

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

March 6, 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, March 6, 2002 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Ben Sciortino; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters, Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Sedgwick Mr. Jack Kegley, Deputy Director, Emergency Management; County Sheriff Gary Steed; Mr. Keith Allen, Deputy Sheriff, Canine Unit; Max, Sheriff's Deputy, Canine Unit; Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services; Ms. Jeannette Livingston, Contract Administrator, Comprehensive Community Care; Ms. Sandi Reichenberger, Community Health Department; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Jerry Phipps, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Lelana Bowie, Member, Positive Directions Minority Advisory Board for the Healing of AIDS.

Ms. Rachelle Cluck, Congregation and Outreach Coordinator, Positive Directions.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was led by Mr. Chuck McCoy of the Christian Businessmen's Committee.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that Commissioner Norton was absent.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item."

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PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 3 – 9, 2002 AS “BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioners, I have a proclamation I’d like to read into the record.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year, more than 50 percent occur among African Americans; and

WHEREAS, AIDS is the number one cause of death for Black adults aged 25 to 44, before heart disease, cancer and homicide; and

WHEREAS, the role of religious institutions is crucial in educating communities about HIV/ AIDS and is vital to heal hearts and minds of silence, denial, silence, and the stigma that interferes with prevention, treatment and testing in Black communities; and

WHEREAS, the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is modeled after the groundbreaking Harlem Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, established in 1989 by Pernessia C. Seele, and is supported by over 65 AIDS service organizations and health departments across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is a week of education and AIDS awareness that spotlights the role that churches are playing in addressing the AIDS crisis; and

WHEREAS, the 13th year of the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS will be observed in March as over 10,000 churches nationwide accept the call to educate communities about AIDS/ HIV.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of March 3-9, 2002 as

“BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS”

and encourage all citizens to participate in the education and awareness of AIDS.

Do we have anyone here to accept the proclamation?”

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MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Ladies, if you’d like to say something.”

Ms. Lelana Bowie, Member, Positive Directions Minority Advisory Board for the Healing of AIDS accepted the proclamation.

Ms. Rachelle Cluck, Congregation and Outreach Coordinator, Positive Directions, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Well, thank you very much. We have a comment or a question. Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Can you just tell us a little bit about when your organization started and what all you do for Outreach?”

Ms. Cluck said, “We started ten years ago, in 1992, as Care Coordination Team and since then our programs have grown and we changed our name on our tenth anniversary to Positive Directions because we felt that really stated what we were doing.

We provide support and services for people living with HIV and AIDS and their families. One of our biggest programs is our Daily Bread program in which we have a meal delivery program for our

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clients who are more homebound. And we also, almost two years ago, started the Daily Bread Grocery Center and on our office site we have a grocery center where, once a week, our clients can come in and get nutritionally balanced groceries. We provide at least a half a gallon of milk for them every week. They're able to pick and choose what they would like, instead of just handing them a food box.

During this time, we've had many clients who have switched from the homebound delivery to the grocery center. We've seen a lot of improvement. We also get to see our clients more often, so we're getting to know them a little bit better. We're getting to know some of their concerns and the things that we can help them with and we're looking to expand some more of our programs to deal with some other issues, such as helping them with their housing questions and SSI, things like that, they have a lot of concerns with. So, that's what we do."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Is your volunteer base growing and is your funding coming from many of the churches?"

Ms. Cluck said, "We do get some funding from churches. We also have, especially for our nutrition programs, we have a lot of churches do food drives. For us, we have two major fundraisers a year. We do the AIDS Walk in August and we also just finished our Dining for Friends with Friends in February, which all the proceeds go directly toward our nutrition programs."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay. Well, thank you for being here and making a positive difference in our community."

Ms. Cluck said, "We appreciate your support."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now don't leave yet. Maybe you could start the education process right here. Could you explain to us the difference between AIDS and HIV? I've always seen them joined together but I'm not too clear on what the difference is. Could you, briefly, explain the difference there?"

Ms. Cluck said, "Sure. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. It's the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus. And the problem that we see, a lot of times, is that we try to educate the public to know that you can be infected with the virus and show no signs of being sick.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. By the time a person goes from the virus into AIDS is usually caused by an opportunistic infection, such as pneumonia or certain types of

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cancer. So, usually by the time someone gets to the point to where they have AIDS, full-blown AIDS, they're very sick.

The problem is, especially with our young people today, people are being infected at younger and younger ages. You know, we all know that when we're teenagers we feel like nothing can hurt us and we're invincible and sometimes even into adulthood we feel that way, because you can't tell if someone has the virus. Unless they're tested, that's the only way that you would know and a lot of times people don't know until they have full-blown AIDS that they were even infected and they could have been infected 15 years ago. But that's the difference."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Well thank you very much. I don't see any other comments but I just want to congratulate your organization. You're doing some very good work for the community. Thank you."

Ms. Cluck said, "Thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I have another proclamation but we need to take it up as an Off Agenda item, if you don't mind."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to take an Off Agenda Proclamation concerning severe weather awareness.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

OFF AGENDA ITEM

Chairman Sciortino said, "I have this proclamation for severe weather awareness that I'd like to

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read into the record. It states:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is estimated that at any given moment nearly 2,000 thunderstorms are in progress over the earth's surface; and

WHEREAS, tornadoes occur in many parts of the world and in all 50 states, but no area is more favorable to their formation than the Continental Plains of the United States, and no season free of tornadoes; and

WHEREAS, local government has the responsibility to inform the public and promote awareness in an effort to reduce the loss of life, property and personal injury; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management will hold a statewide tornado safety drill Tuesday, March 12, 2002, designed to test the emergency warning systems throughout Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the Sedgwick County Department of Emergency Management will participate in this drill to enhance the public's awareness in this vital area of personal safety;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 11-15, 2002 as

“SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK”

in Sedgwick County, and urge all residents to participate in the scheduled activities.

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “And we have someone here to accept it.”

Mr. Jack Kegley, Deputy Director, Emergency Management Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We want to thank you for signing this proclamation. This is the time of the year that we really start a strong push for education for weather safety and this is a kick-off to that push for education. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Jack. You’re doing good work. Clerk, next item please.”

DONATION

- B. DONATION BY GUPTON’S PETS, CMC CONCRETE, SAM’S FENCING, R&D CAMPERLAND, TRACTOR SUPPLY AND AN ANONYMOUS DONOR, OF TWO DOGS, FOOD, SUPPLIES, KENNELS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT, VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$13,000, TO BE USED TO FORM A CANINE UNIT.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Sheriff Gary Steed greeted the Commissioners and said, “You’ve heard of dog and pony shows. This is kind of a dog and Steed show.”

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I have kind of a two-fold purpose here today. First, I wanted to advise you of the donations and get your approval for those donations. But I also wanted to introduce you to a couple our new deputies for the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department. On the screen here is Deputy Rommel. He's one of our new patrol and drug dogs. I'll tell you about what they do in just a little bit. And also, here in the room with us is Max, along with Deputy Keith Allen. Come on up, Keith.

We don't have both of the dogs here at the same time because they're not trained yet and they're a little bit frisky and stuff."

Chairman Sciortino said, "You're not running for re-election are you, because of those signs. Could we put ours on there too?"

Sheriff Steed said, "In the back of the room is Deputy Henry Cocking. He'll be the handler for Deputy Rommel, once we get with the program.

Let me tell you a little bit about who has donated. I heard you mention these but we have received an anonymous donation of about \$10,000, I know who the donor is but they wish to remain anonymous, for the purchase of the two dogs. Betty Gupton, of Gupton's Pets, is donating dog food and supplies for the length of the program. Mike Lies of CMC Concrete, Sam and Tom Grisham of Sam's Fencing, Randy Boatright of R & D Camperland, Keith Wiggins of Oilfield Shelters have all donated supplies such as concrete, fencing, shelter supplies and stuff like that for dog runs. Also, in the . . . and I want to mention that, I believe I did, that Betty Gupton's donation is for the length of the dog program, so that's a pretty substantial donation on her part.

Also, in the back of the room is Marty Hammer, who helped us a lot. He doesn't want to be recognized but I'm going to recognize him anyway. He helped us a lot in putting the program together, obtaining donations and making all this possible.

The dogs and the trainers, by the way, we have to train both of them, went through a pretty good selection process to get where we're at today. We selected the dogs and even the trainers, or the handlers I guess I should say, went through a process to be selected also. They'll start a ten-week training program through the K.H.P., the Kansas Highway Patrol, at the Highway Patrol Academy in Salina and then they'll be available for us for use.

The dogs will be able to locate marijuana, cocaine, heroin, opium and methamphetamines. They'll be able to track suspects, do building searches, locate evidence, conduct crowd control and locate missing persons. So, the dogs will do a lot of different tasks.

In the past, we've had dogs available to us through other departments and we've appreciated that. I think Derby had some, Garden Plain, Highway Patrol, Wichita Police Department. But those dogs

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were becoming less and less available to us because of the need for the dogs. So, we went ahead and got the dogs for ourselves.

One of the things that sold me most on the dogs is that these dogs will also make our deputies safer. They won't just go out and locate drugs and all, but they'll also make it safer for our deputies to perform their jobs. They can conduct building searches and things of that nature, which relieves our deputies of some of the dangers that they run into.

I guess today, if you don't have any questions, I would ask that the Commission accept the donations and authorize Chairman Sciortino to sign letters of appreciation. And I wanted to make one last comment, before there are any questions here. We haven't trained these dogs to retrieve any kinds of golf balls."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now wait a minute. I don't even want to know what was implied by that slanderous remark. Are there any questions of the Sheriff? I have one. Is the same . . . I saw the dog that they have, like in Derby, that actually rides with the patrolman and is trained that if the patrolman is attacked, this dog will protect the patrolman almost to the point where, if the patrolman was down you have to tranquilize the dog. This dog will actually act as a deputy."

Sheriff Steed said, "That's correct. Yes, they will protect the deputy. You know, they make our community safer in a lot of ways. They go out and help us take drugs off the street. They go in and do building searches, so the deputies don't necessarily have to be right in there. So, they protect the deputies, they protect the community and take drugs off the street."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, I don't know if I like it or not because now I'm going to have to be nice to Cocking when I see him down in Oaklawn. I'll have to just adjust my thinking about Hank. I think he's a wonderful guy, especially if his dog friend is around. Okay, any further comments? Yes, Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "You said the deputy and the dog went through selection processes. Once you go through this training, is it pretty successful that that dog is going to make it or do they ever . . . this dog's just not getting it or something like that?"

Sheriff Steed said, "We have arrangements for trading the dogs back in, if that was to occur. If the dogs don't work out, we have some contracts and stuff and we can exchange the dogs and start in again."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Now, does the dog, then, actually . . . I don't know how to say it, live with the patrolman, the deputies in the deputy's home? It's just actually like a pet but not a pet."

Sheriff Steed said, "Yes they do. They're like one person now, one set. They do everything together. They have to be very bonded, and we were talking out in the hall a little bit ago about how Keith and his dog have bonded out there. You can tell, just by watching out in the hall."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, that's great. Any other questions?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "Just real quick. May I ask you a question, Keith? You can step over to the microphone. Obviously, there was . . . I'm sure there were several deputies who were interested in being a part of the program. What interested you about it? Why did you step forward and say you'd like to be a part of this?"

Mr. Keith Allen, Deputy Sheriff, said, "A lot of reasons. I've been interested in canines for a long time, so I wanted to do it before the program actually started. There's a lot of reasons. I've always been an animal lover, like I'm really impressed with the abilities of the dogs. The first time I've ever seen police dogs and what they're capable of. It just blew my mind. It's hard to believe. You know, my dog at home can't do half the things the dog already can and he's not even trained yet. And the partnership is kind of nice, knowing that you have your backup right there with you all the time and the bond you form. There's just a lot of things about it I really liked."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Well, that's great. It's nice to know. I think it's a good program, not only for the safety of the community, but the animal can be I think in so many cases maybe a more important outreach to the public than some people can. And he may open doors and demonstrate how important law enforcement is in a different way that maybe other kids and older people couldn't understand. So I think it's very positive. I look forward to the good benefits from it."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I can't stop. I've got one more. How old is the dog? Normally, when they enter service how old are they?"

Mr. Allen said, "Max here is two and a half and the other dog, Rommel, is about one and a half and that's usually about the typical age for these dogs."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. And then what's their work/ career lifetime, normally? Five years, six years?"

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Mr. Allen said, "It just depends on the dog. Some dogs will work up to eleven to twelve, if the dog's still capable and other dogs might have to be retired sooner. But I think, typically, a range probably from five to nine years is the average for a patrol dog."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Wow, that's a pretty good length of time for a patrolman. Okay. Any other questions, Commissioners? All right, well thank you very much and what's the will of the Board on this item?"

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to accept the donation and authorize the Chairman to sign letters of appreciation.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Commissioner Gwin said, "Good luck with that program."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yes, thank you. Bye Rommel."

Commissioner Winters said, "No, that's Max."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, that's Max. I'm sorry. I'm color-blind on dogs. Next item please."

NEW BUSINESS

C. READY TO RESPOND UPDATE.

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Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The old vaudeville cliché is never follow a children or a dog act. Too bad. It’s been a couple of weeks since I have had to opportunity to brief you regarding our Ready to Respond program. You will recall that it began on October 11th, in response to the activities on September 11th that shocked this nation. This Commission authorized us to proceed and you led us, in a way, to start educating citizens about how to be prepared for emergencies. The underlying theory is of course that if citizens are prepared for disasters, if citizens are prepared for things that may go wrong, planning for those activities in their homes and in their neighborhoods, that that in fact is a good way to prevent disasters from affecting us in harsh and negative ways. We may not be able to prevent them, but we certainly can be prepared to deal with them in a rational, calm approach.

So, we’ve developed this education process for citizens that, in fact, tie into what you’ve just heard about a severe weather month, because that too is a disaster. That too is a terror that happens to this community from time to time.

Since we launched this program, we’ve had 48 classes. We’ve presented information to about 1,500 citizens so far. The majority have been the citizens’ groups and church groups and neighborhood associations. The cities of Haysville, Bentley, Clearwater, Bel Aire, Viola, Derby and Goddard have hosted those meetings and we are expecting to be in the other cities and hope to at least do one in each of the cities very soon.

We have presented to several businesses, including the Excel Corporation and Prudential, Dinning, Beard Realtors. We’ve done work for David Spears and Public Works so that his folks would be trained and hope to do some other County employees and we’ll be at the Salvation Army next week, next Thursday.

COMCARE has also been involved because part of dealing with the issues is the dealing with stress and dealing with the after-effects of disasters or terrorists and they have presented thirteen classes to 248 senior citizens.

Channel 12 and you may have seen that Friday night, it was on March 2nd, did a half-hour, thirty minute special on Ready to Respond, our program. They were in our 911 facility and was viewed by, apparently, lots of folks because after that presentation we received 300 hits on our website from that presentation alone. We think that’s directly related. When the program stops and you get the hits in the next couple of minutes, that’s what happened.

We’ve had Ready to Respond Hazardous Weather newspaper insert that will be on March 13th in the Wichita Eagle. The 13th, we will have this insert that we have done in the past, which explains how citizens can get ready and ready to respond to those issues.

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We've partnered with Blockbuster Video. They've put three copies of the Shelter in Place video and the shelter in place is the concept of chemical and bio-terror where you can cover your windows with Saran-wrap or any other plastic wrap and make sure your family's safe and it's a way in which we can prepare for all sorts of things. There are copies available in Blockbuster Video. Those rentals are free and they are in the stores in Sedgwick County and Butler County.

We have brochures that have been provided to employees of Via Christi, Riverside Medical Center and hope to get that out and we have partnered with U.S.D. 259 to make sure literature was in the hands of all those students and intend to reach out to other school districts.

And finally, an update is that we will host the third Extreme Weather Fair at the Kansas Coliseum on April 13th, that's next month. It is in sponsorship with, partnership with Kansas Coliseum and Channel 10. And this is the third year we've done that. This allows folks to come to the Severe Weather Fair, look at the products that are available, hear about the potential warnings and how to be warned and then how to deal with disaster afterwards. And we think it's an excellent way for citizens to be educated.

So, we haven't been around . . . I haven't been making these presentations on a weekly basis. We thought it would be better if, from time to time, to do that. The program is alive and well. Fifteen hundred citizens of Sedgwick County have been touched by this organization and how to be prepared. We expect to do a lot more and we'll continue this program for the foreseeable future. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Bill. Commissioners, any questions or comments of Bill on this item before we take action? Okay, what is the will of the Board on this item?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Betsy Gwin Aye

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Commissioner Tim Norton	Absent
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Bill, thank you very much. Next item please."

D. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1. AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING CENTER, INC. TO PROVIDE AFTER HOURS MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This first item is a renewal of an agreement that we've had with South Central Mental Health Center, which is located in Butler County. They are a small center and their volume of emergency calls are relatively small and so it really is, and doesn't make sense for them, being this close, to have staff assigned 24 hours a day to handle those calls while we in Sedgwick County, obviously, have a huge volume which necessitates us having staff actually on site and providing services after-hours. And so they contract with us to provide their after-hours crisis service, which is a win/ win situation because fiscally it makes sense for them and this is a service that sometimes is difficult to generate revenues for and this actually allows some revenue generation for this particular program. I'd be glad to answer any questions and would recommend your approval."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see that we have any questions, Debbie. Commissioners, what's the will of the Board on this item please?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Debbie. Next item."

2. AGREEMENT WITH SUMNER MENTAL HEALTH CENTER TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE HEALTHWAVE PARTICIPANTS.

Ms. Donaldson said, "Commissioners, Healthwave is the health insurance program for children in this state for those children who are not eligible for Medicaid but their family is not in the position to have their own health insurance, basically the working-poor kind of situation is often what we're dealing with. This is a program that's statewide and it's on a capitated basis, which means you get paid so much per month for the individuals who are enrolled in the program.

We, in fact, manage that program not only for Sedgwick County but also for Butler and Sumner. So, while we manage it, they still provide the services to their residents who need services and who we authorize for those services and this is the agreement with Sumner County to provide that. Be glad to answer any questions. Would recommend your approval."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I have a light on. Did I just not turn off your light last time?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "No, I turned it on."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Chairman. This has appeared to be a very good program, the fact that it does hit people that they earn enough income to put food on the table but not enough for health insurance and they don't work at large businesses that provides health services. Debbie, have you heard of any talk with the challenges that the State . . . that this program is in any kind of jeopardy or anything like that, because I know this is a state program?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "My remembrance is the main thing I have heard is that they have not fully utilized all the funds that were eligible for that program and those may be used for some other purposes. I think part of what happened was they encouraged people to come forward. They were finding that many children were actually eligible for Medicaid and so, for I think . . . I can't remember, it's like for every three children that were screened, one or two of them were actually

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eligible for Medicaid and so went into the Medicaid program instead of the Healthwave program. So, they still got health insurance and this is pretty much a seamless program now. Unless somebody tells you, you can't even tell by your card, unless you're a professional, which program you're on. So, consequently, many went into Medicaid instead of Healthwave."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Did this start at the federal level and go down to the state?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "Yes, it did."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, any further questions or comments of Debbie? I don't see that there are any, so what's the will of the Board on Item D-2 please?"

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman 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	Absent
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item."

- 3. AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MARKET PARKING, INC. FOR OFFICE SPACE HOUSING COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CARE (COMCARE) FAMILY AND CHILDREN COMMUNITY SERVICES AT 7701 EAST KELLOGG, SUITE 300, PROVIDING ADDED SPACE AND**

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AN EXTENDED LEASE TERM.

Ms. Donaldson said, "Commissioners, this is an amendment to our lease where we have our children's program. It actually adds 944 square feet to that program, for a total of 11,617 square feet. We pay \$10.50 a square foot for that program and the total amount of that lease is \$121,978.56 and those are funded through state funds. As you're aware, we have had some significant expansions in the children's program over this last year and so we were needing the additional space. Be glad to answer any questions. Would recommend your approval."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Debbie. We do have at least one question. Commissioner Gwin."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you. Debbie, having visited that program within the last year, it did appear that there was a need for space but it also appeared to me that it was a little difficult to get in and around to the different places that you need to get to. Is that space still useable? I mean, it seems a little unwieldy. There were lots of doors and hallways and other hallways and doors for clients and stuff to kind of have to wind their way around. Is that space still the best space, you think, for this program or are you . . . might be looking for something better in the future?"

Ms. Donaldson said, "For now, I believe it is although it's still winding. I mean, there's no question about that. We continue to look at what the different options are. We have some unique needs that make it difficult with office space because, as you know, so many places have gone to open spaces and modular furniture and so much of what we do necessitates confidentiality so a lot of the offices are sometimes hard to find or require extensive remodeling when we look at a space."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Okay. Well, I'm certainly going to be supportive of adding more square footage to it. I'd just appreciate your input, as you continue to look for maybe other places that might not be so difficult for the clients to get their way around."

Ms. Donaldson said, "We continue to explore and, you know, work within the County to see what best options are."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Right. Okay, thanks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Any further comments? I don't see any so, Commissioners, what's the will of the Board on Item D-3?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Amendment to Lease Agreement and authorize

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the Chairman 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	Absent
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Debbie. Next item please.”

4. AGREEMENTS (TWO) WITH WICHITA YMCA AND COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, INC. PROVIDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF 2002 SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION GRANT FUNDS.

Jeannette Livingston, Contract Administrator, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The contracts with YMCA and Communities in Schools provides the terms and conditions for 2002 Sedgwick County Crime Prevention grant funding. The prevention grant for the Y funds their Black Achievers program. The Achievers program works with youth on career goals and includes a competitive summer internship program. They have been a grant recipient since 1999.

The Communities in Schools contract funds services at Oaklawn and Cooper Elementary School and Derby Sixth Grade Center. Communities in Schools works to connect students in the schools with community services. Communities in Schools has been a prevention contractor since the inception of the prevention grant, in 1998.

Both programs have demonstrated excellent outcomes and have a proven track record of working with youth. I do have today two representatives, one from each program, that would like to just

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give you a brief update on what their programs do. First we have Janet Greene with the Wichita YMCA.”

Ms. Janet Greene, Urban Outreach Director, YMCA, greeted the Commissioners and said, “First of all, before I say anything about the program, I once again would like to say thank you to the County Commissioners for the funds that were given last year and also what’s going on for this year. We did have a media release earlier this year and I wanted to say, with the release, I had to call the Eagle back to let them know that they didn’t put COMCARE. We wanted them to acknowledge that Sedgwick County did say that they would give us the grant for 2002. So, I wanted to make sure that I made that public apology because that was not entered into that news release. It was an oversight on their part.

What I would like to share is, with our Career Clusters we tried to acclimate the youth to different career interests. As a result of those career interests, we . . . this year our goal was to serve 150 youth. As of the end of February, we have already served 184 youth. So, we’ve already met our goal for this year and this school term is not out yet and we still have the first semester of the next school term to come up.

Also, some of the targeted outreach communities, as far as maybe at-risk zip codes, the 67208 which we have about 24% of the youth that have participated in that and we were looking at a survey and they were saying that, projected for 2003, about 861 youth would not have a diploma. Also, in the 67214 zip code, we had about 56 youth that participate in just that zip code alone and the estimation for 2003 would be about 3,712 youth would not have a diploma. And so, in looking at that, we have endeavored to make sure that they understand the very importance of education. We do bring in different professionals from their corporations, letting them know how important education is. Our primary focus at the beginning of this year has been business and finance, computer education, as well as communication. And so, what we do, we try to help them in those areas.

Also, another component of the program is the internship program. With the internship program, it’s going to be allotted where we could hire 52 youth. However, we said we could train at least 96. Presently, we have already trained 87. We have 120 that are enrolled to be trained and so, we’re only about seven or so short of actually meeting our 96 goal training, and these are teens between the ages of 14 and 18 years old. So, we’re right on target for that.

We’ve had tremendous progress this year and I’ll just kind of give you also a couple of success stories. We have one gentleman, we’ve been partnering with the Boys and Girls Club. We have some students that have been kind of kicked out of school and they’ve had to go to the Boys and

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Girls Club. Some have been working on their GED through the Urban League, U.S.D. 259 etcetera. And so, one particular young man, he lives I think over in Iva and when I went to the Boys and Girls Club they were saying how he walked from Iva to the Boys and Girls Club and from the Boys and Girls Club to the Urban League just to attend the internship training. And just seeing how the many sacrifices that many of the youth are making to be in a positive environment, a safe environment, an environment that's going to impact and change their lives. And most of the programs that the YMCA does have, the after-school and some of the other programs, those kids are either pretty much bused to the Y or they're held at different school facilities, where as this particular program a lot of the kids either they have to walk or they have to catch rides or the parents have to bring them in order for them to participate. And I felt, I said, at this point in the year, having 184 youth, that means that they had to make a special effort to get up on Saturday morning to be there. And so that's what we've done so far this year. Any questions?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see any questions right now. So, thank you very much for the presentation. Jeannette, we have another presenter?"

Ms. Livingston said, "We have Judy Frick with Communities in Schools."

Ms. Judy Frick, Executive Director, Communities in Schools, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm making another connection. Thank you. We want to first of all thank you so much for your continued funding for Oaklawn, Cooper Elementary Schools and the Derby 6th Grade Centers. You know, one of the things about Communities in Schools is I think it's somewhat difficult to understand because we do lots of different things. But your fellow Commissioner came up with a one sentence that's pretty good. He said, 'We remove the roadblocks from educational success' and in doing so . . . Your fellow Commissioner Tim Norton, I'm sorry I left that out."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Tim who?"

Ms. Frick said, "Norton. Anyway, so what we do is connect the community with the schools and try to create a sense of community and I think you would all agree, since 9/ 11, the whole idea of creating a sense of community has become even more important and more significant. And I think it's just so important that the kids know that people in the community care about them and what their outcomes are.

What I've done is I've brought a one page for each school that we're in, a one- page summary of what happened at those sites last year and I thought you would appreciate just one page which just gives the highlights. And just a few of the things, in addition to all of the tutoring and mentoring that we do, and the mentoring we of course work with Big Brothers, we also have things like W.S.U. nurses coming in and doing health and hygiene classes for the kids. Those schools work

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very closely with the Derby Recreation Center on after-school programming and summer programming which is really wonderful. There's like an after-school soccer league. They do a lot of job shadowing. They do many, many different groups on social skills, study skills, anger management, you know, utilizing loan staff from the community. And last year, we also did some things in the performing arts with the Children's Theater and that was really a huge hit for the kids, because it really teaches them, you know, to memorize lines, to work together, to do a presentation.

Last year, at these three sites, we had about 260 volunteers and loan staff and they spent almost 3,000 hours at the three different sites. So, we are very pleased to have this continued funding and I know, from time to time, that you talk about the funding is not forever. But one thing I'd like you to think about when you look at the criteria for the funding is looking at the percentage of our budget that comes from the County and I think that most of the groups that you're funding, you would see that there is a diversity in funding and that we are all working very, very hard to find other sources of funding which, right now, are pretty tight, as you all know and especially in the school budgets and the state budget. So, on behalf of the kids and families at Cooper, Oaklawn and the Derby 6th Grade Center, I'd like to say thank you very much. We really appreciate it. Any questions?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see any. Just continue the good work."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just have a question. I just wanted to thank Judy Frick and Janet Greene for being here today to give us the updates, the success stories and what you're doing because we need to know that, as we enter into another budget year. What's important to us is the difference that you're making in our community and so we appreciate your partnership. Thank you."

Ms. Frick said, "Thank you very much. We both appreciate the opportunity for being here."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "I also would echo Commissioner McGinn. I certainly thank you. I've got a question for Jeannette. Jeannette, last week we did Big Brothers/ Big Sisters and somebody else and it seemed like we had more stuff in the backup. We had maybe the full contract. I know we had, I mean, their goals and objectives for the year were all laid out in our backup material. We don't have that in this packet. Are we going to do it one way or the other?"

Ms. Livingston said, "I wasn't sure how that got in the backup. I don't usually but since Commissioner Sciortino had read off of that. I had included for next week's the outcome parts of the contract, rather than all that standard template language, just the outcomes. This was already in process by the time I realized that that stuff was really important."

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Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I was going to say, I think that is important. We didn’t review it thoroughly, but during the presentations, I mean, we had right there in front of us what their projected outcomes were and what they were doing and it was helpful to get a better understanding of the program. And I think that’s one of the benefits in having folks come and speak to us is it gives us a better idea of what they’re doing and we can’t hear it often enough. The more we hear it, the better we’ll understand it. So, you might think about how you do that in the future.”

Ms. Livingston said, “I included that for next week.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you. That’s all I have.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Commissioner. I don’t see any other comments or questions. So, what’s the will of the Board on this item please?”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to approve the Agreements and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Jeannette. Next item please.”

E. COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

- 1. CONTRACT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PROVIDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF**

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GRANT FUNDS FOR THE WOMEN'S, INFANT'S AND CHILDREN'S (WIC) PROGRAM, IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN.

Ms. Sandi Reichenberger, Community Health Department WIC program, greeted the Commissioners and said, "WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children and this is an agreement between Kansas Department of Health and Environment and with two of the local agency programs at the Health Department. These are the Immunization Action Plan and the Women, Infants and Children's program.

This contract is a collaboration between these agencies in improving the immunization status of infants and children that are enrolled in the WIC program. And it is a \$53,000 contract over a twelve-month period. Any questions?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "I have a question here. Just looking at the first page of it, it indicates there's about 10,000 children, if you combine infants and children, and 5,200 parents, women I assume. When a child gets enrolled does the mother get enrolled automatically also, or is it sometimes just the child?"

Ms. Reichenberger said, "Sometimes it's just the child or the infant, yes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. And what assistance . . . I used to volunteer at the Guadalupe Clinic and I know that formula and, what have you, we were able to get, through the WIC program for the children. But what actual services do you do to the mother or to the woman?"

Ms. Reichenberger said, "We work with women who have recently delivered an infant or are pregnant or are breast-feeding and we provide not only nutritional counseling, but also food packages, food supplemental vouchers that they go to the grocery stores and redeem for supplemental foods."

Chairman Sciortino said, "For themselves?"

Ms. Reichenberger said, "For themselves, whoever's enrolled in the program."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, I got it. Thank you. Any questions or comments? Commissioner Winters."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Sandi, I think this is probably the first time you've been to a County Commission meeting."

Ms. Reichenberger said, "It is."

Commissioner Winters said, "It's good to have you here and it's good to learn more about the programs. I was going to ask, and really not knowing a lot about the WIC program, but going to ask about its connection with the Family Nurse Partnership and is there interaction between these two groups and do they work hand-in-hand or are they completely separate projects?"

Ms. Reichenberger said, "Pretty much separate programs. However, we do, in WIC, make a lot of health and social referrals. So, it is an agency that we're constantly referring to and, where we are in a clinic setting, and the Nurse Family Partnerships are in a field, home-based setting."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, very good. How do people get connected to the WIC program? Where do the clients come from? How do you find them?"

Ms. Reichenberger said, "Oh, a big variety of places: medical centers, the neo-natal intensive care units refer into WIC, SRS refers into WIC. We have several social agencies, churches know about WIC. We get a lot of referrals from all over Wichita and Sedgwick County."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, very good. Well, it's good to have you part of Sedgwick County."

Ms. Reichenberger said, "Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Is there, say for example, a mother is watching our show . . . why I don't know but if she is, is there a phone number that she could call to get further information that you might want to share with us now?"

Ms. Reichenberger said, "Sure can. If they would just call the main Health Department at 268-8441 and we'd be able to connect them to get enrolled in that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And all they'd have to do is 'I'd like to have information about the WIC program' and then somebody could be directed to them."

Ms. Reichenberger said, "We sure can."

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Chairman Sciortino said, “Great. Okay. Thank you. Commissioners, what’s the will of the Board on this item?”

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Next item.”

2. GRANT AWARD FROM STATE OF KANSAS WIC AGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,000, TO BE USED FOR INCREASED WIC PROGRAM CASELOAD EXPENDITURES.

Ms. Reichenberger said, “The Sedgwick County WIC program, over the past eight months, has seen a dramatic increase in caseload and that has been about 25% increase over the past eight months. And the State of Kansas WIC agency is providing an additional \$99,000 to our grant so that we are able to take on the increased caseload and expenditures that we’re seeing, due to the increased caseload. Any questions?”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “I’m going to certainly be supportive of excepting the money. What exactly are you going to do with the money, hire people or use it for . . .?”

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Ms. Reichenberger said, “No. We currently have temporary help on board, so this would continue supporting the temporary help, while we investigate other methods to handle this increased caseload. Also, when we see an increased caseload, we’re also seeing increases in contractals and commodities in the program. So, the dollars would be spent in support of that.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “So, we’re actually going out and having to purchase the commodities for them. Is that correct?”

Ms. Reichenberger said, “No. This would be . . . an example would be like postage or just having increased expenditures, overall.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. Am I right in saying commodities usually are food stuffs?”

Ms. Reichenberger said, “Budgetary-wise.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Budgetary-wise, okay. Fine. Great. Okay, I don’t see any other questions. So, what’s the will of the Board on this item?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to accept the grant award.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Next item please.”

F. ESTIMATE FOR WATERLINE RELOCATION IN CONNECTION WITH

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SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT NO. 833-AA, BB, CC; ROCK ROAD FROM DERBY TO MULVANE. CIP# R-243. DISTRICTS #2 AND #5.

Mr. David Spears, Director/County Engineer, Public Works Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item F is the approval of an estimate from Rural Water District #3 for the relocation of waterlines in connection with the Rock Road widening project, between Derby and Mulvane, designated as R-243 in the Capital Improvement Program. The cost of the relocation will be \$16,187. The waterlines that Sedgwick County is paying for are in a private easement. I recommend that you approve the estimate."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, David. Any questions of David on this item? Hearing none, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the estimate.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "David, before you leave, I was at that pre-conference or . . ."

Mr. Spears said, "Pre-construction conference."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Pre-construction conference and as I was seeing it, some of the difficulty in getting this project started was getting some of the utilities to commit to their deadline as to when they'd have their lines of cables or whatever moved. Is that proceeding as fast as possible?"

Mr. Spears said, "I think, so far, we still have a problem with one utility company and often times that can hold up a project, as I think you caught the flavor of that when you were at the meeting."

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I'm glad you were there, by the way. But we're still working with them and we hope to accelerate that and we're doing everything we can to do that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Well, keep me posted and if I could be of any help or make a phone call for you or whatever. I don't know what I could do, but I'd hate to have it delayed just because one utility is not moving as fast as we'd like to have it."

Mr. Spears said, "I appreciate that and as for the public's knowledge, that project is scheduled for 240 working days, which would take it into probably next year."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, all right. Thank you very much, David. Next item please."

G. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2002.

Mr. Jerry Phipps, Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have the Minutes of the February 28th meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts. There are four items for your consideration.

1) FRESH AIR PRE-CONDITIONING- FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER/ FACILITY PROJECTS FUNDING: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Item one is a fresh air pre-conditioning for the Forensic Science Center. It was moved to accept the low bid of Piping and Equipment for \$195,955.

2) 2002 LATEX MODIFIED SLURRY SEAL- PUBLIC WORKS FUNDING: SALES TAX

Item two, latex modified slurry seal for the Public Works Department. It was moved to accept the low bid of Ballou Construction for \$633,059.58.

3) CELL PHONES- PUBLIC WORKS FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS

Item three, cell phones for the Public Works Department. It was recommended to accept the proposal of Sprint for \$29,662.29.

4) COT SHEETS- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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FUNDING: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Item four, cot sheets for the Emergency Medical System [sic]. It was moved and recommended to accept the low bid, meeting specification of items one and two, from Matrix Medical for estimated annual cost of \$42,000 and the low bid, meeting specifications for item three, from Alliance Medical for \$6,000 and this is about a yearly estimate, \$48,000.

I'll be happy to take questions and recommend approval of the Minutes of the Board of Bids and Contracts."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, are there any questions on this item? Could you possibly just explain to us on item three, it didn't say accept the bid meeting specifications as to why you chose Sprint, so I assume that Singular met specifications?"

Mr. Phipps said, "When we went and looked into this project, they had samples from all these companies to test each telephone throughout the County, and the Sprint was the only system that would go throughout the County and be able to talk back into our system."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Doesn't work way up north, David."

Chairman Sciortino said, "It works well in your area? Did you say it doesn't?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "Nothing does."

Chairman Sciortino said, "So, Singular didn't work as well as Sprint. Is that correct?"

Mr. Phipps said, "That is correct. We had test units out in the field and then we got documentation from those users."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you. That's all that I had. I don't see any other questions. So, what's the will of the Board on this item please?"

MOTION

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

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Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Next item.”

CONSENT AGENDA

H. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Easements.

- a. One Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Stream Maintenance Project No. 783-X; 295th Street West between 63rd and 71st Streets South. District #3.
- b. One Easement for Right-of-Way and one Easement for Drainage for Sedgwick County Bridge Project No. 791-A-5209; 231st Street West between 117th and 125th Streets North. CIP# B-316. District #3.

2. Order dated February 27, 2002 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.

3. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of February 27 – March 5, 2002.

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, good morning. You have the Consent Agenda before you

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and I would recommend you approve it.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn 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 Norton	Absent
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. I don’t know why, but I have a feeling that this next item’s going to be the most interesting. So, is there anything else to come before the Board?”

Commissioner Gwin said, “No, I don’t have anything to say.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. I was hoping you might share, just briefly. I know that you were the guest of the Singapore Air Force.”

Commissioner Gwin said, “Oh, you wanted a report on that, did you?”

Chairman Sciortino said, “You had occasion to leave the wonderful State of Kansas for parts to the Far East. I’d like to hear what happened.”

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I. OTHER

Commissioner Gwin said, "Okay. I can't recount it all because I don't know . . . I think, in my journal, I have 37 pages of notes that I made to myself about all of the events and activities and foods. Suffice it to say that the Republic of Singapore Air Force is an excellent host and the reason, the purpose of the trip was to celebrate the partnership that McConnell Air Force Base and the Republic of Singapore Air Force have. Singapore's air force crewmembers come here and are trained to fly and maintain KC-135 tankers. Then the tankers and those crews go back to Singapore and they are there as a wonderful ally to the United States in general to refuel our fighter planes and other planes as they fly in that area, so we don't have to have a military base or a presence there. This partnership works very well.

The trip was really for Colonel Ladinier and his wife, Pam and then several other members of McConnell Air Force staff who are familiar with this program and luckily I came along as a representative of the community to express to both of them our congratulations in this kind of partnership.

Singapore is a very interesting and fascinating city/ country. Very diverse, ethnically and culturally and religious based. English is a primary language, however, so I was not limited in my ability to communicate but I think what surprised and impressed us all was this country's wonderful ability to absorb and appreciate all the different cultures who live there. It's very open. They are very harmonious in their relationships. It would be wonderful if we could take some of those lessons from them. They celebrate their cultural and religious diversities openly and appreciate one another for that.

That's the good news. The bad news is it's a very hot and humid country. For those of us who were raised in this part of the country, dealing with those humidity levels for me especially, was very difficult. But they were very gracious hosts. When Colonel Kwan, who is the commander of the Changi Air Base, when Colonel Kwan does come to the states, to Wichita and Sedgwick County to visit, we're going to have a tough act to follow. They were very cordial and very gracious and I look forward to the opportunity for you all to meet him and who ever he may bring with him and hopefully share what Wichita and Sedgwick County has to offer.

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He was gracious enough, in one of our first meetings, to present me with this plaque and I would hope, if we have room in the case out front, that a gift from the Singapore Air Force needs to be out front. Both Colonel Ladinier and I were given one of those. It's a wonderful opportunity. I appreciate you all allowing me to be gone for a week or so and go see that part of the world.

The other side, the other wonderful side of that was that I do have a first-cousin who currently lives in Singapore and has just lived there just over a year and so I did get to bring some family linkage and connections and say hi to him, on behalf of his mom, who lives here."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Didn't you also share that there was an air show going on and you sort of surprised . . .?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "It's wonderful, a huge Asian aerospace show was occurring while we were there and, as I looked through the list of exhibitors, Raytheon was there and Cessna was there and Bombardier was there and Boeing was there. And so, I set about the day of that air show trying to find somebody from Wichita. So, I went to Raytheon first and talked to some of the local folks, the Singaporeans that they'd hired and they couldn't quite help me and one woman said, "Well, I believe this gentleman over here is from Wichita" and I stepped up and introduced myself and he gave me his name and I said, "Well, for Heaven's sake, you and I went to grade school, junior high and high school together and I came all the way from Wichita just to say hello". And I did make calls on all the others, found some other folks from Wichita at the Cessna center and told them to give my regards to Mr. Hay and Mr. Moore and tell them that I came all the way to Singapore just to say hello. But a very impressive aerospace show, with manufacturers in aircraft from all over the world and the new F-35 fighter that Lockheed Martin just got. There was a mock-up of it. It's not yet ready to fly but impressive aircraft and folks from all over the world. So, that was a very special day for all of us."

Chairman Sciortino said, "So, you enjoyed you trip."

Commissioner Gwin said, "I enjoyed my trip. I highly recommend it. It's a long, tedious trip, coming and going but the people of Singapore are wonderful people and if anyone out there has the opportunity of taking advantage and going to visit that beautiful country, I encourage you to do so."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, well thank you for the update. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Glad to be back though. Kansas looks pretty good."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I just wanted to express our thanks to Commissioner Gwin. I know it's a long trip but the mission at McConnell Air Force Base is so important to this

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community that when they'd like to have a community representative with them on a trip, we certainly needed to be represented and we certainly appreciate your effort to do that."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Thank you. We're very proud of them and the folks from McConnell are just top-drawer people. They were very inclusive of me, because I was kind of the odd man out if you will. But they are wonderful folks with whom to travel and very courteous and fine representatives of this community."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well that's good. I have just one big, important . . . How was the food?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "The food was wonderful. I mean, it was an experience and chop sticks and I have come to know each other, as have the dry cleaners my clothes. It wasn't always successful."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Did they give you a one-on-one class on how to operate them?"

Commissioner Gwin said, "Yeah, they taught me the very first evening. But the food was delightful."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Great. Anything else to come before the Board?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "Just one thing. I believe we have an A.L.A.R.M. meeting Saturday. I don't believe I'm going to make it, but I understand that they are going to tour the jail, so it will be over at Sheriff Steed's place."

Commissioner Gwin said, "Oh, and then on Monday we have that Quad-County planning forum over in Reno County too. That's always a good meeting."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Anything else to come before the Board? If not, this meeting is adjourned."

J. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

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

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman
Fifth District

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