

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

REGULAR MEETING

August 8, 2001

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 10:01 A.M., on Wednesday, August 8, 2001 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chair Carolyn McGinn; with the following present: Vice Chair Ben Sciortino; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

Chair McGinn said, "Next item."

PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2002 SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1 BUDGET.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, it's time for you . . . Madam Chair, it's time for you to open the public hearing on the Fire District budget. You'll please note the Fire District budget for 2002 is \$10,252,125."

Chair McGinn said, "Okay. Is there anyone here today that would like to speak to the Fire District #1 budget for 2002? Anyone here today who would like to speak to the Fire District budget 2002? Seeing none, I'll close the public hearing, and leave comments to the Bench and the Manager."

B. ADOPTION OF THE 2002 FIRE DISTRICT #1 BUDGET.

Mr. Buchanan said, "Thank you, Madam Chair. I would recommend that you adopt this budget. You have the Motion in front of you."

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioners, if there aren't any questions, what's the will of the Board?"

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We're not going to put out any fires this way."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to Adopt the Fire District #1 budget of \$10,252,125 with \$7,769,743 in budgeted ad valorem taxes, or approximately 15.4 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

Chair McGinn said, "I have a Motion and a Second. Any other discussion?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah, just one, Madam Chair. Again, Mr. Buchanan, does this also mean a holding of the mill levy on the Fire District also?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, sir. No increase. Madam Chair, before you vote and before we move on, it needs to be said one more time what a great job the budget staff has done in this process."

Chair McGinn said, "I was waiting until we were going to finish with everything here but go ahead."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Well, just Kelly Wallace and Anna Klykova and David Miller and Pete Giroux, they're working in the Departments and touching in those Departments trying to figure out the best way to deliver services. Tammy Brandt's ability to juggle everyone's schedule and of course Ma, Renfeng Ma. Once again, he and I have been doing this for . . . I think this is the 11th budget we've done, and so we've gotten to know each other quite well, both good times and bad times and we depend upon him immensely and it wouldn't work without Chris Chronis, who keeps saying all the other people do the work, but he's the one who takes the beating and I appreciate his efforts and diligence in this process because it makes my job easy."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Be careful, because everything you say publicly about him will come back to you at review time."

Mr. Buchanan said, "So, thank you Commissioners."

Chair McGinn said, "I have a Motion and a Second. Any discussion? Clerk, call the vote."

VOTE

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

Chair McGinn said, “Do we want to finish this or go back and then come back and finish this?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “You might as well finish it.”

Chair McGinn said, “Just as well finish it. Okay, before we go on then, I too would like to say thank you to all the . . . the Manager staff, Chris Chronis staff, for all this work. Because, again, I’m going to say that this is one of the biggest days of the year for Sedgwick County government, because this is . . . what we’re doing is adopting the budget for 2002, using community citizen’s tax dollars and so I think that’s very important to go through this process thoroughly when we’re talking about citizen’s tax dollars. And so, one other thing I want to say again thank you to the Manager and staff and particularly Finance, because as Commissioner Sciortino said, there’s unlimited needs with limited resources and it’s very difficult to meet the needs as best we can and still be responsible to our taxpayers out there. And also the challenge we give them is, in the past, this Commission has said ‘we are going to hold the line of the mill levy’ and we have. This is the third or fourth year . . . fourth year that we have held the line on the mill levy or even decreased it, in fact. The last two years we’ve decreased it. And so, we give them a challenge as well. And so, I applaud you all for the work you do to figure out how we allocate these dollars and the best way for our community. So, thank you very much. Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, thank you. I also want to echo my thanks to the Budget staff and all of Finance. They did an excellent job this year. It struck me, as we were working through this, if someone just had tuned into the Budget process this morning you would think that we made some decisions about next year’s budget in a pretty rapid fashion. It went pretty fast today. I think it would be interesting sometime to calculate all of the hours have been spent on the budget before today. The Commissioners have had almost seven hours a day for one full week on working on nothing but the budget. And so, we have spent a lot of time and staff has spent a tremendous amount of time and that’s one of the reasons it went smoothly this morning. But if you tuned in just today, you just got a tip of the iceberg of what’s really going on. But thank you to all the staff for all your work.”

Chair McGinn said, “Commissioner Gwin.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Thank you. And just to broaden that palette, let’s thank the Bureau chiefs and the department heads and the individual employees who are asked to create and have input in the programs we offer. Further, I think then we go deeper into the guts of this organization,

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are the missions and goals and values that we and our employees have set to try to meet the needs of this community. So, it goes pretty wide and it goes pretty deep to make something this important happen and oh, while we're at it, let's thank the Manager for trying to keep us all together. So, that's it. Thank you, Madam Chair."

Chair McGinn said, "All right. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to echo a little bit about what my colleagues have said. I know how tough it is for a department head to have to work out a budget, given the fact that they feel that the Commissioners, rightfully so, want to hold the line on taxes or would like to cut taxes, and it's a little easier for us to make a statement that you know we have to realize that there's unlimited needs when we have limited resources. But it is actually the staff that are making those hard decisions and having to say no to a colleague, to maybe a friend that they've been associated with for years and saying 'no, we can't put that in this year's budget'. So, they're the ones that really take the heat. Then they submit to us what we've asked them to, and it's a little easier for us because we're a little bit removed from the emotion of whatever particular item had to be cut. So, I want everyone one staff, including Mr. Buchanan because he's the one who ultimately 'no', sometimes yes but it seems like, if you're reporting to him, it's mostly no. I just want to thank you for a job well done.

I do feel it's important, again, to talk about Chris Chronis and his department. We saw a figure that came up there that was a savings of three hundred and some odd thousand dollars because of the way his department and, Chris, I don't know the particular names and I don't want to mention one name and forget another name, but I know there are people who work in your department that work really hard, and it's tough football when you're negotiating bonds and bond rates and then this department is never a source of revenue for us but they've just shown how dramatically impactful they can be on our budget because of what they do. They can save our expenses, three hundred and some odd thousand this year, which then allows us the ability to fund other projects. So, a job well done to everybody concerned. Thank you."

Chair McGinn said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Thanks. I echo my colleagues, although I'm the new kid on the block and I'd like to thank the Manager and Chris Chronis and staff for bearing with me. There was many vague looks the day that I started asking questions out of sequence and I called the draft an original budget, and I thank you for that. We've had many subsequent meetings and I've got to

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tell you, from the perspective of kind of the outsider and a public official before I got here, that the process at the County does work. There's a lot of tough numbers crunching that goes on. A lot of dialogue back and forth, a lot of people running numbers around to be sure that we're all on the same page and we're doing what's right for the taxpayers. So, my final comment is that process really works and we are doing, through the budget, good work for the citizens of Sedgwick County. Thanks."

Chair McGinn said, "Thank you. We may have to put in for new carpet next year, because I know Bill's up and down the hall quite a bit."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Just new shoes."

Chair McGinn said, "There you go. Thank you, Bill, very much. Let's finish the Fire District. Clerk, call the next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

C. CONSENT AGENDA.

Donation of \$100 by Robert and Aretta Zoucha.

Mr. Buchanan said, "You have the Consent Agenda before you and I'd recommend you approve it."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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Vice Chair Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

Chair McGinn said, “Is there any other business to come before the Fire District Board? This meeting is adjourned.”

D. OTHER

E. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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