

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

August 6, 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, August 6, 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; Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Division of Human Resources; Ms. Mary Jo Ziegler, Auto License Manager, Treasurer's Office; Mr. Renfeng Ma, Budget Director, Division of Finance; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance; Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development; Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Office; Ms. Greta Douglas, Housing Assistant, Housing Office; Ms. Kimberly Zimmerman, Program Coordinator, Housing Office; Ms. Dominique Davis, Housing Assistant, Housing Office; Dr. Mary Dudley M.D., District Coroner/Chief Medical Examiner, Regional Forensic Science Center; Ms. Lisa Clancy, Program Director, District Attorney's Office; Ms. Diane Gage, Director, Emergency Communications Department; Mr. Gerald Frantz, Interim Director, Health Department; Ms. Pamela Martin, Director, Clinical Services, Health Department; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Jerry Edson, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Susan Cook, 509 S. Floyd, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Laurel Alkire, Senior Services of Wichita.
Mr. John Conlee, Senior Services Board of Directors.
Ms. Wanda Gould, Derby Senior Center.
Ms. Claudette K. Moore, 437 N. Topeka, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Bob Noller, 1318 Joy Court, Derby, Ks.
Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Kansas Taxpayers Network.
Ms. Juliana Pacacha, 1200 Cloverdale, Park City, Ks.
Ms. Dee Williams, 611 Mulberry, Derby, Ks.
Ms. Carolyn Smith, 5317 E. 39th Street N., Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Dave Thompson, Vice President, Local 2612, International Association of Firefighters.
Mr. Jeff Cowley, President, Local 2612, International Association of Firefighters.

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INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Bill Ester of Westside United Methodist Church.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, July 16, 2003

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2003.

Chairman Norton said, "We have the Minutes before us of the Regular Meeting of July 16th. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 16, 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	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

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

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APPOINTMENT

- A. RESOLUTION APPOINTING DON OSENBAUGH (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION.**

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, we've prepared a resolution of appointment to this board for a four-year term and I recommend you adopt the resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino 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, "He is not here to be sworn in. We'll do that at some later date. Next item."

RETIREMENT

- B. PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CLOCK TO MARY JO ZIEGLER, AUTO LICENSE MANAGER, TREASURER'S OFFICE.**

Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Division of Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today we are recognizing the retirement of Mary Jo Ziegler. Mary Jo will retire September 1, after 13 years in the Auto License Department of the Treasurer's Office."

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Commissioner Winters said, “Mary Jo, it’s a pleasure to enjoy this change with you and say goodbye and thank you at the same time. I see Jan Kennedy, treasurer is here, deputy treasurer Ann Smarsh is here. I’m sure there’s other treasurer folks out here wanting to say congratulations and thank you all at the same time.

The Board of County Commissioners and the citizens of Sedgwick County would like to present you with this retirement clock as a token of our appreciation of all the work that you’ve done for the county and hope that you will use it to remember the better times, because I’m sure as all of us are employed any place, there are sometimes that are better than others. But serving the citizens through the office and working in the tag office is a very important job. Lots of people come through that office. A majority of our citizens touch County government in your office.

And so we appreciate all the work that you’ve done and the efficiency with which you’ve done it and we wish you the very best in your retirement, hope that it brings many good things. And if you’d like to make a comment or two.”

Ms. Mary Jo Ziegler, License Manager, Treasurer’s Office, said, “Well, thank you, I would, I’m prepared and I see we have five minutes. I don’t think I can make it.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “You’re going to read the whole phonebook to us.”

Chairman Norton said, “No, just the people she’s served over the years, right.”

Ms. Ziegler greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you for giving me the time to speak a few words. I would like to thank Sedgwick County for the opportunity that it’s presented to me. Working for Sedgwick County has been quite an experience. It’s a great place to work and I have enjoyed the experience. I have learned many things while doing this job. I even learned a few new words, although I’m not sure I’ll ever use them or even if I should.

I would like to thank Jan Kennedy for all the support she and her staff have given me and to the tag office I owe a great debt of gratitude and appreciation for all they have done for me.

And I was wondering how I can thank the citizens for all the opportunities, so I contacted my friend over at the telephone company, Ma Bell, and she really did a very good job, bound up the names so I would like to take a moment to read these names, five minutes, I don’t know.

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A M Cockrill, Don Aaron . . . Well maybe we better not go there, but I would like to thank the people in the following townships: Grand River, Morton, Erie, Greeley, Sherman, Garden Plain, Afton, Viola, Eagle, Union, Attica, Illinois, Ninnescah, Valley Center, Park, Delano, Waco, Ohio, Grant, Kechi, Riverside, Salem, Lincoln, Payne, Minneha, Gypsum, Rockford and Wichita, thank you.

And on a personal note, they assigned me to Derby and I lived southwest of Cheney, so I was driving 71st Street and there was like 12 miles that were unpaved at that time, and I thought, 'how wonderful. Get those blacktopped'. They did and they moved me.

But I have a long history in Sedgwick County. My mother was born at Annis, my father in Wichita and the city building, the stones were cut by a relative of mine, in that old city building and if any of you are familiar with the cemetery Maple Grove and there's a little girl sculpture there. My relative is the one that did that. But I was born in Sedgwick County, I got married in Sedgwick County, I'm leaving Sedgwick County. So I guess now I've been hatched, matched and dispatched.

It's been quite a ride and now it's time for someone else to get on the merry-go-round. And in closing, I would like to say goodbye tension, hello pension. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Don't sit down yet."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "We could have used her in the Communications Department, she's a whit."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, if you've ever gone to get your driver's license . . . or tag redone there, at least I have, and I walked in and Mary Jo came right over and said, 'Don't give him any service, he doesn't deserve it'. I don't know what I did to you to get that kind of harassment the last two times I've been there, but you're going to be sorely missed from that office. You smile and your enthusiasm is so important to the county and we really appreciate that and enjoy. Commissioner Sciortino wants to add to this."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just want to ask, you said you were leaving, are you moving out of the state or the County?"

Ms. Ziegler said, "No, I'm just leaving employment."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Oh, just Sedgwick County, got it. But you're going to still live in the area."

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Ms. Ziegler said, "Yes."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So we can call upon you for a volunteer for one of the boards that we want to appoint."

Ms. Ziegler said, "I don't care to answer that right now."

Chairman Norton said, "She could be a politician with that kind of comment."

Ms. Ziegler said, "And thank you very much. I've wanted one of these clocks since I first saw one of these clocks. Now I have one. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Mary Jo. Clerk, call the next item."

CITIZEN INQUIRY

C. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING INGRESS AND EGRESS TO PROPERTY AT 111TH STREET AND HOOVER ROAD.

Mr. Jerry Edson, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have a prepared statement for each one of you provided. Ladies and gentlemen of the Sedgwick County Commission, thank you for allowing me to appear before you and air my grievances, grievances that you could resolve. I want justice, I want my constitutional and common law rights, privilege strictly adhered to. I want an all-weather ingress and egress to all the property and a mailbox at the driveway.

Kansas and Sedgwick County has seen fit to double my taxes on erroneous information concerning this property. This got my complete attention. I have to pay taxes to the County for maintenance and care of the easements and to the middle of the road. Unfortunately, I don't have any all-weather roads or bridges to standard on my property. If I don't pay the taxes, the State of Kansas and County would not hesitate taking property by Sheriff's sale.

The township is responsible to maintain the roads but Sedgwick County is responsible to maintain the bridges and give me ingress and egress to all my property. All the roads to my property are barricaded or road closed and all bridges are either gone or unsafe to use. These conditions have existed for approximately 20 years.

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Doubling the taxes got my attention and I'm tired of putting up with inconvenience and personal extra expense and no benefits, which I'm paying taxes for. The Sedgwick County Commission has seen fit to commit 55 million plus dollars to the white elephant Kansas Coliseum and I feel I am entitled to the rights and privileges afforded by the Constitution and common law to have an all-weather ingress and egress to all the property.

Not having ingress and egress all four ways in or out of the property and residence creates an unsafe condition in Kansas. The Sedgwick County citizens are paying thousands of dollars a day to insure the safety of a possible terrorist threat to the county courthouse and of the facilities. In the past 20 years, the residence and our own personal safety has been threatened over five times by tornado near misses. We could not vacate the property away from the tornado because of no ingress and egress or ways out. Since I am not an official of Sedgwick County, does this mean my life and any other Sedgwick County citizens is not of any value except to pay taxes and not have no rights to the benefits we are paying taxes on.

Also, we have another safety factor is the West Nile Virus, because of the bog holes in the easements and un-maintained road. To lessen the threat of the West Nile Virus, we mow at our own expense and maintain the road easements in front of our property and maintain mosquito traps on the property. This is another expense. I have yet to observe any prevention work performed by the county township on controlling mosquitoes in our area.

On July 16th, Mr. Phillip Detrick said that it was not feasible to bring the bridges and roads in our area up to standards. If I cannot get the rights and privileges of all residents and property owners are entitled to from you, I know where I can go to get justice, rights and privileges honored and responsibility assigned to take care of my grievances. Thank you. Any questions?"

Chairman Norton said, "Any questions from the Commission? Thank you, Mr. Edson. What is the will of the Board? I think we have to receive and file here."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

Chairman Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

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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 HEARING

D. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2004 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Your task today is several-fold. First is we are to go through a public hearing regarding the proposed recommended 2004 budget. Once that hearing is closed, then I will have another presentation to make with you with some additional information and some additional recommendations. And then it would be for you then to work through those recommendations and decide regarding how we are going to divide this budget up.

The current environment is that, in this community, we've had about 12,000 layoffs. The 2003 budget adjustments, you recall we did round one in January eliminating 5.3 million dollars. In round two in April, we eliminated another 5.5 million dollars. In the 2004 budget was initially set using the 2002 spending levels. This budget, unfortunately, is not about new services, but focusing on providing essential services. There is no proposed tax increase in this budget and your actions two weeks ago, at the last up day, clearly indicated that that would not be the case. The 2004 budget total is \$315,092,064. It is 9.9 million dollars less than last year's budget.

The fund balance remains healthy and if you recall, this is what the fund balance picture looked like in January of . . . December of 2002. We were in serious difficulty in 2007, 2008. After the rounds of cuts, we saw that that picture began to improve and that in 2004 and 2005, it increased a little bit, but there was still some difficulties in later years and that you will see the fund balance continues to remain healthy when you adopt this budget.

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This budget clearly is a plan that for 2004 and 2005 we remain very strong and healthy. In 2006, we begin to do some deficit spendings again, and I'll show you that in a second. Here we have what was forecast, the operating revenues in 2003 and this was in December of 2002 when we did this projection. And you see that the expenditures in 2003 were just a little bit higher than the revenues, and this is never a good thing. And you can see that in '04 and '05 and '06 that that gap widens considerably.

Well, after our rounds of reductions and re-engineering and reworking this budget and this organization, our revenue projections with the 2004 budget, and it is a very conservative forecast, very little growth in real estate, very little growth in real estate assessment, very little growth in sales tax, but we think that's the prudent thing to do at this point. You can see that those revenue forecasts are a little bit better than what we had anticipated earlier. And the good news is that the expenditures are less than revenues in 2004 and 2005. Clearly, in 2006, the gap starts widening again and we need to . . . we have two and a half years to correct that and we'll do so.

The good news is the financial markets recognized this financial plan, understand it and with this information, gave Sedgwick County the highest rating possible for bond issues and in two other cases, the second highest. Which is pretty unusual for this state and for this economic conditions and Chris Chronis should be proud of his work to convince them that we're doing the right things financially.

The 2004 budget overview is a maintenance of services, it's a minimization impact on direct services. There's a balance between providing those services and maintaining infrastructure and the kinds of things that are in the budget, the Capital Improvement Plan, including the Coliseum, you are well aware, is in fact a part of the maintaining of the infrastructure, part of those costs have to do with the roof and the air conditioning and the floor and the ramps and the elevators and the steps and those kinds of infrastructure improvements.

2004 resources are \$315,092,064, as I stated before. They come from cash is 6%, 32% is ad valorem tax with no tax increase, the sales tax is 7%, motor vehicle tax is 4%. We see that some other taxes are 3, intergovernmental is some of the revenues we receive from the state. That's significantly lower in 2004, but if you recall, they still fund large portions of our Aging and mental health and physical disability programs and 34% is fees and a very small percent is investment income, although that has started to turn around a little bit also.

Expenditures, you'll see the preponderance is in public safety and human resources [sic] and

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financial management. Financial management really is about the debt services and public works and you can read those numbers yourself. To look at it in a different sort of way, in a dollar, the 28 cent percent, almost 29 percent is for public safety, 24-25 for human services. Public Works has 7 and you can read the rest.

The summary, the 2004 is a maintenance, it's a minimum impact in direct services. There are no increase in county-wide mill levy and the budget is 9.9 million dollars less than 2003. And that concludes my presentation at this point, Mr. Chairman. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer those, but I would recommend that you open the public hearing, as soon as Kristi closes down this."

Chairman Norton said, "Are there any questions from the Bench of the Manager at this point? If not, I'll open the public hearing on the 2004 budget and would ask that anyone that would like to speak come forward. We will limit comments to five minutes and you'll need to state your name and address for the record. Good morning."

Mr. John Conlee, Board Member, Senior Services Inc., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you to all of you for the solid commitment the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners has shown to us in its efforts to improvement life for older residents. Our staff visited with you in late July and we discussed the fact that we have had a ranking of the programs. We had a finance and executive committee meeting in both April and May, and we've been through all of the various programs that we had and ranked their importance to our mission.

We discussed that with you and presented our suggestions for the reallocation of certain of the money that has been eliminated, reallocation to allow restoration of some funds to our senior centers, Downtown, Linwood, Northeast and Orchard Park. And at that time, you indicated an interest in such a reallocation. We hope that you will be able to institute that plan.

I think approximately 31,000 was eliminated from the budget that we had requested and there was a \$22,600 that was not going to be used, because of elimination of one program and we asked that 75% of that \$22,600 be reallocated so that it could be sent to these senior centers.

We took on the difficult task as a board of prioritizing our program because it's our responsibility in these economic times to suggest strategies that would best serve the target populations that are most closely associated with our mission.

Naturally, we feel that all the programs we have are important and that they do a good job in carrying out their goals. We believe in volunteer activities. All the members of the board, there are

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a dozen and a half of us that serve as volunteers. We commit considerable time and effort to carrying out the agency's mission. Every day, you will see 60 to 70 volunteers appear at the kitchen to do the Meals on Wheels routes. Those are all volunteers.

Nevertheless, as we set priorities, all programs cannot end up with the same weight or it becomes a meaningless exercise. The staff has provided you, I believe, in addition to these prepared remarks, a schedule that shows the staff reductions that you can see that all of our programs have shared in these cuts. Meals on Wheels, the primary program that we administer and the first priority program that we have, has taken the largest in dollar reduction because of state budget cuts.

We hope that you will be able to restore funds to the senior centers. Your support has been continuous and substantial for these centers. You have acknowledged them as a valuable resource to older citizens and their families and we can ask for no more than your recognition that these valuable programs offer physical and mental stimulation, as well as providing important information and more importantly, an ability for these elders to socialize. And they would be without that kind of support if these centers did not exist.

Be assured that we will continue to practice every economy possible so that we can serve all consumers that request our help. Naturally, we place our confidence in the decisions that you make, because we are sensitive that you are . . . that you care about the welfare of older residents and that you will do your best to see that their needs are met.

You have been a stable source of funding for our programs and for other aging services in this community. You have been a responsible and reliable partner in providing needed services and so, on behalf of the board that I serve on and the staff that we supervise, I want to thank you as Commissioners for the concern, the cooperation and the generous and steadfast support that you have given us. Thank you. If you have any questions, I will attempt to answer, but I have staff here that know a lot more than I and I may call on them to respond."

Chairman Norton said, "I don't see any questions at the time. Stay tuned, we may call you back for some additional information."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I do have one question. You indicated that the one program that got the major cut was Meals on Wheels."

Mr. Conlee said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And where did that cut come from?"

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Mr. Conlee said, "You mean where was it made?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah, was that the state level?"

Mr. Conlee said, "Yeah, it's the state money that we don't have that required that cut, but it's about close to \$60,000. We have cut a total of \$176,000 out of our budget. It's around . . . it's under \$3,000,000 and about \$60,000 of that \$176,000 came from the Meals on Wheels."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And was that a specific area that the state said, 'We're cutting funding for Meals on Wheels' or was that a decision the board made?"

Mr. Conlee said, "That was a decision that the state made. They assure me that I'm right."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Did they give you a reason why they felt . . . because I've always sensed that your organization feels that Meals on Wheels is probably the best part of the services and the most important, when you prioritize. What justification did they give as to why they thought it was the one that should get the biggest cut?"

Mr. Conlee said, "You scratched beneath the surface of my knowledge."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Just briefly, if you could."

Ms. Laurel Alkire, Executive Director, Senior Services Inc., said, "The state is looking at reallocating nutrition funds for the state. The problem is that Wichita, being the largest urban area, has traditionally got a majority of that pot of money and a lot of rural areas have suffered. So now, the state funds, general funds that are allocated for programs, are going off of the 2000 census figures, which show bigger increases in some of those rural areas and not as much increase in Wichita, although we still serve a large part of those meals. So, we are currently working with our state legislators to see if we can't save some of that money for Wichita. We certainly know there's issues with urban and rural. While they're different, they're all just as important, but we're working on that issue at the state level."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay. But a hungry person is a hungry person, and a person in need of a nutritious meal is in need of a nutritious meals, whether they live in an urban area or a rural area. Okay, fine, thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Well I think the balance has changed. Many of our rural areas are becoming increasingly older. There are many counties where the populations are becoming

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increasingly elderly and that's going to be a dilemma over the next probably ten years in the state. So, thank you. I believe Kristi has . . . I'm sorry, but I believe Kristi has someone over here first."

Ms. Susan Cook, 509 S. Floyd, Wichita, Ks. greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm an upstanding member of the district for Chairman Norton. Unfortunately, this is as far as I stand up. I am also on the board of directors of the Independent Living Resource Center. I know they were here last week, but I'm here to add and to repeat the request for funding for the information and referral service that the County has provided through our organization. Why it's necessary is because newly handicapped or newly arrived citizens with disabilities oftentimes are totally lost. They have no idea where to go. They call around and everyone gives them our number, because . . . and the reason we should have the funding at the Independent Resource Center rather than somewhere else is that we offer peer support. That is there are people who have very great difficulty communicating. There are also many people who come in who really don't know what questions to ask and our job is to help them sort out their problem, ask the right questions so they get the right answer and we tried to offer them assistance with finding housing that's accessible, with finding employment, with education and training in order to achieve some employment, with personal service, and of course with advocacy.

And so, I feel very strongly that that part of the budget, if it's possible to fund even part of what we had before, needs to stay with the Independent Living Resource Center and I appreciate your consideration and I thank you for listening to me. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Susan. Any questions, Commissioners, at this point? I see none. We'll move on. Next."

Ms. Wanda Gould, Derby Senior Center, Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have a letter I'd like to read this morning. It's not my letter but it's from someone in our center.

I am a patron of the Derby Senior Center. I take part in many of the activities and realize how much my life is enriched by such a wonderful facility. The building is beautiful of course, but the really valuable part of its existence is the great work done by the staff in planning and preparing the worthwhile activities and programs.

Although I thoroughly enjoy and appreciate my time at the center, I may be more fortunate than many of the people there. I have family living in Derby

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and my life would continue in a suitable manner, even if some programs had to be cut due to the budget restraints. However, there are many whose lives would be changed drastically if much is changed in the center's programs.

I would like to use just one lady as an example. She has told me that she knows she would be in a nursing home or a hospital by now if it were not for the Derby Senior Center and the people there. When she moved into a small house in Derby several years ago, she was alone. She sat at home, day after day. No one came and no one called. She even felt she might be losing her mind. You should see her now. After several years as a part of the senior fellowship at the center, she is a very different person. She now spends much of her time there. She has learned to use the computer and even has one of her own now. She has made many friends, excepts responsibility for certain duties at the center, eats lunch there, attends many of the activities and classes, and is a happy and helpful lady.

Since we are now located near the city library, she has learned to use and to enjoy the many things offered by their facility. I am sure there are many, many other patrons of the center who have benefited just this much. The center is an extremely important part of the lives of many seniors citizens.

And with that, I want to thank you for what we have and we hope that you will not cut any more than is absolutely necessary. And as I look through the human services, on page 327, I see that . . . where it has administration/ community based services and parts like that. I see the community based services is cut 12.2% and the administration budget raised 15.5%. Would you please explain that to me?"

Chairman Norton said, "Ben, did you want to tackle that one?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "No, but I will. First of all, I'm one of you, right? I'm a member of the Derby Senior Center, and believe it or not, a few of you have contacted me. I think at last count, 127% of all the people that are members of the Derby Senior Center have contacted me, so some of you I think have contacted me more than once.

I want . . . to address your item here about the administration, I had an in depth talk with our finance people, and that's a bookkeeping thing. If you look at the entire program, you'll see that the entire operational cost of the Department on Aging has reduced 7.6%. That the increase in

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administration was a bookkeeping thing, assigning certain administrative positions out of community based service, in-home service, transportation, and just assigning that to administration as a line item. Overall, you'll see that the county revenue or the county portion of the total budget has actually decreased 7.7%. That's the line item right above the total and that the total has decreased 7.6. So that was just an administrative . . . taking this position and saying, 'Okay, instead of it being charged to this department, we'll just put it under administration' but administrative costs did not just inflate 15%. It was because of a reassignment."

Ms. Gould said, "Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "And I guess just to add on that, there were no increased administration personnel. It was not like hiring administrators. It was a shift from one line to another line."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Right. It took this administrator and put it where it probably should be, under Administration, but it was the same person."

Chairman Norton said, "Was it not a lot of case workers that moved over? Is that what it was?"

Commissioner Winters said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I believe that's right."

Chairman Norton said, "I don't see Annette out there nodding her head. Is that correct? Okay."

Ms. Claudette K. Moore, Director, Catholic Charities Anthony Family Shelter, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Sedgwick County prevention grant has funded Catholic Charities Family Advocate program for nearly two years. The program, which is researched based, serves all children entering the shelter from ages 4 to 7, as well as their parents. To date, the program has served over 83 families.

Our focus of the Family Advocate program at Catholic Charities is to reach high-risk children when they're at this key age to evaluate them and deal with problems. The program curriculum gives the children ways to talk and to view their problems and to think problems through and to show parents

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how to help the children learn to solve their problems, as they have with other people.

Research has shown that when the children learn to solve . . . use the problem-solving and thinking, their social adjustments, behavior, emotional upsets and social withdrawn. It also helps them adjust . . . adjust improvements and the significant reduction is the result of this. Because it is such a noticeable difference, it can be seen in the behavior of the children that participate in this program. It is by far the most well received among the parent and children programs that we have.

After having participated in these classes, many of the clients that are reluctant to attend any other shelter offered classes that are not a part of this program of the family advocate, because they've seen such great benefits and are having the skills that are acquired from the family advocate classes.

I understand that the county is experiencing the same effects of the current economic crunch that many of the community service providers are. I also understand, in response to this crunch, you have been forced to make some very tough decisions that will effect us as well in the community as other service providers. In summary, it is not my intension today to attempt to be critical in any way of any of the budgetary decisions. Instead, I'm here to thank you for your continuing support of Catholic Charities, the Family Advocate program.

In addition, we at Catholic Charities intend to do our part to assist the commission, as well as the grant award committee, by providing them with any additional information that they might need to assist them with determination and appropriation funds allocation methods for further prevention grant funds. I'd like to thank you for this time."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Claudette and we do have a question. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I have a question for Ma. Ma, where would that line item be?"

Mr. Renfeng Ma, Budget Director, Finance Department, said, "It's under Prevention Funds."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, thank you, that's what I needed. Thanks."

Mr. Bob Noller, 1318 Joy Court, Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "And I also am a member of the Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging. I noticed that the percentage of the cut on the senior centers, as far as the budget goes, is higher than what the entire Sedgwick County

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budget percentage cut is and I don't know the why or wherefore of that. But anyway, I know you're under a real budget crunch, and doing a good job in trying to keep things on an even keel, but I just hope that you'll consider a much smaller cut for the senior centers of Sedgwick County, because they need the money and our senior center in Derby is in danger of losing it's vision if we get such a steep cut as we are having now. So, I would urge you to make all consideration you can, and if you can help us, why we'd certainly appreciate it. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Bob. No questions, thanks."

Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Kansas Taxpayers Network, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As the County Commission, you have a heavy responsibility to approve a budget that before you is \$315,000,000 and I think it's important, not only as you as Commissioners, but all the citizens in Sedgwick County, to put this in a little bit of perspective.

In 2000, the census reported there are 453,000 people in Sedgwick County, just a little bit under that. If you divide 315,000,000 by that population, you've got almost \$700 of spending per person by just the county, excluding the school district, excluding the city, excluding Topeka and Washington. I think that's important for several reasons, one of which despite the fact, and I'm very pleased that you're not looking at a mill levy increase, but if you look at the budget, we are looking at a situation where property taxes that will be paid by the citizens here in Sedgwick County to the county will be growing by a little bit over \$8,000,000 or about a 9% increase and of course that's due primarily to the appraisal problem that exists, with primarily occurring, not exclusively, but primarily occurring on increased appraisals on property that has either had little or no changes.

Now, there's been some talk about the fact that we are looking at a reduction of almost \$10,000,000 from last year, the 2000 . . . well, the current year budget that we are in from \$325,000,000 down to \$315,000,000. I would urge you, as commissioners, to keep this in mind. In 2002, the county spent \$282,000,000. Last year, we had the first \$300,000,000 budget, but if you'd just look at the growth between 282,000,000 and 315,000,000, that's between 5 and 6% a year, even including this decrease that we're looking at for this year. The one time increase last year of just over 15% came at a bad time, in the sense that with the state ending up eliminating the demand transfer programs, LAVTR and city/ county revenue sharing, it hit the County particularly hard in that regard, and even with the new local use tax, is not fully offset.

I would urge you, as commissioners, to keep this in mind, we cannot grow government faster than our ability to pay for it. As an exercise, I took the . . . ten years ago, the budgets for Sedgwick County, City of Wichita, and the Wichita Public Schools, and excluded the other municipalities and

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school districts in the county and the spending for those three governmental entities here locally was \$613,000,000. The budgets before you and before these other two bodies, we're looking at spending 1.114 billion. That's an increase of about 70%. That's roughly two and a half times inflation over that 10 year period.

Now obviously, one year there can be changes and obviously you've heard from a lot of folks who are concerned about the fact that the budget from the County that you have before will spend about 10,000,000 less, that's a couple of percent less than last year. But looking at the big picture and the large picture and the fact that we are in economically troubled times, and I would urge you, since the big issue that I've seen discussed is payroll and whether there should be an across the board pay increase for county employees, I'm going to pose some questions I don't have the answers to them, but I urge you as commissioners with the budget responsibility to look into this.

What's the turnover in the County? Are there key positions that can't be filled because we can't find qualified people? Is the turnover lower or higher than it was a year or two ago? If we're in a situation where, because of our troubled economy here locally, it may not be a wise idea to raise pay at a time when we've got so many people in the private sector who are looking for jobs or have lost their jobs.

So I urge you, with your budget consideration in front of you today, to keep these points in mind and I appreciate your time and your attention."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Karl. I see no questions at this point."

Ms. Juliana Pacacha, 1200 Cloverdale, Park City, Ks., said, "My concern is that our budget cuts for our senior center is 14.3% and our director, Vicky Shepard, has three senior centers that she is responsible for: Maize, Bel Aire and Park City. Her salary has dropped considerably, according to what the rest of the salaries have dropped. I feel like that is unfair.

Currently, just in our area, we have three people that are in the hospital, that Vicky has tried very diligently to coordinate visitors to go see them and take care of them, because their families live elsewhere. I know that everyone here has important issues that need to be addressed and they are all important and you have a terrible task. I'm glad I don't sit in your position. But I just ask you . . . my father helped start the senior center in Park City a long time ago, with just some volunteer money and some volunteer time and I know what it has done for our community.

We have volunteerism in the school now as a result of that. We've started a library. We've done a lot of things that we could never have done if we hadn't had a good senior center and I'm certain most of the people feel the same way, as strongly as I do about ours and I thank you for your time."

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Chairman Norton said, "Okay, anyone else would like to speak today?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, what senior center do you represent?"

Mr. Dave Thompson, Vice President, Local 2612, International Association of Firefighters, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's kind of different for a Fire District union member to speak in the general fund. I'm sure there's a couple of county employees wondering, 'Wow, this has nothing to do with them', so I'll make it short and brief.

I come before you today to thank you for your time and efforts in the budget. It's a strenuous task and working in the past two year, not only with our department but a lot of questions of Mr. Ma and his staff and Mr. Chronis, I don't envy their jobs and I definitely don't envy your guys'.

Some of the things that we've talked about, off and on, within our negotiation sessions with the County on the Fire District side is different and I think it could apply in the general fund sense and also would benefit the citizens overall of Sedgwick County by saving some tax dollars and also identify some sore spots within the system in funding the proposed '04 2% cost of living adjustment, or COLA for short.

First things first, with the preparation of the 2004 budget, the County executive staff has communicated to all employees that a raise in the health care costs will take place in 2004. I spoke with Mr. Ma this morning and we haven't identified that yet, we're still in the negotiation session with our health care providers, but we know it's going up. We currently pay 18% of that cost out of our own income.

They've also identified that we will pay 19%, or an additional percent of that cost in 2004, so not only will we take an increase in the additional cost of health care, but we'll pay an additional 1%. These things are not identified. They have not been identified and it will take some time to do that through the negotiation sessions on the part of the County, but we don't know what those dollars are. We're prepared to approve a 2% across the board COLA increase, or cost of living adjustment, for County employees, which is not a true cost of living adjustment.

A cost of living adjustment is the same for every employee. Gasoline costs me the same as it costs the County manager. Milk costs me the same as it costs Commissioner McGinn. A cost of living adjustment is equal and unilateral. And I feel like a 2% pay increase doesn't do justice for all employees within the county system.

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And example of that that we've worked up through the 2004 proposed budget, the County manager himself would received a \$2,740 pay increase, while a zoo employee would receive \$420. You break that down into hours worked, based on the FLSA, that would be \$1.32 for the County manager and 20 cents for the zoo employee. I think that 20 cents is ate up really fast, just in health care costs in the additional percent.

I would like the Commission to reconsider this 2% COLA as it benefits more of a lifestyle, rather than the rate of inflation. All County employees, which are approximately 2,740 in 2004, according to what we heard this morning, will receive . . . I would like to see them receive a 36 cent pay increase per hour. That would be approximately \$750 annually for each and every employee, will level the playing field, that would identify the cost of inflation. That would also identify the cost of insurance increases in the percentage increase as well. Everyone would be on the same field.

The cost of implementing a flat COLA would also show the County a savings of approximately \$400,000. That \$400,000 savings by implementing a flat across the board COLA, could be used for senior centers, for the extension services, whatever else we could use. I'm kind of selfish, because I'm come from public safety, I'd like to see the six paramedics that are going to part-time stay full-time. I'm just a little selfish. Maybe the two radio maintenance positions that were slated to be lost would be kept in full.

Keeping all of us safe is a good thing. I'd like to see what we can do to make it a unilateral playing field for all County employees, just not a lifestyle change. That's all I have."

Chairman Norton said, "Questions?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Just a clarification. I'm a little confused. You're supporting a straight across the board COLA. Is that including the firefighters? I mean, you were scheduled to have a 4%. You're willing to go down to a 2%?"

Mr. Thompson said, "We have signed a contract and we have not been able to meet. We've met with the County manager and his staff on two or three occasions and we gave and took, in dialogue, and were unable to reach a compromise."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I was just confused, if you said you were supporting it, was that meant all the employees, including the fire unit."

Mr. Thompson said, "I will take a stand on the Fire District Union side of that by stating that we're fire district and we've negotiated a successful contract that we were unable to identify though

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human resources and payroll, compensation studies over the years, that we've taken losses."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "No, I was just wanting to get clarification. I know the Fire District is separate from ours. But when you said . . ."

Mr. Thompson said, "I'm saying for County employees, executive level and below."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Got it, got it, got it. That's all I need. I just wanted clarification on that. Thanks."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. I see no other questions. Thanks, Dave."

Ms. Dee Williams, 611 Mulberry, Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the City of Derby Senior Services administrator. In 2001, the City of Derby was awarded a community development block grant and we have developed a new senior center and the city did match the fund and we have been in our new building for just a year and we have grown immensely.

Just in the first six months of being there, we had a 19% increase in registered participants at the senior center. Our age range at the senior center, of course these are 2002 figures, 55-64, we had 337, 65-74 we had 738, 75-84 age range we had 598, 85+ we had 141. So the total registered participants at the Derby Senior Center in 2002 was 1,814.

We use many volunteers at the senior center too, to include in our programming. This cut for the Derby Senior Center, is going to have a direct effect on our staff and our programming. We provide essential services to our seniors. I'm not going to name them all but many health related nutrition. We also provide a lot of information and assistance to our patrons.

We want you to consider reinstating our cut. We don't know how we can use any more volunteers at our center. We know you have a hard job ahead of you. I appreciate the Department on Aging and the difficulty they have had in coming to conclusion to cut the senior centers, but we hope you will reinstate us and part of that budget cut. Thank you for this time. Can I answer any questions?"

Chairman Norton said, "Dee, I see none at this time. Thanks."

Ms. Williams said, "Thanks."

Mr. Jeff Cowley, 1638 Westridge, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm also the President for International Association of Firefighters Local 2612 and I'd like to speak to you two-fold. One as a citizen, the services that are provided throughout the County, especially for public

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service, public safety, those need to be maintained, and by taking the six paramedics and eliminating them as permanent employees and making them, yes it does save you money, but I can speak on the other side, when the fire district tried the extra board, which was essentially a pool of people that were part-time that we tried to call in on days that we were short. Although it worked for a very short time, it was eventually eliminated and I believe this is the same road that the EMS is currently going to go down with this approval of the budget for those six positions of part-time paramedics.

It's difficult to find that number of paramedics to fill those six positions. I've spoken with several officials with EMS services and you're looking at somewhere around 45 people to fill those six positions. You can't just have a small number of people to work those number of hours in which they have approved leaves that come, their sick leave, vacation, injury leave, those type of issues. So you're looking at a large pool of people to accommodate those six positions that are being vacated by making those part-time positions. The quality and training of those part-time individuals, more than likely, would be reduced. There are minimum standards in which our EMS has and the system we have currently, works relatively well. I mean, there are glitches in any system. There are things that are in progress, that are in the ability to be worked out and I have all the confidence in the world that will occur.

The services need to stay intact. We don't need to reduce the level of employees and the competencies with part-time individuals. Also in the fact that these individuals may not be called or, in our experience, this large pool of people there's only a select few that end up working those days or those hours.

As policy FLSA, if you work those individuals over 1,000 hours, then they become full-time employees. That was one of the major ingredients that the extra board program for the fire district was facing and I have every belief that that will occur with EMS because there is only a small portion of those people who are dedicated to that cause and that's what we have found in the past. All the other programs in the city, the senior service centers, you know the fire district is involved in those also. We go on their meeting days that everybody gets together for lunch or breakfast and we go and take their blood pressures. They're glad to see us. We're glad to be there and we serve them as well. So, our public safety service needs to stay intact, as well as those centers. With that I will leave you and thank you for your time."

Chairman Norton said, "Thanks, Jeff. Is there anyone else wishing to speak on the 2004 budget?"

Ms. Carolyn Smith, 5317 E. 39th, Bel Aire, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I come from several backgrounds. I'm a marriage and family counselor and I'm also serving on a council in the Department on Aging and I'm a member of the Bel Aire Seniors. So, from that background I have

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watched what happens with the senior centers and that's the area that I would strongly suggest that you reconsider that, because I've seen the value of those and how, in the long run, it saves families money and it can save the state money and the county money because the centers provide, as you all have heard over and over I know, all the benefits they provide but it's a different type of professionalism that these directors bring and I hope you consider that the directors are important too.

And I speak specifically for the director, Vicky Shepard, who I think you call it the roving rural director here, and her particular salary is separate from the others, and so I would hope that you consider that at least you get her back to where she was on her salary and do not ask her to take a cut, because I have used them in my own job and these centers and been able to refer clients to them. It's amazing the kind of work they do and how they help the people, and I thank you for your time."

Chairman Norton said, "Thank you, Carolyn. Anyone else wish to speak to us during the public hearing portion of the 2004 budget? Second call, anyone? I'm now at last call for anyone that would like to speak before the commission during the public hearing.

At this point, I'll close the public hearing portion of the 2004 budget and we will limit the comments to the bench and to those that we may call before us to answer questions. So, Commissioners, I think we get started, Mr. Manager, do you got some . . .?"

E. BUDGET ADOPTION

1. ADOPTION OF THE 2004 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Buchanan said, "I have some additional information for your consideration, with some recommendations. First you see up here that we have the savings from the bond sale of \$200,000. Let me start over again. This is the last up day. This is what you've approved in terms of the dollar amount to be funded. The changes have occurred. This is \$536,000. That is the total of these three numbers here. That could reduce the mill levy by that amount and have a new total amount for the budget of \$303,000. We have savings from the bond sale of \$200,000.

We have a recalculation of the tax rate of \$308,000. You'll recall that we do get assessed valuations in and they change and we recalculated using the current mill levy rate and so there is 308,000 more dollars anticipated in real estate taxes. That also includes the discount of people not . . . the percentage that we expect not to pay, so that would be the net, absolutely the net increase.

And the transfer from the D.A.'s salary of \$28,000, she has offered to pay for the Independent

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Living Center, and so we've included that. We do recommend . . . and is there someone operating this? Well, you need to operate it. Thank you. And we're also, staff is recommending, we've talked to the Sheriff and we've talked to Mark Masterson, the Director of Corrections, regarding the pre-trial services and when we developed the budget process in the spring we had a reduction in pre-trial services based on the information that we had at the time. Since then, we've had discussions with Mark Masterson and with Sheriff Steed regarding that program and we believe that it's necessary and essential to reinstate that program and I would recommend that that be part of your consideration, the \$140,000 pre-trial services.

So, now if you include that, it's \$140,000 here, which means there's \$396,000. Thank you, Lunda. And I would suggest, because of the D.A.'s offer, that we add the \$28,000 for Independent Living Center."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Is that the referral service? Okay."

Commissioner Winters said, "So what that means is that is going to get funded some way from Sedgwick County."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes. We would reduce the District Attorney's budget and increase the budget from which this account would be funded."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And I do think we need to mention that this is something that the District Attorney volunteered and was really supportive of. So I think she needs to be recognized for that effort."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Exactly, she thinks it's an important enough program."

Chairman Norton said, "At this point, we'll open up the dialogue and the debate to the Bench here. I wanted to kind of put together at least an idea of where we were going to go today. Hopefully, we'll have some discussions on the things that we've talked about over the last two weeks, issues that we either wanted to put back into the budget or consider a partial restoration. We've had some pretty important dialogues about wage adjustments that have come up in the last week and that's pretty important to all of us that we consider it.

I've got kind of a list of some things that I know we will talk about. I can either enumerate those to get them kind of on the record, or we could bring them up individually. We've talked, in the last few days, about the Oaklawn Scholarships, which is a program in District 3, . . . I'm sorry, District 5, we've talked about the cold mix process and that program out of Public Works. We've talked about renewing senior center budgets and senior services. We've talked about the RSVP program that is housed in senior services. We've talked about the Independent Living Center, which is what the D.A. has solved for us today. We've talked about pre-trial services, which we look like we've

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solved already, at least recommended. We've talked about restoring partial or all of the extension services, the Extension Council services. And we've talked about EMS call backs, which are six positions that we've heard today that we may want to consider. We've heard about family advocacy that is housed deep within the Juvenile Justice monies. And then we've talked about the COLAs and the wage adjustment that we'll have to have a little dialogue about today.

The one thing that I would like to make sure the public knows is that we haven't waited to have some of these critical discussions until today, although we have to hear public opinion and we have to hear what the taxpayers believe if they come before us. We've had some dialogues at staff meetings. We had a workshop on Monday, where we've started some of these dialogues, so that we're in lockstep as a commission, at least on having the debate and the disagreement along the way, so that we're not trying to rush to judgment on this day.

You know, some of these issues are pretty complicated, and to think we're going to solve them in maybe an hour or two hours at the Bench is pretty confounding. So, we have been working on this at many meetings over the last three weeks, and I wanted to be sure that the public knew that, that this is not anything where we're just hearing a little public comment today and then making these huge decisions. We've really had some great dialogue and some good debate. Our staff meeting yesterday was a good example of that. It didn't get heated, but we certainly got some opinions out on the table about many of these issues that we're going to have to deal with.

So, having said that, I'm going to turn it over to the commission, and Commissioner McGinn, you're first."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well first off, I want to again thank the District Attorney for her stepping forward and solving the Independent Living Resource Center's problem and helping us as well. These are very tough times and I guess when I was first elected five years ago, I didn't realize that we would go through something like this. The economy was good at the time. We didn't have 9/11, you know, so a lot of things have happened. And I think that this past year has been a good exercise for government to rethink how we provide services and to rethink how we dole out dollars and those kinds of things.

And so I also want to thank the manager, Buchanan and Chris Chronis, our chief financial officer and his staff for a great deal of the work that they've done because this has been a very arduous process.

And then I would also like to thank Mark Masterson and Sheriff Steed for working together and doing things that make sense. Commissioner Sciortino kind of talked about the Meals on Wheels and you know, asked where did that cut come from. Well, it came from the state level and I think that it's important that we, as elected officials, look at programs that save our community money in

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the long run. And I know this commission has been very dedicated to the senior service area, the aging population, because it continues to increase, but the whole reason is because it's important to us to keep people in their homes longer because it makes them healthier and it makes them happier.

And there are programs out there that serve people in which we can do that and what's really great about that is it's cheaper for our community in the long run if we can keep people in their homes. And so I think these programs are very important and I know that we have certainly gone through this with a fine-toothed comb. I know there are areas that have been cut and it's been painful to people. It would be my hope that, if they're worthwhile programs, that in the future, as things pick up, we can reevaluate them again in the future.

I'd like to just start with some areas in the Aging program that I would like to see restored and I guess, Mr. Manager, are we going to kind of keep track of where the money is, as we go along?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "That's what Lunda . . . I'm not allowed to touch it."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Got the keyboard down there on the front row, okay, thank you. I would like to start with the La Familia Center, the senior center and I believe their request was for \$37,638 and to get them there, my understanding we'd need to give them back \$3,764. And Ma, I hope you're checking our numbers as we go along."

Commissioner Winters said, "Could I ask a question, for clarification? We have this sheet that had all of the first requests from all of the senior centers. Could we . . . I mean, if we would walk back to that position, would that not be then where the Aging Advisory Council said, 'This is what we really recommend' and then we cut their recommendation. Would it be a consideration to just move back to that first recommendation of the Aging Council?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "I think, if it's the consensus of the Board. I guess I was going to give reasons, because there was . . . and if you don't need me to justify them, that's fine with me, but there was specific reasons in some of these areas why they took hits the way they did. But if you just want to, to speed things up, if there's a consensus as a board to restore to what the Aging Advisory Board recommendation was."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, it would appear to me that that would put back about \$62,000 into each of the . . . into all of them, and would get them back to that Aging, and I would support putting the \$62,000 back into the Aging department to be distributed among these senior centers, in accordance with the first recommendation of the Aging Advisory Board."

Commissioner McGinn said, "If there's a consensus, that will certainly speed things along."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Unruh."

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Commissioner Unruh said, "I don't think we have to do things just expeditiously or just to save time, but I mean, that's the place where I've tried to evaluate this that I think we're going to end up or that we should end up restoring the entire \$62,000 and so I would be in favor of just moving to that number and restoring the whole amount to all the senior citizens . . . senior services."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Gee, I don't know where I'm at as far as seniors are concerned. I'll give you a hint, chocolate chip cookies. I think it's important, if individual commissioners want to try to justify why and the value of individual centers is important and I wouldn't mind listening to that. But if I understood what we're trying to do, I wouldn't mind at least, for visiting purposes, to put the restoration of all the senior centers at \$62,000 just to now see where we're going and does that fit. Do we run out of money before we get to all these line items, but as a line item, I wouldn't mind seeing initially the restoration of all the senior centers, and I think that is that \$62,000 but I wouldn't mind hearing, individually, why it's important on individual centers, but I'd support putting that on now as a line item just so we can see where we're at on it."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, I'm going to shift us back to Commissioner McGinn, since she kind of kicked this off. You've kind of heard everybody's vote."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, so I think we've kind of got a consensus and that's up there. I guess some brief comments in that area. I think these are areas of importance for people to gather, because I think they have some similar needs. It's an opportunity for people to find out where resources are and how to get help, so I think that's very important. I talked about La Familia Center at first, and that is one of their key things is that it's a culturally connected area and they bring people from all over the city and even, I believe they have a few from outside the city that come and gather there and so, that's a very unique senior center.

And then, I won't talk about all of these, but the other one that took a big hit was Sedgwick Senior Center and they had, because everyone was supposed to go based on the 2002 budget, that was a glitch year for them because they dropped a director that they were using on a part-time basis, and so they had one in '01 and the year before that and so just trying to make them consistent because they have one now and I believe, at our last public hearing, we heard from those folks as well.

And then, the other thing that I just wanted to briefly talk about and maybe Commissioner Unruh wants to visit about this a little too, but is the roving rural director that serves Bel Aire, Park City

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and Maize. I think this is a very key position. It's somebody that doesn't stay full-time at one senior center and is able to take their knowledge and resources to three different ones and I think that's money well spent, helping people put together programs. And so, anyway I certainly support that. That's basically all I wanted to visit about on the Aging senior centers area at this time.

The other thing, I guess, I'd like to see is that we restore the cold mix program, but I'm going to wait until I hear from all the colleagues. I'd like to see that at 10 miles. I know, in the past we've done 20 miles. It's been cut to nothing and I'd like to see it restored to 10. If the money doesn't, I guess, work out then I would be willing to at least go back to five and I think five is very important, because we had projects done this year and in order for those roads to be maintained and stay together, I guess so to speak, because they are a different type of process, they need to have that second coat and so this would at least take care of those projects that did occur this year. Again, I'll wait to hear what the rest of you have to say about that.

And then the other thing I'd like to see restored, because I think this is a very good resource to our community, and that is the Extension Office. You know, you talk about somebody that makes money go a long ways and you talk about using knowledge of our community and the knowledge of our state to disperse unbiased information and help people do things within our community. A lot of times people think of extension and they think agricultural, they think 4-H. And I'll tell you, this extension does more work, I think, than any other extension in the state because of the diversity that they serve. They serve a large ag district, but they also serve a large urban community. And part of that urban community has to do with bringing 4-H into the schools that help kids, get them in the right direction and it's a very family oriented program.

But also in the area of horticulture and you look at this community and how we've developed, the development community and those kinds of things, people want trees, people want landscaping, those kinds of things and this, what K-State does is provide the education that they get from all across the state and the country and provide that information to people if there is a problem with some of their trees or whatever. So, I think that's a very valuable resource. I know Tom is very close to that, and so I'm not going to say much more on that.

I'd like to hear from the rest of you. I think I'd like to see a little bit more put in than perhaps we talked about yesterday, but I'll listen to the rest of my colleagues and then I'll make a pitch, depending on how the dollars come out at that time. And I believe at this time that's about all I have for now. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Thanks, Commissioner. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I needed to make a clarification on some remarks that I made earlier. Commissioner Norton and I did an interview on camera, the Around the County

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that's broadcast after our meetings on Wednesday on Channel 8 and then re-broadcast on Channel 7. But we were talking about keeping people safe in our community, and that we were trying to minimize the impact on essential services in this budget.

I made the statement that in keeping our citizens safe, that all EMS crews would be out there and functioning and there wasn't going to be any reduction in the number of crews that we've got out on the streets. Well, I do need to clarify that our EMS budget, there is the recommendation that we change how we're delivering services. There are six full-time positions that are proposed to be eliminated in this 2004 budget, with the work being provided by part-time positions. This will be a change that is transparent to the citizens, as services will still be provided.

Fortunately, no full-time EMS employees will be laid off in this process, due to vacancies and attrition. But it's looking . . . but this is really looking at how we do business differently and delivering services. And Tom Pollan, as the EMS Director, and Bob Lamkey, our Public Safety Director, have put together a solution that continues to deliver a high level of services, but it's still managing the resources differently.

I think we all have a high degree of confidence in Tom and Bob and if this system doesn't work, we'll reevaluate the system and consider improving the process. But public safety is very important to our community and it's very important to the Commissioners, as shown by the fact that almost 30% of our budget is made up of public safety issues. So, it had been brought to my attention that I made the comment and I hope this clarifies what I was trying to say at that meeting.

I guess one other thing that I want to mention are the prevention funds. We've had, as Chairman Norton has mentioned, we've had many discussions over the past few weeks building this budget process. We've spent almost a week every day working through and hashing through this process and we have decided to make reductions in the prevention funds, but I want to keep this on the forefront of the Commission agenda and I'm going to support the place we have the prevention funds in this budget, but we need to remember that prior to the late 1990s, none of us, including the state, had thought much about investing in prevention.

And through . . . and I was one of those folks that worked through Juvenile Justice Reform, both locally and on a state level and as we had a new Juvenile Justice Authority put in place in Topeka in 1998 and '99 was the first time that the state recognized the importance of prevention and put funds into prevention across the state and Sedgwick County was fortunate to get a big share of those prevention funds to use here. At the same time, the County dedicated a million dollars to working on prevention for the first time.

Now these are tough budget times and I hope we're taking a small step backwards and I, again, am going to be supportive of what we've done with prevention, but I certainly hope in future years that we don't turn around and back up on this process that we've got started that I think we are going to

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begin to see results on. I mean, I think these are good programs. We're doing some, I think, great things. So, with that, I've made clarification of hopefully clarifying the EMS situation and then I'm going to be supportive of the prevention fund, as it's recommended. But boy, next year I want to talk about it again, because I do not want us to go backwards on prevention.

For Commissioner McGinn, I also would certainly support restoration of the extension funds to some amount and so I'll follow your lead and if you've got a number, when you need to talk about that, I'll be very supportive."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "This is just me, but Carolyn, if you had a number, maybe we could start throwing it on here, so we could start getting a running total of how much we have left, if you're comfortable with that? I don't know."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, yesterday at staff meeting, I believe we talked about the \$77,000 and I was kind of wanting to see what was more than that and I had shared with you about how I would like to see that higher and I don't know what the number is, because they were actually cut, from '01, \$148,000 and I think the respond was 'Oh, they only asked for 77'. Well, that's cause they were told to only ask for that. So I mean, that's to restore the whatever the extra cut was or something like that. So I'm trying to get a feel for it. It's my understanding that the '02 base was the \$976,000, approximately. Okay, let's just throw \$148,746 in there for now, we'll start with that. Well, you said to just throw a number out."

Chairman Norton said, "Be careful what you ask for, you might get it."

Commissioner Winters said, "Before we put that number up, let's work on through."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I want to see what else there is first. Okay."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, I just want to say that of my top five issues that I want to talk about, pre-trial and the Independent Living, Extension Service, senior centers and the cold mix, we've got three of those things already taken care of. I'm also . . ."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "We haven't got cold mix on the list yet."

Commissioner Unruh said, "No, three of my big five are already on there and so I'm very supportive of that. I would want to say on the Extension Center, I think that we ask for those folks to hit the '02 budget and they were able to make that work and so that's the number that I'm going to be happy or confident supporting and I think that's about \$77,000 number."

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And on the cold mix program that we're talking about and we've talked about numbers between adding five miles back and ten miles back. The difference between the five and ten is you don't just double it and there's really no economy in size in that. It actually gets more than doubling, so I'm going to be happy with trying to add back five miles of the cold mix program and whenever we get to the point of putting those on the board.

And then, just as another comment, I'd echo what Commissioner Winters said about the prevention budget that we have. Not only are the folks that provide those services faced with cuts from us, but it's difficult for them to acquire funds from contributions and other fund raising efforts. As we go forward, we need to be sensitive to that, but I think that's my only comment now is just on Extension and cold mix, the numbers we put up, I would be in favor of the 77 on Extension and five miles on the cold mix."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Anything else, Commissioner Unruh? Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. Well I think we're starting to get to a consensus here. I will be extremely supportive of the items that we've already listed and that being pre-trial, the restoration of the Independent Living Resource Center and the restoration of the funding back to all of the senior centers.

Senior centers, maybe it's because I am one, I like to joke around that when I say I can feel their pain, I literally, in the last couple of weeks, can feel their pain. But these folks have already contributed to the quality of our life during their lifetime and I could argue that the senior population, the efforts that they made during their working lives, we're enjoying the fruits of that benefit. And I have an office in the senior center in Derby. I get to see, weekly, the activities that go on there and I see people that have now got a reason to get out of bed. I see people that have got a new zest for life.

Now, there's a pool-playing preacher that's down there that I'd prefer him not to show up, because he always beats me. But there's a new zest in life, they're excited. There's a reason for living. They feel that there's a purpose for their life, because they can then help other people and I think we owe that segment of the population something.

The thing that has always impressed me about the present crop of chronologically gifted citizens, that's politically correct, is that they don't come to me at least asking for handouts. I've never seen a more independent group of people than the seniors that we have right now. Occasionally, they'll come and say we'd like to have a hand up, but we'll be happy to help ourselves too if you'll just help us. And that's why I am 100% supportive of maintaining that \$62,000 in there and restoring 100% of all senior centers back to the amount that was requested."

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Commissioner Unruh said, “Well, if you’d let me interrupt just a moment, Commissioner, I just want to emphasize the fact that the one item the senior centers budget is that roving rural director, and we really get a bang for the buck out of that and we need to make sure that . . .”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “And that’s part of that. I had occasion to talk to David Spears on that cold mix thing and my sense is that Public Works would be very comfortable with five miles. Five miles would not necessitate an increase in mowing costs, because that was going to be the other item, and I would be supportive of reinstating five miles.

I’d be supportive of reinstating the Extension Service right now to \$77,000, which is what they had asked for and it allows them the opportunity to be part of the solution, because we’re going to talk even more than we’re not at the end of this problem. We’ve managed to survive it this year, but the next two years are not looking too rosy and this would allow the Extension Service to be part of the solution, just like the D.A. voluntarily decided to be an additional part of the solution.

There is one item, I was able to talk to three of you, I didn’t get a chance to talk to you, Carolyn. And that is on the Oaklawn Scholarship program. Two years ago, thanks to you all, you supported me in a \$25,000 scholarship program for at-risk kids in the Oaklawn area and what it basically does, it allows them to participate in the Derby Rec Commission summertime programs, organized sports, organized events and gets them exposed to an alternative lifestyle, as opposed to summertime just hanging around 47th and Clifton and see if we can get into trouble.

This year, we cut that in half and then it is proposed that it goes to zero in 2004 and I’m hoping that there would be support here to restore it back to the \$25,000, because embodied in what the DRC does, it’s not just for the kid, but parents have to sign a contract also that they’ll be there at a certain number of events, they’ll participate in the volunteer parent program and they take an active role too, which I think really just helps that whole process of allowing the kid to know that you can get recognition for a job well done, you can be a team player, you can bond a little closer with your parents, and it just, to me, I would hope that you would give serious consideration to allowing me to add \$25,000 to this and restore the Oaklawn Scholarship program for those at-risk children and maybe would ask, just for visiting purposes, could we put that as a line item there, and that would be the Oaklawn Scholarship program.

If I understood right, on the RSVP program, that originally I understand the senior services no

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longer wanted to be a sponsor of that program and they were asking, I thought that was very good of them, there's 'x' number of dollars, I forgot, 22.8 or whatever it is, that we were funding for that program and they were saying, 'If you don't fund the program, could you help restore. . .' but I think we've resolved it, if we're going to restore all the senior centers. This amount of money, we have this amount of money in the budget right now, there's nothing that we have to do here. If we can find another sponsor, is that the right word to use? Okay, for the program, we're going to keep that money . . . I would like to see us keep that money in reserve and fund that sponsor, if indeed we can get that done. And we're going to talk about wage adjustments.

Now I want to expand on what Commissioner Winters said, because whenever you talk about public safety, you can get people really scared. When we start talking about well, we're going to reduce the workforce in EMS to part-time, I don't want any citizen to think that means that there's not going to be an ambulance available 24/7 if you need one. There will be ambulances available, the same level. They will be fully staffed at the same level, but an individual person within that ambulance may not be working a full 40 hours that week. Maybe he's only working . . . Tom, I believe I'm right on that, maybe that one individual is working 20 hours a week. Somebody else is working part-time, but as far as the delivery of service, that unit will be fully manned when it goes out to do whatever you need to have done. There's no reduction in the number of units or the number of hours that you're being served. It's an internal thing that maybe an individual isn't working a full 40 hours a week, he or she is only working a certain number of hours and somebody else replaces him. I think that's what I understood and if that is the case, Tom, I hope I'm speaking . . . That's what I wanted to make sure that I could reemphasize what Tom was saying. EMS is fully covered, fully staffed, but it's just a different way of staffing is what it is.

I think, for right now, that's all I have to say, but I'm going to be very interested in what you all, anybody else has to mention. Thank you."

Commissioner Unruh said, "I think they're in caucus."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Tom is telling Tim what he's supposed to stand for."

Chairman Norton said, "Does anybody do that but my wife? Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just have a question, one question for Commissioner Sciortino. The Derby Rec Commission, do they have a taxing ability, taxing source?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "They get a portion of USD 260 funds, that's how they get their funds."

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Commissioner McGinn said, "So they don't have control over a mill?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "No, the Oaklawn Rec Center does not have . . . they're not a separate taxing authority. They get their funds from USD 260."

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And they charge for these programs, they charge if a child wants to be in this team, there's a fee and this would just be our way of providing scholarships to kids that maybe couldn't afford the fee."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, thank you. I guess my question is for Ma now. Trying to understand, back to the Extension Office, just to get you to the right page. It's my understanding that the Extension's 2002 base was \$976,541. Is that correct, their base, their 2002 base."

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, said, "Ask your question again, please."

Commissioner McGinn said, "The base for 2002 for Extension was \$976,541."

Mr. Chronis said, "I have that as their adopted '03 budget."

Commissioner McGinn said, "But I believe that they stayed the same and that was their '02 base as well."

Mr. Chronis said, "It may very well have been. The '04 base target was \$859,013."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "How much was it? I'm sorry."

Mr. Chronis said, "859,013."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Mr. Chronis said, "We're talking here just about the direct appropriations of the Extension. As you know what we put in the budget book for the Extension includes the facility maintenance."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I understand that. I'm trying to talk about the base and I thought that that's what all departments, everybody was asked to shoot for, was their '02 base. Is that correct?"

Mr. Chronis said, "There was some modifications to that, but generally yes, that's the rule."

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Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, and so if you take their '02 base and subtract what they were given to use for their '04, that cut then \$148,746."

Mr. Chronis said, "That is the reduction from the original adopted '03 budget to the recommended '04 budget, yes."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay."

Mr. Chronis said, "During '03, in the two budget adjustment rounds that we've had, the Extension Service has had their budget reduced by \$57,108 and so their adjusted '03 budget, the current '03 budget is 919,433."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I understand that they took some more hits in '03, but if we were to work off the '02 base, they were cut \$148,746."

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes."

Commissioner McGinn said, "And so, I'm going to go back to trying to restore as much as we can and I don't know if that's \$100,000 or \$137,000, but again, we're talking about a resource in this community that helps our nurseries with unbiased information, it helps our ag community, which is the number one. We have the most ag community . . . the largest ag community here in Sedgwick County with unbiased information. But they also certify to help people learn how to do safe food handling and they also work in conjunction with the Health Department on that and I know that when we all go to a restaurant or any type of food service, we want to make sure the food is clean, because we don't want to end up at the Health Department with a belly ache and those kinds of things.

And so, it's kind of back to that whole thinking, prevention for our community is money well spent so that we don't have a cost in the long run.

And so, I would like to see the remaining money, \$60,438, put to the Extension Office line item."

Chairman Norton said, "Any comments? Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "As you all know, from the past I've been very supportive of Extension and I agree with Commissioner McGinn. We are a unique county in the fact that we are one of the largest urban counties in the State of Kansas, along with this heavy agricultural industry that's here. And I think when we had that first public hearing two weeks ago, we just had some great diversity of agri-business people here talking about the importance of Extension. So, I would

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. . . going to be supportive of putting back as much as we can. I'm still adding up my numbers here to make sure we've got everything accounted for that we need to account for.

I guess, at the minimum, I was going to support putting back at least \$77,000 and that would get them back to where they thought they were. Then I was going to try to encourage perhaps getting to \$100,000 put back in that budget. Commissioner McGinn has done an excellent job of presenting the case, so I guess I'd need to toss it to somebody else. I could certainly support the 140 but if others think the 100 is a better number, or 70, I guess I'd at least listen to that."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "We heard extensively, no pun intended, from the Extension Service a couple of weeks ago. And I would support some increase to them. My only concern, Commissioners, about the Extension Service and how we funded it was I did take a little exception to the people that came and presented to us because they kept saying, 'Please don't cut this program, please don't cut this program' and we don't cut any of the programs, because we don't fund specific programs. We fund their general budget and then it's the board of directors that prioritizes and makes the decision on what is cut.

My problem with that whole concept is that we don't have any oversight, any accountability to how the money is spent. We just give it to the general fund and they may come up with programs that we don't like or we don't think is important or maybe we might think is redundant and it's already being provided by another agency.

I would be supportive of maybe going to \$100,000, but I would like for us to maybe consider, in future years, rethinking what it is that our involvement with the Extension Center should be. Should we pick certain programs that we believe are important and we fund specifically those programs. I mean, one lady presented us about a program where she teaches women how to dress or something, or clothing and I don't know how important . . . I don't think that's really important and I would think there might be other . . . I would think ladies know how to dress, but that there might be other . . . I don't know if I'm saying this right, but there's just certain things that the Extension Service right now, they can decide to establish a new program and we have no say in it whatsoever as to whether we think it's appropriate for tax dollars or local tax dollars to go into that. But I would be supportive of trying to maybe some increase to that, but would like to have us maybe look at a way that we could be a little more accountable to the taxpayers to why we're supporting it and maybe this idea of picking one or two or three specific programs and the County is supporting the master gardeners' program. Then the master gardener can come to us and say, 'Don't cut our

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program'. But right now, they're coming to us and saying that and we're not really the ones doing that, but I would support your position of maybe going up to 100,000.

I have a little problem going all the way. I'd like to save a few dollars there, just in case something else happens in the year that we're not aware of, instead of immediately proving to the world 'Give us the money, we'll spend it all in one day'. I'd like to save a couple of dollars for something that may be unforeseen. Don't have much left, but anyway."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Commissioner McGinn, were you ahead of me?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "I think so."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay, Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "As Commissioner Sciortino always says, don't sell past the close and if I've got you to 100, I should probably stop but I do just want to say . . ."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "That's where she probably wanted to go and she got me trapped, but that's okay."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I agree with you wholeheartedly about it's not 'don't cut those programs' because we don't decide that. Their board decides that and they have a partnership with the state and as I've shared with Bev, I've always said, 'I hope you're hitting on the state people as hard as you're hitting on us' because it's kind of their program, but it's something that's been in this state for many, many years. It goes clear back to the land institution. The other counties participate with their Extensions as well. But I do want to share, to me we always have that opportunity to go out and learn more about their programs and I know we try to visit with them at least once or twice throughout the year and have lunch and find out about their programs, but I don't really believe that they're on this mode of creating new programs right now. I think right now they're just trying to salvage what programs they have. And I think they are rethinking some programs that maybe they're not appropriate today as they may have been in the past and I think we were seeing those changes.

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But again, I guess I've shared how I feel about what they're doing in their urban sector as well as the rural. I think food handling and parent's university and all those kinds of programs are very valuable programs in our community. When you go out to talk to citizens, somebody has, at some point in time, been through the Extension Office for a program that has benefited them and I think that they do a good job with the dollars that they receive and don't waste those kind of dollars. So, I just wanted to share that I understand your frustration. I think we all have that frustration here. We're the ones that have to make the decisions about dollars, and yet we don't get to make the decisions about programs. And so, I think we need to continue to work with their board, but I'll just, I guess, shut up and say that I think this is a valuable program that is only going to make our community better. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, thank you. I agree it's a valuable program and I would not be real resistive against \$100,000 level. However, with the amount of money that seems to be left, a prudent way to go I think, following up on Commissioner Sciortino's comment, would be to put that money in the Board of County Commissioners' contingency fund and we can monitor then what's going on throughout the year and we have that at our availability to do with what seems to be reasonable and prudent at that time. So, my recommendation is that we stop the adjustments here and put the remaining \$60,00 in our contingency fund."

Commissioner McGinn said, "But I think he said \$100,000 and put the rest of that."

Commissioner Unruh said, "I said I would be totally resistive of doing that. I'm still open to that but I would be most in favor of stopping here and putting the remainder in the contingency and seeing what happens throughout the year."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, the lights have quit flashing, now I get to talk a little bit, I guess. As I look through here, we've hit on a lot of the things that I innumerated earlier. Certainly, I'm in support of the Oaklawn scholarships, which we've already got on the board. I'm okay with the five miles of cold mix. I would have liked to have done more, but I think in this budget year, that's where we're going to end up. Senior centers, I'm very supportive of that. I think we've got to keep the senior centers whole, because they provide such a wonderful service. RSVP, it looks like that program can be taken care of in a different way, so I'm okay there. Independent Living Center obviously has been taken care of. Pre-trial services, we found another way to do that. I'm tickled that we could get to that point."

We talked about Family Advocacy. I think that's mixed up in the prevention funds. That's a whole different subject. One thing we didn't talk about was noxious weeds. I think Dave, we found a way to solve that also. Is that correct so we don't need to talk about that separately today?"

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Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works, said, "That's correct. I don't think you need to visit about that. That's a technical thing and we'll take care of that. It's just a trade of money."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, but that was something that we talked about early in the budget process and I wanted to be sure that we did solve that."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "You know, can I jump in on you for a minute, and compliment David, Joe, the whole Public Works area. Those folks really embraced 'we've got a problem and how can we solve it'. And I'd rather compliment him, since we're not going to compensate him any more, but at least to give him a compliment. The Public Works really took to heart what we're trying to do this year and they have solved a lot of problems by just the creative way in which they addressed the problem. I just wanted to state that publicly."

Chairman Norton said, "Okay. The place I've come to is that I could probably support Extension Center going to \$100,000. I would make a recommendation that take the last of the money, we've got some money in contingency already, take the last of that and throw it back into the prevention funds, which I think is a way to push some of that money and push some of those agencies back to maybe not whole, but at least closer to whole. I know, Tom, that's a place that you've already talked to us about today that maybe this year is not the year, but we've got maybe 40, \$38,000 we can throw back in there. I don't know what that does for those, but maybe we can throw it back to Jeannette Livingston and that group to figure out what that does for some of those individual agencies."

Certainly Family Advocacy talked today, but I saw Judy Frick out here. I'm sure that's what she's thinking is a little more money might take the edge off. Certainly, that's what Extension is saying to us. That's what the Senior Centers are saying to us, just a little more money will take the edge off. So maybe we throw that money back into prevention funds, which I think we all believe is very important. In a tough year, if we can put a little money back in there, it might help.

The final thing we haven't talked about and I want to throw it out, because we've wrestled with this over the last week, and I think we need to have some public talk about it, because it did show up in the paper today because the media was there the other day as we struggled with this, and that's the wage adjustment. We're sitting at a 2% wage adjustment and I like to call it a wage adjustment, as opposed to a COLA. A COLA is tied to consumer product index. I'm not sure what it's tied to, consumer price index. But if you're not tied totally to that, it's not really a COLA, so it's really not a wage adjustment and that's what we're looking at right now. We've had some really strong dialogue about that because in a time when many of our citizens are out of work, and the taxpayers

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are who pays the bills, then I think it's important that we consider every place that we spend money and one of the places that you spend the most money in any organization, whether it private industry or government, is payroll and in tough times, I think we have to be very smart with how we spend our payroll and that is not a statement that I do not honor the hard work of the people in our employee. It has to do with what is good business, as far as government and being the caretakers of taxpayers' money.

And so we've had that debate and dialogue and I'd like to move it forward at the bench, so that we make that a public dialogue and the public knows that we didn't go gently into the good night and just look at a budget and say, 'Okay, we've got two or three things we're going to fix' and we accept it at face value. Ultimately, the County Commission, the five of us, are the policy makers and the budget has only been a recommended budget until about an hour from now or whenever we finally vote on it. So, I would like to hear a little bit of dialogue about that and maybe the prevention funds, putting some money into that. Commissioner Unruh. Oh Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. Instead of . . . we're talking about prevention funds, instead of immediately earmarking \$60,438 to be spent . . ."

Commissioner McGinn said, "We need to get Extension up there first. So you want to enter that \$100,000. Now we're talking."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Oh ye of little faith."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Is that a consensus, 100?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "This is still visiting, but she wants to get it up there."

Commissioner McGinn said, "You told me yes."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah. Instead of taking the remaining \$37,438 and saying that specifically we're going to spend it on prevention, we haven't debated which program. My concern is, what are we going to say, 'Okay, we've got twenty people, so divide . . . so you're all going to get 'x' and it's all going to be equal'. We haven't been able to sit down and debate which of the prevention fund programs we think is most critical and maybe we want to reinstate them 100% and etcetera. I think the very fact that we would put that in a contingency fund leaves open that we would be willing to discuss which programs, if any, that we need, as opposed to just say 'For sure we're going to do this, but we don't know . . .'. My fear is, the way it sometimes happens, okay, we've got this fund, but I don't want to get anyone mad, so there's twenty prevention funds divided

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in. Everybody gets 'x' number of dollars, there we've done our job and I'm a little uncomfortable about that. I would prefer leaving it in a contingency fund to be discussed and to be finalized later, but I'm not opposed to giving back some of the money to the prevention fund.

And the other item, oh yeah, the wages. I think the thing that I've always liked about this present Commission is that we debate things openly and in public meetings and we debated this concept a week ago. We debated this yesterday in a public meeting, Monday we talked about it in public. It's not in executive sessions and hiding and talking and then come out and everybody says 'Yes, yes, yes' and it's rubber stamped. Everybody gets to hear what individual Commissioners are thinking and I think that's healthy. I think that type of sunshine needs to be presented.

I was one that was very strongly trying to push a reduction in the wage adjustment from 2% to 1%. Is there a way to get this chart back up, just so . . . I want to talk to it and I don't know if it's easy to get it back up. If it is, fine, if not . . . you know, it's that one where you showed . . . Well, I've got writing I've got to talk to on it."

Chairman Norton said, "New financial reality."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "It was in Bill's presentation earlier."

Mr. Buchanan said, "A couple of ways we can do that."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Now keep going through there and you'll get to where I want to be. Next one. It's the bar chart. Keep going, fill that whole thing up. Yeah, that's the one. I want to start off by complimenting Bill Buchanan, Ma, everybody that did this work because we were on a freight train heading for a granite wall and we would have been in deficit spending starting this year. And if you can see, because of the hard work that they've done, they've created a little bubble or a little shield over 2003, 4, up to 2005 and have triaged it in taking care of the immediate crisis. We're going to be okay, even with the 2% wage adjustment, for 2004. 2005 we break even, and then unless we do something dramatic, we're going to be back into deficit spending.

So it was, I'm going to use the word short-term fix, it's really not, two years is not short-term but it was not a permanent fix. I also need to talk to the public that that deficit spending line is worst-case scenario and that's the way you should budget for what's the worst case scenario, probably won't get there. They didn't give us the best-case scenario that would sound terrific and usually you try to operate somewhere in the middle of the road. But unless we do something dramatic, or continue

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working, we're going to be in deficit spending and it keeps growing.

The reason that . . . and again, wages . . . in other words, overhead in any business or government for the most part walks in on two feet. Wages and contractual obligations account for about 85% of our total budget. So when you talk about reductions, you've got to talk about either reducing staff or somewhere with people or you won't be able to get meaningful amount of money to do anything, as far as a meaningful reduction.

Some of the things that we still have before us that haven't been factored into this which might make this look even a little bit worst is I'm sure you've been reading we're going to have to make a decision shortly on the jail and that is going to be, probably, another pretty sizable amount of capital dollars that we're going to have to fund and I don't know what that number is. I've heard it bantered around 30, 35 million. We don't know yet, but it's going to be a sizable amount of money. It's not just peanuts, and that's something that we're going to have to deal with.

There's some other things that we've been talking about, homeland defense, what involvement we're going to get into that. We had been talking with the city about Cowskin Creek and how to take care of that problem. I'm not too concerned about that one. We don't know what other major road projects might be cropping up that we're going to have to deal with, but there's other things that could make that gap a little quicker. And I was hoping or thinking about if we could've gotten to a 1% reduction, that's another million dollars, because it's about \$300,000 a day is what we use taxpayers' dollars on to pay for all of our salaries, it's about \$300,000 a day.

This is something that we . . . it's tough. It's tough to tell employees, fine we want you to work the same amount of hours, work even sometimes harder and we're going to pay you what we did last year and you're going to have to eat up inflation on your own. That's not a popular thing, but I've been approached by a lot of people that have come to me and said, 'Well why aren't they happy that they've got a job, I don't have one, I'll go to work for you because I don't have a job'.

That's one reality. The other reality is, when we're maintaining our households, it costs more to maintain our households and we'd like to be somehow just kept level. That's what private businesses do, if they can. I'm not going to be . . . This is something I think we have to be united on and if the majority of you all are comfortable with the 2% and we can deal with the future later, I'm not going to be one screaming and hollering. I'm going to go along with the group.

I'd be willing to throw out a compromise, 1 ½% or something so that we could . . . like you could see how quickly we ate up \$500,000 or whatever that number is. We almost spent it all in an hour and a half. It would be kind of nice to have a little more in our reserves, just in case something

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unforeseen happened and if there was any support to go to like a 1 ½ or the same as it was last year, 1.6, that could add another three or four hundred thousand dollars in the reserves that might go to prevention funds or other programs that we look at. But I just throw that out and if there's no support on that, I'm going to go along with what we proposed. But that's where I was on that issue, so that's it. Thanks."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. I want to talk a little bit about the salary issue, but I want to clarify a little bit on the worksheet that we had up here. I just want to express that I'm in no way begrudging an extra \$23,000 to Extension. I think it's a great program and I'm in favor of and supportive of this. The balance of our funds though, I feel pretty strongly that we should leave in contingency so that we can evaluate the priorities as they come along throughout the year and make decisions at that time. It's not a whole large amount of money, but I think that we can be careful with it and make those decisions as we go, rather than dump it in total into one program or another.

So, those two comments, but then I wanted to talk a little bit about the salary issue. As we tried to figure out how we would approach the budget and take care of some of the issues we thought needed some special attention, and come up with some 500 to 600,000 dollar number, in my personal examination, trying to figure out how we might do that, looking at the salary structure, well making an increase from 2% back to 1% seemed like a way to come up with a million dollars and solve all our problems and it seemed like a plausible solution.

In my enthusiasm in thinking that, 'Well, I found a solution' or maybe you'd call it my freshman naiveté, if you will, I promoted that solution and looked like I was fully committed to it, but as we have continued to work, and we've found other sources of revenue, sources of funds to solve what our desires are in the rest of the budget and these particular programs, and as I've looked at what we've asked of our employees over the last couple of years. They got a very small increment in their wages a year ago. Next year, we're looking at 78 fewer positions, so you have to assume that that means that we're going to provide all our services or perhaps more services with fewer people.

The cost of living is increasing. We've asked our people to pay more and higher percentage of their health insurance. We're asking them to pay more dental, participate in the dental premium at a higher level, along with the fact that they've got more deductibles on their health insurance premium. So when you put that all together, in order to keep our employees whole, even though I was one of those who first came out with this 1% increase, I just want to say that I'm fully supportive of the 2% increase in wages and you know our staff, the manager and Mr. Chronis have all worked hard on doing this and in their view, good personnel administration, this is what should be done and I'm in full agreement with that now. So I just wanted to make that comment to all of you. I've been talking to you all individually about 1% and I'm supportive of the 2% increase."

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Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters. Are you done?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "I'm done."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well I also am going to be supportive of the proposed recommended budget, which includes a 2% salary adjustment. And I think there are several reasons and one is just I believe the strength of the County's financial position and I do not believe it will be jeopardized by this.

This past Monday we had a bond sale and the County's financial strength was evident by the fact that one of the rating agencies gives Sedgwick County its highest bond rating. That's Finch. The other two, Standard and Poor's and Moody's give the County the second best financial rating and we know that they observe local units of government very closely. They know the economic situation here is not the best but they were making statements such as, the sound financial management of Sedgwick County', the conservative way that we do business here has led them to give our bonds just the highest investment rating that we could possibly expect. And we know that they've reviewed this budget and past budgets and future financial plans and if they had any kind of concerns, we would not be at these rating levels. They would put us at some other kind of level.

So, I think the manager and the finance staff have presented us a recommended budget that accomplishes what we need to accomplish in this very tough, difficult time. And I think there are sound business reasons. You know, we've . . . I feel that we have asked the employees of Sedgwick County to sacrifice in this budget downturn and I think to do anything less than 2% they will be moving backwards, and I'm fearful some of them will be moving backwards now. And if they move backwards now, some day we'll have to catch the plan up. Someday we'll have to do differently. I wish there was a way that we could even do more than this, but I think at the bare minimum, I think 2% is very justifiable and I'm going to be very supportive of that.

As for this 37,000 in prevention, I guess I'm a little up in the air right now. I'm not sure exactly what I think about that yet."

Commissioner Unruh said, "It goes in contingency."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Would you agree to put it in there until you get decided? That's what contingency means. We'd leave it in there until we make a final decision what we want to do

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with it.”

Commissioner Winters said, “My conflict is that \$37,000 is spread over all the prevention funds is probably not going to make a significant event, but my commitment to the prevention funds is very strong. That’s where my conflict is. Thank you.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Since you left off with prevention, I’ll just finish it so we can conclude with it. I think we’re all very committed to prevention programs. We’ve been out there and kind of know what programs have been around for some time. We had a consultant come in and tell us that we were on the right track, and so I’m certainly supportive of whatever we can do there. But I do agree with Commissioner Sciortino. You know, to just spread it all across the board, I’m not sure that’s money well spent, but we could decide that at a later time, and so I guess I would support putting that in contingency and we could talk about that in the future. But I hope we remember though that we had this conversation and that we talked about trying to find extra dollars to help with some of our prevention programs.

Back to the wage increase, I was out at National Night Out and had a similar experience that Commissioner Sciortino did at one of the places that I stopped at and talked to a woman that had shared that she hadn’t had a wage increase for two years. She works for a private company. Everybody says it’s better to be at a private company and she hadn’t had an increase and they pretty much said times are tough. Her company happens to supply parts for the big aviation companies and . . . but she was just glad she had a job and her insurance is going up too and she’s got to figure out how to pay for that. So, I certainly sympathize with the tough times, but there’s more than just public employees that are having some of the same challenges.

But I will, I guess if we’re going to start forming some kind of consensus, I’ll support somewhere 1.5 to 2. I agree also with Commissioner Unruh’s comments about our employees have been through some pretty difficult times as well. We’ve cut a lot of staff. Some people have had to work a little harder. We put on a wage freeze in January. I don’t know if that’s very common in a lot of counties to do that kind of thing, but we did and so perhaps with some kind of COLA that would help offset some of the challenges that our employees have.

I guess the only thing I’d like to throw out is one of the thoughts I had yesterday and I could figure

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out how to phrase it at staff meeting so I didn't share anything, but the thing that troubles me about a COLA is the fact that the lowest paid employee is rewarded the least and the highest paid employees are rewarded the greatest and so when we're talking about this COLA and how it can help offset their increases in insurance, it doesn't help that person that's at the seven, eight, nine dollar an hour level.

And that really concerns me. Those people work as hard or harder at times, I think at times, I think sometimes under tougher conditions and don't receive the same kind of increase. And so I guess I'd like, as we move forward in future years, that we look at some kind of equity. I thought it was an interesting idea that Dave Thompson brought up the 36 cent raise for everybody, because it makes sure everybody got the same thing.

I don't know if that's a solution, but I don't know what's out there in the marketplace today. It just seems like everybody bases COLAs on percent and to me it just doesn't seem right because the lowest paid person is not getting the same. So, I'll leave it at that and I just . . . I hope we would explore those kinds of salary increases in the future. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "I see no other lights. Well, as we wrap up here, I don't know that we've come to complete consensuses. I would still lobby for the prevention funds being dropped in there. What I'm afraid of is that if we wait till June or July of next year to put that money back in, they've already laid off the people. I mean, it's no different than Extension or some of these other places. They need that money to be able to plan what they're doing in their programs, and if we wait until we decide we want to put it in there, I think they'd rather know what the money is going to be on the front end to do their budgeting purposes as opposed to getting it in June or July and going, 'Thanks but no thanks'. I mean, we need the money, but we've already laid off two people or discontinued a program that was pretty important to us. So, if I was going to do it, I would rather front load it than to try to come back later and come up with some money.

And granted, it's not a lot, but I would hope that our prevention folks that dole that money out and make recommendations could look at those agencies and some of them would say, 'You know, we probably don't need, \$3,000 isn't going to help us' and that parlays to \$10,000 to maybe one of the other agencies that really do need it to continue a program. We've rated those folks forever and their monies have gone up or down according to our ratings anyway and recommendations. So, I would rather see it front loaded as opposed to us doing it later in the year when it might not help them as much.

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On the wage adjustments, I will be supportive of 2%. I've wrestled with this continuously for two or three days. The truth is, I really believe that the top end folks are going to obviously benefit more and the bottom end get hurt and when you talk about the insurance cost, it really doesn't offset much. As we talked about it yesterday, insurance costs are going up, generally for the organization, 18 to 20% and the employees are going to put up an extra 1%. Truthfully, the organization, the taxpayer is going to pay for a lot more employee benefits and when you talk wages or compensation, it's not all about salary. It's about other things and benefits is one of them and the County continues to pay a lot more for the benefit of health insurance and worker's comp and those kind of things that protect our employees.

So, to put it in the idea that it's all about compensation, it's really not. The benefits going up and us picking up a major portion of that as the County is important. In fact, we had discussion yesterday that the City and other entities are at between 20 and 25% and we're at 18 going to 19. Our employees still get a better deal than even the folks across the street in their compensation package. So I will be supportive of the wage adjustment. I'm really aligned with what Dave and Ben were saying early on, but we've had a lot of discussion, we've talked about it, I've wrestled with it. I've gotten a lot of input from other elected officials, from some citizens.

I had a couple of e-mails this morning. Somebody saying they didn't appreciate what I said in the media. And you know truthfully, I don't appreciate them not appreciating me, because you know what, I said it in total public view and it's what I believed and it's what I'm elected to say and I really take offense to that because we were working through the process, we were having dialogues, we were debating it in public and that's how government should work. And you know what, I said it, I stand by it."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "What is it that you said?"

Chairman Norton said, "Well, it had to do with that I was looking at wages as a part of a whole package and you know it's not just about money because many people do things because of job satisfaction and who they work with and for and so many other things in this life and I understand it at a deep level, because I did something once in my life that didn't make hardly any money and I was very gratified. It isn't always about the money. Sometimes it's about other things and we need to understand that in our organization, because as we try to create morale and motivation, sometimes giving people more money is not the only way to skin the cat. But I've come to the conclusion that we, to make sure that we keep our employees whole and that we try to take care of them in these tough times, that I can support the 2%.

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Now, we've got some important things coming up in the next couple of years. I find it interesting that maybe we want to start thinking about how we give total organizational raises. Maybe it becomes a tiered approach. Maybe management and exempt employees are dealt with a little differently than rank and file people that are making the lowest wages. We need to rethink that because this dialogue has led us to new understanding and I guess I would challenge the Manager, Jo Templin to start thinking differently about how government does this in the budget process, because we found some inequities, we found some things we don't like when you put wages in the total compensation with benefits and how much money that can be to an organization. So, I will be supportive of that, but it has not come without consternation on my part, as we've tried to move through this.

I think we need to start trying to come to some conclusions. Should we try to summarize that, Mr. Manager? Would you summarize maybe what you've heard from us, just so we can vote on it."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I think that's a good summary. What I did hear, and I know you're not going to appreciate it, but I did hear for line 19, contingency, that there were three votes supporting putting the 37,438 there."

Chairman Norton said, "My last lobbying efforts won't work at all for prevention funds."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, I think . . ."

Commissioner Unruh said, "It may happen later."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I still think though, we can put it in contingency and it can still be a front end, but putting it in there, it gives us some time to talk about it maybe at staff meeting or something."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, part of the process now is that there are . . . we have a resolution prepared for you on the truth in taxation. I would suggest that you pass the motion and read the resolution and then adopt the budget."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "We have to read the resolution?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Chairman Norton and I thought that would be a good thing to do."

Chairman Norton said, "I guess I'd better get my glasses out. Am I doing the truth in taxation resolution first?"

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Mr. Buchanan said, *“Whereas K.S.A. 79-2925b states that, without adopting a resolution so providing, the governing body of a county shall not approve any budget which may be funded by revenue produced from property taxes and which provides for funding with such revenue in an amount exceeding that of the next preceding year, subject to certain exceptions; and*

Whereas, the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners is responsible for budgeting, taxing and service level decisions for all county services; and

Whereas Sedgwick County provides essential services to protect the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of the county; and

Whereas even though the County has reduced its 2003 budget twice in response to the new financial reality, the cost of providing such services continues to increase; and

Whereas the loss of demand transfer funding, coupled with significant limitations on state revenue sharing payments to counties, has contributed to a need for higher county property tax levies to finance the 2004 Sedgwick County budget, and

Whereas on July 23, 2003 the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners authorized the County Manager to publish a notice of public hearing regarding the 2004 budget, in order to solicit comments and suggestions from the public; and

Whereas, the Sedgwick County Commission has received public input throughout the budget process and now seeks to achieve a fair balance between providing essential public services and financing the same from property taxes.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas that for the foregoing reasons the 2004 budget be funded in part from an increase in property taxes in an amount exceeding that of the 2003 budget year. Adopted this 6th day of August, 2003.

If you recall, the state legislature passed a piece of legislation that said whatever your 2003 taxes were, you could not exceed . . . if the assessed evaluation grew, you could not use that assessed valuation . . . assessed evaluation grew because of market value. You can count the growth in new properties, new construction, but you can't count the growth in the market value, assessed valuation increase, unless you pass this resolution. This budget is based on acknowledging that market growth. Therefore I recommend you pass this resolution.”

MOTION

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Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

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, "Okay, now we need a motion to adopt the budget. Is that correct?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, sir."

Chairman Norton said, "I would entertain that Motion."

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the 2004 Sedgwick County total budget of \$304,056,296. The total budget includes a legal budget of \$200,714,433 with \$89,444,794 in budgeted ad valorem taxes, which is approximately equivalent to 28.65 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Winters said, "That's not the same Motion."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well so you should have stopped me in the first . . .the one that's in our book."

Commissioner Unruh said, "That's not correct."

Commissioner McGinn said, "How come it's changed? Because of what just came in today? Okay. I withdraw my Motion."

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Chairman Norton said, “So withdrawn. Did we even have a second? Died for lack of second.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “No, I seconded, so I withdraw the second.”

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn moved to adopt the 2004 Sedgwick County total budget of \$304,064,530. The total budget includes a legal budget of \$200,714,423 with \$89,826,014 in budgeted ad valorem taxes, which is approximately equivalent to 28.78 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments.

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, “Okay, that’s done. Clerk, call the next item.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE 2004-2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) AND THE 2004 CAPITAL BUDGET.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, you have before you the 20004 Capital Improvement Program.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "I was just going to ask if we could have a five minute . . .? Go ahead."

Mr. Buchanan said, "We need to do the Fire District budget next. We need to recess this meeting and go into the Fire District."

Commissioner McGinn said, "What about the Capital Improvement? We don't do that?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "We'll come back and do that at the end."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Can we have a five minute recess?"

Chairman Norton said, "Let's take a three minute."

The Board of County Commissioners recessed at 11:46 a.m. and returned at 11:53 a.m.

F. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners recessed into the Fire District #1 Meeting at 11:55 a.m. and returned at 12:19 p.m.

Chairman Norton said, "I'll reopen the Board of County Commissioner's meeting and I think we're at E-2, is that correct?"

2. ADOPTION OF THE 2004-2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) AND THE 2004 CAPITAL BUDGET.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have before you the 20004 Capital Improvement Program of \$184,000,000 that includes \$88,000,000 for 2004.

This program includes the JDF building, the 9-1-1 building, planning for the jail and there's a number of road projects, including widening Central, 143rd Street East, 159th Street, redoing the parking lots at the zoo and reconstruction of 126th Street North Meridian to a roadway at the bridge. As David Spears says, these projects are the mother's milk of economic development, and I think that's right."

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Chairman Norton said, "I thought we'd almost got out of the budget time without hearing that phrase."

Mr. Buchanan said, "So I would recommend you approve the Capital Improvement Program."

Chairman Norton said, "What is the will of the Board? Is there some discussion points we need to talk about?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the 2004-2008 CIP and the 2004 Capital Budget with changes (if any) from adoption of the 2004 operating budget, subject to review and technical adjustments.

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

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, if it would please you for a moment, I just want to thank and acknowledge again the budget staff, Renfeng Ma, the budget director, Lunda Asmani, David Miller, Kelly Wallace is over in the back, Lucretia Burch over there and Pete Giroux, all of them who have provided us the data and information. The budget is a learning process and I have to now learn about some expletives that would be deleted in both Swahili and in Chinese. It makes an extension of ones personality.

This could not have been done, of course, without Chris Chronis and Kathy Sexton who arm wrestled me and the budget folks and department heads and division directors pretty much for the last month and a half on a daily basis, so it really was a team effort and I really appreciate their help. It couldn't have been done without that. Thank you."

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Chairman Norton said, "Next item."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, let's go with . . . before . . . I'd like to publicly compliment the manager, because you had to have a team captain in charge of the entire team. Bill, I'm giving you a compliment, pay attention. Without a team captain or a coach, the team wouldn't be affective, or as affective. And I think I agree with you, what your comment, this was the most challenging thing that you've had to . . . but I sort of suspect you enjoyed it, because if you're like me, and you're trained in an area, it's a challenge to figure out . . . and it was, I don't want to use the word exciting, or invigorating, but it really is in a way. You were presented with one heck of a challenge and you were up to the task and your team performed for you in a way that you thought was exemplary and I think you won the world series this year. So, congratulations."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Thank you very much."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And all your wheels were balanced, so Unruh could understand what I was saying."

Commissioner Unruh said, "I need that."

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- G. CASE NUMBER VAC2003-00028 – REQUEST TO VACATE A PORTION OF A PLAT, GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF THE 76TH STREET SOUTH AND TYLER ROAD INTERSECTION. DISTRICT #2.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I think I've got a quick and easy item for you."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "This is the last easy one though and now the 100 days are over with, we'll get to the tough stuff."

Mr. Schlegel said, "These applicants are requesting a vacation of a portion of the Banville plat, which is generally located southwest of the intersection of 71st Street South and Tyler Road. As you may know, Banville was originally laid out as a town site. As far back as 1915, two-thirds of the town site plat was vacated and what you're seeing up on the screen are the remnants of that original plat."

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The applicants own the three highlighted parcels and they're simply trying to clean up their property lines and their tax records by vacating these three remnant platted parcels. You have the recommendation from the staff, from the subdivision committee and from the planning commission to approve this standard platting condition."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to follow the recommendation of the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and approve the Vacation Order, 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, "Commissioner Winters has a comment."

Commissioner Winters said, "John, I do certainly want to tell you how much I appreciated your traveling about District 3 with me last Friday. We went out and saw several of the small communities. We didn't get through the whole district but it was very worthwhile and John, I appreciate your taking the time to travel about with me out there."

Mr. Schlegal said, "Likewise, I appreciate your taking the time to show me around."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "And John and I had an opportunity to do the same thing in District 2 and hopefully he'll get to everybody's district and have some time to see what's out there other than just

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the confines of the City of Wichita which I know we touch some parts of that too. Thanks for being with us today. Clerk, call the next item.”

NEW BUSINESS

H. DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

1. RECOGNITION OF SEDGWICK COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY AS A HIGH PERFORMING PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, “It is my great pleasure to come before you again this year to repeat to tell you that we’ve . . . the Housing Authority has repeated receiving an award that they first won last year.

The Sedgwick County Housing Authority covers three counties, Harvey, Sedgwick and Butler Counties and Sedgwick County outside the City of Wichita. They provide rental assistance for low and moderate income families, elderly and disabled persons. Now we don’t own housing units. Our clients find their own residences from private landlords and then enter into an agreement between us, the Housing Authority the tenant and the landlord, and the Housing Authority provides a rent subsidy based on income and other factors.

The Housing Authority administers nearly 350 vouchers. They have a 98% lease up rate. Now what I’m here to tell you is that HUD has declared them to be a high performing housing authority for the second year in a row. That means that they’ve receive 104% of the total available points in an annual review. The annual review includes how they maintain a waiting list, how they do rent reasonableness, income, recertifications, making sure that the housing units are of quality standards.

This is a 30 to 40 year old federal program and as with many federal programs, it’s got an exorbitant number of rules and regulations, every one of which was put in place because someone, somewhere abused the program.

I’d like to introduce the four people in the Housing Authority: Brad Snapp the director, Dominique Davis, Kimberly Zimmerman and Greta Douglas. But I wanted to introduce them to you again this year and brag on them that I don’t know of too many of our programs, of anyone’s programs that receive 104% of the total available points in an annual examination by HUD.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "Could you explain to us how you can get past 100%."

Chairman Norton said, "All I know is I hated that kid in school that somehow got the 104%."

Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Office, said, "We get bonus points for having a deconcentration of very low income people in any particular neighborhood and I know you've had a long day so far and I just want to appreciate Irene's bragging, appreciate your support and I'll tell you, the staff are really hard working people. The Housing Authority is the core business for the Housing Department and they really work hard so appreciate it."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, I'd like to see, before I make a comment, I'd like to see if staff wants to concur and get up here and say something."

Chairman Norton said, "This could be a direct order, so you have to get on TV."

Ms. Greta Douglas, Housing Assistant, Housing Office, said, "I would just like this chance to say we do appreciate our supervisor, our director. He gives us very good latitude in doing our jobs and gives us the support that we need to do that."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Who is that?"

Ms. Douglas said, "Brad Snapp and actually Irene. I mean, if we have questions and need clarification, she does provide that for us."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Great. Ladies, either one of you want to say something?"

Ms. Kimberly Zimmerman, Program Coordinator, Housing Office, said, "I would just like to say thank you for our whole office because we got Dominique added to our staff this last year and we desperately needed her and she has been a real asset to our office. She answered, between July 16th and July 31st, over 700 phone calls, so she is very much an asset to our office and we appreciate her hard work."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Dominique, anything?"

Ms. Dominique Davis, Housing Assistant, Housing Office said, "No, I like my staff."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just had one comment. Again, in keeping with what I said about

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Mr. Buchanan, a team's ability to perform is really directly proportionate to a coach or a team captain's ability to communicate and to teach and to instruct. So, Brad you're to be complimented and you couldn't do your job one-tenth as good if it wasn't for Irene. So, that's it."

Chairman Norton said, "Not to belabor things, but one little comment. With today's environment, with all the regulations, we know that not all housing authorities function at such a high level and we're very proud that you do because you look, nationwide because of the federal monies and state monies involved, many of them don't get close to these kinds of meeting the regulations and you do that. This is the second year in a row that you've had this highest level of commendation and we're very proud of that. Next item."

Ms. Lisa Davis, County Clerk, said, "You need to vote on this."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to receive and file.

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, "Next item."

2. RESOLUTION INCREASING ANIMAL PICKUP FEES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE *SEDGWICK COUNTY CODE*.

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Ms. Hart said, “Part of the responsibilities of the Animal Control Department are to transport live animals to the Wichita Animal Shelter and to transport dead animals to the same facility for disposal. The Wichita Animal Shelter has increased its fees by \$9. The resolution before you is to consider passing those \$9 charges on to the customer, since it has increased our costs that much. I’d be happy to answer any questions that you might have.”

Chairman Norton said, “Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “And you ran this by the Advisory Board and they are all in favor of it.”

Ms. Hart said, “Yes, the advisory board did review it and approve it, I should have added that.”

Chairman Norton said, “I see no other questions. What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino 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, “Thanks, Irene. Next item.”

I. RESOLUTION ADOPTING A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER (RFSC).

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Dr. Mary Dudley, M.D., District Coroner/Chief Medical Examiner, RFSC, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have a resolution to adopt the revised fee schedule that we had set up in March of 2002. The two items that are revised is a new item, it's called Powerplex 16, which is a new DNA study, which we are adding to our fee schedule. This is not for Sedgwick County but for any out of county services, which would create revenue that would go into the general fund.

The other revision is with our consulting fee. We had a consulting fee set up for civil cases and also that we used for out of county cases. We want to revise that for the out of county criminal cases to be half of the civil fee, which would be \$150 per hour for our professional fee, \$62.50 for our technical, these would be our DNA analysts and our chemist per hour and also 37.5 for our paraprofessional fee, which would be our investigators. And these would be charges that we would have for our time away from the county for testifying in court and that sort of thing and it would be consistent with the market price for our time involved and I would ask that you adopt the resolution and if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer those."

Chairman Norton said, "I see no questions at this point."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

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, "Good seeing you, Dr. Dudley. Next item."

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J. GRANT APPLICATION TO OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S FEDERAL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT FUNDING.

Ms. Lisa Clancy, Program Director, District Attorney's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a continuation grant for the Violence Against Women's Act that we get through the governor's office. The total amount is for \$93,531. There's a 74% federal for \$69,213 and then a 26% match for \$24,318 through the County contingency funds and I would ask you approve the grant application and authorize Chair to sign all documents."

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

MOTION

Commissioner McGinn 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

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

K. GRANT APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR FUNDING EXPANSION OF THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE WITH A NEW TOWER SITE.

Ms. Diane Gage, Director, Emergency Communications Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a grant that became available originally to the City of Wichita for interoperability between our community and the rest of the metropolitan statistical area, which includes Harvey County and Butler County. This site would cover not only eastern Sedgwick County, but parts of

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western Butler County to keep in what the Department of Justice had put forward. The total project is \$3,303,930, of which \$825,000 would come from 9-1-1 funds in Sedgwick County.

The Department of Justice has been pushing forward with interoperability between communities throughout the United States. We've actually done a pretty good job with this in the past. There are 96 different agencies right now that operate off of our 800 system and this would extend that coverage a little bit further into eastern Sedgwick County and cover some areas we've been having some problems with at 143rd, in that general area, straight east and then also take in western Butler County."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, I . . . Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Diane, that sparks a question I guess. We're, as far as Sedgwick County agencies, we're all pretty well interconnected. Everybody that's got the 900 and 800 system can talk, communicate across agencies. How are we with our neighboring counties, Harvey and Butler County? Are they on that same system?"

Ms. Gage said, "Some of their units are. I mean Harvey County has got our 800 system in their communications center in Newton. Sedgwick County Fire has worked with the Rose Hill Fire District and the Andover Fire District and provided them radios on our system. Some of Sumner County's agencies have our radios with them so that in the event of something significant, we can communicate with them. We just have . . . this was an opportunity we had not planned on. This came up out of . . . fairly quickly that we could actually improve the coverage out east and it also takes into consideration some of the equipment that will be needed to support this when we move into the new communications center."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right. Well I guess it was interesting. You'd think we'd done a pretty good job within Sedgwick County, but if for some reason we needed to send a bunch of folks to El Dorado for instance, would they be able to communicate once they got there?"

Ms. Gage said, "Currently, they would have some problems. This would correct that."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, good."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, it should be noted that on Wednesday of last week, we finally

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got word that we needed to finish up this project and Diane stepped up and volunteered to do the I think she's . . . volunteered was the right word, and in three short days, put together this document that was FedEx-ed to the federal government on Friday, late Friday evening, so that it would arrive there Monday of this week. And so, people talk about hard work and a lot of hours. Well, Diane, since Wednesday, . . . When I talked to her Friday afternoon, she said it was like being in college and pulling two all-nighters. It was great fun."

Ms. Gage said, "But I didn't do this by myself. I had a lot of help from like Marty Hughes, Ma, Andy Schlapp. I had some people to run this by because I have not done a lot of these federal grants yet."

Chairman Norton said, "So now you're experienced, so we can expect that you'll do more of them."

Ms. Gage said, "Lucky me."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just have one quick question."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Will this maybe . . . maybe this is minor . . . afford us maybe another revenue center. I mean, would the tower have space to maybe lease to a cell tower person or would we have that option?"

Ms. Gage said, "If we end up building it ourselves, yes it would. In fact, we're generating some revenues off the site at Greyhound right now by doing the exact thing. We are looking for two options on this. We've put in from the grant to include the building of a tower, because that would be . . . the worst case scenario is we'd have to start from scratch. If we can locate, and we have not been able to locate a site in that general area at this time, that we could lease space on we would probably go that route, because it's a lot less expensive for us, but yes, if we had a tower, we could lease space on it."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, all right. Thank you."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing

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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 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, Diane. Next item."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

L. HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

- 1. MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT FOR PHYSICIAN SERVICES WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE-WICHITA MEDICAL PRACTICE ASSOCIATION PROVIDING INCREASED TIME ALLOCATION TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY THE HEALTH OFFICER.**

Mr. Gerald Frantz, Interim Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As was read, this contract amends the contract with the University of Kansas School of Medicine for our health officer, Dr. Doren Frederickson. The contract was created to provide a health officer for Sedgwick County Health Department. The health officer is available to provide consultation to clinic staff. He is also responsible for medical authorization, of nurse practitioner protocols, prescription authorization, medical reimbursement, billing authorization and involvement with the Metropolitan Medical Response system.

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From a legal perspective, KSA 65-201 prohibits us, Sedgwick County, from operating a health department without a licensed medical doctor to act as our health officer. As most of you folks know, we currently contract with K.U. Med School for 40% of Dr. Frederickson's time. And as you also know, Dr. Frederickson has been heavily involved in just about everything that goes on in the Health Department, is also involved in coming to your weekly Board of County Commissioner staff meetings and attends my weekly meeting with the County Manager as well.

Doren has been involved in the community with the Chamber of Commerce and many of the local organizations. He's involved nationally, regionally and locally in all those things having to do with health and public health. So, we then would recommend that you approve the contract amendment with the University of Kansas Medical School and authorize the Chairman to sign this amendment and any related documents."

Chairman Norton said, "I don't see any questions. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Modification of Contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

Chairman Norton said, "I have a Motion and a Second. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "I guess I would make a comment. It's just that I think this system is working very well. And Jerry, if I'd put it in my terms, it would be that you are really doing a lot of the leadership and administration of the department and Dr. Frederickson is really doing the medical aspect of what we really need a doctor to do and he's not getting bogged down in some of the activities that you really oversee and really allows him to just hone in on some specific items. And I assume, I'm sure that you think that system is working very well."

Mr. Frantz said, "Yes, sir. It is working very, very well. I think that we've found in the past that to have a director that's also a physician, it's the old serving two masters thing and I don't believe that we've, not only here in Wichita and Sedgwick County, but nationally there's very little

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evidence that trying to be chief administrator and manager and a physician as well, doesn't work very well. So, it seems to be working very well here for us and this was an idea I think that came from you folks and from the County manager and I'd like to take credit for it, but I can't."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I've seen . . . he's been on television, some interviews several times and he presents a very concise, very accurate and a person you have confidence in when you see him delivering a message, so I think this is a great deal, so I'm going to be supportive of the Motion."

Chairman Norton said, "I do have a Motion and a Second on the floor so 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, "Thank you, Jerry. Next item."

2. AGREEMENT WITH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 259 FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE HEPATITIS B VACCINATIONS.

Ms. Pamela Martin, Director, Clinical Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Sedgwick County's immunization staff will be providing Hepatitis B immunizations for the staff of USD 259, as requested by the district.

This agreement represents the fifth year that the Sedgwick County Health Department has contracted with USD 259 to provide this service. The shots will be provided to the USD 259 staff at any one of our health department locations. Our recommended action is that we are asking to approve this agreement with the Unified School District and authorize the Chairman to sign."

MOTION

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

Chairman Winters 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, “And also, we’re doing the health examination, sports examinations. And is that today that they started?”

Ms. Martin said, “Yes, sports physicals at Southeast High School.”

Chairman Norton said, “And that will be for three days?”

Ms. Martin said, “Two days, today and tomorrow at Southeast, at Northwest on Monday, West on Tuesday and East on Wednesday next week.”

Chairman Norton said, “And that’s for any young person in middle or high school that needs their sports physicals.”

Ms. Martin said, “Correct. And we’ll be also delivering immunizations as well.”

Chairman Norton said, “Okay, good.”

Ms. Martin said, “From 8 to 5.”

Chairman Norton said, “Thanks. Next item.”

M. COMCARE.

- 1. CONTRACT WITH PROJECT INDEPENDENCE, INC. TO PROVIDE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.**

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, “Project Independence is mental health, Ceros, our consumer-run

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organization that provides socialization to individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness. They have a drop-in center where they provide these services and they also have trained consumer-peer counselors there to help the consumers that do drop in for the evening. They also provide transportation for anyone who needs a ride there.

This contract is for \$55,650 and we're staggering the term of this just a little bit because Project Independence has just two funding sources, funding that comes from COMCARE through the county and funding from the state. They do a satisfaction survey on the adult side and when they are running on a shoestring, it's hard for them to have both of their major contracts expire at the same time, so this one will start September 1st. There's a little adjustment there as well. We're asking that you approve the contract and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have."

Chairman Norton said, "I see no questions at this time. What is the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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

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, "Next item."

2. AGREEMENT WITH CODY SPARKS, LMLP TO PROVIDE SCREENING AND INTAKE SERVICES AT THE TRI-CITY DAY SCHOOL.

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Ms. Cook said, “This is an agreement with Cody Sparks. I brought him to you last year. You all remember him, he serves as a principal for the Therapeutic Day School that we have in Haysville. Cody is a licensed masters level psychologist and this contract allows him to work with us. He does intake for us at the Tri-City School on the children that are in that school and he provides crisis intervention. And then we also have case management services there and he supervises that and provides some oversight of the psychosocial groups that we do there.

And during the summer months, Cody works in our children’s program 20 hours a week. He’s been a real asset this year. We’ve had a lot of business coming from the private contractors and he’s helped us out a lot. I’m requesting that you approve the agreement and I’d answer any questions you would have on this as well.”

Chairman Norton said, “How many young people are presently at the Tri-City School?”

Ms. Cook said, “Well, it’s over the summer, so it’s a reduced number, but the capacity is 30.”

Chairman Norton said, “Okay. 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 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, Marilyn. Next item.”

N. AGREEMENT WITH BURLINGTON NORTHERN & SANTA FE RAILWAY

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COMPANY (BNSF) FOR WIDENING OF 63RD STREET SOUTH ACROSS THE PROPERTY AND TRACKS OF THE BNSF RAILWAY IN CONNECTION WITH SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT 634-28, 29, WIDENING OF 63RD STREET SOUTH BETWEEN HYDRAULIC AND K-15. DISTRICTS #2 AND #5.

Mr. David Spears, P.E., Director/County Engineer, Public Works greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item N is an agreement with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway in Connection with the Capital Improvement Program #R-247, the widening of 63rd Street South between Hydraulic and K-15. The BNSF will construct a new concrete crossing and new warning signals that consists of cantilevers and flashers with gates. They will also provide all the flagging during construction operations. The total cost will be \$378,519. I recommend that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

MOTION

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

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, Dave. Next item."

O. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING

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OF JULY 31, 2003.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The referenced meeting resulted in two items for consideration today.

1) HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN- HUMAN RESOURCES
FUNDING: HUMAN RESOURCES

First is health plan benefits for Human Resources. Recommendation is to reject all the proposals and negotiate renewal rates with the County's current providers, Blue Cross/ Blue Shield and Preferred Plus of Kansas.

2) AIRPLANE REPAIRS- FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: FLEET AIRPLANE

And item two, airplane repairs for Fleet Management. Recommend the expenditure with the Service Center in the amount of \$32,589.39.

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

Chairman Norton said, "Any discussion, questions?"

Commissioner Winters said, "Yes, I'm sorry I was not paying attention on the first item. I was looking at something else. What's the recommendation on item one?"

Ms. Baker said, "Recommendation on item one is to reject all the proposals and to negotiate renewal rates with the current providers."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, it looks like all the bids we got are from our current providers. Is that right?"

Ms. Baker said, "No, that's not quite right. We received bids from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield, Coventry, Signa, Epic, Corporate Plan Management and Preferred Plus of Kansas."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But Blue Cross/ Blue Shield and Preferred Plus are currently providers."

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Ms. Baker said, "They are our current providers."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "How do we do that. Is this a professional service that we don't have to . . ."

Ms. Baker said, "Charter 55 considers this a professional service."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So why do we even let it out for bid?"

Ms. Baker said, "We went through the bidding process in the hopes of being able to consolidate to one supplier and taking advantage of reducing some . . . hoping this would reduce some costs, and the proposals do not show that. The proposals that were presented, plans were all over the board, benefits changed dramatically from what we have today and the best solution for the County is just to reject them all and just negotiate with the current providers. Costs would have gone up to the County and the employees for all of the proposals that were submitted."

Chairman Norton said, "Do we bid this every year?"

Ms. Baker said, "That's like every third year, every three years."

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, I have some comments about that but I will reserve them in an e-mail. I'd rather not put them on the meeting."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Chairman Norton said, "What is the will of the Board on the Board of Bids and Contracts?"

MOTION

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

Chairman Norton 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, "Next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

P. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Right-of-Way Easements.

- a. Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project 618-36, Central between 143rd and 159th Streets East. CIP# R-252. District #1.
- b. Floodway Reserve Easement for the Grandview Addition plat on 53rd Street North, west of 215th Street West, in Sherman Township. District #3.

2. Dedication Deed for the railroad grade separation at 71st Street South and the Union Pacific Railroad. CIP# I-78. District #2.

3. Plat.

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2002 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Eck 7th Addition

4. Agreement providing terms and conditions for electronic data interchange related to Medicare claims submitted by the Health Department to the Health Care Financing Administration, as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

5. Notices of Hearing (two) for August 13, 2003 regarding adoption of Uniform Plumbing Code, 2000 Edition, as amended; and adoption of National Fire Protection Association 70 National Electrical Code, 2002 Edition, as amended.

6. Notices of Hearing (two) for October 1, 2003 post annexation public hearings.

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7. **Order dated July 30, 2003 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
8. **Payroll Check Register of July 31, 2003.**
9. **General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of July 30 – August 5, 2003.**

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

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Winters seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Norton said, “Do we have anything else to come before us today? We have about seven minutes left before we go off the air, so let’s fill it up, let’s get our money’s worth. Commissioner Winters.”

Q. OTHER

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you very much. I just wanted to clarify what Kristi had said earlier. Andale Summerfest was last weekend, and I was out there and attended the Summerfest, so don’t send anybody out this coming weekend, because they’ll have already have been there and done that.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “But you’ll get good seats this weekend.”

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Commissioner Winters said, "But they had a good celebration in Andale, enjoyed being out there.

Was out last night at several of the neighborhood gatherings around the west side of town, and so a lot of people were out last night and I think that had a number of very good events."

Chairman Norton said, "I saw Carolyn running around on TV last night at hers."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Oh, you did. Oh, yeah at northeast and Bel Aire."

Chairman Norton said, "I'm not sure who was next. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. I just wanted to say we attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Bel Aire City Hall. There was several of us there and want to congratulate the mayor and the city council of Bel Aire for getting that project going and to Richard Gale and Barb Crouse, the manager and city administrator for . . . it's a big project. They're moving at a very rapid pace. It looks like it's going to be a nice building and since I have a Friday morning office in Bel Aire, they've already showed me where my office is and I'm all excited about their new building for them."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, I was talking to the mayor. He said that was really just a closet that they just widened out and put your name on it."

Commissioner Unruh said, "On paper, it looks real nice. But it's a big 400 acre city center complex they've got going and so I'm hopeful that turns out really good for them.

And secondly, I had an opportunity to enjoy a couple of National Night Out parties last night, one down at 2100 block on South Ida with some folks. Had a great backyard event and then the Forest Hills, they had all their citizens take over a park and they had a fire truck squirting water and KFDI. It was a major deal and everybody was having a lot of fun. And it's a good thing."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, I also went out to National Night Out down in Oaklawn. I've got to tell you, if you want to see how community policing is working, go to one of these events. I mean, they were involved in everything. The kids were just gravitating to the deputies and talking and that's how you start breaking down any fear barriers between the public and police. I mean, they were having fun together.

I almost lost it. The Highway Patrol had this rollover simulator where they kind of showed the

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centrifugal force and the problems that incur if you're in a truck and it rolls over. They had a cab of a truck and for some reason, I got the fact that we were going to actually get in it and I thought somebody was in it, because I saw an elbow and it started rolling and all the sudden this foot came out and then this body flew out and I'm going like this, and Sergeant Deitzman is there laughing very hard, but it was very dramatic how much centrifugal force is generated just in a rollover and it turned out to be a dummy, so I was the dummy. But it was a great program."

Chairman Norton said, "Do I have a second for that?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Go ahead and vote on it, but it was fun to see the people coming out and talking and I underwrote something I never heard about, a cake walk, so I was handing out the 50 cent coupons and I didn't win the cake, but we walked. That was stupid and we danced and it was just a lot of fun and the fire department was out there squirting water on everybody and it was kind of neat just to see what neighborhoods do when they get out and meet a neighbor. So, I enjoyed the heck out of myself.

I want to say one thing also. I want to compliment all of you in the manner . . . all of us, I guess, in the manner in which we dealt with this budget. Because it was tough, it was trying, but we got to consensus and I think we got a very good document. So, thanks to all of you."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner McGinn. We're down to one minute."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Oh, three minutes."

Commissioner McGinn said, "So I have three minutes and you won't get any more. I went to several National Night Outs last night as well and there was good response, I notice this year. And a lot of activities going on and a lot of creativity too. I mean, the one that was on the news, they had a moonwalk and they had the D.A.R.E. car there and then they had a D-Jay and then they had dance contests and so quite a bit going on.

And then I went into some Riverside area and all of that, and it was just great to see how many neighbors came out, because I think the solution to decreasing crime as we all know . . . Oh, okay I'm done. No. The solution to decreasing crime though, as we all know, is getting to know your neighbor, and so I think that's a great successful program and it's just a nice evening to be out and meeting a lot of people in our County."

Chairman Norton said, "Oh, I see how it works. While they're talking, you're going like this."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Oh, I though you meant continue on is what you were saying to

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me.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Well, Tim, how was your evening?”

Chairman Norton said, “I’m feeling the love here, I can tell you.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “I was trying to hurry. I was looking at the clock.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I thought she meant keep going.”

Chairman Norton said, “I guess, and I don’t care if it was on television anyway, I want to echo what Ben was saying. I’m really proud of a tough year, a tough budget and we didn’t dodge any of the issues. I know the wage adjustment thing got some people stirred up, but you know what, we talked about it like we should have, as a policy decision. That’s what we’re charged to do and even if it unnerves some people, that’s what we’re charged with doing as the policy makers and the elected officials and I think if we had dodged it and thought that we were going to maybe make a few employees uneasy or unhappy, that we would not have been doing our job.

I think we came to a great conclusion, but I really appreciate our group being able to do those things at four or five meetings, not just today, kind of packaged for everybody, but every day, with the media there, letting them know what we’re thinking and what we’re working on and what we’re anguishing over. And I would think that our employees would like that we take it that serious. That it is not just a little frivolous thing that we get packaged to us and we go, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom and it’s okay because it’s not. It’s is how we keep the organization whole and functioning policy-wise and I think it led us to some good conclusions, so with that, if there’s nothing else, we’re adjourned.”

R. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 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

Regular Meeting, August 6, 2003

Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2003