

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**October 2, 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, October 2, 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 Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters, Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Ms. Jan Kennedy, Treasurer; Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development; Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Office; Mr. Ron Holt, Director, Division of Culture, Entertainment and Recreation; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Ms. Peggy Baker, Clinic Services Supervisor, Health Department; Mr. Pete Giroux, Senior Management Analyst, Budget Department; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

#### **GUESTS**

Ms. Sue Castile, Director, National Conference for Community and Justice.

**INVOCATION:** The Invocation was led by Mr. Bob Bruener of Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Wichita.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Next item."

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting, September 4, 2002

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2002.

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Commissioners, I believe you’ve had a chance to review the Minutes of the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002 meeting. What’s the will of the Board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2002.

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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

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

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**A. PROCLAMATIONS.**

**1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 6, 2002 AS “NCCJ WALK AS ONE DAY.”**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you. I’ll now read this proclamation into the record. It states:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Sedgwick County have long recognized the wealth of our human resources resides in our diversity. We must appreciate the diversity of our residents, to create a better community for all of us. We need to utilize our unique place within the State of Kansas, and work together in the community to remove the barriers that keep some individuals from reaching their full potential; and

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**WHEREAS**, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) is a human relations organization founded in 1927. Previously known as the National Conference for Christians and Jews, NCCJ works with leaders and people from different backgrounds to create communities of justice where each person, regardless of differences, will be treated with respect and understanding; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCCJ Walk As One Walk-A-Thon was created in 1998 to unify communities across America while raising awareness of the issues surrounding bias, bigotry and racism, securing funds to support NCCJ's youth and community leadership initiatives and strengthen the impact of NCCJ's work in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, these walks are enabling us to make significant progress in bringing people together across the divides of race, faith, culture and ethnicity; and

**WHEREAS**, the major objective of the NCCJ is to promote the well-being of the diverse communities that make up our Sedgwick County community, by increasing awareness of the diverse population, to initiate community involvement, and to promote the diverse values and cultures.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2002 as

**“NCCJ WALK AS ONE DAY”**

in Sedgwick County and call upon all people to learn more about the diversity in our community and show their appreciation of diversity by joining in the NCCJ Walk As One Walk-A-Thon.

Commissioners, what's the will of the Board on this one?"

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

### VOTE

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Ms. Castile, please feel free to say some words to us.”

**Ms. Sue Castile**, Director, National Conference for Community and Justice, greeted the Commissioners and said, “And this morning I’d like to express my appreciation on behalf of NCCJ and our board to you and all of Sedgwick County for your support of this event. It is our first walk here in Wichita, which will be held on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. We’d like to invite all of you to participate and be part of our opening ceremony, which will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday at Riverside Park.

We are just really grateful for Sedgwick County’s ongoing support of our work in the community and we know that diversity is something that is increasing all across the United States, and particularly in our community as well and we believe our goal is consistent with yours in building a more inclusive community and we just really want to express our appreciation for your involvement.

I’d also like to thank Stephanie Payton and Lucretia Taylor for their assistance in recruiting Sedgwick County employees to come out and participate. It is a fundraising event, as well as an awareness-building event. The funds raised from this will be used to support our youth and community leadership programs. I’d be happy to answer any questions if I can.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well, I have a couple. As everyone knows, I’m chronologically gifted. Before I commit to the walk, how long of a walk-a-thon is it?”

**Ms. Castile** said, “Under 50 miles.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Under 50 miles. Well, I’d be good for a mile or so.”

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**Ms. Castile** said, "It's about . . . It's probably just under a mile and a half, around the park."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay and that will be in Riverside Park?"

**Ms. Castile** said, "Yes."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "It starts at one?"

**Ms. Castile** said, "Right. Registration is at noon. The walk actually starts at one. That's when we'll have the ribbon cutting ceremony and we'd very much like for you to be part of that, if you're able to attend. Follow by that will be a mini multi-cultural fair. We'll have vendors and entertainment, with food at no cost for the participants."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "With food?"

**Ms. Castile** said, "I should have said that first."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, that's great and I'll for one commit, even though we're kind of miffed here. Only Tim's got a button and if there's some other buttons."

**Ms. Castile** said, "I can rectify that."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, that would be great."

**Ms. Castile** said, "Tee-shirts too."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Oh, okay. It's getting better and better. Well anyway, some of us will be joining you. I think it's a great event. Commissioner McGinn."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Thank you. Sue, you said this is the first time here in Wichita. How long has it been going along in other parts?"

**Ms. Castile** said, "You know, NCCJ has about 65 offices across the country. In 1998, some of the other regions launched the walk and our goal is for all of our regions to have a walk in their communities. At this point, we're doing it in about 25 cities."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Okay, so nationally it's kind of a new thing for everybody. It's just that we're just now getting going on it too."

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**Ms. Castile** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Do you have an indication of the turnout or is there any way to know at this point? You just wait and see?"

**Ms. Castile** said, "If anyone is watching, I urge you to turn in your registration card today. I think we may have about 500 people."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Okay. Well that's great."

**Ms. Castile** said, "That's best guesstimate at the moment."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Well I hear it's supposed to rain tonight and maybe tomorrow."

**Ms. Castile** said, "But it won't on Sunday. It's going to be warm and lovely. We've requested it."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Okay, great. And thank you for recognizing Stephanie Payton and Lucretia Taylor because I go out and every time there's something that has to do with diversity, they're out there really promoting that. So, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I just remembered something. I let my mouth override my intellect again and I just remembered I'm double-booked. There's a fire prevention or firefighters' memorial . . . Betsy, help."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "It's the Fallen Firefighters service."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I had committed to say something there but that starts at 12:30 and I can't figure out how I can be there and I don't think the firefighters are offering free cookies."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "They might. The auxillary usually does."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I was wondering if, Vice Chair, could you take over my responsibilities with the firefighters so the County could be at both places?"

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "I'd be happy to."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "We'll figure it out, internally. Okay, I don't think we have any questions and thank you ever so much and good luck this Sunday. Next item please."

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**2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 6 – 12, 2002 AS “FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.”**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay, I’ll read this proclamation into the record. It says:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, a home fire is reported to a fire department, in the United States, nearly every one and a half minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, someone dies in a home fire approximately every two and a half hours; and

**WHEREAS**, only six percent of homes do not have a working smoke alarm, but account for one-half of the fire deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Prevention Week 2002 “Team Up For Fire Safety” theme teaches the public how to identify and remove everyday home fire hazards, and encourages people to develop a home fire escape plan that includes working smoke alarms; and

**WHEREAS**, Sedgwick County Fire District #1 is dedicated to safety of life and property from the devastating effects of fire.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2002 as

**“FIRE PREVENTION WEEK”**

in Sedgwick County and encourage every resident to participate in fire prevention activities at home, work and school, and to take steps needed to make their homes and families safe from fire.

Commissioners, what’s the will of the Board on this proclamation?”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**Mr. Greg Thompson**, Fire Marshall, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On behalf of the Fire District, I would like to thank you for this proclamation and for recognizing the importance of fire prevention and fire safety here in our community.

Every fire safety team starts with firefighters but we cannot do it alone. Effective fire safety depends on teamwork. That’s why the theme for this year’s fire prevention week is ‘Team Up With Fire Safety’. It’s a simple idea, team up with those people with whom you live, work, play and worship so that all of you will be prepared to prevent and, if necessary, survive a home fire.

This year’s theme encourages children and families to recognize the role they play in keeping their home fire safe by focusing on three key messages. One is installing and testing smoke alarms. Two, practicing home escape plans and three, hunting for home fire hazards. According to the NFPA, 85% of all the fires occur in the home and most of these fires are preventable. When there is a fire, you may have only two minutes to get out of the home. Having working smoke alarms and a well practiced home escape plan are crucial so that everyone knows what to do and where to go. Taking a few moments to inspect and correct the common fire hazards in your home can make a real difference in your family’s safety and well-being.

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In addition to that, I'd like to invite you and tell you about some of the activities that we have going on during this next week. We have a fire safety guide book, 50,000 copies of the Fire Safety Guidebook will be distributed to the Wichita and Sedgwick County residents in the October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> issue of the Wichita Eagle. An additional 10,000 copies are going to be produced and made available to participating fire departments that are not in Sedgwick County. The production of this guidebook was a joint venture through several of our organizations that we work with and along with Vulcan. And without Vulcan, the funding would not have been possible. So if you see someone from Vulcan, thank them for us.

Also, we have a new program that we worked on and started this year and it's called Rudy Doo, a Safety Adventure. Rudy Doo, and I have some graphics here, this is a new program that we started and I'm going to pass one of these out, I'm going to give them to your staff to pass to you to take a look at. We're very proud of this. One of the things that I do need to do is recognize my people that worked on this. This was a very long project, a lot of hard work was done on this. Lieutenant Patty Peterson, our Public Education Officer, spent a lot of time on this."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Can we get her to stand? Stand up, Patty."

**Mr. Thompson** said, "And I'd like to thank Patty and then I've got some other staff members that I want to thank, Tim Milspar, Division Chief, Walter Rooney, and Kevin Holeman. Without these guys this week, this has been a really busy week and they're going to be busy all next week on a lot of these activities. So, I really appreciate their help.

But Rudy Doo, this is a design that was done . . . design work was done by one of our firefighters, all the drawings and all of this stuff. Don Stuart designed those and drew them for us and then Tony Juliano, the graphics artist with the County, did a lot of the work on that so we also want to thank those people.

But these materials will be distributed to all kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Fire District. They will be delivered to all schools the week of September the 30<sup>th</sup>. In fact, we've already delivered them and students are encouraged to enter the local contest by completing these worksheets and there's a contest. The entry deadline on it will be October the 14<sup>th</sup> and we'll select local winners for some prizes and things that we have on October the 18<sup>th</sup>.

One other very important function that we also do is our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade Fire Prevention

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Luncheon. This is going to be on Tuesday, October the 8<sup>th</sup> out at the zoo. This is something that we've done every year, in conjunction with the zoo. We host it, along with several other agencies, Wichita Fire, McConnell, Boeing Fire Departments and several other agencies that help us out with that. Have about 2,000 kids, 5<sup>th</sup> graders that come out and have a lot of activities and a lot of fun and games. So, that's one of the programs that we're very proud of.

Also, on October the 6<sup>th</sup> at the Kansas Firefighters' Memorial, the one we were talking about a little bit earlier, this will be October the 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fallen Firefighters' Memorial down here at 1300 South Broadway and this is to recognize all the firefighters in Wichita and Sedgwick County that have fallen in the line of duty over the number of years and would like to invite everybody out for that. It will be at 1:00.

A lot of the other things that are going to be taking place. It's going to be a really busy week for us. We're going to have station tours, demonstrations, open houses, classroom presentations, fire safety house programs and many more activities. So, it's going to be a busy week. But I wanted to thank you for recognizing this and issuing the proclamation. Any questions?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Commissioners, any questions or comments? Well I have one too, because you mentioned the fact that Vulcan got involved in it. As I understand it, they underwrote the cost of the printing of all of those brochures. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Thompson** said, "Yes."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well I think, just as one, I don't know that Steve Nikkel's watching. I would think he's got something better to do, since he has to run Vulcan but on behalf of Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners, Steve Nikkel, all the folks out at Vulcan, we really thank you for participating. You're a tremendous corporate citizens and without the help of some of these private individuals, we couldn't function nearly as effective and I'm really pleased also that, you know, when we put firefighters on the scene, that's the court of last result. We now have to put out a fire and fire prevention is so effective in preventing the need for us to be out there putting out a fire or, heaven forbid, dragging someone out of a fire that maybe hasn't made it. So I compliment your entire staff on all the efforts that you're going to be doing this week. I know it's a year-long effect that you work on, but this is one week that we can really focus on educating the public on, basically, common sense.

Like I noticed just last week, in my garage, there was an old lawnmower can of gasoline sitting right up next to our freezer that we put out there. Who moved it, I don't know, but all the sudden,

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‘Duh’ that doesn’t see like it’s really smart. And it’s just common sense but people kind of forget those things.”

**Mr. Thompson** said, “Those are the kind of hazards that we want people to look for in their homes.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Because they’re easy to eliminate. Commissioner Norton, you had a question?”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Just a comment. From years in the retail business, it seems like people don’t buy their smoke alarms and their fire equipment and their extinguishers early in the season, because generally the worst fires are after the first of the year and you could just see the panic on people’s faces the first big fire in December, January, February or whatever we used to sell out of all the fire things and it would be nice if people would heed this and buy them throughout the year, instead of panic and then being mad at some of the retailers because they’ve sold out of everything in one weekend after the first Christmas tree burns down or whatever it might be. So getting the word out now in October, before the tough fire season of the holidays hits is a wonderful way and it’s certainly good for the retailers, because they can plan to sell a little bit at a time, instead of having that one panic thing after the first fire, where everybody comes in and guts the place of fire extinguishers and other paraphernalia. Just a comment.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well, we were at one function where you were actually letting people . . . Most people will buy a fire extinguisher and never use it and thank goodness. But you were out and I forgot the words, the key words about . . .?”

**Mr. Thompson** said, “We use an acronym called PASS, Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Shoot.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Whatever but it was just showing people and they were really, maybe for the first time in their lives, experiencing what it felt like to operate a fire extinguisher.”

**Mr. Thompson** said, “Right, that was a very successful program that we did along with Emergency Management, through the Ready to Respond program.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Pull, aim, . . .”

**Mr. Thompson** said, “Squeeze, you have to squeeze the extinguisher and shoot at the base of the fire.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “And shoot at the base of the fire. Okay, PASS, okay well anyway thank you very much and congratulations on the work that you do all year around. Next item

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please.”

**3. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 6 – 12, 2002 AS “MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK.”**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “There’s probably a reason why I’m reading this particular one. Okay, I’d like to read this one into the record also.

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, mental illness affects millions of Americans of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds in all communities; and

**WHEREAS**, early intervention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of these problems greatly increases the likelihood of recovery and restored health; and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma and lack of understanding about mental illness continues to present the single most significant barrier to care for those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment for mental illness is as effective as treatments for other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of health care providers have dedicated their lives to helping individuals and families and educating the public about mental illness and treatment issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2002 as

**“MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK”**

in Sedgwick County and ask all residents to join me in working to improve public awareness and create greater understanding of mental illness and the benefits derived from community treatment.

Commissioners, what’s the will of the Board on this proclamation?”

**MOTION**

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Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize the Chairman 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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Good morning, Marilyn."

**Ms. Marilyn Cook**, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Really appreciate this proclamation. We feel it's very, very important. Mental illnesses are illnesses that affect persons, a way a person thinks and feels and acts and, like most illnesses, they have intertwined biological, psychological and environmental causes to them. Anyone can experience a mental illness. In fact, mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes or heart disease and, in any given year, more than five million Americans suffer from an acute episode of one of the illnesses.

Total price tag is pretty astounding too, to the American public. In this country it's 148 billion dollars are spent in the treatment of mental illnesses, including direct costs, such as hospitalizations and medications and indirect costs, such as wages that are lost, family care giving and losses due to suicide.

Unfortunately, as the proclamation states, most people don't often seek help because of the stigma that still surrounds mental illnesses, sadly, after all these years. Part of that is because our society has so many stereotypes about mental illness and general misinformation about the diseases.

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I would like for the people in Wichita to know that there are many effective treatments for mental illnesses, including new medications that come out all of the time that significantly reduce symptoms that people experience and allow individuals to maintain normal lifestyles and to maintain their lives in the community.

Despite the tremendous strides, there is still quite a bit of stigma that is attached to that. I was fortunate to hear Kathy Cronkite speak about three weeks ago at our state conference. She, of course, is the daughter of the famous newscaster Walter Cronkite and Kathy is one of a few celebrities that have made a mission out of talking about their mental illnesses. She also had a co-occurring addiction disorder but she suffered from depression for about 25 years.

Now during that entire time she was going to different facilities and getting treatment. In our own field, it's been a fairly recent phenomenon that we share people's diagnosis with them, so she knew she was getting help. She wasn't quite sure what she was getting help for and she talked about that and when she found out it was depression she was dealing with, she did a lot of research and reading and continues to do that and spends a majority of her time going all over the United States talking about mental illness, how it impacted her life and hope that it reduces the stigma.

She did write a book in 1993 called 'On the Edge of Darkness' where she interviewed a number of celebrities. Mike Wallace was one of the people who came out in 1993 publicly with his depression and that inspired her to write the book. But it was interesting to hear her talk about it. During the time she was writing the book, which got published in '93, so she started it a little bit earlier, she interviewed a number of athletes who would talk to her about having depression problems and other problems but would not give their names. None of the professional women that she spoke with and who provided interviews would give their names and two people used aliases in that and that was in 1993.

Her story really was a very touching one and I wrote down a couple of things that she said that I thought were very significant about stigma. One of the things she said is that the problem with stigma is not that it hurts people's feelings but that it keeps people from getting help and often when you think of stigma you think, 'Oh, they're going to be embarrassed if they talk about it'. It's not about that at all. It's about the stereotypes that keep people from getting the treatment that could help them. Another quote she had was that while many are in treatment, still two out of three people with depression don't get the help they need due to fear and stigma. They fear the reaction of others to their diagnosis. They fear a loss of credibility. They fear losing friends. They fear that if others know that they suffer from depression then they'll see them as weak or maybe unable to cope. And she ended her talk by saying psychiatric illnesses are not a judgment, not a weakness, not a sin, a failure of spirit or a lack of resolve, they're diseases, very inspiring to hear her talk.

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I want to acknowledge . . . We have some activities as well. I want to acknowledge actually two people in the audience here. One is Bev Baughman, who is our Business Development Coordinator, marketing person and if you would stand up, Bev. Bev does more to combat stigma in this community than I think anybody else does. She is at every festival and event representing COMCARE. Anytime the media calls and has a question, she will locate providers in a busy day that she feels can address whatever questions they have, provide whatever insight they need and she does that, day in, day out. So I wanted to acknowledge her.

And I also want to acknowledge Luella Sanders, who is the Director of our Homeless Program. She's been involved with Project Awareness for a number of years. And if you would stand as well, Luella. Project Awareness is a collaboration among a number of agencies and individuals in Wichita and has been around for a number of years and they are sponsoring their sixth annual candlelight ceremony on Sunday. A lot is going on on Sunday. Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Wichita Boathouse starting at 6:30. At 6:00 there is a resource fair and 7:00 the candlelight ceremony program will begin. Anita Cochran, from KSNW News is going to be hosting it and then we have a consumer that's going to be talking about her personal recovery and there's a free dessert reception by Cero's Candies and coffee and tea by Java Villa. So we have some nice things and that's being sponsored by the Forrest C. Latner Foundation and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

And then we also have a walk on Friday, October the 11<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Sciortino, this is a symbolic walk that lasts only half a block, so I think you're going to be able to make this one and it's a walk for awareness, homelessness and mental illness and that's October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Mid-American All Indian Center. That starts from 12 to 1. Registration starts at 11:30 and Tracy Cassidy from . . .”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “I'm Dangerfield. I get no respect.”

**Ms. Cook** said, “Tracy Cassidy from B-98 is going to be the hostess at that one and they're going to have a speaker, Nathaniel Lockenmeyer, who was the author of several books. He wrote about his own father's depression and there is free pizza and pop and cookies at that one.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “What's the date of that one?”

**Ms. Cook** said, “That one is October the 11<sup>th</sup>.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “And what time?”

**Ms. Cook** said, “It starts at 12 but you need to register by 11:30.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay and it's at the All Indian Center.”

**Ms. Cook** said, “Right. Half a block.”

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Half a block, okay. Great. Commissioners, any comments? I’m going to reserve comment on that little snide remark. I’m good for a whole block I want to you know. Yes, Commissioner McGinn.”

**Commissioner McGinn** said, “I’m not sure if I heard you right. When you were talking about the Cronkite gal you said she dealt with the depression for 25 years. It almost sounded like she got over it. Is it she . . . You don’t get over it, do you?”

**Ms. Cook** said, “Well, some do. She’s in a remission process. She talked specifically about a new medication that she’s been on. She was on a medication for a number of years that stopped working which happens with a lot of people. She had some recent research that says that it’s not uncommon to have an average of seven years to find the right combination of therapy and medication for individuals that have severe depression problems. So she was stable, on her medication for a long time and then, for whatever reason, sometimes there are biological things that happen, hormonal things that happen, her medication stopped working for her. And she was very hesitant, by the way, to make a change in medication because it took so long to get stable on it in the first place.

So she’s in a recovery process. She is functioning well but she did have a real relapse last year, she said, but that she feels like she is back on track.”

**Commissioner McGinn** said, “But sometimes you can have a biological or chemical change in your body and get over it too?”

**Ms. Cook** said, “Absolutely and stay in remission.”

**Commissioner McGinn** said, “Okay, thank you.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Let me ask a question on that. Is this somewhat like maybe alcoholism, where the person that has the disease or has the problem doesn’t really realize they have a problem? I mean, when you use the word relapse, and that’s what triggered the analogy between the two illnesses. Is it someone else in the household or the family members that has to confront the person and say, ‘Hey, you’re having’ . . .?”

**Ms. Cook** said, “Sometimes that’s the case. There are a number of people that . . . Now, she talked

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very openly about the fact that she knew from childhood that she was different. But there are a lot of myths that go along with childhood and adolescence in older years and that is childhood, everybody should experience a very happy childhood. She was miserable in her childhood and she talked about that. Had a very famous dad, had all the things that money could buy but she always felt out of it. At family affairs, for instance, she would say she would spend a lot of time in the corner. She was very withdrawn and the family didn't want to talk about it. They've been very supportive of her in the past couple of years but it was something their family didn't talk about. In her case, and in the case of many people that have a major mental illness or a drug or alcohol problem, the behaviors sometimes are noticed first or the symptoms are noticed first or the symptoms are noticed first by others around them. But I would say the majority of people that experience a mental illness do know something is different. And she felt that in childhood. She clearly felt it during her adolescence, she said and that was also a very miserable time in her life."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Let me ask you just one question. Say someone is watching right now and because of what you've just said or this week they're starting to get enough courage to maybe go find out if they do or . . . where do they call?"

**Ms. Cook** said, "They would call our centralized intake number and I'll tell you, we've got a new number but you've got it, I bet. It's 660-7540 and it would be a matter of calling and just kind of explaining what's going on in very simple terms and the people that answer those lines will listen, they'll ask some questions and they'll try to make the best connection to the program they felt would help the most."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Great. Okay, thank you. Any other comments or questions? Okay, thank you very much Marilyn and good luck. And I'll be there on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30."

**Ms. Cook** said, "Only it will be October."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "October I mean. Well, I have a problem too. I'm going to call the number. What number was that?"

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "We'll just get you a calendar."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Just get me a calendar of events. Okay. Clerk, call the next item."

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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**B. PRESENTATION REGARDING INTERNET TAG RENEWALS.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Ms. Jan Kennedy**, Treasurer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "And it's a honor and privilege to be able to address you with some exciting news this morning."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And you're in your pajamas."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "I'm in my pajamas because you no longer have to come to the tag office. You can stay at home in your jammies and renew. Chairman Sciortino has agreed to be our guinea pig so that we can actually do a live demonstration and show how easy it is to renew on-line."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Should I come down there?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Yes, please do."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "They took a poll and I am the most technologically disadvantaged person that now works for the County and so they thought if I can do it, anybody can. So why don't I come down and we do it and then come back and then we can visit and discuss, if that's okay."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Great. And while you're coming, I'll talk a little bit about the history of the project. The legislation that has enabled it was passed in May of 2001. The treasurers and their technology committee began meeting almost instantaneously with the Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles and have been part of the process all along. Electronic renewal means two options are now available, the website which we'll be demonstrating, which is [www.ks.webtag.org](http://www.ks.webtag.org) and the toll free number which allows you to do the same process electronically by telephone is 1-866-KSTAGS.

People do need to know that there is an additional fee involved. This fee is charged by the vendor that the state has contracted with to handle the backroom processing of credit cards. It's a convenience fee that is passed on to the citizens on a sliding scale, based on the amount being charged. This is not money that either the state or the county realizes. This is simply how the vendor makes their living.

We have lots of benefits. Are you ready to go? If you go down here to this little thingy, we've got it set up so just click on that and that will bring up the web page."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, so now I've brought up a web page and now let me see if I can read it and what have you."

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**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Don't go too far ahead. We need to get the camera on that don't we and the lights."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Now, there are some criteria that are required and they're listed there. You have to have a current registration, and if you don't have a current registration, you'll have to come see us."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Now that's this thing that was sent in the mail to me."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "You're current now."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I'm current and this, I think everyone that's getting a license renewed got this in the mail and this is mine."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "And as part of that, you will be assigned a PIN number that's connected with your vehicles. Those are assigned randomly and that enables you to actually enter into the system. You need your renewal to be current, your address needs to be current and you must be insured by a participating insurance company. We are adding more insurance companies all the time. This is interactive between the insurance companies and the Department of Motor Vehicles and you have to have a valid Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover that has enough credit limit.

In fact, if you would go to this underline where it says participating insurance company, that's a way that people can check to see if their insurance company is participating. If your insurance company does not participate, we would encourage you to call your agent and their home office and tell them how interested you would be in using this service, should they participate because it is voluntary and you're on there."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Yes, State Farm."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Okay, so you can go back and it says . . . and you do have a valid credit card, is that correct or you borrowed one?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I borrowed one."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "All right, we're ready to go. Scroll on down, because it will give us some options here. You don't have to do anything now. We'll tell all that later. This just reminds you

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that you're going to a very secure site."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, so I say okay on that one, right?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "I would hope so, yes sir."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, step one enter your PIN number and vehicle year. Now where do I do that?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Scroll down. There's a place, PIN number. This is the number that is showing on your renewal. And that's all you have to do. Go ahead and scroll down and it will say do you want to continue or do you want to quit? We want you to say continue."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "This tells me what car I've got, my insurance company, my policy number."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "And you can check all this and make sure that it's accurate. If you're not driving a 2000 Jaguar, this isn't your registration. So, you can go ahead. This gives you, again, more summary information. Do you want to cancel or do you want to check out?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Check out means I'm completed? So I hit that."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Yep, you hit that. Now we have to know how you're going to pay for it. So I would ask the media please to not show this, so that you can safely put in your credit card number. And you don't need to put in any hyphens or dashes or spaces. So let's tell them it's a Mastercard."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, I've got that. Okay, that's fine. Cardholder's zip code, that's just my home? Okay, got that and then cardholder's phone number."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "No spaces."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, got it."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Now scrolled down and it should tell you if you're ready to distribute the payment."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Invalid number?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Area code."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Oh, it doesn't say to do that. I'm telling you, if it doesn't say to do that . . ."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Okay, we'll see if they can't add a prompt."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Seriously."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "We could say 'with area code'. That would be pretty easy to add."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Now, during the 15 minutes it takes to process it, you can put everything away, kick off your shoes if you're so inclined, get up and go get a cup of coffee if it's in the morning or a Coke or something if it's at night and totally relax, because you can do this 24/7."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "So now what do I do?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Is this okay?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "This says 446.64, is that the fifty cents? That's the fifty cents mail fee that was added."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "And the convenience fee of \$16.00 that was added. Print a receipt. You need to carry that receipt with you for ten days, until your decal actually arrives."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I did that."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "You can either go to the end or you can go take a brief survey about the process. All right, go to the end."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "So that's it. I've done it?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "And your decal or license plate will be mailed within 10 days from my office, actually probably sooner than that. And you are supposed to have a current decal in order to operate a car."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "So we're done? Now we can go back up and talk to you?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "We're done. Not bad. What we find is there's a lot of benefits to the County. It's more efficient for us to work with renewals this way. Instead of citizens having to send in a

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photocopy of their insurance or bring one with them, that's all verified electronically. We will save money on the postage for having to return applications that are incomplete and it certainly fits in well with our County's goal of trying to move services electronically out into the homes of our citizens.

For the citizens it eliminates some confusion of what law allows us to do and what we can accept as proof of insurance, because that's now part of the electronic record. They can renew when it's convenient for them. They can renew from anywhere around the world, not just from their own homes and you don't have to come stand in our lines. We like that. We hope our citizens like that.

Again, I want to repeat the limitations. You must be currently registered. If you have gone past your renewal date, you will still have to come see us. Your address must be current, your insurance company must be participating and late fees and penalties, anything past your normal renewal date are not included in this system. And there are certain tag types that require paper certification that cannot be renewed electronically. For example, if you have a University of Kansas Educational Institution plate as I do or Wichita State University institutional plate, as many in the room do, you will find that because of the verification, the paper verification from their association that's not connected in and we can't do that on-line. But other than that, most of the ordinary, plain vanilla tag renewals can be done on-line from wherever you have access to the Internet, or if you can't use one at work, you don't have one at home, you can't coerce your grandchildren into helping you, you can go to a public library or you can use the telephone system, which is extremely similar and also allows you, if you have access to a telephone, to be able to renew electronically. Commission, reactions?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, I think we have a lot . . . Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "A couple of questions. So I still have the old in-person, mail and now you've added Internet and phone opportunities. I noticed on the list, when you were . . . the drop-down window on the insurance companies that my particular insurance company is not on there. What can I do to encourage them to be a part of this?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Call your agent. Let them know that you would like them to participate. Call their home office, in case their agent doesn't do it. Let them know you want them to participate. It is voluntary on the part of the insurance companies. Many states that have gone to electronic renewal have actually had to have legislation to enable it. We've avoided that so far. We're pleased and proud that so many have stepped up to the plate. We believe that we have them protected and that that information is not available in the record."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Well, I appreciate the additional option and also appreciate that even if there is a convenience fee, it certainly is that. That my time and trouble and a lot of the folks out there who are watching, of getting in the car and driving and having to stand in line, taking that kind

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of time, is . . . You know, time is money and it certainly is just that, a convenience for having another option or two to be able to renew.

How will you go about the business of clarifying to folks that there are exceptions to this usage? Do you propose mailers or is there any way to get that out or does it go out with the form?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "The renewal notifications go out about six weeks before your registration currently expires and the information is included in those documents and if you have an eligible registration, a PIN number will have been assigned. So it will actually show on your registration."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "But if I have a plain, vanilla tag so to speak and I want to switch to a vanity tag or a university tag, then I'll need to come."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "You'll need to come see us, yes ma'am."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Okay. Thank you, Jan."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "But hopefully, if people renew on the telephone, the Internet or by mail, the lines will not be as onerous for the people who do need to be there in person."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "We hope so."

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

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Thank you. Help me understand how you came up with the \$16.00 convenience fee? I'm thinking about Select-a-Seat I think is three or four dollars for convenience. So how did you come up with that?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "It's based on the amount of the transaction. We didn't show it on screen but there is a table that is included in the website so if you want to know what yours is, you can certainly look it up."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "It's based on the amount of taxes that are due?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "It's the amount of registration and taxes that you pay."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Is that the charge that the credit card company charges their users for using? I know a credit card company charges Walmart a percentage. Is that the same percentage or is there another charge above what the credit card company charges?"

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**Ms. Kennedy** said, "No. The only charge is the credit card company and the back end processing company, which is Official Payments Corporation. They also provide this service for many other governmental entities as well as Kansas and the Internal Revenue Service."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "So what percentage of this \$16.00 are they getting?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "They get the whole \$16.00. They then pay Mastercard whatever Mastercard's charge is. And the difference between Mastercard's charge and the \$16.00 is what they pay their people with for their processing."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "I appreciate that. And so if someone has a lesser value car, they're going to pay a lesser amount."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "I believe it's \$3.00 up to \$99.00. Isn't that correct?"

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Okay, all right."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "\$3.00 would be the minimum and like I say, there is a table if you want to look up . . ."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "But we're offsetting what the credit cards charge us. So, all right, great, thank you."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. Jan, I have to be upfront. I was intimidated by doing it and then the little glitch about the phone numbers frightened me. Walk me through again . . . Like I know I got charged \$16.00 for a convenience fee. Why is doing it on-line more convenient than me just filing it out and putting a 37 cent stamp on it and mailing it in?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "For you, it may not be."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I mean, why would it be for anybody?"

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "There are people, Commissioner, that don't do it as promptly as you have, that suddenly they come up to the end of October and their tags are going to expire and they haven't done anything about it."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "And they're sitting in San Francisco on a business trip. Now they can do it on their laptop."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I understand that part, but it seems to me, and I want to be real careful here because I think technology is great. I don't understand it but it seems to me there's a reverse going here. It seems like it's a lot more convenient for the state if 100% of the people did it on-line. I think they would be able to reduce staff and what have you."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "I believe that to be true."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "It's more onerous for the state to have a person actually physically come into the tag office and there's a line, they have to wait and talk to people and use resources, yet we're charging inverse. I mean, people that walk in we don't charge them anything. People that mail it in we charge them 50 cents but the one that's the most beneficial to the state we stick them . . . or we just stuck me with \$16.00 and this is in addition to the 33 or 34 dollar registration fee."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Yes, that's correct. I have been arguing that we do have a reverse incentive in our pricing. However, I discussed this in length with the Secretary of Revenue when they were here on Monday, and one of the problems they have is to maintain a uniform registration rate throughout the state and it would take legislation to enable that to change and the legislators have not been inclined to put a pad in the registration fee or however they would structure it that would allow that to be. You can't discount a registration fee that's statewide, so they can't approach it from a discount. They're just real uncomfortable with saying it's a different registration fee for the methods you use."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, I mean they could opt to absorb some of the convenience fee."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "Probably not in these state budgetary times, no."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, it does seem . . ."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "I don't want to try to . . ."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I understand that and I understand . . ."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "I do that in my offices."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "But it seems to me if I come in and pay it in person and pay with my credit card, there is a fee that the state has absorbed."

**Ms. Kennedy** said, "No, the state does not absorb it. I do."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, “But you work for the state, don’t you?”

**Ms. Kennedy** said, “Well, I am acting as their agent, yes.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay, but I mean we absorb the credit card fee. We don’t pass it on to the customer.”

**Ms. Kennedy** said, “That is correct but that’s a decision that I make that is not uniform throughout the state.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Oh, okay. Well, probably the next time I’m going to probably use the mail and only get charged 37 cents instead of . . . What was I charged? I was charged 16 plus 50 plus the 33 so it cost me \$49.50 to be . . . Next year, look for another guinea pig.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner McGinn moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Gwin 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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

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

**C. DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

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1. **RESOLUTION AMENDING SEC. 24-31 OF CHAPTER 24 OF THE *SEDGWICK COUNTY CODE* CONCERNING THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Ms. Irene Hart**, Director, Division of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We bring before you today a resolution that makes some minor changes in the County resolution regarding the Solid Waste Committee. The state legislative session made a few minor changes such as who holds public hearings and when public hearings are held and we need to bring that to you and update our current County resolution. We took the opportunity to make some other changes that are just minor kinds of housekeeping changes.

Six years ago, when we set up the Solid Waste Committee, we set it up with certain rules and regulations. One of them for example was that 15 members of the committee would be appointed at-large by the County Commission. Well, six years later we found out that that’s a real difficult condition to administer trying to figure out 15 people and if someone resigns who appoints the next one and it became quite convoluted.

So in this resolution also we’ve changed the rules so that those 15 positions are divided among the five of you and you each have three appointments of general population, general purpose kinds of people to the Solid Waste Committee. So those are, essentially, the two significant changes. It really is just fine tuning and tweeking due to the change in state law and just housekeeping items in making the Solid Waste Committee a little easier to work with. I’d be happy to try to answer any questions you might have.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Commissioner Norton, go ahead.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “I know, Irene, you’ve taken the present 15 people and tried to divide them up and make them appointments for each Commissioner. When will we make that public as to who they are and do those people know that they’ve now become . . . will become officially our appointments and at some point there’s going to be a chance that we’ll reappoint or not reappoint individually?”

**Ms. Hart** said, “There’s a Solid Waste Committee meeting next Monday and I plan to share it with them at that time.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “I just think it’s important that they know that the rules have changed a little bit too . . . 15 people just by everyone. That they will be assigned to a Commissioners and

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hopefully will understand that they need to report to that Commissioner and have a linkage to that individual. That's all I had."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. There's also a group of appointees that are appointed by state statute requires that certain segments be represented. Are any of those memberships then assigned to individual Commissioners or these Commissioner appointments are on top of those?"

**Ms. Hart** said, "These Commissioner appointments are on top of them. The state law says we can have up to 30 on the Solid Waste Committee and about 15 of them are prescribed by law, so the other 15 where discretionary."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "So some of them are still . . . It's going to take a group effort to make sure that we have some of the slots filled."

**Ms. Hart** said, "Yes, sir. For example, there were so many appointments from a city of the first class, so many from cities of the second class. Solid waste haulers had to be represented. Recycling entities had to be represented. So the statute mandates a broad range of representation."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Okay, thank you. That's all I had."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I don't know for sure, Irene. Is 30 the number that we have to have? It seems like such a large number of people."

**Ms. Hart** said, "That's the maximum."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "That's the maximum. What's the minimum that we could have?"

**Ms. Hart** said, "The 15, I believe, that are prescribed by law, so 15 to 18 I believe."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. Let me ask maybe a question of Rich. Could you possibly, Rich . . . I don't know if the other Commiss . . . but I would like to know just exactly what we can and

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can't do. I'm not saying that we're going to change anything but just what are our flexibilities. I mean, I think Wichita has five appointees right now. Is that required by law or could that be lessened or increased? What are the positions, minimum/ maximum amounts that we're required to have and what are the rest? Like if 15 is the minimum but all 15 are required by statute, then we wouldn't have any individual appointees that we could make. But if you could give us kind of a white paper, just to educate us on what flexibilities we have on that, I think I would like it. I don't . . . I think the other Commissioners would too."

**Mr. Rich Euson**, County Counselor, said, "I would be glad to do that."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. Any other questions of Irene on this item? What's the will of the Board please?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And also, Irene, if you could re-remind all of us which of those board members were assigned to each of us again. Because, personally, I was going to write a little letter to each of them and try to establish some dialogue like Commissioner Norton was talking about. All right, next item please."

**2. RESOLUTION AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE *SEDGWICK COUNTY CODE* CONCERNING ANIMAL NUISANCES.**

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**Ms. Hart** said, "We're taking the opportunity, with revision of the sanitary code, to make some changes that will result in better service to the citizens of Sedgwick County. Right now, if you have a problem with an animal in the unincorporated area, depending on that problem, you may fall under state jurisdiction, it may be under the Health Department jurisdiction, it may be under two or three different departments within Sedgwick County itself. So we're taking this opportunity to collapse all that, all those different referrals and make it easier for the public to know who to call when they have a problem concerning an animal. We're taking the opportunity of the new sanitary code, which you'll be hearing in a couple of weeks, we have taken the animal control issues out of the sanitary code document and proposing them today to put those in the County code pertaining to animal control.

What will actually change are three particular areas. One . . . This gets so complicated I don't know how the public would ever understand it. Right now, Animal Control handles nuisance animals."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And you're expecting us to understand it."

**Ms. Hart** said, "Well, I'm just going to give you, hopefully, a cogent version of it. Right now Animal Control handles nuisance animals but owners of nuisance animals are handled by the Health Department. So if you have a dog that runs amuck and bites people, then Animal Control is in charge of it but if you have too many cattle located on too small of a lot, too close to a neighbor's house, then that's the Health Department. Now it's real difficult to try to draw that line between what's a nuisance animal and what is harboring or maintaining animals in a nuisance situation. So, with this change, all of that goes to Animal Control. So, if it has to do with an animal, then you would call Animal Control and not have to worry about the fine distinction between what department handles what."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Let me ask an example. A cow gets out of a farmer's land and it's walking down the road. You call Animal Control for that, right?"

**Ms. Hart** said, "Yes, you call 9-1-1 right away I'd think."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Right, and then they would then assign it to Animal Control. In the past they would assign it to the Health Department?"

**Ms. Hart** said, "No. That would still be a nuisance animal but if you had too many animals on too small of a lot or if someone kept a corral right next to the neighbor's bedroom window and that

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caused a nuisance, due to the odors and the runoff and that sort of thing, then it would have gone to the Health Department. Now any problems related to particularly domestic animals, you would call animal control.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “As opposed to the regular Code Enforcement office that they would call now.”

**Ms. Hart** said, “Right. That would be another place that they might have called. So you can imagine how many phone calls a citizen would have to make to try to get a problem solved that had to do with an animal.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “So if it’s an animal, you call Animal Control. That sounds like it’s a real simple and even I can understand that.”

**Ms. Hart** said, “Right. Secondly, under the old sanitary code, the health officer and the Health Department were responsible for rabies control and bite investigation. So the dog would be picked up by county Animal Control, but the Health Department would investigate the bite. We were proposing to change that too. If there’s a dog bite, you call Animal Control and they’ll handle the bite investigation, they’ll handle the rabies issues. They’re the go-to department on domestic animal issues.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Let me ask a question on that. Now we’re talking about a disease, rabies. Rabies come from animals, so the Health Department doesn’t get involved in a rabies outbreak or anything? This is all going to be Animal Control?”

**Ms. Hart** said, “The rabies outbreak, the discussion from the public health issue will still be a purview of the Health office and the epidemiology folks and all that, but the actual picking up of the dog, investigating the conditions under which the person was bit, determining whether the animal should be quarantined or euthemized.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “So Health Department would direct the Animal Control to do whatever is appropriate. Okay, all right.”

**Ms. Hart** said, “The third issue has to do with disposition of dead animals. If there was a . . . If a horse died out in a field and it caused a problem for the neighbors, if it was up close where it was a

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problem, the current state law says that it's a state issue, it's state jurisdiction. What we've done with this draft resolution is to move that to a county issue so that the county Animal Control can take care of that. They can talk to the landowner. We don't have to call the Highway Patrol in to try to ticket the landowner who didn't dispose of an animal appropriately. County Animal Control can make sure that a dead animal is disposed of appropriately.

So it makes County Animal Control a one-stop shop for domestic animal problems in the unincorporated part of the County. We still don't have jurisdiction over wildlife. Believe it or not, in my own drugstore way of looking at the world, I think wildlife belongs to the State of Kansas. The state is responsible for deer. The state is responsible for wildlife and we do coordinate on that. We do do some work with that but with this resolution you make County Animal Control responsible for any domestic animal problems in rural Sedgwick County.

The Animal Control Advisory Board has reviewed this draft resolution and they are in support of it and I'd be happy to try to answer any questions. If they're legal, we really need the attorneys to answer them."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. Well I think we have a couple and I think this is going to be a rural question. I don't know for sure. Commissioner McGinn."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Thank you. Well, some of what Irene said may have sounded strange to all of you, but every situation has occurred in my district and so I sure appreciate you guys working on this and streamlining it. It's going to make it a lot easier for our constituents. The animal bite situation just happened not too long ago for me as well. But if it's an animal bite, the investigation though, if it's in the city, the city people will have to come out for that investigation."

**Ms. Hart** said, "Right. Within any incorporated city, it's the responsibility of that city, unless they have a contract with us."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Contract with us, okay."

**Ms. Hart** said, "And we do have that in some of the smaller cities."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Okay. Now on the dead animal, so you're saying that if it's a dead dog out in the middle of a 100 acre field, somebody could call and complain and what do we do? Do we . . . or are we talking large animals, like cattle and horses?"

**Ms. Hart** said, "We had a situation once where it was a large animal and it had died close to a neighbor's home and we had difficulties getting the situation resolved. I don't expect that this is

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going to happen very often but now, if it does happen, we can cause it to be corrected a lot more quickly.”

**Commissioner McGinn** said, “Well, I just sincerely want to say thank you for taking care of that because I get these strange calls. Thank you.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “The one thing that I took comfort in, the advisory board had an integral part in designing this and they’re very comfortable with it.

Just for my own edification, it just hit me that if a person has a farm and they have cattle, occasionally a cow dies. What do you do with the darn thing? There it is out in the middle of nowhere and it’s all bloated or whatever, what do you do with . . .?”

**Commissioner McGinn** said, “Call National Byproducts to come pick it up.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “So there is a company that will pick up these and render it or turn it into the proverbial glue or whatever.”

**Ms. Hart** said, “Timing is of the essences, though.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Timing is of the essence. Okay. Well it seems to me . . . I mean, I like . . . I mean, this is an oversimplification. If it has to do with an animal in just about any situation, other than a wild animal, call Animal Control and probably even encourage them to call Animal Control on any animal and then we can direct them, if it happens to be . . . If it’s not domesticated, it has to go someplace else, if I understood it right.”

**Ms. Hart** said, “Right.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay. Well, it sounds like a good thing. What is the will of the Board on this item please?”

## **MOTION**

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Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you very much, Irene. Clerk, call the next item please."

**3. GRANT APPLICATION TO KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND HOUSING FOR FUNDING OF A HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM.**

**Mr. Brad Snapp**, Housing Director, Housing Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today you have a request to approve a renewal application to the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing for home rehabilitation. This is the grant that we've administered several years, four years and in the past been successful with each time. We're applying for \$300,000, with a required match commitment of \$75,000 and we expect to do approximately 21 homes.

In the past we've limited this program to the Oaklawn/ Sunview area but at this time we're expanding it countywide and we do have several priorities that fit into that. One is that all homeowners do have to be low-income. We have an elderly priority. We have people who live in communities that have established neighborhood revitalization plans, which in this case is Haysville and Oaklawn and then of course we'll address health and safety issues first, being lead-based paint, electrical, heating and plumbing, that kind of thing. So if you have any questions, I'd be glad to try to answer them."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "We do. Thank you. Commissioner McGinn."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "You said it's open countywide?"

**Mr. Snapp** said, "Except the City of Wichita."

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**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Except the City of Wichita, because they have their own program."

**Mr. Snapp** said, "Right, yes."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. And I assume . . . is there a . . . They get the money to fix their home. Are they charged an interest rate or is this just a grant?"

**Mr. Snapp** said, "It's a grant."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I mean, fix the home and it will increase in value and hopefully you will keep it up and it will be worth more when you sell it and that type of thing?"

**Mr. Snapp** said, "Hopefully, yes."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. How does someone access it if they would like to see whether or not they'd qualify, where do they contact you at, Brad?"

**Mr. Snapp** said, "Well, they would call our office at 383-7148."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And this is statewide . . . excuse me, countywide and these are the prior . . . Like it says homeowners with annual incomes below 80% of the area median, elderly homeowners 62 or above and it has to apply to health and safety needs, and it has to include plumbing, electrical, heating, that type of thing. Now, is it an elderly person, age 64, do they still also have to have the 80% of area median too?"

**Mr. Snapp** said, "Yes, 80% of area median is the threshold. Everybody we help has to be below that mark."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay and you also have to be 62 or above?"

**Mr. Snapp** said, "You don't have to be. That's one of the priorities we placed in the application."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, that just gives them higher priority if we run out of funds."

**Mr. Snapp** said, "Right. About five people, five homeowners, we want to serve elderly people on at least a third of the grant, 30%."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, all right. Okay. I don't see that we have any other questions. So what's the will of the board on this item please?"

### MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Grant Application.

Commissioner McGinn 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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you, Brad. Before you leave and before . . . You can make the switch. Mr. Manager, I read in the paper that the state is realizing the cuts that Governor Graves made just recently aren't going to be sufficient and they're talking 100, 200 million more dollars are going to be cut. Does that put grants like this in jeopardy? I'm going to probably assume that nothing is sacred, right?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "I think that's a safe assumption. There may be some more safe than others. This particular grant comes through the federal government and so there's less likely a chance for skimming off the top by the state to divert it to other activities. So there are some grants that are passed through from the state. But I think it's a safe assumption, at this point, that everyone's at stake."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, the thing that concerns me and we discussed it during our budgeting process that we've already gone ahead and gotten some promises from the state on certain projects and are implementing certain projects, people are being put into those programs and then all of the sudden there's a possibility that that may not be funded anymore, right?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Right."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, "So that's something we're going to have to . . . Okay. Well, it's going to be a challenge for everybody. Okay, Brad, thank you very much. Next item please."

**Commissioner McGinn left at 10:22 a.m.**

**D. AGREEMENT WITH ATHLETICS WICHITA PROVIDING CONTROLLED ACCESS TO CERTAIN COUNTY ROADWAYS OCTOBER 13, 2002 TO HOLD A KAKE-TV/WICHITA MARATHON.**

**Mr. Ron Holt**, Director, Division of Culture, Entertainment and Recreation, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This agreement comes before you, it's the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual KAKE TV/ Wichita Marathon to be held October the 13<sup>th</sup>. This agreement, with Athletics Wichita, providing controlled access to certain county roadways. Be happy to answer any questions you may have."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Just a comment. That's one event I won't be walking on but I did once. I think it was back in 19 . . . twenty some odd years ago I ran it and completed it but that's way back when."

**Mr. Holt** said, "There are no time limits on how long it takes to complete it."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I was four hours and five minutes. Just a bit over nine minutes a mile for all 26 miles. How I did it, I have no idea. Okay, well anyway, what's the will of the Board on this item please?"

**MOTION**

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

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

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

**Commissioner McGinn returned at 10:24 a.m.**

**E. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.**

**1. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES (SRS) FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON AGING TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE USDA COMMODITIES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS.**

**Ms. Annette Graham**, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This contract is between the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Sedgwick County Department on Aging to receive and distribute United States Department of Agriculture commodities to eligible individuals. This contract allows us to coordinate volunteer pickup with small cities in Sedgwick County outside the city limits. The cities that we contract with include Andale, Bentley, Cheney, Clearwater, Colwich, Goddard, Mount Hope, Mulvane, Park City, Maize and Valley Center.

It’s an income-based program that provides for food for individuals in the rural areas of Sedgwick County, has been very successful in the past and is available to anyone who meets the income guidelines. Our responsibility in this program is to coordinate the volunteer pick up of the commodities approximately once a month. It’s about ten times a year in reality.

There’s no additional funds requested with this and I would be happy to answer any questions.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you, Annette. Any questions of Annette on this item? Annette, how do they determine . . . Like we’ll take Mulvane for example, since that’s in my district. Do they have to know ahead of time how many citizens would qualify and then they make contact with you and say I need ‘x’ number of bags or baskets of food or what have you?”

**Ms. Graham** said, “We communicate with them what food is available for that monthly pick up and then they get back with us as to how many individuals will be picking up.”

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay. And then someone from that community then picks it up and takes it to, like in Mulvane they have a senior center, I assume that’s where they distribute.”

**Ms. Graham** said, “They have a distribution site, yes. They pick it up here and then take it.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay, great, a good program. Commissioners, any other comments or anything? What’s the will of the Board on this item?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement 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	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

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

**2. AGREEMENTS (SIX) WITH RURAL COMMUNITY GROUPS PROVIDING DELIVERY OF USDA COMMODITIES.**

- **CITY OF VALLEY CENTER**
- **MOUNT HOPE SENIOR CITIZENS**
- **MULVANE AREA VOLUNTEER SERVICE**
- **ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**
- **CITY OF MAIZE**
- **CHENEY FOOD BANK**

**Ms. Graham** said, “This is the agreement with some of the rural cities for this program, the commodities program with the United States Department of Agriculture. This what I bring before you today is just a contract with some of the participants. There will be another item October 16<sup>th</sup>

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where we finalize with the other cities that are working on this.

So the consumers are able to receive these commodities at a location near to them and, like I said, it has been a very successful program and benefits those low-income individuals in the rural areas. The communities agencies available within the City of Wichita do that for the City and Haysville does that in the Haysville area. The contracts that we have for you today are Valley Center, Mulvane, Maize, Mount Hope, Andale and Cheney and I'd be happy to answer any questions."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I don't see that there are any."

**MOTION**

Commissioner McGinn moved to approve the Agreements and authorize the Chairman 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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Thank you, Annette. Next item."

- 3. AGREEMENT WITH SRS AND VIA CHRISTI REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, INC. ALLOWING MEDICAID BILLING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED ADULTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL**

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**ILLNESS AND CHILDREN WITH SERIOUS EMOTIONAL  
DISTURBANCES.**

**Ms. Marilyn Cook**, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, “As you well know, our business partners who bill Medicaid need to have an affiliation, a viable affiliation agreement with us to be able to do that signed by you and the secretary of SRS. This is 120-day agreement and I know that seems like a small amount of time, with Via Christi with our affiliation agreement. Via Christi is undergoing a fiscal review process. You’ve been seeing that in the newspaper and I’ve been working with the Director of Behavioral Health. They have a new CFO in their behavioral health area who is looking at every contract and deciding whether or not they want to continue with particular pieces of business.

The one in question here is whether or not Via Christi is going to continue with case management. So what we had decided to do, since they were not able to bill without a signed agreement, is have an agreement for 120 days, which would give us both time to decide if they wanted to stay in that business or get out of that business of case management and decide how we would best transfer the clients who were in the care of case managers in their system, should they decide to get out of that piece of the business. So this contract allows them . . . or affiliation agreement allows them to do that, to get paid for what they’re doing now and gives us ample opportunity to work and transfer cases in case that change does happen. I’ll be happy to answer questions. I know it’s a little confusing.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Am I right in assuming that they haven’t made a decision yet as to whether they want to stay in the business or not.”

**Ms. Cook** said, “Stay in the business of case management.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Right.”

**Ms. Cook** said, “Yes.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Now, have they also agreed to give you . . . like you have 120 days. Are they committed to, within 30 days, giving you notice so you’d have 100 days to find a replacement, 90 days? What is their commitment to us as far as in advance of this 120 days notifying us of their intent not to stay in the case management business?”

**Ms. Cook** said, “We both agreed that 30 days would do that for us.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “And you’re comfortable with that as far as enough time to switch?”

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**Ms. Cook** said, "Yes, I am."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. I don't see that there is any other questions."

**MOTION**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you very much, Marilyn. Next item."

**F. CONTRACT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PROVIDING FUNDING OF A TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM.**

**Ms. Peggy Baker**, Clinic Services Supervisor, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a renewal contract for \$12,000 with Kansas Department of Health and Environment. It provides only for radiology, chest x-rays and laboratory services for those clients with TB infection or TB disease that cannot pay for those services themselves. This \$12,000 has remained constant over the last several years and we don't look that it will change any, but it could in the future."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Do we have any questions of this item? The only qualification is, if I understand it right, that they can't have an income greater than twice the poverty level."

**Ms. Baker** said, "Right."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay."

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**Ms. Baker** said, “No other means to pay for the services.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “And there’s no restrictions on if you’re a legal citizen, illegal citizen or illegally here or nothing?”

**Ms. Baker** said, “None. Ours is for the control of TB, to diagnose disease and to prevent infection going to disease and to monitor those clients and we’ve been able to stay within that \$12,000 for years.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Good, okay. I don’t see that there’s any other questions.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner McGinn moved to approve the Contract and authorize the Chairman 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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you very much. Next item.”

**G. AMENDMENTS (TWO) TO THE 2002 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP).**

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- 1. REPAIR OF THE BRIDGE ON 279<sup>TH</sup> STREET WEST OVER THE ARKANSAS RIVER. CIP# B-380.**
- 2. REPAIR OF THE BRIDGE ON 109<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH BETWEEN RIDGE AND HOOVER ROADS. CIP# B-381.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Pete Giroux**, Senior Management Analyst, Budget Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This morning we have two related CIP amendments for your consideration. Both of these projects were approved 2003 CIP projects that Public Works had planned to put out for bid early in the year. Unfortunately, Public Works was forced to close the bridge on 279<sup>th</sup> Street West over the Arkansas River last week due to damage on one of the three expansion joints in that bridge. That bridge was constructed in 1954.

To achieve economies of scale and make the project more attractive to bidders, it was planned to be paired with another bridge on 109<sup>th</sup> Street North that needed similar repairs. That bridge was built in 1958.

You can see that the bridge over the Arkansas is directly north of Mount Hope and residents in the area would have to proceed to Haven Road to the west or Bentley Road to the east to cross the river. So it's going to be a fair drive until we get the bridge repaired."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Now is that the bridge that's been shut down because of the severity of the damage?"

**Mr. Giroux** said, "Yes, sir."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "The other bridge hasn't been shut down yet."

**Mr. Giroux** said, "No, sir."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, got it."

**Mr. Giroux** said, "Here's the second bridge and that's across the Little Arkansas on 109<sup>th</sup> Street. That's several miles to the east of the . . ."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "On that bridge, do we know how long that's going to be shut down, since that's just . . . How long does it take to do a hinge repair, I guess?"

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**Mr. David Spears**, Director, Division of Public Works, said, "Yes, I was going to go through that in a little bit."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Okay, I'll wait."

**Mr. Giroux** said, "We estimate the cost of repairs for each bridge will be \$300,000 each and the net effect on the CIP is moot, because we'll bring the projects forward from 2003 into the 2002 CIP to expedite those repairs. Source of funds is from the local sales tax Road and Bridge Fund. Both staff and the CIP Committee recommend approval of these two amendments."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Mr. Buchanan, again the only thing that's concerning me, all those funds that we get from sales . . . that's all up in the air and we may not, all of the sudden, not get the money that's been promised us."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "That's right, sir."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "So we need to know that we may be forced to figure out some other way to get this money, if they decide in their wisdom that a bridge like this doesn't need to get repaired."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "We know your credit card number now from the earlier . . ."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "You know, I think I'm going to cancel that credit card. That's got me a little concerned. Everybody was writing. I know the cameras were nice enough to shut down but . . . Okay, well is there any other questions or comments on this item?"

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the adjustments to the CIP amendments, which in effect moves these two bridge projects up to this year instead of next year.

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you and I think it's appropriate now to take an Off Agenda item."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to consider an Off Agenda item also referring to these two bridge projects.

Commissioner McGinn 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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. David, go ahead."

**OFF AGENDA ITEM**

**Mr. Spears** said, "The Legal Department, Mr. Euson and Mr. Parnacott have drawn up a resolution which will allow us to waive the 30 day period that we advertise projects to the contractors and we'll be able to do that a little bit quicker. We plan on a two-week advertisement period and I'll go through that schedule with you in just a little bit, after you adopt this resolution.

The other things in here, it actually declares the bridges unsafe and in need of repair. It also indicates that you need to approve the plans and specifications today and that is in here. When you approve the resolution, you will approve the plan. Here's the specifications, here's the plans and they are completed. Our staff did scramble to get these done. It was on our schedule for next year,

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so we were almost to that point but in the last 10 days they've worked very hard to actually finalize these plans. So that's one thing.

The other thing is that I have signed an affidavit as to the estimated cost of these projects and I will give that to the Clerk after you approve the resolution and the plans and they will have that. So I think that pretty well covers it."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "That was the cost that was estimated here, about \$300,000 a piece? Is that what the estimate is?"

**Mr. Spears** said, "Yes, sir. And with that, I would recommend that you adopt the resolution and then I will go over the schedule with you."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "All right."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt this proposed resolution concerning these two bridges and adopt the plans and specifications.

Commissioner McGinn 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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Now David go ahead. You had something else."

**Mr. Spears** said, "Okay. The proposed schedule is, as you know, today we have amended the Capital Improvement Program and we have approved this resolution. Okay, on Monday, this coming Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> we will advertise the project and that will take place for about two weeks. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> we will let the project. Also, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, that afternoon I visited with

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Iris Baker. We will have a special bid board to approve that, hopefully it will be obvious what we want to do, and approve the low bid contractor that same day, which will save us a week. So the very next day, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, you the board will approve the bid of the previous day, instead of having to wait for bid board Thursday and go the following week.

Then it will take a few days to get the contract signed and the bonds and that sort of thing. So we are anticipating starting November the 4<sup>th</sup>, which is a Monday and we anticipate it will take about 60 days, weather pending, although I don't think weather will effect this type of repair as much as it would other types of construction. So we're thinking in January, beginning of January that the work will be complete on that one bridge, then take about 60 days for the other bridge. So it's about 60 days for each bridge. We will do the one that is closed first and then go to the other one."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "So this is a project, we've got two bridges that are unsafe and something has to be done immediately but in the future there will be still plans to replace that bridge won't there? I mean, a bridge built in 1954, at some time we're going to be wanting to replace that with a newer bridge also, right?"

**Mr. Spears** said, "Well, Commissioner, it's not in the CIP at this time. I want to just share with you the scope of the problem and the necessity of the entire program. We have 659 bridges that we're responsible for. With \$2,000,000 a year is about what we spend, it's tough to put a dent in them. We have been doing that in the last 20 years. Some years we build 10, some 15, some 20 and our bridge crew also builds 10 more wooden bridges per year. So, . . . And then we do everything we can to get all the state funds and federal funds that we can and this one would be one of the type, it's so big over the Arkansas River, that we would want to get federal funds for and we'll pursue that."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "The point that I was talking about, David, this isn't just going to be a band-aid. We're going to fix this and the citizens that drive over it know they're going to have a safe bridge to operate on."

**Mr. Spears** said, "That's correct. We would not open it unless it was safe."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "All right, got it. Okay, what's the will of the Board on this item? So that's done? Okay, all right, thank you very much. Next item."

**H. AGREEMENT BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOR THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM ON 135<sup>TH</sup> STREET WEST BETWEEN 87<sup>TH</sup> AND 103<sup>RD</sup> STREETS SOUTH. DISTRICT #3.**

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**Mr. David Spears**, Director/County Engineer, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item H is a renewal agreement with First Christian Church for the Sedgwick County Adopt-a-Highway program. It's the First Christian Church out of Clearwater. They will be responsible for 135<sup>th</sup> Street West between 87<sup>th</sup> and 103<sup>rd</sup> Streets South and I recommend that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "David, I would like if you could just very briefly educate the people that may be watching us. What is entailed when a company, a church adopts a section of the highway? What are they saying that they accept responsibility for?"

**Mr. Spears** said, "That is to pick up litter along the road, both sides, cans, papers, this sort of thing and that's it. There are certain guidelines that we have. In other words, someone that is hard of hearing can't be on there because they might not here a car coming and there are all kinds of stipulations about that and they do have to pick it up at least twice a year to remain in effect."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And then that's when they get the sign that says 'This section has been adopted by'."

**Mr. Spears** said, "We make that sign."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, all right, thank you. That's all I have. What's the will of the Board on this item?"

### 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
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Next item. Thank you, David."

**I. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2002.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "There are three items for consideration today that resulted from the regular meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts of September 26<sup>th</sup>."

**1) COLOR CODED FILE FOLDERS- DISTRICT COURT  
FUNDING: DISTRICT COURT CLERKS**

The first item, color-coded file folders for the District Court. Recommend the low bid from Records Retrieval Systems in the amount of \$26,322.

**2) HEAT ASSET TRACKER- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS  
FUNDING: HELPDESK**

Item two, heat asset tracker for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommend the quote from Front Range Solutions in the amount of \$47,173.

**3) ANNUAL MAINTENANCE RENEWAL- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS  
FUNDING: SYSTEMS & SECURITY**

And item three, annual maintenance renewal for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommend the quote from Mainline Information Systems in the amount of \$130,709.

Be happy to answer any questions and recommend approval of these items."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I don't see that there's any questions."

**MOTION**

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

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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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**J. CONSENT AGENDA.**

**1. Right-of-Way Easements.**

- a. Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Idlewild Street Drainage Project on Idlewild from Clifton to the Arkansas River. CIP# D-3. District #5.
- b. Easement for Drainage for Sedgwick County Project 634-28 and 29; 63<sup>rd</sup> Street South between Hydraulic and K-15. CIP# R-247. Districts #2 and #5.

**2. Donation by the Elizabeth Joan Navarat Trust of \$25.00, to be used for COMCARE’s suicide prevention program.**

**3. Plat.**

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the

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year 2001 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Hidden Estates Addition  
McCart Estates

4. **Order dated September 25, 2002 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
5. **General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of September 25 – October 1, 2002.**

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “You have the Consent Agenda before you and I’d recommend you approve it.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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 Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Chairman Ben Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you. Is there anything else to come before this Board at this time?”

**K. OTHER**

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind folks that out at the Extension Office building this weekend is Parents’ University. And this is really . . . This is a day long event

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and family issues that really they bring in some quality leaders and speakers and usually there's several hundred people participate. This is a well attended, well run organization and if there's people out there who are interested to see if there's still spots available, they need to call the Extension Office, 722-7721 and just ask about Parents' University and if there's still space available. There is a fee to attend but I think it's capped at like \$20 for a family. So again, if you're at all interested, the Extension does a great job of hosting this event.

This Saturday is Fall Festival Days out at Goddard and up in Maize I believe. That's all I have."

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

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "That's what I was going to share. Maize is having their fall festival this Saturday and the parade begins at 10:30 and probably activities throughout and just to recap and maybe Tim will go into it a little more, but if you missed the early part of our show, there's a lot of activities. The NCCJ Walk on Sunday at one at Riverside, the Firefighters Memorial is also around that same time and then a lot of mental health activities as well, so lots to do in Sedgwick County."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Just a couple of things. In two weeks, on the weekend, will be the Haysville Fall Festival, very similar to the Maize and Valley Center and the others that have been happening, so start looking at your calendar and try to put that on there because it's a wonderful festival that celebrates the south end and Haysville.

I was at a meeting yesterday that was CIS schools that linked with Nelson Elementary School in Haysville. It's the CIS' first entry into the Haysville school system and Haysville was very proud of that. They had a luncheon at Vulcan Chemical. Vulcan Chemical and Air Products have done all the funding to be able to place those caseworkers there, so it's another collaborative effort. You know, I know we through Juvenile Justice funding support CIS but Vulcan Chemical and Air Products in the Haysville school system have made it possible that CIS has expanded and I applaud those businesses for being connected to Haysville community.

And then finally, on a sad note, Haysville is suffering again with the loss of their superintendent, Kristine Swartzendruber and that really effects two communities because she lives in Kingman. Her husband is the basketball coach there, very connected to that community and my heart goes out to the Swartzendruber family and to Haysville school system and to the Kingman family that they

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have because it's a very tragic thing. That's all I have."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "You know, I hadn't planned on talking about that, but I think we've read and seen in the news lately so many horrible fatality car accidents and the disappointing percentage of folks who have been killed who have not been wearing their seatbelts. It seems such a simple act and yet, you know here recently we've seen just a rash of them. I don't know whether Ms. Swartzendruber was wearing hers or not."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "She was."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "But there are other incidences where hopefully those kinds of fatalities could be prevented and I too, I didn't know the woman but sympathize with the community."

On this last Saturday, I was at the Race for the Cure. Commissioner McGinn was there and is wearing the Wichita Race for the Cure pin. Thank you for purchasing one of those. Also at Bel Aire, almost all day, and I'll tell you if you ever get the opportunity to get up there for their Dutch Oven competition, that's fun. There are 11 teams. Each team had to cook an entrée and a dessert. Well, by the time you get through eating all of that, that's dinner and breakfast for the next morning. Wonderfully . . . I mean a great way to demonstrate that kind of genre, if you will, of outdoor cooking. Great fun."

**Commissioner McGinn** said, "Is that the one where they're given a sack of groceries and they have to . . ."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "No, they create their own recipes and we judge them based on appearance, taste, texture, originality of recipe and technical difficulty, like a dive. I mean whether you used a cake mix or whether you made it from scratch. Whether you made a recipe with two or three ingredients or whether you have a whole armload of ingredients. They had pheasants, they cooked pheasant breasts wrapped in bacon with rice in one of these, they had casseroles. It was great. If you ever have an opportunity, do that."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And you put yourself out by being one of the judges."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "I did, by being one of the judges."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Such a sacrifice."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Such a dedicated public servant."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Somebody had to do it. And again, on a more serious note, this Sunday is the Fallen Firefighter service. It has, in the past, been held out at Resthaven Cemetery but now with the old historic fire station being renovated and special plaza there for the fallen firefighters, it's now moved to 1300 South Broadway and I look forward to being there. It's always a special time.

And then, as Fire Marshall Thompson mentioned, on Tuesday October the 8<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Week, is their annual event at the Zoo where 5<sup>th</sup> graders from all over the community are invited to attend. I'd encourage any of you who have not been out there to stop by and have a look. It's a . . . There are multi-jurisdictional exhibits, as he mentioned, several different fire departments and they have demonstrations of what they do and educational opportunities for the kiddos and then lunch too. So I'll be out there for a bit on Tuesday and encourage teachers and communities to get their kids involved in that."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Very high energy too."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Oh, yes it's busy. So that's it for me. Thank you."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, like Commissioner McGinn said, if you want to do something this weekend there's certainly going to be ample opportunity for you to get out and enjoy yourself and have fun.

So, if there's nothing else to come before the Board, this meeting is now adjourned."

### **L. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF**

**Regular Meeting, October 2, 2002**

**SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BEN SCIORTINO**, Chairman  
Fifth District

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**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