

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

August 11, 2004

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 11, 2004 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Commissioner Ben Sciortino; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Terry Cassidy, City of Wichita Manager's Office.

Ms. Laurel Alkire, Senior Services, Inc of Wichita, 200 S. Walnut, Wichita, KS 67213

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Rusty Westerfield of Countryside Christian Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, July, 21, 2004,
Commissioner McGinn was absent

The Clerk reported that Commissioner McGinn was absent at the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2004.

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, you've had an opportunity to review those minutes. What's the will of the board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, July 21, 2004.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

PROCLAMATION

- A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING AUGUST 15, 2004 AS "KANSAS CELEBRATES THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA DAY."**

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, I have a proclamation I'd like to read for your consideration."

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Military Officers Associated of America (MOAA) is marking its 75th Anniversary in the year 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America and in good standing; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 400,000 members of MOAA National and MOAA Chapters across the nation will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this vital American institution during 2004; and

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WHEREAS, the Wichita Chapter joins its six fellow chapters across the State of Kansas in being advocates for a strong national defense, plus supporting veterans and those now serving in uniform; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita Chapter is joining the Kansas Council of Chapters which includes the chapters in Junction City, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Overland Park, Salina, Topeka and Wichita in Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of August 15, 2004 in Topeka, Kansas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Tom Winters, do hereby proclaim August 15, 2004 as

“Kansas Celebrates the 75th Anniversary of
The Military Officers Association of America Day”

In Sedgwick county and urge all MOAA members and other citizens of Sedgwick County to join in this important observance.

Dated August 11, 2004.

Commissioners, that is the proclamation. What is the will of the board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Proclamation 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 Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

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Chairman Winters said, “We have with us colonel Frank Fanning, Colonel we welcome you to our meeting.”

Colonel Frank Fanning, McConnell Air Force Base, greeted the commissioners and said, “I just want to say thank you on behalf of the Wichita chapter for your willingness to sign this proclamation. What I intend to do with it is take it to Topeka on Sunday and display it up there at our anniversary celebration, and I think that’s all I need to say. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right. Well thank you, and we appreciate all your service to this country and to your organization that you’re representing today. We hope you have a good trip to Topeka. Next item.”

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- B. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER WHETHER CITY OF WICHITA (CITY) HAS PROVIDED SERVICES AS SET OUT IN THE SERVICE PLAN PREPARED FOR ANNEXATION NO. 98-31 (13TH STREET NORTH AND K-96).**

OVERHEAD PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’ll get a map up on the screen for you in just one second. This is the public hearing that’s required by statute five years following an annexation by a city where they were required to prepare a service plan. As you can see from the map, this is in the area of 13th Street North and K-96.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Bob, could you hold a minute, can we get the lights dimmed so we can see the map a little bit or something, please. There we go, thank you.”

Mr. Parnacott said, “Since this was a public hearing, we’ve provided notice as required by statute to all the land owners and to the city involved, the City of Wichita, we have only received one phone call and it wasn’t really related to the service plan. So, we’ve had no other comments, at least up to now, from any residents of the area that was annexed. We’ve received some supplemental backup, a report, a comprehensive report from the city covering the service plan requirements, which are at page 31 of your regular backup, is the service plan schedule that we’re looking at.

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And of course the purpose of this hearing is to just determine whether or not the city has provided those services that they said they would when they set it out in their service plan. So having said all that, I think my recommendation is to open the public hearing and receive any evidence from anybody in the audience that wants to speak and then close the hearing and make the finding whether or not they provided the services.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much Bob. At this time I will open the public hearing to accept public comment. I see that there are representatives from the City of Wichita, but before they speak is there anyone from the public who would like to speak in regards to this item on our agenda? We’re on item B. Is there any citizen in the audience that is here to speak on this annexation near 13th street and K-96? All right, perhaps Terry if you’d like to make a comment on the City’s behalf?”

Ms. Terry Cassidy, City of Wichita Managers office, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The City of Wichita believes that we are in compliance with the requirements of the service plan. You were provided a report in advance of this meeting that outlines all of the services that have been provided in this area over the past five years. I have department representatives here today that would be happy to respond to specific questions and if it’s your pleasure I would be happy to orally review the report with you.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right. I think we’ve received the report and we’ve kind of become familiar with the format. Seems like you’ve been over a few times. Commissioners, are there any questions of any of the folks from the City of Wichita about this? I think it’s pretty straightforward. All right, just one last time the public comment portion, is there anyone else who would like to make any other comments? All right seeing no one we’ll close the public meeting. Bob, what is ahead of us now, what do we need to do now?”

Mr. Parnacott said, “Well, I think we’ve heard the evidence from the city that they’ve complied with the service plan. Certainly we’ve got the service plan. I reviewed it and I think it shows substantially complying with all the services they said they would set out. So it’s now just a matter of making a finding to that effect.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right.”

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MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino we find that the city of Wichita has extended services as provided for in the service plan.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you Bob, and thank you to the City of Wichita staff. We appreciate you having your folks over here in case there were those questions, but we appreciate very much your attendance at our meeting, so thank you. Madame Clerk, call the next item."

C. 2005 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET

1. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2005 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Bill Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is the last of a series of three public hearings on the budget. We've had two previous ones. They were, the last one was on a Tuesday evening, which was a unique opportunity for us. The purpose of today is for one final opportunity for citizens to comment on our budget, to engage you in a discussion about how we should operate the process, how we should divvy up the pod. The issue before you then this morning is to hear from the public and before we do that, there was some comment, concern yesterday about the salary structure, the compensation package for county employees and I thought I would take the opportunity to talk about it now."

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We've been discussing compensation for our employees for a couple years. You gave me a task several years ago, to I think the word is fix the situation. If you recall county employees, as a lot of public employees, over the past several years received compensation two ways. One was the old fashioned step increase, which was you started at a starting pay and after a year or so you progressed to another step until you reached the top of the pay and that could take seven or eight or thirteen years, but pretty much guaranteed your career that you would receive a percentage increase if you could survive one more year you would get a percentage increase. That increase was pretty significant, several years ago was about four and a half percent. We reduced that to about three percent and that's what it has been for the last several years. The last two years we have suspended those pay increases, so that was one set of circumstances, one set of criteria by which you would get a pay increase and that would happen on your anniversary date.

The second was across the board, what we have formally called a COLA, cost of living increase, and that would happen across the board for all employees based on a percentage and based on your salary that you would receive on January 1st. Neither one was tied to each other. Employees in this organization as in all other organizations felt entitled to both of those and when we started to adjust and rethink it we had to do a lot of education about what . . . rethinking what people were entitled to or not.

This program is a three-year program which ties those two concepts together and has one pay increase so the compensation philosophy has three guiding principles. The first is to support the mission to motivate and encourage excellence in public service. We hope that it does that, be perceived as fair both internally within the context of the prevailing markets and to provide equitable incentives and hold employees accountable for results of, rewards for high performance. Both of those, one is equitable incentives the second bullet is a concept about both being fair internally and according to what's going on in the market, and we've determined markets several different ways. Some of our competitors are across the street in the City of Wichita and sometimes a competitor is state or other public agencies and sometimes it's a national market so we look depending upon the job, what that might be.

The three-year strategic plan in 2005, we plan to do a general pay adjustment and I'll get into that in a minute, we have a customer service recognition plan, it's an additional monetary award, it's performance based merit pay for the leadership team, which would be the 10 or so people that report to me.

Adjustments to compensation structure is needed and 2006 would be performance-based merit

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pay and a pilot group. We would choose those pilot groups and implement that so we would have a larger pool for merit-based pay, customer service and performance recognition plans, and again adjustment to compensation structure is needed. What that means is if a position gets out of whack with the market, that we are prepared to adjust those positions on an as needed basis and we need to be flexible. Several years ago we came to you with a pay plan for people in the technology end of our business who were way out of whack with that and we adjusted it. This gives us the flexibility to do that on an ongoing basis.

2007 the performance-based merit pay would be pretty much throughout the organization. There will be some pockets who won't do that. The District Attorney has her own system and Sheriff and EMS, because of the paramilitary philosophy of those two groups, we're still working with them about what a pay for performance merit system might look like. There's very few of those around the country of any size or significance and of course the Fire Department has their union and we would have to negotiate that with the union.

So, for the pay estimates for this chart we see in level band one and that is band one is the office workers, some of our laborers, you see that for the annual salary of \$16,000 hourly rate two percent increase, we would give a two percent increase across the board, and then a fixed amount. And this was based on trying to make it a little more equitable because of our concerns last year that some of the folks at the lower end were not receiving quite the bang for the bucks that some of the others were. So a 2% increase, the 10% salary increase, which would essentially give them a salary of 3.25% for that band, and you can see the midpoint of band would be a little 2.85.

Now, for employees that have been here for less than a year, that level one may not occur. We're going to have to work on that. There's a whole bunch of folks who've just been recently hired who we have to probably freeze in place and they would not be entitled. And you can see at midpoint it goes to 2.9 and the whole way down you can see that it finally gets to 2.73 on average for our employees, is about 2.64 percent.

The 2005 recognition plan then would be a \$75 opportunity, based on observation and a matrix system of customer service. We're doing customer service training in-house we've trained our trainers. We're going to do that, and so there will be sufficient funds to have an opportunity, one for all of our employees and about 90% could get an opportunity to. But that's going to be up to division directors and department heads. So if you are in mid-band of three you could receive up to with that, would be a 2.83% salary increase for that year. Those recognition awards are only one time and do not increase your salary. It's a one time award. So that's the pay plan and now I would encourage you to have a public hearing about the budget. Any questions?"

Chairman Winters said, "Yes, and I'll ask if you like."

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Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I'll have some comments. I think we can have the public hearing first and then come back to compensation, which is okay with me."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, good. So Bill, are we ready at this time to open the public hearing or do you have other comments?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "No sir, this is a public hearing on the general fund budget which is a total budget of \$307,827,049."

Chairman Winters said, "We have a question Bill. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Just for the public's understanding, because it always comes up every year, we have a total budget of \$307,000,000 and then we always say but a legal budget of \$210, you know, can you give them a simple understanding so they know what the difference between those two items are or if not if Ma..."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Out of that \$307,000,000 there's \$93,000,000 in real estate taxes which is the real issue of what you're doing today. We're not changing, modifying any way sales tax or any other taxes, so that we have an ad valorem tax collection rate at the \$93,000,020 and it will be equivalent, Mr. Sciortino, is 28.8 mills. Answer your question?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So of the \$307,000,000 budget that we're going to be looking to approve, \$93.2 came from property taxes and the..."

Mr. Buchanan said, "The rest are grants, sales tax, some fees, some..."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And that's what we term as a legal budget then?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "You have a counter opinion coming to you right now."

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Not a counter opinion. I would never give a counter opinion to my boss, but perhaps clarification. The legal budget is the budget of those funds which the state law requires us to adopt a budget for in a particular process. The total county budget includes the legal budget, those that are legally required and budgets for funds where the state doesn't require us to adopt a budget."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Got it. So that's..."

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Mr. Chronis said, "The legal budget is principally supported by the property taxes that the manager was speaking about."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But I mean a \$210 is the monies that we got money for that was specifically mandating that we do certain things?"

Mr. Chronis said, "I believe the \$210, I don't have the numbers in front of me, the \$210 is the total of the legal budget and of that the \$93,000,000 or whatever the number is that the manager cited is property taxes. But the legal budget is funded by sales taxes and user fees and interest income and a variety of other sources as well as property taxes."

What wouldn't be in the legal budget would be any operations for which the state does not legally require us to adopt a budget that typically are programs that are funded exclusively by grants or program income related to those grants or capital projects."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "If I may, to talk about the legal budget is not significant when your talking... it requires the legal obligations of this organization but has no relevance to the services that we deliver. We deliver \$307,000,000 worth of services not \$210. We deliver \$100,000,000 more activity."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Than we're legally required to deliver."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Than we're legally required to report to the state."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Just a comment on that. The truth is, \$307,000,000 is all taxpayers' money, regardless how we end up with it. So we shouldn't worry about where it comes from, whether it goes to the federal government, trickles to the state and gets back to our pockets to spend, it is still the taxpayers' money and we're obligated to take care of it. So, we don't need to define it as legal money or illegal money, it's still taxpayer money."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, anything else?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Chairman I would recommend you open the public hearing."

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Chairman Winters said, "All right, at this time we will open the public hearing to receive public comment on this budget. Is there anyone here in the audience? Please come forward and give your name and address for the record and you're limited to five minutes."

Ms. Laurel Alkire, Executive Director, Senior Services, Inc. of Wichita, greeted the commissioners and said, "First of all I want to thank the Commissioners for the long standing support of our agency and for it's responsiveness to the needs of our older citizens. However I am very concerned about the proposed cuts in 2005, funding for our senior centers and our neighborhood connection program. These cuts will seriously reduce the opportunities many of our older residents depend upon to remain in their own homes.

Our four senior centers provide invaluable resources, last year, to over 3,500 Sedgwick County residents. They are focal points for thousands of senior citizens looking for activities and services that allow them to remain physically fit, mentally alert and actively connected to our community. Ninety-six percent of our centers' budgets are tied up in salaries, building rents and required newsletter printing and distribution and these costs are fixed. The proposal to reduce the centers allocation anywhere from 5.8% to 6.3% will mean a reduction in programs and operating hours or in professional staff.

Any of these hard choices will reduce the effectiveness of our programs that have repeatedly proven their value to so many people. I also wish to point out that the proposal for 2005 is not just below 2004 levels but actually falls below levels allocated in 2000. The consequences of the county's proposed funding cuts for our neighborhood connection program are even more dire. That program, just as much as our Meals on Wheels program, provides the means for older residents to remain in their own homes and to avoid or delay moving into a nursing home or assisted living facility, which often cost the community much more in dollars.

For many, the program has been their last home for any type of assistance. In fact, 92% of last year's clients believe they could not have found assistance anywhere else except through our neighborhood connection program. The proposed cuts to the mill levy allocation of nearly 50% is a drastic reduction and means for our total budget for that program a third of the reduction. With this kind of short fall, we will significantly have to reduce either the number of senior hours that we can provide to these seniors or to cut our program all together and we really don't want to do that if we don't have to.

I recognize the difficulty you face today in making these budget decisions, but I urge you to consider the essential public services that these programs provide to our older citizens, services that may be curtailed or even eliminated should these kind of budget cuts be passed on. Thank

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you.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you. We have a couple questions. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “That was left over.”

Chairman Winters said, “Oh, I’m sorry. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you. I do appreciate that you recognize the difficult days that we’re in. Is there any portion of your budget that you’re willing to work with us and help us to resolve our difficulty or is it just we recognize it but don’t touch our budget?”

Ms. Alkire said, “No, we would certainly be willing to talk and I know that we spoke to some of you and talked to some of you about our rents at our four senior centers. Our rents are our largest portion of our budget and look at reducing rents, maybe even finding different space to reduce some of that budget. So we certainly are willing to work in whatever way we can. I certainly don’t want to have to close a center.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Let me clarify that. If we were to restore you at wherever you’re asking and then the City reduced you rent, would you give us back the money that you got in reduced rent?”

Ms. Alkire said, “Well, we could talk about that. I’ll tell you, we’re already running at a deficit in our four centers in our current 2004 allocations, but we are certainly willing to look at those types of opportunities, sure.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much. Oh, Commissioner McGinn has a question.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Just a comment for the record, the rent that you’re paying, these are buildings inside the City of Wichita?”

Ms. Alkire said, “The Linwood and the Orchard are, yes, City buildings.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Okay, and they are charging rent.”

Ms. Alkire said, “Yes.”

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Commissioner McGinn said, “And I only bring the point up, there are other communities that do not charge rent for their senior centers and I think that we’ve talked about this and I think we need to continue talking about this, that maybe it’s time the City of Wichita provides that for the senior centers because other communities are doing that, and it’s certainly a worthwhile rent reduction thing to do because it is a gathering place for seniors and we do have a lot of seniors in our community and they do need places where they can talk to other people who have other like kinds of situations that they need to work through or just having that ability to have that social life. I just wanted to share that because I think we started that discussion this spring and I don’t know where it went with staff, but I think we need to continue that discussion.”

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Just to carry back on that Commissioner, not only do none of the other communities charge any rent but they also contribute cash and it does seem kind of confusing to me that a city would charge rent and force another governmental entity to donate to pay them rent for a service that we’re providing inside their city. Something’s wrong with that formula or what have you, and I would encourage maybe the City of Wichita maybe want to reconsider, you know it’s taking out of one pocket and putting it into another pocket type thing.

But the other cities I believe I’m correct here, I could be mistaken, but I know Derby for sure and I think Haysville the city doesn’t charge anything, plus they actually contribute something toward their senior centers.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Park City as well. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, Thank you very much. And perhaps Debbie Donaldson want to remind us in a couple weeks that maybe we need to talk about that again and have some more discussion about that.

Is there anyone else in the audience who would like to address the Commissioners on our budget for 2005? Anyone else in the room today? I think it is appropriate to note that at our public hearings there were several people that have visited with us about the budget, so we weren’t exactly sure how many. One last time. All right, we’re going to close the public hearing on our 2005 budget. We’ll limit discussion to staff and bench and Mr. Manager you have some comments?”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “He’s just ready to take the heat.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE 2005 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

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Mr. Buchanan said, "This is the exciting part, where we have...we're ready for 'levy live' there, Lunda, please. Before we get into what we want to show you is that two things occur every year. We figure out the bond and debt fund always at the first week in August because that's when it comes due and we are able to figure that out. And secondly, we do one more run of our employees' staffing table to determine the level of staff. During the compensation discussion, I failed to talk about two groups specifically. One is the Fire union which will be a separate and distinct discussion about those salaries and wages and we can talk some more about that in the Fire budget, And the other group is the elected officials and appointed officials who report to you in this pay plan would receive 3.5 percent increase and so I wanted to clarify that.

Mr. Chairman, Lunda Asmani has been doing this for a couple of years and I don't know how he got elected to be, maybe he's the best typist, I don't know or the smartest, which one, smartest of the budget analysts."

Commissioner Norton said, "And humble too, by the way."

Mr. Buchanan said, "But let me show you where we are today, we had in debt service reduction \$212,700 and we had in revised staffing requirements: people leave, people were hired, we adjust the tables, all those things occur after we analyzed the 2,800 employees. We were off by \$95,000 for the 2005 budget, and so those two numbers are savings. Combined, that's about \$307,000-\$308,000. What we've done is restore two highway utility workers and we've eliminated the cold mix funding out of the commodities line. That's a wash for those. That was an agreement reached with the Public Works Director Mr. Spears and it's one that those of us support.

We've been discussing with the District Attorney, the need for two attorney's what has occurred is and it's important to understand this, is as the state reduced its budget and continues to reduce its budget, part of what they do is affect the court system. And the court system a number of items which were traditionally done by either judges or by their clerks are now being required to be accomplished by District Attorney, so the work needs to get done. It's now been shifted, because of their budget cutback to the local government once again.

The second thing is that the limits that the state legislature has put on the discretion of judges really has increased the number of trials because of mandatory sentencing people who are in the process of having committed a crime or trying to prove their innocence don't have much of a choice. You either plead guilty to a long term or go to trial and so what is occurring is since

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there's no room to negotiate reduced sentences everyone's going to trial and so the trial . . . the crime hasn't increased, trials have increased. So we are very supportive of the District Attorney's issue there for that. And then the contractual expenses in that office have gone up, she's shifted money around and we believe that a comprise number is \$50,000. We hope that works. If it doesn't, we'll be back, but we're hoping that's the correct number.

What that means to you is that there is some money to work with and that number's \$126,000 and as you add items to the budget, this will automatically pop up and we'll show you how it works."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you, Bill. And just to make a couple of comments, as we begin here, the really hard work of the budget has really been done and the Commissioners spent a week in budget hearings and analyze with staff earlier this year and so the large items that we struggle and deal with have basically been resolved and what you see today is we have come down to having a couple of hundred thousand dollars now down to \$125,000 to address some of these issues.

If we can, that we've heard from the public just in the last couple days and have a sense of making these final adjustments and you may again say 'Well, why haven't you already had this determined' and again we're not able to confer as a group in private and to the only time we can have this little discussion is here at a public meeting.

So, I think each of us has a couple of items that they would like to have the Commission consider, and I if we have room to put a couple of those back in the budget or make some what are really going to be minor adjustments but for some small organizations they can have a major impact, so you're going to see us take some time talking about really a very small percentage of a large budget. But again I think it is discussion that's important to the groups that are involved. So, to begin with Commissioner McGinn, do you have some comments you'd like to make?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "Yes, I'd like to. I guess, get started on throwing some things out there for discussion for all of us if we are ready to do so."

Chairman Winters said, "Could you wait just a second, Commissioner or Bill?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "How do we know to type it up there?"

Chairman Winters said, "You'll know when to type it up there. We're not going to take formal votes, but we're going to acknowledge our support or our non-support and once you see the support, I'll indicate that there's at least three people wanting to support the change."

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Commissioner Unruh said, "In the discussion, though, we can take it off if we need to?"

Chairman Winters said, "You know to erase, it has an eraser on it?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes it does. Yes, the delete button's pretty big in this machine."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. Well, don't put anything on until you hear us talk about it for a minute."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Thank you. Sorry, Commissioner."

Chairman Winters said, "That's all right. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I think the first area I'd like to start talking about just a little bit has to do with the senior centers. As our population continues to age, not just there in Sedgwick County, all over, we need to be able to change as a society and have resources available for that population for those individuals to be able to interact with other folks that may have similar challenges. But not only that, just so that they can also have that social interaction for good health.

Last year or the year before, we talked about Meals on Wheels and one of the things that I was upset about, the state cutting that had to do with, if we can keep, and this has been the mission of Sedgwick County, if we can keep seniors in their home they are healthier and they are happier and so if you can deliver a meal and somebody sticks their head in once a day and says hi, I think that that is just good business for our community and creates a healthy community.

I think it saves our community money in the long run, so with that I would like to see if we can't reinstate \$24,514 to the senior centers and try to make them whole to their '04 budget and like I said, correct me if our numbers are not right Ma, I see you are watching this very closely. The other program that I think is a very good program, especially because of the changes in our society has to do with the Foster Grandparents program. This gives grandparents an opportunity to interact with children and it also gives children an opportunity to visit with a grandparent type person that maybe has the time to really listen.

Again, our society is changed. We have a lot of people who work during the day and we need to have these resources available for people. The other would be the Senior Companion program which is a similar program, but it's seniors helping seniors and did I tell you, on the Foster Grandparent..."

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Chairman Winters said, "Okay, is there some consensus to see what these look like?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "I kind of want to throw the senior things out and then have that discussion."

Chairman Winters said, "Let's talk about that."

Commissioner McGinn said, "The Foster Grandparents, \$16,400, Senior Companion, \$2,987 and then one other senior group that I'm not really going to discuss a great deal, but I want to let Commissioner Winters talk about that, but I'll just throw it out there. Bentley has had a Senior Club going for some time and I think they would like to have a few resources to do what they're, doing the same as other cities their size and so that would be \$2,500."

Chairman Winters said, "\$2,400, I believe."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Oh, this says \$2,500."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, \$2,500, you are right."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, so those are the areas that I would like to see reinstated and I'll stop at that and we can have this discussion about senior programs."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Just making it clear Commissioner, this would be restoring or to staff, the senior centers back up to their 2004 level on all of them, and I would definitely, I would support this, I did like the foster grandparent, senior companion, they are good programs, if what we're doing is restoring these programs back up to their 2004 level, I could be wholly supportive of it."

But I would encourage senior services to understand that we definitely have some big problems and if you get any windfalls in the way of rents, right now you don't, I would hope that you could voluntarily come back to us and say, "Thanks a lot, now this year we'd like to help you' because we are in a fiscal imbalance and we're trying to figure out how to balance unlimited

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needs other than seniors with limited resources. So I would just encourage you to consider seriously if you do get some relief on rents that you consider helping us. But I would be supportive.”

Chairman Winters said, “You are supportive of what Commissioner McGinn has outlined.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Yes.”

Chairman Winters said, “Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you, I would also be supportive of Commissioner McGinn’s suggestions. We probably need to get used to the idea of providing, taking advantage of the opportunity to provide services for this segment of our population.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I agree.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Well, statistics say there’s over 70 million baby boomers reaching retirement age.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Some of us already did a long time ago.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “So we’re at that point now, but it’s an appropriate and good thing for us to do for the good of our community so I’m definitely supportive of these things and I would echo Commissioner Sciortino’s remarks that the \$34,000.00 or so in rents that are being paid to our sister governmental entity, if that could be relieved it would go a long way to help solve this problem, and I think we’re all in harmony that we ought to try to press on that issue.”

I would like to add one more component to this list of senior services. There has been the development of a new senior opportunity in the City of Bel Aire, they’ve started a senior center, I guess, they are trying to. They are in a brand new city building. They have set aside some space that’s for permanent use for their seniors.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “How much rent do they charge them?”

Commissioner Unruh said, “In their building they are not charging any, this is a little bit of a change from the way that they have been operating. There’s been a senior’s club up there in operation and has been affiliated with the Tri-City program. At that time, Bel Aire was

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charging some rent to be specific to your question, and this new program there's been some discussion over where the money should flow and how we're going to fund those programs. And Park City and Maize are staying with the Tri-City program. The senior club of Bel Aire that still exists, that group of folks has had strong relationships with Vickie Shephard, the roaming director. They want to stay with that program so they have the option to do that, but Bel Aire is going ahead with their new senior center program.

In the separation of these programs, money's tight, but the major portion of that money stayed with the Tri-City program and Bel Aire has felt like they would like to have their third portion of it, which we were not able to do. So at this point, since we have some flexibility, I would like to suggest that we set aside \$10,000 for this year for the Bel Aire senior citizen to get started, Senior Center to get started, on their program."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Support."

Chairman Winters said, "Yeah, I'd support, well let's...we've got a couple comments. We'll see what these comments are. Were you done, Commissioner?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "No, that's my addition and I'm done. I support the rest of it and add that."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, I just wanted to follow up on Commissioner Sciortino's comment, and I think it's very important. Everybody has to be part of the solution, and you know when tough times occur we have to figure out how to do more with less and if a windfall should come in we need to figure out how we can use those dollars accordingly which may mean that some of that money comes back to the governmental entity, because right now it's coming from a governmental entity so if we can get that rent reduction taken care of then we need to readjust.

The other thing is, on Commissioner Unruh's idea of funding the Bel Aire Senior Club, you know, I think I want to be supportive of this because of, when I look at other cities, I look at Haysville, I look at Derby, I look at Park City, all of these communities are 5,000 or more and

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thriving communities and so I'm going to entertain or listen to the discussion about that but I think where we need to go here is every year we talk about restoring the budget and to Commissioner Sciortino's comment, they have been reduced from the '03 budget, and we're just restoring them to the '04, so they did take a reduction in '03, but we had the discussion with staff and I think we need to continue on with this, but I think just because we funded these programs the way we have in the past, doesn't mean that's the way we should fund them in the future.

And so when we look at how communities have changed I think we need to think differently about how we fund our senior programs, they are certainly important programs to our community, but maybe they are out of whack a little bit. I'm not sure, but I think we need to really dig in and study that issue and hopefully come up with something that's very equitable to everyone in Sedgwick County. Thank you.

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I'm going to be supportive of all this. I guess my comments are really more future-oriented. I think we need to really, after this budget season, we need to sit down and start analyzing the next 10 to 15 to 20 years of what's going to happen to our senior population. Challenge our staff to get us the numbers and the bell curves and everything of what it's going to look like. I truly believe that with the change and the attitudes and the lifespan of the baby boomer generation that senior centers and senior socialization is going to take on new and different dynamics than we've thought of in the past and I think it's going to happen to us quickly when it happens.

I think the Baby Boomer generation is probably going to be more independent and look for different kinds of things where they socialize and where they would go to a senior club. I think they're going to want technology. You know, I think your going to have to have linkages with travel agents. I mean, your going to have to have a lot of different thought processes, and it's good that we're supporting the things that are on the table now, that's important. But we're going to get less than what we want and we're going to fight this battle every year if we don't get out in front of the curve and start figuring this out with what we think the population's going to look like.

So, I'm supportive of this today, I think it does restore, hopefully, it will limp us along another year. But we've got to think strategically. As I listen to some of the visioneering meetings, surprisingly enough, a lot of gray hair and Baby Boomers in those visioneering meetings and they've weighed in a lot about what they think should happen to that generation as they get older

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and need services. So, I think we've kind of languished letting senior centers be what they have been. We've put them in some old buildings for a lot of time, it just happens to be a building we have sitting with no other use, so let's give it to them. And I think those attitudes are going to have to change.

I think we're going to be looking at senior centers that have physical fitness kinds of things. They're going to have very updated technology and then other services that are more mainstream than just catering to being funded. Just my belief. It's more of a speech than it is a . . . you know, but I think we need to move toward that as soon as we get through with the budget process."

Chairman Winters said, "Many good points. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I just want to follow up on what Commissioner Norton said. We seniors should not be thought of as a 'Well, let's just warehouse them someplace and we have an old building we can throw them in until they die'. I would encourage all of you and see what can happen when a city takes on its share of responsibility and see what a senior center could look like. Go down to Derby. That city pony-ed up I don't know how many hundreds of thousand of dollars for the location, the renovation. You wanted an exercise room, you want computer technology, you want a sound therapy room. You can just see these people, how vibrant they are when they really have a community saying we really believe that you are an integral part of our society. And we want to take care of you properly, but you're right, our citizens are getting older and these people came from what has been termed the finest generation in the history and they're not going to go away quietly. But also they are not looking for a handout, they want to be part of the solution too. So anyway I think your idea about looking forward is a good one, thank you."

Commissioner Norton said, "One last thought that I forgot. The other part of it is that as we continue to know that we're going to have huge job gap, you know and seniors are living longer and are more healthy and can stay in the workforce. We're going to have people who are in their third incarnation on jobs. It's not going to be retire and maybe do some volunteer work. It's going to be go back into the work force and take some service jobs, find something's to keep them active.

I think that's good for the senior and good for the society, but when you look at a job gap of up to 170,000 people in Wichita over the next 30 years, seniors are going to be a big part of filling some of that, as we train our young people to take some of the more skilled educated jobs, the seniors that have kind of worked their way through and maybe don't want those jobs will certainly fill in the gaps that we have in other places so I'm convinced that job readiness, believe

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it or not, for seniors is going to be a component of this whole thing so.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you again, Commissioner.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I’ll get off that horse now.”

Chairman Winters said, “That’s all right. We’re in the process of adding these five.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “All the way up through Bel Aire Senior Club.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “When we write on Bel Aire Senior Club, there is a…”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Unruh Center, we’re going to name it.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Well, no there is a Bel Aire Senior Club. That’s the group that’s existing now and they are struggling hard for their financing and their affiliated with the Tri-City. This would be the Bel Aire City Senior Club, perhaps to make a distinction.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “There’s a difference between Bel Aire Senior Club and Bel Aire City Senior Club?”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Well, I think so. Bel Aire Senior Club is an incorporated group.”

Ms. Annette Graham, Director Department on Aging, greeted the commissioners and said, “At that level that’s a senior center level.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Center.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay, so senior center.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you. And that puts them under different requirements.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Could you do a running, what’s left?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Yes there is, at the top of the page in red \$69.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “\$69,000 left.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “That gives you a running total, Commissioner.”

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Just another comment about Commissioner Unruh's Bel Aire Senior Center, I guess I would like staff to continue to keep us updated on the progress there, because, you know, many clubs, it takes them a long time to become that senior center status, and I think we need to stay on top of that. If that is not happening, we need to come back and reevaluate that."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Good point, because there's some requirements."

Commissioner McGinn said, "There's requirements and I don't want it to turn out that it ends up they are not doing the things that you're not supposed to do as a senior center. So I think we need to revisit that next year, or even I'd like for Annette to continue to stay on top of it."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, I think Annette, through her regular... May I speak, Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Winters said, "Yes, you can."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Through their regular processes have benchmarks and requirements and performance outcome measurements, and I'm assuming that she's going to continue to do that. Vut Bel Aire also is aware of those requirements and is going to be working hard to have a real strong program, so that would be agreeable to all, I think."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Annette on the Bentley, then would it be appropriate to put Bentley Senior Club, is that what we're talking about there? You might add that just for clarification. All right, thank you. Commissioner McGinn, are you ready to talk about the next subject?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "Yes, thank you. Under the extension council I think this is an organization that proves to us that they continue to do more with less because their work value and ethics. I would like to see us restore them to the '04 level, \$39,905.00. I think these are dollars well spent and that's because the extension council and many of the things that they do bring about, a healthy and a safe community in different ways."

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We spend money on prevention programs to help our youth who have taken perhaps the wrong path, get them back on track. Extension has programs for our youth that keeps them out of trouble so we're not having to fix a problem. What we're doing is preventing a problem and I think it's a worthwhile program. And also I think there is also a thought out there that some of these 4-H clubs are just for rural kids. Because of the diversity of our county, we are actually spending a great deal of time in the inner-city and doing some of these 4-H projects and programs that a lot of our inner-city kids would not have been exposed to. But Sedgwick County is certainly unique and different in doing that, and I've seen some of the results of that and I think it's been very positive for our community.

The other few things that I think are important, horticulture programs are certainly important in gardening and trees etcetera. We want to have those kinds of things in our community because they are important ascetically, but they are also important for the environment, and you know when a tree dies or a farmer is having problems in their fields about the crop, if we don't have the resources that we have with extension and with our partnership with Kansas State University, we don't have anybody to call and so I think that's important.

And the other thing is food safety, they provide a lot of programs that teach people about food safety, whether it's canning or whether it's food preparation or in restaurants or wherever. Again, that's back to healthy communities. Those are just a few of the things that I think are very important that our extension service provides and those are dollars that I think go a long ways in our community.

The other area I think I'd like to have discussion with my colleagues on has to do with the Extension Council has requested a general pay adjustment and what they are asking is for a three percent pay increase, which is in line with Kansas State University's increase their portion. I guess I'm going to leave that one open for some discussion here. The county is receiving, I believe, receiving 3.5 is the recommended budget for county employees, is that..."

Chairman Winters said, "No, that's the..."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Oh, but then we go in to the new method, adjustments, okay. So this is a 3% and its in line with the State of Kansas and so with that I'm going to stop there and I want to hear what my colleagues have to say about all that."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, are there other comments about extension? Commissioner Sciortino."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "I could support restoring the extension council's budget back to the '04 level, but Commissioners I asked for and received a copy of our contract with them and the area that I couldn't support is the general pay adjustment. We contract for services with a lot of agencies and in most cases we're pretty specific. We want you. We think this service is needed in Sedgwick County and we would like for you to provide this service or this service. The agreement and I've asked the manager this question and he's given me the answer, I believe there's no other agency that we contract with for services that in addition to that we also make their pay adjustments for them.

In reading the contract that we have with the Extension Service, it's so nebulous as to what services we're contracting for, you could almost call it a grant. And with little or no restrictions on it and that doesn't make us very accountable to the taxpayers as to, you know, they could start a new program that maybe argued as duplicating something, somebody else is doing or duplicating something somebody else is doing.

So I get a little bit concerned when we start getting into pay adjustments, because we're getting closer and closer to what the Extension Service would like us to do and that's take over responsibility for all their employees, make them county employees, but with no oversight authority on them as to how they are running their business. So I could support restoring the \$39,000 thing. I couldn't support the pay adjustment and I would encourage us to maybe get with staff and maybe review our agreement with them to see if maybe given the fiscal times that we're in, we may want to consider specifically contracting from the Extension Service specific services that we really feel that the citizens of Sedgwick County need. And we'd like for them to provide it because we don't have anybody else providing those services, so I could support the first part I could not support the general pay adjustment. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you Commissioner. Well, I can certainly be supportive of resorting to the '04 level of the \$39,904. So, that's at least three people shaking their head on restoring that, so let's put that in the mix. I could be supportive and will be supportive of the general pay adjustment. I think we have to make sure that people are compensated if they are associated with our organization and really there's a whole host of reasons I support Extension, but two principal reasons. And one is because of the support that they give our agri-business in this county. I think our Ag agents are extremely important and

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they do, as Commissioner McGinn stated, have that connection to K-State research, which is one of the leading research Universities on agri-business. And agri-business is such an important part of our economy in Sedgwick County. I mean, this is a big part of our economic engine, and I think if we can support our Ag producers through extension and in partnership with K-State, I think that's a plus for agri-business, the agri-industry here in Sedgwick County.

The second is just really the quality of life issues. I think we have one of the best extension facilities probably in the nation and the Commissioners in the late '80's early '90's were very creative about how they were able to build that facility by selling another piece of commercial property near Central and Tyler Rd that paid for that facility out there. And now we have a first class facility and we've got to make sure that the cupboard is not empty with material and programs to provide our citizens.

I guess, just a last comment, I would make and I know we haven't talked much about 4-H, but again as I was out at the Sedgwick County Fair this past year to see all of those agents out there participating with those young people and directing and guiding just hundreds of young people that are involved in that program, it's a quality of life issue that I think is very well represented. So, I'm going to be supportive of both of these as just a method to make sure we keep Extension healthy and strong. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Well, just to make a comment of that, Mr. Chairman. Don't get me wrong, I am not saying I'm not supportive of some of the work that the Extension Service has. My problem is accountability. We're funding over 80% of their budget, yet we have, the way our contract reads, we have no say whatsoever in how they run. They have a board that makes autonomous decisions on who they hire, what programs they get involved with and everybody comes to us pleading that they can continue on it.

I could be supportive of taking over the responsibility of 100% of their budget if we could have some authority and be accountable to the taxpayers as to how the money was spent. I could be supportive of taking all of their employees and making them county employees. Where we would have some authority and accountability, if they are not doing what we think they should be doing with taxpayers' dollars. The way it sits right now, in essence, it's almost an endowment, here's the money, do with it as you wish. And that's the problem that's the one that I have a problem with. That I think to me it has a lack of accountability and that bothers me and that's why I can't support this now, going into setting another precedence that we're also going

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to be responsible for pay adjustments in addition to the grant or whatever it is we have with them. Thank you.”

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

Commissioner Norton said, “I’m okay with the restoration of the budget and I think I’m going to be okay with the salary, if we can fit it into the budget. But once again, my message is going to be different. I think once we get through this budget time we need to sit down and have some dialogue about the future of the Extension services that we provide here. K-State continues to make decisions that effect us, research is taking on, in agri-business the kinds of research that needs to go on is changing how we support that as an economic driver, with bio-sciences and extension research is going to be different.

I think we need to look at those core values that come out of an extension, very similar to what Ben has talked about, and say here’s the things that we really believe are the core things that Extension should do and if their board elects to kind of go off a beaten path and pick up some other programs that maybe are duplicated or we wouldn’t support, they’ll find the funding for that extra and we’re not going to support that. But now is not the time to have that.

I think it’s another one of those cases where we need to sit down after the budget stuff is settled and start looking at the 20-year future of the extension of the extension building. We’ve got a great facility out there, but the truth is we’re an anomaly in Kansas. We’re the largest urban area with the largest rural area all in our same boundary. I mean, we produce as much, I think, agri-business out of Sedgwick County as in almost any county in Kansas, yet we’re the largest urban center. And that’s a conundrum for an extension agency that is trying to help agri-business do the old-fashioned things that Extension used to do for farmers, for people that lived in rural areas, but also cater to those people that live in the suburban areas and even the urban areas. And that sets us apart from most extension services, I think probably anywhere in the State of Kansas anyway, and maybe in the country.

So, we need to really revisit what our goals are there. Maybe it is that we look at some new kinds of contracts with K-State or with the Extension Council that re-describe what the future looks like. Now, right now I don’t know what that is, but maybe we need to have discussions about that, have some workshops let staff do their best work to come with some new ideas about what Extension looks like. I mean, I’ve been a Commissioner three years and we’ve had this same dialogue all three years. When are we going to quit having this same dialogue. Let’s plan it. Let’s figure it out, so that they bring us a budget and it’s already been worked out, we know that we don’t have to have this same dialogue and argument every year. We’re smart enough to get past this. I really believe that, but we’re going to have to come together, have a workshop.

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Let's charge staff with coming up with some new ideas about how we run Extension. Other than that, I'm supportive of what we're doing today."

Chairman Winters said, "Your supportive of both of these items?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Yes I am."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Commissioner Norton. Oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Chairman Winters. I won't take too much time here, because I'm going to be repeating much of what's been said. I agree with what Commissioner McGinn said, that this has to do with education and prevention. I think we do have a tremendous ag influence in our county and we need to be responsive to that in this way.

I think it's appropriate. I would be wholly supportive of this restoring the Extension Council to it's '04 level. And I appreciate what Commissioner Sciortino said about this almost being an endowment and that these folks, we're having to consider them almost like our employees. So I think those are legitimate concerns, but I'm concerned this probably is not the time to change the agreement. We need to do what's right at this time and I think probably this general pay adjustment is the appropriate thing to do now and then I would agree that we should...if we need to redefine our relationship and how we are connected to the extension council, we need to probably start that process tomorrow so that we don't have to go through this again next year with these same sort of concerns. But at this point, I'm going to be supportive of both pieces here for the Extension Council."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you Commissioner Unruh. Commissioner McGinn, you had suggested you wanted to start the conversation about both of these. Are you supportive?"

We've heard three people, myself, Commissioner Norton and Commissioner Unruh supportive of both."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, it sounds like we have three votes, so . . ."

Chairman Winters said, "You have comments?"

Commissioner McGinn said, "No, no more comments."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, we'll add the column of general pay adjustment for the Extension. All right, thank you. Commissioner McGinn."

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Commissioner McGinn said, “Before I move on, I’ve got one other item I’d like to just have some discussion about and I’m sitting here thinking about some other time. But I think Commissioner Sciortino’s comments are very valid and Commissioner Norton. We do have this conversation every year and I think we need to continue to talk about the future of how extension fits in Sedgwick County, in our budget, but also I think we need to really have some more active dialogue.

And we started this a couple years ago, with some of the folks at the Kansas State Extension Service and Manhattan, because this is something that started I don’t know, many, many years ago, I mean maybe even 100, I don’t know, but you know what worked back then may not be the thing, how it works in our community today. And so we can’t have other entities making decisions that have to do with tax dollars to an authority that has no authority to veto some of the things that they are doing. So we’ve got this kind of disconnect with this organization so I just wanted to reiterate that I think we need to continue to talk about how extension fits in our community, as far as organization under an authority that has no authority but gets to decide tax dollars. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right. Well, I would make one comment also in addition, that I know that extension over the State of Kansas is going to be involved, this fall, in a strategic planning retreat and meeting. They’re going to have three all-day meetings with Extension people, people who are interested in extension and folks from K-State. And they are going to meet three times in trying to help develop a strategic plan for extension. And I know that they have isolated the metropolitan areas as an area of interest in trying to address just a number of these things we’ve talked about today.

So, hopefully they will come up with some good work and some good information that perhaps, through their planning process this fall, they’ll be able to share with us. And I’m sure we can make sure that Bev Dunning shares that information that comes out of that meeting with us or with the whole state wide organization. Commissioner McGinn.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Well, if they are going to do that, then I think an important piece of that should be that they invite county elected officials.”

Chairman Winters said, “I’ve been invited.”

Commissioner McGinn said, “Okay, well, I’m saying there needs to be a workshop or discussion in itself, not just a county Commissioner sitting in the audience with another 50 people. I think they need to have a very serious dialogue with the State people, with the county Commissioners who have to oversee the budget.”

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Chairman Winters said, "I'm not sure I'm going to be able to attend but they have...are reaching out to counties to get them involved in the process."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Okay, and I'm not going to say, not just citizens."

Chairman Winters said, "Right, I understand that."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, does anybody else have a subject? Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "I just have one more thing I'd like to throw out and have a little bit of discussion about. Another area that had received a cut was in Cowtown. And Sedgwick County for many years now has provided the human resources that you see at Cowtown. If you didn't have the people walking around and sharing some of the historical significance of Cowtown, you wouldn't have that living experience and understanding of our history. And that's one thing that Sedgwick County provides in their budget and it's totally a human resource line item. So when you say go cut 4% of your budget, they're not cutting 'I want a copy machine this year, I want paper, I want this or that'. We are cutting salaries, we have...Cowtown has scaled down a great deal and we have a lot of committed employees that are doing 60 and 70 hour weeks on 40 hour pay.

And so, if we continue to cut I think we are, I think we're going to get to a point where we're either going to be closing doors or we're going to be losing very dedicated employees. So again, I just wanted to make sure everybody realizes that we're not . . . This isn't reallocation of other things we need. This happens to really be the human resources that we provide out on the streets of Cowtown. Otherwise, you basically have a ghost town. So, I would like to see them restored just back to their '04 budget."

Chairman Winters said, "Well, Commissioner it looks like there's \$8,658 there."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "How much money are you asking for?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "It's \$44,000."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, if we only have \$8,658, I'm not interested in raising anything. If that's all we have left, I guess I would like to see that go towards Cowtown."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Chairman Winters said, "All right."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "How much does that leave for any other projects?"

Chairman Winters said, "Zero."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Chairman Winters said, "Are there any other projects we need to talk about?"

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Not if we're at zero, there's no other projects to talk about, but next year, I want to go ahead of her."

Chairman Winters said, "Well, if you have something, we'll sure talk about it."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "We're at zero."

Chairman Winters said, "Well, if you still have something you want to talk about we'll talk about it."

Commissioner Unruh said, "He has an eraser."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "We're at zero. No. If we're at zero, we're at zero."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay, I've got a few things and there general comments and I don't know if they're pertinent to this but I think we need to talk about them. First of all, is out-district tuition, we are fighting that battle. We continue to put money into that and I want to be sure that the public knows that part of our budget goes to out-district tuition. And as we work on our technical education and what that looks like, and try and reinvent the delivering mechanisms for that, that's going to be a significant issue. And it is money that we take out of our budget and put into our community, but it goes to outside our community and I think that's important and eventually we're going to have to look at that and figure it into the mix. It's obvious it's not anything we're going to do right today, but it is a big amount, it's a little less than \$2 million, I

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believe, is it not, Mr. Manager?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Norton "So, at some point that's going to come up and we're going to have to make some decisions and that will restore some money that we can do some other things with. The other thing I wanted to talk about was WSU mill levy. We give them what, 1.5 mills?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Norton said, "And that raises almost \$6 million that we give to WSU right now. That continues to go up every year, exponentially. I think at some point we're going to have to have a policy discussion that maybe we set a ceiling for that and that any of that additional monies that would come in we would put into tech education or some other education things.

We are at a crisis point, I believe, in our community right now when it comes to tech education to our community. If you talk about the impending job gap and what we need in technical education and the ability to grow our community economically, we've got to think of where we're going to pull some money together, that we're already putting into education and support tech ed, which becomes economic development. I don't know what that looks like but I think we need to bring it, put it on the table, let the public know that we're going to be talking about that.

One other issue we talked about and we kind of glossed over it is Commissioners' salaries. We're slated for 3.5% increase and I think, you know, we talked about doing more with less and you know this is a tough year. I have a hard time raising my own salary when we're in tough times and I would be supportive of less of an increase. Now, I know that's something we try to stay out of. It rolls into the just general budgeting of salaries, but in a time when we're changing the whole compensation policy for the whole organization and there's going to be turmoil, I have a hard time of accepting a 3.5% salary increase.

And we continue to talk out of one side of our mouth about we're doing more with less and it's tough budget times and how are we going to get through, 'Oh me, poor me', yet we're benignly letting our own salary be raised 3.5%. I don't know if that's the right amount or not, but someone pointed out recently that you know this job that I'm doing is employment and I see it as public service, it isn't employment. And I don't think that we're using good prudence if we just benignly accept that 3.5% increase.

Last thing I have is I'm still supportive of the River Festival. We didn't do anything for them this year. We did put \$25,000 into the aviation festival and we put \$20,000 into the Wichita

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Open Golf tournament, yet our premier community event with the largest economic driver in our community we have not put money into and I can't support that. I find that appalling, but looks like there's no money left, so maybe we can do something next year for them out of contingency.

But I can't believe that we don't support the River Festival, largest economic driver of that kind of event in our community. That's all I've got, Mr. Chair."

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. What was the first thing that you had, not the salaries, what was right before the salaries?"

Commissioner Norton said, "The WSU tuition."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, I have to agree with you on that. In fact, I had a conversation with Dr. Biggs and Dr. Sexton about that whole and not to regurgitate the whole thing and how it got started and what have you, but I did talk to them specifically about the fact that he gets an automatic increase of 5 or 6% as property values go up. We discussed originally what was the intent of it and you know to let them get in the state school system without the state school system being encumbered with any debt that they had. And while he didn't embrace it warmly and say 'Oh, yes great, I was hoping that you would ask us to cap the money,' he didn't say no and I think maybe now is the time that maybe we instruct our manager to at least open up some discussions with WSU to see if they are willing to be part of our solution.

I mean, everybody tells us and gives us lip service that 'Yeah, we understand that you're in a financial problem but don't affect our budget', but we really understand you're in a financial problem, and this would be an excellent opportunity for the university to make a bold statement that they understand what we have, they appreciate what we've been doing and that they would be willing to be part of the problem.

Because as you and Chairman Winters have been working, and I think Mr. Unruh also on job force, work force development those funds could really help us take the lead in technical job creation, as could maybe giving us back what the state already promised they would give us back but then stopped giving it back to us before they got the whole thing. The monies that we give for out of state tuition, those funds could really be put to use for workforce development. But anyway, I just wanted to let everybody know that I did have a conversation with Dr. Biggs and Dr. Sexton and you know my sense is they'd be willing to talk. To be candid, they didn't 'Oh great, I'm glad you're trying to cut our budget' but they didn't say no. That's all I had."

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Chairman Winters said, "Well, it would be my suggestion that we do have a contract, those folks and the City of Wichita, about how that works and so it'd be my suggestion that if the Manager can find a majority of Commissioners who want to review that contract, that he review that contract with us, and what it says and what it's terms are in length and all of that kind of information so...."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, if both parties are willing to renegotiate, even if the contract doesn't say you can, if they are willing to voluntarily negotiate, that would be great."

Chairman Winters said, "Well, I just asked then the Manager to visit with Commissioners and see if there's a majority of Commissioners that want to start down that road."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Chairman Winters said, "Are there other questions or comments? Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Tim just has a way of provoking discussion, thank you Tim. I just wanted to share just a little bit on the one item you talked about, the Wichita River Festival. I think that is a great event we have here in South Central Kansas. It brings in a lot of tourism, the folks that are behind that do great work and I guess, I'm not saying that we shouldn't maybe help them out or at least have that discussion every year. I'm not ready to put it in as a line item budget.

Some of the reason has to do with, then I think we need to evaluate all the other festivals that go on in the other communities in Sedgwick County and maybe we need to think about do we fund them as well. And then I also would need to know, since it is the Wichita River Festival, how much Wichita actually puts into that as well, because it's kind of like the Park City Festival or the Valley Center Festival. If we're going to get into doing that, I'd want to know what all they put in as well.

So I appreciate you bringing that up. It's just that it's not that I don't support their efforts. They do a great thing and they do bring in a lot of people into our community. It's just that I'm not ready to put that in as a line item budget."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. Are there any other questions or comments from Commissioners? Mr. Buchanan, do you have any other comments?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "No sir. You have the budget in front of you, you have the appropriate resolution. I would recommend you approve it."

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Chairman Winters said, "Thank You."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Sedgwick County 2005 total budget of \$307,827,050.00 the total budget includes a legal budget of \$210,174,701.00 with \$93,243,503.00 in budgeted ad valorem taxes or \$98,151,056 in ad valorem tax levy which is approximately equivalent to 28.8 mills subject to review and technical adjustments.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Procedurally, what we'd like to do now is recess into the Fire District."

Mr. Buchanan said, "We should adopt the Capital Improvement."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, next item, Madam Clerk. Call the next item."

**3. ADOPTION OF THE 2005-2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)
AND THE 2005 CAPITAL BUDGET.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners you have before you the Capital Improvement Program and the Capital Improvement Budget for 2005. It includes a 2005 Capital Improvement Program from 2005 to 2009, a program of \$115,867,896 including \$23,995,959 for the 2005 budget. I'd recommend you approve it."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners, are there questions or comments concerning the Capital

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Improvement Budget? Seeing none, we're ready for a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the 2005 to 2009 Capital Improvement Program of \$115,867,896.00 including \$23,995,959.00 for the 2005 Capital Budget with changes if any from the adoption of the operating budget, 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 Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters	Aye

Chairman Winters said, "All right, what procedurally I'd like to do is recess this meeting and go into the Fire District and then after the Fire District, which will probably take 15 or 20 minutes, then take a short break and then comeback and we have an off agenda item concerning Technical Education. We'll take that up after the break."

D. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING.

The County Commission recessed into the Fire District Meeting at 10:39 a.m. and returned at 11:10 a.m.

The County Commission recessed from 11:11 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.

Chairman Winters said, "At this time I will call back to order the regular meeting of Board of County Commissioners meeting of August 11, 2004. Commissioners last week we deferred an item regarding technical education and at this time I would move that we take an off agenda item concerning technical education and training."

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MOTION

Chairman Winters moved to take an off agenda item concerning technical education and training.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, “Madam Clerk, do you have a copy of that item or not? We’ll just let Ron introduce the item.”

Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk, said, “I can do it.”

Chairman Winters said, “She has one, we’ll let the clerk read the item.”

OFF AGENDA ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION CREATING THE SEDGWICK COUNTY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY.

Mr. Ron Holt, Director, Division of Culture, Entertainment and Recreation, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m before you to ask for your approval of a resolution for the formation of the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority. For over a year now, you have been talking about, thinking about what the County’s role should be in workforce

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development. We've seen, coming out of the community's visioning process and also through other kinds of various partnerships with key workforce groups that there is a critical need for a world-class technical education and training in south central Kansas.

Without action, Sedgwick County and the region will not be able to retain nor recruit employers due to the lack of available and highly trained workers. As a result, Commissioners, you are being asked to adopt a resolution to create the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority. This authority will provide coordination, leadership and support that contributes to a strong technical education and training programs designed to meet the changing needs of employers, learners and families in this region.

Also, this authority will serve under your oversight providing strategic direction to you to create a coordinated world-class technical education and training system for this region. Representatives on the authority will reflect industry in south central Kansas and will have an understanding of and passion for technical education and training need. There will be nine people on the authority with six from the private sector and one representative or designate each from the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County and the regional economic area partnership, REAP, to determine it's priorities.

The authority will engage partners, including employers and those providing technical education. Commissioners, it is recommended that you adopt the resolution for the formation of the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority, to be charged with the responsibility of bringing about the establishment of a single business-led board of directors with the full authority to develop and oversee a world-class technical and educational training facility, system and capacity in Sedgwick County for this region.

We ask that you adopt this resolution this morning which would in fact then begin a process for looking at this authority becoming the Board of Directors for the Wichita Area Technical College, as well as bringing together again a coordinated integrated system for technical education and training in this community, so we would ask you to adopt that resolution, I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you Ron. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I have to tell you, if we take this action it is going to be a defining time in our county. It is bold action and I believe that it is the right thing. As we have been connected to what to do with education, tech education, vocational education, I think Commissioner Unruh, Commissioner Winters and I certainly have been deep into the bowels of all the issues that are facing us and truthfully, this is not about WATC and KITE and KTTI and all of that. It is about what is good for the economics of our county and region and for the job creation in our county and region and for preparing workers to fit those needs.

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And it is a changing time out there. We understand, at a state level, there were some major changes that caused us turmoil in our technical training systems, the changes in business models and customized training has led us to new learning and new ways of dealing with this approach and I think that, obviously, I'm very supportive of this. There's going to be a lot of details, a lot of eggs are going to be cracked to make this omelet, but I would hope those people that own some of the eggs understand they've got to contribute their egg to the omelet or it ain't going to work.

This is going to be an important defining moment in our community and in our region to fill that job gap with quality-trained people. Henry Luke, the consultant that has consistently talked to us at visioning, has continued to say 'You're either going to be a hotspot location for jobs to come to and you're creating economic environment or your going to be a donor', and you know we've already got enough brain drain of our highly educated workforce and our young people and we need to find mechanisms to keep them here, get them education, not always at the college level, but at this level which is just as important because I think what we thought of as technical education 30 years ago, is not what we think of technical education today. It is highly sophisticated, its very technologically advanced and it is pervasive in all our businesses, not just what we thought of as manufacturing , but many other businesses. So I'm going to be supportive of this today. A lot of details to be worked out, but what a great bold first step for our County Commission to take and I would urge my colleagues to be in lock step in supporting this. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Commissioner Norton. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. I am also going to be very supportive of this, but let me just ask a couple questions to reiterate, Ron, what you just said. Board of County Commissioners will be the final authority over decisions of this motion, of this new authority. I mean, we're setting up an authority, but the Board of County Commissioners has final authority."

Mr. Holt said, "The final decision making lies with the Board of County Commissioners, yes."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, but the direct hands on oversight of it, if you'll allow that illusion, is to three designated members and then nine members from business and industry."

Mr. Holt said, "Six from business and industry, three designated for total of nine, yes sir."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right. At a recent KTTI meeting were a lot of the folks who have a real strong interest in this were assembled. Jeff Turner suggested just sit us, as the Board of County Commissioners, should stand up a committee that was chartered to establish a training procedure and programs and a world-class facility. Does this satisfy those individual members? I mean, have you been in touch with members from KITE and KTTI and business and REAP and so

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forth that indicates that we have harmony and agreement from all those different elements.”

Mr. Holt said, “Very much so, and as you might expect, as Commissioner Norton mentioned, the devil is in the details and so with that there’s some angst, if you will, on everybody’s part about how all of this comes together. But I think without question all of the players, the Wichita Area Technical College although their board has not had a chance to formally act on this, I think that’s going to happen later this week, but they have been provided information.

We’ve talked to the folks who make up the KTTI, the Kansas Technical Training Institute, which has been in effect for a little over a year now. We have a group consortium of technical and community colleges in our region called KITE already working together, supportive of this. We’ve talked to President Biggs at WSU, who has a strong interest not only from his personal background but also as a University in this whole subject, is on board the Lieutenant Governor, whose involved in Department of Commerce and this whole workforce development Kansas first. How we respond to the changing needs of workers in this whole state, sees this as being a model started in south central Kansas for the rest of the state, so I believe we have been actively talking to various partners who would be partners in this effort for quite some time. And again, while there are those who are going to be a little anxious, I think folks are on board to make this happen, to bring together this coordinated and integrated system for our community.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay and in spite of all that harmony and agreement, don’t mean to overstate it or anything, but this particular authority to have the technical college subsume itself under that authority does require approval by the Board of Trustees of the Tech College and the Board of Regents. So, for this to move forward those other two contingencies must occur?”

Mr. Holt said, “That’s correct and what this resolution would do, that would be one of the first actions, would begin not only to put together the board, but one of the first actions of that board would be to work with, to put together the authority. But one of the actions of that authority would be to start the process about how the technical, Wichita Area Technical College Board might approve this as well as the transition plan, what’s called the transition plan, through the Kansas Board of Regents for the Technical College might be changed as well.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, well I’m going to be very supportive of it and I would agree with the language that this is a very bold aggressive step on our part to become involved in this whole problem of workforce development. I think it’s a progressive step towards solving what is really a fundamental component of economic development and that’s jobs, economic development

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trying to attract businesses in with marketing and incentives and industrial parks and so forth is all very good, but the fundamental basic thing that we have to be concerned with is jobs.

It seems to me that jobs in the DNA of economic development, if you'll allow me to use that phraseology, working with these other groups I think is excellent and necessary and this brings a unified effort to the solution of a major problem. I think that this structure allows these different components to coalesce and work together to solve this particular problem so my focus is on jobs. I think this helps us get there and if we can solve this, we can have a prosperous community. So I'm in favor of economic development."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much, Commissioner. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too am going to support this and I guess I want to go back to what Tim started off with. This is a defining moment for our community. We have so much opportunity right here in south central Kansas and because of the things that are going on and I think it's interesting that this is also folding into what's going on in the visioning meetings out there right now.

Some of the ranking priorities that have come in, number one was economic development and new jobs. That's what our community wants and I think we need to continue pushing forward and seeing to it that that happens. And the second thing is education and the two fold together hand in hand for a successful community and a thriving community as well. I'd just like to mention a few things that were part of the visioning activities and has to do with some of the things that are happening right now in our community that we see and are looking at to be prepared for.

Out at Boeing, only 150 employees are under the age of 30. And 25 to 40% of the workers from Sedgwick County and the surrounding counties are going to retire perhaps in the next five years, depending on how long they want to work. And many of these jobs require a high level of education and technical training and my concern is if we're not able to replace those retiring, I think that we could be in a more disastrous situation than an economic downturn, because what will happen is our businesses will start looking outside of our region. They will start looking in other states to go because they don't have the workers in place that they need, and so I think that we need to have an educated or we need to make sure that our educated youth are not leaving our community and they are staying here in south central Kansas.

Also, because of the change in our workforce and the demand for skilled workers, I think this folds right in to what we have to have, we have to be prepared and have a training institution or training

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entity in place that's going to fulfill the needs of our business community. Just one other little interesting little statistic that I had been reading that has to do with WSU Center of Economic Development of Business Research has forecast that the south central Kansas and surrounding area demand for labor would support the addition of more than 170,000 jobs over the next 30 years or 5,667 per year.

However, they forecast that the supply of labor, based on current trends and conditions, will only support an addition of 50,000 or 1,667 jobs per year. And so, that to me is a clear signal that we need to do something to be prepared in this community. I think that the plan that's been put together, and I want to thank the Commissioners that have worked on this very diligently, and I know Dave has been at the front, especially with the Tech part of this. We need this coordination and collaboration of the institutions that we already have out there.

We have, we have our regent colleges and we have our community colleges and then we have these technical training situations and it's time to bring them all together and coordinate, because it's money well spent when we can be more efficient. Because a lot of times you'll have a JuCo college that specializes in one area and then they can go in and take that to another training institution or even a college and provide that, so that that college or institution doesn't have to go spend money to gear up to be in place to provide that.

And the final thing I'd just like to share, is that this commission and the commission as long as I've been on here, some of the past commissioners have been very supportive of jobs and economic development in this community. I look at prior to my becoming a Commissioner, WISE in place and then that kind of fell off the table and I want to share that Commissioner Winters was here when that went away and saw the need to make sure we have something in place that's looking at bringing jobs to town and those kinds of things.

And so he was instrumental in seeing to it that we funded our Chamber and make sure we had people in place so that those jobs wouldn't bypass our region of the area and then now we have the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition that we're working on now and that also folds into place very well.

I guess in closing, it's nice to see this come to fruition, because I was the Chair when John Moore called and started talking about this KTTI and at the time it was kind of coming out of Cessna area and so I thought Tim should be involved, and I thought Tom, because of his role that he plays in REAP. And so here we are today, about three years later, and we're starting to see this all come together, and I think this is only going to be positive for our community. But not only that, for our region, and I certainly see great things happening in south central Kansas. I'm going to continue to support these efforts. I'm very proud to be able to work with other commissioners that are very interested in workforce development and job training and I intend to work to take this message to

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Topeka as well. Because this is not just our area, this is south central Kansas and this is a significant piece for our State of Kansas, thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m just going to echo what everyone else has said. This is a great first step. I don’t envy your second step, because your right Mr. Holt, the devil’s going to be in the details. There’s going to be a lot of turf battles. There’s going to be a lot of attempts at job preservation of the entities that want to be preserved. It’s not focusing on maybe as much on the how to score the touchdown, how to protect my little turf right here and my job today. The one thing I just wanted to clarify what Commissioner Unruh said, WATC could throw a wrench into this whole thing if they didn’t approve what we’re trying to do. Is that what I heard? If they didn’t approve it, they have absolute veto power over his whole authority. Is that right?”

Mr. Holt said, “Let me just preface by just saying, I think WATC is interested and willing partner here if they decide it not to be this could go forward...”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Just without them, they could opt out of the process but they couldn’t kill the attempt at what we’re trying to do?”

Mr. Holt said, “That’s absolutely correct.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay, that’s good cause it’s got me a little concerned because that would give them unfair leverage in a negotiation type of thing. So, if that’s the case, then I’m comfortable with it. The other thing that we all know is going to be a difficult challenge, a company won’t relocate here unless there is an adequate trained workforce, but we can’t train a workforce and just have them, I don’t know what, sitting at home drawing unemployment in the hopes that somebody will come. Because we have 500 trained ‘somebodys’ waiting for a business to come.

The other thing that we’re going to have to deal with and I’m confident that we will, is that we’re going to actually, I think, have to ask the students to take some ownership in this technical training too. In other words, pay something to be trained and not just, it’s going to be the taxpayers are going to train you for free, because I would like to see us not only take over our own needs, but be such a good regional technical center that people will come from other areas to take advantage of

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our technical college or whatever.

As this authority develops, because we have, Tim's exactly right, we have a defining moment to be a leader in what I think is going to be a very, very integral part of economic development and that's training the new generation of workforce to replace the ones that are retiring and to take advantage of new jobs that heretofore are unknown. In other words, we could be a leader in this and I'm just ecstatic because it will be another terrific identifier of Sedgwick County and the services that we provide to all citizens and people can say 'Oh yeah, Sedgwick County, that's where you go for workforce development or technical training'. That's great. So, hats off, but you're going to get a lot more gray hairs before this is done, so thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. Well, just a couple of points I wanted to make, but first of all, respond to Commissioner Sciortino, the idea of a world class training facility, that's exactly what we're trying to do, Commissioners. Make this thing more than just a local training facility, but one that covers a large region to support the job needs of this area and I think it will be successful and it is, I think it will be first class and this is a great first step.

Couple points I wanted to make is that this actually satisfies the two components of our job force development, one we have an immediate critical urgent need right now for custom training and we have included in this plan the ability to respond to that need. And at the same time we need to have the capability to provide for our ongoing technical training and for the citizens of Sedgwick County so that they can see this actually as an alternative career choice to a four-year college and they can enter into one part of the training capability of this facility and receive credits.

And we have articulation agreements with the regents colleges and we'll have a transportable degree so that our citizens can have a lot of different options, as they enter the workforce, not only those who are having to be retrained for specific custom training. So I think that's a strong, strong plus for this, is that we are covering the whole field in this whole area of job development. So that's all I had."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, just my final thoughts, I really believe that we're going to build a facility, a collaboration that they're going to draw some of the best and brightest not just from Sedgwick County and not surrounding counties but from northern Oklahoma, you know, western Missouri, Nebraska. I mean, we've got to be seen as the place you want to go for technical training.

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The reverse of that though is where businesses will want to come, knowing that we'll be agile and quick to take on market driving custom training. When they say, you know, we're going to build a facility, we're going to put in this infrastructure, we're going to create jobs, but we no longer have thirty people in a training and development organization in our own company. What can you deliver for us? And the truth is, you can try to give them incentives to let them build that training capacity and do it to get started and then they end up with a training capacity that they don't necessarily even want. Or we can put the money into building a world-class training capacity here and make it assessable to companies when they are ready for customized training. And I think that's the powerful message we will send out. We'll market that and hopefully everybody will jump on board, seeing this as a way to compete globally, because to think we're competing with Salina or Topeka is very wrong thinking. We're competing with China and Mexico and Europe and other places for technical skills and if we think differently than that we're wrong. We have to make sure that we have that capacity here in our local economy. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner McGinn."

Commissioner McGinn said, "Well, I just wanted to kind of follow up on what Commissioner Sciortino said about Sedgwick County being the place, and I think it's much larger than that and you know I think this, what we're really talking about today, maybe this is where it's located or this is where the channels of the tax dollars or those kinds of things happen. This is a regional force. This is about what can happen for south central Kansas and statistics have shown that when one county does well, the surrounding counties also thrive and prosper. And so I just really want to hone in on the fact that this is a regional thing that's going to be very positive for the state of Kansas."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. And I would just follow up on that regional aspect and Commissioner McGinn has been our voting delegate on the REAP organization and we appreciate her work there. And I think this is going to be an extension of that I serve as the Chair of the Economic Development Committee there. I think this has come together rapidly enough that I probably doubt that REAP is fully up to speed on it. So we will need to make sure that we make sure that we get with those folks, and the committee that I serve on, needs to get a brief done up to speed about what expatiations from them are going to be there. But again, I think as we include REAP, we all keep trying to figure out how to do this region thing. And we're very fortunate in south central Kansas and we do have other counties and cities that we're partnering with and so a real emphasis with them in economic development has been through workforce development. That's an area that I think we all can work together on, so I'm also going to be very supportive. Commissioners if there are any final comments before somebody's prepared to make a motion? We're ready for a motion."

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MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the resolution

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, Ron. Now Mr. Manager, I would hope, meant to say this earlier, that we can keep Ron Holt engaged in this process. I think Commissioners have a great deal of confidence in his ability here.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “He’s the project manager.”

Chairman Winters said, “Very good, thank you. We do have a couple more off agenda items, Commissioners we might as well take them at this time.

MOTION

Chairman Winters moved to take two off agenda items, four reappointments concerning technical education and training.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye

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

OFF AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Euson said, “Commissioners you have before you reappointments to the County’s mechanical, electrical, plumbing and building boards. it is my understanding that none of the persons to be reappointed were planning to be here to be sworn in, and these are identified as items B-1, B-2, B-3 and B-4 on our off agenda listing. So I would recommend you take all of those as one action.”

- 1. RESOLUTIONS (THREE) REAPPOINTING GEORGE FAHNESTOCK, RON LOVE AND DALE MALTBIE TO THE BOARD OF MECHANICAL EXAMINERS AND APPEALS.**
- 2. RESOLUTIONS (THREE) REAPPOINTING ROBERT G. BOILING, ERNEST E. NELSON AND MONTE T. VINER TO THE BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS AND APPEALS.**
- 3. RESOLUTIONS (THREE) REAPPOINTING RANDAL R. COONROD, DAVID SPROUL AND GREGORY F. WILHITE TO THE BNOARD OF BUILDIGN EXAMINERS AND APPEALS.**
- 4. RESOLUTIONS (THREE) REAPPOINTING KEITH BREWER, RODGER EATON AND RODNEY KETZNER TO THE BOARD OF PLUMBNG EXAMINERS AND APPEALS.**

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt resolutions for items B-1, B-2, B-3 and B-4.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

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Chairman Thomas Winters

Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Now were ready to come back to the regular agenda. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

NEW BUSINESS

E. KANSAS COLISEUM.

1. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA HOCKEY, INC. FOR USE OF KANSAS COLISEUM FOR THE 2004/2005 CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE SEASON.

Mr. John Nath, Coliseum Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This the document that will cover the use of the Coliseum by the Thunder for the upcoming hockey season. It is essentially the same as the previous agreement we've had for the last seven years, with the exception we have modified some of the financial terms, whereby the team has told us that they needed some help. They've had some difficulty selling tickets. They could not meet their financial goals. We have modified the rent credits they receive for tickets they sell. They now get a substantially higher credit per ticket. Thereby, it's not an automatic gift. They have to earn it, but if they do sell the tickets, they can realize those financial milestones they want to hit. So we recommend approval. If there's any other questions, I'd be happy to answer them at this time."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, I guess John, the only question is we're in agreement. They are also in agreement with this agreement, right?"

Mr. Nath said, "Yes we are, sir."

Chairman Winters said, "Well, we appreciate your work on this and Ron Holt's work. I know, several Commissioners were very concerned and hopeful that we could get this thing done, so we're glad we could get it done. Commissioners is there any other discussion? If not, what's the will of the board?"

MOTION

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

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

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "This is comment, it kind of ties to this, as we look forward to the future of entertainment and sports, particularly in Wichita and Sedgwick County and the surrounding area, I think this is a great action to try to keep the hockey team here and moving. You know, you don't pick up the paper or listen to the news every day that you see that the Wranglers are kind of in a little controversy about moving to Springfield. The Stealth has kind of been wavering a little bit with their ownership and management. It is a time for people in this community to step up and support the teams and I'm real proud that we hung in there with the hockey team, even though there was some consternation that we drove through it, came out with an agreement. Hopefully it was good for them and us, but we need to try to work hard to try to retain our sports and entertainment companies here. As we talk about a downtown arena, it's going to be really sad if we come to that point when we've got a downtown arena moving forward and we've got nothing to put in it, sports-wise. So we need to work real hard and the people need to step up and start supporting the teams that we've got here, just a thought."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, thank you very much. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

2. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS STATE FAIR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS PROVIDING A LINK TO SELECT A SEAT, THE COUNTY'S COMPUTERIZED TICKET SYSTEM.

Mr. John Nath, said, "This continues our relationship with the Kansas State Fair, whereby they are our valuable client. We provide ticketing services and have for the past 10 years. It's another five-year term, so we will continue to provide those services and have that relationship for the next five years. We recommend approval."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

3. AGREEMENT WITH THE SWANSON CORPORATION FOR LEASE OF CONCESSION STANDS AT KANSAS COLISEUM. COMPUTERIZED TICKET SYSTEM.

Mr. John Nath, said, "This lease agreement will satisfy a change in the state liquor laws and allow Swanson to extend their liquor license at the Coliseum until the current end of their contract, previously it was just a contract with the facility to provide services, was enough to qualify for a liquor license. There's been a change in the law. They now have to have an actual lease and this document will satisfy. They are paying us a rent of \$5.00 month for the term of the lease. It's a technicality, but it does satisfy all the requirements, we recommend approval."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Absent

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Commissioner Ben Sciortino Aye
Chairman Thomas Winters Aye

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Item two just kind of jumpstarted my brain. I remember when the City of Wichita was doing their deal on who they were going to pick and what have you and then there was a lot of controversy cause apparently our bid was substantially lower than the one that they picked and I was reading in the paper that they didn't, either didn't realize we were bidding or they were going to re-look at that and then I didn't hear anything more. Have you been in any kid of...I mean if there's something that's being discussed that you can't talk about, is that still..."

Mr. Nath said, "It's still ongoing. In fact, we had a meeting with the Parks Department yesterday down at City Hall and we talked about, just like the Kansas State Fair, the City of Wichita, through Century II and Botanica becoming a client of Select A Seat. We would love to provide ticketing services for them."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, so..."

Mr. Nath said, "And we would love to do it at a reasonable rate. We think we can provide the convenience that their customers are used to, certainly their event customers are our event customers. They are very comfortable with using our system. We think we could both provide it with a very economical basis and actually provide some new revenue streams for them through an agreement, so those talks are ongoing."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Great. Okay, thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you very much John. Is that all of yours? You have something else?"

Mr. Nath said, "That's all I have."

Chairman Winters said, "Okay, thanks very much John. Next item."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES

F. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – COMCARE.

Regular Meeting, August 11, 2004

1. AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH STATE OF KANSAS, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES ESTABLISHING A PARTICIPATING MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, "Participating in a health center contract is our primary funding source with SRS. And I've been part of a five member team throughout the state negotiating the contract for all 29 mental health centers, ours included. But the negotiations are still underway. There are a couple of pretty significant items in there that we could not agree on. So, barring that, while we continue to negotiate, this amendment extends a 2004 contract that we have with SRS, which expired June 30th, for the next three months. And it allows the state to make our first quarter 2005 payment to us. We're requesting that you approve the amendment."

Chairman Winters said, "All right Commissioners, are there questions or comments?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Next item please."

2. AGREEMENT WITH FAMILY CONSULTATION SERVICES OF WICHITA, INC. (FCS) TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO CAMPUS CONNECTIONS.

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Ms. Cook said, “The next four items involve our affiliate agency, Family Consultation Services. This item is a contract with FCS to partially fund mental health professionals to continue in the Campus Connections program until it’s restructured, and we are in the process of doing that. These seven clinicians provide therapy. They do intakes for the children in the school and they screen children who are having problems in the school into the program. They’ll continue providing these services for the next three months until the changes to improve services are being implemented. We’re requesting that you approve this contract.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, “Next item.”

3. CONTRACT WITH FCS PROVIDING CONTINUED STATUS AS A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.

Ms. Cook said, “This item is a renewal of an affiliation agreement with Family Consultation that allows them to maintain their status as a community mental health center to bill Medicaid for services that they provide and to receive state aid and certified match. The agreement spells out how those services and those referrals are going to be coordinated between our two agencies. We are requesting that you approve the agreement.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you. Commissioners, questions? If not . . .”

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MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner McGinn seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

4. CONTRACT WITH FCS TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.

Ms. Cook said, "This is a renewal of our contract with FCS to provide the array of services that they do for us, including shelter-based services, which they provide in the Wichita Children's Home, and therapy services for youth and their families. COMCARE's children's program sees mostly children with serious emotional disturbances who are in need of community-based services, primarily case management. And Family Consultation sees most of the children who don't need those case management services. And I'd remind you that we saw a very dramatic increase in the number of children that were serving when the State opened up the medical card for children in foster care. Family Consultation took on quite a number of new children to serve them, so we are requesting that you approve this contract."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Next item."

5. AGREEMENT WITH FCS TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO YOUTH WITH HEALTHWAVE INSURANCE.

Ms. Cook said, "This final item involves a renewal for the contract that we've had with them in consultation services since 1999 to provide services to kids who have Healthwave coverage, or title 21 coverage. This is a fee for service program. COMCARE gets paid a per-member, per-month fee and we subcontract with Family Consultation Service, in this case, to provide services.

And the contract clearly outlines the services that they are to perform and performance standards and the rates that we will pay them. We are requesting that you approve this agreement."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Marilyn. Next item."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

G. ADJUSTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFFING TABLE TO INCLUDE FOUR SURVEILLANCE OFFICER POSITIONS, B216.

Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Since 1998, the state has provided grant funds to Sedgwick County to provide services to juvenile offenders. We do that in the Corrections Department at our Juvenile Field Services Division at Parklane. This request adds four surveillance officer positions to the staffing table. These positions provide services in the evening and on weekends to check on Juvenile offenders under supervision living in the community. These services were initiated in the spring as temporary positions that we now have located funding to ask that they be moved to permanent positions. In this State fiscal year '05, two of the positions are funded through a Byrne grant that we went out and solicited and two will be paid for with program income generated through client

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fees. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Winters said, "Commissioners are there any questions on this item?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you, Mark. Next item."

H. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND CLASSIFYING CERTAIN STREETS TO THE VIOLA TOWNSHIP SYSTEM. DISTRICT #3.

Mr. David Spears, P.E., Director/County Engineer, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It is standard procedure that after a road is constructed within a plated residential subdivision in accordance with county standards that road is then assigned to the township road system. In this particular case 227th St west and 109th Street South, located in the Cummings Addition, will become the responsibility of Viola Township. The Viola Township board was informed that this resolution would be on the County Commission agenda by letter dated July 2nd. I recommend you adopt the resolution."

MOTION

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

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, David. Next item.”

I. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS’ REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 2004.

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

**1) COMPUTERS-SHERIFF’S OFFICE
FUNDING: COPS TECHNOLOGY GRANT**

The first item, computers for the Sheriff’s Office. Recommend the low bid from Gateway in the amount of \$77,030.

**2) FILENET MAINTENANCE – DISTRICT COURT
FUNDING: DISTRICT COURT**

Second item is Filenet maintenance for the District Court; recommend the bid from Filenet Corporation in the amount of \$28,890.00.

3) SAND SPREADERS – FLEET MANAGEMENT

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FUNDING: VEHICLE ACQUISITION

And item three, Sand spreaders for Fleet Management; recommend the low bid of Victor L. Phillips for total of \$32,781.18. Be happy to answer any question and recommend approval of these items.”

Chairman Winters said, “Are there questions of Iris. Seeing none, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the report of Board of Bids and Contracts’ regular meeting

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you, Iris. Next item.”

CONSENT AGENDA

J. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Notice of Hearing on Petition No. 8 for Annexation of Territory to Rural Water District No. 1, Sedgwick County, Kansas.**
- 2. Resolution formalizing findings made by the Board of County Commissioners related to a July 21, 2004 public hearing regarding an annexation.**
- 3. Resolutions (two) approving issuance of a State-issued license for retail sales of alcoholic liquor in the original package.**

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- Riverside Township
- Gypsum Township

4. Position Reallocations.

- Appraiser's Office – Real Property Appraiser III, B321, to Mass Appraisal Modeler II, B322
- Accounting – Payroll Specialist, B220, to Payroll Analyst, B322

5. Plat.

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2003 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Calvery Baptist Church 2nd Addition

6. Order dated August 4, 2004 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.

7. Payroll Check Register of August 6, 2004.

8. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of August 4 – 10, 2004.

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I recommend you approve it, with the exclusion of item 7. We don't have a check register this week."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Do we have a motion?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of item 7.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Tim Norton	Aye

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

K. OTHER

Chairman Winters said, "Is there other business to come before the Board? We do need to have an executive session today and I think we're prepared to have a short executive session. We could take just a few minutes if there's any Commissioner comments. I would just encourage community to participate in any of the public meetings and discussions that are going on in the month of August. We continue this week to have discussions about the arena.

Next week, beginning on August 16th, we'll start up for four nights having visioneering community meetings. If you've not been to one of those, I'd encourage you to find the time . . . a location. All the times will be seven, but find the location nearest you and try to attend one of those next week. And the following week, we'll continue our discussion about the arena project. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well coupled with that, we continue to have our meetings about public health too. We've done some outreach there and I don't want to forget that, mainly because during the visioneering there has been quite a bit of talk about health care and how pervasive the rising health care is in the community and we embarked on some visioning for our health department and then we continue some of those public forums for that too. So, if you have an organization that wants to be briefed by the Health Department on that forum just give us a call.

I think you can probably call the Manager's office 660-9393 and they could get you to the right person, but that needs to continue. Also, because that is a huge issue, ties in with visioneering and economic development, along with visioneering and arena discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Winters said, "All right. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you. Just to pick up a little bit on what you said, tonight is the next meeting for the downtown arena project. It's at the Hughes Metroplex and it's from 7:00 to 9:00 and just really would encourage anyone that's pro, con, on the fence wants some additional information, this is an excellent opportunity for you to be as informed as you possibly can prior to going to the polls and voting for what I think will be a defining moment in Sedgwick County. So encourage you to come to this meeting tonight or any of the other meetings that are scheduled. That's all I have."

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Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you very much. Any other discussion? Let's move to the executive session then."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved that the Board of County Commissioners recess into executive session for 20 minutes to consider consultation with legal council on matters privileged in the attorney client relationship relating to pending claims and litigation and legal advice and the Board of County Commissioners return to this room from executive session no sooner than 12:33 p.m.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Winters said, "We are adjourned into Executive Session."

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. and returned at 12:34 p.m.

Chairman Winters said, "All right, I'll call this meeting back to order. Let the record show that there was no binding action taken in executive session. Is there any other business to come before this meeting, Mr. Euson?"

Mr. Euson said, "No sir."

Chairman Winters said, "Mr. Buchanan?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "No Sir."

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Chairman Winters said, “All right. We’re adjourned.”

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman
Third District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chair Pro Tem
First District

Regular Meeting, August 11, 2004

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

CAROLYN McGINN, Commissioner
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2004