel’ every time someone gets elected. I think that is something that we ought to look at, regardless of what happens with this issue.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Wess. Appreciate your comments. Are there any other members of the Task Force that would like to address the Commission?”

Mr. Roger Bell said, “I’m President of Security Abstract and Title Company. I’m sorry I’m late. I had my best customer with a problem and ladies and gentlemen, that takes precedence.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “We didn’t know you were late until you told us, Roger. That’s all right.”

Mr. Bell said, “There I am, talking too much, again. I would certainly agree with everything Wess said. I previously agreed with Karl so I assume I would take no exception to that. Probably title companies bring a little different aspect to this problem. Title companies, as I know Betsy knows and Commissioner Hancock, title companies are hired, although they may not realize it, by buyers and sellers to represent them in dealing with the Courthouse. We file their deeds, we record their mortgages, we check their taxes. We’re the go-between in real estate transactions with the County officials that determine title to real estate, taxes due and all the matters that can affect a real estate transaction. In that consequence, we deal with County officials, these three particular offices, on a daily basis.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“I would have to tell you that in the 60 years I’ve been around courthouses, I started to work for my dad when I was ten, so that gives you some idea, we have consistently, year end and year out, felt that we were better served by elected officials than appointed officials. The elected official is there on a daily basis. We can sit down with them when we have a problem. We are not deferred to a bureaucracy chain of command, so to speak. Sometimes real estate deals are very complicated. Sometimes commercial deals, we’re one leg of maybe 15 or 20 commercial transactions taking place over the country. It is critical to get deals closed on a day certain and we just feel we cannot afford to have to worry about a chain of command that perhaps ends up at the Board of County Commissioners to solve any problems that we have. We want to be able to go in and sit down with the office holder. We just have found over the years the system works well. We think the public is better served under these conditions. While we’ve had an example recently of some problems, over the years one problem doesn’t, I believe, mean that we have to change the whole system.

“I’m not really sure you have much of a problem with the public coming in and wanting information. I can’t find any result of any study. Certainly, you all understand exit polls. Maybe we ought to have an exit poll, were you probably taken care of, what office did you deal with? We do a lot of that kind of work for the public when they’re wanting to find deeds, wanting to check on specials and that sort of thing. So it might be that some sort of a survey in that regard would be helpful for you all. One stop shopping sounds fine. The City has that but you go in and stand in line and talk to them and you want a book on zoning. They send you upstairs to the proper place. You get the book, you go back in line to pay for it. I’m not sure. I think we need to look at whatever system we’re going to come up with. Certainly, if as Wess said you share computer knowledge with all the offices, no matter where you come in, you can be handled from that position, it would certainly be very helpful. I think the office holders, from what we understood, are ready to do that. Thank you, very much, for the opportunity to serve on this task force. I appreciate the fact that you included the title companies in the study. Thank you, very much.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Roger for serving. Are there any other members? Good morning, Alan.”

Mr. Alan Cobb said, “I’m with Koch Industries, a resident of Sedgwick County. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve on this committee. It was very interesting and I would say enjoyable. I thought that the plan that was presented to us was well reasoned, well thought out. I had no reason to doubt the veracity of it. I guess, I was on the side of putting this question to the people, putting it on the ballot. Regarding Karl’s comment as to there wasn’t a great public clamoring, I agree there was not. But I think that’s why you asked this committee to take a look at it. Again, I agreed that this looked like it would make things more efficient. It just seemed to make sense and also ultimately to put it to the vote of the people.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“A couple of concerns that occurred to me, that we heard that the vast majority of the Register of Deed’s Office with the title companies, the concern is, is the public then being served and how do you ensure that if one particular group has such an interests in the office, and not trying to sound ridiculous, but these three positions do a great deal for the public but so do other positions within the County government, such as the Zoo, Public Works, the parks. I don’t think anybody would ever suggest that we make those elected. Again, my thoughts were that I we ought to put it on the ballot and let the folks of Sedgwick County decide. Thanks, again, for letting me serve.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Alan, appreciate it. Any other members of the Task Force who would like to address the Commission? Joe, you’ve already talked.”

Mr. Pisciotte said, “I understand, but one of the prerogatives of being the Chair and being older than dirt is that I get to have some of these prerogatives.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Then go right ahead.”

Mr. Pisciotte said, “I would like to make a comment or two, not in my capacity as Chair, but in my capacity as one of the task force members. I voted on the minority side, meaning that I voted to put the proposal on the ballot. I did it for a variety of reasons. Incidentally, I might comment and this statement has not been made. We were very careful during the course of our deliberations not to invoke personality in any way shape or form. This was in no way an indictment of the people who are currently holding those positions, because I personally feel that there have been some changes made in some of those offices. I think they’re making great progress. So it was not with that in mind of anyone in the office, it was looking to the future. My concerns were several fold. One of which was, I think we’ve had some recent experience of these offices, in the past, putting the County at risk, putting the taxpayers at risk. Without the ability of this Board of County Commissioners to correct that situation, I think there is a feeling among the people out there, that you can correct all those problems when in fact you cannot. There is, by law, a difference there that does not allow you to correct the situation when we are placed at risk.

“Secondly, I think one of the things that is on the Agenda and maybe this particular item, this consolidation of these offices is not on the Agenda. But one of the things that I think is continuously on the Agenda of this community is the future. Are we posturing ourselves correctly to put ourselves in the greatest position for going down the road in the future. As County government is required to take on increasingly greater tasks, to play an increasingly greater role of leadership in this community, are we posturing ourselves to put ourselves at the greatest potential. I think a study of this nature is something that we ought to take a serious look at to make sure that we are looking to the future.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“Thirdly, I guess, as one of the real ironies of this Task Force, we were asked to make a recommendation as to whether or not this proposal should go before the voters. Is it a perfect proposal? No. In my experience, we’ve never written a perfect proposal. Maybe we get as close as we can and we can say it is perfect but amendable. I think this proposal, however, should have gone forward before the voters for a public dialogue on this question and many of the questions related to it. I think it was ironic that one of the divisions among this Task Force as to whether or not we’re better served by elected officials or appointed officials, and the strong feeling by the four people who voted in the majority not to place this on the ballot, was that we ought to trust the people. We ought to put these kinds of measures before the voters. But the irony was that we chose not to, by a vote of four to three, and consequently we’re not allowing you the opportunity to put it forward to the voters for the dialogue.

“I don’t know what is going to happen now. I can simply say that as one member, if you should choose to send this back to us for some reconsideration, to correct some of the things that I think my colleagues on the task force raised some very legitimate questions, I for one would be willing to undertake that additional charge as a task force member. With that, I get to close as well. Again, like my colleagues, thank you for undertaking this very important process. It has been a pleasure to be part of it. Thank you, very much.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Joe. At this time, I know there are some of the elects in our audience today. If you would like to speak, you’re welcome to come forward and give your thoughts or comments. With that then, I’d move on. If there is anybody from the public today who would like to comment on this item, you’re welcome to come forward and do so. Is there anybody here today from the public that would like to comment on this item? Okay, I see none. Commissioner Miller, you have your light on.”

Commissioner Miller said, “Actually, I do have some questions and I’m thinking it would probably go to Kathy Sexton and possibly our Treasurer, Jan Kennedy. It is regarding the amount of money, the proposed savings that Kathy Sexton has, maybe with the help of internist Matt Benoit, has calculated for us. Then the proposed expending, if it is how I understand it and you can correct me Ms. Kennedy, that Jan Kennedy has calculated. So I would need to talk with both of you, I would guess.”

Ms. Kathy Sexton, Interim Budget Director, said, “I’m not sure if Jan is here.”

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Commissioner Miller said, "She's here, but she's allowing you to go first. The question would be, and I'm sure the public would look at this and say well my goodness, we've got an enormous amount of proposed savings from one group and then we have another that is saying, in all honesty, in looking at it, we're really not going to save anything, if at all, we might expend more. I just need to understand both of those scenarios."

Ms. Jan Kennedy, County Treasurer, said, "Using the KISS method, which is 'keep it simple, stupid,' I looked at a period of time, just at one period of time, and said what should the savings be as proposed? One of the proposals included filling a position that is currently unfilled. An unfilled position, you can't save money that you're not spending. So I said, you have to reduce the savings by that if it is going to be filled under the new plan, which it was, then that also reduces the possibility of salary savings. Then I took the additional salary proposal for the Treasurer, and so forth, and instead of the savings being \$200,000 a year, the salary savings looked more like \$136,000 a year. That is not taking into account that of the four people that would be permanently removed from the payroll of Sedgwick County, those four people are now actually doing work. They are here, they are doing things. The functions that they provide would either have to be replaced or at least you would have to hire a couple of people to do some of the work that they do. I didn't believe that the four positions would go away."

"In dealing with the technology, I think we have all agreed that it is an important step to take. We've already tried, among ourselves, to work out ways that we can move in that direction. If you do something with technology, you need to understand that in the private sector, you normally will budget 15% to 20% of the technology expenditure on current year maintenance and keeping up with the software and changes and upgrades. If you do that, that reduces your savings even further. Because if you do the one time up front for computers, without planning on ongoing expenditures, very soon you will find yourself way behind the curve. You won't get the savings and efficiencies that computers can bring to our operations."

"So when I looked at it, what is the savings right now and I did look in today's dollars, I didn't look at inflation. I didn't look at projections. We're going to spend more than we save. Now what I have done and I'm sorry, I don't have it completed. I have adopted . . . Kathy looked at it, starting a couple of years in the future when it would take effect, I didn't do that, and made a projection out over five years. So I've taken her numbers and I'm doing the same thing using my arguments. I haven't finished. In other words, if you save those four salaries and that kind of thing, over time. I'm using the same percentages for benefits and so forth that Kathy uses so that mine will be comparative to her approach. Like I said, I don't have it finished, but I have no reason to believe that I will show a \$900,000 savings."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Commissioner Miller said, "Okay, thank you, Jan. Kathy."

Ms. Sexton said, "Commissioner, I would just make a couple of comments about this spread sheet that Jan just mentioned. That is that the Task Force asked me to do a five year projection, based on when implementation would occur if passed into 2001. So as Jan mentioned, I did build in benefits for the effected positions and the increases that would normally occur each year, based on the County's pay plan. That is how you do get almost \$900,000 savings. That is over five years. As Jan indicated, that is not comparing apples to apples with her analysis because she had some different assumptions. What I tried to look at was not putting my own opinions in about what we could save or not save but simply looking at the committee's report, the proposal that went to the task force for review. That is simply the only thing we looked at. In terms of the four versus the five positions, I want to point out two things. One is that the committee's report indicates that, because of the proposal they have made as indicated here to reorganize functions, to computerize some things, et cetera, they believe that all the functions currently being performed could be performed in the future with five fewer positions. That is the answer to the argument that says, well there are four people currently employed, who is going to do their work? Well, under the reorganized plan, other people would do their work. There would be no need to hire people. In the committee's proposal, is that we would save five positions.

"Now yes, the four versus the five, one currently is not filled. The answer there, is that it could be filled at any time. The budget includes that position. So looking at it from a budgetary perspective, as long as we're budgeting funds and levying taxes for that position, then we would include that as a savings. If a position isn't currently filled, we know that could be filled at any time when that is so deemed appropriate by that office. I'll answer any other specific questions, but I do want to point out, too, that Mark Dick, the certified public accountant who was asked by the County to review the committee's proposal has looked at these two proposals as well if you have further questions of him."

Commissioner Miller said, "Okay, thank you. I simply needed to understand how they were so far apart and I think it is taking assumptions into play and obviously they are both projected scenarios and not actualities. So I just needed to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Thank you. At this time Commissioners, we've heard from our Task Force. We've allowed the elected to speak and we've offered public conversation on this item. Commissioner Winters."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Commissioner Winters said, "I have a question of our Counselor, Richard Euson. I guess the Task Force and their proposal has certainly spoken to me and I think right now I'm leaning toward being supportive of their recommendation, but I have a question and I haven't visited with Rich, so if I caught you off guard and we need to pass, that's fine. In some offices, in the statutes there are some requirements for elected officials, such as the District Attorney is required to be an attorney and possess other skills. It is my understanding that as far as the Clerk or the Register of Deeds and Treasurer, there are no requirements in the statutes, is that right, on any qualifications for these three offices? Is it a possibility to rationally think about qualifications for those offices?"

Mr. Euson said, "I am caught a little off guard, Commissioner. I'm not thinking that there are specific qualifications for those offices, other than being an elector and resident of the County. I'm not thinking of any, specifically. Could you add those in? Not unless you sought legislation because those are statutes that are uniformly applicable to the County and it is not an option for you to Charter out of those."

Commissioner Winters said, "So we couldn't do that on a county-wide basis, as opposed to state. It would have to be a change in the state statutes?"

Mr. Euson said, "Yes, I believe it would."

Commissioner Winters said, "To me the decision has kind of come down to the fact and I'm quoting Roger Bell in the newspaper, plain and simply, I just like being able to vote for people. I think that really is where it is kind of centered for me, although at the same time, I'll say I'm not real pleased with some of the situations we have now. I've heard a number of people indicate this is some kind of a power move by the Board of County Commissioners. I think it is important for people to remember that the Board of County Commissioners act as a group of five people. We don't act as individuals. It takes a majority of the five of us to move in any one direction, as opposed to these three elected offices which are individuals. As individuals, if they choose not to cooperate with anybody, there is not a whole lot that anybody can do about it. We're kind of at a loss of trying to move to take on any kind of corrective action. I agree with Wess Galyon in the fact that we need some kind of technology that carries on and will carry pass. But if the elected officials don't care to cooperate in that process there is not a whole lot we can do about it. Maybe we've got a window of opportunity here with the electives we have now, to really move forward in some of these areas, but as recently as a year ago we certainly didn't have that opportunity. It was just a real loggerhead situation."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“I’m to the point now, I think, in coming back to having thought about this process of elected officials, I just really think I am having difficulty in thinking about taking away the opportunity of citizens to vote. I’m certainly interested to hear what other Commissioners have to say, because contrary to popular opinion, we certainly have not talked about this any other place. So, I’m interested to hear what some other Commissioners have to say.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “I think you’re going to hear that in just a moment. Commissioner Miller and then Commissioner Hancock.”

Commissioner Miller said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, I’m not leaning, I am squarely within the camp of accepting the recommendation of the committee. I need to be able to say and you have got commendations and certainly to the Chair of the committee, Mr. Joe Pisciotte, you’ve done an excellent job in the crunch time period that you were asked to lend us this recommendation. I cannot simply put behind me the fact that there is no ground swell to change what is in place. That doesn’t mean that there does not need to be an upgrading and enhancing of the system that is in place, if there is a system at all and I think that is questionable. But just as Commissioner Winters has said, I think we do have a window of opportunity in front of us with the existing elects in those offices to do things differently. To put in place a true system that would weave these elected positions together. I simply cannot see discounting the fact that there is no ground swell and with the one, and that is submitted, the one public forum that was held and there were approximately 50 citizens that were there, that most were simply not there on this issue and in fact there were those that probably expressed some dissent and said no, we do not need to do this. We want to elect our individuals for these positions. I, too, am in the camp of accepting the recommendation of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Hancock.”

Commissioner Hancock said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a report here from staff members who staffed the committee. As the committee members were speaking, I wrote notes all over this thing so bear with me. None of it is connected but all of it is relative, believe me.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Do you need some time?”

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Commissioner Hancock said, "I don't think there is enough time in this world for me to get organized on this thing. This is a very difficult question for us all. I had mixed feelings going in. One of the pleasures of this job was to initiate this thing and stand back and see what course it took. I enjoy sometimes being an observer as much as a participant in some of these things. This has been, for me at least, with my background, pretty interesting. I can't not agree with anyone who spoke here. Everyone has made very good comments. Everything fits, all of it, from the Commission, from the committee members. I have to agree with Tom, that we have had very difficult situations since 1996 with all of our elected officials, all three of these elected officials. I suppose for me, that is what precipitated, within my mind, the desire to go forward with our internal committee and our Citizens Task Force to have a look at these things. It is very difficult. It would be much different for me if the public could clearly understand that when things that are not good happen within those elected offices they need to address those elected offices and not the Board of County Commissioners. It is very important for the public to understand, if they could clearly understand that we are limited. If these elected officials choose, and they should have this choice, how to run their department and to not observe much of County policies and procedure. That is their choice. I think in their wisdom and their desire to cooperate because they are basically good people, they really want to cooperate as much as possible, but then sometimes they don't realize that what happens there splashes back on us. I suppose we're human and we have become just a little bit aggravated, a little bit tired of receiving phone calls and so forth over the last few years. It is not a lot of fun. So I think in my mind I decided okay, it's time to look at this.

"I am really surprised at the results when I received it from the staff members. Upon reflection, I suppose, that the four/three vote would probably reflect what the community would do. I think they would be torn by the discussion and probably come back with much the same answer. While they have had some difficulty with elected officials, gosh, at least elected officials are the ones they can their hands around and drag them out of office screaming and kicking when they don't do a good job. I think those are the thoughts that we here in Kansas think and that is probably why we have so many elected officials. We like our government. I know when we were doing the consolidation discussion, I was surprised back in '92 that there are 104 taxing districts in Sedgwick County. So Kansans and Sedgwick Countians, we like our taxing districts and we love our elected officials to a certain extent."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Keep going."

Commissioner Hancock said, "I'm going, I'm getting there."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Don't stop there."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

Commissioner Hancock said, "Hasn't it been good so far, though."

Commissioner Gwin said, "It's very good, one of your better."

Chairman Schroeder said, "Keep going."

Commissioner Hancock said, "Learning curve, Wess Galyon spoke to the learning curve of elected officials. It is very important. I know, on occasion, when newly elected officials have been elected since I've been here, my counsel to them has been to expect a learning curve. But new elected officials are under a tremendous amount of pressure the first few months to perform. One, they need to clearly assert their authority among employees, and yet not alienate their employees. They need to impress the voters who put them there because there is a deep appreciation for that vote when you win that you're going to do something and you're going to do it positively and do it quickly. There is a lot of pressure on newly elected officials. I think that over the years my counsel has been to them is to learn the job. There is no place I know of that you can go that you can get a degree to be a County Clerk or County Treasurer. You can only know, somewhat, what the job is about, but you certainly can't get that degree. You cannot possibly, as a newly elected official, understand totally the details of that particular office. I think that we need, here in the County, when we elect a new official, to bring them on board early, from that November election on, and try to help them understand the nuances of the offices, what they're about to go into and face. I'm sure that, in the long run, we might be able to save a few of them. County Commissioners are no exception to that. Sometimes we are under the same pressures and act much the same way. But for the most part, the elected officials have been very good.

"Enthusiastic support for this, I was hoping our committee would come back and say either don't do this, this is really a bad idea and I can't believe you Commissioners brought it up to begin with or come back and say this is one of the best ideas we've had. I needed that enthusiastic support, one way or the other.

"Last of all, one of the good things that has come out of this is the internal committee and I think the reflection of our citizen report, in that they took a look and this is the first time I've seen this done, take a look at these offices and said you know we could make some changes. There are some good things that we could do here even with elected officials and with their help you can make it better. There are some good ideas that I don't want to throw away here. It takes one thing, and that is the willingness of the County Clerk, the Register of Deeds, the Treasurer, and the Board of County Commissioners to cooperate with one another. We need to be willing, one, to give up maybe a little turf, two, accept a little bit more responsibility, and decide within our minds what works best and not just looks best for each one of us.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“I think that if we take a look at this and with the cooperation of the elected officials and the help of the Board of County Commissioners providing the resources that are necessary, I think we can do some very good things as a result of this study.

“I wanted very desperately to put this on the vote in November. I made some rules for myself going into this thing. I had an appointment to go on the committee and I wanted to hear what that appointment had to say. I thought that voice was very important. I wanted to hear what the majority of the committee had to say. Going in very early on, I made up my mind that I was going to listen to them and honor their views on this particular subject. I’m not sure I would have known what to have done if my appointment voted one way and the majority went the other. Fortunately, I didn’t have to make that decision. I would like to see this go on the vote in November but I think right now is probably the wrong time for it. I’ll have to support leaving it off the November ballot.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Gwin.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that I think is a topic or area that keeps coming up in this study and in a number of the others that we have done lately is the issue of communication. I don’t just mean computers and that kind of electronic communication, though that has certainly been brought up again in this one and how important the integration of that technical communication is. But it also reminds me of how important this person to person communication always is and maybe how we don’t quite get there. We don’t quite meet that goal or that value that we’ve set for ourselves. This kind of thing reminds me of that. I know that we’ve tried, in the past, to keep those doors open and be a part of the other electeds, give them, as Commissioner Hancock has said, our best advice and try to take some back from them. Sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn’t. But that is something that this continues to remind me of. There really does seem to be a goal that we need to continue to work on.

“Like Commissioner Hancock, when I started thinking about this I thought that’s a good question to ask and that deserves to be place on the ballots so the voters could get a crack at it. Then I was reminded of some of the recent questions that we’ve asked voters that have been defeated. So I said okay, what would change that? What is it about this one that you might be able to get a different answer? I don’t see that happening in this case. I think one of the most important issues, when you ask voters questions, is to be able to get the information to them on what the pluses and minuses are of that question. What are the positives of a yes answer? What would a yes answer mean? How does that make things better or worse? On the no, why? Why would you want to keep things the way they are?

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“To get information out takes a lot of money and time and people who are willing to carry that for you. This Board, I think, would not be the group to carry that. I see that as an obligation of a public group or groups who want to go about the business of raising money to be able to inform the public, to be able to answer the questions one way or the other so that the folks would be able to make an informed decision. I think when you ask questions, put questions on the ballot, where you don't have that kind of community based support, people make a decision but it is usually not a change. It usually does not bring about change. Most of us will go kicking and screaming into the after life fighting change. So I think this issue, though I think it has merit, I have not been approached by any community group or groups or folks who are willing to carry it forward to inform the public.

“Lacking that, I think, I too, am going to follow the recommendation of the citizens task force and not bring it forward. If, in the future, someone wants to come and talk to me about how important they think this change is and wants to bring a coalition of interested people who are willing to go about the business of informing the public so they can make a better decision, a different decision, then I'd be willing to talk to them. But I don't see that now, so like I've said, we've asked some well intentioned questions recently of the public but baring a lot of time and money, most folks will turn those down. I'm anticipating the outcome of the voters, I guess, by saying never mind, I don't see it. I think I tend to agree with those who said this just doesn't look like the time for this question.

“I think the task force has certainly reminded us of some internal things that we can do, that ought to be done, that we don't have to get the public's permission to do but only our desire to try to make things run smoother and be more efficient for the public's benefit. I think there are some things that have been suggested that we could certainly do anyway. That's my comment for today. Thank you.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you. Commissioner Hancock.”

Commissioner Hancock said, “Thank you. I just wasn't quite finished yet.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Did you find another note there?”

Commissioner Hancock said, “This is serious stuff folks, calm down. One of the things that Joe Pisciotte said while ago as I listened, and it is very important to me and has been for a while now, that is what position will we be in, in the future. What position will we be in to take care of the future, to deal with what the County's responsibilities will be for the next few decades. That's been a concern of mine for a long time.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“Most recently, I suppose while we endorsed the concept of consolidation, we didn’t exactly endorse the method. I think this Commission was ready to take a look at that issue from a different perspective than we had before. For me, at least, it is coming down to an issue of leadership in the community and service. We’re moving into a whole new world, as we have for this whole century. We’ve had vast changes in how we do business and how government operates. I don’t see that process changing and slowing down too much. Technology is there, the need is there, information is the gold in which we deal in. That’s the exchange. We need to be there and ready to serve the public.

“So the thing Joe said about our position in the future and how well we’ll be able to deal with the delivery of public services in this community and what that looks like, that has to be dealt with. Even though I don’t think we’re going to put this on the ballot in November, I don’t think that issue will go away. I want to urge anyone who is interested, stay engaged with that thought. This Commission needs to clearly sit down and think about a preferred future and do everything, apply the resources and make the organizational changes, structural changes within it to get there, to where we want to be. Joe, I didn’t want that thought to go without any response. I think that is very important. We have a responsibility and if there is any responsibility greater than that, I don’t know what it is that any legacy could be from any of us here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you, Commissioner. First I want to say, back in 1987 when I first got here, this concept, this idea was presented to the Board of County Commissioners. I don’t recall what the savings were back then but I think Jerry Harrison was probably the lead person on that project, back then, to do the same thing we’re talking about today. Somebody mentioned the learning curve, which we’ve talked a lot about today. I was brand new and I didn’t see the need to review, discuss, look at, eliminate, those offices. My interaction had been as a real estate broker working with a couple of those offices on almost a daily basis, so I saw no trouble or any problems.

“Well in the last couple of years, my attitude changed about those offices. First of all, I still like electing people like everybody else does. But then I began to see some of the problems that we’ve encountered. We took care of those but the issue was that the County Commission ended up being the body that got blamed for the problems. I had so many phone calls, so many people that said why don’t you take care of this, why don’t you take care of that person. When I said you elected them, they work for you, you’re responsible for them. They’re responsible for their actions but you’re responsible for them. They work for you. A lot of people were surprised by that, that the Board of County Commissioners had no ability to remove, correct, change the course of direction of any of those offices. It is not only a learning curve for me, but it is for the public.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

“I’m probably blessed by the fact that I’m here, I know how those offices work. I see some of that on a daily basis. Most of the public, 95% of the public, probably, will never have a full understanding of how the system works. So I’ve just got to say that I was part of that learning curve and I learned my lesson. But I think we’ve made what I think was a very good attempt to address the problem once again and this time we involved public input and members of the Task Force advised us not to do this. I was hoping for something different than that, but I probably will abide by that.

“I want to, on behalf of the Commissioners, thank first of all the external Task Force, our public Task Force. Joe, James, Roger, Alan, Wess, Beth and Karl, I appreciate all the effort you’ve put into this process. It is not totally in vain. The information is here and available because I have a feeling that this will come up again. I don’t know how soon, but my guess is that it will come up again. I won’t be here, but it will come up again. I do want to thank our internal committee, headed up by Bob Lamkey. You folks did a great job and I do want to thank our CPA, Mark Dick for participating and looking at the numbers and making sure we added right. He did a wonderful job. I also want to thank the elects, Jan, Bill and Jim for allowing us to invade your offices, if you will, and get the information that we thought was needed to make a good decision. The staff has done a wonderful job. Kathy and Matt, appreciate the hard work that you’ve put into it. I think we’ve all learned a lot from this process today and the last couple of months and obviously it will not be forgotten. It is a difficult one and that’s why we involved the public. I think this Commission, especially in the last few years, with the help of our County Manager, Bill Buchanan, has shown us the importance of allowing the public to participate in some of these difficult decisions. Some may come out the way we want them and some may not. But it is still your government, we work for you. We’re just trying to provide what we think is the best possible government for you. Sometimes we may think differently than the majority of the public, but that’s our job and we’re here to do the best that we can to represent the citizens of Sedgwick County.

“Well, Commissioners, we have an action line here to receive and file, and then we have another issue we need to pick up after that regarding the public hearing scheduled for next week. I would entertain a Motion at this time regarding the receiving and filing of the report.”

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to receive and file and to accept the recommendation of the citizens task force on reorganization of elected offices and that the question not be placed on the November ballot and also cancel the public hearing set for September 9 on this matter.

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, once again. Appreciate you all being here. We're going to take about a five or ten minute break."

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed at 10:15 a.m. and returned at 10:35 a.m.

Chairman Schroeder said, "We are back in session. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN NONCURRENT COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECORDS.

Mr. Douglas King, Records Manager, County Manager's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a relative routine item. This is requesting the disposal of an estimated 10 cubic feet of confidential client/patient appointment books for COMCARE. These are for the period of 1983 to 1996. These are eligible for destruction. They've gone through the review process. This is a routine item. My original intent was that this be on the Consent Agenda as we've already gone through this process in the past and I promise I'll make that more prominent in the request next time. I would request your approval."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to adopt 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 Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

Chairman Schroeder said, “Doug, thank you. The public doesn’t know, Doug is one of these quiet kind of guys that works down in the basement, out in the salt mines, and all the places you don’t normally go. He does a good job of trying to free up space for us and get rid of documents that aren’t necessary for us to keep around. We really appreciate the hard work that you do in that regard. Thank you. Next item, please.”

E. SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK.

1. AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION, KANSAS AREA OFFICE, FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK SEPTEMBER 27, 1998 TO HOLD A WALK FOR DIABETES.

Mr. Jarold D. Harrison, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This first agreement is with the American Diabetes Association for the Walk for Diabetes to be held on September 27. We have a standard form agreement. Dates have been coordinated with the Park Superintendent and we have received a certificate of insurance. We would recommend your approval.”

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

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

MOTION

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

Commissioner Hancock 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."

2. AGREEMENT WITH MUSCLE, INC. FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK SEPTEMBER 13, 1998 TO HOLD A FLEX '98 CAR SHOW.

Mr. Harrison said, "Muscle, Incorporated, is probably the longest tenured car show at the park. They've been there since 1991. We have coordinated the dates with the park superintendent for this event. We've received their certificate of insurance. We recommend your approval."

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.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

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."

3. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA REGIONAL GROUP OF THE EARLY FORD V-8 CLUB OF AMERICA FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK OCTOBER 4, 1998 TO HOLD A CAR SHOW.

Mr. Harrison said, "Again, this is a standard form agreement. The dates have been coordinated with the park superintendent and we have received their certificate of insurance and would recommend your approval."

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

MOTION

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

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."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

F. AGREEMENT WITH CLEARWATER FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE FOR CONTROLLED ACCESS TO MAIN STREET IN CLEARWATER, KANSAS SEPTEMBER 12, 1998.

Mr. Harrison said, "It is getting to be that time of year again when many of the cities have their annual fall festivals. This is a request from the City of Clearwater for their Fall Festival. It is actually September 11, 12, and 13. They are requesting controlled access to Main Street in Clearwater on the 12th for certain activities in conjunction with the Fall Festival. Traffic control will be coordinated with the Sheriff Reserves. We recommend your approval."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Hancock 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, Jarold. Next item, please."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

G. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1. SERVICE CONTRACTS.

- ! CONTRACT WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMISSION, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS WICHITA, MEDICAL PRACTICE ASSOCIATION, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, WICHITA, WICHITA CENTER FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL RESIDENTS IN PSYCHIATRY TRAINING.**

- ! PRAIRIE VIEW, INC. TO PROVIDE SHORT-TERM STABILIZATION BEDS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We have two contracts here. One is with the state and this is where the state pays for residents from the KU Medical School to spend time at COMCARE at the Mental Health Center and provide services. They do that through a variety of our programs, including services at the jail and the homeless program. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "Is that just one?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "Oh, let me do both."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Prairie View is on here too, isn't it?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "Yes. The second contract is with Prairie View and this is an ongoing contract and a renewal which involves purchasing some time short-term crisis beds in their in-patient facility. When we have a family that has gone into some kind of crisis, we need a break and need to rework the treatment plan, work through the problem and get the child back home as soon as possible. I would recommend your approval. "

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to approve the Contracts 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	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

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

2. AGREEMENT WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM, INC. TO LEASE TELE-PSYCHIATRY EQUIPMENT FROM COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CARE (COMCARE).

Ms. Donaldson said, "Commissioners, we have tele-psychiatry units both at our childrens' program, family and childrens' community services, and at our CSS program, community support services. This allows for a lease back to the mental health consortium to establish a state-wide network which can be used when they negotiate contracts for us. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

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

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.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

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."

3. CONTRACT WITH DUNNING & DUNNING, L.L.C., CPA TO PROVIDE FISCAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES TO COMCARE CLIENTS.

Ms. Donaldson said, "Commissioners, this involves services to individuals who have a developmental disability. This is a new program of self determination, which really allows for a wider range of choice within providing what is needed for the individuals to be in the community and function productively. This actually will allow folks to pick folks that they feel comfortable working with that then can be employed and paid for providing that for them. Dunning & Dunning would be the employer of record for those individuals. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

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

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

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

4. AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH WICHITA CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER PROVIDING AN INCREASE IN TOTAL CONTRACT HOURS FOR THE ATTENDANT CARE PROGRAM.

Ms. Donaldson said, "This last item involves an amendment to the contract. As you aware, attendant care has been a very important program and service for children. At this point, we need to purchase some additional hours because of the demand and this amendment allows us to do that. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to approve the Amendment to Contract 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	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

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

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

H. TRANSFER OF \$11,787.36 IN SPECIAL AUTO FUND UNSPENT MONIES TO THE GENERAL FUND, PER STATUTE REQUIREMENTS.

Ms. Jan Kennedy, County Treasurer, said, "I'm here to make an editorial comment and also to give you some money. The first editorial comment is please if you hear anything about my department, if you receive any complaints from citizens, that I would say, if you don't disclose it to me, if you don't discuss it with me, shame on you. I think we can communicate and work together in solving problems.

"We had, from a budgetary basis, \$11,787.36 unspent in the auto vehicle special fund. We have now closed out that year and we would like to present to you the difference so it can go into the County General Fund. Are there any questions?"

Chairman Schroeder said, "I see no questions. Commissioners, discussion? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Miller moved to accept the funds.

Commissioner Hancock 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."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

I. CAPITAL PROJECTS OFFICE.

1. CONTRACT MODIFICATION NUMBER ONE WITH MID AMERICAN CREDIT UNION. CIP PROJECT 1998-PB351.

Mr. Kenneth W. Arnold, Director, Capital Projects, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The contract modification with the credit union is in the amount of \$2,229. This is for some additional work that we contracted the credit union to perform when they were constructing their facility. We recommend you approve that. Be happy to answer any questions."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Hancock moved to approve the Contract Modification.

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."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

2. CAPITAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT.

Mr. Arnold said, "The monthly report starts on page 62 of your back-up. The only thing I was going to comment on is, basically, we have changed the headings for you, hopefully to make it a little bit easier under the project titles on page 62. So it is very clearly delineated as to what was in the capital budget, what we have added to the project, or taken away from it, and what the total available project dollars are, so you and I don't have to sit here and figure that mathematically out in our heads as we had to do before. We have a number of projects that are ongoing. We are working very well with the architectural engineering firm. We're going to start a project out at Lake Afton pretty soon to start fixing that building up and insulating it and waterproofing it. We have a project going at the Coliseum on the Pavilion I roof and a number of other projects. I'd be happy to answer questions on any of them."

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

Commissioner Hancock said, "Ken, thanks for the changes. I think it's great."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Hancock 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, Ken, appreciate it. Next item, please."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

J. BUREAU OF PUBLIC WORKS.

1. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF MULVANE FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROCK ROAD BETWEEN 87TH STREET SOUTH AND K-15 IN MULVANE. CIP #R-243. DISTRICT #5.

Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director/County Engineer, Bureau of Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item J-1 is an interlocal agreement between Sedgwick County and the City of Mulvane regarding the construction of Rock Road between 87th Street South and K-15 in Mulvane, designated as R-243 in the Capital Improvement Program. Their participation is based on the section between 103rd Street South and K-15. The City of Mulvane will pay Sedgwick County approximately \$800,000 for their share of the improvements. The exact amount will be based on actual quantities and unit costs as bid.

"Basically, they will pay for the difference between a four lane rural roadway section and a four lane urban roadway section. This project will be constructed in the year 2000. The City of Mulvane will also maintain this section of roadway, that is from 103rd down to K-15, after the project has been completed. Recommend that you approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

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

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	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

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

2. **MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION, REQUEST NUMBER ONE AND FINAL, WITH RITCHIE PAVING & CONSTRUCTION, INC. ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT - 1998 MISCELLANEOUS HOTMIX OVERLAYS. CIP #R-181.**

Mr. Spears said, "Item J-2 is a modification of plans and construction for the parking lot for the new Public Works building. This project has been constructed and is ready to be finalized. There will be a net decrease of \$5,881.68 due to variations in plan quantities from actual field measurements. Recommend that you approve the modification and authorize the Chairman to sign."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Modification of Plans and Construction and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Hancock 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, David. Next item, please."

- K. **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' AUGUST 27, 1998 REGULAR MEETING.**

Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have Minutes from the August 27 meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts. There are just two items for consideration today."

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

**(1) COLDMIX - BUREAU/PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: BUREAU/PUBLIC WORKS**

“Item one, coldmix for the Bureau of Public Works for a special project. It was recommended to accept the only bid received of Koch Materials. Note the individual prices. The estimated cost of the project is \$181,786.

**(2) AUTOMATED PERMITS, INSPECTIONS & CODE ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM-
CODE ENFORCEMENT
FUNDING: EQUIPMENT RESERVE**

“Item two is automated permits, inspections and code enforcement system for the Code Enforcement Department. It was recommended to accept the proposal of Tidemark Computer System. That amount is \$151,464. A page from Glen Wiltse follows.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING BOCC ACTION

**(3) SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS - BUREAU/PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS**

**(4) FLEET MANAGEMENT MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE - FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

**(5) PERSONAL COMPUTER SERVERS & SOFTWARE - FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

**(6) ROUTERS FOR NETWORK - INFORMATION SERVICES
FUNDING: INFORMATION SERVICES**

“There are four items that were tabled for additional review. They include: sanitary sewer improvements for the Bureau of Public Works, Balthrop 2nd Addition; fleet management maintenance software program for the Fleet Management Department; personal computer hardware and software for Fleet Management; and routers for a network system for Information Services. All of those bids and or proposals are being reviewed. I’ll be happy to take questions and recommend approval of the Minutes provided by the Board of Bids and Contracts. Thank you, Darren. Discussion on this item? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

MOTION

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

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	Aye
Chairman Mark F. Schroeder	Aye

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

CONSENT AGENDA

L. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Right-of-Way Easements.

The following tracts of land have been granted by Easement for Right-of-Way at no cost to the County. The Director, Bureau of Public Works, requested these Easements as a condition of receiving a Platting Exemption on an unplatted tract.

- a. Road Number 628-15, Owners: Don Klausmeyer Construction, Harley A. Peery and Rebecca K. Peery, located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 28 South, Range 2 West, more specifically located on the south side of 39th Street South (MacArthur Road) and east of 183rd Street West. Illinois Township. District #3.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

- b. Road Number 785-I, Owners: Richard A. Reese and Ladeane M. Reese, located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 26 South, Range 3 West, more specifically located on the east side of 279th Street West and north of 53rd Street North. Sherman Township. District #3.

2. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contract.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V98039	\$262.00	4	Valley View Apartments

3. 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>
C98010	\$154.00	\$166.00
V97054	\$256.00	\$386.00
V95080	\$84.00	\$255.00
V98034	\$202.00	\$292.00

4. Plats.

Approved by the Bureau of Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 1997 and prior years are paid for the following plats:

Booher Addition
Miles Country Lane Addition
Eagle Ridge Addition

5. Order dated August 26, 1998 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.

6. Consideration of the Check Register of August 28, 1998.

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

7. Budget Adjustment Requests.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Type of Adjustment</u>
980424	Central Services - Security	Transfer
980425	Human Resources	Transfer
980426	Appraiser	Transfer
980427	Information Services	Transfer
980428	Aging	Transfer
980429	Aging	Transfer
980430	Aging	Supplemental Appropriation
980431	Capital Projects	Transfer
980432	Parking Garage Expansion	Transfer

Mr. Buchanan said, “You have the Consent Agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it.”

MOTION

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

Chairman Schroeder said, “Thank you. Any other business to come before this Board? If not, we’re adjourned.”

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

M. OTHER

N. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting, September 2, 1998

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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

MARK F. SCHROEDER, Chairman
Fifth District

PAUL W. 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:

_____, 1998