

## **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**June 13, 2001**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., on Wednesday, June 13, 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; Ms. Jo Templin, Assistant Director, Human Resources; Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk; Mr. Ed Randels, Assistant County Counselor; Sheriff Gary Steed; Mr. Marvin Krout, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Dr. Charles Magruder, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Community Health; Ms. Ann Swegle, Chief Attorney, District Attorney's Office; Ms. Jeanette Clary, Deputy District Attorney, District Attorney's Office; Mr. Bob Lamkey, Public Safety Director, Manager's Office; Mr. Danny Bardezbain, Major, Sheriff's Department; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum; Mr. Ken Elliott, Economic Development Specialist, Division of Economic Development; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Kathy Sexton, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Operations; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

### **GUESTS**

Mr. Bill Powell, Director, Wichita Mortuary Service, Inc.  
Mr. Bill Smith, 115 S. Seneca, Wichita, Ks.  
Mr. Michael Vann, 2903 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Wichita, Ks.  
Mr. Phil Meyer, Agent, Baughman Company, P.A.  
Chief Norman Williams, Police Department, City of Wichita

### **INVOCATION**

The invocation was led by Reverend Deedee Evans of Hospice, Inc.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

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**ROLL CALL**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting, May 16, 2001

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, you’ve had a chance to review the Minutes. What’s the will of the Board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2001.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, “Before we get into our meeting, I would like to acknowledge that in our audience today we have former County Commissioner Billy McCray, which is also former senator and former representative, too. So, thank you for being here today. Next item.”

**PROCLAMATION**

**A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2001 AS "KANSAS BUSINESS APPRECIATION MONTH."**

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, I have this proclamation. I’d like to read it into the record.

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**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the businesses in Sedgwick County are vital to our economic health and key to a prosperous future and the people of Sedgwick County are grateful to the business community for their contributions to the quality of life we all enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses provide the single most important components of growth within the County, as their expansion accounts for the vast majority of new jobs created for the people of this County; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness of the important contributions made by our County's businesses is the key to sustaining a healthy business-community relationship; and

**WHEREAS**, the business community of Sedgwick County contributes substantially, both in terms of real dollars and in-kind donations, to organizations which help the needy people of Sedgwick County for which businesses deserve recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, through hard work and ingenuity of the business community as a whole, Sedgwick County has become the most populous and economically viable county in the State of Kansas.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Carolyn McGinn, Chair of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of June, 2001 as

**“KANSAS BUSINESS APPRECIATION MONTH”**

in Sedgwick County and urge all citizens to salute businesses and their employees for outstanding contributions to our County.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the proclamation and authorize the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, “And today we have Ken Elliott accepting this proclamation. Good morning, Ken.”

**Mr. Ken Elliott**, Economic Development Specialist, Division of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I would just like to say that we have a great diversity of businesses here in Sedgwick County and, because of those businesses, we’re all very blessed here in Sedgwick County. Especially the in-kind types of donations. The volunteer activities from the employees of those businesses contribute greatly to what goes on in the community. It’s not just economic and dollars, but organizations like United Way can attest to all the volunteer activities that businesses contribute that help us in the County here.

We do have a number of people here with us today that are here for the proclamation. I’d like to announce them and just have them stand or they can come up to the podium.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “How many are there, Ken?”

**Mr. Elliott** said, “We’ve got about seven or eight.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Why don’t you just have them come on up.”

**Mr. Elliott** said, “Okay. Former Commissioner, Billy McCray. Sitting next to him is District Director for the Small Business Administration, Liz Hour. Also, I know Lisa Jones, with the City of Wichita. And Rob Weinmeister, he’s with Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing. Sherdeill Breathett, he’s Sedgwick County Economic Development. Mr. Mark Schroeder, with United Warehouse. And Mr. Bill Bollin, he’s with South Central Kansas Economic Development District. Laurie Usher with the Chamber and John Rolph with the Chamber. I believe that’s it.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Well it looks like you have a pretty powerful group and I know a very good group of individuals that help out our community, our business community in particular. We have a question or a comment. Commissioner Winters.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Well, I just want to thank all these folks for being here and really what we’ve got is kind of a real blend of public and private business interest. Those of you who

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work for some kind of agency or association or government or City/ County and those of you in the private sector, too. So, we certainly appreciate the attendance of all of you. You certainly make an impact in our community and this is one time of year that we want to say thank you for all the work you do, what ever realm it's in. So, thank you."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Well, and I think that's a very good point that you've made. The variety, the blend of individuals from private, public and all over, because we all have to work together to make the wheels spin. So, I appreciate you taking time out to be here today and everything that you do every day. Thank you.

Clerk, call the next item please."

### **RETIREMENT PRESENTATION**

#### **B. PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CLOCK TO DONALD SELLS, FIRE FIGHTER, FIRE DISTRICT #1.**

**Ms. Jo Templin**, Assistant Director, Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We are here today to help celebrate the retirement of one of our long-term Sedgwick County employees and also employee of the Fire District #1. Mr. Donald Sells plans to retire July 1, after about 31 years of employment with Sedgwick County. Donald Sells started here in 1968 and worked until 1979. Began his employment again and worked from April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1981 until the present.

Donald plans to spend time with his family, his wife Sharon, daughters Terry and Debbie and his four grandchildren. Donald now plans to devote more time to woodworking, carving, motorcycle trips, and will have more time to spend with grandchildren.

He has always worked for the Fire District #1 while employed at Sedgwick County and describes his employment here as, 'Thirty-one years of fun and excitement'. He is joined today by several co-workers from the Fire District #1. If you'd all stand and also I believe his wife is here. Let's just wish Donald a happy retirement."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Well, Donald, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, we want to say thank you for all that you do. I know firefighters are more than just that. You're out there serving the community in all kinds of capacities. When there is a fire, you risk your life to protect property and people's lives in our community and that's a big job and a big task. And we certainly want to thank you for the years that you've been in Sedgwick County. I have a question. You're from Haysville, aren't you?"

**Mr. Donald Sells**, retiree, Fire District #1, said, "Yes."

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**Chair McGinn** said, "Because I was just talking to Commissioner Gwin and she said that your place was affected by the tornado."

**Mr. Sells** said, "Yes, a little bit. And you and Commissioner Gwin and I believe Commissioner Winters came down and helped me."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Well, what I was going to just share, we feel we own that block. That was an unfortunate tragedy but that was my first opportunity to meet you. Thank you. Do you have anything you'd like to say?"

**Mr. Sells** said, "No, it's just been, like I said, thirty-one years of fun. I've enjoyed everybody. I've enjoyed the job. All the men are professional, well-educated people and I just hope that you guys can get out and get into the stations and visit with them and listen to what they have to say."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you for your years of service."

**Mr. Sells** said, "Thank you."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Thank you all for being here this morning to support Donald."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Clerk, call the next . . ."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Madam Chair, before we do that, would it be possible that we could take an Off Agenda item to make an appointment to the Building Commission? Because of vacations and holidays, today is the only day that my appointment could be here."

### MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to take an Off Agenda Item.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

### VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Tim R. Norton	Aye

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Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**OFF AGENDA ITEM**

**Mr. Richard Euson**, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We’ve prepared a resolution that would reappoint Beth Garrison to the Public Building Commission. The appointment is for a period of four years and I would recommend that you adopt the resolution.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Madam Chair, Beth Garrison has been on the Building Commission since the beginning of the Sedgwick County Building Commission.”

**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 R. Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Good morning, Beth.”

**Ms. Beth Garrison**, Member, Sedgwick County Building Commission, said, “Good morning.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Don, would you like to proceed with what we need to do?”

**Mr. Don Brace**, County Clerk, said, “Raise your right hand.

*I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Kansas and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Sedgwick County Public Building Commission, so help me God.”*

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**Ms. Garrison** said, "I will."

**Mr. Brace** said, "Congratulations."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "I would just like to say thank you, Beth. We do appreciate the work on the Building Commission and we appreciate your willingness to continue. So, thank you again, Beth."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you. Next item please."

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **C. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING APPEAL OF DENIAL OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERMITS TO WILLIAM POWELL ON BEHALF OF WICHITA MORTUARY SERVICE, INC.**

**Mr. Ed L. Randels**, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This an appeal hearing, but William Powell, from the Wichita Mortuary Service. He has sought designation of some of his vehicles which he uses as funeral escort vehicles, as emergency vehicles, so that he may operate those vehicles with red lights and sirens. Our county policy designates that the police chief in the locality where a business is housed must sign off on these and if they do sign off, then the County Clerk is authorized to issue the permits. And in this case, the police chief of the City of Wichita, when Mr. Powell's business is centered, did not sign off on the application and so the permit was denied by the County Clerk, ultimately.

He is here, under the appeal process today and I would suggest that you open it for public hearing, allow him to make his statements, and then hear any other statements and evidence that you would hear and then make the decisions as such."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you, Ed. Mr. Powell. I'm going to open the public hearing and we have Mr. Powell at the podium. Please give your name and address for the record and you have five minutes."

**Mr. William Powell**, Director, Wichita Mortuary Service, Inc., greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're here today, as you know, to appeal the denial of our permit to be able to operate red light and sirens for funeral escort purposes. Our whole idea of doing this, of getting these permits, is to protect the public, not to make it a hazard for the public. Our main interest is to preserve the flow of traffic to prevent an accident. It's been, for years and years, that funeral processions have been in accordance to the State law, where the State use to issue the permits. The funeral processions used to be ran by off-



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duty Sheriff's officers and off-duty police officers, but in recent years has gone to private enterprise. That is why we're here today to get these permits.

We feel that red light and siren, red and blue lights on the vehicles are important because the general public has been schooled that red and blue means to pull over, to yield to what ever vehicle it is. Any other color light, we don't feel that would give us responsibility to control traffic in an intersection and to preserve the flow of traffic. Our whole idea is to get this funeral procession from point 'a' to point 'b' in a safe manner, without having any accidents. Our accident rate is zero. We have not had any accidents with our company. We've put our people through training. I'm a former Sheriff's officer myself. I've had training in traffic. We put our people, not only through driving, but we put our people through classroom. And we put them through extensive training to make sure that they know what they're doing and how they're doing it.

Law enforcement officers will tell you when you turn on a red and blue light or turn on a siren, that really you're just saying, 'somebody run into me'. Well, we're trying to keep that from happening to a funeral procession. We have people from out of town that come into funerals that have no idea where, from a church to a cemetery, where it may be. In a procession, we keep them together. We try to keep them at a slow rate, so that we can control the traffic and do it safely in a manner of that. The use of our sirens are used only at an intersection and it's to get eye to eye contact with people at that intersection so that they see what they're there for. We drive vans, large three quarter ton vans, with the signs on the side that say funeral escort, so that when we pull into an intersection, people know what we're there for. They realize that it is a funeral procession. That we're going to get the traffic through and then they can go ahead and proceed on down the road.

So, today we're asking you for the permits to be issued to us so that we can maintain security of that procession. We can protect the loved ones of the deceased and get them to the final destination in a safe manner. Thank you."

**Chair McGinn** said, "We have a question. Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Thank you, Madam Chair. That was one of the questions I was going ask you is when you would turn on the sirens and I think you answered it to me. It's my impression that in a funeral procession it's the intersections that are going to be the most dangerous, because a green light may indicate free travel east and west but if the funeral procession is going north you're wanting to let them understand that even though the light says they can go, they have to stop and allow a funeral procession go through. Is that the reason to get their attention?"

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**Mr. Powell** said, “That is exactly right, Commissioner. That’s what I said. We only use our sirens to get eye to eye contact. We don’t run down the street with sirens. We don’t do anything else but just for the funeral procession. We beep the siren, if it’s needed. If we can go in on a green light, which in the direction of traffic that we’re traveling, that is our hopeful intent. Once in a while, it doesn’t happen that way. Once in a while we have to hit the siren on the yellow, just to get the people’s attention and then they see what we’re there for. They see the vehicles. They see the signs. They know what we’re there for.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Thank you for that. I have one other question of Mr. Euson, but I think I’ll wait until after the public hearing. Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Okay, all right. Any other questions? Thank you, Mr. Powell. Is there anyone else that would like to speak to this issue? Please give your name and address.”

**Mr. Bill Smith**, 115 S. Seneca, Wichita, Kansas, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m a funeral director in Sedgwick County, operating several funeral homes in the area, both in Wichita and suburban communities. I would like to speak in favor of this permit. It’s a viable need. It’s something that’s very important. When a little lady in her car is in a funeral procession, she thinks she’s oblivious of everything and so it’s really important that we have some sort of help to get through the intersections. I’ll answer any questions. Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you. Is there anyone else that would like to speak to this issue?”

**Mr. Michael Vann**, 2903 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Wichita, Kansas, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I kind of have a different perspective. I support this petition that’s being asked for. I’m also a lieutenant with the Sedgwick County Fire Department, so good morning, bosses.

“I see this in a different light than emergency response. Emergency response, we respond with red lights and sirens from the time we leave the station until we get to the scene of the emergency. The situation Mr. Powell is asking for is where they use the sirens just in an intersection, to get the attention of on-coming traffic or adverse traffic. A lot of times, we have several long processions, where we may have 60, 70, even 100 cars. And the idea is to keep the cars together, which gets us to the cemetery in a timely fashion and also, with the funeral escorts, it allows us to go through the intersection safely, keep the funeral procession as a whole, instead of having several cars trying to go through the intersection without an escort, which increases the chance of accidents and danger to the

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citizens and also to the family members and friends that are in the funeral processional. So, I would ask that you support this measure today. Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you. Is there anyone else here today that would like to speak to this issue? Seeing none, . . .”

**Mr. Randels** said, “I thought the police chief was here and I thought they were going to be speaking to that issue. Is that not correct?”

**Sheriff Gary Steed** said, “I think he’s just here in case you have any questions.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Okay, I’ll close the public hearing and leave the comments to the Bench. Commissioner Gwin.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “Mr. Euson, we talked about ordinances within the City of Wichita, as regards funeral processions. Can you remind me. There was something about that they weren’t allowed to violate laws or they weren’t allow . . . What was that? Do you remember that ordinance we talked about? That while they were conducting a funeral procession, that they couldn’t, . . . something about they couldn’t violate the laws or those kinds of things.”

**Mr. Euson** said, “I’m going to ask Ed Randels to see if he can help me with that. He is more familiar with . . . they do have a specific ordinance.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “I might ask the Chief of Police to get his input. Chief, would you mind coming up and helping me with this issue?”

**Chief Norman Williams**, Wichita Police Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Yes, we do have a city ordinance in place that talks about violation of traffic laws within the city.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “Okay. So, I know as long as I’ve been here, we’ve allowed traffic or funeral processions within the city and yet, during those processions, they do go through red traffic lights. Do we just not impose . . . are we not real serious about enforcing that resolution?”

**Chief Williams** said, “We’re serious about enforcing that but I think the officers try to use discretion. When you look at the city ordinance, it says that an escort may occur but they cannot violate any of the traffic ordinances, which would mean running red lights. In all practical purposes they’re violating the traffic ordinances by going through the red lights.”

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**Commissioner Gwin** said, “But you’re not of a mind, nor is the City Council, to eliminate funeral processions.”

**Chief Williams** said, “That is something that I’ve submitted to the law department to review, as far as potentially eliminating funeral escorts.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “And I know a lot of cities have. Would you tell me what rationale or what reasons you want them to consider that?”

**Chief Williams** said, “Safety is going to be the number one reason. The fact that you have vehicles out there that are not considered emergency vehicles stopping traffic and you find that many citizens are so used to seeing a public safety vehicle that’s designated out there directing traffic, whereas you have these vehicles that are not. So, you have that issue of safety and traffic flow and then you’re looking at the issue of liability. Are we, as a city, opening ourselves up to liability by allowing funeral escorts to occur, knowing that safety is a concern that we have.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “That’s interesting. Okay and so, in times past, I remember when these permits have come to us that the chief law enforcement officers of both the City and the County are hesitant to grant emergency vehicle permits to individuals or to companies or to vehicles that really don’t meet that criteria. I’m assuming there’s a fairly narrow focus, as you and Sheriff Steed and others would consider when you think about emergency vehicles. Am I correct?”

**Chief Williams** said, “Well, you look at what the State has identified, as far as emergency vehicles. I mean, they’ve pretty much set the guidelines as far as designating, equipment-wise, red lights/ blue lights and sirens and so we take that into consideration as far as making that decision. We’re not going to go against State law, because that’s why the laws are in place.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “Right. Well, my picture of emergency vehicles are police cars, sheriff’s patrol cars, fire engines, ambulances, those things that are responding in true life or death emergencies. I mean, that’s my definition. I’m not saying it’s yours. But I have some trouble, I think, with this permit because in my rather narrow scope of what emergency vehicles are I sense that, for me anyway, I don’t know that these meet that criteria. Is there anything else that you’d like to help us with clarification on this?”

**Chief Williams** said, “Well, if you refer to the State Legislature, they’ve identified what they consider to be an emergency vehicle and identified those entities that respond in an emergency arena, which is your public safety vehicles, those that you talked about.”

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**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Right, okay. Thank you, Chief. That's all, Madam Chair, for right now."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question of our Counsel, Rich Euson. Rich, today, if I understand it right, what's being asked of us is would we allow a permit which would, in essence, give a funeral escort service emergency vehicle status. Is that correct? And thereby they could use red light and siren."

**Mr. Euson** said, "That is correct."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay and what are the guidelines that we can use as a decision, whether or not in our opinion this would qualify for red light and siren, as an emergency vehicle?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "The question before you is whether the designation as an emergency vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or to carry out a governmental function."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, well, and I'm speaking as just one Commissioner from the Bench, but during the time of a funeral procession . . . what I don't want to get into and I don't think it's appropriate for us to debate whether or not the City of Wichita wishes to allow funeral processions within their city limits or not. That's a decision they make solely on their own and whether or not they want to enforce an ordinance, that's all their decision. I think the decision before us is, if a funeral procession is going on within the confines of Sedgwick County, will it help preserve life and/ or property by allowing red lights and sirens.

And I was glad to hear from the escort individual that the only time that they use it is when they're going to try to stop the normal flow of traffic at an intersection and I, for one, feel that . . . I agree with the individual that people are conditioned, if they are driving their vehicle and they hear a siren, to angle to the right or figure out what's going on. A red light indicates an emergency. And then here comes a long funeral procession and the only thing that ties them on is they usually have their headlights on and I always thought, through all my life, that it was a law that you had to pull over and allow a funeral procession. I now understand it's just voluntarily, because of respect, but there's no law that says you have to pull over.

And I think, without being able to notify the rest of the public that are driving, especially if I'm driving east or west and I see a green light, I've been conditioned to know that I can drive through that

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intersection and I'm going to need something to jog my mind that, wait a minute, notwithstanding what you see, notwithstanding what you've been conditioned to do, you've got to stop that now because there's something changing that and a red light and siren would get my attention and then I would . . . oh, it's a funeral procession, and I would stop and wait until that escort service went on to the next intersection before I proceed normally. And unless I can hear something else, I think it's a logical request and I don't see how it can be abused and I think it would preserve life and it could preserve property, because with any collision there's property damage. But it's more the life issue that I think is reasonable and I think it's a reasonable request and I think I'll be supportive of this issue. Thank you."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. I'm going to try to be very short. I first want to say that I certainly have the utmost respect for Sheriff Gary Steed and for Chief Williams. I think they both are excellent assets in this community and I certainly respect them both. I'm not necessarily a big fan of funeral processions, but I think if we're going to continue to have them, if we're going to continue to allow them, I think we try to make them as safe as possible and I think having an escort service there with red light and sirens makes them safer. So, right now I'm tending towards granting this exemption, or granting this appeal. Thank you."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to oppose granting these permits. I think amber and white lights are as effective, or can be as effective. I think other horns or sounds, other than sirens, will do that. I don't think it's so much an issue of preserving life and property. As I've heard this speaker say it's to preserve the flow of traffic. It's to get people to yield, to pull over, when they really don't have to. It's to keep the procession together. I don't see those as issues of life or property and I think there are other alternatives with other lighting and other sounds that would be just as effective. So, I will vote in denial."

**Chair McGinn** said, "I have a question. You said other sounds. I guess . . ."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "I mean, I think there are horns and other things, other than sirens, that could be used."

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**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Thanks. My perspective is that we've got something on the books and we're not totally enforcing it and I think we should strengthen that. I don't know that it's up to us to do that, but I would prevail on the State and the City and all entities to get together to be sure that we're enforcing whatever is on the books. To have a resolution on the books and then to just kind of turn your back on it and not enforce it one way or the other, I think, is not right. I believe the one caveat is that maybe I would be in support of it and give us a year to look at it. It's not a forever kind of thing. That maybe police and Sheriff's Department and other entities can look at it, work it out and come up with a new ordinance but, for right now, I think I'd be supportive to make sure that the public is safe and then we would move past that in a year that this is not a forever thing. That we would work with the private industry to make sure that there is a good, workable solution a year from now. I think it's going to have to be all parties coming to the table and some give and take and right now, it's kind of polarized. But because we have some ordinances on the books and we're not even following them, I think we should maybe let them do it for a year and lets see how it works out. And get some empirical evidence that they can be good stewards of emergency vehicles and if we find out that they're using them at other times, besides a funeral procession, you may muck up the waters and not get it the next years. Thanks."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you. Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Thank you. I think Commissioner Norton is making some interesting points and I'd like to direct it to Mr. Euson once again. Can we issue emergency vehicle status with some of those narrow caveats, for example, red light and siren can only be used to stop the flow of traffic at an intersection. Can we issue a permit that's only good for a year or two, to be able to re-look at it at a latter date to see if it's been a benefit or a hindrance? Are we allowed that flexibility under the guidelines of issuing this permit?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "Commissioners, unfortunately the statute doesn't really give us a lot of guidance in that regard. It just says that you can designate the vehicle and, under the regulations that we've passed, we didn't set a time limit on it, so it's designated and we would probably have to change our regulations to deal with an un-designation, I suppose. It seems to me, if you can designate it, you could hold a public hearing and un-designate it and meet due process."

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**Commissioner Norton** said, “Could that not be put into the Motion, though, as an addition? It could be a more stringent measure.”

**Mr. Euson** said, “I think the way our regulations are right now, I’m not sure that that would . . .”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “I think Mr. Randels would like to speak to that issue.”

**Mr. Randels** said, “Just some clarification, under the County resolution, the County code, there’s a three-year permit and once you issue that permit, it’s good for three years, unless they change vehicles. Just so you understand that caveat.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “So, it could be not re-granted in three years.”

**Mr. Randels** said, “Three years, that’s correct. They have to reapply in three years, unless they change the vehicle in that interim period of time.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Now, in your opinion, Ed, the idea that the escort service stated to us publicly was that the only time he would use red light and siren was to block intersections. In your opinion, having read the statute, could we put that into our Motion that he could only use it for that purpose.”

**Mr. Randel** said, “No, that is not in the statute that you can limit it like that. You’re designating them as an emergency vehicle. He said that he uses them as funeral escorts and you’re saying that ‘okay, we’re going to allow that’. I think that’s a good practice probably, but the purpose of an emergency vehicle is to use the red lights and sirens and, under State law, they are going to be responsible if they have an accident and they’re not notifying that driving public once their designated as an emergency vehicle and they violate some traffic law, like the red lights, and they’re not acting with due care at that point if they don’t use both red lights and sirens when they’re violating that law. So, they have to do it, at least at that point in time.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioner Winters.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Well, my question is somewhat along that line, but it would be in



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following up with Commissioner Norton. If after a year we decided, for some reason, that these permits needed to be revoked or canceled, I would assume we could do that. Is that a proper assumption? I mean, if we granted the permit, if necessary, we could revoke the permit.”

**Mr. Euson** said, “I would think we could. We could probably . . .”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “The main reason that I would think is if, lets say, that the City of Wichita would decide, in conjunction in working with the funeral profession, that they’re going to try to eliminate processions in the City of Wichita and go to some other kind of method. Well, if that happened then I would be prepared to revoke a permit that had been specifically issued for funeral escorts.”

**Mr. Euson** said, “I guess, one of the problems is, when you issue one of these, this is kind of an unfunded mandate from the State because the State used to do them. Once you issue one of these, they’re good all over the State. So, we’d have to look at that and see.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Well, it may not be proper but I’ll bet we can make a Motion and move to revoke it and at least have done that. That’s all I have, Madam Chair.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “I have just one more to add to that. I’m not trying to muddy the water here, but the one point that I was trying to make at the beginning is that this Commission is not wanting to circumvent a local ordinance that an incorporated city does. As you interpret this statute, if we granted emergency vehicle status to an escort service for funerals and, let’s say, the City of Wichita decided to ban funeral processions within their city limits and/ or decided to enforce the fact that you couldn’t stop the normal flow of traffic at an intersection, would us granting the emergency vehicle statute, authorize the escort service to disallow that ordinance and that meant that since we granted it to them they could, regardless of what the ordinance in the City said, they could still have a procession through the city limits of Wichita?”

**Mr. Euson** said, “No, I don’t think so. I think the City is entitled to regulate their traffic.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “So that would mean that they would just be able to do it where it’s authorized by local government. In the unincorporated area of Sedgwick County we’re giving them permission but then they have to understand what the local laws are and if the funeral is originating in

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Haysville and they want to go to Valley Center, they would have to circumvent Wichita, if Wichita had that ordinance prohibiting that.”

**Mr. Euson** said, “Right.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Okay, well I’m comfortable with that part of it. I just wanted to make sure we weren’t doing something that would negate a city’s ability to control their own destiny within their city limits.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, are there any other questions of staff and others? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to direct the Clerk to grant the permit for emergency vehicle status to William Powell.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	No
Commissioner Tim R. Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	No

**Chair McGinn** said, “Next item.”

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

- D. CASE NUMBER ZON2001-00030 - REQUEST FOR ZONE CHANGE FROM "RR" RURAL RESIDENTIAL AND "SF-20" SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO "LI" LIMITED INDUSTRIAL, LOCATED SOUTH OF K-42 AND WEST OF RIDGE.**

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### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Marvin Krout**, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “With one item on your agenda this morning. This is a zone case. It’s a tract of 55 acres. It’s located right here, on the left side of Ridge Road, several hundred feet south of K-42 highway. This is Mid-Continent Airport, with the runway to the north. This is property that is zoned residential but is owned by the Airport Authority, as part of the Airport Protection Zone. The property that was zoned recently, by the County, for Limited Industrial for an agricultural implements dealer, the property hasn’t developed.

There are land use restrictions, in order to protect against high concentrations of people in the vicinity of the approach path of the runway. This is property that is in the process of being developed by Cessna, as a major distribution facility. These properties are zoned suburban, Suburban Single-Family, this is Rural Residential, which is a similar category but allows for . . . has a larger lot requirement. This is property . . . Prospect Park area, that developed some years ago, out in the County, single-family subdivision. It’s an area that is in transition. Right now, this is kind of a flat, dusty field, but the property owner would like to convert, at least the portion along Ridge Road, to a nice, contemporary facility for the sales of construction equipment, commercial construction equipment, and would like to develop the rest of the 55 acres for an industrial park.

There is a plan that the Airport Authority has. That plan includes a couple of components. It includes the possibility of acquiring property further south, in this area, as part of an Airport Protection Zone, and the City may continue to pursue that option. But that’s aside from what the proper zoning should be for this property. In addition, there is a plan to extend the existing runway, further to the south, towards K-42. That plan is not funded but it is in the master plan of the Airport Authority for that to occur sometime in the next ten years. And based on that, we did get additional information from the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) as we were going through this zoning process, and I’ll explain the implications of that in just a second.

Because it’s in the runway approach, it is already subject, as is all the land in this area, to the height limitations of the airport hazard zoning code of the County. But there are no special land use restrictions. The staff originally . . . the request was for Limited Industrial zoning. The staff originally recommended Industrial Park zoning, mainly because we thought that Industrial Park has more limited uses and, for the most part, those limitations are uses that would generate high concentrations of people, like retail uses, restaurants, hospitals, and those sorts of uses.

As we got into it, though, we realized that even the IP District wouldn’t really be adequate to satisfy the

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concerns of FAA with the idea of an expanded runway. The applicant also wanted Limited Industrial zoning, because the outside sales and display of construction equipment is not a use that would be permitted in Industrial Park.

By the time of the Planning Commission hearing, though, the staff agreed that Limited Industrial zoning, with some proper land use restrictions, then a Protective Overlay would be an acceptable way to handle this case. Originally, the FAA submitted a letter, through the Airport Authority, to the Planning staff. Indicated they were opposed to Limited Industrial zoning, without any restriction. What we came up with, based on the expansion of the runway and based on the experience that we had of McConnell with the Airport Overlay Zone, is to overlay a set of zoning restrictions, different land use restrictions, based on proximity to the proposed extension of the runway. It basically created, and I don't think we have this slide, it basically created a little triangular area where there would be really just open storage and very limited uses in proximity to the runway here. Another area, which is sort of the western and central area, where there would be a sort of moderate level of restriction and then the area along Ridge Road, which would have very few restrictions, in terms of land uses, because it's the furthest away from the runway and so, less likely to have an accident potential.

The staff and the applicant agreed on those land use restrictions at the Planning Commission hearing. The only question at the Planning Commission hearing is, well where is the FAA with all of this. And we weren't able to say, at the time, whether or not they felt that the land use restrictions were adequate or not. So, there was some discussion at the Commission hearing, if you read the Minutes, about maybe we ought to delay until we hear from the FAA. The vote, on this case, was seven to six to recommend approval and I would say that the six people who voted against that Motion were not objecting to Industrial zoning. They were only wanting to hold up this case until they heard from the FAA.

After the Planning Commission hearing, and a couple of weeks ago, we did receive a letter from the FAA and they said that, based on the use restrictions that had been recommended by the Planning Commission and the Planning staff and agreed on by the applicant, they were not objecting to these restrictions. So, I think that you can say that . . . if we had know that at the time, that probably we would have had an unanimous vote for approval on this request.

There was no opposition from neighboring property owners at the Planning Commission hearing and no written protests were filed after that, so it just requires a majority vote to approve. This is the site in question. Ridge Road, the Airport Authority land. This is now developing and I think I have a more recent photograph that shows this. This is . . . if you overlay something equivalent to the McConnell

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Overlay Zone, then you would have, basically, a small area that would have some restrictions. It's actually this area that would have a second set of restrictions and then the least restrictions in the area that is outside of the thousand foot width protection area.

We're looking now west, from Ridge Road, at the site. It's undeveloped agricultural land, flat but not really dusty, at least not at this time. We're looking down Ridge Road. This is looking across Ridge Road at the major facility that's being built by Cessna today and looking north, up Ridge Road. Back to the aerial and the zoning map and I'll try to answer any questions that you have. The applicant and his agent are also here this morning, if you have any questions of them."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Okay. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Marvin, I'm just a little confused about the Airport Authority property. The airport owns the property immediately to the north?"

**Mr. Krout** said, "This property."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "All right. And the Airport Authority and the director out there are okay with this?"

**Mr. Krout** said, "Yes. The Airport Authority . . . We do have a memorandum from the Airport Authority Director and the operating engineer, along with a letter from the FAA saying that they're satisfied with these restrictions."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well, I'm not an airport expert, but if they ever expect to extend the runway, where do they expect to extend the runway to?"

**Mr. Krout** said, "Well, the runway stops about . . . oh, I'd say about here right now. It runs about there and the runway would extend about another 1,700 feet. It would still be short of K-42. It might reduce the area for circulating, but the master plan shows that the runway can be extended south, without interfering with the current K-42 highway."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "So they just have that land, more or less, as a buffer."

**Mr. Krout** said, "This is just a buffer and, as I said, they are interested in purchasing all or part of this property and this property in the future, as a buffer. There's federal money that may be available for that. If that happens, then this property . . . if it didn't develop and that happened, then this property wouldn't develop for industrial use. They even have the power of condemnation to take this to court, if they feel that it's important. But, for zoning purposes, you really ought to set that issue aside, of whether or not the Airport Authority is going to pursue that issue or not, and you have to look at, as we

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look at any zoning case, whether or not this is an appropriate use of the land. It is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, in terms of Limited Industrial use adjacent to the airport and, as you know the airport owns some land and has developed it, in the vicinity, with uses that they consider to be compatible, and so, that may occur some day in the future, too.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “All right. Well, I guess the only conclusion, I guess I’d let the airport think for itself through this deal, but if we proceed today, this property going to be a lot more expensive, after today, than it was before today.”

**Mr. Krout** said, “That’s possible, but an appraiser may also look at this property, look at Cessna and say, ‘well, irregardless of the zoning, what is the highest and best use of this property’. And they might come up with the conclusion that it is industrial and even if the property is not zoned, then they may come up with that same or similar value but that should not be a consideration for denying this zoning case.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “All right. Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Well, I had many of the same concerns that Tom did, but if the Airport Authority is saying they don’t have a problem with this, I guess I’m not going to have any further objections. But I think they’re boxing themselves in a little bit.

Commissioners, are there any other questions for Marvin? Is there anyone else that would like to speak to this item?”

**Mr. Phil Meyer**, Agent for applicant, Baughman Company P.A., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I would just let you know that the applicant, Roger Haag, and myself are here to answer any questions you may have.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “Just real quickly, Mr. Meyer, on the Overlay Zone then, that’s been proposed, the overlay on top of this, you and the applicant concur with that.”

**Mr. Meyer** said, “We do. We offered that at the Planning Commission and we’re in full agreement.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “Okay. Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, any other questions or comments? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to Adopt the findings of fact of the MAPC and approve the zone change subject to the additional recommended provisions of a Protective Overlay District and subject to the condition of platting within one year; adopt the Resolution and authorize the Chair to sign; and instruct the MAPD to withhold publication of the Resolution until the plat has been recorded with the Register of Deeds.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, "Next item. Thank you, Marvin."

**NEW BUSINESS**

**E. PRESENTATION OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATION.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Dr. Charles Magruder**, MD, MPH, Director of Community Health, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm serving as the Chairperson of the Task Force. I have two items for you this morning. A request to place two additional people on the Task Force and also a presentation, giving you an update on our activities.

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First, I would like to present the two individuals to you that we would like to add. The first is Nathan Stanton. He's executive pastor of Saint Mark United Methodist Church and the second is Miquelle Gettis, who is a member of the Multi-cultural Mobilization Committee and also is very actively involved in Healthy Options for Planeview. I would request that these two individuals be approved to be placed on the task force."

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the recommendation to appoint two new members to the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

**Commissioner Winters** said, "I'd just ask one question. I guess I'd just take a moment to ask Doctor Magruder how the task force work is proceeding. I know that Deborah Donaldson has given us a couple of brief updates and I guess I'd be interested in your perspective as to the work the task force is doing. Harder than you thought? On track? Making progress? How would you describe the work so far?"

**Dr. Magruder** said, "Sir, I would use the later phrase. I feel we are making considerable progress and I believe you will see, in this presentation this morning . . ."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Oh, I'm sorry. You've still got a presentation to make. Okay. Fine. I'm confused."

### **VOTE**

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

### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Dr. Magruder** said, "Item two, in terms of our update, what we did previously is we talked about why



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suicide is an important public health issue and we provided to you a number of statistics. We presented the Surgeon General's paradigm for discussion of this issue and relayed to you that we'll be using that paradigm in terms of how we will look at this locally. And then we talked about our local activities to this point. The Suicide Planning Initiative, that was very successful, pulling in a lot of people from the community and we also talked about what we have done, to this point, in terms of task force development.

What I hope to do today is to give you some preliminary perspectives, different ideas that we have on what we will do within that paradigm. You recall, that paradigm being Awareness, Intervention and Methodology. Also, to inform you about some miscellaneous activities and then to, once again, remind you of the timetable that we've developed for your comment.

In terms of the awareness committee, one of the initial items they've come up with for your review is to develop a speakers bureau. This will involve quick response to community desires for information about suicide and will not only involve professionals, but will incorporate family members and survivors into this as well.

The second thing that they would like to do in this committee is to establish a formal timeline for specific media events, with a campaign to be initiated in the spring of 2002. Some of the specific events that they have planned at this point are the Mental Health Awareness Month and the Suicide Prevention Week.

They also hope to create a stigma fact brochure. You'll recall, from some of that initial information that we presented, that one of the key issues in the Surgeon General's documents was that we need to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide and this of course will be culturally diverse and also age sensitive.

In terms of the intervention committee, we hope to work with the awareness committee in providing these educational opportunities for at-risk groups. They also want to look at post-vention. This is a term that is utilized to support families after there has been a completed suicide. Some of the characteristics of that specific program is that it will be community based. It will not simply involve agencies going out. Also, it will be culturally sensitive and will be designed to be relevant to family needs.

The other thing is to implement established prevention programs. There are three basic public health challenges in getting something like that accomplished. The first is how do we identify the people that truly are at risk? How do we design empirically supported prevention services, looking at the literature that's available to us? And then, finally, if we design something new, how do we test the efficacy of those interventions? Looking at two perspectives, reducing suicide risk behaviors and enhancing protective factors at the same time.

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In a very timely way, there was a recent publication in the American Journal of Public Health, May of 2001, "Evaluation of Indicated Suicide Prevention Approaches for Potential High School Dropouts". Let me present this to you as an example of how this can function. In terms of identification, they have described a particular instrument here called the suicide risk screen. For those of you who have an interest in this sort of thing, just to verify that reliability has been established and it does have concurrent and predictive validity.

The program involves two specific items, counselor's care, or C-Care, which involves a brief one-on-one assessment and a crisis intervention and also something called CAST, Coping and Support Training that involves small group sessions. There's a emphasis on skills building and it's a social support intervention, not just a crisis intervention. So, it's two separate types of programs.

Now, in terms of efficacy, what they established here is they used that instrument to identify the at-risk group. They put people in control groups, C-Care and then C-Care and CAST simultaneously, monitored these people for nine months. The results, C-Care and C-Care plus CAST, there was a decrease in suicidal ideation. C-Care plus CAST was found to be effective in reducing depression and hopelessness and also enhanced personal control and problem-solving coping skills. So, looking both at reducing risk factors for suicide and also promoting those safe factors.

So, a conclusion here, with just this one article, is we do have a potential program that we can examine for use and we can possibly consider the feasibility of implementing something like this within Sedgwick County at this point.

Now, in terms of the methodology committee, they want to establish further evaluation processes, educational efforts, prevention programs. They're going to complete a full literature review for the task force. Also, they want to develop a psychological autopsy process and, basically, that will be a standard operating procedure for when there is a completed suicide in Sedgwick County. We will ascertain all of the facts associated with that and gain information that will help us, perhaps, design better prevention programs in the future.

Now, we also hope to create a common data base that will examine both attempts and completions. Commissioner Norton asked last time we gave an update, can we look at the data regarding attempts. We did an exhaustive examination of that possibility and found that, at this point in time, we cannot. We do not have an adequate capability to combine all of the district data sources and pull that together in one common data base. So, that's something that we definitely need to work on. So, in that regard, with those specific activities, we'll define the required variables, determine our sources of information, and assess the management requirements.

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In terms of our miscellaneous activities, we're still one of the major coordinators with the State for developing their program. We are participating in a number of conferences, the State meeting of course, NAMI. We've been asked to give a presentation on how we got started in Sedgwick County, an update on our different committee activities. We're going to continue encouraging community involvement. It is not just the task force members that are involved in these committees. We also have individuals who came to the initial planning initiative that are continuing to be involved in the process, through those committees.

And then the final thing that came up at our last meeting, we want to make certain that we keep this process integrated, so that all of the different committees are working together in concert. So, we'll make that a special effort.

So, in terms of our timetable, we still plan to present to you a formal written document in October of 2001 and, hopefully, many of those different ideas and perspectives will be formally approved and we can begin implementation in January of 2002.

And just a reminder, again, of our charge that was given to us by the Surgeon General, who was still our Surgeon General, 'to translate aim into action, each of us must turn these recommendations into programs best suited for our communities'. Our task force aims to insure that we get to the implementation phase.

And just a reminder, again, of our ultimate goal, as we look at all of these different entities, it's to insure that the suicide rate, by 2010, reaches the Healthy People 2010 target, at a minimum.

Again, many thanks to you and the County Manager and numerous COMCARE staff that make this possible. I do want to extend special thanks to one particular individual, Chris, who has on numerous occasions repeatedly, she is the glue that keeps this whole process together and makes the task force able to be able to do their job effectively. Without her involvement, the task force wouldn't be nearly as effective as it possibly can be. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Thank you. I guess it's just more of a statement. I think we need to continue to work on finding empirical evidence on attempted suicides. It just seems to me that once somebody has succeeded, you're not going to get a lot of information from them. If they don't leave a note, if they don't have a history of suicide attempts, you may not be able to follow up. Someone who has attempted, you can go back and ask them what brought them to that case, do they have a mental illness. Find out a lot of the empirical evidence you need to start working on models of why people

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commit suicide. So, I would urge you, it may not be easy, but to pull those entities together that have good numbers and try to put a data base together. It just seems to me that that's where you have to focus. Once you've hit the suicide, it's too late."

**Dr. Magruder** said, "I think that's a very good point and I think, what I'm hearing is not only look at developing a psychological autopsy for a completed suicide, but look at developing standard operating procedure for examining people who have had an attempt. I think that's a very good point."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "That's all I had."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to embellish on what Tim just said. I didn't understand. To me, if a person has attempted suicide unsuccessfully, they've been resuscitated, taken to the hospital. To me it would be quite simple to know who attempted suicide, and I think it would be very beneficial to try to get that person some counseling to maybe rethink their reasoning why they felt so desperate that death was the only way out. And I'm a little confused. You don't have to elaborate on this, why that data would be so hard to collect. I would think EMS would be a good source. As a matter of fact, I was on tour with EMS when we did encounter an individual that had attempted suicide by ingesting some poison and they resuscitated her, sent her to the hospital. I would think that would be . . . there would be a record very easily accessible of those people. I think those people are the ones that really need some help."

**Dr. Magruder** said, "There is some information that exists, but our experts who have examined the different data bases have indicated to us that it's not complete information and that we have a lot of work to do to insure that we take the information that exists in different sources and pull it together in a whole. So, in other words, there certainly is enough data for us to do some individual information, such as you and Commissioner Norton described, but it is not possible, at this point, for us to tell you with certainty, there were this many attempts per 100,000 people in our community, because we don't . . . because there are different sources of information. Hospital emergency rooms, EMS and others and the task is to insure that the collate all of those different sources of information into one solid data base and that will take some time for us to get that accomplished."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "I'll just rely on your expertise for the answer. Thank you."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioners, we kind of had two actions on this one item."

### **MOTION**

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Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you, Dr. Magruder. Next item please.”

**F. GRANT APPLICATION TO KANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR FEDERAL S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT FUNDS**

**Ms. Ann Swegle**, Chief Attorney, District Attorney’s Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I appear before you this morning to seek your approval for submission of a grant application for federal Violence Against Women Act funds. The District Attorney’s Office currently receives funds from this act. These funds pay for the full-time employment of one case coordinator. This individual works with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. They assist victims by directing them to services and assisting them through various phases of the criminal prosecutions.

This application seeks to renew funds for that position. In addition, we’re seeking funds for a separate position, that of an investigator. The investigator would assist in witness interviews, would assist in the compilation of criminal history, would serve subpoenas and would assist in collecting and documenting evidence of related crimes for use in the incident prosecutions.

The project would run from October 1<sup>st</sup>, for a year, and the total project cost is \$90,656. A 25% match is required, for a total of \$22,664. We expect that would come from County contingency funds. I would ask that you approve the application and authorize the Chair to sign.”

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**Chair McGinn** said, "Just clarification, I think our backup material is incorrect. I don't see how I can get from October 1, 2001 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001. So, that should be 2002, correct?"

**Ms. Swegle** said, "It should, Commissioner."

**Chair McGinn** said, "All right."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "I have just one question. I'm looking at the backup and I just can't get the math to work out. It says you're asking for \$90,656. In the backup, on the two positions, it shows the one position from 10-1 to 9-30-02 to be \$42,153 and the second one \$47,303. That only comes up to about \$89,000. I may be splitting hairs here, but I just don't see. The math didn't quite add up. I didn't know if that was a typo."

**Ms. Swegle** said, "Well, I see exactly what you're saying, Commissioner."

**Ms. Jeanette Clary**, Deputy District Attorney, District Attorney's Office, said, "Commissioners, could I speak on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. I believe that, there in the grant application, it does include a computer and some software. I don't have the dollars in front of me but I would estimate that that would be approximately the difference that we're addressing and, as to the copy that you have, I'm not sure. The backup does only include, I believe the personnel and not the equipment."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, so you're purchasing a \$1,500 or \$1,600 computer or something like that?"

**Ms. Clary** said, "Yes, along with the new position we're requesting a computer so that that individual could perform their tasks."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "And that's allowed in the grant, to purchase equipment?"

**Ms. Clary** said, "Yes, it is."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Jeanette, would you just give your name and title for the record?"

**Ms. Clary** said, "Jeanette Clary with the District Attorney's Office."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Thank you. That clears it up for me."

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**Ms. Clary** said, “Christy has confirmed that in the narrative of the grant it does include that, along with the personnel dollars that you just addressed.”

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, said, “Commissioners, on page 61 of the backup, it details the \$90,651 of the budget, which includes a computer and software. The typo would be the difference between the cost, which says \$90,656, and \$90,651 which is some four dollars difference. That I cannot reconcile at this point, but there is a four dollars difference. The budget approved on page 61, however, is for the lower amount.”

**Ms. Clary** said, “Often times, when we do prepare the budget for the grants, we do have some rounding discrepancies between personnel’s preparation of the budget impact and our own and I would assume that’s the rounding.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “I wasn’t questioning four dollars. I didn’t know about the computer. My question has been totally answered. Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioner Gwin.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “The other issue is the 25% match. Mr. Buchanan, you’ve identified the source of that funding?”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Yes, ma’am.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “Okay, thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Well, it looks like a good program and, considering what we’ve put in and what we’ve received. So, Commissioners, are there any other questions?”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

### **VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you, Ann. Thank you, Jeanette. Next item.”

**G. AGREEMENT WITH WESTLINK CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOR USE OF SEDGWICK COUNTY PARK JUNE 15, 2001 TO HOLD A SUMMERFEST EVENT.**

**Mr. Robert Lamkey**, Public Safety Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Standing in for Jerry Harrison. This is the second year for this event to be held at Sedgwick County Park. There are several activities to be held, including an 8 K fun run, a custom car show, inflatable carnival rides and games, street dance, family concert and the parachute landing. General liability insurance, naming the Board of County Commissioners, its officers employees and agents as additional insured is required. We’ve received the appropriate certificates of insurance, except for the parachute landing. The sponsor has indicated that that will be forthcoming in the next day or so. So, my recommendation, at this time, is to approve the agreement with approval of the parachute event subject to receipt of appropriate insurance and authorize the Chairman to sign.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Agreement, subject to receipt of insurance on the parachute event, 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 R. Norton	Aye	
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters		Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino		Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn		Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Next item.”



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**H. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS SOARING SOCIETY FOR USE OF LAKE AFTON PARK JUNE 15, 16, 17; AUGUST 18; OCTOBER 13 AND NOVEMBER 3, 2001 TO HOLD RADIO CONTROL GLIDER CONTESTS.**

**Mr. Lamkey** said, “A similar event has been held at Lake Afton for a number of years. The certificate of insurance has been received and I would recommend that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, what’s the will of the Board?”

**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 R. Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you, Bob. Next item.”

**I. AGREEMENT WITH HARRY KOURI, JR., D.D.S. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DENTAL SERVICES TO SEDGWICK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY INMATES.**

**Major Danny Bardezbain**, Sheriff’s Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here to request the approval of a renewal of a professional services contract between Sedgwick County and Harry Kouri Jr. D.D.S. Per statute, the Sheriff is required to provide dental services to detainees in the Sedgwick County Detention Facility. I’m asking for approval of the contract for a period beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year until May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2002.

The contract has an increase of 4% for the doctor’s salary. This is due to the increase in the number of inmates in the facility, due to the expansion in 2000. The contract has been reviewed and approved by

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the County Counselor’s Office. I’ll answer any questions that you desire.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Danny, what’s the extent of dental work that we do?”

**Major Bardezbain** said, “In 2000, the doctor saw 986 patients. He gives them basic services. He doesn’t do any caps or crowns. He’ll do a temporary filling, not a permanent. But it’s just basic needs, but no cosmetic work.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “All right. Commissioners, are there any other questions?”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Excuse me. I just have one. Is this . . . I’m trying to read it real quickly, but is this just on an hourly . . . is there an hourly rate or per patient rate?”

**Major Bardezbain** said, “The contract calls for the dentist to be in the facility eight hours per week and he comes in. We don’t have, like, set days for him. It’s his call but he’s paid monthly.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “So, it’s just a flat rate. He’ll service whoever.”

**Major Bardezbain** said, “That’s right.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Any other questions? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

**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 R. Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you, Danny. Next item please.”

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### J. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

#### 1. CONTRACT WITH CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR A MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM.

**Ms. Annette Graham**, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Today I bring before you a contract for administrative services for the Minor Home Repair program. This program has been established to leverage existing Aging mill levy dollars for the Department on Aging’s Minor Home Repair program. This agreement will allow the City of Wichita to provide minor home repair to assure the safety of the occupant and eligible participants within the Wichita area. These items are within the 2001 budget and are approved by the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners.

The contract agreement includes an administration fee of 5% of the total cost of each project when a project is outside the contractor’s local investment area. The amount may be waived at the discretion of the City of Wichita. This program has been very successful in the last few years in helping older people and their families by offering minor home repair services to help elders live safely in their homes and independently in the community and it has allowed us to leverage our Aging mill levy dollars with the City’s dollars for minor home repair in their targeted area. So, we bring it before you today and request the approval of the contract and authorize the Chairperson to sign.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Annette, I guess I don’t totally understand how many dollars, or whatever, we’re allocating to this. It says here, ‘our Aging mill levy’. Can you give me an idea of what we’re really contributing here?”

**Ms. Graham** said, “It can be up to 5% of the total cost of the dollar amount of the services. We have capped our service dollars per individual at \$2,600, but it can vary anywhere from up to that amount and it’s not usually up to that full amount. The City did utilize that option to provide the 5% administrative costs on a few occasions last year, but not on every job. It just depended on the job. So, it’s just 5% of the total amount of what our costs of that project is. So, if they utilize their funding, then we’re not paying administrative fees on any of their jobs. It would just be jobs that are outside their target area.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Okay, and what is outside their target area? Outside of Wichita or . . .”

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**Ms. Graham** said, “No, there is a target area within the City of Wichita that’s identified by the federal government about the target area in the City that’s identified for federal dollars to help maintain that area and improvements in that area.”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Commissioner McGinn, the target area is the same target area that we use for MRBs (Mortgage Revenue Bonds) and that’s defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, based on age of housing, cost of housing and income of individuals within that neighborhood.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Okay. So, if we go outside of that area, that’s when this kicks in, up to \$2,600 per house. Is that what I heard?”

**Ms. Graham** said, “That’s what we can do, up to, depending on what the needs of the individual are and what it costs for the improvements. So, that is our cap with our minor home repair program.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Well, I’d just like to know more about this, because I recently heard that there’s a lot of red tape you have to get through to even access this program through the City of Wichita.”

**Ms. Graham** said, “Through the City’s program?”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Yes, and it makes it very difficult for people to use this program and part of my charge, when we did the economic development individual, was to have a cost-share program for folks like this and easy to use and I’ve been told that the City of Wichita already has a program in place and we should use it first. And so, I’m still struggling with how this might fit in with our other neighborhood development programs.”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “That’s a great idea. Let us put together for you a presentation that talks about the various programs that we have available, both the City and the County, in targeted areas and outside for senior citizens and regular other folks for home repairs. This is a specific minor home repair for seniors, which that’s the way the money flows from the feds and the State to local governments. It should be an easy system but there are requirements to make sure people who are income eligible verify their income eligibility, so that we’re not spending federal dollars or anybody else’s dollars inappropriately. Let’s put together a program that will educate us all about how these programs work.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Okay, I’d appreciate that, because I think our goal here in our Aging is to keep folks in their home, as well as some of the lower income neighborhoods in our community, those folks want to stay in their home but they just need a little help. So, I’d appreciate that. Thank you.

Commissioners, are there any other questions for Annette? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Are you asking that this item be deferred?”

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**Chair McGinn** said, “No, I was just asking questions about it.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “So, you’re still comfortable with approving the contract.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Contract and authorize the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, “Next item.”

**2. AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH GOODWILL INDUSTRIES EASTER SEAL SOCIETY OF KANSAS TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO PHYSICALLY DISABLED ADULTS.**

**Ms. Graham** said, “Goodwill Employment Services are provided by Goodwill Industries, under the Physical Disabilities program. A reduction in contract amount from \$36,400 to \$11,582 was necessary to match anticipated capacity for services. The Physical and Developmental Disabilities Executive Board will be advising on how to disperse the remaining \$24,818 to one or more of the other physical disabilities program providers.

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Part way through the year, we were looking at reviewing the contract and reviewing the outcomes that were anticipated from this contract that had been approved for this year and the dollar amounts. And the number of individuals being served was not meeting what was anticipated, so we went back and had a meeting with Goodwill and discussed amending the contract and worked out a rate and anticipated the future number of individuals for the remainder of the year, so we were able to amend the contract to reflect their capacity for services and then we'll have this amount remaining for the Physical Disabilities Board to reallocate to another provider. The contract has been reviewed and approved by the Sedgwick County Counselor's Office and we request that you approve and authorize the Chair to sign."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioners, are there any questions for Annette? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Amendment to Contract and authorize the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you, Annette. Next item."

**3. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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**NUTRITION SERVICES FOR MEAL REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS FOR JUVENILE FACILITIES.**

**Mr. Mark Masterson**, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Our youth facilities have participated in the National School Nutrition programs through the State Department of Education since 1983. Through this agreement, we receive reimbursements for breakfasts and lunches we serve youth at our Juvenile Detention, Residential and Boys’ Ranch Facilities. Annually, we receive in the neighborhood of \$115,000 in reimbursements. I ask that you approve the renewal agreement for 2001/ 2002 and authorize the Chair to sign it.”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, “Next item.”

**4. GRANT APPLICATION TO KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO FUND CONDITION VIOLATOR INTENSIVE DAY INTERVENTION**

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**PROJECT.**

**Mr. Masterson** said, “The Intensive Day Intervention Program grant provides for substance abuse and mental health treatment and life skills programming for adult community corrections clients who have violated the terms of their probation orders from the court. The program provides the judge with an option to revoking probation and sentencing the person to prison. The program is located at our Adult Residential Center at 207 North Emporia Street. In this application, we’re asking for \$230,918 to expand the current program by adding one additional substance abuse counselor position and more funds to purchase mental health services.

The program served 344 clients so far, year to date, and 75% have been successful in continuing on probation. I ask that you approve our application to renew this grant and authorize the Chair to sign.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, are there any questions for Mark? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Grant Application 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 R. Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you, Mark. Next item.”

**K. REORGANIZATION OF FACILITIES MAINTENANCE SERVICES.**

**Ms. Kathy Sexton**, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Operations, greeted the



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Commissioners and said, “The item you have before you is to take some current positions that we have on our staffing table and use them differently, essentially for the Facility Maintenance Services program, which is the group of folks who take care of our buildings and our grounds. Their mission is to provide safe and well-maintained builds and grounds and make things pleasant and conducive to accomplishing the work that needs to go on in our County Courthouse and other buildings. We feel like if we take these eight positions and change them, use them differently, create some supervisory roles and upgrade five other positions to fairly compensate employees who are doing different jobs than really the classifications that they currently reside in, we will get better productivity and better outcomes and, consequently, better service. You challenged us to provide better quality services and this is one of the areas that I think we definitely need this reorganization to help us accomplish that.

We did a survey last year of our customers, the people who live and work in these buildings, and found that Facility Maintenance Services was actually rated the lowest in customer satisfaction of all the services that we provide, DIO provides. And so, we have a real mission for the next couple of years to increase our quality of service and would request your approval of this personnel action to accomplish that. We’re asking for no new positions and no new monies. We will reallocate monies within our division to accomplish this. I’m open for any questions.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, are there any questions for Kathy? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve changes to the Staffing Table as described in the Reorganization Plan.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Tim R. Norton	Aye

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Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you, Kathy. Commissioners, at this time I'd like to take an Off Agenda item."

**OFF AGENDA ITEM**

**MOTION**

Commissioner McGinn moved to take an Off Agenda item.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Kathy Sexton and I are here asking you to approve a proposed concept for payment of real estate taxes, via the Internet, using credit card transactions. That's a mouthful. We think, because of where we are in terms of technology and because of where the world is in technology, that we can offer this service to taxpayers of Sedgwick County and begin the process of collecting taxes, via the Internet.

Citizens who want to pay taxes would be afforded the opportunity to do so using their credit card. The cost to us is about, we figure about \$43,000. Now I say we. It's not I who figured that but our Chief Financial Officer, who surveyed other counties and other communities around the country and discovered about the rate of return in the first year. We suspect that about 1% of the folks, the first year, may use this opportunity. We have limited the opportunity to use the Internet by only

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allowing those people who have real estate taxes \$3,000 or less to use this service. We didn't want to get into . . . we wanted to go slowly. We wanted to approach this taking one step at a time or one bite out of the apple at a time until we understood all of the ramifications, internally. We did this, also, because we didn't want to give the opportunity for people who use the escrow accounts, companies who hold those dollars and pay one large tax bill at the very last minute, to again use that system to use our money in a way that would not be particularly helpful.

We think that that \$43,000 is the cost of doing business in the Internet world. People use credit cards. People are comfortable using the Internet and we think that's part of the cost. Now, that cost can be offset, I think, by three different ways. The first is that we will certainly get, in some cases, get tax dollars sooner. People having the ability to pay for it, they may have chosen not to pay but the people that will pay will get the tax dollars into the system sooner and we can invest those dollars at a faster rate. We can invest those dollars faster and longer.

The second reason is that I think some people will pay who wouldn't normally otherwise. You and I both know that to pay your taxes you have to pay in full. You have two opportunities to do that, the beginning of the year in December and in June. And you don't have a choice to pay twenty dollars down, twenty dollars a month. You don't have a choice. You need to pay whatever that bill is, total and in full, period. We think that using credit cards will allow people then to use the credit card, we get our money, and they will pay the monthly payments to the credit card company. But we will get our money and so I think some people will pay who normally don't otherwise.

And the third and also enticing one is because of the way we can write the program. Once the payment is sent to us, electronically, it doesn't go through any accounting person's hand, any clerk's hands in the Treasurer's Office. It is credited to that account, it is deposited immediately to be invested and there is an electronic record of how that accounting is going to occur. Does that mean at some point in time we can reduce staff? Well, that would lead one to a conclusion that the staff in the Treasurer's Office could, in fact, be reallocated to do other things or, in fact, reduced. You know, technology helps us reallocate staff to other places.

So, those three things, I think, can help, in fact, offset some of the costs. We are prepared to launch this program for this June 20<sup>th</sup> payment schedule. I know we will do a little bit of advertising, but it would make that available. And we wanted to make sure, because of this issue, we wanted to have you talk about it and approve this concept and proceed. Be happy to answer any questions."

**Chair McGinn** said, "I just have one quick question first. On the 3,000 or less, say I own several

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parcels of land or whatever and they're all under 3,000 but I write one check and it's 5,000."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "It's the total. You would be prohibited."

**Chair McGinn** said, "So it's people who have a total tax liability 3,000 and less."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes, ma'am."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Okay. Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Well, I have a little problem with the concept but, first of all, I'm not to clear whether it's within our authority to approve or deny this and I'd like to ask Rich Euson, does this Board have the authority to approve or deny this or is this something that the Treasurer, in her sole discretion, can implement this? I guess that's my question. Do we have the authority to say 'yes, this is a good concept. Let's do it', 'No, this isn't. Let's deny it' or is that something that the Treasurer has within her authority to do?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "I think the issue is it's really just another way of accepting payments by credit cards and certainly there is a statute that's been on the books for some time that allows those tax payments to be accepted by credit card, if the County Treasurer decides to do that. And if the County Treasurer does decide that, then it is up to the County Treasurer to determine whether or not to charge an offsetting fee to handle the charge that the credit card company is going to make, in order to make that transaction. I guess I'm a little concerned about setting a limit of \$3,000 on something like this, when . . . I don't know if we can do that or not, but I haven't really had a chance to consider that question."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "So, did I hear you say that it isn't within . . . I mean, this Board of County Commissioners can't, for example, the Treasurer decides to implement it, we can't deny that, nor can we approve it unless . . . I mean, she has the right to do it or not to do it. We don't have the authority to supercede her authority. Is that what you're saying to me?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "She has the right to determine what to do with the credit card payments. You can certainly approve a concept of doing these payments over the Internet as opposed to in person, I suppose, but it's really up to her to determine whether or not to do this."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, so all we can do, basically, is discuss among ourselves whether we think the idea is good or not, but we can't approve and implement it. It has to be her that decides on her own whether or not it's implemented."

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**Mr. Euson** said, "I'd say that correct."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay. Well, I just wanted to clear that up that we can't approve or deny it. The concerns I have, and I listened very carefully, Mr. Buchanan, on this and I can understand, like it's Christmas time and here comes the bill and do I pay this bill in full or I'd like to really pay it over two or three or four months, because I'd really like to focus on Christmas. But it's my feeling that that option is always available to the citizen. They can elect to take out a cash advance on their credit card. They can elect to go into debt and borrow against something that they own to get the money from the bank and decide to make it in payments. And I do believe that the Internet and a paperless society is really something that is going to happen in the future. I like the illusion that, maybe eventually, if more of these transactions are being done *in absentia*, it may be a reduction of personnel, which would save the people tax dollars.

But right now, the problem I have with at least giving a message to the Treasurer that I like the concept is timing. I know we're in our budgeting process right now. It's being stated that this might cost us forty-some odd thousand dollars for the first year. I don't know for sure if we can really even know how much it would cost. It may cost us nothing if no one takes advantage of it. It could cost us substantially more than forty-some odd thousand if everybody, under that guideline. Not to muddy the water, but does it mean that a person can charge up to 3,000 on their credit card and then send us a check for the difference?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "No."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "So, it has to be the total amount. But it's going to cost the taxpayers some money to provide this new service and I've talked to some of you individually and you've indicated the same as me. I have not received any phone calls from any constituent saying, 'I would really like to be able to pay my taxes on credit cards. It's inconvenient the way we've been doing it in the past'. I've heard no complaint from any small businesses indicating that they would prefer borrowing money to pay taxes. I have a little problem encouraging borrowing money to pay taxes, but that's a different issue. And it's going to cost us forty, fifty, whatever a year at a time when, I personally, get inundated by a lot of social services asking for money and, at best,

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we're going to have forty or some odd thousand dollars less next year to accommodate aging, well you name it, all the social . . . all the people who are coming to us for services, we're going to have some dollars less to be able to accommodate that. To implement something that I'm not feeling any pressure from the citizens that it's necessary, at this time. And I, for one, even though I don't know what we're doing here, I wouldn't be supportive of even giving a message to the Treasurer that I would agree with her decision to implement this at this time. Thank you."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Madam Chairman, the Deputy Treasurer, Ann Smarsh is here and can address at least one issue that Commissioner Sciortino raised."

**Ms. Ann Smarsh**, Deputy Treasurer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you. When we went through our budget process recently, one of the specific questions that we were asked was, 'how many calls do you get?' and, unfortunately, at that time I didn't have a good read on that. In the past few weeks, I've asked our phone staff to keep track of how many people are asking specific questions about credit card payments. Right now, and this is one of our busy times as well as the November/ December time frame, we are averaging about 75 calls a day from people, taxpayers who say, 'may I use a credit or debit card to pay my taxes. In addition to that, we average about forty inquiries a day from people who say, 'can I pay those taxes by credit card, on-line'. So, that gives us a little bit better idea that addresses one of your concerns that you don't hear it from constituents. I think Commissioner Gwin noted, in the budget process, that our office is the one who's going to get the questions, as we get closer to the tax deadline."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Thank you. I have several questions. What cards will be offered?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "At the present time, we believe that the best option is to accept Mastercard, Visa, Discover only. Those are the credit card companies we utilize right now at our auto license facilities."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay."

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Those are the only ones we would accept."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "What are the negotiated rates?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "We average, among those three credit cards, approximately 1.9% fee and that's a relatively good fee, compared to market rates."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Has that already been negotiated through other areas, or do we still have to renegotiate?"

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**Ms. Smarsh** said, "What we would anticipate doing is just adding on to . . . accepting those credit cards under the same agreements we have now with those companies."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Would it be not prudent, since it could increase, to go back and say 'we're going to have more volume, let's go for 1.5 now for everything'."

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Definitely."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Is there agreements for advertising built in with Visa, Mastercard? Because a lot of times they will advertise it for you, as part of the contract. Is there any negotiations along that line?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Not at this time."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, I think advertising will be important, to let people know if we move forward. I have a little bit of a problem with limits, because if someone has a Mastercard and has a \$10,000 limit, it's not our jurisdiction to decide whether they can spend that money on that or a vacation to Cancun."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "We struggled with how slow to we go and how much do we use this as a pilot program and we continued to view this as a program where we're trying to dip our toe in the water, as a pilot program, and what we're trying to avoid, certainly, is as much exposure as we can, as much use as we can without have the large payees, who would normally pay anyway, use the credit card and us ending up paying the fee. And we're still trying to figure that out. This is one way in which we have attempted to do that, by having the Treasurer limit its use. And we think she has that authority to do . . . at least, want to try that for a year or so . . . a year."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Have you considered user's fees, because if you do that, \$45 user's fee will cover the 1.5-1.9% and then it's revenue neutral, which I think is something Ben is very concerned about, that we're losing a little money to get a little money and if you have a user's fee, that covers that."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "What we've learned from other counties around the country is that once they instituted user's fees, is that the business dropped off significantly, and it wasn't worth doing the program. If you're going to charge me now to pay my taxes, I'm going to pay my taxes, you're going to get your money and then I have to pay \$3.00 more or whatever, and in some cases it was only \$3.00 to do that, I'm just not going to do that. I'll just send the check. So, what we've found

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was that was a disincentive, although . . . and we've chosen not to use that, at this point."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, I think that's interesting but I also follow Ebay and Amazon.com and you know, people don't get it cheaper because they buy there. They initially get it cheaper, but because of shipping and packing and other things that are added on, the item is really not any cheaper than you could get it at the local store because of all that. So, I think that could be the price of doing business.

I guess, one of my concerns is that it goes into the Treasurer's budget, we continue to get the full amount of revenue, and that is a price of her office doing business, not us losing tax dollars, is that correct?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Right, that's correct."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "So, we'll still have the same money to spend as a government body. The Treasurer's Office will absorb the \$30,000, \$40,000 as a price of doing business in her office."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Yes, but where does she get the \$30,000 or \$40,000 to absorb?"

**Chair McGinn** said, "Through a supplemental during budget hearings."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "I mean, doesn't she get it from the taxpayers?"

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, I think, ultimately it will be. I think that's a decision she might have to make, based on the number of new positions she wants. Maybe it goes down and she pays for it by eliminating a position. That's all I've got."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Let me get back to the issue of who pays it and who can't. In your concept, the user is either a private individual, a homeowner or business owner, who owes less than \$3,000 total. What you're trying not to include, or what you don't want to include, are the lending institutions, who are collecting on an escrow basis for their customer's taxes over the year, because they're going to pay you anyway. Correct?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "And so, even though those lending institutions who have all those



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mortgages out there, we don't want to have to pay for them to use this service, because they're going to give us the money anyway. We're looking for those folks, those individuals or those property owners who need another option, would like another option to use. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes, ma'am."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Can they currently use credit cards to pay their taxes at all?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "No."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "And you're talking about allowing them to pay their real estate taxes, via the Internet, with a credit card?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Why would they not be permitted to walk into the Courthouse and use a credit card?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Well, again, because this is a pilot program and once we see how effective that use of the Internet is or not, as Commissioner Norton alluded to, the rates that you can negotiate with credit card companies are going to be dependent upon the volume of business. We want to see what this volume is and then we could go to them and say, 'look, if we have the credit card use at the Courthouse, we would expect 'x' amount more business' and be in a better negotiating position, we think. Again, we're trying to go at a slower pace than just jump right in."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "And I appreciate that. So the concept that you all are bringing to us is a pilot project that wants to check and see do we receive money sooner and if so, how much? Are we able to invest it sooner? If so, what does that mean to the revenues of this County? Will we get people to pay via this method who may not pay, walk in with cash? And are there the possibilities, as this project would proceed, to control staffing and better utilize personnel for other purposes? I'm willing to take the first step, I think, a pilot project that takes a small step to kind of test and see what kind of utilization might be out there. And if, in fact, there are benefits to the people of this County, I think I'm willing to take a chance and test it and approve the concept today. Thank you, Madam Chair."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Winters."

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**Commissioner Winters** said, “All right, thank you. Just a follow-up on one of Tim’s comments, and I’m not sure where we were headed, but he was questioning the limits, and again, it’s my understanding that the reason of the limit has nothing to do with the capacity of the taxpayer or the limits on their card, but just our measured effort to make sure we don’t get some large, industrial customer paying with a credit card. So, I think I could be supportive of that, as being kind of measured. Commissioner Sciortino and I have discussed this, previously, and I think I’m just going to respectfully . . . be one point where we disagree on this one. I would really think that we would, of course, want to do it in cooperation with the Treasurer’s Office. If the Treasurer was either radically opposed or not, I don’t think we’re here to force that, but I see it as a cooperative effort.

And I really just see it as part of the e-commerce that’s going on in this country and I’m going to enthusiastically support it, because I think it’s a measured approach that will let us get started in not a huge kind of way, but this 21<sup>st</sup> Century is made up of e-commerce and new ways of doing business and credit cards are an integral part of that. I see people who, years ago, did their financial transactions in one manner and, today, financial transactions are taking place in a completely different manner. And so, I think if we can utilize an on-line service and use the credit cards, I’m going to be supportive of this and there seems to be some question of what we are actually doing or supporting today, and as I look at the backup material, I would see that it would be to approve the proposed concept and I’m going to enthusiastically support that and then the Treasurer in cooperation with our IT folks can get to work, if it’s appropriate. Thank you, Madam Chair.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioner Sciortino.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks, Tom, for those words. I want to thank all of you. I think healthy debate is great and I’m not taking anything personal, not knowing where this is going to go. I’d like to ask the Assistant Treasurer person, from your perspective, do you need our approval in order to implement this, or is this something that the Treasurer can do and has the sole authority to do and doesn’t require the Board to approve or deny it?”

**Ms. Smarsh** said, “Commissioner Sciortino, the Treasurer has the authority to accept payments utilizing credit cards. One of the issues for the pilot project is that our department, in cooperation with Finance and DIO, will be cooperating on this initial . . .”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Well, as you would have to cooperate with them, in order to get it done. But my point is, are you agreeing with me that you don’t need the County’s approval, the

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Board's approval to implement it? The second thought is, if we were to deny it, it would not stop you from approving it if you elected to. In other words, you don't need our approval to implement this. Is that correct?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "That's correct."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, so that's the point that I needed to make. Now, I think it's probably beneficial to give the Treasurer some indication as to what we're thinking on the project. The idea of limiting it to \$3,000, my concern is that's going to get a lot of people upset, you know saying, 'wait a minute, what's the difference if you're approving \$3,000 and mine is for \$5,000, why can't I pay \$3,000 on my credit card and I'll pay you cash for the extra' and I think it will confuse people. I have . . . and I don't know, legally, if you can do that but that's another issue and the County Counselor has indicated he's not too comfortable whether or not we can limit that amount.

And I don't want to get too heavy on this, but I have a moral problem with this, too. Not only do I not like losing tax dollars, because whether or not we get all the tax dollars but the expenses at the Treasurer's Department goes up, we've still lost \$50,000 or whatever it is. I don't believe, because I have the option to pay on-line and I get my bill, I'm going to pay it quicker. I'll tell you what I would do, personally. I would wait until the very last day that I had to pay my bill, I'd pay it on my credit card, knowing I've got 30 day free ride that I can use the credit card money and then I'd pay it off at that time. But I want to give my money as slow as I could. I'd just pay it right at the last day and take another 30 day grace period and when the bill came from the credit card company, pay it off. The moral issue that I have is that, if this is going to be attractive to more lower-income people that really would feel the pinch at Christmas-time and would really need to borrow, we're encouraging them to get deeper in debt. I have a problem, not with the person that owes us \$3,000, but a person that owes us \$500 or \$400 or \$300 and we are encouraging them to get in debt to pay their taxes and I have a problem with that also. So, I will not be supportive of giving the Treasurer my feelings that I like to concept and I will be saying I don't like the concept. That's all I have.

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Thank you.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you. I guess I’d just like to make a few comments, and one is that I applaud Kathy Sexton’s Department, her staff and all the things that they have done on the Internet, the vision that you’ve had. And I think that that’s been very important, because I think the key thing that you’ve brought to our community, you and staff under Bill Buchanan, is access to information. And I think that has been a wonderful thing for our community and I know we’re first in the State in that, as you’ve had an opportunity to go share some of that information throughout the nation. But this, to me, is a little different deal. It’s first, an experiment, as you have done on some other things, but this is a little different. As a business owner, if I choose to except credit cards for whatever product that I’m selling, I choose to also give up the fee, those dollars. And I’m taking on the responsibility, because they are my dollars. But as a government entity, I’m not sure that I’m prepared to give up dollars for such a small population that may use this, especially when maybe that \$50,000 would go to such a larger group of individuals in our community that need those services, whether it’s social service or whatever it is. And so, I know that there are a few counties in the nation that are doing this but, to my knowledge, no one in the State of Kansas is doing this.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “It would be nice to know how many counties are doing this in the nation.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Okay, all right. And so, when I think there are times where we need to be first and experimental, I think there are also other times where we need to see how it works, looking at other counties and communities, and let them work out some of the kinks, particularly when we’re talking about, not my dollars, but taxpayer dollars. And so I think we need to proceed with caution in that area. And so, I am not going to approve this concept but I’m not going to say that I would not approve it in the future, at some time. But I think, in this situation, where we’re talking about citizen tax dollars, I think we need to proceed with caution. So, with that, I’m just not going to proceed with this concept at this time. And our next is Commissioner Norton.”

**Chair McGinn left at 11:06.**

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Thank you. Debit cards would be able to be used, is that correct?”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Yes, sir.”

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**Commissioner Norton** said, "I mean, that's like writing a check but you're just taking it right out of your bank account."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Wait a minute. We're having grumbles."

**Ms. Sexton** said, "Commissioner, at this time debit cards are not being excepted and it has to do with the technology of how they set up the system. It's not ready yet for that."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "How soon?"

**Ms. Sexton** said, "I don't have a date for you right now."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Is that something that we're pursuing?"

**Ms. Sexton** said, "Yes, sir. We wanted to start with that but then there's some technical difficulties and we couldn't."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Can you bring us back an update soon on that?"

**Ms. Sexton** said, "Yes, I will."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "My next question is tag offices already are doing credit cards?"

**Ms. Sexton** said, "Yes, sir."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Do they have a user's fee?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "No, commissioners, we do not. We accept the cost . . . the credit card fees as the cost of doing business. Hopefully, and we have proven this at the tag office, utilizing less of collections and cutting down the volume of returned checks."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay. Do you have a number, off the top of your head, of the percent of people that use credit cards to cash and checks through the tag office?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "I think credit card usage is about 15% of the users, but again we're really talking about a different dollar constraint here. Average \$100 to \$150 per ticket usage, as opposed to the usage that we're talking about for real estate and personal property taxes. I can tell you that, on an annual basis average, we pay approximately \$120,000 at the tag office in credit card fees. That's on a total revenue of about \$44,000,000. But again, there's a different logic and a different average ticket item there as opposed to the market that we'd be talking about here, for real estate taxes."

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**Commissioner Norton** said, "In many cases, it will be apples to apples though. It will just be less people paying more and, in the tag office, you'll have a lot more people paying less. The fees will be . . . the revenue lost, as Ben would say, would be pretty apples and apples. Do you absorb that as a cost of business in the tag office presently?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Yes, we do."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay, that's all I have."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "All right, thank you. The Chair whispered in my ear I was next, when she left. I don't know how many other people around the country are doing this, but I know that there are 26, at least 26 other counties in Kansas that are working with the Information Network of Kansas and doing a process that revolves around their check. And you're on the Internet and you put information concerning your check in your checking account onto the system, including your routing number and your account number and the money then works through the Information Network of Kansas System and is done all over the Internet. And there's over 20 counties in Kansas now that are accepting payments of real estate taxes over the Internet. I, at times, wondered why we didn't go through that process, but it was explained to me that the credit card account would actually get the money to us quicker than going through the route of using the already established system that is in use throughout much of Kansas.

### **Chair McGinn returned at 11:08.**

Now, I guess the only other thing that I would say, again, is Commissioner Sciortino asked about if the Treasurer could go ahead and do this without our blessing, in effect, and she may or she may not be able to do that, but I think we're trying to work in a cooperative effort and I think that the Division of Information and Operations would be somewhat hesitant to work with the Treasurer in putting together a program if she knew that the Board of County Commissioners were not in favor of us doing that. So, if we're opposed to this, it would be my best guess that it wouldn't happen, simply because DIO would not feel an obligation to spend time, effort and resources in something the Board of County Commissioners didn't approve of.

So, again, and Commissioner McGinn was correct in that we do have access to a tremendous amount of information over the Internet and that is good. I think the next step is to start doing business over the Internet. One of the biggest issues in electronic commerce today is business to business transactions and the public will continue to be pulled into that mix over the years. So, again, I'm going to continue to be supportive. Thank you."

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**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'd like to make the analogy of private sector versus the government sector. In the private sector, if a business has made a decision, such as Target, to accept credit cards because they feel that the customers . . . well, they're demanding it. They can see that the customers are wanting to make purchases. In business, they know that the impulse buy is a lot easier, because sometimes people don't consider a credit card money, for some reason and sometimes they get themselves into financial difficulties that way. But, a business factors in that cost and their retail price of their products reflect that cost of business. We can't do that in government. We can't say, 'Okay, since we've got a 1%, 2%, 3% amount of people paying their taxes and it's this much cost, we're going to appraise the property at 'x', plus add four dollars to everybody's taxes, so that some people can have . . . we have to do it fairly. We can't pass that cost on and the taxpayers are going to bear the cost of this. Commissioner Winters indicated that there are some counties paying by check, through electronic checks. But could you tell us how many counties in Kansas are using the credit card method?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "No."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "How many counties in the country are presently using the credit card method?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "We didn't do a count. There are some."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, but I think it's a little bit risky, for us, to take on this pilot project which may prove to be successful and every other county in the country within ten years are doing what we have decided is a good project. Or we may be the laughing stock of the whole nation because everybody has found out, because of what we've done, it's been too costly and they say, 'well, thank god Sedgwick County took that risk, I know now through their experience, I don't have to take the risk'. From a business point of view, it's less risky to let someone else take this chance, look at it for two or three years and find out whether or not it's a good project and then jump in and say 'me, too'."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Commissioners, counties across the country have been doing this for two or three years."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, but I mean . . ."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "And I think it's unrealistic to expect any other county in Kansas to be doing this."

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**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, but I'm saying there's larger counties within the midwest, is there any of the counties that you've looked at in the Mid-West. Is any large city in the midwest doing this? Why does Sedgwick County have to take this risk?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "I don't think there's a risk by what we've learned from two counties. One was in California and one was in Georgia. One, the California county, is not too far from the whole Silicone Valley, San Jose center, where everything is done electronically. That experiment produced around 1% the first year. Same as DeKalb County, Georgia. Those are the two that we used and knew, because they were similar in size to us and, although they're not from the Mid-West, they're similar in manufacturing/ housing mix and not dissimilar to Sedgwick County."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, so you've located two counties in the country."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Two counties that we've used as examples. There are a lot more. We don't have a count."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay. Have they had it for more than one year? So, you say the first year it was 1%. Has it elevated over the years? What is it presently? What about DeKalb County? Did you ask that question? The first year was 1%, what is it today?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Unfortunately we're doing this without Chris Chronis and he did the interviews and I don't know."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, I understand. There's no use debating this back and forth but I can't support sending a message to the Treasurer that I think this is a good idea and, for the reasons I've mentioned, I can't be for it."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "One of the things that Ms. Smarsh shared with us was interesting. Did you tell me you get up to 45, or you have gotten 45 calls total about credit on line, or is that a day?"

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Average, per day, again in this two month timeframe, May and June timeframe, for the second half collection date."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Well, can I tell you, if I got 45 calls a day from my constituents wanting me to address a problem or to consider a solution that I hadn't been considering, I think I'd better answer. I mean, I think I'd better look at what a solution might be. It's very seldom that I've gotten 45 calls a day on any issue and that's when I ask. It was brought up whether I'd heard about it. I knew you all would be. So, I don't . . . I'm pretty comfortable that there are folks out there



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who are interested in this concept and interested in this opportunity and I think it kind of behooves us to at least respond to that and try it and see what happens. If you hadn't heard from anybody with that question, then that would be one thing. But I appreciate you sharing the information. That makes it a lot easier for me to say that I am responding to a request from numerous citizens in this County. So, I'm ready to go ahead with it."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, it appears that I'm kind of the swing vote down here, hovering on the fence. I have some other questions. Why now?"

**Ms. Sexton** said, "Commissioner, the second half of the taxes are due June 20<sup>th</sup>. We had the system ready to go and we thought, 'you know, why wait until November', when the next bills are ready, when what we have here is about a week or so that we could go ahead and pilot it and see what the usage is, see what the responses are, see what the bugs are in the system, etcetera, get them all fixed and ready to go, so that when we send out the tax bills in the fall we can promote it. We can put the website on the piece of paper that you get in the mail. We can promote that and get a much heavier usage next year to the website. This would be the pilot. Why go whole hog in the fall, when you haven't piloted it yet?"

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I guess I would, if we've got the fall still that we could do it that maybe we would bring back more of a plan on user's fees, how do we pass on an additional amount to limit the revenue loss that Ben refers to. Can all that be folded into this, if we looked at it six months?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Well, we could look at it longer, Commissioner, but we're convinced that adding user fees is not going to be successful in what we're trying to do. If we're trying to get people in this category make it convenient and use it, what we discovered from other places, it just doesn't work. And I don't know why it works with E-bay and doesn't work with taxes."

**Ms. Sexton** said, "Commissioner, if I could, I'd like to make an analogy that I think will ring true for so many of us. Some years ago, the State of Kansas decided that you could pay your car tags through the mail, but you had to pay fifty cents extra to do that. And every time, if you're like me, you get that bill and you think, 'this is so funny'. Why do they charge me extra to pay it through the mail, when it's obviously cheaper to government than me parking in their parking lot, coming in their door, waiting, sitting in their chair, waiting in their line during the busy times. We all know these things. It's the same thing with ATM, Automatic Teller Machines in banks. You charge a fee, but then what a lot of banks are starting to do . . . well, they were able, once they got the ATM

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concept to take off, they were able to reduce their staff inside the bank, in the reception area and now some banks are starting to charge people if they come in a do their business in the bank, because they know that's a higher cost transaction.

And that's what I would equate it to here is, why charge a fee for something that is lower cost to us, eventually. It won't be the first year. There will be credit card fees to pay. But eventually we should have reduced cost of handling paper, of running after delinquent taxpayers and all the costs associated with the delinquents, because when they don't pay, we have to send letters, we have to put ads in the newspaper saying, here's the delinquent taxes. We have to file suit for foreclosure. We have to sell the properties. The properties come off the tax rolls, the whole deal and it takes a lot of staff time and a lot of effort paying attorneys and that kind of thing. So, I think the cost will balance out if we take the long term approach. And as the Manager suggested, some of the other counties that we've looked at started with fees, saw a low utilization rate and have since decided to not charge the fee, they pulled it off, and their utilization rates are going up."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "It seems to me that some kind of fee would be just a convenience fee. That's what we're selling here. We're not selling paying on-line. We're selling convenience. You don't have to leave the comfort of your home to be able to pay your taxes and I can't believe that people wouldn't pay a convenience fee, sitting at home, not different from E-bay or anything else. I would really support this a little more if it had a user's fee attached. It doesn't have to cover the whole cost, but that we really look at that.

At this point, I'm leaning towards supporting it, but with a caveat that in six months I better see some real empirical evidence that it's working. I would love to see a user's fee on there, and then a plan on how this thing moves forward, because I agree with Ben, it's fraught with some peril in some cases and it's not going to be totally friendly to every constituent. In fact, it will be just the reverse to people that have financial problems.

At this point, since it's not a mandate from us anyway, I would recommend that the Treasurer be able to go ahead and try it if they like. She can anyway."

**Chair McGinn** said, "I still have a couple of more comments and I agree with you. I guess I look at the fifty cent fee differently than you, Kathy. When I saw it, it was like it costs fifty cents for me to start my car. I agree with you, Commissioner Norton, about user's fees. Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Thank you. We have to bring this to a closure, too. I appreciate the fact that the Treasurer's Office has received a lot of phone calls inquiring about can they use a credit card. Have you asked them, those people that have asked about a credit card, whether or not they have a computer and would like to pay it on-line, or are they just asking if they can use their

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credit card?”

**Ms. Smarsh** said, “At this point in the survey process as part of customer service in that particular phone call, we have not asked that specific question.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “So, what you’re getting is questions from people, and I assume that you’ve gotten these questions over the years. This isn’t brand new just this year. I assume that you’ve gotten that many times.”

**Ms. Smarsh** said, “It is not an issue that is brand new this year. But as technology and everyone’s access to technology increases, we get an increasing volume of calls and questions.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “The problem I have is that, in our honest attempt . . . and I do also applaud what DIO is doing and the forward-thinking and we need people to think out of the box. My concern is we’re thinking about doing this. We think it will be convenient. We think a good large percentage of the people that are wanting to use credit cards have access to a computer and really want to pay it on-line. If that turns out not to be the case, we’re going to get, or you’re going to get a lot of calls mad because they wanted to use their credit card, but they also had to go buy a computer and get computer literate in order to do that and I think we’re going to get people upset with us, because maybe the people that are really wanting to use their credit card, only have a credit . . . they want to come in and pay on credit card and we’re saying, ‘no, you have to use it on Internet’. And if we don’t know what percentage of those people are comfortable in going on Net, maybe an idea to delay this six months and maybe to have a little bit further, more in depth surveys when they call or they contact us to ask them ‘Do you have the ability to use a computer and would you be able to do it on-line’, so you could come to us and say, ‘of the 45 calls a day we get, or 70 calls, 92% would like to do it on Internet’, or only 2% can do it on Internet. That could be a decision also. I think we are rushing and Commissioner Norton, you might want to modify your position to delay it six months. I don’t think there’s any pressure to do it immediately. Let’s do a little bit more research to find out what percentage of the people that are wanting to pay it on credit card could pay it on the Internet, instead of just rushing into it like this.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioner Winters.”

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**Commissioner Winters** said, “All right, I just asked Commissioner Norton if he’s ready to move forward, because I’m ready to make a Motion, but I kind of wanted to just make sure that you didn’t need anything else. I think I heard you say that you were ready to move forward.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Yeah, I think I could support it. But I got to tell you, there’s a caveat here. I believe in e-commerce. Tom, you and I’ve been to many things that talk about that. But I think that it’s fraught with peril out there in the e-commerce world and we need to be sure that we’re very prudent and do this right. And I would hope that in six months, if I vote for it and the Treasurer’s Office moves forward, that we have some strong, empirical evidence that we’re doing it the right way and it’s smart business. And I think that’s what Ben is alluding to, that it’s got to be smart business. We are not just government officials. We’re also business men, in a lot of cases, and we have to take that.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the proposed concept for payment of real estate taxes via Internet credit card transaction.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin		Aye
Commissioner Tim R. Norton	Aye	
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters		Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino		No
Chair Carolyn McGinn		No

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you, Kathy. Thank you, Ann and Mr. Buchanan. Next item please.”

**Commissioner Norton left at 11:25.**

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**L. KANSAS COLISEUM.**

**1. AGREEMENT WITH FEIST PUBLICATIONS FOR ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT THE KANSAS COLISEUM.**

**Mr. John Nath**, Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The agreement before you is our standard agreement for advertising rights at the Coliseum and it says that Feist Publications will become the official yellow page telephone directory at the Coliseum. It’s a straight up business deal. The advertising fee is \$10,000 a year and the term is for three years. We recommend approval.”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Tim R. Norton	Absent
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Next item please.”

**2. MONTHLY REPORT.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Nath** said, “Report for May of 2001. We had attendance of nearly 55,000 people, 19 events, 36 individual performances. Our net revenues were in excess of \$100,000. Now May is typically a slow month. We’re finished with hockey and soccer seasons and, generally, people are getting out of school but we have a lot of recurring events.

We have the Park City Bluegrass Festival and this is the eighth year we have had it. Eight hundred and fourteen people attended that. Now, that’s not a real big event, but it is growing and it is very, very well organized and anybody that comes, and folks do come from all around the area and they spend a lot of

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time at the Coliseum because after the performances, they sit around these little campfires and pick and grin and just have a good time. It's a nice little event that we have out in Pavilion II.

We also had three horse shows during the month. We had the Heartland Miniature Classic, the Wichita Spring Charity and the Kansas Arabian. Over 6,500 people attended the horse shows. We've seen a little softness in the horse show business and we think that is directly related to the cost of gasoline and diesel. It costs a lot to haul 'Sea Biscuit' from point 'a' to point 'b' and a lot of folks are staying home. In fact, the Kansas Junior Quarter Horse Show was off 150 stalls over what it had last year. So, we're going to keep an eye on that in the future.

We're also 'graduation central' in May. We did eight graduations. Had over 36,000 people, combined, come to those graduations. And you see we do have quite the diverse calendar between USD 259. We do four of theirs, Valley Center, Derby, Campus and Friends University.

In the sports zone, again the Stealth went undefeated in the month of May. We had three games, 8,516 attended those games. Unfortunately, and I'll have to break the bad news to you next report, they lost their first home game in June."

**Commissioner Norton returned at 11:28.**

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "It was because I wasn't there."

**Mr. Nath** said, "Well, you need to be here this coming Saturday."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Well, I know I missed that one. Tell them I'm really sorry. It was my fault."

**Mr. Nath** said, "They're now five and one at home, which is an excellent record.

In the news, it is now official, the Central Hockey League did merge with the Western Professional League. We're looking at a league that's going to be between 20 and 24 teams for next season. It will bring things like Fort Worth back into the Central League, so we'll have some more regional rivalries and there's a very good chance that Kansas City will also be in the Central League.

So, if there's any questions, that's the end of my report for the month of May. If there's any questions, I'd be happy to answer them at this time."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioners, are there any questions for John?"

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**Commissioner Gwin** said, “No questions, just a comment. I asked Mike McCoy, the general manager of the Stealth to come out and spend some time with us at the Relay for Life this past weekend and if he could bring some of his players out to meet and greet the kids and folks who participated in the Cancer Society funding raising event. Well, he came. He brought several players, maybe half a dozen or so. He brought members of their dance team, the Bomb Squad, and they were such a hit. They played touch football with the kids. They signed autographs. They hung around a long time with us and were very gracious in their presence there. I appreciate it greatly and just want folks to know that’s a great organization and they really did come through for us and I appreciate it.”

**Mr. Nath** said, “Those folks are a great organization and you’ll find they really want to integrate themselves into the community. They’re a joy to work with.”

**Commissioner Gwin** said, “And they are fun to watch. Thank you, Madam Chair.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you. Commissioner Sciortino.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Thanks, Madam Chairman. John, time must fly. I thought you just gave us a monthly report a week or two ago. You’re only here once a month? It seems like you’re here every week.”

**Mr. Nath** said, “Once a month. Time flies when you having fun, Commissioner.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “You might want to come see me right after the meeting. I have an update on something that you and I talked about and I’d like to visit with you on it. That’s all I have.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, are there any other questions?”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to Receive and file.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Tim R. Norton	Aye

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Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Thank you, John. Next item please.”

**M. PUBLIC WORKS.**

**1. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND CLASSIFYING DEER CREEK TO THE AFTON TOWNSHIP ROAD SYSTEM. DISTRICT 3.**

**Mr. David C. Spears**, P.E., Director/ County Engineer, Public Works Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “It is standard procedure that after a road is constructed within a platted residential subdivision in accordance with county standards, that road is then assigned to the township road system. In this particular case ‘Deer Creek’ located in the Timber Creek Addition will become the responsibility of Afton township. The Afton Township Board was informed that this resolution would be on the County Commission agenda, by letter, dated May 2<sup>nd</sup>. I recommend that you adopt the resolution.”

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, are there any questions for David?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, "Next item."

**2. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND CLASSIFYING 81ST STREET SOUTH, 83RD STREET SOUTH AND MYRA TO THE ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP SYSTEM. DISTRICT 5.**

**Mr. Spears** said, "Item M-2 is similar to the previous item. Again, it is standard procedure that after a road is constructed within a platted subdivision, in accordance with county standards, that road is then assigned to the township road system. In this particular case, three roads: 81<sup>st</sup> Street South, 83<sup>rd</sup> Street South and Myra, located in the Alfieri Acres Addition, will become the responsibility of Rockford township. The Rockford Township Board was informed that this resolution would be on your agenda, by letter, dated April 30<sup>th</sup>. I recommend that you adopt the resolution."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino 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 R. Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

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**Chair McGinn** said, "Next item."

- 3. ESTIMATE FROM SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FOR RELOCATION OF LINES IN CONNECTION WITH SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT NO. 628-10, 11; MACARTHUR ROAD THROUGH LAKE AFTON. CIP# R-233. DISTRICT 3.**

**Mr. Spears** said, "Item M-3 is the approval of an estimate from Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative for the relocation of lines in connection with the road project on Mac Arthur through Lake Afton, designated as R-233 in the Capital Improvement Program. The cost of the relocation will be \$43,100. The lines are in a private easement. I recommend that you approve the estimate."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the estimate.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you, David. Next item."

- N. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' JUNE 7, 2001 REGULAR MEETING.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Board of Bids and Contracts held a regular meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001. As a result of that meeting, the following items are being presented today.

- 1) PAVING OF KANSAS COLISEUM PARKING LOT- PUBLIC WORKS**

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**FUNDING: SALES TAX FUND**

Item one, paving of the Kansas Coliseum parking lot for Public Works. Recommendation is low bid of Kansas Paving for \$294,645.65.

**2) PORTABLE WHEELCHAIR RAMPS- DEPARTMENT ON AGING  
FUNDING: DEPARTMENT ON AGING**

Item two, portable wheelchair ramps for the Department on Aging. Recommend low bid of Alumi Ramp for a total of \$18,950.

**3) PENTIUM III COMPUTERS- COMCARE  
FUNDING: DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY**

Item three, Pentium III computers for COMCARE. Accept sole source quote from Gateway for \$44,910.

**4) PRINTERS- COMCARE**

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**FUNDING: DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY**

Item four, printers for COMCARE. Recommend low bid, meeting specification, of Stutz Associates for a total of \$24,870.

If there aren't any questions, I would recommend approval of these items as presented by the Board of Bids and Contracts."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "We got 34 bids on this last product?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "Yes, we did."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Fantastic."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Commissioners, are there any questions for Iris?"

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Did you use the Internet to get these bids?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "Yes. We sent to four local vendors and then published it on the website."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "And they'll let us pay by credit card?"

**Commissioner Winters** said, "E-commerce in action."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Wait a minute. Why don't they let us pay by credit card?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "I did not ask that question."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Tom, do you want me to go get the salt?"

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

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**VOTE**

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

**Chair McGinn** said, "Next item please. Thank you, Iris."

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**O. CONSENT AGENDA.**

**1. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.**

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V01088	\$182.00	5	Cottage Grove
V01092	\$266.00	5	David Rinke
V01097	\$289.00		Chantal Jones

**2. The following Section 8 Housing Contract is 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>
V20134	\$258.00	\$251.00

**3. Order dated June 6, 2001 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**

**4. Donations of \$50, \$10 and \$25, to be used for COMCARE's Suicide Prevention Program.**

**5. Agreement with House of Hope, Inc. to provide Developmental Disability Community Service Provider status.**

**6. Certification of Application by Waste Disposal, L.L.C. for Kansas Department of**

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**Health and Environment Permit to operate a municipal solid waste transfer station.**

7. **Technical adjustments of Juvenile Justice Authority Grant Administration SFY '01 budget.**
8. **General Bills Check Register of June 8, 2001.**
9. **Budget Adjustment Requests.**

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “You have the Consent Agenda before you and I recommend that 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 Tim R. Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas G. Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, “Commissioners, is there any other business to come before the Board? We have another Norton update.”

**P. OTHER**

**Commissioner Norton** said, “I have four things. First of all, I had another meeting with the people down south on drainage updates. Paul Taylor was there, Jim Weber, Phil Dettrick and I think they made some great presentations to the individuals down there on exactly what’s going to happen. Now, we’re going to have a full town hall meeting with all the residents down there and explain what’s going to happen and I think we had a really good meeting. Dave was involved and I think we’re moving forward on the money we’re spending down there and understanding. The taxpayers have a good

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feeling about what we're doing. I also talked to them about participation, as a drainage district, on some of the improvements in their area and that they may have to foot the bill for some of the stuff that gets the water to the big channel that we're digging. So, I've kind of plowed that ground for them and they're very, very open to that.

The second meeting I had was with Salem Township officials and we went through their laundry list of all their drainage issues and problems in Salem Township and Paul Taylor was there with the Drainage Department and we had a real good dialogue there.

The next thing I wanted to talk about was last night I went to the Breakthrough Club, COMCARE, Mental Health Association banquet. Betsy was there and Ben was a keynote speaker and, I got to tell you, it was a wonderful presentation. And if you think we're not doing good work in our mental health fields, you only had to hear from a couple of people that have that malady in their lives but have overcome. One young lady is working on her Masters at WSU and it was amazing. A second gentleman, Paul Smith, is actually working for COMCARE now and he is someone who has been in the system and has risen above it and it was a pretty proud time to hear about what social services and COMCARE have done. So, it was a wonderful thing.

The last thing I have is I had a chance to attend the Leadership Institute on the Kansas Health Foundation and it brought together leaders from all over the State, eight from Sedgwick County and we talked about children's issues. And because it is such an important issue and it is one of the core values of the County Commission, there will be some new information that I'll be bringing forth in the next three or four months of some programs and some initiatives that this group will try to partner with other government entities, private business, to put together programs for our youth that supplement some of the things that the County's doing already.

That's the four things that I wanted to talk about. Thank you."

**Chair McGinn** said, "Thank you, Tim. Is there any other business?"

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved that the Board of County Commissioners recess into Executive Session for 60 minutes to consider consultation with Legal Counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/client relationship relating to pending litigation and legal advise, plus personnel matters of non-elected personnel and that the Board of County Commissioners return from Executive Session no sooner than 12:30 a.m.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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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	Aye

**Chair McGinn** said, "We're in Executive Session."

**The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session at 11:39 a.m. and returned at 12:35 p.m.**

**Chair McGinn** said, "Let the record show that there was no binding action taken while in Executive Session. Is there any other business to come before this Board? We're adjourned."

**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

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

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**CAROLYN McGINN**, Chair  
Fourth District

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**BEN SCIORTINO**, Chairman Pro Tem



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Fifth District

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**BETSY GWIN**, Commissioner  
First District

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**TIM R. NORTON**, Commissioner  
Second District

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**THOMAS G. WINTERS**, Commissioner  
Third District

ATTEST:

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**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2001