

Regular Meeting, June 6, 2001

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

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 6, 2001

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 10:28 A.M., on Wednesday, June 6, 2001 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Vice Chair Ben Sciortino; with the following present: Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief, Fire District #1; Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Division of Public Safety; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that Chair McGinn was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION REGARDING ALTERATION AND MODIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES OF SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1.

Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is an alteration and modification of boundaries of Sedgwick County Fire District #1. At this time I will read off names of citizens that are petitioning to come into the Fire District: Mr. Gregory Mies, the Mies Family Revocable Trust; Mr. And Mrs. Esther Mies, the Mies Family Revocable Trust; Joanna Kerschen; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Goebel; Mr. Lawrence Spexarth; Mr. Cliff Smith; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Scheer; Mr. & Mrs. David Roper; Mr. & Mrs. Dary Murphy; Mr. Ben Moore; Mr. Joe Clutter and Mr. & Mrs. Steve Beyrle. I have three citizens that originally signed the petition to join it earlier in the year but now are withdrawing the same petition: Mr. & Mrs. Duane Simon; Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Linnebur; Mr. William Spexarth. I am available for any questions."

Vice Chair Sciortino said, "Thank you, Chief. Any questions for the Chief on this item?"

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Chief Curmode said, "Mr. Chairman, I do have some maps here for you."

Vice Chair Sciortino said, "At this time I'll open the public hearing. Is there anyone here who would like to address us concerning this item in Fire District #1? The public hearing is then closed and the comments will be relegated to the Bench. Are there any comments on this item Commissioners? Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "I have just a couple, I guess. I'm going to be supportive. Chief Curmode, it is my understanding that, again, these folks have all voluntarily signed a petition to join the Fire District and what we're doing at this time is accepting them. What kind of service will we be offering them that they have not had in the past?"

Chief Curmode said, "Commissioner Winters, basically you are correct in exactly what you said. The services that we will provide for Union Township and these people are petitioning in from Union Township, they have immediate response. In the past, they have had a response of the Colwich Volunteer Department, which is a very fine department in northwest Sedgwick County. There is a delay sometimes in volunteer response. By having petitioned into the Fire District they will be able to get immediate response from our station near 53rd and 151st Street West. They'll respond immediately. They will get 15 paid personnel that responds to a house fire. On large structures that are buildings, they have also the opportunity to get additional assist for additional equipment and that comes immediately. There is no delay.

"The current service they've been having is a mutual aid type of service where they have a response from the volunteer service and at that point where they cannot handle that fire capability then they ask for mutual aid. If we have units available and we have no other burns, we can send one unit. A lot of times we respond after the emergency has already occurred, so we're coming up at the end to help clean up and there are a lot of things we can't mitigate at that time, where we could have if we had immediate response. Now they will have immediate response from that station. We'll be able to get to any where in those areas within probably a four to five minute response time.

"So, I think again, they have that opportunity, we have our public education programs, we have investigators that will be there to provide any assistance. We have other suppression opportunities

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that we have at Fire Station 33 that is located on 151st Street. We come out, we have drive-by programs, motorist assistance programs. If any of the citizens have questions on their property, we're glad to come out and basically give an informal audit, if you will, of fire protection for their facility. We pre-plan their farm or ranch, how we're going to attack a fire if they have one. We find out the different people in their family, find out if there are any medical needs we need to know about ahead of time. So these are some of the services we provide people that they haven't had before."

Commissioner Winters said, "So again, I know we have many fine volunteer departments in the County. A normal response though of someone with some kind of fire or emergency in one of the volunteer districts, such as Union Township, the volunteers would be called, they would assemble, they would proceed to the scene of the fire and then, if they determined that they had a problem that they needed assistance, then Sedgwick County would be notified, is that correct?"

Chief Curmode said, "That's correct, sir."

Commissioner Winters said, "So there is significant time delay in there."

Chief Curmode said, "Yes, there is."

Commissioner Winters said, "I know when you had first visited with me about some of the contacts that you were having in Union Township, I asked if you would contact the township board and I think maybe they had asked to contact you also, but it is my understanding that you visited with the township board of Union Township, you visited with the Mayor of Colwich and their volunteer Fire Department Chief."

Chief Curmode said, "Yes, we visited, in October of 2000, we visited with the township board. We were asked to come in. I visited with the township board I believe it was in November and got their permission to send out letters to all the citizens in Union Township. Before we did that, I made an appointment with Mayor Keiter and one of her councilmen, John Sidel, and we met with them and basically they gave us approval and their blessing to go ahead and do that. They asked us not to send letters to the immediate people in Colwich and at that time we gave them a potential proposal for Colwich if they're interested in the future and also one for Union Township if there was such interest."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right. Then in your consideration in making the determination that these citizens would make a fit with our Fire District and knowing what you know about Colwich and the City of Maize, you considered the size and population of those communities,

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you've considered the potential growth you see in those communities and you considered how this will fit into the overall County Fire District #1 and still in part with how those smaller communities operate."

Chief Curmode said, "Exactly, Commissioner."

Commissioner Winters said, "You're sure that is a fit and this will work."

Chief Curmode said, "Yes, this is a fit I think the people are going to be very happy with. Change is not easy for anyone and I think when people see the service they're going to get, they're going to be able to rest knowing that we're going to have immediate response out there. The volunteers will still respond but we'll be able to respond quicker and get there at a quicker time."

Commissioner Winters said, "Now, have we made arrangements with 911 dispatch and are we going to be absolutely crystal clear on who is in the Fire District now and who is not? One of the things that citizens continue to think about is they think that when they are in these volunteer districts that they're going to get the exact same response from us as if they're not. Now we know that these people who are in Union Township are going to have, and be paying for, a higher level of service. So we just need to make sure, somehow, that when a 911 call comes in from one of their homes that we know that they're in the first responder kind of response."

Chief Curmode said, "That's correct. What we do on that, Commissioner, basically as soon as I get a petition in, within 24 hours I get with Diane Gage and 911 and we get it put onto the CAD system so they're immediately covered. So, people that say would join yesterday, well say it has been a couple of weeks ago because we had to get the legal formats completed, they would be notified within 24 hours. They would get coverage immediately. Their tax bills will be sent in November, payable in January for 2002. So basically, historical practice has been, if people join during that calendar year they're not billed for any service that year. We take them as good faith and then they get their tax bill and they pay the following year. So they are all covered. They are in our CAD system. We send the addresses to all the fire stations. They're in the map books so there are no mistakes."

Commissioner Winters said, "There are a lot of residences in this area and we just need to make doubly sure that our dispatchers know exactly who is part of the Fire District."

Chief Curmode said, "We have about, just for your information, we had about 49 families that were in Union Township that had petitioned in in the past several years. After our letter campaign explained the service we provide, we had about 17 families that decided to join and several that are contemplating it."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Very good. Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair."

Vice Chair Sciortino said, "Thank you. Any other comments? What's the will of the Board on this item, please?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Vice Chair Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Absent

Vice Chair Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next item please."

NEW BUSINESS

- B. AGREEMENT WITH MARTIN SELLBERG, M.D. TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS MEDICAL ADVISOR TO FIRE DISTRICT #1.**

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Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Division of Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a corollary to the item that I briefed earlier in the regular agenda. The program background again was the same. Dr. Sellberg was chosen as the Fire Medical Advisory in the same manner as was Dr. Helena by a panel of all of the services. Dr. Sellberg is an experienced emergency room physician. He served as medical director for several air ambulance services and is a chief flight surgeon with the 184th Bomb Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard. He has been involved in supporting us as a Fire Advisory, again since January. Recommend you approve the Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Vice Chair Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Absent

Vice Chair Sciortino said, "Is there any other business to come before this Board? Hearing none, I'm going to close the meeting."

C. OTHER

C. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

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

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CAROLYN McGINN, Chair
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman Pro Tem
Fifth District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

, 2001