

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

November 7, 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, November 7, 2001 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chair Carolyn McGinn; with the following present: Vice Chair Ben Sciortino; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Brad Snapp, Housing Director, Housing Office; Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Ms. Jan Kennedy, Treasurer; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Amy Curtis, Cadet, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.
Colonel Robert Hester, JROTC Program.
Ms. Joan Heffington, President, Heffington Homes, Inc.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by David Cline of the Christian Businessmen's Committee.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, October 10, 2001

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of October 10th, 2001.

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioners, you've had a chance to review the October 10th Minutes. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 10, 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, "Next item."

PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 4-10, 2001 AS "WICHITA JROTC – LEADERSHIP WEEK."

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioners, I have this proclamation that I'd like to read into the record."

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, JROTC was officially implemented in American high schools in 1916, began in Kansas in 1917 and in Wichita in 1994; and

WHEREAS, cadet Leadership Programs were started in selected middle schools in 1997 making Wichita a leader in the Nation in this initiative; and

WHEREAS, the JROTC and Leadership Programs are recognized in Wichita for building citizenship and good character in our youth; and

WHEREAS, there are now more than 1,500 Wichita youth participating as cadets in twelve of our public schools.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Carolyn McGinn, Chair of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 4-10, 2001 as

“WICHITA JROTC- LEADERSHIP WEEK”

in recognition of these fine young men and women who are becoming better leaders and citizens for the future through their involvement in the JROTC and Leadership programs.

And today we have Amy Curtis and Elizabeth Hess.”

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

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, “Amy Curtis, glad to have you here today. Would you like to tell us just a little about the program?”

Ms. Amy Curtis, Cadet, Wichita JROTC Program said, “We had a program in middle school and in high school as well. It’s in all of our Wichita public schools and high schools and in four of our middle schools here in Wichita. We have over 1,400 cadets in the program all together.”

Chair McGinn said, “And what school are you from?”

Ms. Curtis said, “Northwest.”

Chair McGinn said, “Northwest. Okay. We have, I guess, a comment or a question.

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Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “I’d like to make a comment. Amy, what’s your title with the program? What are you?”

Ms. Curtis said, “I’m a Cadet Colonel and I’m also the Wichita Corp Commander for Junior ROTC.”

Commissioner Winters said, “So, you are the Corp commander. Well, let me tell you, this is a great program and Colonel Hester is here, who works with this program. Would you like to come forward too sir. I want to do just a little bit of an apology and yet then a little bit of praise at the same time because I had certainly intended to be at the program this Friday that Junior ROTC is going to have at Century II but I have made a commitment that’s just got me booked in two places at once and I’m not going be able to be there. But I’d just like to paint a picture for just a moment. Last year was the first time I attended that event at Century II and I had the privilege of being there with Senator Pat Roberts and he and I had the privilege of watching 1,500 young people march into that facility and it made me think about all of the problems we think we have in this world today. Here was a group of kids that was just amazing and it was certainly my privilege to review that Corp and each one of those groups of platoons and the leadership of each one of them and the Corp commander was there, a young person that just did a tremendous job.

I want to go back and I’m not going to get myself double-booked up when you do this in the future, because it was an amazing sight and the cadets were from the shine and polish that Amy shows today to some were pretty rag-tag and were kind of like McHale’s navy, I’d almost say. But every one of them was as proud as they could possibly be to participate and march through that facility. So, I commend you. I think this is a program in our schools that young people have a chance to fit in to a place where they might not find another group that they can be involved in and I just can’t tell you how proud I was to be there last year and I wish you the best success at your event this coming Friday. So, thank you both for the work that you do because it is certainly a major benefit. Thank you.”

Chair McGinn said, “Would you like to make some comments?”

Colonel Robert Hester, JROTC, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Yes, ma’am. Thank you, Commissioner Winters. We really enjoyed you coming and participating in our ceremony last year and Commissioner Chair McGinn, we look forward to your participation on Friday. We’ve got a very good program. I think you’ll enjoy it.

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There is no question that reading, writing and math skills are essential for children going through public education but I can tell you that our Junior ROTC program and our Leadership program teaches character education. We teach life skills and social skills and I think that these are just essential for the success of youth, both while they're in school and when they get out of school. I enjoy being a part of the program because I can see a lot of success in the youth in our schools. In our programs, in the Leadership, the middle schools are leadership programs and, Commissioner Winters, those are the McHale's Navy kids and the reason they look like that is because we fund the uniforms ourselves. It's all local and so we're just not able to put as much money into uniforms as we would like to. But those kids are no less outstanding cadets as the Junior ROTC cadets at our high schools. And I also agree with you that when you hear about all the problems in our public education today and then all you have to do is just be around some of these cadets and it makes you forget about those problems because they do not exist in the kids that are in our Junior ROTC and our Leadership programs. Thank you very much."

Chair McGinn said, "Thank you for being here today and I certainly look forward to this Friday's event. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just have a couple of things, too. First of all, when Tom said he wanted to go back I thought he meant he wanted to go back and apply for membership or what have you. Could you just give us, kind of just briefly, a young person joins ROTC, what actually do they do? I mean, do they do drills, training? What actually . . . could you just kind of give us an overview of what is involved?"

Ms. Curtis said, "You can join drill team and color guard and compete around the city and in other states as well. You learn about military history. You learn how to wear your uniform the correct way. You just learn teamwork and improvement in discipline. It's a very good program."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And is there a certain level of grade points that you have to maintain or is there any educational curriculum to maintain membership in this JROTC?"

Ms. Curtis said, "To gain certain awards you have to have a certain grade point average but you don't have to have a certain grade point average to stay in the program."

Colonel Hester said, "Sir, Junior ROTC is like a civic class. Our mission is to make cadets better citizens and that's the mission of Junior ROTC nationally. And so our drill and color guard teams, that teaches teamwork. That's a small part of what we do in Junior ROTC but we do a lot of other things. We take kids to summer camp every summer. They attend a leadership school. We take them on leadership camps throughout the year. They do a lot of community service in the city."

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They're involved in service learning, where they actually see the results of what they participate in. We had 300 cadets at the Old Sedgwick County Fair a few weeks ago, all participating in that fair, helping the elementary, middle school age kids who attended that. We try to get a lot of exposure of kids throughout the city and doing positive things.

We've got one school, Pleasant Valley Middle School, they've done over 13,000 hours community service now. They've been designated a leader school in the State of Kansas. They're competing for the national recognition this year. No doubt, they will achieve that because of the success that they've had in the community. The biggest problem that they have in that school is they have a project on the weekend, 40 kids sign up for the project and 50 show up and that's normal. These are kids, it's a very diverse population of kids. Pleasant Valley, 80% of the kids at that school are on free or reduced lunch and this program is helping a lot of kids. But that's basically what our program is."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So, is there a lot of like after-school hours things that they can get involved in and on weekends so they can maybe have an alternative to maybe anti-social behavior that they can get involved in?"

Ms. Curtis said, "Like I said about the extra-curricular, you can join the drill team and color guard and orienteering, community service projects. We did the Old Sedgwick County Fair. We have a military ball in the spring. Every school has their own, out at McConnell, in the ballroom. My school just had a lock-in last Friday at Emmanuel Baptist Community Center where we stayed up all night and just play games and played basketball and racquet ball and we do all sorts of things, before and after school, community-service things."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, that's just fantastic. And I echo what Tom says, I just applaud you for it. I think that's a fantastic program for young people. Thank you."

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I think it's a great program and anything that has to do with youth leadership I'm very supportive of. I am mesmerized by the amount of medals and ribbons you have. Tell me what some of those are? That's awesome."

Ms. Curtis said, "Perfect attendance is a couple of my ribbons. I received this at our last city award's ceremony and this is for superior cadet. This gold one down here that you can't see is for individual drill-down, which is kind of like a 'Simon says' game with drill command and the last four people out at our drill meets receive medals. This is my color guard and this is for drill team."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And you can stand up straight with all that hardware on there."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Well, she will, at the ceremony next Friday, she will be directing the movement of 1,300 cadets will move on her command."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Why don't you, for the public, tell us what that event is Friday, what time it is. I assume the general public is invited."

Mr. Hester said, "Absolutely, sir. It's our Veterans' Day ceremony. It's the largest ceremony in the city. We're conducting it at Century II in the convention hall. It's on Friday, starts at 10 in the morning. It lasts for about an hour and ten minutes. Colonel Ladinier, the 22nd Air Refueling Wing and McConnell Air Base Commander is our keynote speaker at that ceremony. And it is our only opportunity that we have each year where we bring all the cadets together at one time for one event."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But 10:00, this Friday morning, at Century II."

Mr. Hester said, "Correct."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Great."

Mr. Hester said, "And everybody is cordially invited to attend."

Chair McGinn said, "Well, thank you for being here today and I look forward to the events on Friday. Thank you."

Clerk, call the next item."

CITIZEN INQUIRY

B. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING FLOODING IN HUCKLEBERRY ESTATES ADDITION.

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioners, we offer a time for citizens to come forward and visit with the Board of County Commissioners and today we have Joan Heffington, President of Heffington

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Homes, Incorporated. Good Morning.”

Ms. Joan Heffington, President, Heffington Homes, Inc., greeted the Commissioners and said, “That’s a tough act to follow. I just want to say that it’s quite a coincidence I should follow her. I was one of the first four women in the Air Force Junior ROTC at Derby Senior High in 1973. I was a member of the color guard and I did carry the American flag. It’s a good program.

I’m a resident of the Huckleberry Estates Addition in Derby, currently in Sedgwick County. I’m here on behalf of Huckleberry residents to address the Sedgwick County Commission in regard to proper drainage needed in our area, specifically the drainage in question concerns lots 5 through 10, block D, as shown on page 1 of the plat that you have.

Huckleberry Estates was developed in 1989 by Bill Lusk Junior, currently of Lusk Communities. However, these five lots could not be sold because the ground was too hard and they could not pass a soil percolation test. In order to make them sellable, they had to be connected to the Derby City Sewer. The rest of us are on septic systems and this was completed in April of 1999. I purchased lot 9 at that time and began construction of a home there. It was completed in October of 1999 and listed for sale. In November of 1999, a custom home was started on lot 10 by another area builder. In late February of 2000, it rained several inches and severe flooding occurred in the backyard of the house I built on lot 9. Prior to this time, I had not experienced any drainage concerns.

If you’ll notice in the pictures, the water was approximately 150 feet long, 20 to 25 feet wide and up to 2 feet deep and sat for nearly 3 months, making the home I built very difficult to sell. When it rained again in June, the same flooding occurred and also sat for several weeks. It was there long enough for a mother duck and her babies to make it their home.

After talking with two different inspectors, I learned that the only drainage plan for the Huckleberry Estates area is a topographical map and this is on page two of the handout, showing directional arrows for drainage, which is very vague. The plan tells the builder nothing, in regard to how drainage should be achieved on these lots. According to the plat for the Heavener’s First Subdivision, to the east of Huckleberry, and this is on page 3, this area was developed 10 years before the Huckleberry Addition, there is a floodway indicated on the west side of this subdivision and just east of lots 5 through 10 in Huckleberry Estates. It was mentioned by a Derby city inspector that because of this floodway, there should have been a drainage easement noted off the back of lots 5 through 10, block D so that home construction would not occur within it.

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Any such easement was omitted by the survey company. The drainage plans for Huckleberry were signed off by the developer, the survey company and the county and the builder of the house on lot 10 unknowingly built on a natural flow of drainage to the south. This resulted in the severe flooding of the backyard of lot 9. Several times in March and April I notified the developer, Bill Lusk Junior and the other builder, Bob Cook, to bring in fill dirt for the backyard of lot 9, as a proposed temporary solution and to install a catch basin between lots 9 and 10, which two inspectors told me would take care of the drainage in heavy rains. My requests were ignored and I eventually brought in fill dirt myself. I still had a concern that merely filling in the backyard with dirt would prevent any more problems on my lot and was told by a county inspector in July that the house I built should be up high enough that there shouldn't be a problem.

Upon selling this house in late September of 2000, I was told by an inspector that the fill dirt might work and to advise the owners that it was necessary to maintain a sloping grade in the backyard to allow water to continue to flow to the south, across the back, as indicated on the topographical map.

In early December 2000, the homeowners, Mr. And Mrs. Grandsoult, called me to ask if I was aware of a substantial amount of standing water on a second tier of ground, higher up in their backyard beyond the wooded tree line. They told me it smelt like rotten eggs and I contacted the health department to confirm that it wasn't sewage. I met with a third inspector, this time of water quality for the Sedgwick County Environmental Health Division, Rachelle Meyers, who confirmed that a natural spring is bubbling up in four places behind lot 8, causing a considerable amount of standing water all along the backs of lots 8, 9 and 10 on the second tier of ground. She stated that it did not seem a real concern at that time, but due to recent construction of a home on lot 8, it was also her opinion that, in a heavy rain, the backyard of lot 9 was now the low spot and all of the water would go right to it.

Standing water on the berm, moving slowly to the south, has since been identified by a professional engineer drainage expert and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers as a wetland. Since they both observed the stream in July of this year, in 105 degree temperature. It remains the opinion of three inspectors and three drainage experts that a six inch rain will cause property flooding for all of these lots and that the basement of the home that I built on lot 9 will flood.

The builders of the homes on lots 8 and 10 have cut swales on either side of these lots to try to get them to drain from the back to the front ditches. According to the photos, however, this is not possible on lot 9 since the elevations are basically the same in the back and front, so the water will not flow forward. To add addition fill similar to lots 8 and 10 will cause a number of twenty to forty-year-old trees on lot 9 to die and thereby devalue the property. The only proper fix is, and

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always has been, one or more catch basins at the rear of the lot with excavation under the road, into the pond in front.

The approximate cost I was quoted was \$40,000 to \$60,000 and a civil engineer is needed to determine the most effective placement. The only significant rain we've had this year was approximately two inches in March and the photographs on page 9 reveal that severe flooding on lot 9 continues. The problem has escalated further, because the same builder on lot 10 added addition fill on lot 8, causing the backyard of lot 9 to have a bowl effect described in the drainage report of John Glickstaff of Sequoia Engineering. He and Lance Johnson, of the Puridian in Lawrence, Kansas both agree that a drainage easement should have been indicated on the east side of lots six through ten, to accommodate the natural flow of drainage.

Having this in mind, we do not want to wait and see what happens when it rains six inches and the water comes crashing through the basement windows of the Grandsoult's home on lot 9, with their two children sleeping in the basement. I believe it is the developer's responsibility to provide adequate drainage in an area, prior to homes being built and for builders to build accordingly, so that water is allowed to drain properly. I tried for years to get the survey company, the developer and the builder to accept their responsibility in this matter and my requests were ignored. We were forced to file a lawsuit in March. However, I learned recently that even if we do win they will not give us any money to repair the drainage because I no longer own the property."

Chair McGinn said, "Ms. Heffington, how much more time do you need?"

Ms. Heffington said, "Almost done?"

Chair McGinn said, "Okay."

Ms. Heffington said, "Lots six, seven, eight and nine continue to flood and I'm requesting, on behalf of these residents, that the Sedgwick County Commission approve repair of this drainage problem and that the costs associated with the installation of proper drainage are paid for by some other means, as opposed to special assessment tax imposed on homeowners. We do not feel that a special assessment tax for a lack of proper drainage should be the responsibility of Huckleberry residents, since the drainage plan and all easements were deemed satisfactory by James Weber, Director of Sedgwick County Bureau of Public Services in 1989. We ask for your approval of the drainage repair as soon as possible. Mr. Grandsoult is facing a possible layoff situation at Boeing in January and will be unable to sell his home, due to the continued flooding."

Chair McGinn said, "Okay, thank you. I guess I'd like to have David Spears speak to this issue, but Commissioner Sciortino, this is in your district I believe."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, I think . . . this is the first I’m hearing of this. I’m sorry, were you asking me a question?”

Chair McGinn said, “You were getting ready to speak and I didn’t want to interrupt you.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. Well, this is the first I’ve heard of this but what I’d like to do is just to ask David if you could maybe . . . have you ever met with these folks yourself, here on this?”

Mr. David C. Spears, County Engineer/ Director, Division of Public Works, said, “I personally have not. I think, haven’t I visited with you over the phone and you’ve talked with Mr. Weber?”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, why don’t maybe you get together with these folks and maybe come back in a couple of weeks to us and let us know what you’ve found out and what possible remedies are appropriate and what have you and give us some idea or some direction of what, if anything, we can do to assist this citizen.”

Mr. Spears said, “We’d be glad to, sir.”

Chair McGinn said, “Thank you for being here today. Clerk, call the next item please.”

PUBLIC HEARING

C. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING SEDGWICK COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND 2002 ANNUAL PLAN.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Brad Snapp, Housing Director, Housing Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is a presentation of the Sedgwick County Housing Authority 2002 Plan. This is something that HUD requires that we do every year. Required to have it on display or open for review at our office. It’s been there for 45 days. It’s been on our website as well. After I review this plan, I’d like to open it up for public hearing if there’s anybody that has comments. If they do have comments, we’ll amend the plan if it’s a reasonable comment.”

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As you know, our jurisdiction is Sedgwick, Butler and Harvey counties, outside the city limits of Wichita. We have 318 housing choice vouchers. The majority of our clients are extremely low income families with an income for a family of four has an income nearly \$18,000 a year. That would be the best-case scenario.

We reached our high, October 1 was 97% utilization rate and we currently have 188 people on the waiting list. I'd just like to acknowledge my staff briefly. We only have two people, basically, that do the housing authority and they work very hard to keep this in compliance and keep our numbers up.

Our goals are to increase affordable housing, have landlord outreach and education, leverage additional dollars to further the program and increase housing quality. We will apply for additional vouchers in 2002 and part of that, there's a program called Mainstream that deals primarily with people with disabilities. There is a tremendous need in our area for housing assistance for people with disabilities and what we've tried to do is increase our network to utilize all the available resources in our community. So, we've partnered, unofficially, with Breakthrough Club who serves people with mental disabilities, COMCARE's Center City, Mennonite Housing and Mid-cap Inc. in El Dorado. Most of these have temporary rental assistance programs, so we have developed a relationship that we refer people back and forth, essentially, to the best and most available level of assistance.

As far as landlord outreach goes, it's essential for the program's vitality. If we don't have the landlords in the Section 8 rental program, which we don't operate any housing, the vouchers go to people, they go out and seek the housing from the landlords. Not all landlords accept people with Section 8 vouchers. Our best, probably, marketing is landlord to landlord so that if we have landlords that are happy with the program, that's our best affect. We also market through community events, city celebrations, fairs, professional organizations and will include fair-housing information with all of our contacts with landlords.

We can apply for additional dollars through the Housing Authority. We applied to the Federal Home Loan Bank for the Neighborhood Builder program. So far, 13 families in Sedgwick County have become homeowners and most of those are very low income buyers. We had one of our Section 8 clients buy a home and our \$100,000 grant for our next year is still pending. We'll probably hear about that in December.

All of our . . . HUD allows us 15 days to reply or schedule housing-quality inspection after we

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receive a request for tenancy. We do that much quicker. We respond within five days and usually it's sooner than that and all of us at the Housing Authority are certified inspectors. That's certified HQS inspectors.

Eligibility is first income. Extremely low income is our primary target and then people with criminal convictions for drug related or violent behavior within fewer than three years old are not eligible for the program. Also, people who might be listed on the Kansas Sexual Offender list are not eligible either.

We have two preferences, victims of domestic violence and they have to be referred to us from a shelter. The incident has to be fewer than 60 days old and it has to be stated at the time they apply and the same with persons with disabilities. It has to be a verifiable disability. Sometimes we feel awkward asking that but it's just required by HUD. It has to be verified by a licensed physician.

The plan includes our payment standards and these are reviewed annually. Not necessarily tested annually but certainly reviewed. Studio to two-bedroom units are 110% of the fair market rents and three-bedrooms and above are 100%. The 110% are to enable and encourage people to find property or housing outside of high-poverty concentrations.

We have a tenant advisory board and this board helped us with this plan. Their comments were they were unsure what landlord responsibilities are because they wanted some in depth training, so we're going to try to do that next year. Have one session at least that tells what the responsibilities are, both of the landlord and the tenant. Then they commented about the need for weatherization and SCKEED has a weatherization program that landlords can use but the landlord has to agree not to raise the rent for a year because of improvements. So, they'll put a weather door . . . test the whole house. They'll add insulation, all sorts of things to make it better for the landlord and, ultimately, better for the tenant with the utility bills. And then, in some areas, they wanted to start a neighborhood watch program. So, we can assist minimally with that. We can certainly call community police if it's in Sedgwick County. The Sheriff's Office if it's in Butler or Harvey County we can work with their law enforcement and kind of be the facilitator and not have a real hands-on approach but just help out.

If you have any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them at this time and if you want to open it up for public comment, this is the time to do that."

Chair McGinn said, "Brad, first I have a question about how many houses do we have and can we

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increase that amount?”

Mr. Snapp said, “We don’t have any houses. We have housing vouchers. They give us a pot of money and we’re supposed to . . . they say that’s for 318 vouchers and yes, we can increase that, only by applying for more as they become available next year.”

Chair McGinn said, “So, if you have 318 vouchers, that’s means you could potentially have 318 rental units or something. Okay, thanks. Commissioner Gwin.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Thank you. Brad, one of your targeted populations are those people who are involved in domestic violence problems, I think the screen said. And you indicated that those come to you through shelter referrals. Are there other ways that some of those folks would come to you other than that? I mean, I guess my question is there are some who maybe don’t vacate the home but should if they had some place to go. So, is there another referral source, WPD or anybody else that you could work with or the County Sheriff’s Office?”

Mr. Snapp said, “We had it kind of on an open basis this year and the problem that we were dealing with and running into is that people would get back together. Which is not a bad thing necessarily, but in a domestic violence situation, it has a tendency to reoccur. If they got housing assistance quicker, because that was our preference, they were on a place higher on our waiting list because of their situation, what we wanted to guard against is that they don’t allow the offender or the abuser to come back in the home and essentially keep the problem going. If they were going through a shelter, if they were referred to a shelter, usually a shelter will have a case-worker associated with that person and they have a plan to follow and that’s why we put it that way.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Okay. The other issue, then, as you indicated with the waiting list is to get more landlords who will participate in the program. Does the plan specify some ways that you’re going to be able to go out and that you expect to go out and be able to recruit more property owners to this program?”

Mr. Snapp said, “The way we would do that is work with rental associations, professional organizations where landlords gather through referrals, try to keep the landlords we work with happy and then, just community events. Just try to get the word out that way. It’s a difficult process because of the stigma associated with Section 8 but we try to overcome that with tenant

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screening.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Well, is this program not . . . isn’t it one where both the landlord and the tenant have to accept one another? Is that part of this that if I’m a property owner and a prospective tenant comes to me, I may accept or reject that tenant and he or she may accept or reject me and the home or the property that I’m offering. Is that correct?”

Mr. Snapp said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “As a property owner, then, if there’s some of them out there, what advantages are there to a property owner to be a part of this kind of program?”

Mr. Snapp said, “Stable rent is probably the primary and again we do screen people for the background checks. We also try to our best to keep track of them, during their tenancy, that if they do become involved in some sort of crime, then we can terminate their assistance that way. So, we try our best to provide them with a stable tenant. We continue to have trouble with communicating to the landlords is that this tenant, it’s their tenant. We provide the assistance. It’s their job to really police that tenant, make sure they’re keeping their house maintained, not destroying things inside.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Right and I think that would be one of the concerns, obviously. These are for properties outside the City of Wichita.”

Mr. Snapp said, “Primarily. I’m sorry for interrupting. I say primarily, because if someone who lives in our jurisdiction currently gets a voucher, they can become portable. They can take that voucher anywhere they want in the country that has a Section 8 program. If they live, say in Wichita, and they apply to our program they have to live in our jurisdiction for a year before they can take that voucher out. So, it could, essentially a portable to the City of Wichita.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Depending on their residency and those kinds of things. Okay, all right. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.”

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thanks. Brad, what would you say . . . well, first of all, I wanted to ask you again, just to get clarification because I think the Chairman touched upon it and so did Betsy. How many units presently are in the program?”

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Mr. Snapp said, “We have 318 vouchers. We don’t have property ourselves.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “No, no, no. You have 318 vouchers. Are there 318 rental units that the landlords have agreed to be part of the program?”

Mr. Snapp said, “We don’t have a pool that we say we have 318. They just have to go out and find them. We give them a list to start with.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Ninety-seven percent utilized right now, which means it’s almost full capacity.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. Then let me ask a different question. What’s the biggest challenge right now that you’re facing to implement the plan?”

Mr. Snapp said, “Having landlords.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. If we had more landlords, could we get more vouchers?”

Mr. Snapp said, “Not necessarily but we do need the landlords so that they could just go out . . . Okay, here’s part of the problem. We issue a voucher for sixty days and a person has that long to find a place. So, if we had more landlords who are readily available to put on a list and we could say, ‘go to that person’ and they could find that within 60 days. We can give extensions, we can give up to two extensions but they have to be extenuating circumstances that prevented that person. It can’t be just because they waited until two weeks before.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “So, if I’m hearing it right, it would be nice if we had 636 units so that when you got a voucher, an individual could have a freedom of choice and maybe they’d have two or three houses they could look at and then they could decide which one they want and that would make it easier for the person and for us to get . . .”

Mr. Snapp said, “It would be great to just have that pool.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you very much. That’s all I have.”

Chair McGinn said, “I’m going to open up for public comment. If there is anyone here that would like to speak to this issue, please come forward. Anyone here today? Seeing none, I will close the public comment. Commissioners, what’s the will of the Board on this item?”

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MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Plans and authorize the Chair to sign associated certifications.

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, "Next item."

NEW BUSINESS

D. REVISED SEDGWICK COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN.

Mr. Snapp said, "Commissioners, this plan is the policy document that carries out the plan that I just was talking about. It established the local policy to operate the Housing Authority in accordance with HUD Section 8 requirements and this plan is revised as necessary. I think the last revision was probably in the early '90s.

This plan naturally dovetails with the annual plan, including tenant screening and eligibility, wait list management, preferences, landlord outreach and payment standards. Applications are taken two times each month at our office and one time per month at Newton and El Dorado. The wait list will close when it has 250 people on the wait list. As I stated just a second ago, vouchers are issued for 60 days and extensions can be made if the family has physical disabilities, if there's an extended hospitalization, if there's some sort of family emergency that prevented them from looking. We may be able to grant an extension under those circumstances. We can terminate their assistance if a tenant violates or fails to comply with PHA requirements, violates repayment agreement for damages, violates terms of the Kansas Landlord/ Tenant Act, or if the family commits a felony.

We have a hardship waiver of minimum rent. Minimum rent is \$25. If someone has some sort of a

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long-term hardship, long-term is 90 days or more, that would prevent them from paying that rent, they could be granted a waiver. Those are kind of the high points. Those are the revisions that were placed in the plan. If you have any questions I can answer those.”

Chair McGinn said, “Thank you, Brad. Commissioners, are there any questions for Brad on this? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the revised Plan 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, Brad. Next item.”

E. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1. CONTRACT AMENDING THE CONTRACT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES THAT ESTABLISHED A PARTICIPATING MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.

Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This first item is simply some technical adjustments that needed to be made to our participating mental health center contract. I’d be glad to answer any questions. I would recommend your approval.”

MOTION

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Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Contract 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.”

2. PRESENTATION OF SEDGWICK COUNTY GRANT AWARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2002 COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION FUNDING.

Ms. Donaldson said, “Commissioners, I would like to recommend that we defer this item for two weeks, as we would like to provide some additional information to the Board of County Commissioners.”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to defer this item for two weeks.

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, "Thank you. Next item."

3. AUTHORIZATION FOR KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING TO RELEASE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Kansas Department on Aging forwarded additional funds to the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging on the 25th of September, three days prior to the end of the fiscal year. Because of the late notice that we had received this additional funding, we were unable to complete the paperwork and get that through the County system to get those funds put into that administrative budget. Therefore, we were unable to expend the additional funding."

The funding was \$147 for administration funds. That funding was connected to \$2,590 of service dollars. Because we weren't able to spend the administrative funds, they also had to take back the service dollars. Those were additional funds. They were not serving current clients. Therefore there will not be any impact to the service provision for our current clients. So, what we would request today is the approval of the affidavit for the Kansas Department on Aging to return these federal funds. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chair McGinn said, "Thank you, Annette. Are there any questions for Annette on this item? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Authorization to Release Funds 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

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

F. AGREEMENT WITH ELITE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES AT KANSAS COLISEUM.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We'd like to defer this item for two weeks."

Chair McGinn said, "Okay. Do I have a motion to defer?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to defer this item for two weeks.

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."

G. INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FORMAT PROVIDING ACCESS TO SEDGWICK COUNTY TREASURER'S ON-LINE MOTOR VEHICLE TAX ESTIMATOR APPLICATION.

Ms. Jan Kennedy, Treasurer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have a kind of exciting item for today. What you have before you is an interlocal agreement that is in blank to be used between us and any other county in Kansas who would like access to our web-based program to estimate motor vehicle tag and taxes. We're very proud of it. As you know, it won a NACo award. Many of the other counties are also interested in providing that for their citizens. So we've worked with

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DIO to come up with a way that we can actually provide that to every citizen in Kansas.

There is an initial sign-up fee that goes directly to DIO. After that, there will be an annual renewal fee that, at the moment, I've based on the size of the county, and I believe you have that in your backup, so that the little bitty counties don't pay very much and the bigger counties pay a little more and I'm hoping it comes out revenue absolute even. If not, I'll have to adjust it. The idea is to not have it cost Sedgwick County anything or Sedgwick County citizens anything but to be able to, as inexpensively as possible, put it out there for every citizen in the State. I think it's a really neat deal.

The objective of you having the interlocal agreement is to be able to approve the contract as it is and then, as we have individual counties sign up, since I have a whole list of ones that are interested, then I will put those back through to you for signature, but on the consent agenda, rather than taking the Board's time with each individual contract. So, that's the preferred solution and it would be my recommendation that you approve this agreement."

Chair McGinn said, "Jan, so you've had other counties that have seen it and they were very interested and wanted that. And so, I was looking at how you did adjust the fees. And so are you going to kind of review that in a year? You said you wanted to."

Ms. Kennedy said, "There is an initial sign-up fee and that is the costs that DIO estimates that it's going to take for them to set up the links and get the pages set up. So, I'm not asking the counties to pay anything until next July and then that will be an annual fee. I have an agreement with DIO. They will be billing me quarterly, so I'll be able to adjust it, even as I go, if it takes a lot more time than they're estimating."

Chair McGinn said, "Okay. All right. Thank you."

Ms. Kennedy said, "We've never done this so we hope we're close to right on our estimate."

Chair McGinn said, "Great. Well, it looks like a great way to share what we've done with our other counties. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Just one question of Rich Euson, if I could. Rich, has your department looked at the agreement and you're comfortable that all the 'i's are dotted and the 't's are crossed and it's a proper agreement that we can enter into?"

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, said, "Yes, we have looked at it and we are comfortable with

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it.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. That’s all I had.”

Ms. Kennedy said, “My copy is signed by the legal department.”

Chair McGinn said, “Okay, thank you Jan. Commissioners, are there any other questions of Ms. Kennedy? If not, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Agreement format.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

Chair McGinn said, “Is there any other discussion?”

Commissioner Winters said, “Yes. Just very quickly, the timing might be great too. The Kansas Association of Counties are meeting here in just a couple of weeks and so I’m sure this will be something you’ll be proud to show your work and Sedgwick County’s work and so the timings may be right on that account.”

Ms. Kennedy said, “That would be great.”

Commissioner Winters said, “That’s all I had.”

Chair McGinn said, “Thank you, Commissioner Winters. Clerk, call the vote.”

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, Jan. Next item.”

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H. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2001.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The following items presented today for consideration are a result of the regular meeting held on November 1st, 2001.

**1) ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION UNIT- FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

The first item, animal transportation unit for Fleet Management. Recommend the low bid meeting specifications from Mavron Incorporated for \$11,153.

**2) IP PHONES- COUNTY CLERK
FUNDING: COUNTY CLERK**

Item two, IP phones for the County Clerk. Recommend the quote from Southwestern Bell SBC of \$11,919.

**3) MS WINDOWS XP UPGRADES- DISTRICT COURT
FUNDING: COURT TRUSTEE OPERATIONS**

Item three, Microsoft Windows XP upgrades for the District Court. Recommend the quote from Software Spectrum for \$31,320.

**4) WEBSHERE ENTERPRISE EDITION- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS
FUNDING: DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS**

Item four, Websphere Enterprise Edition for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommend the quote from Business Computer Center for \$17,064.

**5) NOKIA FIREWALL SERVER- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS
FUNDING: DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY**

Item five, Nokia firewall server for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommend the quote from Fishnet Security of \$21,455.

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**6) INTERNET SERVICES- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS
FUNDING: DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS**

And item six, internet services for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommend the proposal from Sprint for \$18,093 per month.

You have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. If not, I recommend approval of these items as presented today."

Chair McGinn said, "Iris, could you just give me some information on these IP phones for the County Clerk. I mean, what are we doing? Are we needing something different there?"

Ms. Baker said, "No we're not, it's the same standard, voice-over IP system that we're putting in throughout the County."

Chair McGinn said, "And the Nokia firewall server, this will become our main firewall?"

Ms. Baker said, "Yes, and the current one that we have will be used for testing purposes."

Chair McGinn said, "So, when we're trying to see if something can get through, we abuse the old one then."

Ms. Baker said, "Yes."

Chair McGinn said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, are there any other questions for Iris? If not, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Norton 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.

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, Iris. Next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

I. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Easements.

- a. Two Easements for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project No. 805-I, J, K, L; 119th Street West between 21st Street North and 53rd Street North. CIP# R-264. Districts #3 and #4.
- b. One Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project No. 833-I, J, N ½ K; Webb Road between the north Wichita city limits and K-254. CIP# R-238. District #1.
- c. Public Utility Easement for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

2. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V010151	\$324.00	Odle Rentals
V010158	\$330.00	Darrell Lydick

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

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
------------------------	-------------------	-------------------

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V20140	\$516.00	\$508.00
V99079	\$419.00	\$432.00
V99086	\$245.00	\$235.00
V20138	\$277.00	\$312.00
V20137	\$182.00	\$191.00
V97067	\$289.00	\$257.00
V99082	\$479.00	\$448.00
V200103	\$326.00	\$316.00
V99085	\$600.00	\$600.00
V94012	\$605.00	\$350.00
V01098	\$300.00	\$272.00
V01076	\$397.00	\$330.00
V01066	\$495.00	\$332.00
V01063	\$420.00	\$284.00
V2045	\$159.00	\$256.00
V010135	\$162.00	\$57.00
V01055	\$353.00	\$535.00

4. Plat.

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2000 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Woodhaven Addition

5. Applications for License to Retail Cereal Malt Beverages.

Applicant Name

Business Name

Hilton King

J. V. Diamond, Inc.

Kevin Eastman

D'Mario's Pizza/Cheney Lanes, Inc.

6. Authorization per K.S.A. 79-2012 to withhold delinquent personal property taxes under the County Treasurer's certification dated October 30, 2001.

7. Order dated October 31, 2001 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.

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- 8. Payroll Check Registers (two) for October 26 and October 31, 2001.**
- 9. General Bills Check Register of November 2, 2001.**
- 10. Budget Adjustment Requests.**

Mr. Buchanan, said, “You have the Consent Agenda before you and I would recommend that you approve it.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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, “Do we have other business to come before the Board?”

J. OTHER

Commissioner Norton said, “I have quite a few today. The first one, I saw Kathy Sexton here. I just wanted to comment on the Old Courthouse landscaping. It’s coming along very well. It’s starting to really look nice and I’m real excited to see what that’s going to look like when it’s totally finished but I noticed they’ve got plantings in, sodding in. With the trees removed, it’s remarkable how different the Old Courthouse looks right now.”

Chair McGinn said, “While you’re on that one, are we putting the statutes up today?”

Commissioner Norton said, “Is it today?”

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Commissioner Gwin said, "I want to talk about that too."

Commissioner Norton said, "I'll let you talk about that one. I happened to go to a KAC leadership training last Friday and it was a great leadership supervision training. It seems like, as much leadership as I've had over the years, training, you always learn something new and it was really interesting that I got to visit with county commissioners from 13 different counties around the state and I know we've been active in the KAC but this gives you kind of some up close and personal chance to visit with people and understand their issues. Counties that have 3,000 population up to Sedgwick County and there's a wide variety in difference of leadership skills needed but I thought I'd comment on that.

Last night, I got to go to the McCormick Neighborhood Association. I joined Bill Gale there. The one thing that came out of that is the old McCormick school is kind of in the middle of that. It's the last school from the 1800s built in Wichita that's still surviving. It's a brick building with a bell tower. The architects that put together the original city building which is now the Historical Museum and put together the Friend's bell tower designed this building and it's in disrepair. I don't know where we're going to go with it. But if you ever have a chance to run by McCormick Street, I'm not sure of the exact address, but the old McCormick school, it's a beautiful old building and they're working hard to try to put that into the community and maybe put together a program like Delano did to revitalize their community.

I just got the first edition of the township newsletter and I wanted to thank Irene and communications. Tom and I had gone to a township annual meeting and they had requested some help on communicating to the township officials and people in the township and here's the number one edition that just came out. I think that's wonderful that they put it together. I'd like to give them accolades for that.

The next thing I have is we just got the Communities in Schools Annual Report and I would urge the Commissioners to read through that. We just talked about Juvenile Justice funding yesterday and are they delivering and are the different entities coming through for us and I think this is a good example of good communication to the public but also to us that they are working hard to do a good job. So, just some information.

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Yesterday, we had the chance to go on a tour of the Big Ditch. The Wichita/ Valley Center Floodway, which was originated in the '50s and I think the last time we actually went on a tour was in like '93 and we combined with the City Council yesterday and did a tour of three or four locations along the Big Ditch. I think we can safely say we understand a little more about it but it is being maintained. It didn't look like there was too many problems and we're hopeful that it will continue to be that way for many, many more years because the Big Ditch has supplied us a chance to save, what was it, \$267,000,000 worth of damage over the life, so far, and the chance of saving much more. So, it was kind of . . . it wasn't flat because we were up on a thing, but it was dusty and windy. But we enjoyed our tour of the Big Ditch yesterday and I thank David Spears for putting that together for us."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And the lunch he provided."

Commissioner Norton said, "Never forget the lunch. I did just get a note that we're winding down the United Way campaign for the county but I think it's critical that the citizens out there understand that the United Way is hurting this year and we need everybody to rally. I would challenge my colleagues and the employees of the county to step up and be a great supporter of the United Way this year, because it folds under like we do and supplies services to the community and of course we're in the social services realm. So, a little pitch for the United Way campaign that we're doing here at the county and around the city and the county."

And then, finally, I had my first meeting of our Leadership Academy that I'm trying to form for next year and I had seven great volunteers from the community come in and have dialogue with me so we can start outlining what that's going to look like next year. And hopefully it will be a great program and it will even be better than the JROTC Leadership Program. You get inspired when you see those kinds of things to even do more for young people in their leadership roles in the community.

The last thing I had was I saw where Tom is going to be on a panel that talks about criminal activity and how we solve that. So, I thought Tom, maybe you'd want to comment on that at some point."

Commissioner Winters said, "Tomorrow evening, Wesley Medical Center is hosting at WSU Metroplex they're bringing in a national speaker to talk about Juvenile Justice issues and the conclusion of the formal speaker presentation, there will be about five of us on a panel doing community discussion about how we're dealing and meeting Juvenile Justice issues. So, that's at 7:00 tomorrow evening out at WSU Metroplex if anybody is interested in Juvenile Justice kinds of issues, prevention plans, what we can do better to help our young people. I think this will be a great

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event tomorrow.”

Chair McGinn said, “Great. Glad to have you serving on that. Commissioner Gwin.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Thank you. Just some upcoming things that I think we all need to be aware of. Saturday is the ALARM meeting. They’re going to have it here in the courthouse and I’m planning on attending. I don’t know if the rest of you are but they’re going to be talking, again, to some of our Emergency Management folks and I think it’s a nice time to stop and visit with the folks who represent the small communities in this county.

Then, at 1:00 this afternoon, or that afternoon, Saturday afternoon, is the Veterans’ Day parade and if we can work it out the City and the County will be walking in that parade together. We meant for it to happen that way, but when we got our numbers, our placement in the parade assigned, they were different numbers. So, Council Member Brewer indicates he’s going to work on that and see if we can all . . .”

Commissioner Norton said, “I understand he has a Humm V for us to ride in too.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “I think there’s nothing wrong with that. So, we encourage folks to come out and celebrate the veterans and what their contribution has been and currently is to this country and its history and viability.

On the 11th of November, which coincidentally happens to be my birthday, I’m going to be celebrating my birthday at the rededication of the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument rededication ceremony. It’s on the south lawn of the old courthouse, I think from 2:45 to 4. So, I think several of us got to see the bronzes redone and repaired and, as Tim mentioned, the old courthouse is all getting shined up and pretty. The landscape has been corrected over there so that you actually can see the monument now. So, I encourage folks to come and celebrate that rededication. It’s a very special piece of public art.

And then, as a reminder, like Kristi said, on Monday, November the 12th, we celebrate Veterans’ Day, the holiday and the courthouse will be closed. So, we’ll take a little rest that day. That’s the only thing I have.”

Chair McGinn said, “Well, we worked very hard to make sure that that dedication was on your birthday.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Exactly, and I appreciate that ordinarily my birthday is also a county holiday. So, it works out nice for me.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “That’s not fair. My birthday is on a regular county meeting. Can’t we just make that a holiday?”

Chair McGinn said, “Sorry. Nope.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “But we’ll celebrate your birthday.”

Commissioner Norton said, “So noted, Ben.”

Chair McGinn said, “Commissioners, I’d just like to share where I went Saturday. I went to the Doris Kerr-Larkins luncheon for the Kansas African-American Museum. Two of my colleagues were there as well. This is my third year and it’s just been a wonderful event, because you learn more about some of your community leaders, your community volunteers. They have a small awards ceremony and then they always bring in a wonderful speaker. This year the speaker was Carol Mosley-Brahn. She did an excellent job and I enjoyed it very much. But I’d just like to share, on the awards side, Billy McCray was one of the award recipients and he has been a house of representatives, a county commissioner and a state senator. So, we all know of many of the things that he’s done and he writes books now and he continues to stay involved in our community. He’s with the SCORE group, which is a bunch of retired business people that help other people that are in businesses today. Wilma Douglas-Turner, she’s been a life-long community volunteer and activist and what I thought was interesting there, she became the first African-American to receive a nursing degree from Melharri Medical College School of Nursing back in 1951. I thought that was very exciting.

The other exciting thing for us, as a county, because I don’t know if the other commissioners had a chance to see this, but Sedgwick County received the Torch Award from the Kansas African American Museum and what that was for was our support of the museum and one of the things I shared was that it’s easy for us to fund and for two reasons. One, Billy McCray, who was one of the award recipients, was one of the first commissioners that really got us involved back then and we’ve continued to grow that support. But the other reason was because, for me and I know for many of you, this museum is very important to us because it’s about the heritage of our community and we want to make sure we continue telling the stories and passing that tradition down and those kinds of things. And this museum is very instrumental in allowing that to happen and so, was very honored to receive this award and going to continue to grow with them because I know they have a vision out there to do more things in our community and be more visible. So, anyway, just wanted to share that with all of you. Is there anything else to come before this Board? With that, we are adjourned.”

K. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CAROLYN McGINN, Chair
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman Pro Tem
Fifth District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2001