

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 17, 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 17, 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. Paul Rosell, Chief Deputy County Clerk; Ms. Louanna Honeycutt Burress, Economic Development Specialist, Department of Housing & Economic Development; Ms. Rekha Sharma-Crawford, Assistant County Counselor; Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development; Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services; Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Ms. Anita Nance, Interim Director, Department on Aging; Mr. Tom Pollan, Director, Emergency Medical Services; Mr. Randy Duncan, Director, Emergency Management; Ms. Diana Salazar, Personal Property Director, Appraiser's Office; Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum; Mr. Kenneth W. Arnold, Director, Capital Projects Department; Mr. Marvin Krout, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department (MAPD); 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

Mr. Linwood Sexton, Member, Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

Ms. Jean Higbee, Member, Sedgwick County Mental Health Advisory Board.

Mr. Douglas Winkley, Member, Sedgwick County Mental Health Advisory Board.

Ms. Elsha Noble, Member, Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging.

Mr. Olin Hiebert, Member, Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging.

Ms. Donna Hale Ard, Member, Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging.

Mr. Bill Duckett, 1455 Woodrow Court, Wichita, KS. 67203.

Mr. Kurt Lewis, Rural Route 1, Derby, KS. 67037.

Mr. Jim Hunter, 7607 W. Shadow Lakes, Wichita, KS. 67205.

Mr. Tim Wittsman, President, Chamber of Commerce.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Reverend Sherdeill Breathett of Quayle United Methodist Church.

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MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 1999.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Abstain
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 DEBBIE SISCO FROM APPOINTMENT AS
TREASURER OF RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP.**

Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would ask that you accept this resignation."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard. The Chair would entertain a Motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to accept the Resignation.

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, "Next item please."

2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING MATTIE BROWN (CHAIRMAN HANCOCK'S AND COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENT) AS TREASURER OF RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this will fill the vacancy just created for a term to end on January 8, 2001. The Resolution is in proper form."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

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, "I'm not sure if Mattie is here today. She didn't know whether she would make it or not. She did say, Paul, that she would come down to the Clerk's Office if she wasn't able to make it for the oath. Next item please."

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3. RESIGNATION OF BERNARD NICHOLS FROM APPOINTMENT TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PHYSICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to accept the resignation.

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."

4. RESOLUTIONS (FIVE) APPOINTING ANDY SCLAPP (COMMISSIONER GWIN'S APPOINTMENT), JOHNNIE PEARL NULAN, GREG SULLIVAN (COMMISSIONER MCGINN'S APPOINTMENTS), KENNETH DUNLAP AND LINWOOD SEXTON (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENTS) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PHYSICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this is a 15 member advisory board. These appointments and reappointments are all for terms to expire on February 28, 2003."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard. Commissioners, discussion on these appointments?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Resolutions.

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, "I don't believe any of those appointments are here? Come forward and we'll have the Clerk swear you in please."

Mr. Paul Rosell said, "Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

"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 Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board."

Mr. Linwood Sexton repeated the oath and said, "So help me God. I certainly want to thank you for the opportunity to appear. This is a very important board and I look forward to being able to continue to work. Kevin Bomhoff keeps us in line. We would like for Commissioners to attend some of our meetings. At the last meeting, Commissioner Gwin came and was with us and we certainly were happy to have her there. Feel free to come to any of our meetings, because you are spending a lot of bucks for a program and it would be nice sometimes to see some of you come to our meetings. Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Thank you for choosing to serve again. We appreciate it. Next item please."

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5. RESIGNATION OF GLORIA CROSSMAN FROM APPOINTMENT AS TRUSTEE OF VALLEY CENTER TOWNSHIP.

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

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn 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."

6. RESOLUTION APPOINTING MIKE NEAL (COMMISSIONER MCGINN'S APPOINTMENT) AS TRUSTEE OF VALLEY CENTER TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this appointment will expire on January 8, 2001. The Resolution is in proper form."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard. Commissioners, do I hear a Motion?"

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Resolution.

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, "Is Neal here today? Next item please."

- 7. RESOLUTIONS (TWO) APPOINTING JEAN HIGBEE (COMMISSIONER MCGINN'S APPOINTMENT) AND DOUGLAS C. WINKLEY (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD.**

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this is an appointment and a reappointment to this advisory board. Both expire on February 28, 2003."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino 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, "I believe both Jean and Douglas are here today. Come forward and we'll have the Clerk swear you in."

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Mr. Rosell said, "Say I do swear after what I say. It's a little less complicated. Raise your right hand.

"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 COMCARE Sedgwick County Mental Health Advisory Board, so help me God."

Ms. Jean Higbee and Mr. Douglas Winkley both said, "I do swear."

Mr. Rosell said, "Congratulations."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thanks to both of you for being here today. I know your job is a big one, also. As stated earlier, we do spend a lot of money there, too. Thank you for agreeing to serve. We appreciate your time with the board. Next item please."

8. RESOLUTIONS (FIVE) APPOINTING CLIFFORD HELMS, ELSHA NOBLE (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENTS), OLIN R. HIEBERT, JO BROWN AND DONNA HALE ARD (COMMISSIONER MCGINN'S APPOINTMENTS) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, these are appointments and reappointments to this advisory board. All expire on February 28, 2003."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Resolutions.

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, “We have some appointments here, Elsha, Donna and Olin are here today. Come forward and we’ll have the Deputy Clerk swear you in also.”

Mr. Rosell said, “Let me make sure I’m doing this one right. Elsha, Olin, Donna? Thank you very much. I’m doing this one right. Raise your right hand and say I do swear when I’m through. It’s a lot less complicated.

“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 Sedgwick County Department on Aging, so help me God.”

Ms. Elsha Noble, Mr. Olin Hiebert, and Ms. Donna Hale said, “I do swear.”

Ms. Hale Ard said, “I would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue serving the elders of our community.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you.”

Mr. Hiebert said, “I wish to thank you for this opportunity of serving the people of Sedgwick County.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you. Thank you for being here, also, today. We appreciate you taking the time to come up and be sworn in. It’s nice to see your faces here. You have a big job, too. We appreciate your time on those advisory boards.”

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- 9. RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOB O'BRIEN (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD.**

MOTION

Chairman Hancock moved to defer for two weeks.

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."

- 10. RESOLUTION APPOINTING FLOYD S. PITTS (COMMISSIONER MCGINN'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION.**

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this is a four year term and it would end on February 1, 2003. The Resolution is in proper form."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Richard."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Resolution.

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. Is Floyd here today? Next item please."

11. RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRUCE OTT (COMMISSIONER MCGINN'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ANIMAL CARE ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this Resolution is for a term to end February 28, 2003."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Resolution.

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. Is Mr. Ott here today? Thank you. Next item please."

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

B. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A RESOLUTION PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR AN AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION TO YOUNGERS AND SONS MFG. CO., INC.

Ms. Louanna Honeycutt Burress, Economic Development Specialist, Department of Housing and Economic Development. greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm before you this morning to bring a request for an ad valorem economic development tax exemption by Youngers and Sons Manufacturing. I think most of you are well aware that Youngers and Sons has been doing business in the unincorporated area of the County for many years. The Kansas Constitution allows local government to approve such exemptions if, as a result of the investment by the company, creates jobs in the local community. Youngers and Sons have created many jobs. These are the type of jobs that can stay in the community, regardless of what happens to other segments.

"The amount of the investment for 1997 by Youngers and Sons is \$914,495. Mr. Steve Borden is with us this morning. He is the chief financial officer of Youngers and Sons and if you have questions, he or I will address those questions. At this time, I would like to ask you to conduct the public hearing and then approve the Resolution. I would like to add that we have done the required cost benefit analysis to show the impact of the investment."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Louanna. Commissioners, any questions of Louanna before I open the public hearing? If not, at this time, I will open up this meeting for public comment on this item. Is there anyone here who would like to comment on this item, Item B? Is there anyone would like to comment on this item? If not, I'll close the public hearing. Louanna? Commissioners, any further questions? I might just add that Youngers and Sons have been, over the last few years, one of our folks who have sought industrial revenue bonds and tax exemptions. They have been an outstanding corporate citizen in the unincorporated area. It has been a pleasure doing business with them. It seems like every year we have a new item with them. We appreciate the efforts you've made and we're very happy to be partners in your growth."

Commissioner Winters said, "I'd like to make a couple of comments. I would certainly echo that. I know we have two new Commissioners here. Youngers and Sons has really been one of the smaller businesses in the County that we do industrial development with. We're all familiar with Raytheon, that we do the big mega-bucks with. This is a reminder that there are economic development opportunities for smaller businesses in the community.

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“Just last December we started the prelude to this action and Wayne Youngers was here at that time and made a presentation about their company. So this is kind of the follow-up of what we started at the end of last year. Hopefully, Youngers and Sons, if you don’t know them, will become a familiar name. This is really an outstanding small business that has grown and developed and done very well. We’ve been supportive of their requests in the past and I’m certainly going to be supportive of this one today. Thank you.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioners, any other comments? If not, I would entertain a motion.”

MOTION

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

Chairman Hancock said, “Louanna, thank you once again. Next item please.”

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NEW BUSINESS

C. RESOLUTION PROHIBITING TRESPASS ON CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS, DEFINING VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND PROVIDING PENALTIES AND PROSECUTION THEREOF FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF SUCH PROPERTY.

Ms. Rekha Sharma-Crawford, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you, you have a Resolution that sets forth the offense of trespass within certain areas of the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County. The purpose of this resolution is to allow law enforcement to be able to prevent unauthorized individuals from being and remaining on certain property. I'm available for questions. Otherwise, I would ask that you adopt this Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, questions on this item? Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Rekha, I'm just thinking for the public's sake, maybe we ought to say a little bit more about how this item came to us and what kind of problems have been reported along the floodway and those kinds of things."

Ms. Sharma-Crawford said, "Commissioner, this came about actually as a result of law enforcement approaching us and saying that they have had neighbors and individuals who lived, specifically, in the area of the Big Ditch, complaining about individuals who were out there partying at all odd hours of the day and night. There have been some safety concerns about some of the activity that has occurred out there. There have been some stolen vehicles that have been found in that location. So that is some of the genesis of this resolution."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Okay, and could you talk to us a little bit, then, again, for the public sake what those fines might be for violations of this?"

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Ms. Sharma-Crawford said, "In order to maximize the ability of the court to prohibit this activity, the maximum fine on this is not to exceed \$500. Now, having said that, the chances or the actuality of that fine being imposed is going to depend upon how many times we have seen an offender commit this offense. Generally, the County Court and the prosecutors and the judge tend to be very lenient and work with individuals. We would probably work with them on the fine. A first time offender is not going to be fined the maximum penalty. However, of course, that does not completely take it out of the realm of possibility depending on the offense and the nature of what has been occurring out there."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I appreciate that. Appreciate the back-ground. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, "It just isn't my own knowledge, I've got a learning curve here. It says here that if we don't adopt the Resolution, the alternative would be to require any trespass offense to be prosecuted through the District Attorney's Office. Is it already an offense to be on that property?"

Ms. Sharma-Crawford said, "Well, Commissioner, there is a state statute of criminal trespass on the books. It is not currently being actively prosecuted through the District Attorney's Office. This would specifically address the concerns of law enforcement and allow them to address violations within the unincorporated areas. Now, one thing that I do want to point out to the Commissioners is that, in order for us to make this even worthwhile, it is a little bit more restrictive than the state statute."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you."

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

Commissioner McGinn said, "Just a point of clarification. I received a fax this morning, you probably all received it, but just for the public, this is only to be enforced outside the City of Wichita."

Ms. Sharma-Crawford said, "That's correct. Let me clarify. It would be within the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Right."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Mr. Manager, do you have something? Richard? Further questions of Rekha? If not, we have some folks here who would like to address the issue. If you'd like to come forward."

Mr. Jim Hunter said, "I'm a city resident. I would suggest to the Commissioners that this issue be tabled and in the process of the table, a committee put together to investigate the use of these unincorporated areas, and also review the past trespassing laws and whether the new ones are actually needed or if, on the other side, reverse it and maybe some of these area could be open up for use to people as recreational areas.

"I'm not suggesting a total give-over to people shooting in the Big Ditch or abusing the right-of-way through there by using four wheel vehicles. My personal experiences, I live near the Big Ditch. I walk it, in it, around the side of it. Yes, I have seen carcasses, I have seen shells, but for the most part if you ever have a chance you should become a violator and walk it about sunset, about the end of 25th Street is a very beautiful spot. I'd hate to think that . . . and I think you said that if it is outside the city limits then it would be in place. I think we need to look at, again, tabling, investigating, getting input from more people, more interest, and also the people that are against it, the noise that it creates, the cars that are being found out there. Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Sir, I have a question. You talked about walking. You said, we need to consider other recreational activities. What other ones would you be referring to, other than walking in it."

Mr. Hunter said, "Water, which would be like canoeing, non-motorized. You've got the Arkansas that is there. That could be put into use for canoeing, recreational that way. I'm not sure about overnight camping. Then it would entail rangers to keep track of everything. But I think a day time use of the facility could be beneficial to a lot of people in our community. We've got 400,000 to 500,000 people here and not all of them are going to rush out there and use this facility. But the facility is actually very grand and it is too bad it is not being used at all, except for keeping people out."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioners, any other questions? If not, thank you very much for being here. Are there other speakers? Please come forward. Give us your name and address for the record please."

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Mr. Bill Duckett said, "I've lived in Wichita for 44 years. I just want to share with you an experience that I had last Sunday in the Big Ditch. I took part in a foot race called, 'The Not for Whimps, 10 Mile Race.' We started at the Derby recreation center. We ran through the Big Ditch, all the way to Haysville. If this law is put on the books, things like that will be outlawed. It is not a bad thing, it is a good thing. People walk their dogs in the big ditch. It is one of the few areas where we have access to nature within the city, besides parks, where we can go out and see land that is, basically, untouched and allows us to get out of the city and experience a little bit of nature, right in our own back yards. I would hate to see something like this passed, to limit that sort of activity, when it seems to me that there are already laws on the books that address vehicles in the Big Ditch, fires, and firearms. That would be the end of my comments."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Mr. Duckett, I have a question. Did the group, the organizers of this race, have to get permission from anyone to hold that event? Are you aware of that?"

Mr. Duckett said, "I don't really know about that aspect. I do know that we signed a waiver, not holding anyone responsible for any accident or mishap that would happen during the race."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Okay, thank you."

Mr. Duckett said, "It was a very fun time. Two to three hundred people having the time of their lives."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Counselor a question. Even if we pass this Resolution, could an organization, like this gentleman just mentioned, that wanted to put on a race, could there be an exception made to the Resolution for that type of an event or is that precluded entirely?"

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Mr. Euson said, "I think there are maybe other considerations that might preclude it and I think the Resolution is probably consistent with what those other considerations are. What I'm referring to is that that floodway was condemned, as I recall the court file, and condemned for a specific purpose and that was to provide a floodway for waters to flow over and being such, that's the only use we can make of the property. So, I don't believe that, since it was condemned for a limited purpose, that the County is able to even allow events, recreational type events, to occur in it, because all we own is the easement over the surface of the land. The adjoining land owners own the fee title to the remaining uses that weren't condemned."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, any other questions? If not, next speaker please."

Mr. Kurt Lewis said, "I live a Rural Route, Derby. Before I start, I want to say I agree with Mr. Hunter. It needs to be tabled. This question you had just a moment ago, I believe there are laws, rails and trails laws, that covers this issue. I don't know the laws, but that can be addressed, as far as being able to use that for recreation. It is a Corps of Engineers issue, it was a few years ago. I think what we're doing here is penalizing the masses for the crimes of the few. We've already got laws on the books, another redundant law is not going to enforce the laws we already have. Sunday afternoons, on both ends of the big ditch, you're going to find scores, if not hundreds of people participating in all kinds of recreation. Horseback riding is one. There are hundreds of horses in the Big Ditch all the time. I think we need to look at the laws we already have and enforce them. Maybe, if you want a new law, have it daylight to dark. If there are people out there doing things, stealing cars, whatever they're doing, take them to jail, penalize them. Don't penalize the people that are out there all the time, playing."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you Kurt. Any questions? Is there anyone else who would like to speak on this issue? Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I have been generally supportive of the no trespass kind of deal, but I am going to support tabling this for, I'm going to say, 30 days. I would like for us to have staff meet with the City of Wichita staff. I know the City has dealt with this issue extensively. I have attended several meetings with city folks, discussing issues about how to open up part of the Big Ditch for some kind of recreation areas and I'm generally supportive of that and always have been. But there is a question about that property being condemned for a floodway in the original process and that clearly precludes any other activities from taking place in areas that have been condemned for a floodway."

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“The last time I met with this group was probably at least a year ago and they were and had been to the Corp of Engineers and discovered that there are parts of the Big Ditch in the northern sections of the City and into the County that weren’t condemned for that kind of way, so there is some portions that could be opened up, perhaps, to recreation areas. I know the engineers have a great deal of difficulty with that and I understand their difficulty. I really became interested in this during the ‘Rails to Trails’ issue, in thinking about and listening to people say that in the State of Kansas has the second to the least amount of publicly owned property open for recreational areas. The ‘Rails to Trails’ was not a good fit, but if we have big expanses of property, like the Big Ditch area, if there are certain portions of that that could be opened, I would be interested in at least hearing about that and I believe the City of Wichita has also considered that.

“So, I would like us to table this for 30 days and ask staff to contact the City of Wichita staff and see what it is that their attitudes are towards trespassing in the Big Ditch, how they handle the difficulties, and see if we can’t work in tandem with the City on this issue.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Okay, thank you. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I think I’m going to be supportive of Tom’s idea. I would like to see what flexibility we have, if any, and I don’t think our intent is to deny legitimate recreation and if there is some flexibility there, I think it is a good idea for us to at least explore that, before we rush in on a resolution that might be more prohibitive than we initially intended. I would be supportive of Tom’s motion.”

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

Commissioner Gwin said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think both of you make very valid points. I do want to point out, though, to Mr. Hunter, Duckett, and Lewis, that the reason the County is considering a resolution, even though there are books on the law already, that would prohibit some of these activities, this resolution would allow our County Court to be the prosecutor of these offenses, ones that we find that need to be prosecuted. That is much easier than taking them through the District Courts, where they’re really burdened already with the more serious of our crimes. So, no matter what we do, we’re probably going to have to bring this back, at some point, and write a resolution so that the regulations can be enforced by our County Court and diverted from District Court. I want you to understand that. It is not that we’re trying to find a way to write more rules and laws, it is just that this is our avenue to get some of these offenses prosecuted more quickly and handled much less expensively, quite frankly, than having to pursue them through District Court, through the District Attorney and other venues.

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“So, our County Court has been effective in handling some of these, I would call, minor offenses, animal control, and other issues. So, I think that is why we’re looking at this issue. I would be supportive of tabling it and more discussion, but as I said, if we feel that regulations need to be written that impose a curfew, if you will, or are pretty narrow in focus as to what uses can be legally enacted in the Big Ditch, if there is such a thing, then I expect we’ll bring a resolution back and we’ll still want to work through our County Court to enforce whatever regulations we decide are appropriate. I appreciate the three of you being here and reminding us of the impact of this decision. I hope someone will get your names and numbers for us, or if you’ll leave them in our office, I’d be willing to visit with each of you, personally, as we go forward with this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Commissioner. I, too, will be supportive of a motion, should Commissioner Winters make one concerning a 30 day deferment, tabling and bring it back in 30 days, after a little bit of research. This whole Big Ditch issue has been very troubling for me over these years. At one point, with the confluence of the Big Ditch and the Arkansas River, it was my plan to make that a park area with all kinds of recreational uses, including some camping and hiking and horseback riding and jogging and so forth. At one point, I believe back in the 70's, I even saw a blueprint to that effect that was considered. It has always been a question as to what are the uses of the property. I know at one point, also, within recent history, there has been a group to put together a plan to use it for extensive recreational use.

“The problem is the engineers and the people who are responsible for maintaining and operating are very adamant in their position in that the Big Ditch is a waterway and a tool to be used here in Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita for drainage. It is not a recreational area. I’m not sure I know where that discussion finally ended up. It has always been somewhat confusing over the years. Commissioner Winters is correct, the City of Wichita has discussed this issue for a long time and maybe they can bring to us some answers to some of the questions that we have. On the other hand, Kurt, you’ve lived by the waterway all your life, practically, and I have, too. It has always been in my backyard, it is even closer today than it was a few years ago. There have been significant troubles associated with trespass on the Big Ditch with neighbors in the area and on occasion, and I’m probably least sensitive of anyone, there has to be some kind of regulation, so we’ll have to consider that, too.

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“It would be a great proposition if we could somehow use that facility, in terms of recreation and drainage at the same time. Maybe those two ideas can meet somewhere in the middle and there can be a compromise. At the same time, we’re going to have to consider what we’re going to do about large four-wheel vehicles and shooting and criminal activities that go on along the waterways, especially the more wild areas of it. Believe me, in some areas of it, it is pretty wild and pretty dense and pretty nice sometimes. I’ve taken a lot of walks. I’ve been a trespasser many times. At this time, I would entertain a motion.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to defer the item for four weeks and that during that time period we ask staff to contact the proper staff with the City of Wichita and try to coordinate our efforts about activities in the Big Ditch.

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, very much. Thank you for being here today, taking the time to come out and visit with us about this. Appreciate it. Next item please.”

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D. LAKE AFTON AND SEDGWICK COUNTY PARKS.

- 1. AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY SOUTH CENTRAL & WESTERN KANSAS CHAPTER FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK APRIL 10, 1999 TO HOLD THE 1999 MS WALK.**

Mr. Jerry Harrison, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In order that this group does not trespass in the Sedgwick County Park, we have a formal agreement that we're recommending for you today. This will be the first use by this group of Sedgwick County Park for the 1999 MS Walk. This is a standard form agreement. We have coordinated the dates with the park superintendent. We have received a certificate of insurance. We recommend your approval."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Jerry. Commissioners, questions on this item?"

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.

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. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FOR USE OF LAKE AFTON PARK FEBRUARY 27-28, 1999 TO CONDUCT MILITARY EXERCISES.

Mr. Harrison said, "We were contacted by the Kansas Army National Guard. They're preparing for deployment to Europe and as part of their preparation, they've asked to use a portion of Lake Afton Park to conduct some what they call demounted or infantry exercises in a portion of Lake Afton Park, north of MacArthur. North of, essentially, the Sheriff's range, there is a heavily wooded area to the north of that, which is conducive to their uses. It is not a generally used portion of the park by the public. They will be conducting movement to contact exercises in that area, which means they will be shooting blanks at each other and wearing the vests that signal when they are injured or killed. We have worked with them on this agreement.

"We did this exercise about five years ago at Lake Afton Park also. There are some environmental issues that they have to provide for the state and federal government and they have to certify as some environmental issues, part of that has to do with the fact that they're not using vehicles in this area. We've gone through the agreement with the Kansas Army National Guard and the Legal Department and we have prepared an agreement that we would recommend for your approval today. Be glad to answer any of your questions."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. There are some questions. Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Jerry, is there any way, any plan that we have to notify nearby neighbors of this extraordinary activity?"

Mr. Harrison said, "It has been suggested that perhaps we send the guard individuals out to the houses that are in close proximity to the area that we're going . . . there's about five houses close to that area, and visit with the people and tell them what we're doing or what they're doing and why they're doing it and let them know that this activity is going to occur. It is going to interrupt that weekend of solitude in their particular part of the County."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Do you know if they're receptive to that?"

Mr. Harrison said, "They are receptive to that."

Commissioner Gwin said, "It is not my district, but I think if I were a neighbor, I'd be concerned about activity."

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Mr. Harrison said, "A sudden burst of gunfire."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Right. It would make me a little nervous too, so I appreciate knowing that."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "That's just what I wanted to talk about, is making sure that, I will support this, if somebody will go out and contact all the neighbors before the event."

Mr. Harrison said, "They'll be glad to do that."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioners, any other questions? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn 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. Thank you, Jerry. Next item please."

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E. REVISIONS TO THE OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM STAFFING TABLE.

Mr. Harrison said, "Following the departure of the director at Old Cowtown Museum, the Board of Trustees, and the remaining staff, began to examine the organizational structure of Old Cowtown Museum. It was determined that in order to meet the mission of the organization, that they needed to reorganize the staff at Old Cowtown Museum. In order to do that, several positions were eliminated, some positions were transferred between the corporate employees and the County employees. The result of that is a request to change the staffing table in the 1999 budget for Old Cowtown Museum. This would result in a reduction from ten to seven full time equivalent employees on the County side of the payroll, but would result in an increase of about \$70,000 in the temporary line item in that same staffing table, leaving the staffing table funding essentially the same. This will aline the staff with the mission of Old Cowtown Museum in a fashion that will allow them to function in a broader capacity as a living history museum and less of a fixed exhibit type of museum. Would recommend your approval."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Jerry. Commissioners, questions on this item?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I have one. Jerry, does this reduce the amount of employees that the County is funding?"

Mr. Harrison said, "It reduces the number of full time equivalent employees but increases the number of temporary and seasonal employees."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So in dollars and cents is it a wash to us?"

Mr. Harrison said, "Dollars and cents, it's the same."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Any further questions?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "Just a comment. I appreciate the work that the Old Cowtown trustees and Commissioner McGinn is one of those, have put into the revision of the staffing table. I also especially appreciate the emphasis on seasonal workers, the temporary workers, the interpreters, the people who are there to tell us what it is we're seeing and why it is significant to us. Though I know this change has been difficult for some, I think Cowtown will be the better for it and I'm certainly supportive of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any further questions? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the revisions to the Old Cowtown Museum Staffing Table.

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, Jerry for being here today. Next item please."

F. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Economic Development is a constant and ongoing process. We can't stand still, even though the economy is good, if we're not constantly working on it, working on developing and growing our businesses, we fall behind in comparison with other communities in the region. A year ago, we were without comprehensive economic development services. We knew that we needed to, one, retain our local businesses and help them grow and two, make sure that we could provide information, assistance and persuasion to businesses desiring to relocate or expand into our community. A year ago, we developed a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and we both launches onto this new relationship with an idea of what we needed to do but not knowing exactly how we were going to get there. We've gotten there. We've worked on it for the past year. We've found that our notions and ideas were good ones and we've refined them in this contract we're proposing to you today.

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“What we’re proposing to do is to enter into a partnership, again, with the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce in several specific areas. One, in business development in local business expansion and retention. We have found that a good recipe for success is to actually go out and talk to the businesses that are here, see what they’re plans are, see if there is anything we can do to assist. If there are barriers that they’ve identified, help them overcome those barriers. We’ve determined that it makes sense to develop a local economic development team made up of the Chamber, the City, the County, the utilities, the university, the state, anyone who is interested, any agency who is interested in the growth and development of the community. We meet on a monthly basis. We talk about prospects. We identify needs, such as industrial parks, intermodal facilities. We’re doing quite a bit of staff research into the kinds of things that will help our community grow.

“Another area is that of business recruiting. This year, we’re refining our targeting. We’re identifying businesses that are complimentary to existing businesses. For example, a supplier to a local business. Does it make sense to target them and perhaps move their location here to provide better service to our ongoing businesses. We also are entering into a new area of cooperation with the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing. Through extensive research, they have identified six particular industries that Kansas is good at, to target those industries, to locate in Kansas. We are working on five of those and we’ll work on those over the next year, targeting our recruitment efforts.

“We are also increasing our regional coordination with other communities in Sedgwick County and within the South Central part of Kansas. We’re assisting in the efforts, local agencies, on developing new businesses. Another major component is one that we don’t hear much about because it doesn’t involve ribbon cutting and all the grand opening kinds of things, but basic research is extremely important in providing information to businesses and folks outside the community. People want to know about tax rates. They want to know about utility rates. They want to know about the type of work force we have. All this requires intensive development and maintenance of current data. Through this contract, we’ll provide for that resource at the Chamber and also help coordinate the research at Wichita State University Center for Economic Development and Business Research.

“The third area that we’ll be working in partnership with the Chamber on is the area of marketing. One of the major barriers that we’ve found as we’ve gone through different types of industries is that we have a labor shortage here. It is important, I don’t think we can birth enough people to meet the job demands, especially not next year or the next five or ten years. In order for us to continue our growth, we’ll need to import people. That takes quite a lot of effort and initiative and targeting where those critical skills and people are, to get them to this community. We’ve also found that the Internet is increasingly becoming the front door to this community. Maintaining a quality presence on the Internet is of utmost importance.

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“There was a survey done of local engineers and I believe about 900 responded. They asked the engineers, what do you do in your free time? The predominant activity was playing on their computer. There is a whole new generation of folks that gain their information about the community and about opportunities within the community through the Internet. It is important that we’re there if they’re there looking.

“The proposed contract for this year is in the same amount as last year, which is \$250,000. Bob Harbiston, who is the Vice President for Economic Development at the Chamber is unable to come today because he had to leave town to follow up on a prospect, but Tim Wittsman, President of the Chamber is here and can answer questions. Do you have some comments?”

Mr. Tim Wittsman, President, Chamber of Commerce, said, “Actually, I didn’t prepare anything. Bob is off doing his job, so that’s why I’m here. If you want me to say anything, I will. Otherwise, I’d respond to questions.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Tim. Commissioners, any questions?”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I can’t find my button, but I do. Actually, one of our goals is we’re going to shoot a goal of trying to create 750 new jobs in ‘99 by attracting some businesses. I like that. I think so often we get very nebulous goals, that are real cloudy and we can’t really find out. I like someone who will come up and say this is the goal that I’m going to shoot for and that is something we can really identify with and I think the public likes to see it. I had another question and I’m trying to find out where the questions was. Why don’t I come back as soon as I remember what the other question was.”

Mr. Wittsman said, “I can say something, while you’re looking for that. We’ve tried to get very specific results, because what we want to have is a relationship with the County and then, hopefully, with the City, also, will be what’s the performance, what is it we’re trying to accomplish, what are the services, as opposed to being in some other relationship, of a client, that this is a real partnership and we all know what the goals are. That we all know what we’re trying to achieve.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "I recall my question, too. I'm very happy, then it was actually at the top of the list, trying to work with existing companies and businesses, because so many times, some of arguement of our existing businesses is, once they come in here we forget them and we keep going out trying to look for new companies. I like the fact that we're focusing in on how can local, like we just did with this exemption on ad valorem taxes for this one local company, I think it is very important that we continue encouraging our local businesses to expand. A job is a job. It doesn't matter where they come from. If a local company can be encouraged to expand, I think that's great. That was just a comment. Thanks."

Mr. Wittsman said, "I think we've improved in that area. The Business Growth Committee, which Irene co-chaired last year and co-chairs again this year, really changed its focus from kind of a scatter-shot of middle sized companies to going cluster by cluster. So we do plastics, we do trucking, the next one is some aviation sub-contractors. By doing that, we've got a better sense of what was going on in that industry, what they're problems were. Sometimes their problems were supply, sometimes they might be regulations. We can work on those. That also, I think, energized the volunteers and we've actually increased the number of people volunteering on that committee. I think that was one of the good things that happened last year."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. I have no other questions."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I'm certainly going to be supportive of continuing this contract, Tim. I think it was a good first year start and I think we'll probably do better things this year. I want to compliment you and the board on bring Bob Harbiston on board in this area. He, I think, is doing very good work. I think he is a kind of person out there that we've all wanted to find. I think he's doing a good job and I think it is best that he and his group are managed by the private sector. I think you guys know what businesses want better than a lot of the rest of us do. I'm supportive of this structure of you all managing him and his direction. I think it has been a good year and am looking forward to the next year. Thank you."

Mr. Wittsman said, "I think Bob is exceptional. He's spent a lot of his time really building the relationships, meeting all the players, both publicly and private side. There really isn't a lot of control exercised. Bob, basically, has his mission. It's laid out here. He conducts that in a pretty independent fashion."

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“One of the things that happened last year, we did some good things, I think, in the marketing. The first was with the video we finished and that won an award, by the way, the one to recruit people here. Then the lead-behind piece, which you saw, we used some left over WIZE money to get that one done. Then the computerized presentation on the community, which has gotten a lot of use. We’re going to improve it with some of the pictures we got out of the book. The book and then the Internet site and we’ve gotten nothing but a lot of raves from other communities, who have contacted us and said what did you do and how did you do it, because it’s really well done. Those are mostly directed toward attracting people here. I might say something on that.

“You saw, a year or two ago, about a year and a half, the information out of the MAPD on demographics for Sedgwick County. I missed a meeting in Florida because of a little surgery a month ago, but I got the information from the Hudson Institute. It was very interesting. Peter Drucker’s quote is, the industrialized world is committing collective suicide. What he is talking about is demographics, really tough times ahead for Europe, tough times ahead for Japan. So, I’ve been looking even more closely at what is going on. I looked at the states and the projected growth of 18 to 24 year olds. There are 19 of the states that are on our borders of the U.S. that are going to be above the average, only two states in the interior. The other little piece of data that might be important to you is, one half of the growth of the work force in the United States since 1990 is immigration. So, we have to keep that in mind as part of our strategies for the future, since we know we’re not going to produce enough people to really meet the business needs.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Anything else? Commissioner Gwin.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “You’re talking about people and work force and training and retaining. One of my issues, and I think Irene is right, one of my concerns is that there must be people here already who would like to have a better job but who need a leg-up of help of some additional training. I concur that there probably aren’t enough of those who meet the need, so we’ll have to go looking elsewhere. But what are we doing, what kind of programs are you all working on, to help those people who have already chosen Wichita, Sedgwick County, this regional area, to get a leg-up and to move up from a minimum wage job to a skilled, trained job.”

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Mr. Wittsman said, "Well, we've got a number of programs that have been done and I'll talk for a minute about the future. The one that probably applies most directly to what you are talking about is the 'BMORE' program, Basic Manufacturing Orientation for Employment. That was geared to the working poor who were out there but lacked some of the skills, the English, the math, some of the job and human skills weren't as good as they should be. We started that program at a technical college and now there is one down on the south side. We're looking at expanding that to a third location. The purpose of that is to get people ready to move up, let's say to manufacturing employment. Maybe not at Boeing, but at some of the smaller manufacturers. We have a bunch of others, Fast Start which is on numeric control operators and a series of programs. The biggest change has been what the feds have done, now, with the work force investment act and consolidating much of that training money and there is going to be a one stop. So we've been working with the pick and there are some things that need to be done there. But the idea is to try to make that training more effective, to get it away from kind of the '60s and '70s orientation of it and direct it, frankly, more toward the kind of thing you're talking about.

"Nationally, there have been some interesting things happen with Welfare to Work. In the crudest terms, about half of the people who are on welfare have been moved into the work force. It has been pretty successful, in this sense. Those people who went through an intermediary, like Cessna 21st Street, or Data-Mac, or Goodwill or Venture House, nationally have a higher retention rate with a company than people who are off a street. Now, not the people who didn't get that kind of background, but the people who had BMORE, that kind of thing, have actually stayed with the employer, better than the person who didn't come through that route. That kind of gives us a pattern of what works and what doesn't work. The kinds of things you are talking about, Betsy, are very important."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you, Tim. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioners, any other questions? If not, thank you, Tim, very much, for being here. Appreciate you taking the time to come down."

Mr. Wittsman said, "Thank you all, very much. We appreciate the relationship. We will do our best to get the job done the way it should be done."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any questions for Irene? If not, I'd entertain a motion."

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MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Agreement 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

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

G. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1. CONTRACT WITH INTER-FAITH MINISTRIES PROVIDING COUNTY FUNDING FOR OPERATION OF AN EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SHELTER FOR HOMELESS PERSONS.

Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This first item involves the yearly overflow shelter for homeless individuals. In the past, as you are aware, we've often been approached at the last minute about needing funding for this, which is equally divided between Sedgwick County, the City, and United Way. This year, it has become part of the budget process and this is the Contract in relation to that. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, Debbie, thank you. Commissioners, questions on this item?"

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MOTION

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

Chairman Hancock said, "Next item please."

2. AGREEMENT WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC. ALLOWING DIRECT BILLING TO MEDICAID FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.

Ms. Donaldson said, "Commissioners, we became aware that there are some wording changes that need to be made to this Contract, so I would like to postpone this one until a later time so those can be made. Otherwise, we'll approve it and we'll have to come back and do an addendum."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to defer the item indefinitely.

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."

3. ADDENDUM TO AGREEMENT WITH BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A WELLNESS UNIT TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL HEALTH OF CLUB MEMBERS.

Ms. Donaldson said, "Commissioners, this particular item involves the development of a wellness unit at the Breakthrough Club and as more research has become available it becomes more and more apparent that when consumers, who have a very serious mental illness, in fact, smoke or do other things that are detrimental to their health, that it, in fact, interferes a great deal with their ability to recover and to fully function in the community. It certainly interfere with their medication, which are often pretty serious medications, in terms of their effects and potential side effects. So, this is a move to address some of those issues. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Debbie. Commissioners, any questions? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Addendum to the Agreement 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, Debbie. Next item please."

4. ADDITION OF ONE GRANT-FUNDED BOOKKEEPER POSITION, RANGE 17, TO THE JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES STAFFING TABLE.

Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The juvenile field services is a state funded program providing case management to approximately 600 juvenile offenders from Sedgwick County. The state juvenile justice authority contracts with local community corrections to provide these services to juveniles in their custody. Since assuming these duties in 1998, one of the most challenging tasks has been setting up and managing the accounting systems to purchase services, bill, and pay vendors on time, and maintain accurate records so that we can do accurate projections of our use of those funds.

"The work load in this area is larger and more complicated than we anticipated and we're requesting the addition of one bookkeeper position to help with this work load. The budget impact for 1999 at this range 17 position is \$30,386 for salaries and benefits and the funds are available in the grant budget to cover these costs. I ask you approval to add the position."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the addition to the Juvenile Field Services Staffing Table.

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."

5. ADDITION OF ONE SEDAN TO THE FLEET FOR USE IN PROVIDING CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS, TO BE FUNDED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY.

Mr. Masterson said, "Commissioners, in the same Juvenile Field Services program, we need to add one sedan vehicle. We have four vehicles now, for 32 officers, for use in transporting juveniles to placements or court and making supervision visits in the community. Costs are estimated at \$15,000 for the purchase and \$4,555 for motor pool fees. Funds are available in the grant to cover these costs and I ask your approval to make the purchase."

Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, thank you, Mark. Commissioners, questions on this item?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just have one, Mr. Chairman. What was the \$4,500 for motor pool fees, what is that?"

Mr. Masterson said, "That's a County charge that is fixed based on mileage, to end up with replacement costs for the vehicle."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "A depreciation schedule on the vehicle?"

Mr. Masterson said, "My understanding is that you pay those along the way, and then when it is time to replace the vehicle, the funds are there to make that replacement. It is a County policy."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Is that answer right? Okay, thank you. Good question. Any other questions?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the addition to the fleet.

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, "Next item."

6. AGREEMENTS (19) TO PROVIDE TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT FOR FRAIL, ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS.

Ms. Anita Nance, Interim Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The area agency provides targeted case management services to elderly consumers under the Medicaid Frail, Elderly program. The approval of these 19 contracts today will allow the delivery of these services to continue to these consumers in Butler, Harvey, and Sedgwick County."

Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, thank you, Anita. Commissioners, questions on these contracts? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to approve the Agreements 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, Anita. Next item please."

7. APPLICATION FOR \$73,996 OF ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT A CURRENT INCOME ELIGIBLE PROGRAM WHICH ASSISTS ELDERLY PERSONS TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO NURSING HOME PLACEMENT.

Ms. Nance said, "The Income Eligible Program is an alternative to nursing home placement for persons 60 years of age and older in Sedgwick, Harvey, and Butler Counties. During the first five months of the program, we've served over 250 frail elderly persons and would like to continue to deliver these services. Today, I ask for approval to submit to the Kansas Department on Aging an application for additional funds to continue this program."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any questions? Anita, I have one in regards to this. Sedgwick County is making an application for \$73,996. Would Butler and Harvey, would they make application, also, along with this one?"

Ms. Nance said, "No, the actual dollar amount would be awarded to the Central Plains Area Agency and then based on request of services in all three counties, that's how the money will be distributed."

Chairman Hancock said, "For all three counties. All right, thank you."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Anita, I have a question. If we don't get the state funding, we don't provide the services, is that correct?"

Ms. Nance said, "What would happen is that we would either have to go across the board and decrease services or actually close cases for consumers in all three counties if we don't receive these additional funds."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Any further questions? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Application 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. Next item please."

8. APPLICATION TO KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING FOR A FISCAL YEAR 1999 AREA PLAN REVISION PROVIDING FUNDS TO INCREASE ATTENDANT CARE SERVICES.

Ms. Nance said, "Commissioners, each year the Area Agency on Aging submits an area plan to the Kansas Department on Aging, which details how the area agency plans to spend federal dollars in this fiscal year. We've received notification that there are additional federal funds from the Kansas Department on Aging and would like to apply for those additional funds. Today, I ask that you approve this revision to our area plan."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, questions on this item? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Application 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, Anita, appreciate you being here. Next item please."

H. DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

1. AGREEMENT WITH BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BCCC) FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY EMS TO PROVIDE FIELD INTERNSHIPS FOR BCCC TRAINING PROGRAM STUDENTS.

Mr. Tom Pollan, Director, Emergency Medical Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The item before you, again, is another Agreement which is an ongoing program with Butler County Community College. Again, it is an attempt to give them an experience to the new students who are entering our field, for the first time, in this case. It also works as kind of a recruiting tool for our volunteer services as well. I would recommend your approval and allow the Chair to sign."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Tom. Commissioners, questions on this item?"

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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.

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."

2. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION ACT PLANNING GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000 AND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE REGARDING USE OF THE FUNDS.

Mr. Randy Duncan, Director, Emergency Management, said, "I bring with me this morning a grant from the State of Kansas from the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act in the amount of \$4,000. The purpose of this grant is to allow us to communicate with our citizens in Sedgwick County and let them know what our local Emergency Planning Committee is and what we do on their behalf. I would ask your consideration in accepting the grant."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, questions on this item?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to accept the grant award, and approve the Memorandum of 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 Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Nice to see you. Next item."

I. RECOMMENDATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF TAX APPEALS THAT A FURTHER TAX REFUND BE GRANTED IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WESCON PRODUCTS INC. FOR RELIEF OF A TAX GRIEVANCE IN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS.

Ms. Diane Salazar, Personal Property Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The issue before us this morning is, should the Board of County Commissioners recommend to the State Board of Tax Appeal a relief in the form of a tax refund for the application of Wescon Products Incorporated. The item at issue was application software and fixtures, which are real estate that were assessed for the years 1988 through 1994. The sum of the refund would be \$2,183.84. The County has verified these items were exempt and real estate and we do recommend that the relief be granted."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Commissioners, questions on this item? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to recommend to the State Board of Tax Appeals abatement and refund of 1988 through 1994 personal property taxes.

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. Thank you for being here. It has been suggested that we take a short five minute break, while John sets up for the presentation."

The Board of County Commissioners recessed at 10:20 a.m. and returned at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Hancock said, "I'll call the meeting back to order. Next item please."

J. KANSAS COLISEUM.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE KANSAS COLISEUM. CIP# PB-402.

Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We have a presentation today for you to bring you up to date on the progress and what we have done with our master planning process. This is something that really hasn't started just lately, but something that has evolved over the last couple of years."

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SLIDE PRESENTATION

“What’s the mission of the Kansas Coliseum. Our mission is to exceed the expectation of our guests, customers, and partners, with entertainment, educational and commercial opportunities, in a safe and pleasant, professionally operated public facility. We are a business and we encompass a lot of things in what we do every day.

“Our vision: we will initiate innovative quality leadership to keep the Kansas Coliseum as the destination of choice in this region for all touring shows and events, by becoming the preferred partner of local and national business and entertainment. Keep in mind that our competition is regional. There are 40 facilities that do the same thing we do within a 200 mile radius of Wichita. So, our competition is really regional.

“Why do a master plan? Well, we wanted to determine what the Kansas Coliseum is going to look like in the future and how it will serve this community. We want to continue to provide diverse entertainment options. As you know, we do everything that plays Madison Square Garden and then some. We want to remain competitive in the region. We have to, so we can get the events, we can continue to bring the shows into this community.

“What have we done so far? Well, a couple of years ago, the fall of ‘96, we came up with the idea of possibly putting an amphitheater beside the Kansas Coliseum. The Prairie Wind Amphitheater was a working title that Dave Rush actually came up with and it seemed to fit very well. We presented the concept at one of the Board of County Commissioners meetings. We worked, at that time, to try to secure a national partner, but due to some consolidation, some drastic consolidation in the business, that’s not going to happen, now, because we have one company now that controls all of the major amphitheaters, or 99% of those at this point.

“In February of 1998, the amphitheater arena feasibility and market analysis was undertaken. In the fall of ‘98, the research center survey, talking about what our customers want, what our customers expect. From November of ‘98 to now is still the master planning process.

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“In the process, what we have conducted was a design sûrete. I had no idea what a sûrete was, it was a new word for me. It is a French term that looks at getting all the view points involved in a project involved simultaneously. It is a process to develop solutions to identified issues or opportunities. It is usually used in architectural design and what we did was get together, over two days, at the Coliseum with a lot of different entities. Understand, we’re not just only an arena out there, we’re many things. We’ve got the Sam Fulco Pavilion, where we do car shows, horse shows, and this weekend is going to be a sports, boat and travel show. We have pavilion II that we rehabbed that we’ve done everything from tattoo conventions to the cowboy dance, this past weekend, for the rodeo. We have an equestrian center, where we do a lot of roping events and horse shows. We have the Rick Brown arena as well as Wediman Park. So we serve a lot of constituencies out there.

“Who are the participants? We try to get a little bit of everything. We’ve got customers and what we did was go to the Select-A-Seat records and we pulled out Select records and talked to people who actually have purchased tickets to come to events at the Coliseum. Some folks were available to come in and talk to us. Some folks sent in a written survey, they couldn’t because it was set during the day. The lady that came in, we couldn’t have picked a better person. She was very outspoken. She was very candid. She had experience in other venues. So, she had a little bit of a perspective to bring to the table. She informed us that there was a need to address the needs of nursing mothers, something other than a restroom. She said that yes, she would stay, and maybe have a beverage afterwards if there was a suitable location, that was suitably appropriate for her and her family to do that, and if we offered something other than fake cheese and nacho chips to eat. It was funny because she was sitting right next to our concessionaire at the time. Nachos continues to be our most popular food product, however, not everybody likes nachos and we need to recognize that.

“We have promoters come in, folks that come in and actually rent our building. Very important, because those folks are also now operating buildings and operating amphitheaters, so they have both view points in which to contribute. They talked about what they need, such as operationally, for the events, an office. Understand that shows live on the road. When they’re at our place, they’re advancing to the next state. They need an office to operate out of, and maybe they’re clearing up something they had on a previous date. It is a completely portable operation.

“We have production personnel, not only production folks who come in with the shows, how can we help you load-in your event easier, but our own folks that work up in the steel and rig the sound and lights, that operate the spotlights. We got their input.

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“We had input from the Thunder and the Wings, our two biggest users, our two major tenants. The Coliseum Advisory Board contributed, local media was there. Now the media is not only as a media representative but also as a client. Remember, Empire Broadcasting is also a promoter that utilizes our facilities. We had local and national concessionaires. Now, our concessionaire, of course, was there and represented, but we had some folks come in from the national companies. This was a company that was involved, this past year, in the World Series and the Super Bowl, and the Stanley Cup Play-Offs. So these folks, definitely, have experience in dealing with large crowds in high profile events. Of course, staff and Commissioners were involved.

“What we heard about, the needs, what do we need to do to serve the people who are our customers? We need more restrooms, absolutely. We heard that over and over again, especially ladies rooms. We need additional points of sale for concessions and merchandise. One of our best illustrations of that would be a hockey game. Once we get up to 4,500 people at a hockey game in attendance, we do about \$4.50 per head, per cap, spending at the concession stands. Once we get up above that at attendance, those per caps start dropping off. The reason they drop off is, people can't get up there to buy the merchandise, they can't buy the product. The lines are too big. The stands are too crowded. They just can't get there.

“What do we need? We need accessible seating and we need to address some other disability issues. We're on 120 acres. We have one elevator for someone to get upstairs from the parking lots. Right now, we do not have enough room to set somebody in a wheel chair next to a companion in a regular seat. What we have is reserved for the wheelchairs and if those are all sold then the companions need to sit behind them. It is not the preferred choice for the customer. It is not the preferred solution. It is definitely not ours. We need to address those kinds of things so we can make ourselves accessible for everybody.

“Decor: We heard over and over again, we're very sterile looking, very concrete, and brown copper clad sheeting on the outside. We need to dress that up. It needs to become warmer. It needs to become a transitionary when you come in from the parking lot into the facility. We need to do that.

“From the production folks and the shows, we heard about dressing rooms and hospitality suites. Very important for them. Not only a place to feed the crews, like I said, this is a mobile operation. They eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner at your building, so they have to have something other than a couple of tables thrown into an old dressing room. We need to upscale that a little bit. We need to make them comfortable. We need make them more welcome in our facility.

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“Hospitality suites and meeting rooms: definitely, we had an issue one past hockey game on a weekend, we had three parties, we had one room. So the first party that booked got conference room B, the other two parties where in the two exhibit areas, on the east and west side of the building, cordoned off by horse stalls. That’s the best we could do, certainly not our preferred way of putting our best foot forward for our clients.

“Storage and other event operational issues: We’d love to have a way to have a soccer carpet down out of the way in a secure location. We would like to have most of our stuff put under cover, if we could do that, but still keeping it easily accessible so we could get it back out.

“Media accommodations: We have a small little press box up on the east side that is basically a wood platform with a little bit of a counter in front of it. The press is the people who tell our story, every day, in the papers and over the airways. We need to take care of them a little bit better. We need to have beverage service up there. We need to have a restroom up there, so the press doesn’t have to come back down through all the stairs and through the crowd. They can go up there and they can do their job and they can do it right. These are some of the things that have become absolutely mandatory in all the new construction in the country today.

“It’s not all negative. What have we heard of the positives? Everybody likes the location. It is easy to get to. It is easy to get out of. They like the fact that it is real close to the highway, that it’s easy to find, and it is not far from the airport, for those folks who are flying in or the acts that are flying in. Parking: People like the parking, especially our customers. They like the fact that they can park and when they get out of the car they can see where they need to go, and there is plenty of it.

“Flexibility, our customers like the fact that we can go, this week we went from ice to dirt to the Sports, Boat and Travel Show in a span of six days. They like the staff. The staff has been around a long time. The staff is professional. The staff knows how the industry works. They want to make it easier on the clients. That’s some of the things that were certainly highlighted by the folks coming out of the sûrete.

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“So what happens next? Sedgwick County has been an active participant in the Greater Wichita Area Sports Commissions downtown arena feasibility study and we will continue to do that. There are three subcommittees. We are represented in all three. Next month, what we will do is present concepts for the Coliseum. We’ll have two concepts for you, that have all come out of this design sûrete. The first concept will be an idea that will meet our buildings needs to remain competitive in the existing market, without expanding any seating capacity, adding the restrooms, adding the concession areas. In this one, we may even have a net loss of seats, due to what we need to do for accessibility issues. We don’t now yet, we’re still working on that. But it is not going to increase seats. It will still be able to serve the same market that we have served now.

“Our buildings needs, on the second option or concept, will be expanded seating capacity to compete in a larger market. Now what I mean by a larger market, would mean the possibility of bringing a couple of larger shows in that may pass us by right now because we are constrained by capacity. Being ready for the next 20 years, to meet the population growth here, that we figure is going to happen. We’ll have some concepts for you, we’ll have some drawings. That will be at the March meeting, we’ll have that ready. If there is any questions, I’d be happy to answer them at this time.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Commissioner Gwin.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Thank you. John, on the concepts, your first one has the need to remain competitive in the existing market. Are those addressing, then, the needs that you indicated?”

Mr. Nath said, “Everything that we came through with the design sûrete, that we identified that we needed to do, are in both components. The second option would be expanding the seating along with all that other.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Okay. Is there a number? Did the sûrete get to the specifics?”

Mr. Nath said, “They’re still working on those and I’m sure we’ll be able to present some kind of ball park figures next month.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Okay. Thank you. I’ll look forward to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

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

Commissioner Winters said, “John, I’m sure that when you get your concepts for the Coliseum developed, that you’ll be presenting them to us. Do you have plans to present them, also, to the Greater Wichita Sports Commission?”

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Mr. Nath said, "Yes sir, we do."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "On your needs to remain committed to competitive in the existing market, are you going to take into consideration the assumption that a downtown arena may be built and what would it take for us to be competitive in a market that might have another?"

Mr. Nath said, "We will identify those in the two concepts. The first issue would be, if there is maybe another facility in the mix. We still need to do something with the Coliseum. It still serves its function. It also would be, even if there is not, there is a lot of options here. Obviously it is a policy decision that is going to be . . . not made at my level, anyway. We still need to serve those customers and we still need to compete in the region. It's still there. Those other buildings are out there rehabing and they're out there very strongly competing for the same business we are."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So you're going to take that into consideration."

Mr. Nath said, "Yes."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Good."

Chairman Hancock said, "Now John, the only thing I have to say is . . . and I agree, in any event the Coliseum has to be updated and be competitive in this market. I think it is immaterial whether a decision is made to build a downtown arena or not. In my book, the Coliseum has to go forward. It is not something that we're just going to abandon and let it grow up in weeks, someday. It's going to be there and we're going to use the facility and it might as well be the best it can be out there. I want to repeat what I said. I know we met at the Board meeting and visited about this, very briefly, in early January, I believe. I want to say this, I don't want to do this . . . I'm very supportive of renewing the Coliseum, but I'm not supportive of doing it a little bit one year and little bit the next. I want folks, when they walk in at the end of this period to know there has been a difference."

Mr. Nath said, "I think the concepts you'll see, we're going to present, will really have a very very positive and strong impact on anybody who looks at it. They're going to say wow, they really are."

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Chairman Hancock said, "I know a lot of it depends upon a method of financing that we determine is appropriate for it, and looking at innovative ways of financing presented to us by the Manager and his staff. As we've worked in the past, we've made some improvements out there and we did it so incrementally sometimes you have to drive a stick beside it to see if you're moving forward or not. I would really like to get the design in the mind, the concepts we're after, and do the deal."

Mr. Nath said, "I think you're going to be very impressed by what's going to be presented. Keep in mind, the Coliseum is still the largest attraction in the State of Kansas. We attract more people than any other facility, any other entity."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioners, any other questions? John, do you have anything else?"

Mr. Nath said, "At this point, no."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you for coming in. We appreciate the report. It looks like good work. I'm impressed with what you guys have come up with so far."

Mr. Nath said, "It was a lot of fun, it really was."

Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, thank you very much."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to receive and file.

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, "Next item please."

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2. KANSAS COLISEUM MONTHLY REPORT.

Mr. Nath said, "Commissioners, for the month of January, we had 22 events, 37 performances, attendance of 85,505 people, and our net revenue were \$231,000. Highlights for the month were the Monster Truck Show, which attracted over 16,000 people. We sold out a hockey game on the 23rd. We had 6,000 people attend one of the nicest skating exhibitions I've ever seen in my 20 years in the business. We've got more than a dozen 'thank you' cards from customers. That's far more than we ever received. It was a really good show this past year. Folks really appreciate it.

"Last months' report, I spoke on a new show we had over in the Pavilion, which was the Elk show. Certainly new, as it comes to livestock shows. Elk are being raised and looked at as an alternative to beef, which may be heresy in this part of the country. It is something to look at. Cash crop. One of the cash crops, I would say, with elk is the antlers, which are harvested when they are still in velvet and very soft. They are then sent to Canada, for additional processing. Then they are sent overseas to Hong Kong, where they are refined into Chinese medicine. The biggest market for that final product is San Francisco. It is really a global economic impact there. The biggest market for the Chinese medicine is San Francisco, of all things.

"I think you'll be really please when we come to you next month with the master plan. We have the Boat, Sports and Travel show this week. Have the State High School Wrestling Tournament right around the corner. We have a first time event coming in March, which I think is going to be real exciting, it is indoor motorcycle racing. It is going to be in the confines of the hockey arena. It is very exciting. I've seen the event before. It is called alter-cross. It is real close to the same kind of track that the BMX kids did just this pass weekend only these guys, when they jump off the big jump, they're going to be up in the steel when they come back down. It is incredible. You'll have to see it. We're getting a lot of phone calls on it. We're looking for a great turnout on that one. If there are any other questions or any other comments, I'd be happy to answer them at this time."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I've got to ask a question. Elk antlers are medicine?"

Mr. Nath said, "They make them into medicine, that's correct."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Can I ask what ailment they help?"

Mr. Nath said, "I don't know the answer to that."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, thanks."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Any other question? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to receive and file.

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, John. Next item please."

K. CAPITAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT.

Mr. Ken Arnold, Director, Capital Projects, greeted the Commissioners and said, "John is an awful hard act to follow, let me tell you. We'll try. You're back-up report, on page 168 through 174, includes the information on this month's report. The only project I was going to highlight is on page 171, for Fleet Management, constructing the new shop facility. We had a very successful turnout yesterday of 12 architectural engineering firms to express interest in designing that facility for us and we will be working through that process over the next several weeks, get started, and then following up later this year. The same kind of a process for Emergency Communication. So we've got some big projects coming up. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have on any of the projects."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Ken. Commissioners, any questions? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to receive and file.

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, Ken. Next item please."

**L. METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING DEPARTMENT (MAPD)
MONTHLY REPORT.**

Mr. Marvin Krout, Director, MAPD, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Talked to you about the month of January and also, if time is permitting and you're willing, to talk to you about population projections. You wanted me to share my numbers with you and I'm prepared to do that this morning.

"January, we accepted 51 development applications. That is, basically, the same pace that we had been running all through the past year for zoning and subdivision and related applications. Those included two requests, out in the unincorporated area, to rezone property from rural residential to single family 20, in the area south of Haysville, down along the turnpike corridor, where there is significant suburban lot activity that continues. Both of those cases, I should note for you, involved citizens and one township official at both of the hearings, expressing concerns about drainage, that are really unrelated to the use of the land and the lot size, but related to larger concerns of flooding and run-off in those areas. I understand that Dave Spears and PEC are undertaking a study and we're having public hearings out in those communities over these weeks. At some appropriate time, I'm sure the Planning Commission is going to be interested in trying to learn more about that, because they're going to be dealing with the subdivision issues.

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“In one of those cases, the Planning Commission recommended approval and in the other case, down at 103rd and Broadway, that case had substantial opposition and was denied by the Planning Commission and the case has since then been withdrawn and is being plated under the rural residential rules for lot sizes.

“The Planning Commission held a hearing, at the City Council’s request, and they voted to defer consideration of, what we call, the pre-filing service, which is to offer to set up and host meetings between prospective applicants on zoning cases and neighbors. The feeling was, and the request of the Home Builders Association and the Realtors was, that this is related to the work of a citizen involvement task force, that the City Council has appointed and created, after this idea of a pre-filing service was developed, that that committee, that is looking at the future of citizen participation organization in the City and how to involve citizen in the process, not just in the zoning process, but in all of their processes. That this issue ought to be melded into the work of that group and that group has begun to meet and I understand they’re report would be ready sometime in April or May. I believe that issue is going to be deferred until at least that time. We’ll try to keep you informed.

“The Planning Commission also held their official hearing on the subdivision amendments. I think I’ve spoken about that before. Those amendments were recommended unanimously by the Planning Commission and they should be on your agenda by early March along with the City Council for final approval.

“We’ve also begun to catalogue a new set of clean-up amendments to the Unified Zoning Code, working with both the County and the City permitting offices, to try to identify any new or remaining ambiguities or things that need to be cleaned up in the language in the zoning code. On the Comprehensive Plan, we continue to develop scenarios for the distribution of future population and employment, which I’ll talk a little bit about, and what the infrastructure implications of those are going to be. In fact, we met with your Emergency Services staff, last month, to talk about growth and service implications for the County in the long range future.

“The transportation division ran the first computer modeling of that future population and employment, to begin to look at what the traffic impacts might be. We also have been continuing to work on adjusting census tract and census block group boundaries, both for Sedgwick County and assisting staff in Butler County and Harvey County. That is in anticipation of the year 2000 census activities. We completed the new transportation improvement program, which is the three year program of all locally committed transportation projects that have any amount of federal funding in them.

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“We’ve also begun working with the City traffic engineer, at the City Council’s request, on a proposed policy for when and how should traffic studies be submitted or prepared, in relation to zoning cases. What level of development creates a threshold that is significant enough that it warrants in detail at the traffic movements and how they’re going to impact the capacity of the street system and what improvements might be needed. We’ve had several major developments that have come through and all three of them, Bradley Fair, a case that will be coming to you in a month or so out at 13th and Greenwich, major development on the K-96 corridor, and also in the City, the Fountain Square development at Webb Road and K-96. Traffic studies were done for all the developments. They’re all 40 to 50 acres in size and are substantial.

“I just mentioned for you, also, the enhancement program. The KDOT funding program, that is a set aside for bicycle and hiking paths for scene enhancements and environmental enhancements and historic related projects. We submitted or endorsed a total of 15 projects last fall and of those, which totaled a request of about 3.2 million dollars in the federal funds administered by KDOT for that program. We received awards that amounted to about half of that, 1.6 million dollars for the year 1999 and the year 2000. Those include sidewalk, bike path improvements, that would connect from Windmill Road and Zoo Boulevard, down Windmill Road and then along 13th Street, to connect to where the County’s park path is so there would be a complete system then that would run from Zoo Boulevard down to 13th and Ridge Road. Another project, that the County endorsed, was the jointly supported path that would be constructed on the water line, that is now under construction south of the Zoo bridge that spans the Big Ditch today. Both of those projects, that the County endorsed, are part of the package of improvements that were awarded by KDOT. I’d entertain any questions you’d have about the month of January and then, if time is permitting, we’ll talk about population numbers a little bit.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Okay. Commissioners, any questions so far? If not Marvin, go right ahead.”

Mr. Krout said, “Okay, I hope you have your toothpicks, to keep your eyelids open. I’ll try not to get into too many boring details, but you’ve touched on some of these subjects already with Tim Whittsman I overheard earlier this morning. I think there are some significant things that we need to be thinking about in the future, especially the long range future.

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“All long range projecting, I guess I should say first, is really more of an art than a science. You may have read in the Eagle a week or two ago, the federal reserve chairman asked to respond about the 15 year budget forecast that said we could fund social security out of the budget forecast, said that’s just educated speculation. We’re looking not just 15 years into the future, but 30 or 40 years into the future. So we’re all involved in educated speculation. Looking out that far into the future is even more hazardous, but that is the life of most of the public facilities that you make decisions on to build. So I think that that attempt must be made, anyway.

“We’re updating the Comprehensive Plan. As you know, the last plan was adopted in 1993. It was based on population projections that were actually constructed back in 1989. At that time, we looked at a number of ways of looking at the future. Ended up with a national demographer’s projection for Wichita and Sedgwick County, in terms of a forecast. That forecast is now out of date, so we did decide it was time to look at updating it.

“This time, we began by hiring Wichita’s State’s Center for Economic Development for Business Research. We asked them to do two things. First, we asked them to do what would be the traditional population projects, by what demographers call the cohort survival technique, and also looking at trends of migration in and out of the County, and what might be in store for the future. That was the first part of the request. The second was to look at the communities long range employment potential and then to ask ourselves, how fast does the community need to grow in terms of population in order to have a sufficient labor force to fill all those potential jobs that the economy could generate.

“The cohort survival method, without going into a lot of detail, is based on looking at five year increments of population and looking at two things, the fertility rate, how many children are born to females in each of those age groups, looking at historical records and projections and using some models and equations. Also, looking at the death rate in each of those population groups. Then projecting the births minus deaths for each of those age groups over five year increments. The second ingredient, then, to that is looking at migration in and out of Sedgwick County and how that may change or be a factor in the future.

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“The key issues I think, facing not just Sedgwick County, but nationally, and I think Tim Whittsman touched on the subject earlier, is the aging population. That effect is not going to be felt, particularly, over the next ten or twelve years, but mostly after the year 2010. This is the ‘baby boomers’. These are the people who were born between 1945 through about 1970. This is, I suppose you call them generation X, and this area down here, where we’re seeing a bulge again right now, in the pre-school age moving up into the early elementary area now in about 1990, we’re talking about 1998, so these kids have moved up a notch. In the K through three grades, that’s the baby boomlette, that’s the children of the baby boomers, who are moving up in that population and causing some strains. You can see those strains continue over the next 10 years or so, through the local school systems.

“But the issues are, when would this population, which is lower, becomes the substantial working population 30 years from now and when these baby boomers have moved up by the year 2030, even after 2010, they started moving up into the age of over 65, how many of them will still be working and how many employees will be left to fill the current jobs and the potential for the economy to generate more jobs.

“Doing this method and making some assumptions about migration in the future, Wichita State estimated, we took the high end of Wichita State’s estimate, and with that number, you could expect to see by the year 2030, an additional 104,000 people living in Sedgwick County. That’s on top of the 435,000 people that were living in Sedgwick County in 1997.

“It’s not going to be happening in a straight line, though. What we expect is that the population increase of the last seven or ten years is going to continue more or less at the same rate, about 1% to the year 2010. Then after 2010, when the effect of aging really kicks in and the ‘baby boom’ population reaches the over 65 level, that population, not just in Sedgwick County, but nationally, is expected to level off. So the growth rate over the next 20 years, 2010 to 2030, is expected to decreased to maybe half the rate of the current rate and the rate to the year 2010. That’s assuming that there aren’t any major changes in, as Mr. Whittsman said, national immigration. I think that maybe not now, but sometime in the next five to ten years, national immigration policy, the ability to find people in the work force to fill these gaps and to fill the potential jobs in Sedgwick County and elsewhere is going to be a key issue.

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“In the 1980's, as far as migration goes, in the 1980's Sedgwick County grew by about 40,000 people. But we did that despite the fact that we were losing people every year, losing people net, more people leaving Sedgwick County than moving into Sedgwick County. Our natural birth rate, minus deaths, was significant enough that we increased by about 10% over the period of the 1980's. Well, in 1989, the assumption was made in those demographic projections at the time that that effect was going to level out and assuming a zero, that we would no longer have net out migration but we would zero out. We ended up with projections, back at that time, of about 437,000 by the year 2000.

“We've been doing better than that, though, because between 1996 and 1997 and especially the last half of that period, we've seen a net immigration into the community. Wichita State has calculated at the time that it was running at about 400 people per year, or 4,000 people in a decade. Rather than losing 7,000 people by migration in the 1980's, we were increasing by what would be if it follows through for the decade about 4,000 people. So that is a swing of 10,000 or 12,000 people added to the natural increase.

“We recognized this trend, if you'll recall, about a year ago and when initial census estimates came out in 1996, suggesting what the County and the City of Wichita's population were, we challenged those estimates and, in fact, the Census Bureau did revise upward by about 10,000 people their estimate of the people who are now living, as of July 1996, in Sedgwick County. So, Wichita State assumed that . . . well they looked at several different possibilities, in terms of migration. They had a low, middle and a high. The low rate was equivalent to the '89 projection and assumed that we would have no net in or out migration. The middle assumed we would have migration, basically at the rate that we've been seeing from 1990 to '96. That's the middle migration rate. Then they looked at, well what if we did twice as well as we've done in 1990 to '96, with people moving into Sedgwick County. That would be about 400 people a year, instead of 200 people per year. No, I'm sorry, this is 400 people per year and this is 800 people per year, moving into Sedgwick County. If you assume the high end and you look out to the year 2030 and you take into account the fact that our natural birth increase and death rates are going to change after 2010, you have 539,000 as the population in 2030, which is 104,000 more people than we have today.

“So that was the high end and we thought that that was the right number to take, to be conservative on the high end, in terms of planning for public facilities. Our next step, with these numbers then, is to try to figure out where are these people going to be living, where are they going to be working and shopping, and recreating in Sedgwick County and what is that going to mean for our public facility needs, transportation, and otherwise. That's what we're involved in now.

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“As I said, we also asked Wichita State to look at the employment prospects. If it was unconstrained, and people just couldn’t wait to get into Sedgwick County, and we had to hold them at the door. If you needed a certain population to be able to meet the potential labor demand, that was based on interviews with key employers in Sedgwick County, looking at the world future of competition, at technology, and how all that is going to factor into play in the long range. A lot of those people weren’t used to looking this far out in the future either, but everyone made their best efforts and the conclusions of Wichita State were that we could generate 356,000 jobs by the year 2030. That compared to, at the time, 1995, 224,000 jobs. But in order to do that, and if you assumed that with an aging population in 2030, you had less people participating in the local labor force because you have more elderly people who weren’t going to be in the work force, that’s something I need to talk about a little bit more. But if you made that assumption, then in order to have enough people that, in the under 65 age range, generally to fill those jobs, you would have to grow to the population of 700,000 in Sedgwick County versus what we’re talking about, 539,000 being fairly aggressive immigration assumptions to get to that point.

“Based on their estimate of the middle range of population and based on their assumption that the labor participation rate would be lowered, you see a real flattening, especially after 2010, 2015, of employment because there just aren’t more people to fill those jobs. In fact, there are less people who are of labor age to fill those jobs.

“Now, we took those numbers and we have been a little bit more conservative on the high end, again, about those numbers, thinking about two things. Number one, the labor force participation rate and the labor force we don’t think is going to change that dramatically. I think there will be people over 65 who are healthy and working in the labor force, if it is attractive enough for them to do it. So we look at in terms of the labor force not changing, that much, in terms of the percentage of people in the force even though we have an aging population. Second, we looked at the factors of outlying counties, some of which may be receiving some of the out-migration from Sedgwick County still being contributors to the Sedgwick County employment and proving more potential for jobs to be filled. So we increased the projection of employment out there in that future year from about 264,000 to about 300,000. We rounded it off to 300,000. That’s what we are looking at, in terms of employment projections, 300,000, and 539,000 for Sedgwick County population. Our challenge, obviously, is to avoid that curve becoming very flat in the future. That is not just Sedgwick County’s challenge, that is really a national issue that you’ll probably be hearing more about in the future.

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“Now, some people look more carefully at our numbers than we expect sometimes. Then we have to go back and try to explain what we did and why we did it. There were a couple of people out there who looked at last year’s development trends report. We do an annual report on development trends and look at how the community is growing, where we’re growing, and what kind of development activity we’re having, overall, and how much is happening in the small cities and Wichita and the unincorporated area. This is a chart that is out of there. In that chart, we also show what the 1990 County population is, what the latest census bureau estimated population is. We calculate, then, the rate between the 1990 population and that rate to get a percentage, so we know how fast we’re growing and also how fast some of the smaller communities are growing, in comparison. Then we have a column, which probably was misleading and maybe we won’t have it in our next development trends report, is called 1997 population estimate based on building permits. It was really begins, when we began these reports a number of years ago and we haven’t refined the methodologies since. It was just a simple calculation, based on taking the number of new dwelling units that were permitted in the County and multiplying it by a household figure and then saying that’s maybe our estimate of our current population.

“Well, the actual number should not be that high because it doesn’t take into account vacancy rates, both in new and existing housing. It doesn’t take into account demolitions. The City of Wichita, for instance, is demolishing 150 to 200 homes per year. So, that rate, that’s really not a good number, in terms of best guess estimate for what the population is. So it is really, in the year 1997, more like 335,000 to 336,000 in January of 1997. We now have a July ‘97 estimate of census of 438,000. So, this number was a little bit high. But what they did was they calculated this 442,000 as a percent increase from 1990 population and said this is 1.33%. Then said, if we were to grow by 1.33%, we would maintain our current rate of growth of 1990 to 1997, then we should have 600,000 in the year 2030. I think the key problem, aside from the fact that the 1.33% is high, it is really more like 1.0 or 1.1%. The key issue here is that it is really unrealistic to make straight line projections particularly after 2010. The effect of the aging population is going to be very powerful. It needs to be taken into consideration, in all of our factors. In order to reach that kind of a rate, we would have to have five times the amount of in-migration, 2,000 people per year versus 400 people per year net, coming into the community, compared to five times more than we’ve had in the years 1990 to 1997.

“I think that’s the main thing that I wanted to show you, to give you an idea about the future and how the future really changes after the year 2010.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Marvin, do you have much more?”

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Mr. Krout said, "No, just to say that this is the actual historical growth of the community. The big effect of lots of births after World War II. This is the baby boom population. A tremendous increase in local births, mostly accounting for a tremendous population increase between 1950, 240,000 and 1960, 320,000, but then if you look from 1960 on, we've had almost a straight line if you average out the bumps of about 0.7% per year. That is continuing. What we think is that we're going to grow a little faster than that, to the year 2010, then a little slower than that afterwards. I'll try to answer any questions you have."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "I don't have any questions, but because of the length of the meeting, I don't want a response now, but I would like to continue this discussion at a later meeting. I'm the one who asked for this, today. I think maybe not until recently did I realize how important these population numbers are. I just think about what we did with our agenda today. Talking about economic development, where we're going to get workers and where they're coming from, and how investors are going to make investment decisions in new plants, equipment, whatever, here in Sedgwick County. Look at the downtown arena. Just greatly impacted by what the future projections of numbers are. Road projects, we're going to deal with one here in a few minutes, the Zoo Boulevard issue. The reason I'm in a bit of a hurry is I'm off to attend a meeting to talk about air service and how can we improve the air service. All of these issues hinge on population numbers and projections. If we're using numbers that are too conservative, too soft, not large enough, I think we're at a place where data is not going to be accurate. I don't want to comment on this, now, because of the lateness of the hour, but I appreciate your bringing this to us and I think we can maybe leap off from this point again and have some future discussion."

Mr. Krout said, "Okay."

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

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioners, any other questions?"

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, “Marvin, we’re going to consider at this time the bridge widening of Zoo Boulevard that is real important to Commissioner Winters and he is going to leave at 11:30 to see how we’re going to fly in and out of this place. Thank you for being here. Madam Clerk, Item M-4 please.”

M. BUREAU OF PUBLIC WORKS.

4. AMENDMENT TO THE 1999 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) BUDGET FOR PUBLIC WORKS. CIP #B-408.

Mr. David Spears, Director, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Item M-4 is an amendment to the 1999 Capital Improvement Program. For your consideration today is the addition of the widening of Zoo Boulevard, including the bridge, from the Wichita city limits to Windmill Road, to the 1999 Capital Plan. The City of Wichita, in conjunction with the Kansas Department of transportation, is currently widening Zoo Boulevard from four lanes to seven lanes at the I-235 Interchange. They are also widening some of the ramps on the interchange itself. The County’s improvements to this project will enhance the total traffic movement at this location. It also means that traffic will only be detoured once instead of twice. The scope of this project will consist of design and construction, both completed this year. The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$1,076,500. I recommend that you approve the amendment to the 1999 Capital Improvement Program.”

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

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Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to support this. I know that David has talked to all of you other Commissioners about this project. I have visited with you about this project. This is an important west side project, where we all know there has been a notorious bottleneck at the Zoo Boulevard, Windmill Road, 21st Street intersection. When the city first started their project earlier this spring, I visited with David about if there was ever a time that we were going to do something to these two bridges across the Big Ditch, this is the time to do it. It would just be unfathomable to think about closing that down for all this summer and then for us, either next year or the following year, to come back in and close those bridges down again to enlarge those bridges. So, David has worked with a consulting engineer, the same engineer that is working on the City project, so a lot of time was saved, a lot of preliminary work has already been done, which would allow us then, if you all concur, to move this project into the plan to really correspond with the project the City of Wichita is currently doing. During this summer, we would be able to use the same traffic control situations that the City is using. We narrow it to one lane until the end of this year and then it would all be completed at the right time, corresponding with the City project and our project.

"I know from my experience on this Commission, it is not something that we easily do, to think about changing out Capital Improvement Plans. You have plans, you have them for a reason. But I think this one, with making our project correspond with the City of Wichita's project, is just too good an opportunity to pass up. As we've all discussed before, I really don't think this is going to answer the question. It is not going to solve the entire problem of major crossing over the Big Ditch. Someday, we're still going to have to address that because our consultants from '95 indicated that this would improve the situation but it would not be the long term solution to the tremendous growth in northwest Wichita. Again, David has shown you the plans. This is the part of our agenda to add this project into the Capital Improvement Program and I would certainly be glad to answer any questions, as would David, if anybody has any questions. I would certainly encourage your support of this amendment. Thank you."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the CIP amendment.

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. Clerk, now item M-3."

3. CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES (DESIGN) WITH PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ZOO BOULEVARD BETWEEN WINDMILL ROAD AND THE WICHITA CITY LIMITS. CIP #B-408. DISTRICT #3.

Mr. Spears said, "Item M-3 is a contract with Professional Engineering Consultants for engineering design services on the improvements to Zoo Boulevard between Windmill Road and the Wichita city limits, designated as B-408 in the Capital Improvement Program. The project will be constructed this year, in order to coincide with the Wichita/KDOT project currently under construction. This design will include the widening of the bridge over the Wichita/Valley Center floodway to seven lanes and other roadway and signalization modifications. The total cost of these services will not exceed \$76,500. I recommend that you approve the Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign."

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

MOTION

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

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

Chairman Hancock said, "I'd like to make it very clear what we're doing. We are agreeing to a contract modification on Zoo Boulevard bridge for seven lanes."

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Mr. Spears said, "That's correct. One lane will be added on the south or west side, however you want to look at it. One lane will be added to the bridge there and then the median will be removed. There is a raised median in the middle of that bridge. It will be removed and two lanes will be install there, in place of the median."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, David. This is a detour until the 13th Street bridge is built?"

Mr. Spears said, "Yes. Any other questions? If not, Clerk call the vote please."

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. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "I certainly want to say thank you, Commissioners, for amending this Capital Improvement Program. All the citizens of west Wichita and western Sedgwick County are going to be appreciative of this and I certainly appreciate your support."

Chairman Hancock said, "It's a good idea. I'm glad you took the opportunity to discuss it with us. We had talked about it a number of times, it just wasn't clear in our minds when or where but this is an opportunity that we can't afford to miss."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I'm going to excuse myself to attend the air service meeting."

Commissioner Winters left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Chairman Hancock said, "David, Item M-1."

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- 1. AGREEMENT WITH RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 3, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS FOR RELOCATION OF A WATERLINE IN CONNECTION WITH SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT NO. 624-W ½ 30; 63RD STREET SOUTH BETWEEN K-15 AND BUCKNER. CIP #R-208. DISTRICT #5.**

Mr. Spears said, "Item M-1 is an approval of an agreement with Rural Water District #3 to relocate their water lines at a cost of \$30,942.73. Their line is located in a private easement. This relocation is in connection with the road project on 63rd Street South, between K-15 and Buckner, designated as R-208 in the Capital Improvement Program. I recommend that you approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, David. Commissioners, questions on this item? Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I think we discussed this and the district is actually going to pay us for the relocation?"

Mr. Spears said, "No, we pay them, Commissioner, because it is in a private easement. If it was in our road right-of-way, they would have to move it, at their cost."

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

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you. Other questions? If not, the Chair would entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Agreement 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	Absent
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

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

2. **MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION REQUEST NUMBER ONE AND FINAL, WITH KING CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT NOS. 630-22-4484, BRIDGE ON 47TH STREET SOUTH BETWEEN HOOVER ROAD AND RIDGE ROAD, CIP #B-297; AND 626-11-1587, BRIDGE ON 31ST STREET SOUTH BETWEEN 231ST AND 247TH STREETS WEST, CIP #B-302. DISTRICT #2 AND #3.**

Mr. Spears said, "Item M-2 is a modification of plans and construction for two bridges included in one contract. This includes the bridge project on 47th Street South between Hoover and Ridge Roads, designated as B-297, and the bridge on 31st Street South, between 231st and 247th Streets West, designated as B-302. Both of the bridges are in accordance with the Capital Improvement Program. These bridges have been constructed and are ready to be finalized out. There will be a net decrease of \$24,011 due to variations in planning quantities from actual field measurements. Recommend that you approve the modification and authorize the Chairman to sign."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Modification of Plans and Construction 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	Absent
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

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

N. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' FEBRUARY 4 AND FEBRUARY 11, 1999 REGULAR MEETINGS.

Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "First, Minutes from the February 4 meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts. There are six items for consideration.

**(1) SERVER - DIVISION OF FINANCE
FUNDING: DIVISION OF FINANCE**

"Item one is a computer server for the Division of Finance. It was recommended to accept the low bid of Computerland East. That amount is \$16,933."

**(2) INTERMEDIATE SIZED UTILITY VEHICLE - FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

"Item two, an intermediated sized utility vehicle for Fleet Management and Emergency Management. It was recommended to accept the low bid of Mel Hambelton Ford. That amount is \$19,990 with trade-in.

**(3) 3/4 TON 4-WHEEL DRIVE SUBURBAN - FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

"Item three is 3/4 ton 4-wheel drive suburban type vehicle, also for Fleet Management and Emergency Medical Service. It was recommended to accept the bid of Wichita West Chevrolet. That amount for two vehicles is \$39,770.26 and also includes trade-ins.

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**(4) LIGHT EXTENDED CAB TRUCKS - FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

“Item four is a light extended cab truck for Fleet Management and Code Enforcement. It was recommended to accept the low bid of Mel Hambelton Ford. That amount for three vehicles with trade is \$26,854.

**(5) TRANSPORT & DELIVERY OF VOTING MACHINE - ELECTION COMMISSION
FUNDING: ELECTION COMMISSION**

“Item five is the transport and delivery of voting machines for the Election Commission. It was recommended to accept the low bid of Jones Storage & Moving. This figure for 1999 elections, \$10,543.40.

**(6) DEMOLITION AND SITE RESTORATION OF 4 HOMES - LEGAL
FUNDING: LEGAL**

“Item six, demolition and site restoration of four homes for the County Counselor. It was recommended to accept the low total bid of Minority Contractors & Consultants. That amount is \$23,000.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING BOCC ACTION

**(7) SERVER - GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES
FUNDING: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES**

“There was one item which was tabled at that particular time and that was a computer server for Geographic Information Services.

“If you please, Mr. Chair, I will proceed with the Minutes of the February 11 meeting. There were eight items for consideration on that date.

**(1) VARIOUS BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS - PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS**

“Item one, various bridge improvements for Public Works. It was recommended to accept the low bid of Donlinger and Sons Construction Company. That amount is \$989,533.40.

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(2) OFFSET MOWERS - FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT

“Item two, offset mowers for Fleet Management and Public Works. It was recommended to accept the bid of Wichita Ford Tractor. That amount is \$28,386.

(3) MINI-VAN - FLEET MANAGEMENT & SHERIFF
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT

“Item three, a mini-van for Fleet Management and the Sheriff. It was recommended to accept the only bid received of Don Hattan Chevrolet. That amount is \$15,225, and includes a trade-in.

(4) INTERMEDIATE FULL-SIZE SEDANS - FLEET MANAGEMENT & SHERIFF
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT

(5) SMALL TRUCK AND AUTO REPAIR PARTS SUPPLIER - FLEET
MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT

“Intermediate full-size sedans for Fleet Management and the Sheriff. No bids were received for this item as well as for item five, which is small truck and auto repair parts supplier for Fleet Management. We are researching both of those incidences.

(6) COMPUTER SERVER - INFORMATION SERVICES
FUNDING: INFORMATION SERVICES

“Item six is computer server for Information Services. It was recommended to accept the low bid meeting specifications of Business Computer Center. That amount is \$13,404.00

(7) EMULSIFIED OILS - PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS

“Item seven, emulsified oils for Public Works. It was recommended to accept the extension of a bid with Koch Materials Company. That amount for 1999 is \$321,675.

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(8) SERVER - GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES
FUNDING: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES

“Item eight is the server for Geographic Information Services. It was tabled previously. It was recommended to accept the low responsible bid of Computerland East. That amount is \$26,281. I’ll be happy to take questions and recommend approval of the Minutes provided by the Board of Bids and Contracts.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Darren. Commissioners, questions on these items?”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Back on Item 3 on the February 4th Agenda, a vehicle. That is one of the first times, I think, I’ve seen only one vendor respond. What’s up with that?”

Mr. Muci said, “That’s been an issue for us this particular year. As you know, we’ve had some consolidation of some of the local dealerships and we’ve had a tremendous volume of purchases just here in the past two months of the year. We’re working with our vendors to determine if there is something we’re not doing correctly or if we’ve hit them with a barrage of vehicles. I hope to get back to you real soon.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Okay, I’m interested in that. Thanks, Darren. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, “On the server for GIS, it says to accept the low responsible bid of Computerland East, but that was higher than a couple of the other bids. Are the other people not considered a responsive bidder or why did we go with the higher number?”

Mr. Muci said, “Commissioner, on both of these items, there were two lower bids. One did not provide the on-site warranty and that was the bid of Telestar Corporation. I apologize that that was not listed or noted for your review. We needed the three year on-site warranty for the particular item and the bid of Custom Fit did not provide the memory that was specified for this machine to function correctly with our application.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “When a bidder fails to do that, we don’t go back and notify them of their failure so they could resubmit a bid with the proper documents in it?”

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Mr. Muci said, “Not at that particular time. Generally, the request for bid process is, with all due respect, is a one shot deal. It is their opportunity to meet our specifications and it was all very clear in these opportunities.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Hancock said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioners, any other questions?”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts for February 4 and February 11, 1999.

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	Absent
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

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

CONSENT AGENDA

O. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Right-of-Way Agreements.

- a. Two Easements for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project No. 809-J, K, L; Tyler Road between 29th and 53rd Streets North. CIP #R-217. District #4.

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- b. One Easement for Right-of-Way and one Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project No. 785-H-1320; Bridge on 279th Street West between 61st and 69th Streets North. CIP #B-322. District #3.
- c. One Temporary Construction Easement for work to be performed by the Stream Maintenance Crew in the vicinity Of 151st Street West between 15th and 23rd Streets South. District #3.

2. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V99007	\$359.00	5	Helms Rental Properties
V99002	\$197.00		Sun Valley Apartments
C99005	\$309.00		Quentin Nusz

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>
C97015	\$163.00	\$179.00
V98018	\$106.00	\$94.00
V97004	\$312.00	\$68.00
C98014	\$420.00	\$327.00
V96007	\$220.00	\$272.00
V96005	\$398.00	\$204.00
V98047	\$217.00	\$224.00
V97004	\$68.00	\$122.00
V03004	\$325.00	\$324.00
V93016	\$73.00	\$335.00
C95037	\$325.00	\$350.00
C95005	\$357.00	\$385.00

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4. Plats.

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 plats:

Harvest Valley Addition
Range Industrial Addition

- 5. Agreement with Jeff Bannon Auction & Realty, Inc. To provide on-line access to Sedgwick County's electronic data.**
- 6. Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, an attachment to the Agreement with State of Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing regarding Micro-Loan Local Revolving Loan grant funds (Agreement was approved at the January 27, 1999 Commission Meeting).**
- 7. Addendum to Agreement with Goodwill Industries Easter Seal Society of Kansas, Inc., allowing provision of, and requesting Medicaid payment for, prevocational services.**
- 8. Amendment to Agreement with Kansas University Endowment Association (KU) regarding parking lot improvements.**
- 9. Orders dated February 3 and February 10, 1999 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 10. Order approving Notice and setting March 3, 1999 for hearing on a petition to annex Land into the Oaklawn Improvement District.**
- 11. Check Registers of February 5 and February 12, 1999.**
- 12. Budget Adjustment Requests.**

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

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

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	Absent
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Bill Hancock	Aye

Chairman Hancock said, "Is there any other business to come before the Board? If not, we're adjourned."

P. OTHER

Q. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 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