

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

January 9, 2002

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, January 9, 2002 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. Don Brace, County Clerk; Ms. Judy Addison, Director of Outpatient and Addiction Services, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); 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

Mr. U.L. 'Rip' Gooch, Chairman, South Central Kansas Delegation.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Master Kien Nguyet.

Chair McGinn said, "Thank you all for being here today and offering prayer. For those viewing today, you are from the Buddhist community, correct? Thank you again."

Commissioner Norton said, "Madam Chair, I would like just a little interpretation, just so I understand. Can we get that, what the music was about and the prayer was about?"

Master Nguyet said, "This chanting is to bring harmony to our community. It's like loving chanting."

Commissioner Norton said, "Is it chanting, or are there words too?"

Master Nguyet said, "It's Buddhist prama, yes. So we chant the prama."

Commissioner Norton said, "Wonderful. Thank you."

Chair McGinn said, "Clerk, call the next item please."

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, December 12, 2001
Regular Sewer Meeting, November 28, 2001

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2001 and the Regular Sewer Meeting of November 28, 2001.

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2001 and the Regular Sewer Meeting of November 28, 2001.

Commissioner Winters 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, "Next item please."

AWARD

A. PRESENTATION OF THE 2001 CHAIR'S AWARD.

Chair McGinn said, "Good morning, Commissioners. It's that time of year. This is one of the more gratifying jobs of the Chair of the Commissioners to get to identify recipients of the annual Chair's award.

This award was developed in 1988 by Chairman Mark Schroeder as a way to recognize groups and individuals that make a difference, through their service to Sedgwick County and our community. Some of the past recipients have included: the Sedgwick County Zoological Society, the Sedgwick County Fair Association, the Physical and Mental Disabilities Advisory Board, Dick and Bill

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DeVore Foundation, the Sedgwick County Solid Waste Committee and last year, Team Justice, the Sedgwick County Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board.

Many people have the misconception that Sedgwick County only serves those people who live in rural areas of the County or in the smaller cities in Sedgwick County. Quite the contrary, Sedgwick County provides services for all citizens within Sedgwick County, whether they live in Wichita, Derby, Haysville, Cheney or the unincorporated areas of the community.

In trying to define this award, you could say this award is given to those who help the Chair do their job in the past year. So, if I was to name the Commissioners and give this award to them, they would be quite deserving, because each and every one of you helped me through this past year in one way or another, through advice, through your opinions I sometimes chose to take and sometimes I didn't and also our staff, Jama and Lisa. But you're not going to get the award.

If you're also to define it as staff who helps Commissioners get through their year, I would have to also name Sedgwick County Communications Department. They did a great deal of work for me and helped me, as I had to go to many functions. So, I want to say thank you to them as well.

One of the projects that I was interested in and have been working on, since I became a Commissioner, is the whole idea of revitalizing core neighborhoods. Last year, the Commission developed a new function in the Division of Community Development for Neighborhood Economic Development and, as one of the first projects of this area, I asked that we focus on the development efforts in McAdams neighborhood area, one of our oldest and historic neighborhoods in Wichita. Unfortunately, this area has seen neighborhood businesses leave the area and the need for housing improvements. In working with Sherdeil Breathett, our Neighborhood Economic Development Specialist, I encouraged him to look for ways we could partner with others to make a difference in this neighborhood. Never underestimate the power of a group working together to make a significant difference.

This year, I am pleased to present the 2001 Chair's award to the McAdams Neighborhood Economic Development Coalition. This coalition is made up of a number of individuals and organizations who have worked together to make improvements in the McAdams area. At this time, I would like for the individuals to come forward, after I call your name. And please come back here. Hannah McCann, Habitat for Humanity; Dave Wood and Lori Usher, Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce; Paula Gibbons, Century 2000; Reverend Keith Spencer, Ninth Street/

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Phyllis Wheatley Association; Dave Barber, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Roy Johnson, City of Wichita Housing Department; James Arbertha, Power CDC; Fran Crowley, McAdams Neighborhood Association; Brad Snapp, Sedgwick County Housing Department and Sherdeill Breathett, Sedgwick County Neighborhood Economic Development.

This is a project that I started towards the end of year 2000 and it really picked up in 2001. This is a project that I felt was much needed in our community. McAdams, as I said, is one of the older neighborhoods but it is one of our most historic neighborhoods and, if you've ever driven down there and you just look around, you can see it come alive as what it once was in the '40s and '50s. We are also finding out that people want to come back to the neighborhood and those that are there want to stay in the neighborhood and those who are there want to stay in the neighborhood and Sedgwick County can't revitalize the neighborhood by themselves. As many of you know, it takes partnerships from all around our community and these are the people who are here today who are going to receive the Chair's award for helping me accomplish a start to greater things in the McAdams area. These are the people that are going to continue this work and see great changes down there as well.

I want to tell you how pleased I am with all the improvements taking place in the McAdams neighborhood and what a difference it makes to the residents who live in the area. We see lots of growth and development on the fringes of our cities. However, it's important that we pay attention to our existing neighborhoods.

On behalf of myself, the Chair, for helping me do a project that I wanted to do, but for the work that you're going to do in the many years to come, I want to say thank you and also, on behalf of Sedgwick County and the Board of County Commissioners, we thank you because you are the people that make our community a better place. Thank you.

Again, I want to say thank you to all of you and I look forward to hearing more of the great things that are going to happen in that community, because I know these are the people that are actively involved and these are the people that make it happen. Thank you.

Clerk, call the next item please."

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RECOGNITION

B. RECOGNITION OF SENATOR U. L. “RIP” GOOCH AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS DELEGATION FOR 2002.

Chair McGinn said, “You can make your way up here, Senator. Each year, we have the privilege and opportunity to work with a different legislator from the area as the Chairman of the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation. At our last meeting in December, we thanked out-going Representative Carlos Mayans and today I am pleased to introduce Senator U.L. ‘Rip’ Gooch as the 2002 Chairman. I don’t know that I’m introducing him, that no one knows him, because I think many, many people in our community knows him because of all the work he’s done throughout the years.

Senator Gooch serves the 29th Senate District in Sedgwick County, which covers most of the northeast and central Wichita area. He was first elected to the senate in 1992 and is currently in his third term. He was involved in government, locally, as a Wichita City Councilman from 1989 to 1992 and also served on the Kansas Commission of Civil Rights from 1971 to 1974. Currently, he is the ranking minority member on both the Committee on Federal and State Affairs and Transportation. He also served on the Committee of Elections of Local Government, Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations and the Joint Committee on Economic Development.

Senator Gooch, I know we will look forward to working with you and other of the members of the delegation this session to help us on issues that impact the citizens of Sedgwick County and I know one of your duties is to organize the Saturday morning meetings, so I think your Saturdays are taken care of. So, we want to say thank you for having those meetings, because they are very important to us, as a commission, as local government but they’re also very important to the citizens of Sedgwick County to have that extra arm and place that we can go to so we don’t have to drive to Topeka to talk to our representatives.

Again, we look forward to working with you this session. We’ve already been warned it’s going to be a challenging session. We’re not going to ask for much but we’re going to play a lot of defense while we’re up there.

Senator, if you’d like to make a few comments and again we want to say thank you.”

Senator U.L. ‘Rip’ Gooch, Chairman, South Central Kansas Delegation, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you very much for inviting me up this morning for an introduction

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and I also thank the legislators of the South Central District, who voted to give me the responsibility of being some what a leader in the delegation for this year. You said it right. We looked at this as being a challenging year, but always we like to think that the reason why we have formed this South Central Delegation is the fact that we want to keep our delegation, who are so close to what's going on in this community, aware of what's going on and keep that as hamonious as part of the thing that we're working on and for that, we look forward for you and the other people of the community to keep us advised also as to the things that you see of importance and we'll do our best to take that challenge, to bring those things to bear at any time that we can. Thank you very much for the introduction."

Chair McGinn said, "Thank you for all that you do and the time you serve and the amount of time you get to spend in Topeka over the next five months. Just want you to know that we appreciate it. Thank you.

All right, Clerk call the next item please."

APPOINTMENT

C. RESOLUTION APPOINTING KEVIN C. CLARK (COMMISSIONER NORTON'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PHYSICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We have prepared a resolution of appointment. This is for a four-year term. And I would recommend that you adopt the resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to Adopt the Resolution.

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

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

Commissioner Norton said, “Kevin is here today to be sworn in.”

Chair McGinn said, “Okay. Please come forward, Kevin.”

Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk, said, “Please raise your right hand and after I have read the oath, please say ‘I do’.

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 Physical and Development Disabilities Advisory Board, so help me God.”

Mr. Kevin C. Clark, Member, Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board, said, “I do.”

Mr. Brace said, “Congratulations.”

Commissioner Norton said, “If I might, Madam Chair, I wanted to reiterate that I’m very happy that Kevin accepted my appointment. I think he’ll bring some wonderful intelligence and life experiences to the board and I think he’s done some work with Sedgwick County before, because I think he helped out on a Habitat house. And I understand that he painted, along with the County Manager. After I observed the County Manager, I think he got more paint on himself than he did on the Habitat house. But Kevin, hopefully you did a much better job than the Manager did. But thank you for taking the appointment. I’m looking forward to a great relationship.”

Mr. Clark said, “Thanks for the opportunity, all of you.”

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

NEW BUSINESS

- D. CONTRACT WITH CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY TO PROVIDE IN-PATIENT AND OUT-PATIENT DRUG TREATMENT FOR CITY OF WICHITA’S MUNICIPAL DRUG COURT PROJECT.**

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Ms. Judy Addison, Director of Outpatient and Addiction Services, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The contract that we have was originally entered into in 1998. We had it . . . it was renewed for two more years, so we’ve had it for three years. During that time, 995 folks have gone through that program.

The idea of it is to reduce the strain our judicial system and also the detention center. It’s a unique program that we’re really excited about, because it really is a collaborative effort between both the County and the City. We work to identify these folks who have drug or alcohol charges that are non-driving offenses. Our average age is between 19 and 22, so we’re able to get folks before they often become dependent on drugs and can affect them at the abuse stage.

Assessments are done and they are put in the appropriate level of care. They are kept in the program a minimum of one year to monitor their progress. They go through educational groups or a pretreatment stage or also the primary and then after-care and life skills group. We also have a counselor who works with these folks to help them with budgets, writing resumes, getting jobs because that is one of the outcomes. The expectation is that they will be employed or in school. It’s a deferred judgment plan, so a lot of folks that come through, we get a lot of students that are caught and if the charges stick with them, then they lose scholarships, they can’t go for grant money, so it’s really in their best interest.

We also have a group that their goal is really not to stop using, but because we do do random U.A. testing throughout the year, they have sometimes some of them relapse or try using drugs and they spend two days, five days, sometimes ten days in jail and when they come out, sometimes that serves as a motivator, in and of itself.

What we’ve found, with some of the folks, and at graduation it’s always rewarding to hear people that started the program not wanting to stop drugs, have benefited from not using, in the fact that they don’t have to stay in dead end jobs or can actually go apply for jobs when they know there’s going to be a U.A. taken and they know now that they can pass it.

We request that you approve the contract and authority the Chair to sign.”

Chair McGinn said, “Commissioners, are there any questions for Judy on this item.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Madam Chair, I only have one. How many young people does this serve? Do you have a caseload?”

Ms. Addison said, “We’ve had 995 go through in the three years. We average anywhere from 300 to 450 at any one time in our program.”

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

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "And these come to COMCARE through arrests by Wichita Police Department and through the Wichita Municipal Drug Courts. Is that correct?"

Ms. Addison said, "Yes."

Commissioner Gwin said, "And so this is really a partnership of us, again, serving folks who live in the biggest city in this county. Correct?"

Ms. Addison said, "Yes, and we actually put somebody in the drug court that is physically there every day that the court is in session and then we meet monthly with the full drug court team and the COMCARE team."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Well, I think it's just important to, again, as the Chair did in her comments remind folks that our services are border to border, county line to county line and that this is a very good partnership that we have with the City of Wichita. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair."

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm very supportive of these type of programs. Anything that we can do to get a person that's addicted to drugs or alcohol thinking that maybe they no longer want to be addicted to drug and alcohol and that's when the help can begin is when somebody makes a decision that they need help and they don't want to be addicted again. But to expand a little bit on what Commissioner Gwin asked. Do we have any type of arrangement with other municipal courts in the other 19 communities in Sedgwick County for assistance? Or is that something that we could consider offering the other municipal courts within the boundaries of Sedgwick County?"

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Ms. Addison said, "It's certainly something we should, I think, consider. This comes through an RFP from the City, through the court, and so this particular program is only with Wichita's municipal court but we would love to have a relationship with any other court also."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, I'd like to help in that way. And if there's anything that I can do personally, in like Derby or any of the communities that I serve, I'd be very willing to work with you and try to see if we can't extend our services or at least offer to extend our services to the other communities. Thank you."

Ms. Addison said, "Thank you. Appreciate it."

Chair McGinn said, "All right, thank you. Any other questions?"

MOTION

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

Chair McGinn said, "Next item."

E. PUBLIC WORKS.

- 1. MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION, REQUEST NUMBER ONE AND FINAL, WITH APAC KANSAS, INC. ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT - SALEM MEADOWS ADDITION; STREET AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS. DISTRICT #2.**

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Mr. David Spears, Director/County Engineer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Item E-1 is requesting your approval of a modification of plans and construction, request number one and final with APAC, Kansas on Sedgwick County project Salem Meadows Addition, street and drainage improvements. The modification will decrease the contract by \$92.00 due to variations in plan quantities from actual field measurements. All costs of the project are to be paid by the properties in the benefit district through special assessments. I recommend that you approve the modification and authorize the Chair to sign.”

Chair McGinn said, “Any questions for David?”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Modification of Plans and Construction and authorize the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Norton said, “And note that David has given us our first savings for the new year.”

Mr. Spears said, “There’s more to come.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Is that on record. Does somebody have that on tape.”

VOTE

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

Chair McGinn said, “Next item.”

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2. MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION, REQUEST NUMBER ONE AND FINAL, WITH RITCHIE PAVING, INC. ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT 624-795; INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT PAWNEE AND 199TH STREET WEST. CIP# R-263. DISTRICT #3.

Mr. Spears said, “Similar to the previous item, this is a modification of plans and construction with Ritchie Paving for the Sedgwick County project at the intersection of Pawnee and 199th Street West, designated as R-263 in the Capital Improvement Program. This project has been constructed and is ready to be finalized. There will be a net decrease of \$3,601.95, due to variations in plan quantities from actual field measurements. I recommend that you approve the modification and authorize the Chair to sign.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Modification of Plans and Construction 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 Norton	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chair Carolyn McGinn	Aye

Chair McGinn said, “Next item.”

3. MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION, REQUEST NUMBER ONE AND FINAL, WITH CENTRAL PAVING, INC. ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT 833-I, J, N ½ K; WEBB ROAD BETWEEN THE NORTH CITY LIMITS OF WICHITA AND K-254. CIP# R-238. DISTRICT #1.

Mr. Spears said, “As with the two previous items, this is also a modification of plans and construction but with Central Paving for the Sedgwick County project on Webb Road, between the north city limits of Wichita and K-254, designated as R-238 in the Capital Improvement Program.

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This project has been constructed and is ready to be finalized. There will be a net decrease of \$118,538.73, due to variations in plan quantities from actual field measurements. I recommend that you approve the modification and authorize the Chair to sign.”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved approve the Modification of Plans and Construction and authorize the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chair McGinn said, “Thank you, David. Next item.”

CONSENT AGENDA

F. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Right-of-Way Easements.

- a. One Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project No. 775-Q-4325; Bridge on 359th Street West between 6th and 15th Streets South. CIP# B-361. District #3.
- b. One Easement for Right-of-Way and two Temporary Construction Easements for Sedgwick County Project No. 795-A-2713; 199th Street West between 117th and 125th Streets North. CIP# B-317. District #3.

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- c. One Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project No. 781-P-5100; 311th Street West between 4th and 6th Streets North. CIP# B-366. District #3.

- 2. **Case Number DR01-13. Resolution amending the Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan, as recommended by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, but containing additional language modifications to Locational Guideline #6, as recommended by the staff of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department.**

- 3. **Agreement with Love, Comfort and Care providing Developmental Disability Community Services Provider Status to contractor.**

- 4. **Adjustment of waiver of policy to hire Water Quality Specialist from range 21, step 10, as approved at the January 2, 2002 Commission Meeting, to range 21, step 10+.**

- 5. **Out of cycle step increase from range 24, step 4, to range 24, step 8 for the Chief Deputy Register of Deeds.**

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6. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contract.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V010169	\$309.00	5	William Favreau

7. 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>
V94012	\$350.00	\$605.00
V01061	\$490.00	\$259.00
V20139	\$166.00	\$181.00
V20144	\$68.00	\$129.00
V94012	\$350.00	\$605.00
V95088	\$414.00	\$550.00
V010104	\$600.00	\$432.00
V200122	\$280.00	\$206.00
V010160	\$330.00	\$387.00
V2012	\$172.00	\$190.00
V2021	\$485.00	\$583.00
V01027	\$220.00	\$16.00
V01028	\$277.00	\$285.00
V01030	\$550.00	\$550.00
V01036	\$375.00	\$375.00
V97001	\$217.00	\$200.00
V99002	\$252.00	\$236.00

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8. Plat.

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2001 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Cox Communications Addition

9. Order dated January 2, 2002 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.

10. Payroll Check Registers of December 21 and December 31, 2001.

11. General Bills Check Register of January 4, 2002.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have the Consent Agenda before. I'd recommend that you approve it. However we have an Off Agenda item and that's the addition of a plat that came in at the last minute. The people have paid their taxes. It took a while for us to discern that, and therefore I would recommend that we approve the All Boer Land Addition plat. It's been approved by Public Works and Legal."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of the All Boer Land Addition plat.

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, "Next item."

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SELECTIONS

G. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIR DURING 2002.

Chair McGinn said, "Before we begin, I wanted to make some comments. Thank you. I wanted to have one last chance to have my turn to speak. Anyway, I just wanted to share that this has been certainly an interesting year and a challenging year, not only for us here at Sedgwick County, but for the citizens of the State of Kansas and at the federal level as well.

In particular, as we think about September 11th, our lives have changed of course, but we continue to do the business that we do here at Sedgwick County. I'd like to share a few things that were projects I was a little bit involved in. There are certainly many more highlights that the County has been involved with over the year, but I just want to touch on a few.

But the ongoing day-to-day business, for those in our audience, much of our work has to do with providing social services to our community and as you've heard, we don't just provide services to the unincorporated and small communities. It's the City of Wichita and it's also very much population focused, the services we that provide. It has to do with mental health, physical disabilities, aging services and those are the kind of things that we don't really see a sign on all these but they're people serving people and they're good people serving the people in our community to make our community a better place to live. That's part of it.

The other part of, the things we do day in and day out and it's not necessarily an 8 to 5 job and that has to do with public service, public safety services. Our EMS, our fire department, our emergency management, those are the people that don't get to just punch the clock, 8 to 5. Those are the people that are there at two o'clock in the morning when we have a tornado. Those are the people there that, if we're in a car accident, that respond quickly. And my hat is certainly off to those people for the dedication and the service that they do to our community.

A few things that I would just like to highlight, things that we've done differently this year in Sedgwick County and one has to do with the start of this year we really kick off getting more involved in water quality issues. In the past, we've been involved indirectly and supportive though as well with the Soil Conservation District. This year we hired . . . actually we hired at the end of last year, but he just started this year really working on projects, and that has to do with a water quality consultant who works with our Environmental Resources as well as the Soil Conservation Board. And he's really hit the ground running.

Lake Afton is our responsibility, Sedgwick County Park, so we're also into recreation as well but Lake Afton was one of the sites that was chosen by the state as a site that has some TMDL

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problems. This person, Andy, and I can't think of Andy's last name but he is our water quality specialist and he has gone out and worked together with Environmental Resources to form Friends of Lake Afton. And what is really great about this is the fact that he has gone out and visited with the landowners around there and they've been very receptive to helping improve the quality of Lake Afton. We can't do that just as a governing board. It certainly takes the citizens that are involved as well and so I'm quite pleased to see that that project is moving an going and also being successful as well.

The other area that I was pleased to be involved with, we just talked about it just a little bit ago and that has to do with the Neighborhood Economic Development program. I know growth is very important to this community. You have people that don't want to see growth but I don't think that's what they really want. You need to have growth in a community or you'll die and I'm glad to see our community grow. But at the same time, when you see resources grow on the fringes, you need to also take care of the inner-cities, the parts that are older and often happen to be our more historic areas. So, I'm very glad to see this program in place. I know it's on a three-year kind of test pilot program and we'll review it at the end of the three years. But from looking at the groups of individuals that were here today, they're from very good organizations and they're very dedicated. And so, I think this is just the start of things to come.

McAdams is the place we're starting but we know we have Oaklawn. I know Commissioner Norton shared about some areas that he'd like to look at. So, as we continue to see successes in that area, we can take what we've learned there and more to other areas as well.

And the final thing I just want to share has to do with our implementation of our Ready to Respond program. This program really came about . . . well, it came about because of September 11th, unfortunately. But putting that program together came about by many Commissioners brainstorming together with staff and putting together a program that helps citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency. As public servants, we can do our part in the emergency side of things but one of the things that we needed to do as well was educate our citizens what they can do, at home or in their business right away to protect their family, their friends, their coworkers and their neighbors.

This program was put together to help them understand what to do so that when we, as emergency responders get there, we're that much further and I do want to say that when this occurred, we quickly did an evaluation of our emergency management team. We found out that we were ahead of many communities. Can we do better? Absolutely and we did an assessment and found out there

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were areas that we could do better so we stepped things up. But it was comforting to know that we already had a head start. And so, I'm glad we have those individuals together. I'm glad that we have those dedicated individuals that don't just punch the clock 8 to 5 and also are going out to neighborhood associations and other civics groups in the evenings to train people to be ready in the event of an emergency.

Also want to thank staff on that as well. I know I talked how we worked together to put this program together but if it wasn't for staff putting some of these material pieces that we're getting out to the community, we would be able to communicate this information as well.

The final comment that I just want to make is that I know there are many individuals in our county and surrounding counties that have some challenges and that has to do with the fact that they're unemployed. I don't look at the future as a dooms day. I look at it as an opportunity. And even though we have people that are unemployed in our community, I believe that we are a very strong, diverse community and we're a community that will survive. We're diverse by our businesses and we're strong by the people who live here. So, even though we're going to have some challenging times ahead, I think the sun's going to shine again very brightly here in Sedgwick County and so, I look forward to the coming year. Again, we'll have some challenges but I believe together, us as elected officials and the citizens of this community, we'll get through it.

And finally, I want to say, again, thank you to my colleagues for helping me this past year. I appreciate all the advise and help that you've done for me and I'm certainly glad to hand off the gavel and enjoy focusing on a few other things that I'd like to in my district. That's all I had. Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Just a comment, a couple of things. The words that came to mind are balance and strength and resolve. I don't think . . . gosh, I've been here what 11 years, I've ever seen a Commissioner do a better job of balancing your district.

The other issue, however, is that I'd like you to take a picture of both of us. My name is Betsy Gwin. Her name is Carolyn McGinn. She's tall and thin. I'm short and I'm not thin. She has naturally curly hair. I have naturally straight hair. We still don't know why we get mixed up. Because she is often called Betsy and we're often called McGwin, I think. And I think I've been the beneficiary of the identity crisis but we're not the same person. She's Carolyn and I'm Betsy. She's McGinn, I'm Gwin. We can't change it. I don't think we look alike. So, just for future reference, I think I've been the beneficiary of the mistaken identities but help us, help us try to clarify that we are different and she's better than I am. So, thank you."

Chair McGinn said, "Well, thank you. But see I get the benefit of saying I have these senior years. Commissioner Sciortino."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “Did I just hear you say you were senior to her? Well, Commissioners, before we move on to the issue of selecting a new Chair for 2002, I would ask that we take just a few minutes to say thank you to our out-going Chair, Carolyn McGinn. Carolyn, you have served us very well this last year. You’ve demonstrated outstanding leadership for Sedgwick County and just to mention a few, you mentioned your work on the Ready to Respond initiative that was very timely and when we took the program out into the communities and all of us were at various meetings, it was very well received. And I think that our message, while it was initiated by the 9/11 disaster, it was really letting people know how well Sedgwick County government is ready to respond to any disaster and I think the hands-on demonstrations that we had with the fire department, the community, I think, was able to realize that they’re pretty well protected and we are pretty well capable to handling just about anything that might befall them. And one of the best things that we did, because of this initiative, was empower the citizens to find out what they can do, because they’re the first responder in an immediate crisis.

The most recently illegal dumping campaign, which it’s my sense will pass unanimously when it comes before the Board, has just been superb. You have raised the bar of excellence exceedingly high and you’ve clearly created a challenge for the next Chairman. So, I’d like to embarrass you a little bit and ask you to stand, please. On behalf of your fellow Commissioners, I want to thank you for your year of service and present you with this plaque of appreciation.”

Chair McGinn said, “Well, thank you again. Thank you very much. At this time, I will take nominations for the Chair for 2002. Commissioner Norton.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to nominate Commissioner Sciortino for Chairman for 2002.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

Chair McGinn said, “Is there any discussion?”

Commissioner Norton said, “If I nominate him will I have to vote for him?”

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin Aye

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

Chair McGinn said, "Congratulations, Ben. I'd like to present you with this gavel, and use it cautiously. Next item please."

H. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIR PRO TEM DURING 2002.

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioner Winters."

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to nominate Commissioner Gwin as Chair Pro Tem for the year 2002.

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, "Congratulations."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you."

Chair McGinn said, "Before we move on to other business, because I never know what we're going to have under other business, I would like to recognize former Commissioner Mark Schroeder, who is in our audience today. Thank you for being here and now the new administrator for Derby, so, congratulations as well. Is there any other business to be brought before this Board?"

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I. OTHER

Commissioner Norton said, "I really only have one thing. Ben and I made it to the Mulvane Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting last night. I invited him, so that he could meet some of the people in Mulvane because if the redistricting that we think might happen will happen, he may pick up Mulvane and I wanted to make sure he got some introductions there.

We had a wonderful time last night and they had a large conversation about the 95th and Rock Road, that whole corridors highway project and had a lot of questions and I think we were able to answer most of them, I think, Ben. And Ben may have some comments about that but we were well received in Mulvane and had a good time at the wine cellar, at the Wildwood Cellars. I'll say no more after that."

Chair McGinn said, "Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Just real quickly, I'll be attending the Olympic Torch Relay Breakfast Friday morning at 7 o'clock and as the Olympic torch winds its way through Wichita, I would encourage folks to get out and be supportive of the runners, our local community members, who are a part of that process. So, hopefully folks will get out and support them, as that torch comes through the city. Thank you."

Chair McGinn said, "I think that's great. I'm going to try to be there. I hear it's at seven. I'm shooting towards it. I'm working on it. I'd just would like to announce, so that people can start putting it on their calendar, that the Martin Luther King celebrations will be the 20th, and that's on a Sunday evening. That one is at the Orpheum, put on by the Kansas African American Museum. They put on an excellent program, excellent singing, excellent speakers and so you might want to put that on your calendar. It's about . . . it's sometime around 6 o'clock in the evening on Sunday night at the Orpheum and then Monday is the Martin Luther King celebrations and they have a wonderful service, speaker etcetera on the 21st at the W.S.U. Metroplex as well. So, you might want to think about that. Also, the Martin Luther King buttons are for sale and you can call the Kansas African American Museum to buy your button.

Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just one other brief event coming up. This Saturday, the A.L.A.R.M. group meets at the Extension at 9 o'clock. I plan on attending that meeting. It's a good opportunity to interact with the small communities in the County, particularly."

Commissioner Norton said, "Representative Mayans will be the guest speaker there and will talk

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about some of the legislative issues that will affect small communities in the County. So, it will be good to hear him speak again.”

Chair McGinn said, “Any other business? Again, thank you all and we’re adjourned.”

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

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

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman
Fifth District

Regular Meeting, January 9, 2002

BETSY GWIN, Chair Pro Tem
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

CAROLYN MC GINN, Commissioner
Fourth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2002