

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 1999

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, February 3, 1999 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Bill Hancock; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Commissioner Ben Sciortino; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Jarold D. Harrison, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Charles Magruder, MD, MPH, Director of Community Health; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Tom Pollan, Director, Emergency Medical Service; Ms. Diane Gage, Director, Emergency Communication Department; Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Community Development; Mr. Brad Snapp, Housing Coordinator; Ms. Jeanette Partridge, Contract Administrator, COMCARE; Mr. David C. Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department; Mr. Fred Ervin, Director, Public Relations; and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Jo Ann Kelly, Chairman, Regents Round Table of Wichita.

Ms. Carolyn Jenlink, Wichita Area Safe Kids Coalition.

Mr. Allen Shive, Clerk, Greeley Township.

Mr. Andrew Selenke, Trustee, Attica Township.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Dr. Nabil Seyam.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

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OFF AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION

Chairman Hancock moved to take two Off Agenda Proclamations.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Fred Ervin, Public Relations, said, "Commissioners, I have two Off Agenda Proclamations and I will read the first into the record at this time.

- 1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY, 199 AS 'AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH.'**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the month of February is the birth month of two of our greatest Presidents - President Washington and President Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, the Daughters of the American Revolution designate February as American History Month; and

WHEREAS, our history is important for each citizen of our Country;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bill Hancock, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, does hereby proclaim February, 1999 as

“AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH”

and call upon the residents of Sedgwick County to reflect upon the history of the United States of America.

“Commissioners, you have the Proclamation, and I would recommend you adopt it and authorize the Chairman to sign.”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you.”

Mr. Ervin said, “Commissioners, with us this morning we have Jo Ann Kelly, who is the Chairman of the Regents Round Table in Wichita and I also notice Ms. Buchanan. Would you guys like to accept the Proclamation?”

Ms. Jo Ann Kelly said, “I want to thank you, very much, for remembering American History Month. It is very important to us and I’m glad that is it that important to you, too. Thank you.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you for being here. Fred, the next Proclamation.”

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2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 7 - 13, 1999 AS 'BURN' AWARENESS WEEK.

Mr. Ervin said, "This is the second Proclamation and I will read it into the record at this time.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, each year, nearly 28,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in hospital emergency rooms for scald burn-related injuries, sixty-five percent of treated burn injuries occur to children ages 4 and under; and

WHEREAS, scald burns are the most common type of burn-related injury among young children. Older adults and people with disabilities are at a greater risk for receiving scald burn-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, at Via Christi Regional Medical Center, Trauma-Burn ICU, 24% of inpatients and 36% of outpatients were the result of scald burn-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, burns have long been recognized as among the most painful and devastating injuries a human being can sustain and survive; and

WHEREAS, almost 100 percent of all scald burn-related injuries could be prevented through behavioral and environmental modifications.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bill Hancock, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, does hereby proclaim the week of February 7-13, 1999 as

"BURN AWARENESS WEEK"

in Sedgwick County, and encourage every resident to make the proper changes in your environment which will eliminate the cause of the problem and the risk.

"Again, I would ask that you adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Fred."

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Mr. Ervin said, “Commissioners, we have Carolyn Jenlink, Wichita Area Safe Kids Coordinator, and Patti Peterson also.”

Ms. Carolyn Jenlink said, “On behalf of the Wichita Area Safe Kids Coalition, I’d like to thank you for proclaiming next week as ‘Burn Awareness Week.’ Our fire and burn subcommittee has been putting together a scald- burn prevention campaign that will kick off next week. We appreciate your support. I’d also like to take just a minute to recognize those hard working individuals who put this together. They’ve shared a lot of time, talent, and energy in a public education campaign that we hope will prevent some of these devastating injuries. Those are, Patti Peterson, with the Sedgwick County Fire Department; Janet Cusick, with Via-Christi Trauma/Burn ICU; Roy Tate, Boeing Fire Department; and Desiree Larson, with the McConnell Fire Department. Thank you.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you. Thank you for being here today. We appreciate you coming by to pick up the Proclamations. Madam Clerk, let’s do the Minutes.”

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, January 13, 1999

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of January 13, 1999.

Chairman Hancock said, “Commissioners, you’ve received a copy of the Minutes, what’s the will of the Board?”

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 1999.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Next item please."

APPOINTMENTS

A. APPOINTMENTS.

1. RESIGNATION OF JACKIE D. HEFLING AS CLERK OF GREELEY TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Richard A. Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This resignation has been tendered to you for acceptance and I recommend that you do accept it."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to accept the resignation.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Next item please."

2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALLEN SHIVE (COMMISSIONER WINTERS' APPOINTMENT) AS CLERK OF GREELEY TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, Kansas Statutes allow the Board of County Commissioners to fill vacancies in township boards and this would fill the vacancy just created by the previous resignation. It is for a term to expire on January 13, 2003. The Resolution is in proper form."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Rich."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Mr. Shive here?"

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Mr. Paul Rosell, County Clerk's Office, said, "Raise your hand and after I've read 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 Clerk of Greeley Township, so help me God."

Mr. Allen Shive said, "I do solemnly swear."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you for taking the time. We appreciate the service to the townships. Next item please."

3. RESIGNATION OF CLAYTON R. MCCULLOUGH AS TRUSTEE OF ATTICA TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, I would ask that you accept this resignation."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to accept the resignation.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Next item please."

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4. RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANDREW P. SELENKE (COMMISSIONER WINTERS' APPOINTMENT) AS TRUSTEE OF ATTICA TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this appointing resolution is for the unexpired term, which will now expire on January 8, 2001. The Resolution is in proper form."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Rich."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Mr. Selenke is here."

Mr. Rosell said, "Raise your right hand please."

"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 Trustee of Attica Township, so help me God."

Mr. Andrew Selenke said, "I do."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you both for taking the time to serve on those township boards. I know you have a difficulty and we want to wish you both the best of luck. Paul, thank you for being here to swear them in."

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“At this time Commissioners, I would entertain a motion for an Off Agenda appointment.”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to take up an Off Agenda appointment.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

OFF AGENDA APPOINTMENT

Chairman Hancock said, “Rich, do you want to do this Off Agenda item?”

Mr. William Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Rich and I have been discussing this and I thought I would do it. We received notification from the City Manager that the City took action some time ago to nominate Greg Ferris to the Solid Waste Planning Committee. As I understand, and the attorneys are here to answer those questions. As I understand, those names coming from the City of Wichita, and others, are nominations to you and you have the right to approve or consent to those nominations or deny them. You have a time period in which you need to do that. The notification was received from the City of Wichita nominating Mr. Greg Ferris on January 13. We believe we are in the 30 day time frame to do that and you have the opportunity to approve or deny that nomination. That’s the Off Agenda item before you.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Okay, thank you. Commissioners, discussion on this item? Commissioner Winters.”

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Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I just want to make a couple of quick comments. I'm not going to be able to support this nomination. I think Greg has been the initiator of a lot of good activities on the City Council. He works very hard on any issue that he is involved in. He's a leader on that Council. Some of the things I think they've done very well, I'm still impressed with how downtown has turned around. I know Greg has played a big part in that. I really respect his work. But I think this is a case where the same people look at the same facts, the same issues, and study the same problems, and can come up with just completely different solutions. I think, in this case, Greg has come up with what, I think, is a different solution. What I'm interested in now is people who, I think, will help and support the County move forward to build the best solid waste system that we know how to build. I think you do that by having people who are committed to your plans and your projects and are your supporters and will work for the direction that our Solid Waste Planning Committee is working on and in this case I just don't see this happening. Today, I'm not prepared to vote in the affirmative for this, just because I think I have so many different views from Greg Ferris."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'm going to differ from Commissioner Winters, but for the same reasons he stated concerning Greg Ferris, I'm going to be supporting Greg's nomination. I don't think we have anything to fear of having people on the advisory board that don't follow lock step to the ideas that we now feel that we believe in and that's the reason for an advisory board, is to get difference of opinion so we can make an informed decision. Especially when we talk about solid waste, because that is going to have a tremendous impact, either positively or negatively, on each and every citizen in Sedgwick County. Greg has served the community for many years. He's going to be going off of the City Council here in April and I think it bodes well for him that he is still interested to serve this community, and I would encourage all of you to consider the nomination for Greg Ferris. I'd like to try a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the appointment of Greg Ferris to the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

Chairman Hancock said, "I have a motion, do I have a second? If not, the Motion dies for a lack of a second. Commissioner Gwin."

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Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Sciortino, I appreciate the comments you made, as well as Commissioner Winters. For the most part, however, I'm going to have to agree with Commissioner Winters in his comments. It appears that Mr. Ferris has been and continues to be diametrically opposed to the direction that the Solid Waste Management Committee and this Commission has indicated we want to go. Although I believe that disagreement and discussion are healthy, particularly on issues of such importance, on this particular issue our decision has been made. I believe that I want members on this committee who want to work to make a transfer station successful, who will be productive and positive members of the committee. Albeit that they don't have to be 'yes' people. I expect healthy discussion. But I expect people to serve on that committee to help us be successful in this effort. At this point, I don't believe I could support the city's nomination. Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Further discussion? Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "First, I have a question. Did the City of Wichita's appointment, whoever that was, did they resign this last time?"

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioner, it is my understanding that the City's appointee has not been attending the boards and has been given a letter to be taken off the board. That has created a vacancy, by mean of the bylaws of the Solid Waste Management Committee."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay. I think when we look at appointments, we need to look at an individual's desire to serve and their objectivity to make things better in the process. On solid waste issues, I think some of the key things that ought to be thought about and one, of course, is protecting our environment, making sure that is considered. Then a second thing would be to ensure that our businesses and our taxpayers, the users of this process, are not burdened. The third thing is when you have a plan in place, which we do have a plan in place and it is moving down the road, we need to make sure that we're going to be a team player and work to make it the best possible plan that we have for our citizens. I, personally, have some concerns with Councilman Ferris because, based on the information I have in the last two years, it appears, as the County has put this plan together, there has been some contrary remarks through this process, which, not to say that that's not bad, questions certainly need to be raised. It makes me wonder what the intent is here today. Qualifications, I think that is something else that should be considered. I don't know what his qualifications are. I do know that, as a Councilman, he has been involved in solid waste for years. But I haven't been visited by him, so I don't have the answers to these questions. It is my understanding though that this cannot be deferred, is that correct? Are we out of time on this?"

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Chairman Hancock said, "The rule is, if the appointment isn't made or rejected within 30 days of notice, it is an automatic approval. As you know, we won't be here a week from today. Our feeling is that the 30 days would come and go before we're able to address the issue again."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I guess it is apparent that the City of Wichita, Mr. Ferris is who they have chosen. I guess I'll just make the comment that should I support this, that I hope as an appointed position on the Solid Waste Committee, that his intent is to serve the citizens of Sedgwick County the best way and help us move this process on down the line. Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Appreciate that. Commissioners, any further discussion on the item?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "Mr. Chairman, I guess the only question I have, Mr. Euson, I'm prepared to make a Motion to deny, but I don't know how to say it. To reject the City's nomination?"

Mr. Euson said, "I think the way the statute is written, it says if the nominee is not appointed or rejected within 30 days, the nominee shall be deemed appointed. So I believe it is upon you to make a motion, an affirmative motion to reject."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to reject the City's of Wichita's nomination of Greg Ferris to the Sedgwick County Solid Waste Management Committee.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	No
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Next item please."

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DEFERRED ITEM

B. COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT.

This item was deferred at the January 27, 1999 Commission Meeting.

Mr. Charles Magruder, MD, MPH, Director of Community Health, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you for the opportunity to come, once again, this morning. If I may relate to you just a few items that may be of some interest to you. You probably noted in the Governor's address, he talked about children and immunizations. We've had two problems of recent note in Sedgwick County. The first being that it is well recognized that our children here have very low levels of immunization and I think it has also been very apparent to many people, the pertussis outbreak and the ramifications of that.

"The Health Department has been looking at various things that we can potentially do to help remedy that situation. One of the things that was approved by the Board of Health just a couple of week ago was what we call W.I.C., I.A.P. program. Basically, that is an item that we have developed in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. W.I.C. (Women Infant Children) is the program, I'm sure you're aware of, that helps people in certain socioeconomic strata get additional nutritional supplement. I.A.P. is an immunization action program that has been sponsored for some years by the Centers for Disease Control. What you may not be aware of is that research has recently indicated that if we pair those things together, we can encourage participants in the W.I.C. program to get further immunizations for their children. So, our intent is to take a grant that we've just received from KDHE, and implement that program here in Sedgwick County. We're going to start out at one of our health stations and if it is successful, and we get the logistics worked out, then we'll begin to progress to other parts of the Health Department as well.

"In addition to that, we are contemplating other activities, and the two primary things we're still pursuing with as much fervor as we can, and that is implementation of a modernized management information system for the Health Department and also creation of an epidemiology section, that can provide oversight for all of these different issues.

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“Another item that you may find of interest to update you on is our Healthy Start Program, that is in the Northeast community. As you are aware, there were some difficulties with that program a few months ago. The federal government came down and expressed some concerns. The Board of Health became involved in the issue. We had about three months, by which to do some things. We have given our presentation back to the Board of Health on our progress in that area. We did recommend to them that they approve continued use of the grant. They have abided by that recommendation.

“Some highlights to present to you in that regard. You may have heard that we are contemplating the creation of a new health station, within the northeast community, that would be specifically honing in on the Healthy Start Program, but in addition, other aspects of the Health Department would be with them as well. We’re about 90% of the way there in terms of getting that new Health Station established. Basically, from the Healthy Start perspective, it will focus on outreach in the community. We will have a program in place that will identify areas that we perceive to be at the greatest risk. We will actually have people going door to door, to find young women and their children that may be in need of our services. Once we find these individuals and get them into the system, then they’ll be case managed by professionals and we’ll also have social work and nutritional consultation available. In addition to that, the other support that we’ll provide from other Health Department assets include the W.I.C. program, immunizations and other clinical services and what the federal government now calls interconceptional services, which was previously known as family planning.

“Another item to relate to you and then I will finish up is, you’re probably aware of the Governor’s Public Health Improvement Commission. They are making tremendous progress in a number of areas in terms of examining how local Health Departments function in the State of Kansas, how they should interact with each other and how they should interact with the State. Their formal recommendation should be ready by late ‘99, or at the latest by early 2000.

“I want to relate to you one concept that is given strong consideration at this time so you may become aware of it. That is, regionalization. By regionalization I mean instead of having just local Health Departments within a city or a county, they would divide Kansas into broader and larger areas. So, I want to relate to you a couple of items related to that concept that we are talking to KDHE about right now. The first relates to tuberculosis. We will have a contract that will be presented shortly after further discussion internally within the Health Department that will look at the possibility of the Wichita Sedgwick County Health Department having responsibility in South Central Kansas for providing consultation to other counties who may not have some of the resources that we have.

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“In March, we will begin other discussions with KDHE which may begin to look at our further role as a regional partner with other Health Departments, providing consultation and support in areas where they don’t have the capability. So, just to make you aware that it is a concept that is being actively looked at. There are no formal agreements yet. There is nothing in place that actually turns us into a regional entity, but there are some things on the table that are being discussed and I’ll be happy to give you further information about that, if you desire.

“One final item. KIFS, the software program that the Health Department began developing about four years ago, has been formally transferred as of January 1, 1999, to the Kansas Health Foundation. I believe that will be of tremendous benefit to the Health Department. We will no longer have the direct responsibility for dealing with that software product. The Kansas Health Foundation now has that and they are pouring tremendous resources into it, to make it work. We suspect that will be tremendously beneficial to us and they have been very generous in their personnel coming to the Health Department and actually continuing to help us in developing that product. So, over the next year, we anticipate some great things with the further development of that software product with the Kansas Health Foundation.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Doctor. Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “I just have a quick comment. I have, in the past year, in dealing with our Community Planning team on juvenile justice issues and how we can go about that, we continued to find and to come back to factors that are so critically important in a child’s life, from the birth to five or six years of age. I want to tell you honestly, in the past, the Healthy Start Program and the W.I.C. Program haven’t been high on my priority list but I think they’ve moved up a considerable notch. I think those programs are very important and do not need to discuss them more, now, but I think as we look at the whole arena of how we try to prevent our children from getting in all kinds of difficulties later in life, a strong effort earlier in life plays a very important role. I just wanted you to know, Doctor, that I’m very interested in both of these programs. Thank you.”

Dr. Magruder said, “If I could relate just one thing sir so you’re aware. Debbie Donaldson and I have had a number of conversations about the very issue and, hopefully, very soon, we will begin to look seriously in some details at ways we can work together and use the Health Department staff, as we go out and do interact with young women and their children very early in life and how we can help identify problems early and get referrals into her system before a problem becomes more serious.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Doctor. Commissioner Sciortino.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Doctor, I’ll conceptionally have to agree with Commissioner Winters. I think the two programs are good. But you said a word that scares me and the word is ‘grant’. Somehow, people think that a grant means that we’re going to get a lot of free money and it won’t cost the taxpayers anything but often times a grant is for hiring people but for a very limited period of time and then the tax payers are stuck with supporting that ad infinitum. Is that the case here?”

Dr. Magruder said, “Well, the one specific grant that I mentioned from KDHE, the W.I.C., I.A.P. program, does involve funding from a federal, state source, and more than likely, as it is true with all types of grants that we receive, you cannot anticipate that the funding will continue ad infinitum item.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I just think that we need to know, we as a Board, need to know what kind of impact or additional burden we’re going to be putting on the taxpayers for this program. You also mentioned something about going door to door to seek out people. How do you go about doing that? Are you literally knocking on a door and seeing if a mother is home with a child? How does that work?”

Dr. Magruder said, “Well, the federal Healthy Start programs that have been started in other communities, some of the models that they adopted is specifically called Outreach. The program that we’re looking at most specifically is from Baltimore, Maryland. In that program, what they found was most successful, was to be able to get into the community itself and reach out to people. The reason that is important is because the individuals who are truly at highest risk are not the individuals that are going to come in to your clinic to get support. So if you really want to have a good chance of impacting infant mortality, decreasing low birth rate infants, and other problems associated with poor maternal and child health outcomes, we have to be able to get a system designed that goes out to people where they’re really at risk. This has been something that has been adopted and tried and tested in many other larger communities, prior to us looking at it. So, we’re not doing something new and novel. This is simply adopting something that has been well tested, well researched, well examined in other communities.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. I just need to know, if we got all the grant money that you’re seeking, will you be able to do this with existing personnel or will you be having to hire additional personnel, assuming that you got all the grant money that you’re seeking?”

Dr. Magruder said, “Well, the federal Healthy Start program that I was referring to, if you want me to continue in that vein.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just want to know if we're going to have to hire more people?"

Dr. Magruder said, "In the Healthy Start program, that has been in place for a year and a half. That particular program from the federal government involves around half a million dollars and it has involved the hiring of 14 people."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So we would have to hire 14 additional people to execute these two programs?"

Dr. Magruder said, "Well, the KDHE immunization program is a separate entity and that only involves hiring one individual to make that function. The federal Healthy Start program, that has been in place for over a year and a half, has involved the hiring of 14 people to make the program work."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And how long will the grant pay for these 14 people?"

Dr. Magruder said, "The grant is in place for a four year time frame. I should mention that one critical aspect of this grant, as it is with any other kind of grant, is sustainability. We do have resources in the Health Department that do function to maintain certain programs that we have in place. But it is a common problem or a common issue in Health Departments all across the country. We are not unique in the fact that many of our functions are dependent upon grants. If we want to get certain things going, we have to rely on funding from state and federal sources and plus private grants in order to get some of our needed programs going."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I understand that and I'm not against the project. I just think that this Board needs to know exactly what it is committing to long term and should the grant go away, we're committing to sustaining 14 additional people plus the one additional person you mentioned."

Dr. Magruder said, "I don't know if you are making a commitment to sustain all of those efforts. Certainly, the Health Department will do everything it possibly can to sustain an effort that has been shown to work well. We may do that by requesting support locally or do that by trying to get additional grants to get them going, but I do not believe, sir, that in any circumstance we formally commit locally."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I understand. Thank you."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you Commissioner. Any other questions? I might say, in addition to what you've already said Doctor, is that traditionally, at least since I've been here, we have as far as our grant funding is concerned, and we've been very cognizant of the unreliability of that. Sometimes, the future demands our own resources if we chose to carry out those programs further. I might say to Commissioner Sciortino that we make it known to those who are hired under grant programs that their lives and their fortunes may very well be in jeopardy in a few years, depending upon our decision and the ability to receive more funding for those programs."

Dr. Magruder said, "There is one thing sir that might put your mind somewhat at ease. There are some grants that I've continued for several years. For example, our Air Quality Section and Environmental Health have had E.P.A. funding ad infinitum, well not ad infinitum but for several years, approximately 20 years actually. Sometimes these things do continue and are maintained. But we will do everything we possibly can to maintain those items and show that they work."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. I take comfort in what the Chairman said, that these people know going in that should the grants dry up, their jobs are in jeopardy."

Chairman Hancock said, "We try to be very cautious with folks we hire and tell them this is a grant funded program and their employment is on that basis. We're very honest up front. Commissioners, any other questions? Doctor, thank you for being here. We missed you last week but we're glad to see you this week."

Dr. Magruder said, "My apologies, sir."

Chairman Hancock said, "No problem. Just glad you're here."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, again. Next item please."

NEW BUSINESS

C. RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISIONS TO SEDGWICK COUNTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, before you are proposed additions to the existing Agenda Policies and Procedures. These are, essentially, good housekeeping additions. The first is a codification of a long standing practice of the Finance Department to certify funds to the Board of County Commissioners prior to your meetings. The second addition codifies the statutory requirement for approval of all claims. I would ask that you take the recommended action and I'll be glad to answer any questions."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard. Commissioners, questions on this item? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Next item please."

D. RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR INVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS.

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you is a Policy that is a comprehensive investment policy to govern the investment of public funds. The County does not currently have an investment policy. We operate under the provisions of Kansas State Law, which clearly established that the Board of County Commissioners has full responsibility for the investment of all monies held by Sedgwick County. It establishes a series of permitted investments for those monies. But it goes no further in providing safeguards for the public assets. This policy, that we have submitted, is intended to provide those additional safeguards to you, to the staff that is responsible for the investments, and to the taxpayer. If approved by you, we will then submit it to the state for their approval.

"The safeguards that are imbedded in this policy, that are not in the state law, include the following. First, a clear statement of your objectives and of your expectations. Foremost among those is your expectation that our guiding objective will be security of public money. That is, we are first and foremost to assure that we do not lose principal on investments. Secondly, we are to invest for liquidity. That is to ensure that we don't engage in investments that are longer in term than our expenditure requirements dictate. And only finally, is your objective to obtain high yield on investments. So yield is sacrificed in favor of security and liquidity.

"Secondly, this policy provide unambiguous standards of care for the investment program. In particular, it establishes a very strong ethical behavior rule for the staff that is engaged in the investment program.

"Third, it defines rules for safe keeping and collateral to protect our interest in securities. The Kansas state law provides no such standards or no such rules.

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“Fourth, this policy narrows the list of permitted investments from that which is imbedded in the Kansas law, so as to protect us from investments that may be somewhat risky to Sedgwick County, they are permitted by state law, but we don’t think they are safe investments for the public of Sedgwick County. Let me read for you the list of those permitted investments.

“First, for operating funds, this policy would permit investment in fully insured United States Treasury and Agency Securities, in repurchase agreements, in collateralized public deposits, those that are fully collateralized by federal securities. It would allow us to invest in temporary notes or no-fund warrants issued by Sedgwick County. It would allow us to invest in the Kansas Municipal Investment Pool, in bank trust departments with commercial banks located in Sedgwick County and for bond proceeds, it would allow us, additionally, to invest in direct obligations of the U.S. Government or any of its agencies and obligations of a variety of federal home agencies, called Fannie Mae, the federal home loan banks, and the federal home loan mortgage corporation. It would allow us to invest in a variety of additional repurchase obligations and investment agreements, which are issued by highly rated financial institutions. It would allow us to invest bond proceeds in municipal bonds or other obligations issued by any municipality in the State of Kansas, or by the State of Kansas itself, or in our own temporary notes.

“Finally, this policy establishes some standards for recording our investment activities to you and to the County Manager. Again, those are not contained in the state law, so that is an additional safeguard. This policy has been reviewed and verbally approved by our external auditor, Mark Dick, and by our bond counsel, Joe Norton. We asked Mr. Dick if he could appear today. He is in Topeka so he wasn’t able to come here, but he did indicate his support for this policy. In the audience, I have with me, Phil Hanes, who is the Investment Officer within the Department of Finance, who is principally engaged in our investment activity and he was a principal author of this policy and I want to recognize his contributions to his effort. With that, I’ll be happy to answer any questions and I recommend your approval of the Resolution and the attached policy.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Chris. Commissioners, questions of Mr. Chronis? If not, I might just say this. One of the benefits of being here full time is that on Tuesdays, we have staff meetings. The public is not, generally, aware of that. Yesterday, we had the opportunity to review the policy in depth and it was very lengthy, and probably more time than we have today to review it. I want to say to Chris and Phil, thank you, very much. It is quite a change from what we’ve been used to. While we have been conservative, this is still very conservative in our approach to investment but yet hopefully, in the long run, will yield to us a better return on our investment. I think, as the financial world changes, it is a necessity that counties and governments who make investments change also. It is about time. Thank you, very much. Commissioner Gwin.”

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Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chris, I echo what the Chairman said. I think, in the staff meeting, on another presentation yesterday, it was pointed out that one of my favor phrases is 'so what'. So, I want you to answer this, so what? So, we didn't have a policy so now we're going to have one, so what does that mean to the taxpayers of Sedgwick County? What does that mean to Sedgwick County government?"

Mr. Chronis said, "It means two things. It means first and foremost, they have additional assurance, that they did not previously have, that their money, which is held in our hands, will be invested safely and securely, so that we won't be losing money as has happened, very publicly, in some other jurisdictions earlier in this decade. Secondly, it means that we will be able to engage in a range of investments that are not currently permitted to us and through those investments we hope to obtain a higher yield. That will provide additional income for the government, which will allow us, eventually, we hope, to reduce taxes."

Commissioner Gwin said, "That's what I needed to know. That's what I needed you to say. Thank you, Chris. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just one more of the check off list. The County's auditors, Allen, Gibbs & Houlik have checked off on this plan, our bond counsel, Joe Norton, has checked off on this plan, policy, and if we approve it today, then it will go to the State of Kansas and the State of Kansas will have the opportunity to comment on this plan before they approve it?"

Mr. Chronis said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Winters said, "That sounds like a good list to me. Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. Chris, right now our funds are invested just in CDs, is that where they're at right now?"

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "I looked over what some of these other investments are and they're very conservative. I don't see any problem with doing it. I wouldn't want to invest in those in my portfolio, they're too conservative. I think, with a very minimal risk, we have to get a little more bang for the buck for the taxpayers money. I have no problem with that. Thank you, Chris."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioners, any further discussion?"

Mr. Chronis said, "I forgot to suggest to you, something that I mentioned yesterday, there are two minor amendments to this policy that I would encourage you to undertake. This is based again on the reviews that have been performed by Joe Norton and Mark Dick. On page 6 of the policy, in paragraph 'E', there is a reference to a rating agency called Fitch IBCA. I would recommend that you delete that reference and make the appropriate grammatical changes to the paragraph. On page 7, in paragraph 'I', there is a similar reference to Fitch IBCA. I would recommend you delete that reference and make the appropriate grammatical changes to that section. Second, in paragraph 'H' on 7, I would recommend that you delete it, in its entirety."

Chairman Hancock said, "Very good. Chris, any other changes?"

Mr. Chronis said, "No."

Chairman Hancock said, "All right. Commissioners, do you all have those changes?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Resolution with the deletions and technical corrections recommended by Mr. Chronis.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

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Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Chris. Next item please."

E. DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

1. PRESENTATION REGARDING Y2K UPDATE ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.

SLIDE PRESENTATION

Ms. Diane Gage, Director, Emergency Communications Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "One of the year 2000 issues that is coming to light is well, when the year 2000 rolls over, am I going to be able to call 911? Am I going to have access to emergency services? The answer is yes. I want to give you a quick overview on where we're at with the Y2K issue. I know this has kind of become a monthly presentation for someone to present Y2K and it's our turn this month.

"First of all, we are ready for the year 2000. We have five primary areas that we have to deal with. The most important one to the public is the 911 telephone system. Then it is our radio system. Will public safety be able to communicate with each other, our computerated dispatching system, the mobile computer terminals that we now have in a large percentage of the law enforcement vehicles and then the support systems that help keep this running?

"On the telephone end, we deal with Southwestern Bell and two other smaller phone companies, Southern Kansas, and Haviland. All three of them are Y2K compliant. We received documentation from Southwestern Bell so far on this and we are waiting for documentation from the other two companies. But you're going to be able to reach our center with your 911 call, come New Years Eve of this year. The equipment in the communication center that we're using to handle all the telephone calls, they've all been tested. We're up to date on them. So, not only are the calls going to get there, but we're going to be able to pick up the phone and actually talk to the people on the other end and still have all the information we're getting now, the location, their telephone number, that type of thing.

"The radio system, the primary system, 800 MHZ system that we're using right now, we've identified all the time and date sensitive areas. We have one area left to fix, which is the GPS synchronization so all the towers can transmit at the same time and aren't really walking over each other. I do have a vendor coming in, in approximately the next six weeks, to go back over the system with us and make sure there isn't some little piece of it that we've overlooked, that hasn't been updated to make sure that everything is going to work coming the year 2000 on the radio system.

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“Our computerated dispatch system, we’re real fortunate with. As part of the project for the mobile computer terminals, we had to replace our mainframe so that we would have enough speed and space to handle the additional terminals. That took care of updating the entire system to the year 2000 problems. In addition, we updated the dispatcher’s terminals, which are all basically PCs located on their consoles. Those were updated because of the lack of speed and needing a little better terminal for them to operate off of. So we took care of the year 2000 issues with those, pretty much, just by being able to expand and improve our services. We had the mainframe replaced back in July and the PCs came on line back in August. So we’re operating with almost all new equipment but we didn’t do this because of the year 2000, we did this to improve the service so we could handle the mobile computer terminals and a few other applications that we’re trying to us. The mobile computer terminals in all the vehicles are year 2000 compliant. The radio modems that are operating the system, radio system, and then the laptops themselves, the support software. When we purchased this system, we asked for them to be Y2K compliant and they are all operating with the software that is going to be able to go on into the year 2000. So, not only can we talk to each other, we’re going to be able to send their calls via the system.

“Our support systems within the communications center, the PCs that the staff use, on the recording system, office equipment, and then at the radio shop, the monitoring equipment, their testing equipment that they use to repair radios. The PCs that they’re using to track all their jobs. We replaced a few of those. We’ve updated some software. Some of these pieces of equipment were not date sensitive. Some that were date sensitive, it didn’t really matter if the date showed it was the year 2000 when they utilized them. So we’re just pushing the date back because it doesn’t matter whether it is showing 1977 or showing the year 2000.

“Basically, what’s going to happen if this thing all fails. Well, on the telephone system, we have lost phone services before. What’s typically gone wrong, in the past, is that we’ve lost like one phone exchange. From meeting with Southwestern Bell, if we have a failure, it is probably going to be a single phone exchange. They’re not anticipating anything to happen. What we’ve done with a single phone exchange in the past is, the first thing we do is put out a broadcast on the radio letting everyone know. The media picks up on it. We locate an alternative phone number, an alternative means for these folks to call in. When we lose an exchange, a lot of times you’re able to call within the exchange but not outside the exchange. So we can give them a number to call, whether it is a police substation. If it is a suburban community call and put someone at the police department or the city hall building within that community, so there is a number they can call and we can still communicate with them by radio. Then we alert the public safety units out there so we can have additional patrols in the area should someone need to flag them down for assistance.

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“If we lose power, each of the radio sites is supported by a back-up power system. There are generators at each of the three remote sites. We have a generator, just outside the courthouse here, that will support our entire communication center. There is enough fuel in those to last from approximately 40 hours to about 4 to 5 days. If we needed to activate the back-up center for some reason, we have generator power to support the back-up communication center up at the Law Enforcement Training Center. It would be a smaller facility, but we would still be able to provide services.

“If we were to lose components of the radio system, we pretty much have about four layers to our radio system. If we lose this main 800 MHZ system, we can lose different sites on it and the main system will still function. But if we were to lose the whole system that we’re utilizing right now, we have a back-up site, located in the downtown, area that is a single site system. We’d operate most of the core area public safety off of that and the communities in the western part of the County would have to operate off the west repeater. If we were to lose downtown and our main system, we do have four conventional channels. Which would mean we would put all of public safety on just four radio channels. We’ve done it before. It is doable. It is not the best of circumstances, but we can still get the job done.

“Should, on top of that, we lose that one, we do have another system over at Wichita State University. The range is quite small. That one would be pretty much a dooms-day type thing, if we’ve gone through all this and we still don’t have a system that’s working. Partly, because the conventional system that we’re using, the four channel system, that’s not dependent upon a computer system at all. That is just plain old push-talk radios. There is nothing computer driven about it, so it is not a Y2K issue.

“If we lose our computerated dispatch system, the dispatchers have all been trained on cards. We drill on this a couple of times a year. So, we pass out the cards and they start hand writing the calls and we go back to where we were before we had computers. We play catch up later, but it is doable. It takes a little bit longer. They get to go look things up on maps that they haven’t had to for a while, but we’ll still get calls out. We’ll still get fire trucks to fires, the ambulances will be sent to medical calls, we’ll still be getting law enforcement out there.

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“On New Year’s Eve, I’ve got my plans made for the year 2000 New Year’s Eve. We’re going to be down in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). You’re more than welcome to come join us. But we’ll have staff on hand in case something does go wrong. I don’t think it really will. I really anticipate things going smoothly. But sure as the world, if I decided not to have people down there, there would be some little widget somewhere, that nobody’s ever heard of, that’s going to give us some type of problem. I think as far as call volume, next New Year’s Eve is going to be one of the busiest ones we’ve ever seen. With the year 2000 and everybody going to be out enjoying themselves or reeking havoc somewhere, we’re going to be prepared for it. I’d be happy to answer any questions you might have.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Diane. Commissioners, questions? Did you have more slides that you wanted to show us?”

Ms. Gage said, “Well, we covered them all. I thought I had this down. This was the first time I used this and I discovered you can go from the beginning to the end real quick.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Diane. It sounds like you’re prepared and if you’re not sure, you’re going to have a contingency. It sounds very good. Commissioners, the Chair would entertain a motion.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

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

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2. RESOLUTION URGING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR GREATER TAX EQUITY IN THE FINANCING OF 911 SERVICES.

Ms. Gage said, "Before you, you have a copy of a Resolution supporting the legislative issue that is before the state legislature right now on the 911 tax issue. Currently, the emergency telephone tax is applied to only hard wired telephone users, people that have a dedicated line in their home or their business. Wireless users, which are cell phones, and our mobile phones, do not contribute to this fund at this time, partly because when the legislation was written we didn't have an idea on the technology that were going to be available 10 to 15 years down the road. The Kansas Association of Counties has asked for additional support in supporting this legislation. This was part of the County's legislative package that was put together several months ago. But this just further supports our position on it. Right now, in our communication center, we receive approximately 25% of our 911 calls from some type of wireless telephone, whether it is a mobile phone, cellular, and the new PCS phones that are out there, which last year it put it close to 100,000 911 calls that came through our center on wireless phones. We're asking them to help support the system, as do the hard line users at home or business.

"Right now, if I chose to get a second line in my home, I pay 911 tax on it. If I chose to get a wireless phone, I do not. The wireless users are increasingly becoming a larger part of our business. I'd be happy to answer any questions on this."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioners, questions? Diane, I do have one clarification. There is an advantage to the land lines when they come into the center. The advantage doesn't exist, today, as far as wireless calls are concerned. Would you tell us about that?"

Ms. Gage said, "Right now, if you call on a hard wired phone, a call from your home, I know where you're calling from and we're able to get your telephone number. If you call 911 from a cellular phone, we do not have your telephone number. We do not have any idea where you're located at. There are technologies out there, in fact the FCC has a ruling out called 'Phase One' where we can ask to have the telephone number of the cellular caller sent to us, as well as the location of the tower that their call came from. However, one of the big pieces with that is there has to be a cost recovery mechanism in place and right now there is not. As soon as we get that final piece of cost recovery mechanism in place, then we can ask for the wireless companies to send us the address and the tower location of each call we receive on 911, or each wireless call on 911."

Chairman Hancock said, "I think it is also important that anyone watching this understand the charge for 911, that revenue is used for the update, maintenance, and care of equipment."

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Ms. Gage said, "Yes, it is used for the phone system, for the radio system, and equipment in the communication center. It cannot be used for salaries. It cannot be used for any ancillary equipment like office furniture or anything like that. It strictly has to go to the technology and support the delivery of telephone services and the delivery of the 911 call to the field unit."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "So, if we are going to upgrade out equipment, then, to be able to track cell phone calls, get their phone numbers and find out where they are, then it is the intent of this Resolution and the legislation that we've tried to get passed that the cell users help the others pay for the upgrade of that equipment for a service that they're currently not helping to support. Isn't that correct?"

Ms. Gage said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I was not here last week because I was in Topeka talking to this committee who is considering this and Diane was right there with me. It continues to be a rock that is real hard to move. They just don't see, the legislators just don't seem to be responsive or understand the need here. That doesn't mean we're going to go away. I think we've been working on it for several years and I'm assuming that we'll continue to do so. But one of the questions I got was well, if this person has a cell phone, haven't they already paid this tax by virtue of paying the tax on their residential phone. I think what we need to consider is that if you use a service, we think we need to find an equitable way to pay for that service. If the highway system or the road system in this state and in this County are used by those who drive vehicles, everyone's vehicle pays the appropriate amount to support that system. After you buy one car, the rest of them aren't free. The same with real estate. All of us pay our real estate taxes based upon the properties we own and their evaluation to support public services and the services that government provides. The law doesn't say that on your first piece of real estate you pay those fees but everything else that you buy, every other piece of real estate after that, you don't have to pay. This is a matter of equity. This is a matter of everyone supporting a very important service. So, we're going to keep saying the message to the legislature. Hopefully the folks out there in the community will understand the issue of equity and fairness in supporting a public service will also be in touch with their legislatures, so that they understand this is not just coming from government but from the people who do help support a very important service like 911."

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Ms. Gage said, "In addition to the people that have chose to take wireless on as a second line, there is now push and we're seeing it as a trend down in the communication center, where people are taking wireless phones with the technology the prices have gone down and the ease of use and that is their primary telephone. We're receiving calls from inside residences. There was a disturbance back in January where the woman is screaming, needing some help, and she's calling from a wireless phone inside her home. She does not have a hard line phone at all. The dispatcher was having extreme difficulty in finding out where the woman is and she's having a hard time staying on the phone due to the circumstances. There is another company that just had an article in the Wichita Business Journal this past week, where their sole focus and what they're marketing toward is a total wireless solution for your home. Take it with you, which would totally eliminate having a hard wire phone. So those folks aren't really going to be helping support the system at all. I look for this as a trend to continue as technology increases and availability of the wireless systems increase to more users."

Commissioner Gwin said, "One of the issues, too, is that this isn't a new tax. I think we tried to express that what this does is to spread this existing tax to a new technology, one that we really didn't think about when we enacted this legislation. So it is a matter of equity, I think, and it is a matter of making sure that we can provide the service to all of the folks out there. I was going to bring my cell phone to the bench to demonstrate it, but that line, that access to that service ought to pay its fair share. As a cell phone owner, I'm certainly willing to do that. I would hope others would be, too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Mr. Chairman, I should have shut my light off. Diane mentioned the same article that I had seen. Wireless companies actually trying to sell their product as this is the only phone you need. I certainly feel that, as a wireless user, it is fair and just to spread that tax around. If I'm using a wireless phone, especially if the equipment that you're going to be buying or need to buy is to actually assist 911 being more efficient in responding to an emergency call, is going to be done but primarily because of a wireless user, the wireless user should pay their fair share. I'll be supportive of this Resolution."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. I might also say, if everyone would help support the 911 system, the communication equipment that is involved in all of this, it would be a little bit cheaper for everyone. We would have a much larger support base. I know we haven't maxed out on our capabilities, as far as what we can legally charge for this service, but many counties have, out there. They need that revenue to update and so do we as a matter of fact. I think the most important thing is just public service and it doesn't make any sense to not do what we can to improve our level of public service, our level of safety. There may come in time when you have more cellular phone calls than hard line calls to 911. It would be unfortunate if we lost some of the capabilities that we did have associated with hard lines. But if everyone pitched in, it would become cheaper for everyone and we'd all pay less. We only need so much money to do the improvements and to maintain that equipment. It isn't as if we're going to take it, invest it, and bankroll it somewhere. We can only use it for one thing. It is dedicated just for this service. Any other questions or comments?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Diane. Next item please."

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3. AGREEMENTS (2) WITH MARION COUNTY EMS AND RANDY STEARNS FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY EMS TO PROVIDE FIELD INTERNSHIPS TO STUDENTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS.

Mr. Tom Pollan, Director, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is continuing long standing relationships with both Marion County EMS and Randy Stearns, who are doing training programs for EMS technicians. These are two agreements and my recommendation is that we continue this long standing relationship and allow the Chairman to sign.

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Tom. Commissioners, questions or comments? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Agreements 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 Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Tom. Next item please."

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F. DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

1. RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL: SMALL CITIES GRANT.

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In 1994, the Board of County Commissioners adopted policies implementing a small cities grant program. The program was funded and operated in 1995, '96, and '97, but it didn't operate last year. The funding was eliminated for the program. It is funded, however, for 1999, so what we did was go back and review the policies that were created in 1994. What we found, the program itself, there is \$25,000 allocated for second and third class cities to do community planning, community improvement, which includes historic preservation. The maximum grant is \$7,500. Again, it is limited to the second and third class cities in Sedgwick County. Historically, the grants have most commonly been used for comprehensive planning and for development of municipal codes. But other one-time projects, such as street signs and ADA compliance have also been funded.

"We have proposed changes to the policy and in summary, the policy changes are in three areas. First, there is language clarifying exactly what eligible projects might be. Second, we're removing outdated information. Third, we're fine tuning the procedure based on our three years of experience, the kind of experience we didn't have in 1994. With your approval of these policies today, the application packets should be in the mail by the end of the week and applications returned to us by the end of March. I'll be happy to try to answer any questions you might have."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Irene. Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Just a questions. The review and evaluation says that the Board of County Commissioners shall award such funds on or before April 1 of each year. Will we have time? Will the cities have time to do that? You said they should get them back to us by the end of March?"

Ms. Hart said, "Back for your consideration by the end of March."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I just wanted to make sure that they would have time to get their presentations together."

Chairman Hancock said, "If not, we could extend the policy."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Okay."

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Ms. Hart said, "Maybe you want to do that today."

Commissioner Gwin said, "If you think the cities have time."

Ms. Hart said, "They'll have six weeks. Well, in order to get it back, it would only be about four weeks. So maybe it would be an opportune time to change that to April 30."

Commissioner Gwin said, "It doesn't matter to me, I'm just curious as to whether you think we need to give a little extra time."

Commissioner Winters said, "I do."

Chairman Hancock said, "Just this one year?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "I think so. If we'll continue to do it. If you don't mind, then I would just make that one amendment to the policy that, for this time, we extend it to April 30."

Ms. Hart said, "Sure."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I think that would be fairer, especially since they're getting geared up again. They were off a year and maybe haven't thought of something lately. Are they aware of this?"

Ms. Hart said, "We did send out notices letting them know it was coming. So they've had notification, probably, at least a week, maybe two weeks."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'd be agreeable to extending it this year. Because as I read it here, the guidelines and publishing the criteria hasn't been done yet. Bill is going to be doing that. They haven't received that yet. So I think they do need a little additional time to come up with an application."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioners, any further discussion? Okay, would you care to try a motion?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "Yes sir."

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Resolution but extend the review and evaluation time until April 30, 1999. Future years will remain at April 1.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Irene. Next item please."

2. EXTENSION OF LEASE WITH W.R. KENNEY, DBA W.R. KENNEY COMPANY, FOR HOUSING DEPARTMENT SPACE LOCATED AT 1540 NORTH BROADWAY, WICHITA, KANSAS.

Mr. Brad Snapp, Housing Coordinator, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Currently, we're at the 1540 North Broadway location. We would like to move closer to the hub of activity here. We just need to move our lease out for six months. Will you approve that?"

Chairman Hancock said, "Very good. Commissioners, questions on this? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Extension of Lease and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Brad. Next item please."

G. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1. CONTRACT WITH MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS TO PROVIDE GROUP HOME RESPITE BEDS.

Ms. Jeanette Partridge, Contract Administrator, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm filling in for Deborah Donaldson. The first contract is a renewal with the Mental Health Association for 12 group home respite beds for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. These are short term stay beds, to help with stabilizing medication or crises that arise. The recommended action is for the Commission to approve the Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Jeanette. Discussion?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Next item please."

2. AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, INC. TO PROVIDE PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES TO AT-RISK YOUTH.

Ms. Partridge said, "This is the contract that is part of the competitive review process for the prevention funds. Communities in Schools was recommended funding and you approved that last month for \$124,421 for their program, which is a school-based collaborative services for at risk youth. I'm open for any questions. The recommended action is for the Commission to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Jeanette. Commissioners, questions or comments about this Contract?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin 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.

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you."

- 3. CONTRACT WITH ARROWHEAD WEST, INC. TO PROVIDE TO MENTALLY ILL INDIVIDUALS RESIDENTIAL AND ADULT DAY SERVICES FORMERLY FUNDED THROUGH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY DOLLARS.**

Chairman Hancock said, "On the next item, I would entertain a Motion for deferment."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to defer item G-3.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Item H please."

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H. AGREEMENT WITH THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL FOR DELEGATE AGENCY FUNDING.

Mr. Jarold D. Harrison, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is a contract for funding for the Arts and Humanities Council for 1999. We heard their budget request and provided funding in the 1999 budget that was adopted in August. This simply sets out the terms and conditions under which they receive that money.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Jerry. Commissioners, questions or comments? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion.”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

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

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I. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, THROUGH WINFIELD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, PROVIDING A COOPERATIVE LABOR AGREEMENT.

SLIDE PRESENTATION

Mr. Harrison said, “In the fall of 1997, we began a project of participating in a cooperative labor program with the Winfield Correctional Facility and the City of Wichita. 1998 was our first full year of participation in that program and we received 26,152 hours of service from inmates involved in that program. This saved us approximately \$240,000 in what we would have paid labor rate for salary and benefits for that same period of time. We did spent about \$65,000 on inmate labor, supplies, and transportation. You will note by the chart that the Zoo and the Coliseum are the big users. They have the most folks to be able to supervise crews and use them very extensively. Public Works was added during 1998 and picked up a crew to help with road maintenance activities. Cow Town and the Sedgwick County Park are the smallest of the five users. We’ve had a great deal of success with this program. We’re very pleased with the outcomes. We would, as part of the program, we’re required to enter into a cooperative labor agreement, annually, with Winfield Correctional Facility. That’s what we’re asking you to approve it today. We would recommend your approval.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Jerry. Commissioners, any questions about this program? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Jerry. Next item please."

**J. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' JANUARY 28, 1999
REGULAR MEETING.**

Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have Minutes from the January 28 meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts. There are just two items for consideration this morning."

**(1) SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS - PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS**

"Item one, sanitary sewer improvements for Public Works, Balthrop Addition, Phase 3. It was recommended to accept the low bid of Nowak Construction. That amount is \$63,464."

**(2) SKID STEER LOADER - FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

"Item two is a skid steer loader for Fleet Management and Public Works. It was recommended to accept the low bid meeting specifications of Wichita Ford Tractor. That amount with trade is \$20,301. There is a synopsis of the recommendation attached. I'll be happy to take questions of the Minutes provided by the Board of Bids and Contracts."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any questions on these items? I just have one question. On the skid steer loader, it appears to me that we didn't take the low bid."

Mr. Muci said, "That's correct. In this particular case, the specifications that were developed for this and those were developed by the users, Public Works and Fleet Management, the one vendor could not meet all of those requirements. Very close, but we stand by our specifications, this will provide us with the equipment that will allow us to do our job."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, thank you, Darren. Commissioners, any comments or questions on this?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters 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 Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

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

CONSENT AGENDA

K. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Right-of-Way Agreements.

- a. Two Temporary Construction Easements for Sedgwick County Project No. 827-V, W; Oliver between 47th and 63rd Streets South. CIP #R-212. District #5.
- b. One Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project No. 785-A-3050; Bridge on 279th Street West between 117th and 125th Streets North. CIP #B-315. District #3.

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- 2. 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>
V98007	\$201.00	\$203.00
C863005	\$384.00	\$381.00
V95016	\$303.00	\$318.00
V96003	\$142.00	\$104.00
V9800	\$61.00	\$96.00
V97007	\$245.00	\$197.00
V93005	\$422.00	\$333.00
V98013	\$417.00	\$415.00
C96017	\$173.00	\$168.00
V98009	\$235.00	\$382.00
V97010	\$308.00	\$248.00
V97001	\$139.00	\$136.00
V98012	\$244.00	\$157.00
V95031	\$179.00	\$97.00
V94120	\$174.00	\$461.00
C98064	\$287.00	\$375.00
V98062	\$378.00	\$335.00
C94061	\$165.00	\$110.00

- 3. Plat.**

Approved by the Bureau of Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 1998 and prior years are paid for the following plat:

Sand Pointe Addition

- 4. Order dated January 27, 1999 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 5. Check Register of January 29, 1999.**
- 6. Budget Adjustment Requests.**

Regular Meeting, February 3, 1999

Mr. William Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have the Consent Agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Gwin said, "I have a question. Budget adjustment 990040, Commissioners, it is on page 85, has to do with the Arrowhead West item that we deferred. Would it not be appropriate to approve the Consent Agenda, other than that? Should we defer it as we did the item then and bring it back?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes. We'll bring the Arrowhead back next week along with this. This item was dependent upon you approving the Arrowhead contract."

Commissioner Gwin said, "It's done so I don't need to remove it."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I would remove it."

REVISED MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the deletion of 990040.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Regular Meeting, February 3, 1999

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Any further business? Commissioners, we'll recess this meeting."

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed to the Sewer District Meeting at 10:24 a.m. and returned at 10:29 a.m.

Chairman Hancock said, "I'll bring back to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Is there any further business?"

L. OTHER

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved that the Board of County Commissioners recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes to consider consultation with Legal Counsel on matters privileged in the Attorney Client relationship relating to pending claims, litigation, legal advice, and personnel matters of non-elected personnel, and that the Board of County Commissioners return from Executive Session no sooner than 10:50 a.m.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. We are in Executive Session."

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session at 10:29 a.m. and returned at 10:50 a.m.

Chairman Hancock said, "We are back in session. Let the record reflect there was no binding action taken in Executive Session. Mr. Counselor, you have something?"

Regular Meeting, February 3, 1999

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, I would like to ask your authority to settle a tax claim involving Wichita Ponca Canvas Fabrics for taxes for years 1997 and 1998. The claim would be in the amount of \$2,420.88."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to settle the tax claim with Wichita Ponca Canvas Fabrics for taxes for years 1997 and 1998, in the amount of \$2,420.88.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Winters said, "I have a question. What was the original amount of taxes that were due?"

Mr. Euson said, "That is half of the original amount, of \$4,841.76."

Commissioner Winters said, "So we're accepting half of the taxes from a company that is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy."

Mr. Euson said, "That is correct."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And by exception that we're guaranteed we're going to get half of it."

Mr. Euson said, "It is a priority claim and we're guaranteed we will get half."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay."

Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, thank you. Any further questions? If not, Clerk call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Regular Meeting, February 3, 1999

Chairman Hancock said, "Any further business? If not, we're adjourned."

M. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting, February 3, 1999

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

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

BILL HANCOCK, Chairman
Second District

BETSY GWIN, Chair Pro Tem,
First District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner,
Third District

CAROLYN McGINN, Commissioner,
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

James Alford, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 1999