

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, January 12, 2000, 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. Tom Pollan, Director, Emergency Medical Services; Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services; Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Mr. Jim Weber, P.E., Director, Sewer Operations and Maintenance; Mr. David C. Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Public Relations; and Ms. Heather J. Knoblock, Deputy County Clerk.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Reverend Deedee Evans, of Hospice, Inc.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATIONS OF MINUTES: **Regular Meeting, December 15, 1999**

The Clerk reported that Commissioner Sciortino was absent at the Regular Meeting of December 15, 1999.

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioners, you received copies of those Minutes for your review, what's the will of the Board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 1999.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "Next item, please."

AWARD PRESENTATION

A. PRESENTATION OF THE 1999 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD.

Chairman Hancock said, "This is one of those items, every year, that the Chairman is asked to make a selection of a group of individuals, or an individual, that that particular Chairman of that particular year feels is deserving of the Chairman's Award. I want to convey to you that this year, beginning the last of November and the first of December, I began thinking about possibilities for the award. I felt that the opportunity to give an award, and this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to do that, was an opportunity where I wanted to express to certain individuals what I felt about them. I took it very seriously. I've contemplated for a long time. There seems to be no stated criteria by which a Chairman selects a recipient or the recipients of this award in any particular given year.

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"As I've reviewed the selection of others serving as Chair and Chairman, we have a list of them here. This list hangs in our Commission room, on the wall. It began to appear to me that these were individuals, or an individual, who worked very hard in service to their constituents and their community. I've taken the liberty this year of selecting not only those who have served their community in outstanding ways, but also people who, in my view, have had the job that made my job unmeasurably easier. As a result of a year marked with disaster and heroes, community emergencies and significant progress toward building a better community, it was very difficult this year to make a selection. There were, and remain so many worthy recipients. Those that served during the tornado aftermath. Those who contributed to our fire department technology. Those who have dedicated their lives to our youth and youth development. Those who have worked to create a quality of life here in Sedgwick County, most of these people unknown to us are all worthy of any number of awards including the Chairman's Award this year.

"This year, though, I have selected a rather non-conventional, non-traditional group of individuals to receive the Chairman's Award. This group of individuals have worked for the last 12 months with extraordinary effectiveness. They have taken on difficult community issues and respond with answers and solutions that will shape the nature of this County for years to come, if not decades to come. They have taken the time to learn from the past and with that knowledge they have instituted changes that will create a better future for all the lives here in Sedgwick County.

"I've had the extraordinary privilege to observe these individuals daily and have been impressed with their caring and concern for those they serve. While they have known me, they have worked every day to make sure that I succeeded in my duties and my responsibilities, with their loyalty, their dedication, and their good advice, for which I am very grateful. As I said earlier, this group of individuals are non-traditional recipients of the award. They have, however, traditionally created conditions to make it possible for others to be recognized. In my view, no other group of people reflect the values of this community better than do the 1999 recipients. They are responsible for discerning those values and in turn taking action, instituting programs and developing policy that translates into quality public services for every citizen here in Sedgwick County. They are not on the front lines, but their work no less effects the lives of individuals every day. To do their job, they must be willing to learn, to make difficult controversial decisions. They must have compassion for their neighbor and yet make decisions that is often detrimental to that same neighbor. They must understand the need to help those who cannot help themselves and never be content with mediocrity in public service. It is my opinion that these individuals have met these challenges and will continue to do so in the future.

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"There are many possible recipients for the annual Chairman's Award, but in the final analysis, those that I have selected performed at a level superior to any other year that I have personally known as Commissioner. They are, this year: Betsy Gwin, Second [SIC Clerk's note; First was intended] District; Tom Winters, Third District; Carolyn McGinn, Fourth District; and Ben Sciortino, Fifth District, my colleagues and the Board of County Commissioners."

Commissioner Gwin said, "You can't do that."

Chairman Hancock said, "Lisa and Jama are giving to you is a small token of my appreciation for your help and concern for the community this year. I can't overstate how I felt this year about the kind of work that you've done. It's been outstanding."

"However, I'm not quite done yet. Also, it is important to recognize and award two other individuals. These individuals allow my colleagues to do their best work possible. These people are on the front lines. Each day they answer to the public in such a way that those calling or coming to the Commission office are assured of professionalism, compassion and quality in public service. I have had the extraordinary privilege, over the years, to work with this one individual and, most recently, a new individual. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I also chose to give the Chairman's Award to Lisa Conrad and Jama Carlton for their extraordinary work for me this year and the community."

"In closing, I'd just like to say thank you to all of you. There are so many folks out there who helped me do a good job this year. I just want to remind the folks out there that the decisions we made in the last year were rather unique decisions, in that we have taken a focus that is much different from the years past. It has taken a lot of courage to do some of the things that we have done. To the two ladies who work in our front office, you have helped us immeasurably and we appreciate that. Thank you, very much."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman on behalf of all the recipients. Next item please."

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NEW BUSINESS

B. RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 194-1991, SECTION II, RELATING TO THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE MEDICAL ADVISOR.

Mr. Tom Pollan, Director, Emergency Medical Service, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Resolution I have before you today is to continue our relationship with Dr. Ernest McClellan, who has been our Medical Director since 1975. Unfortunately, in 1975, we didn't have a process for picking a Medical Director and since it has been 25 years we really haven't developed one up to this point. We are currently in that process and he has agreed to stay on for a bit longer to help us finish that so we can develop a more preferred future for our EMS system. I would ask that you extend this until the end of March to allow us to complete that process and bring back to you a new medical director for our system."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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| 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."

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C. SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK.

- 1. AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS) SOCIETY SOUTH CENTRAL & WESTERN KANSAS CHAPTER FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK APRIL 8, 2000 TO HOLD A 2000 MS WALK.**

Mr. Jarold D. Harrison, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is the second year that the National Multiple Sclerosis Society local chapter has sponsored this walk. The dates have been coordinated with the Park Superintendent and this is subject to receiving a certificate of insurance. We would recommend your approval."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin 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

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| 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."

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2. AGREEMENT WITH MID CONTINENT R/C COMPETITION SPECIALISTS FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK TO HOLD MODEL BOAT REGATTAS AND PRACTICE AND HOBBY RUNS.

Mr. Harrison said, "It is an Agreement between the County and Mid Continent Radio Control Competition Specialists for the year 2000. This group has been with the park for over 10 years doing the model boat events. This sets out both the event schedule for the year 2000 and coverage for the practice events. They are subject to receipt of a certificate of insurance from the national organization. We would recommend your approval."

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

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.

VOTE

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| 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."

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3. AGREEMENT WITH QUIVIRA COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK FEBRUARY 5, 2000 TO HOLD AN ESKIMO RUN.

Mr. Harrison said, "The third Agreement is with the Quivira Council Boy Scouts of America for use of a portion of Sedgwick County Park for their Eskimo Run, Saturday, February 5. They average about 250 to 300 participants in this event. This is, I believe, the third year for that event. We have received the certificate of insurance from the organization. We would recommend your approval."

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

Commissioner McGinn said, "Maybe this is common knowledge, but what is an Eskimo run?"

Mr. Harrison said, "It is a run that they conduct in the park."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Not something special. I was just curious."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "On February 5, you feel like an Eskimo."

Mr. Harrison said, "With the weather they've had recently it may be the summer fun."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

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

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

D. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS ELKS TRAINING CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED, INC. FOR A CONSULTANT TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR PROJECT.

Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This particular item is a contract with Kansas Elks Training Center or KETCH. They have a staff member there who has the expertise to provide what we're needing for this project. Often individuals with a developmental disability may in fact exhibit behaviors which cause problems in terms of their community placement. Also sometimes we have individuals who because of a dual diagnosis with mental illness and also experiencing development disabilities, have some real challenging behaviors. Those individuals will work with us and our community providers to deal with those problems. The Contract is for \$33,333. Those are state funds. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "You indicate that the reason that we're using this partnership is because the CDDO tried to recruit somebody with necessary skills and we found it not possible. Were we looking at adding a person on the County payroll to do this job and didn't do so?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "That was the initial intent. It is very difficult to find folks with a mental health background and also the background in developmental disabilities. We just were not able to find someone that we felt could do that work."

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Commissioner Gwin said, "What's encouraging, I know that this is plan B, but what is encouraging is that we have these kinds of partners in the community that we are able to turn to and be successful even if plan A didn't work the way we envisioned it. I think this might end up being a better solution in the long run. Thanks, Debbie. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin 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

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| 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. STATEMENT OF GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR ASSERTIVE OUTREACH AND INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO PERSONS WHO ARE HOMELESS AND EXPERIENCE SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.

Ms. Donaldson said, "Commissioners, this particular grant award focused on serving those individuals who are homeless with a serious mental illness and are part of our center city program. This replaces some of the funds that we lost because of the federal grant that ended, which was called the Access Program. Unfortunately, this also was eliminated in terms of the current year funding in the legislature although the state, within their budget, is attempting to come up with some funds, if not all the funds, to help us continue with this project because they think it is very important and they were very pleased with the outcome with that. So, I am currently working with the State on that endeavor. I'd be glad to answer any questions."

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Debbie, does that mean that we are not sure we will have a matching grant or what did you mean by that statement?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "We don't know how many funds we will receive at this point. It could be anything from zero to \$289,000."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "If I'm reading this right, there is an in-kind match of \$96,500 on this and we have to commit to but we're not too sure that we'll get the same amount from the state?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "That's correct. The Commissioners have already put those funds in the budget."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But if we don't get the other funds from the state, how can we do what the grant asks us to do? Will we have to come up with the other 50%?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "At this point, we don't know. Obviously, they can't hold us to outcomes in a grant if they don't fully fund it."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'm confused as to what you are asking us to do today."

Ms. Donaldson said, "We need to approve this and I will continue to work with the State to see if we in fact can get these funds or at least part of the funds that are in this grant award. My discussion yesterday with the state is that it is their intent to try to at least fund two positions."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "My question is, we're looking at . . . they come up with \$96,500 and we come up with \$96,500. If they only come up with \$50,000, is our commitment back down to \$50,000 or if they come up with \$20,000, do we match it with \$20,000, or do we come up with \$96,500 regardless of what the state does for us? I need to get that clear in my mind."

Ms. Donaldson said, "Our commitment stays at \$96,000. Actually, we were budgeted higher than that, it is just that they required that much for these dollars."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Personally, I think we're sending the state the wrong message. If the grant was supposed to be 50/50, then we're saying, regardless, if you send us any money we're going to commit that they could say 'oh great, Sedgwick County is willing to put up the money so we won't give them any, we'll go to some other place that can only afford 50/50'. Do you follow what I'm trying to say? I don't know if I'm saying it right, but I don't think I can support this since we don't know for sure what the state is going to do."

Mr. William Buchanan, County Manager, said, "We've dealt with the homeless program and received a federal grant several years ago for an excess of \$940,000. That was over a period of years. That grant has disappeared, gone away, and we've cut back and redesigned the services and I think those services are now budgeted somewhere in the neighborhood of \$220,000 or \$240,000 a year. That commitment is for us to provide services to people who are homeless who have eviction problems and issues around mental illness. The reason we're in that business is because if we can provide them service, if we can provide them a stable place in which to live in this community they won't be in the jails, won't commit crimes, and they'll stay out of Noffsinger's Park, hopefully. We can go about doing it that way. The state has a program to assist us and they said would you commit 50/50 grant and the maximum the state is going to give is \$96,000. Since we've already budgeted an excess of \$96,000, we thought this made sense to apply for the grant and get as much money as we can from the State."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "My point is, if we're applying for the grant and we don't get the grant, are we still committing we'll spend the \$96,500."

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Mr. Buchanan said, "No, we've committed to \$240,000 or so on homeless. That is what was budgeted. That is the program we're going to deliver. If we don't get the money from the state, we'll have to restructure the services we deliver so that the grant goes away, so there will be less than the \$200,000 or whatever it is."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I don't mean to be confrontational, Mr. Manager, but we already have the year 2000 budget set. If we don't get this money you're saying we're still going to commit it, where are we going to get the money from? What service are we going to diminish so we can pay for this?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "We will have to diminish the services we provide to the homeless, if we don't receive this."

Chairman Hancock said, "What you're saying is, basically, that this is supplemental to what we've already budgeted for the program and we can increase the program services if the grant award is given to us."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'm sorry. Just finding out, today, that we don't know if we're going to have the money, it would have helped me to know earlier that the money for the grant was in question. I'm so confused I'm going to vote no."

Ms. Donaldson said, "Part of the action taken, several weeks ago, in terms of the funds that were available were in fact to help cover this. What I'm asking for today is to go ahead and approve this, so I have what I need to go back to the state to get as many funds as possible to cover this. That's what I'm asking for. It is just simply that we can go ahead and negotiate with them to get coverage for at least a couple of positions if not more. The state has a very large budget in SRS for this and, in fact, they have a lot of flexibility with it. They've indicated that they will try to use that."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I read in the paper this morning that it is one of the areas they're thinking of cutting in the year 2000 budget. I'm still concerned over . . . I don't have any problem applying for a grant as long as, if we don't get the grant, we're back to step zero and we haven't hired the people and committed to do the work and we don't know where we're going to get the money from because the budget is already set."

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Ms. Donaldson said, "The folks are already hired. This is ongoing."

Mr. Buchanan said, "If I may interject. We've designed the program. We believed we were going to get some money from the state. We have budgeted that money as revenue. We've also budgeted general fund monies or mental health monies to cover the cost of the program. If we don't get this source of revenue, we'll have to redesign the program. But we can't get this source of revenue unless you give us authority to go to the state and negotiate."

Ms. Donaldson said, "At this point, this is all happening so quickly, this happened yesterday afternoon and I have to say that one of our Senators went all out trying to support keeping this in. Like I said, this is moving very quickly and we didn't even know this until yesterday afternoon."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I believe you're referring to Senator Feliciano."

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But I read in the paper that they are going to cut this program. So, we're applying for a grant that they have already stated, publicly, that they're going to cut."

Ms. Donaldson said, "This is an assigned grant award. The Secretary signed this. We're not applying for it. This is the grant award."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I'm trying to get clarification, too. This is a program that Sedgwick County determined that Sedgwick County was going to provide, correct? We budgeted a certain amount to continue this access program, is that correct?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "Correct."

Commissioner Gwin said, "So, if I look for additional monies from other sources, that is just an addition to the regular general fund monies that we've used or already budgeted?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "Yes. But with the federal grant, the program was a certain size. These funds were to be used to continue an assertive case management outreach team. That is what will be affected."

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Commissioner Gwin said, "Did the money that we allocated within our budget project process for 2000 come from the state, all of it, or was it local tax dollars or a combination?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "A combination."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Okay. So we're still prepared, with our own money, despite what the state does, to provide some semblance of an access homeless program. Is that correct?"

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "So from what I can read from the grant award, it says here is your grant award but it doesn't say how much."

Ms. Donaldson said, "The grant award is \$189,000."

Commissioner Gwin said, "But someone has to make a commitment to that at the state level, is that correct?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "Right. They have signed it. They sent us a signed contract."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I saw that in the back. If the state is looking for more money, I suppose they could renig on that. I kept looking for an amount. I'm comfortable with us providing the program because I know it has been a successful one. If the state wants to give us some money or sees fit to give us some money to help do this, then that's fine. In one way, shape, or form, I see us continuing to take on this responsibility, certainly not at the big level it was when it first started, but in a sized-down model that I think we'll still provide the services we need to provide. I appreciate Commissioner Sciortino's concern because it appears that more of this responsibility has fallen on our shoulders as so many things do. But this may be one of those that we just have to keep going even if it is a minimal program. I think it is important enough."

Ms. Donaldson said, "It is certainly our intent that if in fact the funds are cut for the current year that we plan to continue working with the legislature to see if those can be reinstated in future years."

Commissioner Gwin said, "If they can't, then we'll reevaluate, obviously, as to how important it really is to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'm sorry, I'm not against the program. I'm hearing that if we don't get the grant award then we'll have to readjust and cut back et cetera. Does that mean that we will have to let go of employees and reduce our expenditure and that is when you're going to come to us, to let us know that you've let go of some employees to reduce the cost?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "That could happen."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "How else do you reduce your expenditure?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "Well, within COMCARE, there is such a great need for case managers, that probably if something like this would happen, we could reposition staff, rather than having to lay them off."

Mr. Buchanan said, "If the dollars for the program went away, those employees would no longer be doing homeless work and therefore would be laid off from that program. We have a constant turnover in COMCARE. Some of those employees, if not all of them, would find work in other divisions. COMCARE's budget would be reviewed. The employees would, because of turn over, be less than what we had in the past and the current employees would probably be assigned to other places."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Or laid off, if there wasn't such . . . "

Mr. Buchanan said, "Or laid off."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I hope I see the day that we actually lay off some employees because we don't have enough work."

Mr. Buchanan said, "We have, in COMCARE in the past, and we have in other places in the past, and we'll continue to do so when the need arises."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "There is no need for me to continue talking. I'm very confused about this and very upset that I'm just now finding out today, at the bench, it wasn't presented to me in briefings, that the money we are going after we don't have. Just now, getting it today, that upsets me and I'm confused but there is no reason for me to continue."

Ms. Donaldson said, "I apologize. If we had known earlier, but we did not know until yesterday afternoon, late. I'd be glad to talk with you further about it."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "That's a case of closing the barn door after the horse is gone. Thank you. I have no other questions."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Statement of Grant Award and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just have a comment. If we don't get the funding, I'm sure you'll be around and we can visit about how we can restructure this. Thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Further discussion? If not, Clerk call the vote please."

VOTE

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

Chairman Hancock said, "Next item."

3. AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF KANSAS TO PROVIDE JUVENILE DIVERSION/IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SERVICES.

Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This Agreement provides state juvenile justice funding to the District Attorney's Office to expand their diversion program for juvenile offenders for the calendar year 2000. This program is part of our local juvenile justice program, which is being expanded through juvenile justice reform. The Grant is for \$149,824. Be happy

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to answer any questions."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Mark. Commissioners, questions on this item? Are you sure? If not, the Chair would entertain a Motion."

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

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| 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."

4. GRANT APPLICATION TO KANSAS JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY FOR LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE FUNDS.

Mr. Masterson said, "This is an application to the Juvenile Justice Authority for grant funding for computer upgrades at our juvenile field services division. The upgrades are necessary to submit data to the State Juvenile Justice System, which is presently under development. We're asking for \$12,095 in this application. A 25% local match is required, which is available in our current budget. Be happy to answer any question."

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

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MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Grant Application.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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| 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."

E. PUBLIC WORKS.

- 1. MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION, REQUEST NUMBER ONE, WITH RITCHIE PAVING, INC. ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT – SAVANNAH AT CASTLE ROCK 9TH ADDITION. DISTRICT #1.**

Mr. Jim Weber, P.E., Director, Sewer Operations and Maintenance, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In Item E-1, we are requesting approval of modification of plans and construction number one, to our contract with Ritchie Paving on Phase I, the Savannah at Castle Rock 9th Addition, street paving project. The modification will increase our contract by \$21,421.75. The increase is due to variations in planning quantities from actual field measurements. All costs of the project are to be paid by the benefited properties through special assessments. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have."

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

MOTION

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

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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."

2. MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION, REQUEST NUMBER ONE AND FINAL, WITH WITWER, INC. ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT NO. 613-835; INTERCHANGE AT K-96 AND GREENWICH ROAD (I-75) AND REGENCY LAKES. DISTRICT #1.

Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director/County Engineer, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item E-2 is a modification of plans and construction for the interchange project at K-96 and Greenwich Road, designated as I-75 in the Capital Improvement Program and also Regency Lakes. This project has been constructed and is ready to be finalized out. There will be a net increase of \$20,866.79 due to variations in planning quantities from actual field measurements. Sedgwick County's share of this will be \$6,273.27. The balance will be paid by the developers. I'd recommend that you approve the modification and authorize the Chairman to sign."

MOTION

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

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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, David. Next item please."

**F. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' JANUARY 6, 2000
REGULAR MEETING.**

Mr. Darren Muci, Director, Purchasing Department., greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have Minutes from the January 6 meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts. There are just two items for consideration.

**(1) ARCHITECTURAL PLANNING SERVICES- OFFICE OF FACILITIES PLANNING
& REMODELING
FUNDING: OFFICE OF FACILITIES PLANNING & REMODELING**

"Item one, architectural planning services for the office of Facilities Planning and Remodeling. It was recommended to accept the only proposal of Wilson Darnell Mann. These are space studies for Emergency Communication and Emergency Management, in the amount of \$17,340.

(2) RELOCATE & RECONFIGURE COUNTERS FOR WEST TAG OFFICE - OFFICE

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OF FACILITIES PLANNING & REMODELING
FUNDING: OFFICE OF FACILITIES PLANNING & REMODELING

"Item two, relocation and reconfiguration of counters for the west tag office, that is also for the office of Facilities Planning and Remodeling and the County Treasurer. It was recommended to accept the quotation of S.B.K. Supply & Millwork. That amount is \$10,946.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING BOCC ACTION

(3) ID BADGE/CARD SYSTEM - HUMAN RESOURCES
FUNDING: HUMAN RESOURCES

"There is one item that does not require action at this particular item, ID badge card system for Human Resources. Those proposals were received and are being reviewed. I would be happy to take questions and would recommend approval of the Minutes from the Board of Bids and Contracts."

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "On the architectural planning services, do we not already have an agreement with Wilson Darnell and Mann to provide those services?"

Mr. Muci said, "Those services, ma'am, are essentially general architectural services I believe and this is a specialized project for this, in particular."

Commissioner Gwin said, "So, because it is a specialized project was it available to other architectural firms?"

Mr. Muci said, "In this particular case, Wilson Darnell was selected as the architectural engineering company which would best provide those services, so no, it was not offered on a competitive basis."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Okay."

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Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "It was my understanding that this is just a study, right?"

Mr. Muci said, "Correct."

Commissioner Winters said, "This is attempting to determine what is really needed space wise and it not proceeding on to any type of architectural work and once any kind of significant architectural plans are drawn there will be a different process and this is not locking these folks in to this position?"

Mr. Muci said, "The is correct."

Commissioner Gwin said, "But my question is, if they're already the ones we use for this kind of thing, why do we have to pay them extra?"

Commissioner Winters said, "The in-house architect, any time they do anything they do charge for that service. They're not free, I think they charge us for work done. Stephanie Knebel talked to us about this a couple of weeks ago. I don't know that I remember all the details."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I don't either. Okay, thank you."

Chairman Hancock said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Further discussion? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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

Chairman Hancock seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin

No

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

Commissioner McGinn said, "May I make a comment on this. I guess I'd like some more clarification of how we're doing this for the future. I don't know who, would it be Ken?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, in the contract that we have with Wilson Darnell and Mann, it specifies the scope of services that they will provide. These kind of special space studies take more than what was contemplated or intended in the scope of services with Wilson Darnell and Mann. We'll be happy to come back to you with future projects and tell you why it is necessary to hire architects outside the existing contract and we'll review with you the provisions of the general contract with Wilson Darnell and Mann so that we'll all have a better understanding of when that is applicable and when it is not. That will help us all. We'd be glad to do that."

Chairman Hancock said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "The only other thing I'd like clarification on is the total amount of the scope of this project. This number doesn't quite jive with the number that Stephanie reported to us when she was talking about the preliminary concept. If somebody could clarify what the real number is supposed to be on this contract, I'd appreciate that, too."

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, "The Manager answered the question I was going to ask. I do want to have an understanding of what our retainer contract is, with the architect and what services they provide for the funds, I assume we're paying them a retainer and what they get for that ongoing funding."

Chairman Hancock said, "Okay, thank you. Further questions? Thank you, Darren. Next item please."

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CONSENT AGENDA

G. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.

| <u>Contract Number</u> | <u>Rent Subsidy</u> | <u>District Number</u> | <u>Landlord</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| V2000 | \$216.00 | 3 | Mt. Hope Community Development, Inc. |
| V2005 | \$306.00 | 2 | Monte and Jannifer Helms |

2. The following Section 8 Housing Contracts are being amended to reflect a revised monthly amount due to a change in the income level of the participating client.

| <u>Contract Number</u> | <u>Old Amount</u> | <u>New Amount</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| C863005 | \$286.00 | \$286.00 |
| V94012 | \$580.00 | \$407.00 |
| C99005 | \$319.00 | \$319.00 |
| V72016 | \$205.00 | \$166.00 |
| V94034 | \$209.00 | \$211.00 |
| V96044 | \$201.00 | \$206.00 |
| C98052 | \$208.00 | \$204.00 |
| V98031 | \$202.00 | \$196.00 |

3. Right-of-Way Agreements.

One Easement for Right-of-Way and One Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project No. 807-K, L, N ½ M; Maize Road between 21st and 45th Streets North. CIP #R-246. Districts #3 and #4.

4. General Bills Check Register of January 7, 2000.

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- 5. Order dated January 5, 2000 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 6. Budget Adjustment Requests.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "The Consent Agenda is in front of you and has been presented to you and I would recommend you approve it."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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."

SELECTIONS

H. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN DURING 2000.

Chairman Hancock said, "At this time, Commissioners, the Chair would entertain a Motion for one individual to serve as Chairman during the year 2000."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved that Tom Winters be Chairman for the year 2000.

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Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

Chairman Hancock said, "They told me they were going to wait until about 10 minutes and not say nothing. Before we take a vote, for discussion purposes I would like to say a few words. For those of you who know me, know that serving as Chairman has not always been one of my favorite things. I dread ceremonial things and I'm not very good at them but I attended them regularly and usually suffered through them. I'm probably a better Commissioner than Chairman. However, during the last year, I tried to do two things. One was represent the interest of the County and the other was to represent the interest of the citizens of Sedgwick County. Dependent upon the particular situation, of course, either one of those were interchangeable. Whatever was appropriate, I tried to keep those in mind. If I didn't do that, I apologize. If I did, then sometimes, as David Spears, even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while. I hope I did a good job.

"Also, those of you who know me, know that although I don't say a whole lot or make my speeches very long, usually what I have to say I mean. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank all the staff members and many of you are here today and most of them are out working and doing their jobs. Why are you guys here by the way? From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank my colleagues and all the staff members and employees of Sedgwick County and the citizens of Sedgwick County for allowing me the privilege of serving as Chairman for the last year. It has been an enjoyable experience and one that I will always remember and cherish. Thank you, very much. 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. Congratulations, Tom. We're doing this a little bit differently. In fact, I'm going to be an unruly out of control Commissioner now. So, Tom is going to need a gavel to pound on the desk to keep me in line and keep me in control."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, very much. Mr. Chairman, if you'd remain standing at this time, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, for your work as Chairman. It does require extra responsibility and leadership tasks and we appreciate that. On behalf of your colleagues, I'd like to present this plaque to you, in recognition on behalf of your years service as Chairman. Thank you, very much."

Chairman Winters said, "Madam Clerk, would you call Item I please."

I. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN PRO TEM DURING 2000.

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Commissioners, are there nominations for a member to be Chair Pro Tem during 2000?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved that Carolyn McGinn be the Chair Pro Tem for 2000.

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 | Aye |
| Chairman Thomas G. Winters | Aye |

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Congratulations, Carolyn. Before we adjourn the meeting, I would like to take a couple of minutes to make a few comments, maybe looking back a little bit and looking into 2000. I certainly want to thank my fellow Commissioners for the honor of being Chairman for this coming

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year 2000. It is going to be an exciting busy year. Chairman Hancock, I want to thank you again for all of your efforts during 1999. We appreciate the work that you have done, specifically with COMPAC 2000. I think you really were a part of the group that enabled that to come together. I'm not sure it would have quite looked like it does not without your leadership. I think that comes from your years of experience as a Commissioner. Thank you, very much.

"Commissioner Gwin, thank you again for your support. Your experience on the bench is also very important. We thank you for your work this past year on the fire consolidation efforts and working with Bill Gayle and Phil Lamkey. I think that has been extremely important in pulling a number of things together. I also want to thank you, and this is going to be an exciting year for Exploration Place. You have been a key member of that trustee board that is working with Exploration Place. We hope you continue doing that.

"Again, it is going to be an exciting spring for that event. We appreciate the work you have done in the past on the Zoo Board and serving on the Zoo Board. Chairman Hancock, last year, asked you to do that and I'm going to ask you to continue to do that. I think the Zoo is significantly important to this community and I think that is one of the areas where, maybe, without having a transition every year from a new Commissioner, maybe that would really give some continuity, as we stay connected to the Board, which I think is very important. Lastly, I certainly appreciate, I think we all do, your attention to detail. You are, absolutely, the detail Commissioner, as some of us read things rapidly and quickly and we're on the high spots. We appreciate your attention to making sure the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed. We appreciate that.

"To the two, what we have formerly referred to as new Commissioners, this marks a first year so you're not new Commissioners any longer. The old excuses won't work."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Can I blame my predecessor?"

Commissioner Winters said, "I want to say how much I have appreciated working both of you over the last year. I think our Commission has taken another step forward, with your additions to the Commission.

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Commissioner Sciortino, I'm confident that COMPACT 2000 would not be where it is today without your catalyst of making sure that it was started and making sure that it has been held in place. I think it is extremely important that we do that. I'm certainly going to ask you to continue to focus on that effort and to keep us connected in that COMPACT 2000 relationship with the City of Wichita, particularly. It is extremely important.

"We do appreciate, sometimes, those tough questions about the fiscal conservatism we need to be doing. I think we're all becoming aware that you are going to ask where did this dollar come from and where is this dollar going and why is it going there. I think that is a benefit to our Commission and I think we're all confident that you'll keep asking that question. We don't anticipate seeing a change there. We do appreciate that. We also appreciate your experience in dealing with the state legislature. We know that in your past experience and past occupation, that was something that you played critical attention to and was part of your job responsibilities. I think you're going to bring a level of that expertise to us. Last year was kind of a new and fresh perspective. Now, as we deal with this legislative session, we know there are going to be interests where we need to keep them informed about how their decisions are going to effect local government. I'm confident we can look on your expertise for that.

"Carolyn McGinn came as a Commissioner, and probably as much as any Commissioner I've seen, hit the ground running, fast. It is kind of like, tell me an issue that Carolyn is not involved in would probably be as well as some of the ones she is. She has taken an active lead role in helping us think through this Comprehensive Plan. She is probably working harder than any of the rest of us, as we really try to look at these urban/ rural issues, and how one set of demands or expectations from a certain group of folks is going to effect others. She is doing that extremely well. We're probably a long way from being where people want to be yet, but Carolyn has certainly taken a leadership role in that. She is, and has been, previous to being a Commissioner, really working on a lot of water resources issues all over the state and how important water is to all of us and along with other environmental issues. She certainly has a keen interest in the solid waste issue and how that is going to unfold over the next two years. That is also very important. She is part of the working organization of CORE that is trying to look at what needs to be done to hold downtown Wichita and the area surrounding the downtown together. She is an active participant on that part. She really does serve the most diverse district in Sedgwick County. I have seen, from my perspective, that she is taking a very real interest in making sure that all of the citizens of her district are represented and informed and have a voice at any kind of table that needs to be done. I'm certain that this Commission will continue to support you in that effort as you really work with, again, a diverse district.

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I think, after this first year, I think you have done an outstanding job and I hope we will continue to support you.

"I want to touch, most briefly, on some of the priorities that we have set, as we look at budget issues and other objectives for the year 2001 and as we walk through 2000. Manager Buchanan shared with us, made a presentation a couple of weeks ago, concerning these priorities. I want to hit a couple of them again or all five of them, very briefly.

"One of the things is this collaborative effort which is exemplified by COMPACT 2000 and how are we going to be more efficient and more effective, looking both internally and looking in a collaborative effort with other units of local government, extremely important. The demographics, as we begin to look into 2000, making sure we are delivering or offering the right services for our changing populations. Again, we'll continue to study and see how these population changes effect our services. Economic development continues to be a priority for the Commissioners. We will continue to invest in infrastructure, technology, and equality of our work force to make sure that we can support the economic base that is here in Sedgwick County.

"Quality of life issues, I think we are interested in continuing to devote resources to providing a safe, healthy community for all of our residents, economically, socially, environmentally, and physically. Lastly, on the youth services area, we are committed to continue to explore, promote, support educational prevention and intervention and even where warranted, detentional or correctional measures aimed at our community's youth.

"I want to spend just a few more minutes on the youth services issue. There are two issues that we're going to need to pay special attention to in the year 2000. One is our facilities issue. Our current detention facility for juveniles is extremely overcrowded. We routinely have 23, 24, 25, of our youth housed out of the County in some other facility. The court system that operates out of that facility is also very crowded. We are going to need to take a close look at how we would solve those space problems. There are a number of issues involving that. Do we need to look at privatization of part of that operation? Do we need to keep it all within the County? Questions that we're going to need to address.

"The secondary on youth services is the prevention fund and the prevention scenario that is beginning to

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unfold all over the state, not only here in Sedgwick County. For two years now, Commissioner has committed \$1,000,000 to a specific prevention fund. As the state legislature started Juvenile Justice Reform in 1996, they very wisely included prevention issues in their legislation. For the first time, this year, we are receiving prevention dollars from the State of Kansas, the Juvenile Justice Authority. With the help of the Correction Juvenile Advisory Board, chaired by Margalee Wright, they refer to themselves as Team Justice. They are going to continue to monitor and make recommendations concerning these prevention funds. We know that, in this day, there are programs that work and there are programs that do not work. We need to make sure that our focus is on those programs that work.

"I know that a number of us have become somewhat frustrated, as we begin to talk about these youth programs that we are interested in, we seem to all at once now have programs coming at us from every direction. Try this, try this, will you support this, will you fund this, will you do that? Well, the realistic outlook is that we're not going to be able to fund every one of these programs and initiatives that come to us. But we shouldn't let that frustrate us in the provision of looking and thinking about them. I think we need to still keep an open mind and see what kind of programs will fit into the initiatives that we've got started or we perhaps want to start. I think, in this business, we will continue to have a lot of people requesting funds. I just hope that we don't let that lessen our enthusiasm for what I really believe is a momentum toward prevention. I think we need to remember why we are interested in prevention in the first place and I think there are two reasons.

"One, I think we have a responsibility to our young people to make sure they have opportunities and they have options and that they are prepared to make good decisions. I think it is the right thing to do. I think just as importantly is the most cost effective thing to do. I'm not sure we can build enough jails. I'm not sure we can do enough of the real back-end dealing with problems that some of our citizens create for us. I think, if we can really devote some funds at the front end of this process, I think that over time, just as in medicine, prevention is part of the answer. If you can prevent some kind of a disease or a problem, you're way ahead of the curve. In law enforcement issues and criminal justice issues, prevention has still been very difficult to do. It is a long way from being perfected, but I think there are issues, now, that we can really begin to look at this in a cost effective way.

"Just a couple of other issues that are going to make 2000 kind of an incredible year. I mentioned the Comprehensive Plan, as we put together the planning process, the planning document that we'll be able to use to guide for future development and how all that comes together. That is going to be a very challenging issue. We'll continue to deal with the solid waste issue. It is still our commitment to make a seamless transition from one kind of system to another. The new system is going to be focused on

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reduction of our waste stream, which will be a change for the entire community. Our emphasis will still be to make that as seamless as possible.

"I heard just moderate discussion of possibly thinking about some kind of new park in Sedgwick County. I think it may really be time to open up that discussion. We've got a great park system now. The West Sedgwick County Park and I see Warren Duscher out here in the audience. That was here long before I was here, but it is extremely important to drive through West Sedgwick County Park almost any day, but certainly in the summer time and see a park that is heavily utilized. You stop and think this is good County dollars. This is money spent in an extremely good place. So maybe it is time to start thinking about another park, someplace in Sedgwick County, that would be similar or better to what we have now, particular with Lake Afton and the West Sedgwick County Park.

"The Chairman talked a little bit about the background of the Chairman's Award. I would like to suggest that we might think about changing tradition a bit. I think the Chairman's Award was a terrific idea when it was first created and really allowed us to highlight, as the Chairman described it, an individual or organization that has been significant, but just as he went through all the lists of the people he thought about through this past year, that probably there is a need for some special recognition to take place. I would like for us to consider that during the times of the year when we see individuals or organizations that need to be acknowledged and rewarded, that we stand up and do that on a more regular basis. I don't think it will take away from the Chairman's Award concept. It can be given at the end of the year. I think that will still be an especially highlighted award. This is not an original idea with me, because as I sometimes watch the beginning of the Wichita City Commission, they're giving an award to somebody, a citizen who has done something outstanding in the City of Wichita. I think we ought to really think about highlighting our awards through the coming year.

"Last bit of thank yous would be to staff, senior staff, and all of the support staff. Again, as we look at the issues for 2000, and I see John Nath, we're going to need to make sure that the Coliseum is in a state that

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is good for the public to be in. We know there are some issues that we've got to resolve before we take different steps. That doesn't mean that it is not critically important. I see Register of Deeds, Bill Meek here working with the other elected officials in bringing technology to a different level in the Appraiser's, Clerk, Treasurer, and Register of Deeds' Office. It is going to be an issue that we need to deal with this coming year. I appreciate Bill's work on that. Jeff Cowley with the Fire Department is here, an important organization. The Chief's are in the back of the room. Public safety continues to be something that we need to really focus on and be attentive to and know that it is, as we look at public safety, probably one of the most important things, as local government, that we're involved in is citizen safety. We appreciate the input that you all put into that.

"In conclusion, yesterday we had a workshop, talking about County structure and the different structures and formation and how that all fits together. We talked a little bit about leadership and what goes into making government. We had a piece there that had a couple of ideas or thoughts by the gentleman, John Gardner, who was writing in the Great American Experiment, talking about democracy. He says what he calls the Great American Experiment is based upon people, ordinary people, and the quality of their vision, their values, and their expectation. He goes on to say that democracy is not measured by leaders doing extraordinary things but by its citizens doing ordinary things extraordinarily well. That is what I think we try to be, is citizens who try to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

"I think, during 2000, we will continue to do that. Mayor Knight continues to talk about making Wichita one of the best mid-size cities in America. We have a certain responsibility. We have certain tasks that we are responsible to help make Wichita and 19 other communities in Sedgwick County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I think that we're all committed to do our share and to do the tasks that are assigned to us. Again, I appreciate your confidence in me for this coming year and look forward to working with all of you. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to thank you for the kind words that you said. You have my solemn pledge for at least the year 2000 when it comes to spending the tax payers dollars, I will always ask how it is going to be spent and where it is coming from. I don't want to have any confusion there. Secondly, publicly, I want to go on record as saying that I will do my utmost to support your watch and the items that will come up for the next year that you think are important. I will do everything I can to be as supportive as I can during your term. If you have anything you wish for me to do, you have but to ask."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, very much. I appreciate that. We are going to have a reception immediately following this meeting to congratulate Commissioner Hancock on his fine year's service. Carolyn, do you have something to say?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just wanted to say thank you, Chairman Winters, for your kind comments and your vision that you have for year 2000. I think you are going to get us off to a great start and I appreciate that. I want to thank my colleagues for their vote of confidence in me and hope I will do a good job in your absence, just don't be absent. Can I make a comment, though, about our past Chairman?"

Chairman Winters said, "Yes."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just wanted to say that all year long I felt like you never gave yourself enough credit and I felt like you did an excellent job. You served our County well. I know it takes a great deal of time to be Chairman. You were often at a lot of meetings that we didn't have to be at. You also had to take care of your own constituents as well. I just want to let you know that I think you did an excellent job and served our County well. There is only one thing that I don't agree with and that is that you always say you don't like to talk very much and I don't know that I can go along with that. If it is a topic that you're interested in, you certainly let your opinion be known. Your thoughts and your opinion have been very resourceful to help us make our decision and thank you, very much."

Commissioner Hancock said, "Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Commissioner McGinn, you might get ready because I think I'm possibly going to be in Topeka on February 3. There is a conference talking about prevention and tobacco settlement money and if I can be there, I think I'm planning on being there and will be gone on a Wednesday. You can get ready. If there's nothing else, the reception is ready to begin in the County Board Room just down the hall and you all are certainly invited to come and take part in the reception. We're adjourned."

J. OTHER

K. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting, January 12, 2000

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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

BILL HANCOCK, Chairman
Second District

Regular Meeting, January 12, 2000

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:

_____, 2000