

Regular Meeting, Sewer District, March 28, 2001

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF SEWER DISTRICT**

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 28, 2001

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, Sitting as the governing body of the Sewer District, was called to order at 1:44 P.M., on Wednesday, March 28, 2001 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chair Carolyn McGinn; with the following present: Chairman Pro Tem 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. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, February 28, 2001

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of February 28, 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 February 28, 2001.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. OTHER

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioners, we have an Off Agenda item."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to take an Off Agenda item regarding the sale of the sewer district.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chair McGinn said, "Who would like to present this?"

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Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'll certainly be glad to start. Commissioners, before you is a purchase agreement and related documents regarding the County Sewer District. Several weeks ago we gave ourselves home rule authority to be able to sell the assets and liabilities of the Sewer District. The documents before you are a culmination of information that has come out of several meetings, among City staff and County staff, relating to that sale. I think they're in final form as far as the staff is concerned and are presented to you for your approval. I would be happy to give you a summary of them or entertain questions, as you wish."

Chair McGinn said, "Let's start with a question. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "My only question, I guess, is why are we taking this up Off Agenda today? I've been supportive in the past and will be supportive and going to vote yes when we do this. I just always like to have this stuff on our regular agenda. The press and others see it is on there and, if there are questions or comments, it's there. I'd want to postpone this."

Mr. William Buchanan, County Manager, said, "Commissioner, I'd be happy to attempt to answer that. When we started talking about this after the first of the year, we realized it was going to have political support and we were going to go through with this deal. There were several dates that were important to accomplish it. April 1st is one that makes since to transfer the employees, to transfer the accounts, to clean up the businesses on both ends, from both the City side and the County side. The employees have been notified and we were shooting for the April 1st date and that is why we are here.

"If necessary, and it wouldn't be a fatal flaw, we could hold it off for two weeks and make arrangements for those employees to still be transferred and work on some convoluted way in which we make sure that payments would be made. This is a way to wrap it up. Mr. Norton, not to cast dispersion, wanted to make sure and review this, not Commissioner Norton, but the bond attorney, did take some time to review the documents which took a little longer than expected."

Chair McGinn said, "Well, it has been a long day and you've probably answered this already. First I saw this was this morning."

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Commissioner Gwin said, "The only reason, and I appreciate the concern you all have about this coming up at this late hour, because I do too, but the only reason that I would support going ahead and considering it and taking action as recommended is so that the employees of the Sewer District can either move on and some of them are taking new jobs. It is for the employees to finally understand that this is the way it is and now they need to make whatever adjustments they need to make. We've talked openly about the sale, discussed it at a public meeting. We took a vote at a public meeting. This, in my opinion, is what was described as the technical aspect of the sale. I don't know that this changes, in any way shape or form, the kinds of things that we approved when we approved that. The City is still paying a certain amount of money and we're still retaining the monies to return to the folks out there to help apply to their specials. I too am concerned about the lateness of the receipt of this but I think we ought to just go ahead and take action on this, based upon that this is the legal culmination of a previously public discussion and previous public vote. I could support it today, because I think we owe it to the employees."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the sale and authorize the Chair to sign the bill of sale, purchase agreement, special warranty deed, and assignments of easements and rights-of-way.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chair McGinn said, "Is there any other business to be brought before this Board? Hearing none, we're adjourned."

B. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

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

CAROLYN McGINN, Chair
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman Pro Tem
Fifth District

BETSY GWIN, Commissioner
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2001

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