

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF FIRE DISTRICT #1**

REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Ben Sciortino; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Lucy Burtnett; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Fire Marshal Tim Millspaugh, Fire District #1; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Joe Heinrich, Member, American Fire Sprinkler Association.

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, August 24, 2005

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2005.

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, you’ve had the opportunity to review the Minutes of the August 24th meeting. Is there any additions or corrections?”

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 14, 2005

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2005.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item."

AWARD

A. PRESENTATION OF "FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES" AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION, FOR PROMOTION OF THE BENEFITS OF RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS.

Fire Marshal Tim Millspaugh, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "A couple of weeks ago, Mr. Henrich, Joe Henrich behind me, surprised us with a phone call stating we were going to receive an award. We were in no way expecting this.

Just some background on what we have done to promote residential fire sprinklers in one and two-family dwellings: Sedgwick County Fire District #1 has promoted residential fire sprinklers on our website for a few years now. Residential fire sprinklers have become more economical to install in new construction in past years because of changes in codes, methods and materials now available.

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 14, 2005

Fire kills more people in the United States than all natural disasters combined. Residential fire sprinklers have been proven to save lives and property in areas of the country where they are now mandatory for all new construction of one and two-family dwellings. Fire sprinklers in homes are estimated to cost anywhere from 1 to 1 ½% of the total building costs of a newly constructed home. That's about the cost of a carpet upgrade. We encourage our citizens who are building new homes to consider this fire safety alternative, that provides safety beyond even the life safety measure of having a smoke alarm in the home.

In spite of what we see on television and in the movies, when one sprinkler head goes off, the whole building sprinkler heads do not go off. That's been one big myth that keeps people . . . that scares people away from sprinkler systems. Only one or two heads may activate. Those are the ones directly over the fire. Those will activate. They will either extinguish the fire or hold it in check until the fire department arrives.

Having fire sprinklers and smoke alarms in the home reduces the chance for death in a home fire by 82%, according to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition. Firefighters attacking a fire with hose lines will use an average of 8 ½ times more water on a fire than a sprinkler system will to extinguish that same fire.

We support the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems in new residential occupancies and will continue to promote the same. And I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Heinrich, who is going to present the award, Joe Heinrich from the American Fire Sprinkler Association."

Mr. Joe Heinrich, Member, American Fire Sprinkler Association, greeted the Commissioners and said, "First, thanks for allowing this time slot for us to publicly recognize the Sedgwick County Fire District #1. Just as a little overview, the American Fire Sprinkler Association is a nationwide association of fire sprinkler contractors, designers, suppliers, manufacturers and other professionals in the industry.

So, on behalf of the American Fire Sprinkler Association, I would like to present this 'Fire Sprinkler Saves Lives' award to Sedgwick County Fire District #1 for including a very informative section on residential fire sprinklers on their website. Using powerful graphics, the Fire District website provides a very thorough and thought-provoking look at residential fire safety.

As Tim talked about before, the fire sprinklers industry is often frustrated at the negative image fire sprinklers receive, primarily because of myths perpetuated by the media and, as his example was, you've seen the movies where an entire building's sprinkler system activates the one time, maybe due to a match or birthday candles or even smoke.

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 14, 2005

So, in recognition of this, in 1998 AFSA created the Fire Sprinklers Save Lives award to recognize individuals and organizations such as Sedgwick County Fire District, organizations outside the fire sprinkler industry who help dispel those myths by generating public awareness of the truth about this lifesaving technology.

So Tim, on behalf of all AFSA members, I am proud to present this Fire Sprinklers Save Lives award to the Sedgwick County Fire District #1. And with this award, you join a rather elite group of fire departments and other organizations, as well as TV personality Ron Hazelton, who is the home improvement editor for 'Good Morning America' and Bruce Irving, producer of the TV program 'This Old House'. So thank you for allowing me this time in honoring Sedgwick County Fire District #1, and Tim and their important work to save lives and property. I appreciate your time."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, well thank you very much. I mean, it seems like if we're receiving awards . . . and Mr. Heinrich, we appreciate your being here and Tim, we are also thankful that our fire district is on the leading edge of promoting safety for our citizens. And some of the incorrect information that you mentioned are images that I had in my mind. I just thought if they went off, they all went off. And in all the thriller movies, somebody makes one go off and then the whole building goes off, so the good guy gets out of the jam he's in, and that just perpetuates that myth, I think."

Mr. Heinrich said, "Well, it works only in the movies."

Chairman Unruh said, "Yeah, I understand."

Mr. Heinrich said, "And I might reiterate too that you should be very proud of Sedgwick County Fire District #1. This is not just a local or a statewide recognition. They were recognized nationally for their contribution and what they've done, so it's a very significant website and information they've provided and something to be quite proud of. We certainly are, in the industry anyway."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, as well as us. We thank you very much."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Oh, I have a question of this gentleman. Could I ask you a question? A home that doesn't have an internal sprinkler system, can you retrofit a home and put it in, without a lot of rip up?"

Mr. Heinrich said, "It all . . . it depends on a number of things. If you want everything concealed, the piping and everything concealed, obviously in an existing home it would require

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 14, 2005

some tearing out old sheetrock and . . . but there are ways to hide things. You can provide fabricated, but you can conceal it, still make it look aesthetically pleasing without enormous expense. I mean, it is obviously more costly to retrofit than in new construction.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “If a person were to do that, would the insurance companies recognize that and would there be any reduction in their fire insurance or anything?”

Mr. Heinrich said, “Some of them do, not to the extent we would like to see yet, but it has increased somewhat over the years, as residential fire sprinklers have become more common. Actually, in some locations, I’ll just use one for example, Scottsdale Arizona requires fire sprinkler installations in all new residential construction. There are a few other locations also, but for that fact that it has become more predominate, insurance companies are beginning to recognize that and provide . . . nothing real significant.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. Just the last comment, if anyone is watching, and is now maybe interested in something like that, do you have an association’s local number that they could call and get general information?”

Mr. Heinrich said, “There’s not a local association number. There is, however, a website. www.sprinklernet.org and there is a link there to information and contractors and also they can probably get some information from the Sedgwick County Fire District. That would be the local number to call, Mr. Millspaugh.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Thank you so much.”

Chairman Unruh said, “If we need more information, we’ll call our guy. All right, thank you all very much and congratulations again to our fire district. Commissioners, is there anything else to come before the board sitting as the governing body of the Fire District? Seeing none, I will adjourn the meeting of the Fire District.”

B. OTHER

C. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 14, 2005

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

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

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
First District

BEN SCIORTINO, Chair Pro Tem
Fifth District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

LUCY BURTNETT, Commissioner
Fourth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2005