

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

July 23, 2003

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, July 23, 2003 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Tim Norton; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Commissioner Ben Sciortino; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Sheriff Gary Steed; Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance; Mr. Marty Hughes, Revenue Manager, Division of Finance; Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Ms. Jeannette Livingston, Contract Administrator, COMCARE; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Jesscia Smart, Sheryl Rust & Scott Eilert, Representatives, Cargill.

Ms. Jo Brown, member, Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging.

Ms. Geraldine Flaharty, member, Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

Mr. Greg Sullivan, member, Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

Mr. Linwood Sexton, member, Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

Mr. Tim Travis, Manager- Media Relations and Public Relations, Raytheon Aircraft Company.

Mr. Mark Bergkamp, 8231 W. 55th Street S., Clearwater, Ks.

Mr. Tom Bergkamp, 8231 W. 55th Street S., Clearwater, Ks.

Mr. Larry Turner, 7502 Reflection Road, Wichita, Ks.

Dr. Delores Craig-Moreland, 10813 E. 45th Street S., Derby, Ks.

Mr. Mike Martin, 5640 S. 103rd Street E., Derby, Ks.

Ms. Mona Stein, 200 W. 117th Street N., Sedgwick, Ks.

Ms. Erma Mitchell, 1456 N. Madison, Wichita, Ks.

Ms. Sandee Ingold, Route #4, Andover, Ks.

Mr. Ray Flickner, 2701 North Shore Circle, Wichita, Ks.

Ms. Sue Steele, 337 Morningside, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Bob Randle, 962 Back Bay Boulevard, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Kent Winter, 7359 N. 215th Street W, Mount Hope, Ks.

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GUESTS (con't)

Ms. Carolyn Benitez, 3461 Park Place, La Famillia Senior Center.
Ms. Zoe Marie Head, 1701 E. Osage, Apt. 207, Derby, Ks.
Ms. Kelly Whitehorn Martin, 7001 W. 21st Street N., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Kimberly Stoner, Sedgwick Senior Center.
Ms. Susan Grelinger, 15630 E. 47th Street S., Derby, Ks.
Mr. Dale McLoud, 2130 Shelton, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Larry Reichenberger, 5000 N. 295th Street W., Mount Hope, Ks.
Ms. Kirstin Veith, 409 Huntington, Andale, Ks.
Mr. Nathan Harms, 11 Madapalla, Derby, Ks.
Mr. Louis Wetta, Andale, Ks.
Ms. Judy Weigel, 700 Redbarn Lane, Independent Living Resource Center.
Ms. Andrea Romero, 2550 S. Oliver, Apt. #207, Wichita,
Ms. Bev Dunning, Director, Sedgwick County Extension Service.
Mr. Winton Hinkle, Bond Counsel, Hinkle Elkouri.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Mr. Ashok Aurora of the Hindu Community, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, July 9, 2003

The Clerk reported that Commissioner McGinn was absent at the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2003.

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioners, you have the Minutes before you. What is your will?"

MOTION

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Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2003.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Abstain
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

DONATION

A. DONATION BY CARGILL OF \$2,000, TO BE USED FOR THE SHERIFF'S D.A.R.E. PROGRAM.

Sheriff Gary Steed, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, as you know, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department has the D.A.R.E. program in 15 schools in Sedgwick County, 12 elementary schools and 3 junior high schools and present the D.A.R.E. program to around 1,000 students each year. This is 1,000 opportunities each year for Sheriff's deputies to meet with students, elementary and junior high students, provide mentoring opportunities and provide anti-gang instruction, anti-drug instruction and anti-violence instruction. It's a very successful program.

Today Jescia Smart, Sheryl Rust and Scott Eilert are here today to present us with a check in the amount of \$2,000 for our D.A.R.E. It's what makes the D.A.R.E. program possible. They're our premier and our primary sponsor of our D.A.R.E. program here in Sedgwick County."

Cargill representative said, "We'd like to go ahead and extend this \$2,000 to the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department in regards to their D.A.R.E. program."

Sheriff Steed said, "As I said, we appreciate this donation. Do you have anything you would like

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to say?”

Commissioner Winters said, “Come back up.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “\$2,000, you get two minutes. It’s not signed.”

Cargill representative said, “We have a real check. This is all for publicity’s sake here. In regards to a program like this, in regards to community involvement, and one of the things that Cargill prides themselves is being very much a part of the community and very much involved in it. And this program, in regards to the efforts, in regards to its community efforts, we saw a definite hit and was very proud to extend our help in regards to sponsoring their D.A.R.E. program. So, again we just want to thank you and just have you utilize it in the best fashion that you can, in regards to educating our children.”

Sheriff Steed said, “Commissioners, I might mention this money will go to provide handouts and work materials for all the students and of course the tee-shirts that all of them get that their awfully proud of. In fact, at the programs usually they have all of the officers sign their tee-shirts that they get and it’s a matter of pride that they wear those tee-shirts. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you. Don’t run off. We do have some Commissioners would like to speak. I really believe that it’s so important that groups like Cargill continue to be part of our community. They’re, I think, still the largest privately held company in the United States, or maybe the world, I’m not sure. Is it the world or the United States?”

Cargill representative said, “It would be the United States.”

Chairman Norton said, “It would be the United States. And you have a great presence here and this just shows you’re dedicated to our community, even though you have a pretty large national presence and we appreciate that. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well I just wanted to reiterate what the young lady said. I mean, you are providing once again that Cargill is a great corporate citizen of Sedgwick County and by stepping forward with this donation, you’re basically saying we want to be part of the solution and I just want to congratulate you and your company on actively trying to assist all of us making Sedgwick County a better place of live. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “I just want to say thank you to Cargill for your donation. It does

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make a difference. I've substitute taught at our school and watched kids go through that program and that age you're hitting is around that junior high age or pre-junior high and I think that's a very good time to make an impact on children. And so, just want to let you know that your dollars are well spent and we thank you very much."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to Accept the donation and authorize the Sheriff to sign a letter of appreciation.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Sheriff. Next item."

APPOINTMENTS

B. APPOINTMENTS.

1. RESIGNATION OF HARRIET GRIFFITH FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We have received this resignation and I would ask that you accept it."

MOTION

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Commissioner Chairman Norton moved to Accept the resignation with regrets.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING NEIL GUTHRIE (COMMISSIONER NORTON'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this resolution will fill the vacancy that exists by virtue of the foregoing resignation and this term will expire in February of 2005 and I recommend you adopt the resolution."

MOTION

Chairman Norton moved to Adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “And I don’t see Neil here anywhere, so I’m sure he’s doing the hard work of the school district right now, so he probably won’t be here. Next item.”

3. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JO BROWN (COMMISSIONER MCGINN’S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING.

Mr. Euson said, “Commissioners, this resolution is for a four-year term to this board and I recommend its adoption.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to Adopt the Resolution.

Chairman Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Commissioner McGinn said, “Jo Brown is here. Jo, why don’t you come on up.”

Mr. Don Brace, County Clerk, said, “Please raise your right hand.

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I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging, so help me God."

Ms. Jo Brown, member, Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging, said, "I do."

Mr. Brace said, "Congratulations, young lady."

Ms. Brown said, "He told me I could say something. I think it was three year's ago, when I was first appointed by Carolyn, I brought her a rose. And I don't know if she lost it or couldn't find it, so last year, when I came to accept a day that you were honoring senior citizens, I had brought her another rose and I left it at home and I told you all then that senility wasn't too bad, because I keep meeting new friends. But Carolyn, I did bring your year old rose today and I want to present it to you."

Chairman Norton said, "So the rest of us aren't your friends? Is that what it is?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "She knows what I have to put up with. So, thank you."

Ms. Brown said, "She appointed me and you know, next time I'll bring you all a teddy bear or something."

Chairman Norton said, "See if I Second next year."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Wait a minute, I like teddy bears."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just want to say, Jo thank you for your service because I know you're very dedicated and you show up for the meetings and I certainly appreciate all that volunteer time and input. So, thank you very much, Jo."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks. Clerk, call the next item."

4. RESOLUTIONS APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PHYSICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD.

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- **REAPPOINTING GERALDINE FLAHARTY, DAVE JONES AND GREG SULLIVAN (COMMISSIONER MCGINN'S APPOINTMENTS)**
- **REAPPOINTING KENNETH DUNLAP AND LINWOOD SEXTON, AND APPOINTING BONNIE HUY (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENTS)**

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, we've prepared several resolutions for reappointments and it is my understanding that Bonnie Huy will not be reappointed at today's meeting. Is that correct, Commissioner Sciortino?"

Mr. William Buchanan said, "Yes."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "She's not going to be appointed at this time? Okay."

Mr. Euson said, "So the resolutions then that we have for the reappointments, each one of you have three appointments."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Bonnie was going to be a new appointment, not a reappointment. Is that right? That's how I understood it."

Mr. Euson said, "I'm sorry. The information I had showed that as a reappointment."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, okay, but whatever, she's not going to be appointed, so we're going to defer her appointment today."

Mr. Euson said, "That's my understand, yes. So, the resolutions we have for the appointments are Commissioner McGinn's appointments to appoint Geraldine Flaharty, Dave Jones and Greg Sullivan and resolutions reappointing Kenneth Dunlap and Linwood Sexton to the Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board."

Chairman Norton said, "Can we do that in one motion, both sets of appointments?"

Mr. Euson said, "You can do that in one motion and defer indefinitely the appointment of Bonnie Huy."

MOTION

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Commissioner McGinn moved to Adopt the Resolutions and defer indefinitely the appointment of Bonnie Huy.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “And I do see several of the appointees here today. So if they would come forward, I see Linwood and Geraldine is back there too and Greg. Okay. And Kenneth and Dave are not in the audience. Okay.”

Mr. Brace said, “Please raise your right hand.

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board, so help me God.”

Ms. Geraldine Flaharty, Mr. Greg Sullivan and Mr. Linwood Sexton, members, Sedgwick County Physical and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board, said, “I do.”

Mr. Brace said, “Congratulations.”

Ms. Flaharty said, “Thank you for the reappointment. I do believe that serving on this board helps correlate what I do in the state legislature with what happens locally and I appreciate the opportunity for that information and the service. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you, Geraldine.”

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Mr. Sexton said, "I certainly want to thank you for the reappointment. This is probably the most important committee in Sedgwick County, because it covers so many different areas and it is so vital and so great sometimes to see the Commissioners show up for our meetings, because we know how much it means to the citizens. We get all kinds of calls when they think that you're going to cut the budget, and letters, so you're not the only one that gets the calls."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Linwood."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Misery loves company."

Mr. Sullivan said, "Thanks again. And Carolyn, I forgot the rose. It's at home. I'll get it next time, is that how it works, Jo?"

Chairman Norton said, "Why is it Carolyn keeps getting the roses?"

Mr. Sullivan said, "My wife I think would be a little stressed if I'm just getting Carolyn, but if I gave you one, she'd really be worried."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay, point well made, Greg. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just want to again thank all of these folks that serve on the board too. I know that they bring a lot. Linwood has been there many years and has chaired it in the past and done a great job and Representative Flaharty, I agree with the comments. I think it's so very important the work that you do at the state level and then taking that extra time to understand how things work at the local level only helps us even more. So we certainly appreciate your time. And I know Greg brings a lot of creativity, even though he has a very interesting plane out front. I know that he also brings a great deal of creativity and thoughtfulness to the board as well. And so, again thank you for giving of your time to this community."

Chairman Norton said, "It's interesting to see that we only had three people that showed up to be appointed today but they are representative of so many people that are appointed and do the hard work, down in the trenches, for the Commissioners on these advisory boards. And if you look as them as just representatives of the good that we have in all of our advisory boards, you've got to be pretty amazed because we've got some pretty remarkable appointees that are very dedicated to what they do in advising us on these important boards. Any other discussion? Clerk, call the next item."

**5. RESOLUTION APPOINTING DR. ROBERT A. RAWCLIFFE
(COMMISSIONER UNRUH'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK
COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH.**

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Mr. Euson said, “Commissioners, this is a four-year term to this Board. We’ve prepared a resolution to that effect and I recommend you adopt it.”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to Adopt the Resolution.

Chairman Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “And the doctor is not here today. Is that my understanding? Next item.”

6. RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHRIS CHRONIS (AT LARGE APPOINTMENT) TO THE COMMUNITY HOUSING SERVICES WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. Euson said, “This is a one-year term to this board, Commissioners. We’ve prepared a resolution for that term to expire in 2004 and I would recommend you adopt the resolution.”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to Adopt the Resolution.

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Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "I'm anxious to see a financial officer swear that he will uphold something."

Mr. Brace said, "You're under the gun here. Please raise your right hand."

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Community Housing Services Wichita/Sedgwick County Board of Directors, so help me God."

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, said, "I do."

Mr. Brace said, "Congratulations."

Mr. Chronis said, "Thank you for the reappointment. I truly believe that decent quality, owner-occupied housing is one of the keys to a successful community and CHS, Community Housing Services, is a very important part of this community in that they provide that kind of housing for many residents of the community each year through the provision of housing finance loans to low income people through the improvement of houses, especially in Oaklawn, which is as you know of particular interest to me. The organization does some wonderful work and I'm honored to serve them."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Chris, appreciate it. Clerk, call the next item."

NEW BUSINESS

C. CONSENT OF ISSUER FOR SALE OF CERTAIN MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT

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**AND TOOLING FINANCED WITH THE PROCEEDS OF THE COUNTY'S
TAXABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS (RAYTHEON
AIRCRAFT COMPANY.)**

Mr. Winton Hinkle, Bond Counsel, Hinkle, Elkouri, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The matter before you today involves the sales of certain equipment, which has been purchased over a period of a number of years with the proceeds of several of those series of bonds, has been utilized in their Salina manufacturing facilities. I think the information before you indicates that they've made a determination that it's no longer useful to them, intend to sell it to a third party located elsewhere and your consent is required, under the terms of the financing documents.

Tim Travis, from Raytheon Aircraft Company, is here if you should have questions of him. That's about all I would have to say."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. The only question I have is for Rich Euson, our legal counsel. Rich, you and your staff and others have reviewed this and everything is in accordance to the bond agreements and everything is proper and in order?"

Mr. Euson said, "Yes we have and we agree that it is in proper form."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay. That's the only question I had."

Chairman Norton said, "I see no other questions. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to Authorize the Chairman to execute the Consent of Issuer, authorizing the sale and removal of certain property financed with the proceeds of the County's Taxable Industrial Development Revenue Bonds (Raytheon Aircraft Company)

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and agreeing that such consent shall be deemed an amendment of the Lease executed in connection with the issuance of such Bonds, to permit Raytheon Aircraft Company to retain the proceeds of such sale.

Chairman Norton seconded the Motion.

Chairman Norton said, "I have a Motion and a Second. Any other discussion?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yes, I have one, if I could, just one question also of Mr. Euson. Just kind of maybe, for our edification but maybe the public, just to kind of break it down into about two sentences what's transpiring here. As I understand it, bonds were issued to purchase certain equipment. That equipment is collateral for the bonds. Now the equipment is being sold. Are the bonds being retired? Who is guaranteeing that the . . . how does that work? If you could just kind of give it to us in simple English."

Mr. Euson said, "Sure. The . . . of course the equipment secures the bonds, so the equipment is no longer needed. The bonds are held and owned by Raytheon and so Raytheon is really the only one that has the interest in them."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "That's how it was explained to me. Raytheon actually purchased the bonds and they're okay if they don't have any equipment to back up the bonds, since they have to pay off the bonds or absorb the loss of the bonds if they don't get paid off. Okay, got it. That's all I have."

Chairman Norton said, "We have a Motion and a Second. Clerk, call the roll."

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

PUBLIC HEARINGS

D. PUBLIC HEARING TO EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SEDGWICK

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COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – UNITED WAREHOUSE RAIL SPUR PROJECT.

Mr. Marty Hughes, Revenue Manager, Division of Finance, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On March 18th, 2002 the County received a grant award notice from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing advising it of a grant loan on behalf of the United Warehouse Company. The grant award and loan documents were completed on June 20th, 2002, which is when the grant award began.

The grant, in the amount of \$137,858, and a loan in the same amount, were issued to the County on behalf of United Warehouse to be used to build a rail spur at their new warehouse location on north 45th Street.

A condition of the funding was a requirement to hire 16 new full-time permanent positions, of which 51% had to be low and moderate income individuals. The construction project included 3,100 cubic yards of earthwork, 1,200 linear feet of 12-inch to 30-inch drainage pipe and 1,673 linear feet of standard track and ties. Administrative costs for the program was \$15,000, and the remaining \$260,716 of the grant and loan were applied to the cost of the construction.

Any costs in excess of this amount was funded by United Warehouse and \$47,360 was transferred from United Warehouse to Sedgwick County to cover the construction costs in excess of the grant and loan.

The rail spur was completed in February of this year and additional warehouse staff were hired and another requirement of the grant, our CDBG field representative has performed the required site visit and reviewed the records and approved the completion of the project, so it is now time to close out the grant.

A condition of all CDBG grants is that a public hearing be conducted for the purpose of evaluating the performance of the grant program. This was a highly successful grant program, as evidenced by the quick completion of the construction of the rail spur and the hiring of the 16 full-time permanent staff, of which nine were low and moderate income individuals. This was done in a very timely manner. The loan repayment process is scheduled to continue until 2013. However the grant should be closed out at this time.

In the audience today we have several people that were essential to the successful completion of the project which I’d like to recognize at this time. Some are here and some aren’t. Bill Bowen, the executive director of South Central Economic Development District is not here today, but he helped in developing the original grant application and worked with the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing staff to make it a successful application.

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Sandy Ring, the Community Development Block Grant project administrator, from South Central Kansas Economic Development District, she is here and she was . . . let me put it this way, every CDBG grant must have a certified grant administrator to manage the program and see that all the grant requirements are fulfilled. Sandy did a great job on keeping us on track on this project and making our jobs a lot easier and keeping us in compliance with the grant requirements and everything, so I'd really like to thank Sandy. Sandy, would you like to stand up please. Thank you, we really appreciate that help.

Sherdeill Breathett is here. He's our Sedgwick County Economic Development Director. Sherdeill has also worked on this project and with United Warehouse to see it to the completion and Sherdeill is here today. Thank you, Sherdeill, appreciate your help on it. And Charlie Shaffer, the president of United Warehouse could not be here today, but Michael Shaffer is here and he's the director of development for United Warehouse and I was talking to him before the meeting and he said that the rail spur has provided a 20% increase in operations for them. And of course, through that being able to hire additional employees, so it's been a real successful program and project and we're glad to get it done and in going through this public hearing, should close it out for us. So, I'd recommend that we open the public hearing at this time and take the recommended action."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "No, I'll wait."

Chairman Norton said, "At this point, I'll open the public hearing and accept public comment. Is there anyone here from the public that would like to speak to this issue? Second call, anyone like to speak to this issue? At this point, I will close the public hearing and limit the comments to the Bench. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 16 full-time employees has been fulfilled."

Mr. Hughes said, "Yes, it has. They've completed that. They've hired them all and they're working."

Commissioner McGinn said, "And my other question was how is the rail spur working and you answered that it increased 20% of the business. Okay. Well, I want to thank Mike Shaffer as well as his father, Charles. They're doing an excellent job up there. We've all had an opportunity to go up there and visit that facility and it's just unbelievable that that kind of business we're able to capture and come through this community. And so, we certainly thank you for the job well done in that area."

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MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to direct staff to submit grant close out documents to Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Marty. Next item."

E. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2004 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is the part of the process that we've been going through for you to hear comments from the public. This is, the public hearing is on the general fund budget of Sedgwick County. I had proposed a \$315,092,064 budget for 2004. There is no mill levy tax increase requested and it is 9.9 million dollars less than last year's, 2003 current budget.

I wanted to remind the Commission about the process that we've been through. In December of 2002, we had a public meeting here where Chris Chronis described some of the actions that the state had taken and how they would affect us negatively, which began a process of readjusting the 2003 budget, which was really the precursor for this budget.

You will recall that in January 3rd we had a public meeting which caused reductions to be made in the 2003 budget and had public discussion about how that would impact 2004. April 16th we had another public meeting at which you engaged staff in conversations regarding the second round of cuts and how that would effect the current year's operation and future year's operations. And after the staff had developed a preliminary budget, you had public hearings and public meetings from June 9th, Friday June 9th, through the . . . or Monday June 9th through Friday, the 13th of June.

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That was a total of some 20 hours you engaged the public and staff in discussions about the 2004 budget. We've had an on-line hearing. We've had numerous staff meetings in which pieces of the budget have been talked about since then. I have met with you individually and have answered several of the questions about the 2004 budget. It is now time for you to hear from the public.

There is a error in the budget book. On page 340, that page, the Department of Aging has listed all the senior centers. The senior citizen's centers on 340 was inaccurate because of several things. Several of the senior citizen's centers were left out. This is the new, what you've been handed this morning and anybody else who wants ones, I think Linda has plenty of copies and Kathy Sexton has plenty of copies if anybody wants one, indicates several things. The first is the fiscal year 2001, what the actually expenditures were, fiscal year 2002, what the actual expenditures were, what the budget was for 2003 and then what was requested in 2003. After we looked at that and realized that we didn't have a lot of money for lots of programs, the first recommendation by the advisory council recommendation is here and when we extrapolate that the target was much lower than what was expected, this was the second round of recommendations by the advisory council.

So, for that error we're sorry. We understand that those things happen, but hopefully that will clarify issues today. If there's no questions of me . . ."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "This is the correct one."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, that's is the correct . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "Can I just ask him a question. The error was that some were left off?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."

Commissioner Winters said, "And can you just tell me what that was so I can . . ."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Bel Aire, Clearwater, Colvin, Colwich and Derby."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But the numbers were correct in the book, but they wouldn't add up because you missed out these other . . . got it. Okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "If there's no other questions of me, then I would recommend you open the public hearing."

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Chairman Norton said, "Does that clear everything up for you? At this point, I'll open the public hearing for the 2004 budget and would accept comments from the public. If there's anyone that would like to speak in reference to the budget, we would ask them to come forward. We're going to limit folks to five minutes and we'd hope you'd be succinct and stay with your comments on the budget, refer to the budget so that we could move forward today.

So are there those that would like to speak? Please come forward."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "You all might just kind of maybe even line up back there, so we can get in kind of order. Everybody wants to speak, huh."

Chairman Norton said, "I hate for everybody to have to stand up that long."

Commissioner McGinn said, "We need to remind them to give their name and address."

Chairman Norton said, "Please give your name and address for the record as you speak."

Mr. Judy Weigel, 700 Redbarn Lane, Wichita, Ks., said, "I'm the executive director of the Independent Living Resource Center and wanted to come and express some concerns about proposed elimination of funding from the physical disability mill levy for our information and referral or information and assistance program.

Our program assists anybody who calls us and says they have a disability, anybody who appears at our door and wants to know where to find something. Primary ages that get the most contacts are ages 23 to 64."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Would you give us a chance to get to that page."

Ms. Weigel said, "Many people tell us that they've not heard of us and many times they've not heard of us because they haven't needed us. Until you've experienced a need, you don't typically look for something. But all of us, at some point in time of our life, will experience some sort of condition that will limit our ability to function as we have in the past and we're there to help people bridge that gap.

Some comments that I hear from community individuals are, 'Well, they should use the phone

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book'. Many of the people we work with have very limited physical abilities, may have some mental disabilities that limit their ability to access a phone book. If you call information referral you have to pay. Sometimes they may not have a phone, so that makes it difficult. Sometimes people say, 'Well, they should just call United Way'. I call United Way, and I've done this just to check and make sure we're doing what we're supposed to be doing. They refer people to us, because they do not keep up with disability specific related information. That's what we do. We've done it for almost 20 years. We have a vast amount of knowledge in our staff, in our library. If we don't know it, we know where to find it.

Another comment that's made is, 'Oh, well, their family, friends, community will help them'. Many people don't have those resources. Many people don't have family. Their family has aged and are no longer around, their family has moved away, they've moved here from some small town elsewhere in Kansas because there are more resources in this community for them to access.

A lot of times friends . . . they may have a lot of friends. A lot of their friends though may have similar limitations and they do help each other. We hear that all the time. That peer support stuff, we all depend on peer support. I depend on neighbors because I can't get something untwisted, because I don't have the strength to do it.

Sometimes, it's suggested well church, civic groups. Most of the people we work with are dependent on public transportation, which has its limitations and we just won't go to that issue. But it doesn't work on weekends, so going to church is kind of out of the question for most of them. It costs them for transportation, so they have to limit their trips. So their involvement in civic groups is minimal. So they don't, a lot of times, have those standard connections.

As a result, we become the support, the kind of tying network for over 2,000 people every year who will call us for various issues. We get \$28,000 a year and I know that doesn't seem like much in millions of dollars of budget, but for us that means in essence the staff person that handles those information and referral calls.

We've had several other reductions in our budget in the past six months, and have had to reduce our staff and our area of operation by about 20%, so another cut would very significantly affect our ability to work with people.

I have a letter I'm going to give out to each one of you and then, prior to that, I'm going to get a mike hooked onto Andrea who wants to makes some comments."

Ms. Andrea Romero, 2550 S. Oliver, #207, Wichita, Ks., said, "I work for the Independent

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Resource Center as a consumer advocate and I work with information and referral issues in regards to what my executive director discussed in the areas of transportation and housing and different things that is needed by the people that we serve.

And as she stated, we address those issues one on one and we help with problem solving. If the budget is cut, it will severely limit our ability to improve person's with disabilities to have a better quality of life. The whole purpose of our agency is to keep the hope going, is to allow people with disabilities to feel like they have a purpose and sometimes, when they are really desperate and have no other place to turn, that's when they find out about our agency and if they have difficulty with manipulating the phone book or getting access to a certain affiliate like the Ark or COMCARE or something like that, then we are the extension they need and this is real vital to what the Independent Living Center is all about.

Now, if we lose this funding, most persons and young adults will not have any place else to turn, so it is vital for our independence and our quality of life and I do appreciate your time. Thank you."

Commissioner Winters said, "Tell us your name again."

Ms. Romero said, "My name is Andrea Romero and my address is 2550 south Oliver, apartment number 207."

Ms. Weigel said, "We would be open to answer any questions."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just have one."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I noticed in the book that you indicated that you served 625 clients in 2002. Do you have an estimate or do you know how many you've served 2003 to date?"

Ms. Weigel said, "I checked that just before I came and last year, the way we had reported it, we had said we would serve six hundred and some and so that's all we reported, to our error. Actually last year we served 1,500 people but we only charged the county basically for 645 of them. This year, so far, it's over 1,000 already and the year is only half over. So, the county gets a good deal for our \$28,000."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And you're only charging us for 600 again this year?"

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Ms. Weigel said, "We just charge \$28,000 and we'll talk to 5,000 people if they call us or 20,000 or whoever. So it's not based per person. It's a flat grant for funding."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And you said how many people did you actually serve in 2002?"

Ms. Weigel said, "It was right around 1,500. I'm sorry, I said 1,000, I meant 1,500. I'm sorry."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So you're talking about less than \$20 per person actually served. Okay, thank you. That's all I have."

Chairman Norton said, "Any other questions? Thank you, Judy. Before we go on, I want to clarify a few things, since we have a pretty full group here. We're going to do the Fire District separately, the Fire District budget separately, so if there's anybody that would like to speak to the Fire District, we're going to do that as a separate budget. Just want to be sure we understand that.

And, Kristi, are we organized enough now that maybe not everybody has to stand up through this whole thing? Can we do that, so that . . .? Everybody will get to speak. We're not going to leave anybody out. We'll hear everybody. I just hate for people to have to stand for that long in our chambers if we can do it another way."

Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications Department said, "The Clerk is getting the names of the folks who have been in order, so I think they know by who they are standing next to and when they are finished speaking that they will be up after them and that way she already has that information ready."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. So now we can kind of go back to that. I just want you to be sure that we want your comfort to be part of this too and don't feel like we're trying to make you stand and please don't lock your knees. Okay, next."

Mr. Larry Turner, 7502 Reflection Road, Wichita, Ks. greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a volunteer at the Extension Center. My knees were locked when I got here, so I don't have to worry about that. First of all, I want to say that I'm not here to tell you what to cut from the budget, although I'm sure everyone else in the County is doing that. These truly are difficult times and this has been a difficult year.

I am here, however, to encourage you to minimize the impact on direct services by revisiting the

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recommended amount of cuts to the Extension Center. The state has already reduced the funding \$68,000 roughly. And if the County Manager's recommendation is approved, an additional \$148,000 roughly will be reduced as well. This equates to a combined 20% cut in funding and that's too deep.

The rationale for suggesting the 20% reduction is too deep comes from comparing the difference between expenditures and investments. The Extension operates with a large volunteer base, so for every dollar that the Commission spends on Extension programs, that dollar is multiplied over and over and over through volunteer services. It's a great value and an investment.

The Commission is aware of the many services provided by volunteers, but for the public's benefit, let me just cite a few, and I'll be brief. There are 450 4-H adult volunteers working with Sedgwick County youth programs, volunteers. 180 master gardener volunteers teach and practice environmental and research based recommendations to help businesses and homeowners maximize their investments. Trained volunteers do family financial counseling, helping them manage debt and start savings programs. Master composter volunteers teach composting and yard waste and recycling to keep waste out of the landfill.

And close to my heart, because it's a program I volunteer in, it is a variety of extension services to our seniors. In that program, volunteers help seniors with a selection of insurance to supplement their Medicare, they help them understand their options so they can get the most benefit for the policies that they spend money on. They educate beneficiaries on their Medicare benefits. It's so difficult to work through the maze of Medicare, the process, that even for the average person, but some of our seniors have very difficult times in working through that and what should be paid by Medicare and what shouldn't.

Assistance is given in appealing Medicare denials for items like ambulance transports, which in many cases if it's medically necessary, are paid for. Assistance with bill problems, calls to provider's offices to determine Medicare and private insurance response may show that billing hasn't occurred to anyone except the patient. Often we can resolve problems with who should pay first and how much.

Many elderly people struggle with the cost of prescription drugs and medication. Applying for assistance to the pharmaceutical companies save patients hundreds and thousands of dollars totally a month. These are direct and essential services, direct, eyeball to eyeball, given by counselors. They are face to face services. I don't know any better service that we can have in the County than that personal, up front service.

And I think you'll agree that our seniors in Sedgwick County, and across the state for that matter, are very resilient. They've lived through hardships before and they're often the group that steps

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forward and says, 'Hey, I know that we have difficult times, what can we do, how can we do our part?' and they're always willing to do that. But many of our seniors are living at or below the poverty level and without resources. And without the kinds of services that these volunteers can provide, they often times go without and they suffer silently.

So, I'm here just to ask you to maybe go back and revisit. No one would expect you to make up what the state has cut. That would be a little too much to ask. But if you would go back with the pencil just a little more dull and take consideration for the value of the dollars that are invested in the volunteer programs, that's all we ask and I thank you very much for hearing me this morning."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Larry."

Ms. Delores Craig-Moreland, 10813 E. 47th Street S., Derby, Ks. greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here on behalf of the Community Corrections Advisory Board. The item I want to discuss is page 284 of the budget, it's pre-trial services. In the interest of saving a thousand words, I have a picture for you. At least I hope it will save a thousand words. I don't envy you your job sometimes.

OVERHEAD PRESENTATION

The pre-trial service program is what is of interest. The Community Corrections Advisory Board wants to thank you for your consideration of this program and we think it's a very important program. Its goal is to maintain a community alternative for jail for those that are in jail on the pre-trial phase of things.

The idea of the picture, it's kind of a simpleminded little graphic but it kind of does it for me, because the board wanted to draw your attention to the financial considerations. This program is an alternative to jail time for a person who is in that pre-trial phase. The program is offering good supervision in the community. There is essentially two types of offenders, in term of broad categories. There are those who have committed lesser offences but, for whatever reasons, are not able to post the bond and those folks are put out in the community with proper supervision.

The others, those who may represent a slightly higher risk, who have a substantial bond, who may have experienced a reduction in that bond and therefore have been a possibility to come to this program. Each day that a person is served in this program costs about nine dollars per day per

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client. If you have to keep them in the jail, in an out of county jail location to meet our expanded population needs, it's estimated that you spend about \$35 a day for that person. So I think you can see that this program represents a substantial savings opportunity.

It's previously been funded at a staff of eight. It's recommended to be funded at a staff of five, which will substantially reduce the average daily population served. So, while it costs most money to have those eight personnel there that would be a full staffing of this program, every one of those folks represents a substantial opportunity to save jail money. And as you can see from the success measures, there's an average daily population of roughly 150 people. The rate of bond forfeiture and those who commit new crimes indicate this program is successful. Even the technical violations can be considered success, because that means those people went back to jail before they were able to create any further problems for anyone.

So the Community Corrections Advisory Board would like you to consider the possibilities that are represented in this program. We believe it's a means to do more with less, and I thank you for your time."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Delores. Any other questions? Okay."

Mr. Mike Martin, 5640 S. 103rd Street E., Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm also a volunteer for the Sedgwick County Extension Master Composters and I'm here to speak in that regard. The deep cuts that are proposed for the Extension Council threatens our program, the Master Composter program. I'm here to ask that you can restore some of those funds in your budget.

The Master composter program, the basic part of our program is that we train volunteers about teaching the public how to recycle their yard waste for the residents of Sedgwick County. And our program goal is to reduce the 24% yard waste component of trash that's generated within the County. In addition to our main goal, we encourage citizens to recycle all materials possible, so that current and future landfills will last as long as possible and reduce the frequency of having to site and do landfills and I know you're all aware of that problem.

As evidence of our success in our program, in 2002, 43 of our extension master composters provided 2,634 hours of volunteer service to the community and of course we don't charge anything. We're just part of that volunteer group that's over there at the Extension Service and

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believe in what we do.

We work with the Great Plains Institute in order to bring in a compost bin sale that resulted in over 4,000 households starting composting in the past two years. In 2002 and 2003, we've had over 33,000 contacts with the public in regards to our program. We have taken the message to the public through events like the Wichita Garden Show, Sedgwick County Fair and what caught my eye coming up here is that this weekend, at the Extension Center, we're sponsoring tomato day and as part of that we have a seminar on composting yard waste and recycling. And again, that's open to the public.

We have given presentations to a variety of adult groups, like the City of Wichita employees, senior citizen groups, customers of local businesses. We have presented this program to a variety of youth groups, both public and private schools, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Urban League, the Boeing Earth Day event. That brings to mind one of my favorite incidents that I was involved in. I was at a Goddard school making a presentation to first graders about composting with worms and I opened up the box and a little first grade girl, she looks in there and says, 'What's that black stuff that's in there?' I said, 'Well, that's worm poop' and she says, 'Ooo' and then she dives right into it. She's not going to forget that lesson about composting.

The deep cuts that you have proposed for Extension Council can only mean staff cuts and with staff cuts come the potential loss of our program. Without the staff that carries out kind of the backbone of the program and keeps the program, the nuts and bolts of it functioning, then our volunteers probably would not be able to carry out that function. So I appeal to you to do what you can to keep me and my other fellow composter volunteers in business. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Mike. Commissioner Sciortino, did you have a question?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well not of this gentleman, but of Mr. Buchanan or Mr. Chronis or whoever is making this recommended budget. When you made the recommended budget cuts, were you specific, saying 'Cut the master composter program' 'Cut the Medicare program'?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "No, the Extension Council makes those decisions. They've been asked to make tough decisions, like everybody else has and try to figure out, a) how to do business differently, how to continue to provide services that they have using a different model, thinking outside the box. And truthfully, I think they can step up to the plate."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I was getting a little concerned, I was maybe mis-hearing that speaker, thinking that maybe you got specific and said 'cut the master. . .' but this is something the Extension board would make a decision about what adjustments they want to make and what

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services and I assume saying, in the overall picture, this would be the least detrimental to our mission, or we're redefining our mission to be this, and because of that we're dropping that. But that's their decision. You're not telling . . . okay, got that. Thank you. That's all I have."

Ms. Mona Stein, 200 W. 117th Street N., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am the Sedgwick County entomology leader and a member of the Sunnydale 4-H Club. I'm here this morning to address the proposed cuts to the Extension budget as they may affect 4-H. I'm here as a 4-H leader. I'm also here, more importantly, as a 4-H mom. 4-H has already suffered cuts on a state level this year and I am here to ask you to reconsider any budget cuts, any additional budget cuts that would take place on a local level.

I understand that there are many worthwhile youth organizations out there, all of them very worthy of support and very worthy of funding, but I'd like to talk to you today about a characteristic that I feel 4-H has that is very unique. 4-H is known as a youth program, but those of us heavily involved in 4-H know that it is so much more. It's a family program, and I don't know of any other organization out there that supports strong families in a way that 4-H does.

There are so many youth organizations that involved mom and dad driving up, dropping kids off at the door and picking them up later, when the meeting or the activity is done. Or they drop brother off at one meeting, drive down the street and drop little sister off, and that's simply not the case in 4-H. 4-H requires parental involvement. It's just an inherent characteristic of our organization and it's what makes us unique.

You know, entire families attend 4-H meetings and work on projects together. All of our community service projects are family oriented and my entomology meetings, for example, I don't have any parents who drop the kids off and leave. The parents stay, little brother and sister stays, and we all work and we learn together.

And so, I guess the bottom line of what . . . my point this morning is that 4-H doesn't just build strong kids, it builds strong families and I just think that is so critical in today's culture, given the fact that the family is being devalued on almost a daily basis. I think it's our responsibility to fiercely support any organization that can promote the American family the way 4-H does.

In addition to its support of the family, 4-H empowers individuals. I can't even begin to express to any of you what amazing kids we have in our clubs. I firmly believe that 4-H is building our leaders of tomorrow.

To try to illustrate the impact of 4-H on a more personal note, I'd like to just share a very quick story with you. As entomology leader, recently I was speaking with a mother whose three girls are in our entomology group and her oldest daughter, who is 13, joined our group, was new to our group this year and the mother, with tears in her eyes, was telling me about this daughter who is

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dyslexic and has never been willing to read. And she's telling me that this year her daughter has spent hours, I mean literally hours pouring over the entomology books, reading and learning about the insects that she had caught. And that was such a touching experience for me. I don't know how we go about putting a monetary value on that type of impact to a family.

So I do understand the budget cuts are necessary, and I understand that every area has to do some belt tightening. But as I said before, 4-H has already been hit hard on a state level and you know, we've already had to tell some of our state fair kids, teams that have worked hard this year preparing for the state fair, 'Well, sorry, your events have been cancelled at the state fair'. So I would just ask that, as you go through your considerations, that you try to lessen the impact that the Extension budget cuts have on our 4-H program, and I thank you for your time."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you."

Ms. Erma Mitchell, 1456 N. Madison, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've work for the County Extension as a clothing instructor for eight years. Economic changes dictate a need for creative home economics. For instance, teaching ones to recycle clothing, design personal and family clothing, cooking skills would be improved to train and provided by the County Extension, community and personal gardens can be improved due to instructions provided by the horticulturists. Please, don't cut the budget. There are people out there that need these services.

As the saying on many of the letters that are sent to ones talking about the different classes that are provided for us, it says, 'Let's bring the university to the people'. Thank you."

Ms. Sandee Ingold, Route 4, Andover, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here today to speak on behalf, like Mona did, about the 4-H program that's a part of the Sedgwick County Extension program. I've been involved, for 43 years, as a member and a leader, a volunteer, one of the volunteers of the 450 that he talked about earlier. I've had three children in the 4-H program in Sedgwick County.

I can personally tell you, 4-H has evolved from the old cooking, canning and cow projects from my time into today's more modern projects of hand pets, crafts and buymanship to meet the needs of today's youth. But 4-H has always taught life skills, from the time that I was in to today's youth.

I see 4-H just as the D.A.R.E. program as a proactive program for today's youth. I believe the money spent by the County on the 4-H program and other programs like it give you much more bang for your buck than throwing money at reactive programs later on for rehabilitation and reform, after the youth have already experienced problems.

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The County dollars that are spent on 4-H help kids become more self sufficient. With the ever increasing number of single-parent families and two-parent working families, kids have had to learn more skills to take care of their own needs the past several years. Completing 4-H projects help them learn these skills. They have to learn to set goals. They make plans to complete their project.

They have to keep records of their accomplishments and they learn from having it judged at the fair. These are all important life skills. As a parent and a substitute teacher of kindergarten through high school, I can tell you that the 4-H program is invaluable for developing self-worth and self-confidence in our youth. Unlike so many school activities that I'm a part of, 4-H accomplishments are not based on popularity or athletic ability. Accomplishments in 4-H are to give kids . . . and make them become responsible leaders. The dollars spent on 4-H also promote our kids' concern for their fellow citizens through their community service. The 4-H pledge that I learned at age seven and we still recite today says, 'I pledge my hands to larger service'. Long before President Bush pushed for community service programs, the 4-H has encouraged it, whether it's adopting needy families, cleaning and painting the parks, improving the Sedgwick County fairgrounds, free of charge, visiting nursing homes, providing educational opportunities for our youth, 4-Hers have and continue to serve their community.

It's a highly successful, proactive program for youth that is now, and always has produced responsible leaders and citizens for our community. I'm asking, on behalf of the 4-H, for you to continue to fund this worthwhile organization through the Sedgwick County educational program. Thank you. Do you have any questions?"

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Sandee. I see none at the present time."

Ms. Ingold said, "I even met Mrs. McGinn's son in 4-H at camp a few years ago. So, I know he's been a part of the program too."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Did you bring her a rose?"

Ms. Ingold said, "No, I was nice to her son and he'll remember me."

Commissioner McGinn said, "That was probably difficult, wasn't it."

Ms. Ingold said, "Thank you."

Mr. Ray Flickner, 2701 North Shore Circle, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am here representing the Extension board as chairman today. Commissioner Sciortino, I know you asked previously about some of the issues, in terms of the Manager's proposal and so forth and I'm

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here to hopefully shed a little light in terms of what we anticipate may need to be done if the budget is reduced as proposed.

We know that we're in tough times and that we're all suffering financially. As you know, the Extension Council is funded both by the county and by the state and, as we addressed a year ago, we have had serious reductions in state funding, which is in the large part led to some of the same problems that you folks have, in terms of making some of these tough decisions.

We acknowledge that the extension department will have to take some cuts, as with all other cuts. Our concern is the fact that it is a very substantial cut. Early this year, we were requested at your office's request, to use the 2002 operating budget as a baseline for budgeting purposes for the 2004 year, which we have used. I will point out that the 2003 budget was also the same baseline as the 2002 budget, with the exception that you graciously provided us \$50,000 as a one-time supplement a year ago to make up for some state funding shortages that we had at that time. However, since that time, we've received notice from your office of approximately \$57,000 cut in the 2003 budget and we've taken that into consideration.

Basically, if we look at the \$148,000 proposed reduction in the budget from the 2002 budget, that amounts to about a 14 ½ or almost a 15.2% reduction in budget from the 2002. As has been addressed previously by some of our extension folks, that in conjunction with the state shortfall that we're aware of, we're looking at approximately a 20% reduction in the budget for the '04 year.

A little history of what we've done, as we addressed a year ago, we knew we had some budget concerns. Early this year the board, the Extension board did take action. We did put in place a hiring freeze of all openings at the Extension Service. Also, since that time we have reduced our staff by two people. One took an early retirement and one also pursued some other employment opportunities. Those positions are vacant at this time. They were in the area of horticulture and food and nutrition. Some areas that we think are very important, but the rest of our staff has stepped up and has provided some training in some of those areas, but there are some areas that we have not been able to provide.

We have collaborated previously with the Health Department in teaching the Serve Safe program for the food handlers and the restaurant business. Since we presently don't have anyone on staff with that kind of training, we are not able to provide that at this time.

Also, the horticultural side, we have lost our horticultural that deals basically with the nurseries in

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the County and they were providing researched based information, where many of the nursery folks were getting their information in terms of what to plant, what might survive in our harsh climate and those type of things.

That gives you a little background, in terms of the action that we've taken up to this point. As I've said, we've reduced two positions. What will we do if we see another \$148,000 reduction in the budget? I can't tell you for two reasons. One, we had a board meeting two weeks ago. At that time, we weren't aware of what the numbers looked like and I have not called another board meeting. We meet on a monthly basis, so we have not specifically talked about that. And likewise, since we're still in the developmental stage, we don't know for sure exactly what the numbers look like. But what I will tell you is \$148,000 is probably an additional three people on our department staff. Quite possibly we would look at a reduction in staff in each of our three department areas, in our agricultural/ horticultural department, our family consumer science area and our 4-H area.

I won't spend a lot of time talking about 4-H and family consumer science and our agriculture and horticulture, as you folks have already heard. I think you know what we do in those particular areas, but the reality is, we probably will have to take some personnel cuts in each of those areas, which will impact programs."

Chairman Norton said, "Ray, how much longer do you think you need?"

Mr. Flickner said, "I will just wrap it up in about 30 seconds, Mr. Chairman.

I also do want to point out that we are in an area where we develop a lot of programs. You probably are well aware that the Sedgwick County Extension program did develop and did start the Wichita Garden Show. That has now since been moved from the Extension program and is a self-funding, private organization. But that is a program that was both started by the extension program, as well as the Kansas Grown Farmer's Market Inc. is another program that we started that has now kind of taken its own wings.

Bottom line, Commissioners, what I'd like to do is ask for you to give serious consideration if there's any way that you can fund back at the 2002 level so that we can at least maintain the programs that we presently have with the cuts. I'd be happy to answer any questions, as well as our director, Bev Dunning, is here as well."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ray, of the total budget, what percent is

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state funded and what percent is county funded?”

Mr. Flickner said, “Bev?”

Ms. Bev Dunning, Director, Sedgwick County Extension Service, said, “Approximately 10% is state and 80% is county. We did have the other 10% as federal. That comes into the state and comes down to us through the state.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “And go ahead and stay up here. The full-time positions that were removed or that you eliminated, were those agents?”

Ms. Dunning said, “Yes.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “They were state agents and you guys were at 15 at one time. Are you now at 13?”

Ms. Dunning said, “No. By law, we’re allowed to have 12. That was set in the ‘80s, and so by two positions being empty, we’re at 10.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Okay. All right. And then, I think it was last fall that we had a discussion out there, myself, Commissioner Winters, Commissioner Norton, and some of the state people were there and I guess I’m going to go back to my question I had then and see what has transpired since that time. You know, the discussion was that the state was the one that started extensions and they’re kind of the founder of this and that kind of thing. And I asked them what kind of tough decisions were they going to be making at the state level, and what has perhaps transpired is the attitude that we’ll just go ahead and make cuts and let the counties deal with it or has there been some conversations about maybe how they need to restructure some things?”

Ms. Dunning said, “I can tell you some of the restructuring they’ve done. Is that what you’re asking?”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Yes.”

Ms. Dunning said, “We’ve had five area extension offices that have housed specialists where we

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get a lot of the researched based information. They've now downscaled to four, so the Hutchinson Area Extension Office has been closed. They've offered some early outs, which the federal government could fund and 32 people have retired through that particular downsizing. They're just seeking cash flow, as are we all. You know, if our executive board had their choice, I don't know which positions they would have eliminated, but we have to take it through attrition as best we can. So, yes, they've definitely taken some cuts."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay. Well, I think we need to keep having conversations with them, and I mean, that's not for today but I just wondered what had happened."

Ms. Dunning said, "They're not just dumping on us. They're taking their hits too."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, all right, thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Again, I guess I have a question of Mr. Buchanan and there's about three questions. Are we mandated by statute to fund the extension service?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "I don't believe so."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay. The reason for asking that is I think that you have some tremendous programs that are very beneficial to the citizens of Sedgwick County. And I believe that the people that have talked to us are very concerned about the delivery of those services, not necessarily maintaining an entity. It's more the delivery of the service, it's not the bricks and mortars, it's not the name in front of the building. It's the services that you provide to the citizens. And I don't know what the will of this board is, but maybe for a million dollars a year we could work with you and figure out how to maybe absorb into our area those services, along with those people providing the services, and continue funding those services which you feel are very important and let the state do whatever the heck they want to do. If they think so little of the services that you're providing, they can just cut them and close buildings and what have you. I don't know if that's something your board would be interested in discussing with us, but I for one would be very interested in opening up that kind of dialogue, just to see if we could maintain those programs, albeit under the tutelage, care, custody and control of the County. Just as a thought. Thank you."

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Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, just a quick comment, and I think that's an interesting concept, Commissioner Sciortino and maybe we can have a concept discussion about that. But the whole Extension University concept is in place, nationwide and I think we'd want to be pretty careful if we start taking it apart, because one of the ladies made the comment of what this is is bringing the university to the people and it's a thought process that's been laid out with extension universities. Is that the proper term?"

Ms. Dunning said, "Land Grant Universities."

Commissioner Winters said, "Land grant Universities is what I was looking for. Land grant universities fill a role of this extension all over the country. So I think again, Commissioner Sciortino, I think we're all looking for ways to do things better and if we can come up with some kind of solution that could help do that, I think we need to take that kernel that K-State University provides through their commitment, even though we wish it was larger in these state times, we realize that's not going to happen and then we have to plus it from what we can do at the county for our citizens here. So again, I'd be interested in talking about ways to improve the service, but I'm not sure if I'd want to decide right now how to restructure the extension nationwide."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And I wasn't trying to solve the nation's problem. I was trying to help solve Sedgwick County's problem. I . . . this is going to sound coarse, I could care less if North Dakota's 4-H program is flourishing. I'm more concerned about what's happening in Sedgwick County and that's why I threw it out, just to sort of think totally out of the box, is there some way the County could be more involved in helping provide those services, albeit it would be a different name or whatever and send a message maybe to the state, 'stop looking to Sedgwick County to solve your problems, we'll solve our own, thank you very much'. That's all I was talking about."

Chairman Norton said, "Is that all, Commissioner Sciortino?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, for now."

Chairman Norton said, "You leave your options open I know. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, since I kind of opened this up, I just want to go back and say

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that I know that Bev has worked very hard on looking at what do other counties do in the state and what's the state is doing and that kind of thing and I gather that you'll be able to figure out that we're going to continue to have those discussions. But I do think, and I know this is discussion for later, but I do agree that many of the things that you do go a long ways, because of the volunteers and because of the greater investment in the community it certainly costs us less, dealing with other issues, because of that.

But anyway, I want to . . . I do want to continue to discuss how we work with the state with this program to make it successful in our community.”

Ms. Dunning said, “And we appreciate that. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Well, I just have just a brief comment and that is that one of the conundrums we have is that extensions, through land grant universities, really was an outreach for rural areas and now we are an urbanized and rural area and to try to find a mission that served the rural areas with 4-H and some of the horticulture kinds of things and find missions that serve the population in the inner-cities with some of the problems we have gets to be the tough part because some of the inner-city urban kinds of issues are solved by other entities, where rural issues are still left out there for the land grant and extension agents to take care of.

Hopefully we'll come to some determination of the middle ground, but I think as we become more of an urban center, the extension agents and council will have to reinvent their mission and some of them may have to be collaborations in our urban setting with other agencies that deliver those same kinds of services. It's just the way it's going to be, as we become more urbanized and less ruralized, because extension agents, I mean I grew up in a very rural area of Arkansas and you knew the extension agent real well and I don't think we have that today. I think we have a different dynamic that is being unfolded in our community. Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Well, just to add to that for the record, I think that's part of what our challenge is, is we are a very diverse county. Johnson County is very urban, and don't even have some of the challenges even in the urban area that we have here. Even though we're one of the larger urban counties, we also happen to have the most amount of farmers in this county and I don't think people realize that. They think Wichita, big city, 19 other communities, there's not very many farmers. But we happen to have the most in Sedgwick County and so I think that creates part of our challenge is how do we serve that diversity.”

Mr. Flickner said, “In fact, Commissioner McGinn if I might add, I did see some information

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within the last week that Sedgwick County had the largest gross revenue of agricultural income of any county in the state. So not only number wise, but it's the largest revenue producing agricultural county."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well I want Kristi or Lorrie, I don't think there's a word 'ruralized'. Would you check on that and let us know? Because I think he just made up that. I've heard of urbanized but I never heard of ruralized."

Chairman Norton said, "It's in the same dictionary as 'strategery'."

Ms. Dunning said, "That must be an in-house joke here."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "He teaches me new words every day, curmudgeon or whatever that thing is. But ruralized, I don't think that's in the dictionary."

Ms. Dunning said, "Any other questions you have of us?"

Chairman Norton said, "No. Thank you, Ray. Thank you, Bev."

Ms. Sue Steele, 337 Morningside, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "And Mr. Norton, I don't think you know the segway that you gave me to do today, because I work for the Wichita School District but I'm at the Wichita Children's Home and work with homeless children in the school district. I've worked with Mr. Winters' wife.

My involvement with the Sedgwick County Extension is I work with 4-H outreach agent and when you talk about diversity, it just segwayed right into what I'm going to talk about today, because I work with at-risk youth in the Wichita area and 4-H has certainly helped me with this problem of trying to help.

As you heard, with the 4-H programs that came before, some of the things that my kids need to have in their lives are already in those 4-H programs. And I'm a city girl, I didn't have a rural background growing up, but I certainly as I was married and found out I needed certain things and homemaking skills, knew the extension office was available to me to look at and know what was available to me and that, as a self-learner and as a graduate and realized that there are things that I could learn from agents there and as a result, knew about their other programs.

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So when it came time to do a summer program at the Wichita Children's Home, I knew that my kids needed those 4-H activities, hands-on activities. And so I went to their agent, which they're all very good at doing, to help you initiate something new and innovative and they helped me create a program eight years ago, which has been very successful for our kids and I think has created a lot of the same environment that kids have in a 4-H club.

And so, we're hoping to use those more and more and we've used them a lot in the school system and beginning to do that more and more, realizing those kids need those skills that rural kids have. And so, I just wanted to come before you this morning to explain that we are doing those things in Sedgwick County in those outreach programs and beginning to use some of those.

And I wanted to tell you, as a result of that, I've done more volunteering with the outreach group and we've had a 4-H club at Horace Mann School the last several years and I just wanted to tell you a story of a little girl and of course some of you may not know is a pretty strong Hispanic school and so some of the kids have never had a chance to do some of those 4-H activities and one of the things that they were doing in their club at the school was the leadership activities of the 4-H. And in part of that process, they were to give presentations to judges that they had worked on in class to do. And so, they asked me if I would take a group of them over to the 4-H Extension building on a Saturday for them to give these presentations to the judges.

And I did and I took about five Hispanic kids over there and watched them give their presentations to the judges. And when it was finished, one of the little girls in my car won a ribbon and coming back in the car, I looked back in my rearview mirror and watched this little girl stroke this ribbon on her lap because she had won it. And I would have given anything to be there when she explained to her mother how she had gotten this ribbon. So, I think we underestimate what the value of this program can be in a city environment and I just wanted to relay that to you today."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Sue. Good seeing you again. Any questions from Commissioners? Okay."

Mr. Kent Winter, 7359 N. 215th Street W., Mount Hope, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I guess I fall into the rurallite category."

Chairman Norton said, "For the record, I'd like Mr. Scortino to clear something up here."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "*Ruralized, ruralizing, ruralizes: to make or to become rural. Ruralization.* It is a word, weird word but it is a word."

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Mr. Randle said, "I live in the Andale area, 7359 North 215 West. I'm self-employed as a farmer, fourth generation in that area. I'm here to ask for your support today for funding for the Sedgwick County Extension programs.

I'd like to echo what was said about the 4-H part of this. I have several children that are heavily involved in that. Also would like to thank Commissioner McGinn for your comments about the diversity. We are not a Wyandotte or a Johnson County when it comes to recognizing the agricultural production that takes place in this county, consistently in the top 10% in the state.

I want you to know that there are many Sedgwick County agricultural producers other than myself that heavily depend on the Sedgwick County Extension agricultural agents and their programs to help make management decisions that directly affect our livelihood and the bottom line. To be specific, I'm referring to the one on one time spent with the agents, getting to better understand and implement the various farm programs and the soil conservation programs that are geared to protect our soil and our water.

Other popular programs that we heavily utilize are the wheat variety demonstration plots and countless programs and seminars designed to help us efficiently use fertilizer, weed control and insect control in our fields. In order to survive in my profession, one has to be on top of risk management and I consider the Extension service to be an invaluable part of the infrastructure available to me to do that. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Kent. Any questions from Commissioners?"

Mr. Bob Randle, 962 Back Bay Boulevard, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here with my wife Phyllis, also wearing the colors of a master gardener and I'm here to tell you some of the things that master gardeners are doing that probably have an effect on what you're always wanting, and that's to raise your tax base.

My experience with the commissioners before has been sort of trying to hold down the tax base on my own property because of planting trees and shrubs mainly. When we moved to Wichita in, I guess, 1966 we bought a house across from St. Thomas Aquinas in the east part of town and started trying to get something to grow in that clay out there and worked with John Pear, who was the County horticulture agent at that time.

And we got things growing in just a couple, three years to the point that he wanted to have a yard tour and so we did. And we had a big write-up in the paper and showed Phyllis and I sitting there in the backyard enjoying . . . Oh, by the way, I rushed home from my job at the Farm Credit Bank, Phyllis rushed home from her job with Macy's. We sat there sipping a Mint Julep, I guess it was a 7-Up. Anyway, a picture in the paper of what we'd done with our yard. So we had been interested in planting trees and shrubs ever since and I doubt if there's a year gone by that we haven't spent

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\$1,000 or more buying trees, shrubs and so on. We're well know at all the nurseries.

About three years ago, we learned about master gardeners and what a fine organization it was. And so we are now in it, delaying our Alzheimer's situation probably. Certainly someone has talked about pro-active. This is a pro-active senior organization of 180 individuals. And I wanted to tell you about last month, one hot day, Bob Nare, the present County agricultural agent, horticultural agent took his tree committee, which is a group of people who are taking an advanced course in tree research this summer and started us down towards Mulvane. In route to Mulvane, we stopped by the John Pear Center and collected leaves for our study in leaves and identification of leaves. Then we went on to Mulvane to work with the tree board. I had never realized that there was such a thing as a municipal tree board before that time. And so, shortly after that, I obtained a book from the Kansas Forestry Service, at their annual meeting, a year ago, or early this year in Manhattan where all the cities, municipalities that were involved in working with the forestry service, reported their expenditure for tree planting, tree removal, tree pruning. You might be interested in Sedgwick County results. Nine different municipalities, including Wichita, were included and they spent about . . . no, they planted 3,600 trees last year. They removed 4,100. You might say that looks pretty good, not have anymore removal than that, because the state figures that for every tree that is planted, every one tree that's planted in the state, four are removed through development, through the wrong trees being planted under power lines, through disease of trees and through planting wrong varieties and that sort of thing.

So the savings that . . . or the expenditure for that in Sedgwick County figured \$2,600,000 last year for handling the trees in the municipal area. Now then, the Extension Service does a lot towards training those tree boards and towards helping them to learn what are the trees they should be planting, how to handle the insect problem, if they have any, all these things are saving money. So, maybe the expenditure of \$160,000 would come back pretty fast if we remain active in working with the tree service."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Bob. Where were you from originally, Bob, did you say? Where did you come from?"

Mr. Randle said, "Where did I come from? That's a long story. I was in the military for four years, I was a county agricultural agent at one time out at Huxley, Kansas. Then I went to Colby, working for the Federal Land Bank and then at Harrington, working for the Federal Land Bank and then to Wichita."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay, thanks. Any more questions? Okay."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "How much more money can we make per tree? Maybe we can work this out."

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Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I like that raising home values.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Yeah, I do too. That was a heck of twist on the deal.”

Ms. Carolyn Benitez, 3461 Park Place, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m going to change the subject a little bit here and we’re going to talk about senior centers. I’m the executive director at La Familia Senior Community Center and I’m here today to ask that you reconsider your decision to reduce funding to our senior centers.

Since the enactment of the Older American Act in 1965 establishing senior centers has been an important part of the act. It used to be that nutrition and recreation were the primary services offered at these centers. But since then, our centers have evolved to focal points for various social services.

Our community-based center provides on-site services to mostly Latino community in which it is located. We offer a broad spectrum of services, including meals and nutrition programs, information and assistance, health and wellness, recreational opportunities, transportation services, cultural programs, volunteer opportunities, educational programs, employment assistance, inter-generational programs, social and community action opportunities and other special services like translations.

The staff and the board of directors at our center have worked hard to offer these services and to provide them in Spanish and in English. Each year, the number of people we serve continues to grow. The explosive growth of the Hispanic population in Sedgwick County supports this fact. Because our center stands independently, our struggles to find and raise capital to keep our doors open is a continuous process. It’s never ending.

Our yearly operational costs are about \$115,000. For the last two years, the County has provided us with about \$37,500 and we’re very, very thankful for that. The remainder is for the board and the staff to raise in way of fundraisers and also to locate in way of other grants.

It’s become more difficult to find these dollars and we are now at a point where we will be cutting services. Unfortunately for our members, this is going to mean transportation services. This is one of our most costly services we provide, yet in my opinion, it’s one of the most important services for our Hispanic elderly. Mobility is freedom and loss of mobility can lead to a discouraging sense

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of confinement. Many of our members depend on family members for a ride and it's really not practical, because most of our Hispanic families have one car and are employed full-time.

Our center is characterized by mutual helping networks that provide a sense of security, community and opportunity to share traditional cultural customs and heritage. Moreover, the center has assumed many of the responsibilities that historically have been delegated to the extended family. Our services are well received in the community, as our staff is bi-lingual and bi-cultural. We are conveniently located in Woodland Park. We also offer a family oriented service and I ask you to please help us to continue to serve the underserved population. Thank you very much. Do you have any questions?"

Chairman Norton said, "Don't run off. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you. Carolyn, seems like last time I was down there we talked about who some of the individuals were that come into the center. Don't you get a great deal of them from the southeast portion?"

Ms. Benitez said, "We get them actually from all over the city."

Commissioner McGinn said, "But there is a pretty big Hispanic population down there as well."

Ms. Benitez said, "Yes, out in the Planeview area, Colvin/ Planeview area. We've had a number of requests for people wanting to come to the center, but I have put geographical boundaries on the transportation, because of the costs to go out to that area and transport."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay. Is the facility provided by the City of Wichita?"

Ms. Benitez said, "Yes, it is. It is provided to us free of cost, or a dollar a year."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay. So a lot of the dollars we put out there for operations and those kinds of things. And then you said that you guys do some fundraising. Do you know what percent of your total budget you're able to raise in the community?"

Ms. Benitez said, "It's about one-fourth. We are going to be participating this weekend in the tomato festival. We've done that three years. That's an opportunity that the Sedgwick County Extension Office does provide to us and we really appreciate that."

Commissioner McGinn said, "All right, thanks Carolyn."

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Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, my primary question was answered. I was trying to figure out how much involvement in the budget the city participates and you said they don't charge you rent and that helps, I'm sure, a bunch. I would just hope that maybe you could present to the city, because I know a lot of the other cities in Sedgwick County not only don't charge rent, but they actually help provide some of the funding for the centers too."

I go back a long history with La Familia when it was up there on Broadway, a little further east and (*speaks Spanish*) I learned my Spanish through my stomach and I hope you have some good salsa this Saturday so we can pass that out."

Ms. Benitez said, "We will. We'll be serving tamales this weekend."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay. It isn't just Hispanics that you serve, because you have the Meals on Wheels or the Good Nutrition program."

Ms. Benitez said, "We have the Good Neighbor Nutrition program."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah, and that's not just limited to Hispanics and seniors. It's anyone in the area, so it's more than just the Hispanics."

Ms. Benitez said, "That's correct. It's that the area is a predominant Latino area. I'd like to add that we do receive the facility for free, but it does come directly out of our budget to maintain the facility, so if the air conditioning breaks down or if we have plumbing problems, and as you know, that is a very old building, we have those problems at least two to three times a year."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So you're responsible for maintaining . . . what happens like if the . . . I don't know where I'm going with this, but if the foundation cracks or you have to put in side . . .?"

Ms. Benitez said, "That's our responsibility."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "That's your . . . How much, on an annual basis, would you say your maintenance budget is?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'd say about \$3,000."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you."

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Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. Just so I can understand all the funding, does your senior center or the other senior centers, do they have any user fees that are imposed?"

Ms. Benitez said, "We have a very small fee. It's a three dollar fee and it's for their lifetime and it's just a three dollar membership and they get a little card with it with their photo on it. Some of our seniors even use that as ID, because some of them are here illegally and have no form of identification."

Commissioner Unruh said, "A one time charge though."

Ms. Benitez said, "Correct."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Are you still doing the king and the queen thingamabob or whatever?"

Ms. Benitez said, "Yes, we do that every year at Valentines."

Chairman Norton said, "Are you lobbying?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "No, I'm not lobbying to be the king."

Chairman Norton said, "Some of us wonder."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I'll get you one of those Burger King hats."

Chairman Norton said, "Any other questions? Thank you, Carol."

Ms. Zoe Marie Head, 1701 E. Osage, Apartment 207, Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a senior citizen. Several of us got together in our senior center and decided to compose a letter and have the individuals sign a position so that it would all come together. I would like to share with you the letter we have written.

We are concerned about the funds in the budget of our senior centers. The senior centers are so important in our lives. They give us meeting places for our meals and for fun and fellowship. Many times this is the only place a senior citizen has to go for these activities.

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The centers are our focal point to keep us active and also saves the taxpayers money, as these activities keep many of us up and going and out of care centers, which are costly.

We senior citizens, many of whom are veterans, believe we have worked long and hard and deserve the full usage of our senior center. Now is the time we feel we should be allowed to continue to learn and enjoy life in our communities and still maintain our dignity.

Many senior citizens are on fixed incomes. We have paid taxes all these years and now there's a possibility of our benefits and our programs being cut. Our senior centers provide so much for us. Please, please reinstate our funds, in order that we may keep the center staffed with adequate people allowing us to forge ahead with the lives which remain for us in these loving, caring facilities.

Then I would just like to add a personal note that I was really surprised, somewhat shocked, when I was surfing the Internet and found the proposed budget and noted that the Aging administration budget had a raise of 15.5% and all the senior centers were in a negative figure.

Commissioner Sciortino, we consider it a privilege, really we do, to have you in our center on Fridays and we'd like to invite and encourage all the commissioners to visit all the various centers to see how they are keeping us, as senior centers, involved, healthy and active in our communities.

Please put the money where it is utilized. It's important to all taxpayers. You have a very important and challenging job ahead of you and we urge you to think wisely. We save taxpayers' money. The buck stops here. May I please bring you the letter and the petitions? We have 485 names."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "They're not all in my district, are they?"

Ms. Head said, "No. I didn't bring you a rose."

Chairman Norton said, "May I make a note. On page 23, Ben Sciortino has signed the petition."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'm a senior center [sic]. I can exercise my rights as a senior center [sic]. I'm chronologically gifted. I'm the only one here that's a legitimate senior."

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Chairman Norton said, "Wait a minute. I've got an ARP card."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well then sign the petition."

Chairman Norton said, "I don't see any questions or discussion."

Ms. Kelly Whitehorn Martin, 1801 S. Millwood, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thirteen years ago, I became involved in the Sedgwick County Extension with the nutrition and budget class that they teach. I was a single mom on Welfare at the time. What I've learned to stretch my food dollars to last the whole month with the nutrition foods.

Through proper storage of foods, which allow me to use and plan over instead of throwing out foods. I was able to create casseroles, leftovers to extend a couple of days. I've learned to plan meals with my child which are nutritious and also foods that he needs to learn to like, like new vegetables and fruits, besides just apples and oranges.

I've learn to plan week's menus, grocery shop, stay in my food budget. Food budget is a big thing. Not going out, you know, some people don't consider that when you go out you're dipping in your food budget. I've learned to plan and prepare foods for my child, meals he likes to eat, what we knew is good for him, how to plan meals that work with both of us, I wasn't a short hand cook.

I learned about food-borne illness and how to protect my son. This meant fewer trips to the doctor and emergency rooms. Did you know that just one case of Salmonella poisoning goes through emergency room it costs about \$1,300, according to the economical research of the USDA. I thought I'd put that in.

I learned to budget, basic skills, learned to plan the entire month. How to and why pay bills on time. I've learned to plan irregular expenses, like car tags and car insurance. I learned the importance of savings accounts, especially for emergencies. I've learned way to prepare foods and how to change my eating habits. And I taught my mother, who is a type 2 Diabetic also. I have learned to take my food culture and become more healthier for my family and yes, I make fry bread with Canola Oil instead of lard and portion control.

More than 25,000 citizens of Sedgwick County have Diabetes. I am one of the lucky two-thirds that have been diagnosed, as one-third don't know that they have Diabetes yet. And the economical costs of Diabetics in just Sedgwick County is \$160,000,000 a year.

I have practiced what I have learned. My A1C tested tells the doctor, you know, the past three

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months of my Hemoglobin A1C. Right now I'm 5.4. When I began, when I was diagnosed in my 30s, I won't tell my age now, but I was at 8.7, that was really dangerous. Generally, the doctors want us to practice our eating habits. We need to do portion control. That doesn't just mean we can't have sugar. A lot of people are mis-conceptive of that. This means that Diabetics have complications like kidney disease, blindness, nerve damage and will be at work . . . I'd rather be at work and not sick, so I really do take care of myself.

I believe this is due to the nutrition classes at the Extension that teaches healthy preparation, classes at the hospital tell you what to do for Diabetes and how to cook and plan. I also really have accomplished, I've been heavier than this. It's a slow process of losing weight as you're a diabetic. I am toned and so I really appreciate the Sedgwick County Extension putting the dollar amounts in the impact of our community. What I don't know, maybe, you can put in dollar figures to follow the questions better than I can.

What are the dollar savings from one mom off of Welfare and employed for at least 11 years and paying taxes? What is the dollar savings of not going to the emergency for food poisoning by medical card? What is the dollar savings of 16 parents that get to have the custody of their children through the court ordered nutrition budgeting classes of the Extension Office? What is the dollar savings of a Diabetic in good control of their blood sugars being at work, not dealing with the complications of sick leave? And I'm still employed with the Sedgwick County Extension, as of today. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Kelly."

Mr. Dale McLoud, 2130 Shelton, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a client at consumer services at La Familia Senior Services Center on West 21st Street. I'm also a homeowner and registered voter. I am very happy that I have lived my life in Wichita. This is an excellent community with a tradition of community service, benevolence, and charity, giving assistance to the poor and the elderly is a tradition. It is not something new. I know that you people that work on the . . . serve on the County Commission and City Commission oft times do so at personal cost. Businesses sometimes are left with less than adequate attention, so your service to our community is greatly appreciated.

We're in a time where many hard choices are to be made. We have a good tone in our community. I think that the services that we provide to the poor and elderly are valuable. They need to be continued. Many of the people that come to the center may have their only meal, their only full meal for the day is served there. The center provides health services for Diabetics, monitoring their

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blood sugar levels. They also monitor blood level, blood pressure. The services there, I think, are a bargain for the community.

La Familia provides the means of recreation and camaraderie that, for some, may be the only means of engaging in such activities. It is a convenient neighborhood facility that is essential for the health and well being of our community. La Familia provides a loving and safe environment for us all to meet.

It is a know fact that senior citizens live longer and a healthier life when they have adequate opportunity for recreation and a friendly association amongst their peers. We hope that you will keep our funding levels as they are, and not make cuts, because I would have to say that, from my observation, they're running on very close purse strings and they're very tight with what they do get.

And to make cuts in their funding is going to mean a cut in services and there is a large segment of our population that is not being served adequately as it is. I'm sure that you will make the right choices to continue the traditions of our community that is known for its hospitality, for its love, for its charitable-ness and the hope that is given to people. I feel that it is a moral duty that we all give and help those that are less fortunate and do what we can.

As Carol said, this is a multi-cultural. It serves primarily Hispanics, but there are Anglos and others that live in our area that come. It really deserves your consideration for full and complete funding. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you."

Ms. Kimberly Stoner, Director, Sedgwick Senior Center, Sedgwick, Kansas, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am brand new to the position. The previous director resigned due to health problems. Our center's service area includes parts of Harvey and Sedgwick Counties. Within Sedgwick city limits, 38% of our seniors live in Sedgwick County coming to our center from within the city limits of Wichita and also Valley Center, Halstead and Bentley. At the present time, I am paid for 10 hours a week, but the job is much more than 10 hours a week.

The center has grown in numbers and services from the previous director. I look to increase those numbers and services and with the proposed funding for 2004 the center would lose a lot of their services and would not be able to offer some of what they offer to the area seniors.

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I see that every human being wants to feel important and needed and have a purpose in life and our senior center offers that to our community seniors. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “It looks to me, if I’m looking at this, is that your senior center had the most dramatic proposed cuts, almost 75%. About how many seniors do you serve there?”

Ms. Stoner said, “In the last six months, 2,035.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “And you say, actually, the number of seniors that you’re servicing is on the increase?”

Ms. Stoner said, “Is on the increase. I think on the last report, and as I say I am new, just 30 days on the job, but from the last report, it was 671 and this report is 2,035.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “And when was the last report?”

Ms. Stoner said, “July 1st.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay.”

Ms. Stoner said, “They’re semi-annual reports.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay, got it. Okay, that’s all I had.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “I don’t know if I’m going to be able to describe this accurately, but I think what puts you guys in an interesting position is the fact that the base year 2002, they started or were going to have a director and then that did not work out, so they returned the money. But there was a glitch there in that process and so then, we restored it last year because they did have a director last year and it was Patty Bruener I believe and so she has since retired and now she is taking the position. But it was just because of something that happened that year, that caused that dip and so it’s really not fair that . . . like we picked that one year and there happened to be a glitch in the system.”

Ms. Stoner said, “And Patty is working closely with me to become acclimated with services offered and . . . so we hope to maintain that.”

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Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks."

Ms. Susan Grelinger, 15630 E. 47th Street S., Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to address the Extension budget. I feel that my family probably of all the agencies that Sedgwick County has, that Extension has impacted our family more than any agency. We own and operate a Christmas tree farm and a landscape tree service and when we were deciding what to do with this land, Extension was very beneficial. They played a tremendous part in being able to set up a successful operation from, you know, the type of soil, soil preparation, types of trees that do well in Kansas, insect control, weed control, noxious weeds, all this information was simply a phone call or can I come out and see you and bring along a sample.

Along with our tree business, we also are involved with a small cattle-breeding operation. Here again, Extension played a very important role in becoming successful, if you can, with cattle-breeding and we got involved with this through our children's 4-H activities. Our children were very active members in 4-H and I was a community leader. I served on county-wide boards and I have volunteered many hours in Sedgwick County. My children, I believe, became better citizens because of the leadership skills that are enhanced through the program and have made them very strong members of our society.

Family and consumer programs that are offered have been a great benefit to me, personally. I have attended classes from quilting to clothing to reupholstering furniture. That's now my latest thing and my husband gets a little concerned when I see a piece of furniture laying in the ditch on the county roads and say, 'Oh, let me see if that's good to recover this'.

The classes that are offered to the senior citizens, the Medicare information, the insurance information, long-term care insurance information was very beneficial, as my family, my husband had to make a decision on what type of supplemental insurance to help cover with his Medicare.

I'm also a teacher. I'm a retired teacher, semi-retired. I still supervise student teachers for W.S.U. but I taught for 21 years and I used much of the Extension curriculum available to enhance my budget in my classroom, because there again it was always budget constraints and I was always looking for free material. And a lot of the material I used, I used in after school activities. There again, which I felt we're helping these young students and I worked in middle school level, students to become useful and beneficial citizens in our society, teaching them life skills that sometimes are lacking, as you well know.

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Over the years, I have seen Extension change their programs to fit the needs of our society. For instance, money management, personal finances, the food and nutrition program has been expanded, as you have heard, to cover many needs. And also parenting classes, when I first was volunteering, there were no parenting classes. The range of services they provide I think span the socio-economic status and culture diversity of all the residents of Sedgwick County.

I think that our family, as I said, has benefited tremendously and I hope that you will consider the budget cuts, and I realize that these are tough times because everyone is cutting, but I hope you will continue to be able to provide the money to support the Council's services that they provide for all the citizens. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Susan. Before we move on, how many more people would like to speak today? Can I have a show of hands? We're just trying to guide our time and working with Channel 8, we want to be sure that we kind of know where we're at in the day. Okay, thanks."

Mr. Larry Reichenberger, 5000 N. 295th Street W., Mount Hope, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a farmer from the Andale area and I'm here to speak in support of the agricultural extension activities in Sedgwick County. While some may assume that the rapid growth of urban development in Sedgwick County has eased the need for assistance to the County's farmers, I'm here to submit that that's not the case.

Agriculture is and will remain a leading industry in Sedgwick County. Despite the development, Sedgwick County remains the number one county in the State of Kansas in terms of the number of farmers served by its extension office. 2,200 families make their living in agriculture in this county and they cultivate 450,000 acres of land. Even at the current rate of development, there will still be 400,000 acres under cultivation 20 years from now.

The families living on that land need the services of the agricultural extension service now more than ever. As a point of illustration, I'll make an example from our own farming operation. 1979 was a hallmark year on our farm. That was the year that my now deceased father bought the one and only new combine of his 50 year farming career. That combine cost him \$40,000. His wheat that year averaged 60 bushels per acre. He sold it for an average of \$3.72 a bushel. My brother and I have now taken over the farming operation. Recently, there has been a need to replace that old machine. As point of comparison, a new combine today costs . . . a comparable new combine today will cost us \$180,000. We completed our wheat harvest last month. It again, coincidentally, averaged nearly 60 bushels per acre. It's worth \$2.70 per bushel, nearly a dollar less than my father

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got 24 years ago, yet my combine would cost \$140,000 more.

Other production costs have followed a similar trend. Meanwhile, the farm subsidies to our operation has fallen from \$48,000 in 1979 to \$15,000 this year. To survive this economic crunch, farmers have had to become more and more efficient. We look to the agricultural agents at the Sedgwick County Extension Service for much of the information to maintain this competitive edge.

As others have testified earlier, on farm research and demonstration programs that the ag agents have conducted are invaluable in helping us understand to become more efficient and environmentally safe.

The efforts last year, interpreting on a one-on-one basis, the impact of the farm bill and risk management considerations were a critical service. Please keep these major contributions in mind as you review the proposed budget cuts. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thanks, Larry.”

Mr. Tom Bergkamp, 8231 W. 55th Street S., Clearwater, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is my son, Mark. We operate a family farm southwest of Wichita. Now I’ll turn it over to Mark, who will say a few words about Sedgwick County Extension Council and the proposed budget cuts.”

Mr. Mark Bergkamp, 8231 W. 55th Street S., Clearwater, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “Sedgwick County Extension serves a vital purpose, which includes but is not limited to helping any individual, city or rural. We are requesting that the extension budget not be reduced. Ag is a small percentage but it is a way of life for farmers and it is the food chain that feeds the majority.

We need the unbiased research and help that extension has available. We use their services and resources to help make informed and educated decisions dealing with practically every aspect of our operation.

A few examples of services that we, as individuals, have used in consulting with our extension agent regarding the most recent farm program options and the pros and cons associated with each. Agents also help identify insect, disease and weed problems or even production problems in specific fields. Researching which crop variety is most appropriate for this area is made possible by utilizing the results of extension ag test plots.

Our agents also act as unbiased mediators for fair land lease agreements between landlords and tenants. Farmers, as well as those who live within the city, and even national corporations are encouraged and do seek help from the extension. We are now seeing more and more five to twenty-acre homesteads that take away from farm production, but the increase in demand for

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extension services and our agents because they treat all inquiries with equal urgency, regardless of magnitude. Extension agents do not tell us what to do and when to do it, like a drill sergeant, but rather they help us decipher pertinent information so we can make intelligent management decisions.

Again, we use the ag services more frequently, but all available services are important to us. Thank you for your time and we hope your actions show you understand how important extension services are to everyone.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you, Tom and Mark both. Thanks very much.”

Ms. Kirstin Veith, 409 Huntington, Andale, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m an eight year member of the Andale 4-H Club and a member of the Sedgwick County 4-H ambassadors.”

Mr. Nathan Harms, 12 Madapalla, Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’ve been a member with the Derby 4-H Club for 10 years now and I reside at 12 Madapalla in Derby, Kansas.”

Ms. Veith said, “Thank you, Commissioners, for the opportunity to speak to you today about the Extension Council budget. Today we’ll inform you about the 4-H program in Sedgwick County and why it is important to the families and youth of this county. We will discuss how 4-H youth become involved, build a connection to their community and become the leaders of tomorrow.

The 4-H program is important to Sedgwick County youth because it gets them involved in positive activities with caring adults. Last year in Sedgwick County, 4-H members provided over 3,500 hours of community service activities that directly benefited the community. The Andale Jets cleaned the park and planted flowers on Main Street. Not only did the 4-Hers take pride in the flowers that they planted, so did the business owners and patrons of Andale by keeping the flowers alive all summer.

Other community service activities that the Andale 4-H completed was book bags for story hour, visits to local health care facilities and providing support for the Andale Summerfest. 4-H kids become involved in individual projects, such as electricity, arts and crafts, woodworking, cooking, photography where they develop skills the youth will keep throughout their lifetimes.

Adult leaders who share their knowledge with the youth lead these projects. The support of these caring adults gives the youth of Sedgwick County a sense of accomplishment when they complete a

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challenging project or master a skill.

The 4-H program is very important to the development of the youth in Sedgwick County because it gives kids a connection to their community. By becoming involved in activities in their local club, the youth of Sedgwick County develop a connection to their community. One connection youths experience is the development of relationships with other kids who share the same interests. Youth find a niche with people who share interests, not only on the club level, but also on a county level.

One example is the horticulture judging team, of which I'm a member. This small group of people is special to me because everyone else involved has the same love of studying plants. The community is made up not only of 4-Hers, but extension staff educated in this field. Not only do the kids in Sedgwick County 4-H develop relationships with other youth, 4-H develops pride in their club, their project work and the Sedgwick County community.

The 4-H program is most important to Sedgwick County because Sedgwick County 4-H youth have the important opportunity to become a role model and a leader. The positive activities and confident learning environment provided by caring adults helps nurture leadership in the youth of Sedgwick County. Youth begin learning life skills, like sewing, while watching their leader and the older youth. By the time these youth reach their teens, they are taking on the responsibility of passing on the life skills and teaching them to the younger youth.

An example of teens giving back was this past June, when 40 Sedgwick County teen 4-Hers gave five days to volunteer as camp counselors for Sedgwick County campers at Rock Springs. Another example is my horticulture judging team, where I was encouraged to teach junior master gardener classes to the youth at the Wichita Children's Home. Leadership begins at the club level in youth in officer positions, such as song leader but then the opportunities grow, as the 4-Hers grow. 4-H youth become leaders not only in their clubs, but also in the county through projects and leadership groups such as the ambassadors.

By participating as youth and leaders to the youth of Sedgwick County are also developing above average communication skills. 4-H youth begin practice speaking in front of a group as soon as they join. No other school or club organizations have opportunity like speaking skills like 4-H does. The basic elements of positive activities, caring adults and a nurturing community allows the 4-Her of Sedgwick County to become confident leaders who will lead this county in the future.

The 4-H motto is 'I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world'. The 4-H program of Sedgwick County does just this. The community service and individual projects challenges the minds and hands of the youth. Becoming an active member of the community tests the heart in caring for themselves and those around them, enhances the health

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of this county.”

Mr. Harms said, “4-H youth are strong leaders with good communication skills. These are advantages the youth will use when they become adults. 4-H gives many kids the chance to become a team and make decisions as a team. We learn the skills of parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules of Order. This helps us know how to run efficient and effective business meetings. While learning these rules and by participating as a team, we can use these tools in school and in church and be leaders during activities and meetings.

4-H gives us the opportunity to build life skills that we can use the rest of our lives. These can make a difference in the community and in the future in whatever careers we might have. We know that a strong, solid base in life skills will benefit us in the communities we will live in. 4-H also helps us to seek the best for ourselves and to persevere through times by using the life skills we have learned. Through 4-H, we learn sound decision making. Kids in 4-H are less likely to get into juvenile court system and instead become good leaders in our communities. To me, 4-H has made me more outspoken and taught me to make my opinion known. I have given many speeches through 4-H and I know this will help me later in life, when I give speeches to my coworkers.

Also in 4-H, I have learned that by helping others, you make a big difference and people really appreciate the service that you give them. Many lives have benefited from this program because of all the community service projects that this program has done. My family has really benefited from this program too. We have learned to recycle and to use homemade stuff instead of TV dinners. Our club has an economic effect on the community as well. By saving pop tops, our club has been able to give them to the Ronald McDonald House, which then uses that money to help the families that stay there.

4-H has also received many different types of kids. Our county has started a program with the Horace Mann school district that uses the 4-H program. These kids now have the opportunity to learn the many life skills that 4-H teaches. Thank you, Commissioners for hearing our speech about the extension service. As a future voter, we encourage you to restore the extension council’s budget to the 2002 level.

Even though we are not able to vote, 4-H has given me the motivation to come and speak to you today. By supporting the extension service, you are supporting the future leaders of this country.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thank you, Nathan. Thank you, Kirstin. Any questions?”

Commissioner Winters said, “Yes, I do. I just have one question. I’d like to know how old each one of you are and how long you’ve been involved in 4-H?”

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Mr. Harms said, "I am 16 years old and I've been in 4-H for 10 years."

Ms. Veith said, "I'm 18 and I've been involved for 8 years."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. You both did an excellent job."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well I was going to commend them both on how you were able to articulate your presentation. And you tell your mom hello for me, because I know she can vote. But if you two are examples of the product that comes out of 4-H, then when it gets time for you to take over and get on this side of the Bench, I think Sedgwick County will be well represented. You did a heck of a good job."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And we picked up on the fact that you can vote already and . . ."

Mr. Louis Wetta, Andale, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I farm in the western part of Sedgwick County, been actively involved in the extension for several years and I'm here to request that you retain full funding for the Extension Service.

I've been involved with 4-H. The two young people before me did a good job of representing 4-H and I know my children in job interviews, and the fact that they use 4-H as a reference was definitely a plus. People respect that program.

But I guess mainly I'm here for the ag end. I think we have one of the best ag extension programs in the state. I think they're probably the hardest working group in the state because of the amount of territory that they have to cover. The fact that they're dealing with us that are farming for a livelihood and then also with all the 10, 20, etcetera acre subdivisions that are out there now, why this increases their workload tremendously and I know that, knowing our agents, they address everybody that has a problem and contacts them.

Personally, as far as just little things that they do that are major things for us that I cannot get anywhere else is we recently started a cow/calf operation maybe six, seven years ago. Went to our agents, they helped us in determining how we should do this. Each year, we go back in and we

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bring them feed ingredients and they run a computer program for us, give us the least cost ration, so we can utilize the mallow stubble etcetera that normally would not be of benefit to us, and therefore . . . and here's the bottom line by doing this, and we appreciate this.

Another thing about the local extension group, ag PDC in particular, they'll invite a group of farmers in each year, or have a committee. They determine what is important, whether it's the old wheat plots, farm programs, etcetera, but we also try to project what is new and what will affect us, whether it's water or a new one now is COOL is the acronym for it and that's going to be County Of Origin Label for livestock and I cannot image but what extension won't be actively involved in this and be our main source of information to determine whether we have to implement this and how we have to implement this.

And there's just nobody else that really picks up on these type of things. From the coop we can . . . we use both services. We can get fertilization, insect management and this type of stuff, we can double on that, but we rely on extension for that.

I just received a little pamphlet here from K-State, called it a Risk/ Profit conference and that's basically what K-State is doing. There's a registration fee here to come up and become involved in that but this, I think, was started at the local level and K-State picked up on it, but I think our county agents were the first ones to do this type of a thing and I think K-State realized that it was a great benefit.

And this just shows you the type . . . you know, people that we have in this county that are involved with us in our ag. I really didn't have a prepared statement, so I guess I will quit with that, but would appreciate your considering to fully fund all aspects of extension. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you. Anyone else to speak before us today? One more time. Anyone else that would like to speak? At this time, I'll close the public hearing and we'll limit the comments to the Bench, if there are any. I see no lights at the present."

Commissioner Winters said, "I'd just ask a clarification question. I'm sure the manager will say this. At our meeting on August 6th, if anybody's watching, there will be another public hearing at that time. Is that correct?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, sir."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. We probably need some housekeeping, talk about housekeeping here. I understand, Mr. Manager, we'll have an executive session at some point."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Hey, wait a minute. Before these people go, I just want to

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compliment everyone that presented to us today. I appreciate the demeanor in which the presentations were made. I really appreciate there wasn't any hollering or screaming or finger pointing and I, for one, just really appreciate the civility in this whole process this morning. I wanted to thank you all, before you left, on that."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Mr. Manager."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, now that the public hearing is closed, we could move on to the next item and then do the public hearing on the Fire District and then if you'd like to recess into executive session to eat lunch and do that, we could do that or we could try to plow through. There are some issues, none of which appear to be terribly controversial, but we could plow through and finish the agenda and then have lunch in half an hour."

Chairman Norton said, "What is the will of the Board? Plow through?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "Let's just see how far we get till noon."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I'd like to have the Fire District though here pretty quick."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "That's why we have it on TV still. And when we recess for lunch, that's when we're going to maybe have the executive session. Is that what I understand?"

I just have one real quick housekeeping thing. On the proposed next hearing, August 6th, that will also be for the Fire District also. Is that correct?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, sir."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay. So each of them have two hearings. Okay, got it. Thanks."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I would remind the Commission and the public that the public also can comment on-line by calling up our web page and that's www.sedgwickcounty.org"

Commissioner McGinn said, "Do you or Kristi know how many hits we've had?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "We'll go check."

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Chairman Norton said, "Let me go ahead and call the next item."

F. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY MANAGER TO PUBLISH A NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2004 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, this authorizes me to publish the notice that establishes that if you approve it today, that the mill levy will not be increased what it is currently."

Chairman Norton said, "That sets that in concrete. We can move money around August 6th."

Mr. Buchanan said, "You can move money around, but you cannot increase taxes, you can't increase the mill levy."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to Authorize the County Manager to publish a notice of hearing and establish August 6, 2003 as the final hearing date on the 2004 Sedgwick County Budget.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Mr. Buchanan said, "I would recommend that you recess this meeting and call to order the Fire District meeting."

Chairman Norton said, "At this time I'll recess the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners."

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G. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING.

The County Commissioner recess the Regular Meeting at 11:36 a.m. and returned from the Fire District Meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Chairman Norton said, "Clerk, call the next item."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Did you want to go ahead and recess?"

Chairman Norton said, "What is the will of the Board?"

Commissioner Winters said, "How about if we take the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff is an elected official and I'm sure he's got things he needs to do. Can we do his two items and then take a lunch break?"

Chairman Norton said, "But he assured me he doesn't bring his guns to the meeting, so maybe we don't have to worry."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I think we need to keep the Sheriff happy."

Chairman Norton said, "If the Sheriff ain't happy, ain't nobody happy. Is that what it is? What item is that?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I-1."

Commissioner Winters said, "We'll just skip Item H and come back to it."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I-1 and 2."

Chairman Norton said, "At this point, we will move to New Business, Item I. Clerk, call the item."

I. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

1. AGREEMENT WITH HARRY KOURL, JR., D.D.S. TO PROVIDE DENTAL SERVICES TO DETENTION FACILITY INMATES.

Sheriff Steed said, "I appreciate the opportunity to go a little bit ahead of schedule here and present this and I'll be very brief."

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This is the dental contract in the Detention Facility to provide dental services to the inmates that are in custody of Sedgwick County. It includes a 3% increase over last year's cost, based on . . . Dr. Kouri has to have an assistant that helps with the sterilization of the dental equipment, some of the work that they do in there. And the contract requires a minimum amount of time but no maximum and we would anticipate that Dr. Kouri would be seeing an increased number of inmates, based on the rise in the inmate population."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay. Did he have an assistant for sterilization purposes prior?"
Sheriff Steed said, "Yes, he did last year and there's one other addition to the contract, or contingency in there and that is he supplies us with a replacement, should he be unable at some point in the year to do the services themselves."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay. And do we put this out for bid, or how do we get this individual?"

Sheriff Steed said, "It's professional services, so my understanding is it's not necessarily up for bid."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Do we look around though, shop around a little?"

Sheriff Steed said, "We didn't this year on this one. This one is . . . well, I won't say an extension, but it is a service by the same individual provided these services in the facility for several years."

Commissioner McGinn said, "For several years, so that's why I'm wondering, do we have any way of checking to see what others might provide that service for?"

Sheriff Steed said, "We could. These are professional services. My understanding, they don't necessarily have to go out for bid. He has been providing this service very adequately at, to my knowledge, very reasonable cost."

Commissioner McGinn said, "And I understand that, and I'm not suggesting we put it out for bid. I just wonder if we kind of visit around the community to see if we're within the market, I guess, whatever the market might be for jail services."

Sheriff Steed said, "We have not visited around the community for jail services."

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Chairman Norton said, "Is that all, Commissioner? Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, just so I understand, Sheriff, in the backup material, it says financial considerations is \$39,720. Is that for the dentist and the assistant?"

Sheriff Steed said, "That's all of the medical . . . or all of the dental program. Yes, the assistant, the dentist, the additional inmates and also for increased costs that they would incur for the medical malpractice and things such as that."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Well, it just seems like, for a whole year for our entire population, that's a good price is what it seemed like to me."

Commissioner McGinn said, "They're probably not getting crowns and bridges."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Probably not."

Sheriff Steed said, "I'm glad you brought that up. They get temporary fillings and only the things that they must get while they're in our custody. And they're not getting orthodontics and stuff like that. It's only those things that has to be taken care of while they're in our custody."

Chairman Norton said, "Sheriff, did we not charge some fees . . . have debates about charging fees on dental work too? I know on some medical services . . ."

Sheriff Steed said, "It's included in the medical co-pay, the dental services are. It's included in the medical co-pay and we have discussed raising that fee. We have not done that, but that . . ."

Chairman Norton said, "But that was in that discussion that you had with us, what, a month ago?"

Sheriff Steed said, "That's exactly right."

Chairman Norton said, "I see no other questions. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

2. GRANT APPLICATION TO KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FUNDING OF A SPEED MONITORING AWARENESS RADAR UNIT.

Sheriff Steed said, "We at the Sheriff's Department think this is going to be a valuable addition to our traffic safety efforts in Sedgwick County. This item is a speed trailer that has the radar on it that you park along the sides of the road to make citizens aware of just how fast they're going.

We recognize in Sedgwick County that there are three things that really impact the safety of our citizens in terms of accidents and fatality accidents and that's speeding, seatbelt usage and driving while impaired. And we're doing everything we can to step up our efforts in those areas and make our community safer. And we think this would be a valuable additions to do that.

The trailer has some things that I only recently found out about and we have tried one of these trailers out and found it to be very effective. But I would like to note that one of the things that this trailer does is to keep track of how many vehicles are in an area, how fast they're going, minimum speeds and maximum speeds. So one of the opportunities I think we have here is to use these trailers to monitor hot spots or specific areas in the County, so that we can determine where we might want to focus our efforts, in terms of traffic safety and speeders. So, it's going to allow us to make better use of the deputies that we have out there on the streets writing tickets.

We also think it will be helpful in some of the neighborhoods where we get complaints from the neighborhoods about the speeders in the area and when we go out to write the tickets, the people that we write are the people in the neighborhoods and they get rather upset with us. We think this is an opportunity perhaps to go out and just post the trailer and be proactive and let citizens know just how fast they're going, without necessarily having to go out and write a bunch of tickets and upset the entire neighborhood.

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So a number of opportunities for this trailer and we think it would be a valuable addition and contribute to public safety here in Sedgwick County. I think that's it. Well I would mention, it's a \$9,691 . . . I'm sorry, \$13,845 grant by the Department of Transportation and it requires a 30% matching fund, which the Sheriff's Department is going to do out of our asset forfeiture funds, so no cost to Sedgwick County and the general fund."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Sheriff, is there any empirical data nation-wide as to what happens when the drivers see that? I mean, 80% on average will try to slow down? I've seen them before and first of all, I'm amazed that I'm actually going over the speed limit, because I'm thinking I'm driving the speed limit, but immediately I put on the brake, because I think there's a cop probably behind the little billboard there ready to get me. But, is there any . . . I see all the other benefits for it, but does it alter their driving patterns? Do we have any data?"

Sheriff Steed said, "I don't know, necessarily, that I can speak to that, especially in terms of national statistics or anything like that, but I suspect that most of the people in this room have experienced the same thing you've seen. That it is making you aware of just what your speed is. We tend to drive and not necessarily watch the speedometers very closely. I live on West 21st Street, the Wichita Police Department has one of these trailers that they set up there occasionally. I have driven through there many times and you can almost tell in advance that that trailer is out there before you get there."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But they have you targeted personally, I think."

Sheriff Steed said, "Could be."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "That's all I had. Thanks."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, just a quick comment. I'm going to be supportive and an area where I would like to see us perhaps use this in around some of the suburban high schools. You know, I get a lot of calls, saying 'Boy, the kids are speeding up and down the road' and maybe this will be kind of an educational tool for them and for us to know exactly what is going on around those high schools."

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Sheriff Steed said, "I've fielded some of those same calls myself and we've had some special enforcement efforts in some of those areas and I concur with you that it would be a good use of the trailer."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, and as Tom talks about that, I think of an issue we've got in my district, is along Hoover Road, right at Oatville, and we're trying to do a traffic study and one more thing that Mark Borst pointed out is that folks . . . the speed limit is 55 and the average speed is 58. So that means that people, even with the school zone there, see that as a straight shot, county highway, don't pay attention to their speed limit and there's a good place where that can go and maybe slow down the traffic a little bit."

Sheriff Steed said, "I have Lieutenant Cribbs with me today. Maybe he's making a note of all these areas."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I think it's great. We haven't approved yet, and two commissioners have already got figured out where we're going to put it."

Chairman Norton said, "I guess you've got my support. Anything else Sheriff?"

MOTION

Chairman Norton moved to Approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this Application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Oh, and Gary, I think our next action is going into recess, but I need about one second of your time when we recess, just to ask you one question."

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Sheriff Steed said, "Sure and thank you for taking that action."

Chairman Norton said, "Is that that you're culpable for that speeding you just admitted a few minutes about?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "No, I want to put my bid in for the third place I want it to go."

Sheriff Steed said, "I might comment, my mother got a ticket the other day, and I made her pay hers. I don't fix tickets."

Chairman Norton said, "Boy, what a heartless Sheriff, your own mother."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I'm not asking for anything to be fixed. That is pretty heartless."

Chairman Norton said, "A hard case he is. A real law and order guy, aren't you."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Gary, that's the kind of sheriff I want."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, no more chocolate chip cookies for you, buddy. At this point we'll take a . . . are we going to go on recess or executive session?"

Commissioner Winters said, "Mr. Chairman, we need to go into executive session and I think we planning on maybe eating in there. Rich, how long does this need to be, 30 minutes?"

Mr. Euson said, "Yes, I set this up for 30 minutes and that's probably a safe minimum time."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved that the Board of County Commissioners recess into Executive Session for 30 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/ client relationship relating to pending claims and litigation and legal advice and that the Board of County Commissioners return from Executive Session no sooner than 12:50 p.m.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session at 12:23 p.m. and returned at 1:47 p.m.

Chairman Norton said, "I'll call the meeting back to order. According to Kansas statutes, we took no binding action in executive session. Clerk, call the next item."

H. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROVIDING FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATION OF NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Community Development Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "What it says. We're already operating in Harvey County. This would be similar to how we operate in Butler County. We operate within the City of El Dorado. The Newton City Housing Authority doesn't want the additional work and that way, once you approve this if you approve this, we keep all of the administrative fee, rather than giving them 80% of it."

Chairman Norton said, "Any questions? Sounds pretty simple to me."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to Adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye

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

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Irene. Next item."

J. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1. AGREEMENTS (THREE) COVERING HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT REQUIREMENTS.

- **WESLEY MEDICAL CENTER**
- **KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING**
- **SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requires that covered entities have business associate agreements with health care providers who may have access to protected health information. As a covered entity, these business associates must assure the security and privacy of the protected health information it receives or creates.

They must also assure their customers that the entities receiving this protected health information will also have policies in place to protect their protected health information. The following agencies have identified the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging as a business associate: Wesley Medical Center, Kansas Department on Aging and South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging. I would request that you approve the business associate agreements and authorize the Chairperson to sign."

Chairman Norton said, "Any discussion, dialogue?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Agreements and authorize the Chairman to

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sign.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Annette. Next item."

2. CENTRAL PLAINS AREA AGENCY ON AGING FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2004 AREA PLAN AND GRANT APPLICATION, TO BE SUBMITTED TO KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING (KDOA).

Ms. Graham said, "Each year, the Department on Aging requires that all area agencies on aging submit an area plan for the fiscal year. The year, doesn't say this on yours, but it is a two-year plan, it's for 2004 and 2005. And this is for the fiscal year, which begins October 1st and ends September 30th. This plan must be submitted to Kansas Department on Aging by August 1st."

The area plan, we do take it in front of the Central Plains Advisory Council. They approved it unanimously. We also presented to the Butler and Harvey County Commissioners, who approved that and agreed or authorized the Sedgwick County Chairperson to sign this.

This is for a total budget that includes federal dollars and the required matching funds of \$3,825,313. Of that, it does require the match money required from Sedgwick County is \$114,705.

That's already been approved in the mill levy budget for this current fiscal year. And would request that the Chair approve that and authorize the Chairperson to sign."

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Chairman Norton said, "How does that compare to last year? Is that up, down?"

Ms. Graham said, "It's a little bit up, a little bit up in total dollars because there were some increases in the 3-E, which is the national caregiver program. They did have more increase in that than the other dollars. There was some decrease in some nutrition dollars but some increases in others. So over all, it was a slight increase."

Chairman Norton said, "Does that increase our participation also a little bit, our match money?"

Ms. Graham said, "Not really, because the 3-E does not require a local match, because at this point in time the state is doing the match for the 3-E program and covering that for the entire state area agencies on aging."

Chairman Norton said, "So we actually got a little more federal grant money, with a little less match."

Ms. Graham said, "About the same amount of match."

Chairman Norton said, "Same amount, good deal."

MOTION

Chairman Norton moved to Approve the FY 2004 Area Plan; and approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including grant award agreements containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this Application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye

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Chairman Tim Norton

Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Annette. Next item."

COMCARE

3. AGREEMENTS (TWO) ALLOWING BILLING OF MEDICAID FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

- **MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS**
- **BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY**

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, "Both of these agreements comprise affiliation agreements with the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas and the Breakthrough Club. The affiliation agreement enables both of these agencies to bill Medicaid for the services that they provide. It also spells out what services they're authorized to bill for and the expectations on the delivery of that.

For Mental Health Association, the services authorized include wrap around facilitation, which is another word for planning, treatment planning, parent support, which is another word for assistance to parents with children with serious emotional disturbances, respite care or care provided to relieve parents, case management services and attendant care.

And for the Breakthrough Club the services authorized are case management services, psycho-social group services and intake assessments. We had a long relationship with both of these affiliates and consider them a very integral part of our system of care. So we are requesting that you authorize these agreements."

Chairman Norton said, "Do I have a Motion?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

- 4. CONTRACTS (TWO) TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**
 - **MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS**
 - **BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY**

Ms. Cook said, "These two contracts spell out the rates and the goals and the performance measures and they specify what both of these affiliates are going to do with us and how they're going to accomplish that. So all the details of the programs and services they provide are contained in this.

We used to have a number of individual contracts with them and a couple of years ago we combined all of them. So this is a very huge document, but it does spell out the conditions for the Mental Health Association for residential services, for adult attendant care, case management, use of flex funds, the employment project which includes the folks that are working at Cero's, the Compeer program chat line, which is a consumer run warm line, Family Advocacy Services, respite services and school-based services.

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For Breakthrough Club it spells out the conditions for case management and employment services that they do, psycho-social groups and transitional age groups that they do for our consumers. We're requesting that you approve these contracts."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Marilyn, these are normal . . . I mean, we do these every year and is this the time of year that we renew these contracts?"

Ms. Cook said, "Right, the state contract comes to us July 1st and so, when we are planning that, we sit down and we have spent a long time going through these contracts and making some reductions in these contracts this year and kind of renegotiating some things. But yes, it's something we do every year."

Commissioner Winters said, "And these are two major principle contracts then with these two people."

Ms. Cook said, "Right, right."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay. I don't think I have anything else."

Chairman Norton said, "What is the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to Approve the Contracts and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye

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Chairman Tim Norton

Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

5. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA A.C.T.S. ON TRUANCY PROVIDING CONTINUED COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION FUNDING THROUGH 2003.

Ms. Jeannette Livingston, Contract Administrator, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Wichita A.C.T.S. is a grant recipient through the Sedgwick County Crime Prevention fund. A.C.T.S. has actually received a crime prevention fund since the fund's initiation in 1998. The prevention funds, as you're aware, allocated through the county's request for proposal process and there's a Sedgwick County grant award committee that makes the recommendations.

Per that grant award committee's recommendations last year, the grant for Wichita A.C.T.S. for 2003 was done in two six-month increments, the second six-months being contingent on performance. The six-month contract really represents a commitment to the continuation of Wichita A.C.T.S. as valuable for the services they provide, while recognizing that there were some issues that need to be worked out. Wichita A.C.T.S. has addressed the issues that were of concern to the grant award committee and the contract amendment just provides that second half of funding for the 2003 calendar year.

Their total grant for 2003, both six-month contracts, is \$135,000 and funds truancy services, truancy prevention and intervention services at four targeted middle schools. That includes Curtis, Marshall, Pleasant Valley and Hamilton Middle Schools. The recommended action is to approve the amendment and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Norton said, "I don't see any lights. I think it's very important that we note that on all the prevention monies and the monies that we give, we're not just blindly saying we're going to continue it. Here's a good case where we looked at some of the protocols and disciplines and the outcomes that they gave us and had some pretty provocative questions and said, 'You know, you've got to perform or the money goes away'. And it's comforting to know that they have taken the action they needed to and have stepped up to the plate. I would encourage Commissioner McGinn

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maybe to give us some insight there. I think you're on the . . . are you on the board now, Carolyn? Obviously they've made some good inroads and that's pretty encouraging I think, but maybe you have some thoughts."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, first off I guess when we went through prevention programs, I think at the last hour of the last minute was kind of like rank it and somebody made a comment that there was still some problems or something in some schools and then after the research on that, I think the woman was either misstated or something and actually those were problems from two years ago that they had corrected.

And then the other side of it is the financial side and they have worked very hard this last several months to make sure everything is in order, has been. You know, it wasn't any misuse of funds or anything like that. It was more of just accounting and how do they do that. And so that has been corrected."

Chairman Norton said, "It's pretty encouraging though."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Yes. I think they're a better organization today because of going through that process."

Chairman Norton said, "Good. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to approve the Amendment to Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

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Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Jeannette. Next item."

K. MODIFICATION OF PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION, REQUEST NUMBER ONE AND FINAL, WITH RITCHIE PAVING, INC. FOR 2003 NOVA CHIP OVERLAYS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS PROJECT. CIP #R-175B.

Mr. David Spears, P.E., Director/County Engineer, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item K is a modification of plans and construction, request number one and final, for the Sedgwick County 2003 nova chip overlays and pavement markings, designated as R-175B in the Capital Improvement Program. This project has been constructed and is ready to be finalized out. There will be a net decrease of \$34,262.45 due to variations in plan quantities from actual field measurements. I recommend that you approve the modification and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Norton said, "Discussion?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Modification of Plans and Construction and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye

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Chairman Tim Norton

Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Dave. Next item."

Chairman Norton left at 2:04 p.m.

L. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 17, 2003, AND SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 18, 2003.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting on the 17th resulted in five items for consideration today.

**1) FLU VACCINE- HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FUNDING: IMM TRUST FUND/ HEALTH SCREENINGS**

The first item is Flu vaccine for the Health Department. Recommend the quote from Aventis Pasteur in the amount of \$79,200.

**2) SYSTEMS FURNITURE- HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FUNDING: BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS GRANT**

The second item, systems furniture for the Health Department. Recommend the quote from John A. Marshall in the amount of \$40,321.89.

**3) RE-ROOF & HVAC WORK- FACILITY PROJECTS
FUNDING: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Item three is a re-roof and HVAC work for Facility Projects. Recommend the low bid, including alternates one and two, for a total of \$36,000 from Commerce Construction."

Mr. Spears said, "\$236,000."

Ms. Baker said, "Did I say . . . let me re-read the whole thing."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Which item are you on now?"

Ms. Baker said, "I'm on item three. Recommend the low bid, including alternates one and two, for a total of \$236,000 for Commerce Construction.

4) SALE OF PROPERTY AT 433 N. MAIZE- FACILITY PROJECTS

Item four, sale of property at 433 North Maize Road for Facility Projects. Recommend the high bid from Precision Development for \$83,200.

**5) DIGITAL RECORDING SYSTEM- EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
FUNDING: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

Item five, digital recording system for Emergency Communications. Recommendation is to execute a contract with Voice Products for option one for a negotiated total first year cost, including options and first year maintenance for a total of \$117,152.

The meeting of July 18th resulted in one item for consideration.

**1) FRONT END RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM- REGISTER OF DEEDS
FUNDING: REGISTER OF DEEDS**

That item is a front-end records management system for the Register of Deeds. Recommend the negotiated proposal from Computer Information Concepts, option two, to execute a contract for a project cost of \$240,385 with the current expenditure, including option and first year maintenance, in the amount of \$181,495.

Would be happy to answer questions and recommend approval of these items."

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, "All right, thank you. Madam Clerk, you might let the record show that Chairman Norton has stepped away from the meeting. He had an important appointment. I think he's still in the building, but he's left the meeting room.

First question I guess I had was on the special meeting, on the computer information concepts, is the total then \$240,385 plus the \$181,000?"

Ms. Baker said, "No sir. The total is a three-year projected cost. The project costs \$240,385 is a three-year projected cost. The expenditure, the current expenditure, including the first year

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maintenance and the option, is \$181,495.”

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, “All right, got ya. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman. Iris, could you go back to number two. I guess I need to understand maybe . . . well, the public is . . . What is a side chair, because it was like \$6,700 and some change per chair. Do you happen to know what a side chair is? It seems like an expensive . . . It must be more than just a chair, because that’s a pretty expensive chair.”

Ms. Baker said, “Work systems is work station furniture, the modular type furniture and this package, this configuration is going to include some chairs.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “So work station and a chair.”

Ms. Baker said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay, that’s still fairly high for a work station, isn’t it. Or is that about normal for a work station, Kathy?”

Ms. Kathy Sexton, Assistant County Manager, said, “Work stations average about \$5,000 often times.”

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, “But am I correct then, is John A. Marshall the new Goldsmith’s and is this a state bid contract?”

Ms. Baker said, “Correct, correct.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. That’s all. I just didn’t know what that was. So, thank you, that’s all I had.”

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, “All right. I’m going to ask if there’s anybody here in the room that has anything to say about any of these bid board items. I know there was a question or two that came up this morning. So, is there anyone in the room this morning, or this afternoon I guess, who would like to speak to any of these bid board items? Commissioners, I would . . . one of the items in my district is we are selling the property at 333 North Maize Road. And we have a high bidder listed and we’ve had that property appraised and this bid is higher than that appraisal and there were, gosh it looks like, what, 12 bids. So, I’m relatively confident that we’ve done a good job of getting some bids out there.

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Are there any other questions then about the bid board, Commissioners?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to Approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, "And that includes the regular meeting and the special meeting. All right. Are there any other questions? Then we have a Motion and a Second. Any other questions? Seeing none, call the vote please."

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Absent

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, "Thank you very much, Iris. Next item please."

CONSENT AGENDA

M. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Agreement with Lin Xu, M.D. to provide psychiatric services to COMCARE consumers.**

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2. **State Fiscal Year 2004 Community Corrections grant budget documents, to be submitted to Kansas Department of Corrections.**
3. **Establishment of a change fund at the Household Hazardous Waste Department in the amount of \$150.00.**
4. **Memo from William P. Buchanan regarding potential conflict of interest.**

5. **Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.**

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V03043	\$96.00	Butler Co.	Weigand-Omega
V03051	\$183.00	5	Springcreek Apts.
V03052	\$596.00	2	Chapel Ridge Apts.
V03053	\$550.00	5	William Favreau
V03054	\$695.00	2	Chapel Ridge Apts.
V03056	\$452.00	Butler Co.	Walnut River
V03060	\$640.00	Butler Co.	Sharp Rentals
V03061	\$385.00	5	Cottage Grove
V03062	\$438.00	5	William Favreau
V03063	\$256.00	5	William Favreau
V03064	\$358.00	Butler Co.	Simmons Property Mgmt.
V03065	\$466.00	4	Arc Real Estate

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

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V2059	\$213.00	\$176.00
V97048	\$253.00	\$257.00
V99050	\$260.00	\$201.00

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V010120	\$197.00	\$199.00
V8009	\$299.00	\$295.00
V96030	\$225.00	\$309.00
V020050	\$575.00	\$575.00
V01039	\$440.00	\$441.00
V2058	\$386.00	\$363.00
V010126	\$226.00	\$224.00
V94065	\$257.00	\$219.00
V020053	\$267.00	\$265.00
V01023	\$291.00	\$283.00
V010138	\$269.00	\$257.00
V020052	\$550.00	\$550.00
V2060	\$268.00	\$288.00
V98043	\$370.00	\$320.00
V010118	\$282.00	\$282.00
V010124	\$501.00	\$339.00
V010117	\$444.00	\$444.00
V020051	\$325.00	\$325.00
V020041	\$267.00	\$272.00
V01025	\$325.00	\$332.00
V010122	\$325.00	\$325.00
V96065	\$254.00	\$270.00
V010113	\$299.00	\$306.00
V020082	\$222.00	\$316.00
V01075	\$320.00	\$200.00
V03034	\$700.00	\$680.00
V2017	\$567.00	\$567.00
V020030	\$272.00	\$317.00
V020058	\$379.00	\$393.00
V2021	\$499.00	\$574.00
V03043	\$387.00	\$500.00
V2009	\$408.00	\$545.00
V03047	\$301.00	\$366.00
V020055	\$590.00	\$554.00
V010101	\$465.00	\$542.00
V020036	\$319.00	\$460.00

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V010114	\$510.00	\$510.00
V20010	\$620.00	\$620.00
V010117	\$502.00	\$444.00
V010105	\$237.00	\$250.00
V01042	\$449.00	\$512.00
V020028	\$183.00	\$277.00
V200114	\$194.00	\$000.00
V020031	\$395.00	\$525.00
V020051	\$286.00	\$325.00

7. **Payroll Check Register of July 18, 2003.**

8. **General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of July 16 – July 22, 2003.**

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

MOTION

Chairman Winters moved to Approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Absent

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, “All right, is there any other business? It used we could share with the public but we have no public anymore. The TV is off, so I guess we’ll hold our ‘Other discussion until . . .”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Until we have somebody that we can talk to.”

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Commissioner McGinn said, “So are you telling me that if we weren’t on TV, our meetings would be shorter?”

Chair Pro Tem Winters said, “Could be. This meeting is adjourned.”

N. OTHER

O. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

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

TIM NORTON, Chairman
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chair Pro Tem
Third District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner
First District

CAROLYN McGINN, Commissioner
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

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Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2003