

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

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, Sitting as the Governing Body of Fire District #1, was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 20, 2000, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters, with the following present: Chairman Pro Tem Carolyn McGinn; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Bill Hancock; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief; Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Division of Public Safety; Mr. Jeff Cowley, Union President, International Association of Firefighters Local 2612; Mr. Byron N. Chrisler, Deputy Chief of Operations, Fire Department; Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, Bureau of Public Works; and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that Commissioner Sciortino was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL 2612 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS FOR 2001 AND 2002.

Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Division of Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have before you a memorandum of agreement between Sedgwick County Fire District #1 and the International Association of Firefighters Local 2612 covering 2001 and 2002. I would like to note that this agreement is a result of a lot of hard work and good honest communications between the Fire District and the Union. Both negotiating teams are to be commended for the professional and cooperative manner in which this agreement was obtained. I'd particularly like to acknowledge Union President Jeff Cowley who is with us today, his team members, Firefighters Dave Thompson and Jim Eliason and from the Fire District, Division Chiefs, Chuck Thomas and Jimmy Shaver.

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 20, 2000

"The principle elements and changes from the existing agreement are outlined in your agenda background information. The most notable economic items in the contract are it provides for a 3% cost of living for 2001 and a greater of a 2.5% increase or the cost, of living adjustment generally received by the Sedgwick County employees for 2002. The annual uniform allowance was also substantially increased based on wear and tear of uniform items. I recommend you approve and sign the agreement and I stand ready to answer any questions."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Bob. So it is the recommendation of you and your staff to approve this and you have indications from the International Association of Firefighters Local 2612 that they're in agreement with that?"

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

Chairman Winters said, "This is certainly not a public hearing on this issue, but I think this is an issue that if there is anybody here in the meeting room who would like to address the Commissioners on this, we would certainly be glad to hear anybody's comment. I would agree that the negotiating teams did a very good job of bringing this contract together. I would certainly acknowledge Jeff Cowley, who is the president of this group, who does an excellent job of keeping Commissioners informed on a number of issues. If there is anybody who would like to address the Board. Jeff, if you'd like to make a comment, we'd be glad to hear that."

Mr. Jeff Cowley, Union President, International Association of Firefighters Local 2612, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In this process we've been through, twice Bob and I have worked through this one from start to finish. This one here has relative ran fairly smooth. We've had our differences on some issues, one being monetary compensation, but given the situation of the Fire District at this point in time, we are sympathetic to that. I will, however, let you know, we did have a meeting with the Local 135, with the Wichita Firefighters. They have tentatively agreed to a three year contract, with an approximate pay increase of 15% over three years, with the elimination of the 18 month steps, which are one thing that we were working towards. Those are issues that we'll be addressing later on at the end of this agreement.

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 20, 2000

"The one issue that we were also concerned with, as we brought to you three years ago, was the staffing issue of our fire stations. With the reduction in tax dollars, we are looking at reducing that staffing money. However, we still have a level of service to give our taxpayers of the Fire District and we also have the safety issues with our employees, the members of Local 2612. We also have agreements that we need to keep up within the staffing issue with the City of Wichita, having those trucks available to respond to their needs, as well as ours. With the loss of Oatville, that reduces our tax dollars. With the possibility of the Crestview Estates pending, that looms over our heads for the next couple of three years.

"Once again, with this agreement we were able to conduct a vote, through a ballot box at the stations, and we were able to conduct that vote in three days. There was an 87% approval rate of this contract. There were some that felt that it fell short of their expectations, but overall we had an overwhelming approval rate. I would recommend that you approve and sign this memorandum of agreement."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Jeff. We appreciate those comments very much. We're glad that we're here today to approve this agreement that is before us. You've outlined that there will be future negotiations and future discussions, but I think we're pleased to hear your comments of realizing what some of the difficulties that face the Fire District #1 are. I think you and the people that are employed as Sedgwick County employees in that, realize that there are issues out there that we all are going to need to deal with. At least it is good to know that we all can see part of the problems that we're going to be working with over the next three or four years. I hope that together we can come to some really good understandings about how we're going to deal with those issues. We're all just pleased that today we can sign this agreement and get on with business for now and we'll keep working with those issues. Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "You said it. I'm comfortable with your comments. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, you've heard the recommendation from staff, you've heard Jeff Crowley, the President of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 612. What's the will of the Board?"

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 20, 2000

MOTION

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

Commissioner Hancock seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much. Next item."

B. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS PROVIDING A TACTICAL MEDIC PROGRAM.

Mr. Byron N. Chrisler, Deputy Chief of Operations, Fire Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're here today seeking approval of a tactical medic interlocal agreement between the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County. For some background on this, Sedgwick County Fire District #1 and Wichita Fire Department were contacted back in March of 1999 in regards to setting up a tactical medic team to operate part of the City of Wichita Police Department's SWAT team, Special Weapons and Tactics Team. The purpose of this team, which is comprised of eight City and County fire fighter paramedics is to provide advanced life support to victims of hostile activities when traditional EMS care will be delayed, due to ongoing hostile situations. Most of the training is complete. There is about another week and a half of training still left to be done in regards to this. The City Council did approve it last week and we're here seeking the governing body's approval and for authorization for the Chairman to sign."

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 20, 2000

MOTION

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

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Byron. Chief Curmode, I would certainly acknowledge you and your staff's work on the union negotiations and the finalizing of this contract. We appreciate all of the things that you do every day. We certainly appreciate your work on this negotiation and contract. Jeff, again we thank you and your team of negotiators that we've been able to bring this to a conclusion. Thank you both for that. Is there any other business to come before this meeting? Seeing none, this meeting is adjourned."

C. OTHER

D. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 20, 2000

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

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

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman,
Third District

CAROLYN McGINN, Chair Pro Tem,
Fourth District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner,
First District

BILL HANCOCK, Commissioner,
Second District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

James Alford, County Clerk

APPROVED:

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 20, 2000

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