

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

April 6, 2005

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, April 6, 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; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Ms. Kathy Sexton, Assistant County Manager; Ms. Kim Parker, Assistant District Attorney; Ms. Kathy Gann, Administrative Officer, Sedgwick County Health Department; Mr. Steve Onken, Development Director, Sedgwick County Zoo Volunteers; Fire Chief Gary Curmode, Fire District #1; Ms. Irene Hart, Captain Douglas J. Williams, Fire District #1; Mr. Joe L. Norton, Gilmore & Bell, P.C., Bond Counsel; Mr. Jim Weber, Deputy Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Ms. Pamela Martin, Director, Clinical Services, Health Department; Ms. Gloria Vermie, Public Health Emergency Coordinator, Health Department; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Mr. Pete Giroux, Senior Management Analyst, Budget Department; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Bethany Carpenetti, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Reverend Charles Wolford, Positive Directions.
Ms. Myleeka Landrum, Community Solutions Incorporated.
Mr. Auggie Garcia, Outreach Coordinator, Positive Directions.
Ms. Michelle Chippeaux-Kammerer, Board Vice Chair and Chair of the Arthritis Walk.
Ms. Liz McGuinness, Chair, Suicide Prevention Task Force.
Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Past Chair, Suicide Prevention Task Force.
Mr. Scott Tatge, Mayor, City of Cheney, Ks.
Mr. Ty Lasher, City Administrator, City of Cheney.
Dr. Susan Carr, Methodology Committee, University of Kansas School of Medicine.
Mr. Adam Wilbur, Wichita's Promise Youth Council.
Ms. Emily Smith, Wichita's Promise Youth Council.
Mr. Logan Reich, Wichita's Promise Youth Council.
Ms. Sarah Bankson, Program Director, Youth & Environment Regional Prevention Center.
Ms. Brittany Stiffler, Wichita's Promise Youth Council.

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INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Mark McMahon of West Side Christian Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, before we call our next item, I want to recognize the presence of former county commissioner Betsy Gwin. Betsy served our county for three terms and I appreciate your being here today, Betsy, good to see you. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, March 16, 2005

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2005.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, you've had an opportunity to review the Minutes of March 16th. Are there any additional or corrections?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16th, 2005.

Commissioner Norton 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 please."

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PROCLAMATIONS

A. PROCLAMATIONS.

1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 4-10, 2005 AS “BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, I have a proclamation for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year, more than 50 percent occur among African Americans; and

WHEREAS, AIDS is the number one cause of death for African American adults aged 25-44, before heart disease, cancer and homicide; and

WHEREAS, sixty-two percent of children born to HIV-infected mothers were African American; and

WHEREAS, the role of religious institutions is crucial in educating communities about HIV/AIDS and is vital to heal hearts and minds of silence, denial and the stigma that interferes with prevention, treatment and testing in Black communities; and

WHEREAS, the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is modeled after the groundbreaking Harlem Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, established in 1989 by Pernessa C. Seele, and is supported by over 65 AIDS service organizations and health departments across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is a week of education and AIDS awareness that spotlights the role that churches are playing in addressing the AIDS crisis; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of

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Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 4-10, 2005 as

‘Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS’

and encourage all citizens to participate in the education and awareness of HIV/ AIDS.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation. What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

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, “And here to receive the proclamation is Reverend Charles Wolford.

Reverend Charles Wolford, Positive Directions, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you for having us here. I appreciate the commission allowing us to come and present this worthy cause in the African American community. We have launched this event and we’re hoping to continue this annually, as a way that we can educate our community.

We will have a celebration the 10th, which is this Sunday, at 6:00 at New Day Christian Church. It will be a celebration, hopefully to continue to educate our community. We have some 10 churches involved who have come to agree. We’ll have singing and we’ll have some brief comments with regards to our mission and our call, so we’ll certainly thank you and welcome and invite the community to come out and share with us on this Sunday.

I also have with me a couple of advocates in our community and I wanted to just share a little bit with regards to some of the work that we’re doing in the Wichita community.”

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Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, good. Step right up and tell us your name."

Ms. Myleeka Landrum, Community Solutions Incorporated, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I deal with parolees and probationers and they are a high risk category, and I do education and testing for them."

Chairman Unruh said, "Very good."

Mr. Auggie Garcia, Outreach Coordinator, Positive Directions, Member of Minority Advisory Committee, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We do a lot of prevention and outreach in the community, as well as provide any services to any HIV positive that are living with that right now."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Thank you all for being here. We know that this is an important issue and we wish you much success in the awareness of this and hopefully working towards the prevention and eradication of this blight on our society. Thank you for being here. Next item."

2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 4-10, 2005 AS "NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, a proclamation for your consideration."

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, public health has contributed to the decline in illness and injury, including heart disease and stroke, tobacco related disease, infectious diseases and motor vehicle and workplace injuries, and

WHEREAS, of the 30 additional years of life expectancy we have gained in the last 100 years, the public health approach is credited with the majority- approximately 25 years- of improvements in our health status and expanded life expectancy, and

WHEREAS, National Public Health Week provides the focused opportunity for the public and public health professionals to learn about public health concerns and success stories which are vital to healthy communities, such as immunizing against infectious disease, maintaining good

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nutritional standards and providing good prenatal care, and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County Government responds to community needs and provides essential public health services through the Health Department, COMCARE, Community Developmental Disabilities Organization, Department on Aging and Emergency Medical Services; and

WHEREAS, the National Public Health Week theme for 2005- Empowering Americans to Live Stronger, Longer- seeks to help people overcome barriers to achieving good health through prevention, protection and planning to live longer, healthier lives.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 4-10, 2005, as

‘National Public Health Week’

in Sedgwick County and commend this observance to all our citizens.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation. What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters 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, “And accepting the proclamation is Assistant County Manager Kathy Sexton.”

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Ms. Kathy Sexton, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you very much. I’m accepting the proclamation because you would not believe how many departments you have who work for the good of the public health. I’m not here representing the Sedgwick County Health Department, because that is just one of the five county departments that you have that focus on public health.

So, if I could just ask the people that are here from those departments, first the county health department, and then in addition to that, your Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Service, EMS, and he’s already standing because there aren’t enough chairs, Tom Pollan is here, our director of EMS. Also is COMCARE, our mental health organization. Is anyone here from . . . There’s Marilyn. There’s lots of people here from COMCARE and then the CDDO, as we call them, Community Developmental Disabilities Organization, do we have some people here? Yes, there’s Collin over there in the corner. Let’s see, who am I missing? Hum . . . the Aging Department, Sedgwick County Aging Department, and Central Plains Area Agency of Aging. Thank you all for being here.

Little known fact about county government is that one of our basic, core services is public health and serving all these folks that were just mentioned, developmentally disabled to the aging people and lots of folks. So we want to recognize all of them and thank you for this proclamation. It is National Public Health Week and we have been doing some events throughout the week.

You may have noticed, in your Wichita Eagle this morning, this little flyer in amongst the grocery store ads, and if you haven’t gone through your ads yet for your shopping, just make sure that you see this when you do go through your ads. It has some information about what Sedgwick County is doing to protect the public health and to plan for a better public health in the future. There’s also some information for your personal health that each individual could read, to take a look at for example the questions about Diabetes, actually a Diabetes risk factor assessment. And that’s one of those afflictions that I personally always think, ‘Hmm, am I preparing myself for that by eating too much sweets, or does that run in the family because grandpa had it’ and that type of thing, so good information to take a look at and see if you are at risk for Diabetes.

Also on your desk this morning is a nice, red apple. Today, at the County Health Department, we are giving an apple to each of the clients of the county health department who visit today. As you all know, apples promote good oral health and provide lots of fiber and nutrition for us, so it’s a great thing to eat.

One other announcement would be that tomorrow is our focus on wellness and public health is about walking, because we all know the importance of walking, can join the Health Department at Murdock Park, which is right across from the Health Department over on 9th Street. At 10 a.m. we’re going to be taking a walk, and if you cannot join us at that time, just form a group or do it by

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yourself and take a walk at work tomorrow and then get on the county website, sedgwickcounty.org, O-R-G, and log your hours . . . your miles, how much you walked and that log will be used to get kind of an assessment of who in the community, how many in the community feel that this is an important aspect of our public life these days is promoting our health.

So, with that, again commissioners, thank you and happy National Public Health Week to you all.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well, thank you Kathy but we have a couple of comments. One, I appreciate the efforts of the public Health Department, I mean education and trying to promote behavioral change is really key in being successful and I just want to say that I’m at the age in life where that extra 30 years of life expectancy is real important.”

Commissioner Norton said, “You want to push that envelope a little more, don’t you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “I sure do. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well, you know it’s wonderful to celebrate a very national Public Health Week, but certainly locally we should celebrate public health year. You know, one thing we learned last year during our Assembly that health of our community, not just physical health, but the health of the community and the individuals in it is an extremely important service that Sedgwick County provides.

And as we learn through Visioneering, under quality of life, number one issue was health concerns and the health of the community. So, for us celebrate National Public Health Week is exciting, but truthfully I think it’s important for Wichita and Sedgwick County and this south central region to continue to keep health, public health on the burner every week of the year, every day of the year, because it is so important to our seniors, to our young people, to everybody in the community to have value of life.

And you know we can build arenas, we can add new facilities in the community, we can improve roads, but the truth is, if people don’t have their health, all those other things don’t matter very much, so I think it’s very important that we continue to do that good work of Sedgwick County and to promote healthy lifestyles, so this will help do that, so thanks, that’s all I had.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Well, thank you Kathy and thanks to all of our departments that work in public health and thanks to our community partners that help make Sedgwick County a healthier place to live. Madam Clerk, call the next item please.”

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3. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 10-16, 2005 AS “CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, I have a proclamation for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, more than 24 million Americans suffer the impact of crime each year, and teenagers are victimized at significantly higher rates than any other age group, but report the least amount of crime; and

WHEREAS, crime victims experience anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, lost work hours and productivity; drug and alcohol abuse, and severe depression at much higher rates than the general population; and

WHEREAS, crime victims may be forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves such as relocating, changing their address, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders; and these individuals deserve to be treated with dignity and respect by our criminal justice system and society at large; and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County recognizes that its response to crime victims plays an important role in their efforts to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, gracious volunteers have helped victims and survivors of crimes by improving the rights and resources available to crime victims in building a better, more just community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2005 as

‘Crime Victims’ Rights Week’

in Sedgwick County, and we applaud the efforts of the many victims service providers, police officers, prosecutors, community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about victims’ rights; and we recognize Karen Southwick, a dedicated volunteer from Catholic Charities’ Harbor House.

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Commissioners, you've heard the proclamation. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "And Kim Parker is here to receive the proclamation."

Ms. Kim Parker, Assistant District Attorney, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you, Commissioners. First I want to do a little plug for this week, and we're having a community awareness event at Towne East Mall in front of Dillard's, where all the various agencies that help with victims' rights and victims' support will be present and that happens from one to four Saturday. So hopefully people will come out and join as and Identi-Kits will be available and people can take part and learn more about victim support agencies.

But most importantly today, I'm here . . . it is my distinct pleasure and honor to introduce to you someone who we feel has assisted victims in this community beyond compare, and her name is Karen Southwick. She's from Catholic Charities' Harbor House and I want to read some of the things that I have learned about Karen.

She is motivated by sincere compassion. She helps individuals walk through PFAs every Monday, and PFAs and FPSs are Protection From Abuse and Protection From Stalking. And as many of us know, it is intimidating to come into the court system and so individuals who become victims of domestic violence and their children she supports and helps by bringing them through and walking them through that process.

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On an average week, she helps at least 10 people through that court system. In addition to that, she helps over 600 hours . . . or puts in 600 hours at the shelter alone every year and each hour that she works for the Harbor House. She provides transportation. She takes them to appointments. She helps them get to job interviews. She makes sure that they have clothes on their back. She may refer them to other agencies. She brings her own home-baked goods and brownies for residents that are there at the shelter.

Alternating weeks, she does sewing and mending for the children that may be necessary to help them to be fully clothed and look nice. She acts to lead shelter events. She provides a shoulder to cry on, and as you can imagine, that can be a very important thing, and becomes the personal cheerleader for victims of domestic violence and their children.

One of the things that I found very amazing is that she enjoys volunteering so much that she has, in the past, said that she wished that she could pay Harbor House for the joy of working and having these positive experiences.

In addition to that, what you should know about Karen is that Catholic Charities U.S.A. has a volunteer award of the year, and she has, out of 1,400 agencies across the United States, become one of 12 finalists. And so that, in and of itself, is quite an accomplishment and we're hopeful that she is selected for the final award.

But in any event, please honor Karen Southwick today. She's a little shy. She likes that one on one a little better."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Could we talk a little bit more about the brownies? That was what was getting my attention."

Ms. Parker said, "Now commissioner, it's National Health Week. You have your apple. I don't think brownies is on the list, is it?"

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, before we leave this item, Karen I just want to express my personal appreciation for the work that you're doing. I know all the commissioners would agree with me that it's this type of community service and community volunteering that helps make our community a really great place to live. And folks who dedicate themselves like you have are hard to find, so we truly do appreciate your work. We have another . . . Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "On a more serious note, I'd like to expand a little bit about what

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our Chairman said. Government couldn't exist, society couldn't exist without people like you. And we couldn't probably afford to pay you for what you have done for us. So the most we can do is tell you, from our heart, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Okay, well thank you very much and now we would ask our Assistant District Attorney to go back to work. All right, Madam Clerk, call the next item."

4. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 10-16, 2005 AS "NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, a proclamation for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, County employees patrol our streets, fight fires, save lives, keep families healthy, repair bridges, help troubled youths and adults and perform countless other jobs for which they deserve to be recognized; and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County provides a wide range of services, including: emergency services, programs for the physically and mentally ill, recreational and cultural attractions, community development and environmental protection programs, services for the elderly, infrastructure through roads and technology, correctional programs for adults and youth, and many internal support functions; and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County leaders are committed to improving the communities where our citizens live, work, play and raise families and Sedgwick County builds partnerships to meet many of the most challenging needs and ensure a high quality of life for all; and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County continues to be the citizen's local government voice, providing solutions that bring communities together.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2005 as

'NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK'

in Sedgwick, County, in recognition of the employees of Sedgwick County who are working for the citizens to provide innovative and quality public services every day.

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Commissioners, you've heard the proclamation. What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "And accepting the proclamation is County Manager Bill Buchanan."

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "On what's apparently a proclamation day, I just want to take a moment to thank you, on behalf of the employees and citizens of Sedgwick County.

We need to be reminded that Sedgwick County is involved in human lives, from conditions when women are pregnant, prenatal and if you die in Sedgwick County poor, we will bury you. We do everything in between. For children, we try to make them as healthy as possible. We try to help them get along in school. We try to assist them, as part of their families. As young adults, we help them buy houses. We try to make sure that there's jobs for them to be productive and an active life, and places for them to play and have fun with their families. For individuals, we continue every day to try to make them self-sufficient, whether they're mentally or physically challenged in any way.

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For seniors, we try to keep them in their homes and stay healthy and we have a community that has . . . we have a county that has a lot of our resources trying to make sure that people are safe. But what we really do is continue to honor what America is all about, and that's the democratic process, through these meetings and other things. We continue to assure that democracy is delivered to people's doorsteps every day. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Bill. We have a comment here from Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well several of us are very involved with county government at the state level and even at the national level and truthfully, I've often said that all government is local. You know, when the rubber hits the road and where services are really provided and where government touches the people, it's at the local level, and that first bastion of that is county government.

And several years ago, the motto changed for Sedgwick County. It's now on all the vehicles, it's on all our literature and we had a great debate on that, as commissioners, on moving to a new thought process. And we finally came to 'Sedgwick County . . . working for you' and I truthfully believe that tells the story of the 2,700-2,800 very dedicated public servants that work for Sedgwick County. They are legitimately, every day, working for the citizens of Sedgwick County, very compassionate, very caring, very dedicated to the principles of good government and we appreciate that.

And just as much as we celebrate County Government Day on a national level, we really celebrate those folks that work for us that every day come to work with one ideal, and that's work for the citizens of Sedgwick County. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Well, as a relatively new county commissioner, I would just say that I'm very proud and pleased to be part of county government. You know, when you come from outside government, you really don't understand all the good that the local government does. And not only the good that we're doing now, but the fact that this government seems to be committed to the point of trying to be innovative and come up with new ways to do things better and expand our services.

So I hate to just be patting ourselves on the back too much, and saying how wonderful we are, but I'm very proud to be associated with Sedgwick County government. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

5. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 17-24, 2005 AS "NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, I proclamation for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our nation has a rich history of volunteering, with people coming together to care for one another, lending a helping hand and building strong communities; and

WHEREAS, volunteering is an expression of responsible citizenship, offering all people, young and old, the opportunity to participate in their communities, linking their talents and resources to address needs; and

WHEREAS, National Volunteer Week as first recognized in 1974, to lift up the volunteer spirit and honor those who willingly give of their time to improve the quality of life where they live; and

WHEREAS, there are many Sedgwick County departments that rely on over 2,000 volunteers to help us deliver quality public services that Sedgwick County residents expect.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 17-24, 2005 as

‘National Volunteer Week’

in Sedgwick County, and encourage all citizens to acknowledge the important role of volunteers in our community and to thank those volunteers who gladly give of their time and resources to our Sedgwick County organization.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation. What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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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, "Thank you. And here to receive the proclamation is Kathy Gann. Kathy, you want to step up. Steve Onken is there behind you."

Ms. Kathy Gann, Administrative Assistant, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The zoo and the health department, Metropolitan Medical Response System, and the Medical Reserve Corp volunteers collaborated together on this proclamation for National Volunteers Week and we just want to say thank you to the board for recognizing the volunteers. I know there's several departments in the county that utilize volunteers and we're just real thankful that we have such great volunteers that help out all of our departments.

We have several of them here today from the CERTS volunteers, the Medical Reserve Corp, EMS, the zoo and we just wanted to have a chance to recognize all the volunteers that bring their services to the county, to help serve people of the county better. I don't know if Steve wants to say something."

Chairman Unruh said, "Steve, you want to say anything?"

Mr. Steve Onken, Development Director, Zoo Volunteers, said, "I couldn't say it better."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Well, do you use any volunteers at the zoo?"

Mr. Onken said, "Quite a few."

Chairman Unruh said, "I know you do. Well those volunteers that are here, would you want to stand up so you can see all those who are involved in volunteer activity. Well, we have a couple of comments here. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I think Commissioner Sciortino said it pretty well earlier, that many organizations just could not function without people that step up and volunteer their time and abilities. But I'm struck by two things this time of year that I think about, the River Festival is one.

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You know, a lot of corporate sponsors step up and give money and Sedgwick County is sponsoring an event, but truly, and I know Steve knows this from his years of experience with the River Festival, that great event, that quality of life celebration would never happen without the scores of volunteers that step up and do everything from move barricades, to sell food, to do all the different functions and particularly the planning part of it.

And then the second thing that I'm reminded of, and I know a little bit about this, it's storm season and you know, when a bad thing happens to your community, government doesn't fix the problems that people have. You know, the first Saturday after the tornado in Haysville some years ago, 2,000 volunteers showed up in Haysville to remove limbs and debris and to comfort people and to help a community. Communities are strongest when people are committed to helping their neighbors and volunteerism is so powerful. And I'm very supportive of this. We can't say thank you enough to people that volunteer in our county government, but throughout our community, on all the levels that we need people to step up and help each other. So, thank you, Mr. Chair."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I would just echo Commissioner Norton and Commissioner Sciortino. We certainly appreciate all the work you do. My wife and I were out at the zoo, first thing Saturday morning, and as we were walking through the zoo, saw three volunteers in the buffalo area pen area doing the most unglamorous job you could ever imagine. They had their shovels and their wheelbarrows."

Commissioner Norton said, "You're going to make us guess what that job was."

Commissioner Winters said, "Yes. But you know, Jerry and I both commented what a great service it is to the community and we both thought about someday we may be volunteers at the zoo. So, thank you all very much for your work."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Madam Clerk, next item."

6. PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2005 AS "ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, a proclamation for your consideration."

PROCLAMATION

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WHEREAS, the term arthritis encompasses more than 100 diseases, conditions and syndromes that affect joints, surrounding tissues, other connective tissues, and may also affect other parts of the body including internal organs; and

WHEREAS, more than 676,000 Kansans- adults and children- are living with arthritis and related diseases; and arthritis is the leading cause of disability for those over the age of 15 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, arthritis costs the nation more than \$86 billion annually, including lost productivity and the arthritis and related diseases; and

WHEREAS, the kick-off for Arthritis Awareness Month will be the Inaugural Arthritis Walk at Sedgwick County Zoo, Saturday, April 30, 2005.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2005, as

‘Arthritis Awareness Month’

in Sedgwick County and I urge all health care professionals and citizens in our county to learn more about arthritis, its treatment and techniques for self-management. I encourage Kansans to join in the work of the Arthritis Foundation in Kansas to help prevent, control and cure this disease.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation and what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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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, “And receiving the proclamation is Michelle Chippeaux-Kammerer, is that correct? And she is board vice chair and chair of the Arthritis Walk, so welcome.”

Ms. Michelle Chippeaux-Kammerer, Chair, Arthritis Walk, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you and thank you very much, commissioners, for this proclamation. I am a volunteer and I’m also on the Board of the Arthritis Foundation Kansas Chapter and it’s been very rewarding because I also suffer from one of the diseases that is under the umbrella of arthritis, which is Lupis.

I’ve also brought some individuals with us from the Arthritis Foundation Kansas Chapter and that is Benny Bender, who is the President and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation. We also have Betsy Gwin, who is the Development Director and then we also have Aaron Brightenbogg, who is our board chairman. So, we’re very honored to have them here as well. But what I do want to say is that even though we do it every day, our goal is to educate the public about the effects of arthritis and its prevalence within our community and abroad.

The Arthritis Foundation basically exists to take control, to help people take control of their disease and we have also given you ‘Take Control’ bracelets, so that is just a reminder that that is one of our purposes and that many people also have this illness.

We have many events planned during the month of May, and the best one I can tell you is the Arthritis Walk, simply because I am the chair of that event, so I am begging you to participate in that event, even though that was not in the script that they prepared for me. So, please come to that. It is scheduled at the Sedgwick County Zoo on Saturday, April 30th. It will be a lot of fun. We’re going to have food and music and prizes, give away items and then just lots of fun in general.

But you also probably know that arthritis affects one in three Americans, so that means probably each of us in this room may know somebody who is struggling with this disease of some type in the

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arthritis family. But after the walk is complete, every participant is also invited to stay at the zoo for the rest of the day, so it's a great deal, brings donations, also participate in the walk, have a great time and also be able to participate in the zoo for the rest of the day and see the gorillas and stuff and the volunteers that you guys have been talking about this morning.

To learn more about the walk and other Arthritis Awareness Month events, please feel free to call the Arthritis Foundation. Their phone number is 263-0116, that's 263-0116, or you can visit them at Arthritis.org and sign up for the walk. So, as chair, thank you very much commissioners for your proclamation. We definitely appreciate it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, thank you for your involvement in this. I think that what you say is true, everyone of us knows many of our friends now who are afflicted with this and it's not a fun affliction to have to deal with. And the one thing that gets my attention, 86 billion annually spent on Arthritis care. That's a huge number, so appreciate your efforts in awareness and trying to help people cope with this disease. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I'm going to be very supportive and I'm maybe the one in three. If you can see this finger right here, that's rheumatoid arthritis and you know, my mom had it. It's genetic, I know I'm going to have to deal with it and I'll be very supportive.

You know, I've already had conversations with Betsy and somehow she conned me out of some money. She's a pretty good development director. But arthritis is an affliction. It's like many others, we don't have a cure for it. The best we can do is try to mitigate the circumstances that people find themselves in and continue to raise money to try to find a cure, because it is very onerous on folks in our society and we think of arthritis a lot of times as an old person's disease, but you know what, it afflicts many children and young people in our society.

It's interesting, I've had five classmates in a small town I grew up with, three of them now wheelchair-bound in their '50s because of Arthritis, so it is very onerous on our society and just keep up the good work and maybe one day there will be a cure."

Ms. Chippeaux-Kammerer said, "We hope so. We thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you Commissioners. Thank you all for being here and we commend you for your work. Thank you."

Commissioner Norton said, "Mr. Chair, before we go on, I'd like to introduce another proclamation."

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Chairman Unruh said, "You would?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Whereas, we've just heard six proclamations and whereas I'm about fed up with proclamation, I move we have no more proclamations today."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, that will probably pass. However, commissioner, not to say these were not significant events."

Commissioner Norton said, "They were wonderful, but you know, six must be a record."

Commissioner Winters said, "Yeah."

Chairman Unruh said, "Might be. Well, we'll just delay that Motion."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "The Motion failed for lack of second."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, at this point, we'll call the next item."

APPOINTMENTS

B. SEDGWICK COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE.

Ms. Liz McGinness, Chair, Suicide Prevention Task Force, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am pleased to say, I don't have a proclamation. We have a number of exciting updates to give you and we're going to talk at great length about the annual report and also an upcoming activity, our race on April 16th."

But to begin with, I would also like to ask for approval of the ongoing appointments for our Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force and ask for a new member to be appointed, John Joe Kisner, District Judge of the 18th Judicial District. We would like for him very much to be on our task force and be a part of our activities."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Is Judge Kisner here?"

Ms. McGinness said, "I don't think he is here this morning."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Task Force as presented.

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Commissioner Norton 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, "Well, that was easy Liz."

Ms. McGuinness said, "Again, thank you for your support and I'd like to introduce Kevin Bomhoff, past chair of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force and he's going to discuss the annual report with you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Before he does that, should we officially call that item?"

Ms. McGuinness said, "Well maybe that would be best to do."

Chairman Unruh said, "Call the item please."

PRESENTATIONS

C. PRESENTATION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE 2004 ANNUAL REPORT.

Ms. McGuinness said, "Forgive my enthusiasm."

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

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Mr. Kevin Bomhoff, Former President, Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force, Self Help Network Center for Community Support and Research, Wichita State University, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Liz runs our meetings and now she’s running yours. I’m here today as a volunteer and as the methodology chair of the Suicide Prevention Task Force I’m here to present to you the 2004 annual report of the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

You might say, ‘Well, it’s April, why are we just now getting the 2004 annual report?’, and that’s because we must wait for a number of cases to clear the forensic center, to clear the kind of data we want to present and we want to use as we go forward in our planning. So, those cases have now cleared. We’ve collected the information that we need and we’re here to present it.

We are presenting this in a very reader-friendly fashion and you have a copy of this available to you. It might look a little different than some of the annual reports that you’ve read in the past. It’s full of important information in what we plan to do, as well as what we have to accomplish, but also what are the warning signs and what should we be doing about suicide is also included in this, and as a result of this format that we use, we actually distributed 7,500 of these last year, and we plan to do the same this next year, in fact increasing those numbers. So, it’s really an informational tool as well.

If you’ll take a look at the slides, we’ll bring our presentation, and the first slide has some information about a point I want to make, I won’t cover each one of these bullets, but this is really a true public health concern and here we are in public health, national recognition today and throughout the month, but suicide is very closely related to depression, very closely related to substance abuse and very closely related to safety in our community as well, because guns are so often used in the execution of a suicide.

So, we want to make sure that we understand we elevate suicide to a level of a public health concern. Not something that’s discussed quietly or perhaps not discussed at all, but something that’s discussed openly and that we’re working toward reducing the number of those suicides.

It’s the 12th leading cause of death in Kansas and one of seven Kansas suicides occur right here in Sedgwick County. Take a look at this chart, you can see that we’re glad to report to you that suicides, the actual number has stabilized, and continues to be . . . what we’re not glad to report to you is that that number is 56 a year and so it was 56 this past year and it maintains about that level. We’re fortunate. Some other communities are seeing some increases. We’re seeing a stable trend here, but at the same time you can see some shifts over the years. We’re pleased that we’re seeing stabilizing of the under 19s at a fairly low level. We saw reduction in our senior citizens, in the number of suicides that they report, or reported for that age group.

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The 40 to 59 age group experienced a peak last year that was quite alarming and we saw a little reduction this year, so we're pleased to see that. Unfortunately, the counterbalance to all of those reductions is happening in our 20 to 39 year olds. Again, a little shift in terms of where these suicides are happening in terms of ages, but overall stability in the number of suicides that are taking place.

We don't want stability, we want reduction, so we're going to continue to work hard toward that end. If you take a look at this particular chart, and we wanted to thank Dr. Dudley and Sherry Beck with the forensic center and also Dr. Joyce Webb with Catholic Charities who volunteers her time to help us collect this information. These are precipitating events, and when all is said and done, when we look at each one of these suicides and something that we've really pushed forward with, as a task force, to try to really understand what's going on behind these suicides and where these suicides are taking place.

We're finding that 44%, the largest number, has to do with personal issues and by far depression is the prevalent issue within personal issues, as well as substance abuse. So read that 44% as substance abuse and depression. We also see unemployment and legal issues very largely present here as well, in terms of precipitating events. We say precipitating, we're not talking about actually cause and effect, we're talking about what's the most prevalent thing we find in the cases, we take a look at each one of these suicides, that what's happening in that person's life prior to the suicide itself.

And then we talk about disease and illness and we talked just a moment ago about arthritis, people who suffer from illness or injury are at high risk for just losing hope and depression also exists there, so we want to pay attention to the affect that that has on the impact on suicides in our area as well.

One combination we want to continue to draw close attention to is when you put depression and/ or substance abuse together with firearms in the home, we're accounting for most of the suicides right there. Those are the factors that we're finding over and over again. Firearms are the most frequent method of suicide for both men and women, 50% of all suicides, the ready availability of this means and the access are of concern to us. You know, most people buy a gun to protect themselves in their home. Only 2% really ever have to use it for that purpose and that gun sometimes turns into a weapon against themselves, and 83% of the deaths in the home are a result of a suicide, often by someone other than the person who purchased that gun.

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So, we just want people in the public to be very aware that that gun in your home, in the presence of substance abuse, in the presence of an individual who is depressed and in need of treatment for depression, is of great concern and should be of concern to you.

We want to highlight what's being done and our web page is an important part of what we're doing, and should you decide to receive and file this report today, it will be on that website for the public to see. We have several things happening. We're not going to touch every one of those, but did want to highlight a couple of the items in here and that's the Yellow Ribbon campaign, which you're going to hear a little bit more about from Liz, whose taking a big leadership role in that area. We've had over 100 presentations. She reminded me this morning that actually that number should be more like 150, so we're going to go back and change that as time goes forward, we'll watch that number a little bit closer.

We have great results from some surveys after Yellow Ribbon presentations. Participants strongly agreed to the statement, 'I know where to go for help'. That increased by 20%. Importantly, 88% agreed that the Yellow Ribbon campaign made it easier to help themselves or others. We're going to show you how that help takes place when Liz gets up and visits here with you in a few moments.

Other things that we want to point out is that we're targeting some of our work in the area of . . . well, I'm going to get to that in just a moment. Let's instead just talk a little bit about the First Annual Link 4 Life run/ walk. The idea behind the run/ walk is that suicide prevention can be the same as other health concerns. And so, let's get out and talk about that in the public and let's get out and get active and get the community involved.

When we asked the community to come out and learn about suicide and to stand up and say we're concerned and we're going to be informed and we're going to be a link for life for people, 817 runners and walkers showed up and that was last year and we're just thrilled. We had over a thousand family members come out and 120 volunteers help us with this work. We're going to talk about the one that's coming up here in just another couple of weeks, which we expect an even larger turnout for.

Now, on future strategies, want to talk about the fact that we want to expand this year, outside of the Sedgwick County area. It seems like, as we've gotten ourselves organized, we tend to have focused a little more than perhaps we should just on the Wichita area, so I know commissioners that you have a great concern about the entire county, and we're here to assure you that our efforts for the Yellow Ribbon campaign are going to go outside of 259, that our efforts to distribute literature are going to go outside of the city limits and we're going to really focus this next year to make a real effort in that area.

We wanted to tell you that on April 16th, we're going to have the second annual Link 4 Life, we're going to hear about that in just a few moments. Want to tell you about an exciting development that

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Sedgwick County is helping us with. We are tracking, using geographical information, statistical mapping, we are tracking trends in where suicides take place and where that suicide level becomes greater than the national average. And by tracking that over time, and we're putting those graphs together now, we're going to begin targeting our education more in those areas and our efforts more in those areas, because it's a problem that needs a lot of focus, when you finally find where these are happening, we want to get clergy involved, we want to get community people involved, and we want to get those neighborhoods involved in understanding and knowing what to do to help. So that's one of the areas we're very excited about, in terms of our future work.

And I just am going to put up the warning signs here, not going to go over these, maybe we can leave these up for a while, as we're talking today, and then another slide here in just a few moments about what you can do to help and we'll maybe alternate between those slides as we're talking and so that information gets out to the public.

Finally, I just want to thank Debbie Donaldson, Human Services Division Director, Marilyn Cook, Director of COMCARE, for the support that they give this task force in our continued efforts and primarily for making Bev Baughman the COMCARE employee that supports us the most available. And I said this the last year, she just spends a tremendous amount of time on this project, making all of these volunteers come together, and her dedication is unbelievable and I'll say this again as well, if she's not supposed to be working this hard on that, I didn't say anything at all about it, because she's dedicating a lot of her time to this work.

I would then present this report to you, but before doing so, I'd like to have Liz come up and visit a little bit more about Link 4 Life."

Ms. McGinness said, "Great. Thanks, Kevin. We are so excited to talk about our race that's coming up April 16th, Link 4 Life, this is our second annual race. Last year, we had great support from Commissioners. I know Dave Unruh and Tom Winters came out. Bill Buchanan, county manager, actually ran the 5K, as did Carolyn McGinn, so wonderful support there. I thought I heard Dave say something about 'I'm going to whop them again this year' but that could have been just my imagination.

We would like to start by thanking the sponsors that we have for the race, because it has been truly a community effort, in terms of getting folks to come up and help us with this. Importantly, Krispy Kremes and Papa John's are big sponsors, in terms of the food, so we'll have pizza and donuts and a dipping station to boot. Sedgwick County, the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas SACK, Via

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Christi, the Mental Health Association, and Healing Water Medical Baseball are all sponsors of our race and very excited about that as well.

In term of things that we will be doing, we have all kinds of activities, including a three to four year old race/ crawl, all the way up to the zoo tour, which over 100 age group can certainly do. So, all the way up from three to age 100, we have activities planned.

We have all kinds of other things going on at the time. We'll have mascots and music and a lot of information will be shared about suicide prevention as well. Each individual will get a packet that will give them some more information.

Last year, we also offered and will continue to offer this year an award for the top three schools that have the most students registered. Last year, Kensler Elementary School, Peterson Elementary School and Wichita Collegiate School won. Each of those schools won a \$150 gift certificate from Dick's Sporting Goods.

We have also got 100 scholarships that we'll be giving to students and adults in need of some additional funding to support the race. Twenty-five of those have already been given to the Anthony Family Shelter and the Harbor House, so those folks certainly would like to have them come out. We have entertainment with Steve Helms and Steve Mandorun, going to do some musical presentations for us. Folks can also register for the race at First Gear, which is 111 North Mosley, so we encourage that if people can come out.

Other things, in terms of what we will be doing, I wanted to share an e-mail that I actually got from one of our physical education teachers in the Wichita schools. The way we have been distributing these flyers, we've sent out 50,000 flyers to the students in Wichita Public Schools, and the P.E. teachers are the ones helping to get those registrations organized and get the kids excited about this. And this was an e-mail from Mark Dix, who is the P.E. teacher at Kensler Elementary. He actually e-mailed me to say, 'Hey Liz, I've got 99 students registered' so I sent him back one that said, 'Hey Bud, you rock, that's great'. He sent me back 'Actually I think it's over 100 now' and he said we had a few more registrations turned in today. 'I think this run is one of the most well organized events that has been put on for kids. We are all looking forward to it again and what a great way to promote physical activity and help prevent suicide'. So I thought that was a real shot in the arm, because the enthusiasm, I hope you can hear, is really generating for this.

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The last thing that I'm just going to share, as just a thought to ponder, in terms of thinking about this race, I guess I would throw out this kind of suggestion, that where else can you go on April 16th, say good morning to a gorilla, support a good cause and get a free tee-shirt? So, we're looking forward to your participation. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Excellent. Well, thank you Liz. And your enthusiasm is infectious. You know, real good, you've done a lot of work. It is a great event. We had a lot of fun last year at it and look forward to a great event this year. And I appreciate your report, appreciate Kevin's bringing the annual report to us. I know that in an issue like this, you're trying quantify measurable results of your efforts and at the same time, this is a highly emotional thing and there's so much stigma attached to it, it's difficult to do, but we perceive that you're making progress and we want to commend you and thank you for the work that you're doing."

Ms. McGinness said, "Thank you, and it could not be done without an entire group of individuals and I would like to ask the volunteers and also all the other task members to please stand if you would."

Mr. Bomhoff said, "Should you have any questions, I have Dr. Susan Carr here with the University of Kansas School of Medicine, whose on our methodology committee, to help us answer any questions that may come up."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, we do have a question. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "One question I always ask every year is, you know we talk about the 56 people that were successful. How many, you know, attempted suicides do we have? Are you going to track those by GIS? Do you get information on that? I mean . . ."

Dr. Susan Carr, Methodology Committee, University of Kansas School of Medicine, said, "We don't track that data, but the attempts actually we end up treating out at Good Shepard Hospital. Over the nation, in general they say, that there's 600,000 attempts per year. Much, much far above what we have to see, as far as the suicide rate. What we see in our community is I would say 96% of those attempts are always in combination with alcohol, with drugs, many of the very potent stimulants that we have in our community and then with access to firearms. Those seem to be the main risk factors we see out there."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay, that's all I had."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, I think that's all the questions we have right now. Thank you all for being here and we do appreciate your work."

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MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

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, "At this point, Item D has been removed from our agenda."

D. PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK, *RECOMMENDED TREES FOR SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS*, TO EACH OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to defer Item D.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye

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Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "At this point, I would like to call for an off agenda item."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to consider an off agenda item.

Commissioner Burtnett 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

OFF AGENDA ITEM

Chairman Unruh said, "Mayor Scott Tatge of Cheney is going to give us a report on the City of Cheney. Thank you for being here."

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Scott Tatge, Mayor, City of Cheney, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you Commissioner Unruh. First I'd like to say I recognize you guys have a very busy agenda and very full, but as you know, every time you give the podium to a preacher or a mayor, it goes long. So, I'll keep my comments down to 45 minutes, if that's all right with you.

Okay, I appreciate the opportunity to give a short presentation on a showcase of our town. Cheney is 2,000 people out on the western edge of Sedgwick County. We're just three miles from the Kingman County line, which is kind of nice. We like it that way. We do have downtown businesses on our main street. Our newest is the pharmacy is reopening after the explosion you might have heard from a couple of years ago. They're finally getting their building rebuilt. We have a new fitness center and a new brewery on Main Street, so we do have three vacant buildings,

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but we still have that.

We have our new city hall there that was built in 2001. Also includes our city council building room, right there on the left side of the screen, where we hold our monthly meetings. That's a really nice, new facility. I'm the mayor there. I've been there. I just finished my first term. It was a two-year term, so just ran yesterday and was re-elected, so I'm happy for that.

Have three other council members that were also re-elected, also ran unopposed. And I kind of consider that a compliment, running unopposed. And some people think that more people should get involved in city government, but I see that as a compliment. So, folks are happy with what's going on, evidently.

We do, of course, have our share of utilities. We cover water, sewer and gas. We have trash service, cable, telephone, electricity. We do have running water in Cheney, so we're right up there with the top, just to let you know we're there.

We have our own fire department. It's an all-volunteer fire department. We do have a fire chief that's on the city staff, but other than that, we have all our volunteers that run through there. We cover 233 square miles out there in western Sedgwick County and parts of Reno County, parts of Kingman County and we work hand in hand with the Sedgwick County Fire Department and they work well together, supporting us and us supporting them and it's really working out well out there to take care of the folks in western Sedgwick County.

We also have a police department. Police Chief Howard Bishop is doing a wonderful job of keeping things under control. We have three full-time officers. We have our own public library out there, which we've just recently renovated and included. In fact, there you can see where these tables and chairs are, down here on the bottom, that used to be our city hall. It was that small room back there and it was nice to be able to move across the street. It's a very busy city library and we do serve many patrons there.

One of the things we're most known for is our golf course. We have a nine-hole golf course presently. It was originally developed and built back in 1994, paid for by a grant and through donations. The first ten years, it was managed by Reflection Ridge. And just recently, we have taken over management of the course, the city has, and also of course we're adding on a new nine to make it a full service 18-hole course, and I think you'll really like it if you come out and visit.

My city administrator, Ty Lasher is here. He gave you guys a packet that has some brochures about

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our city and there's a little certificate in there for a free round of golf for you, so come on out and join us and have a look around. I think you'll like the improvements.

We've improved our clubhouse. We've had to hire a golf course pro and a manager and really going nice. The new nine, I'm optimistic, I'm shooting for middle of June, but like I said, I'm optimistic. It's not up to me. It's up to our golf course manager, but it's really looking nice. Come on out and have a look around, we really are enjoying that.

We also are building a pavilion out there that's available for the public to rent. We'll have a barbeque built in, have a covered area and tree-shaded area, it's really nice, and that's just under construction, being finished right now. So, that's a look at that.

Along with the back nine, we have a new subdivision that's going in and you can see, the new subdivision comes off of here. This is where the new nine are going in, is right in this area, the new subdivision is right in this area and there you can see more construction. There's the new nine right there and then the homes are right there. They're currently putting in the city streets and the services and all that and that will be fairly high-end homes right along the golf course and we're pretty excited about that subdivision that's going in.

There's a drawing of the subdivision and the relationship to the golf course. You can see, I think that they're really excited about the things that are going on there. We also have three other open developments that are going on in town: Amber Park, Quail Creek and the Northborough Addition.

We currently have . . . I believe eight new homes being built right now, which for a town of 2,000 is a pretty good number, so that's a good sign that we're growing and we're healthy and we're thriving quite well out there in western Sedgwick County. We do have our own community pool, which was built in, I believe it was 1954, so it's getting kind of old and it's a little small and it leaks. It's next on our things to fix. However, as you know, things are expensive and we're trying to find funding and get that moving. I believe last year, when we have to drain it every year, we filled it up last year, the very next day it was down a foot, so obviously that makes the water kind of cold if you're always refilling it and the seniors have to come to Wichita for a swimming pool and that bothers me. I'd like to have something that the seniors can use. Of course, the kids love it, but they're pretty fearless.

We have a thriving parks and recreation division with all sorts of attractions for children and for

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adults. We even have a yoga class. We have arts and crafts. We have computer classes. We have all sorts of availability there through the rec district. Businesses are very busy. We have many businesses on Main Street. This is just a short list of items that we have in town. They're very community oriented, always willing to help out.

We have a senior center that's available, very active, has a lot of activities going on, and to compliment that, we have a new senior apartment being built right now, it just started, they're putting in the utilities right now, and in fact you guys have graciously offered us a grant to help us pay for water lines on that and Ty will give you a presentation on that next. And that's really an interesting thing that's coming.

Basically, with our services for the seniors, we offer services from cradle to grave out there in Cheney. We've got everything you need, any kind of services that are available. The Chamber of Commerce is very busy, very enthusiastic. They keep busy. They meet once a month, very interactive with the community and working well with that.

We have a volunteer service called CAFFA, Concerned Adults For Future Adults, working with the leaders in our high school and promoting the young teens becoming leaders and that is really an interesting program that is all volunteer and they've just become certified to accept donations and be tax deductible, so really neat program that's been around for about four years now to help the children in the community.

School district, it's a 3A school district, very busy, wonderful schools. You would think it's a private school if ever we're dealing with them. The superintendent is really a good man, the principals, it's just really a neat school district. I'm kind of very grateful and very proud of our schools. As you can see, they're very nice looking. They keep them up really well. The teachers are excellent and very happy with that. And in addition, we do have a Lutheran school that goes K through 8, to provide alternative schooling available out there.

Community activities, very busy, chamber banquet we just had in March, 'Join Hands' day, city-wide garage sale and of course the Sedgwick County Fair, which I'll get back to in just a minute, Make a Difference Day, homecoming, Veterans' Day and 'Come Home for Christmas' we have every year at Christmastime, it's really nice.

We're most known, actually, for the Sedgwick County Fair and unfortunately I've heard people call it the Cheney Fair, which it isn't. It's . . . we put this on for the county, mostly through volunteerism, as we've been talking about, and it is a county fair and we encourage everybody to come out. We have plenty of opportunities for fun and good times out there. This year it's July 6th

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through the 9th and always a good time. The parade will be on July 7th and starting at 7 p.m. It's always a fun time, right down Main Street. And if it's an election year, it goes a little longer, so we should have a pretty good parade this year, as you guys know.

The fair offers many activities, demolition derby and the bull ride is usually a big attraction. We've doubled our seating capacity at our arena and that just came in last year, and they fill up, and that's always a big attraction. Of course the midway and the rides and the games, it's always a big thing. Another item we have out there that most don't know about is a museum. We have Souders Museum out there and, as you can see, it's almost set up like Cowntown. Don't have all the actors, we don't have the budget, so we don't have all that. It is privately owned and it's available by appointment only. We have the old Cheney train station is out there, the old Garden Plain train station is out there and an old school, one-house school house is set up, it's really a neat museum, there's all sorts . . . inside these buildings are businesses, like there used to be. There's a bank, there's a printing press, there's a telephone company, pretty interesting to go in there and take a look around. Many churches have events out there, they use the services there.

We recently built a new sign, as you enter Cheney, the one on the top there. We found this and this was done by volunteers in the community and our city maintenance department. They've built that sign, they did the forms, they did everything, and of course our older sign is there as well. We're only 20 miles west of Wichita and it's a great place to live, it's a great community for those that may even work here in Wichita. It's not that bad of a drive. Usually, by the time people get to the St. Joe exit, they get on the phone and ask if they've gone too far, that's about the way it works, but we like it out there because it's nice and quiet and away from all the hustle and bustle.

Now, we do have a website and all our information is on there. I have an e-mail address off that website if anybody needs to get a hold of me. Just wanted to give you a short presentation on that and encourage you to look at your brochures. We've just made all those up. We've done a lot of community promotion. I also want to invite each one of you to the Sedgwick County Area Cities meeting this Saturday. As we mentioned earlier, the ground work is done at the local level. The federal government don't know that we exist. The folks that really benefit from government is local government, as Commissioner Norton as the former mayor of Haysville mentioned, that's where the rubber meets the road. And the cooperation between city and county is essential.

I want to commend Commissioner Winters, we've worked very closely. He's our commissioner. We've gotten a lot of work done through Commissioner Winters, done some great work for us, and we appreciate that and it's essential that we all work together. Sedgwick County Area Cities is a group that started out as what was called ALARM which was the mayors of the small towns got together. Now it's grown into city administrators, city council members, so we changed the name to more reflect what's going on and it's important that we all stay informed and stay close together and working together."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Well thank you mayor. That's a very good report, looks like Cheney is a city on the go. We do have a comment here from Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I just wanted to say thank you to the Mayor and for Ty being here today. I think this opportunity to highlight Cheney was kind of exactly what Commissioner Norton hoped would happen when we highlight various communities and I think you've done an excellent job in Cheney. It appears to have a lot of dynamic things happening and I think you're correct. I think the citizens are pretty secure in the form of city government they have. It was displayed by yesterday's election. So again, thank you very much for sharing information with us and it was fortunate you were here when we were talking about National County Week. Many of those same comments apply to cities, I mean, this is local government at its best. So, thank you very much for being with us today."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. We have a comment from Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Just a quick comment, Commissioner Winters is right, several years ago when I was chair, I kind of pushed us to invite the small cities to come in and give presentations, and I think it's evolved to the fact that when you look at Visioneering and what we're trying to do regionally, it's important that all of us understand that we are one big community. You know, it's not just what happens in Wichita that's important. It's what happens in the small communities, as they grow and prosper and add to the quality of life of Sedgwick County. So, thanks for coming today and sharing that. We're real proud of Cheney, as we are all the 19 small cities that reside in Sedgwick County and you form a great partnership with all the other cities and continue to be progressive. That's wonderful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, on a more serious note, any of you that aren't golfers that want to maybe pass those things over to me, I'd be very happy . . . I'll take the apple too, but I want the golf certificate. That's all I had."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well Commissioners, do we have a motion to receive and file?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file.

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, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Madam Clerk, I would like to go out of order just a little bit here and ask you to call Item G please.”

G. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AWARD TO CITY OF CHENEY, KANSAS FOR INSTALLATION OF A WATER LINE EXTENSION FOR A LOW-INCOME SENIOR HOUSING APARTMENT COMPLEX; AND GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF CHENEY, KANSAS FOR INSTALLATION OF THE WATER LINE.

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Before you for your consideration is a resolution authorizing a grant agreement with the City of Cheney for \$8,700 to extend a water line for new, affordable housing for seniors in the eastern part of the City of Cheney. Ty Lasher, City Administrator, has more information about this project.”

Mr. Ty Lasher, City Administrator, City of Cheney, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I wanted to take just a couple of minutes to explain this project and how we’re excited about it and express our appreciation of your support. Current construction contains 24 units of senior housing, at a value of 1.3 million dollars, which it will be a great benefit obviously to our city and to the county.

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Once total occupancy of phase one apartments is complete, phase two will be constructed, which will add 12 more units, making the total project value 2.7 million dollars. Units are for seniors 55 years or older. It's not assisted living. It's not rent subsidized. The rent is projected to be in the neighborhood of \$470 a month, with gas and electric included.

In May of 2002, the city was approached by Cohen and Esrey Development Company regarding a proposed senior apartment complex. The city council agreed to support the concept and passed several resolutions stating so. However, due to financial difficulties with small cities, economic incentives, the city was not able to provide financial assistance for the project, but the developer went ahead with the site in Cheney, because they chose a small town atmosphere and the fact that we have a grocery store, we have a clinic, we have a pharmacy and restaurants and etcetera that can offer these seniors. The project was funded with tax credits and was finally approved in 2004.

The project price increased, obviously, due to the two years from the beginning process to the time the tax incentives were approved. The city must, in turn, expand sewer, water and gas services to them. So the city agreed to pay for extending the gas line and in looking at ways to . . . the developer was looking at ways to possibly cut the expenses. That's when the city decided to extend the gas services and I approached Irene Hart and County Manager Buchanan about possibly some assistance from the county, and they and you agreed to assist us with the water main extensions.

And the city truly appreciates the support we've received from you, Sedgwick County, not only for this project, but as the mayor mentioned, for all the other issues that we address out there and we have a good partnership and we're proud of that. So we wanted to say thank you for your support."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Ty. Commissioners, are there any questions?"

Commissioner Winters said, "I have a question of Irene."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Irene, I see that Brad was scheduled to make the presentation, you're here in his stead, and I assume that you have reviewed this and are supportive and believe it consistent with issues that we have concerns about."

Ms. Hart said, "Yes, sir. Brad is in training today and I volunteered to come in his stead. This is a win/win/win. It's a win for the county, it's a win for the seniors of Cheney and a win for the City of

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Cheney. It provides options, affordable housing options for seniors in Cheney so they can stay in Cheney, or other seniors who would like to move to a small town environment and it keeps people healthy and happy and in the community at an affordable price.”

Commissioner Winters said, “And this is a reasonable amount for us to participate in, dollar-wise.”

Ms. Hart said, “Yes, sir.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, Mr. Chairman, I’m going to be supportive. If there are any questions or comments from others though . . .”

Chairman Unruh said, “I don’t see any at this time.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution and 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 Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Well, Scott and Ty, thank you for being here and maybe you can still make your daughter’s performance there, mayor. Okay, we are ready now I think to call Item E.”

AWARD

E. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE FOR RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT

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TO CAPTAIN DOUGLAS J. WILLIAMS FOR COMPLETING THE EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY IN EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND.

Fire Chief Gary Curmode, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The men and women of Sedgwick County Fire District 1 are proud today to recognize the achievement of Captain Douglas J. Williams for completing the executive fire officer four-year program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Captain Williams was selected to attend the four-year program from a national competitive program application process. It’s mandatory attendance for four years, two weeks a year. They go through such courses as executive development, strategic analysis of fire prevention, strategic analysis of fire operations and executive leadership.

After each attendance, at this time, then they have to complete a national research paper on a fire service topic, and Captain Williams has tried to identify these to pertain to help our fire district in envisioning for the future. He was very . . . did an excellent program, achievement, he came back, he shared this with administration, did his research paper again and started to continue his development for the next course.

He received a very nice certificate from the Department of Homeland Security, through FEMA. It states: ‘In recognition of successful completion of the requisite courses of study and applied research projects, the National Fire Academy, under the authority granted by the 93rd Congress of the United States of America and on recommendation of the faculty, confer the title of Executive Fire Officer upon Douglas J. Williams’. I would recommend that we recognize him today and placed on file.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, very good. Captain Williams, would you like to speak?”

Captain Douglas J. Williams, Fire District #1, said, “I’d like to thank the Board of Commissioners for allowing me to go. This was quite an undertaking for not only myself, but the department, because it is two weeks every year, and so that I want to thank the commissioners and the County Manager’s Office and Director Lamkey for allowing me to do that and also Chief Curmode and the Fire District, because I know it is quite a . . . for me to be gone that period of time is quite important, so I do want to thank them. And it is a very valuable course and I think I learned quite a bit and would recommend anybody to try to go. Thank you.”

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Chairman Unruh said, “Well Captain Williams, we want to congratulate you and this is really like a Masters in Fire Prevention and Safety, so it sounds like it was a lot of work and you gained much from it, so we appreciate your dedication and commitment to seeing your way through the course, so congratulations.

Okay, Madam Clerk, would you call the next item please.”

CITIZEN INQUIRY

F. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING WICHITA’S PROMISE YOUTH COUNCIL’S (WPYC) “ACTION 2003” RESULTS.

Mr. Logan Reich, Wichita Promise Youth Council, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m a sophomore at Wichita Heights High School and Adam Wilbur is the one passing out the pamphlets to you and we are both members of Wichita’s Promise Youth Council. And last October, we talked to you about ACTION, which is Adolescents Coming Together to Inform Others of our Needs. And the top concerns that were identified by over 850 Sedgwick County youth were: teen sex, pregnancy, violence, drugs, rape and alcohol and we’re here to tell you about what WPYC’s happenings over the past six months and what we’ve been doing to address these concerns.”

Mr. Adam Wilbur, WPYC, greeted the Commissioners and said, “About 15 WPYC members went to a training on the Youth on Board philosophy, which encourages young people to become more involved in adult boards and give them tips to make the cooperation successful. The idea of making it the vital part of the Wichita community is a foundation of WPYC and this official training was a great step in that direction.

We are now going to spread the word, using these 15 young people that have been trained to present on the philosophy to various local boards, so that these boards can effectively bring in youth opinion.

Mr. Reich said, “And two very important initiatives that we used this year to combat the obvious concerns of drugs, tobacco and alcohol use is Junior Jump Start and that is an annual WPYC event that is hosted each year and each year it becomes more successful. And this year, we had over 100 people attend from 12 different middle schools and the facilitators of the event were all high school WPYC members and they all really did an excellent job, stepping up and setting a positive role model for the youth that are about to make important decisions.

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And the primary function of the day was leadership training and a (*unintelligible*) component, along with drug abuse prevention techniques. And Star Wichita, also which took place on March 11th, featured the acclaimed speaker Dave Gorlitts, who used to be a tobacco spokesman, but now he speaks out against tobacco use, and the day also included a panel of local experts, who gave the youth ideas on how to prevent tobacco use and how to get involved and 50 middle and high schoolers attended this hugely successful event.”

Mr. Wilbur said, “To combat most of the concerns, we worked with the Wichita Children’s Home Street Outreach Service to coordinate a supply drive around area high schools. The supplies were hygiene and food items used to stop the new homeless youth dropouts. And the drive took place during National Safe Place Week, March 14 through 19, also to promote complicity for this service. Through the drives at these schools, we collected over 2,600 items.”

Mr. Reich said, “And Hands On Wichita is a completely new initiative to the Wichita area and on April 23rd, it will be working to bring about a community-wide effort to improve local public elementary schools. And through this program, WPYC has listed all the funding and volunteers, so the schools get a full day of improvement at no expense to them.

And we already have a large group of volunteer interest and funding in our first year. Our worksites will be Bostic, Hyde, Beech, Horace Mann, White and Lewis and we would encourage you all to take part in this day and get a hand in our local worksite and there should be a good deal of public interest and media involvement and this could make a potentially huge community movement, so you should be in the middle of it.”

Mr. Wilbur said, “Well, I’d like to thank you for your time and your continued support for Wichita’s Promise Youth Council and all of our initiatives. If you have any questions about any of the activities described, we would be glad to answer them.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, well thank you both for being here this morning. Appreciate your energy and efforts in trying to help encourage involvement by young people and by helping shape the values of your generation. So, commend you for that effort. We do have a comment here from Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I just would like to make a couple of quick comments. We appreciate your coming today and on one hand, we want to apologize a little bit for the timeliness of

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your getting on the agenda. On any other normal Wednesday, you would have been on at about 9:15 instead of 10:30, but as you can see, we're not having a meeting next week, and so we've got all of these things jammed up at the very beginning of our meeting. So in the future, don't let this dissuade you for coming back and visiting with us again."

Mr. Smith said, "We like missing school."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, that's exactly what I was worried about the whole time we were sitting here, is you weren't in school this morning, you were here waiting for us."

Chairman Unruh said, "They're honest too."

Commissioner Winters said, "They are very honest. You know, I do want to say that Sedgwick County Commissioners are very concerned about things that have to do with young people in our community. And in fact, we're spending money to try to do prevention programs. And in fact, we have recruited one of the young people from Wichita's Promise Youth Council to be on our prevention selection fund, as we review programs that are trying to work with young people, so we want you all to stay involved and we want to try to continue to keep youth connected to Sedgwick County projects.

I think there are a couple of other people here who are with you today. Do you want to introduce them or have them introduce themselves or who else is with you today?"

Mr. Reich said, "This is our sponsor."

Ms. Sarah Bankson, Program Director, Youth and Environment, Regional Prevention Center, introduced herself.

Mr. Reich said, "And this is another sponsor that helps out for us, Brittany Stiffler."

Ms. Brittany Stiffler, Wichita's Promise Youth Council, introduced herself.

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, and I see on your brochure about the Hands On Wichita event. There's a number people can call, 262-2421, if they're interested in knowing more about what's going to happen on April the 23rd. So again, thank you both for your work in the community and your work with other young people. We appreciate it very, very much."

Chairman Unruh said, "Now don't go away. One more comment. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I think it's so critical, as adults, as we try to wrestle with all the

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problems of the world and of our community, it's certainly nice to understand what teenagers and our future leaders are thinking about. And you know, it's amazing to me, if you look under important issues, what is the most important issue in the world to youth, and it doesn't always align up to what maybe we feel are important as adults, and we need to take that in balance, because many of the decisions that we make today are going to affect your lives tomorrow and if we don't have that filter to put our decisions through and some information, we can go off kind of helter skelter, thinking we're doing the right thing for our future, and it's really not what our youth is thinking is so important, so certainly I value this information.

I really value your ability to step up and be involved in your community and try to take a leadership role and I wish we could encourage more young people to do just that, in every school and every venue where they can be involved, because it is important to our community. Thanks."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioners, do we have a Motion to receive and file?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Winters 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, "Thank you all for being here and we appreciate what you're doing in our community with the young folks. Thanks for being here. Madam Clerk, I think we're ready for

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Item H.”

Commissioner Norton left the meeting room at 10:40 a.m.

H. RESOLUTIONS (THREE) CREATING ROAD IMPROVEMENT BENEFIT DISTRICTS IN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS, AND AUTHORIZING IMPROVEMENTS THEREIN.

1. GAITHER ADDITION; AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 148-2004.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Joe L. Norton, Gilmore & Bell, P.C., Bond Counsel, greeted the Commissioners and said, “For your consideration this morning are three resolutions that would create road improvement districts within various areas of the county. All three of these projects were commenced by petition signed by 100% of the owners of property proposed to be accessed for the cost of these improvements.

The initial project is in Gaither Addition, which is an area located west of Broadway and south of 79th Street South. On the screen before you is a map depicting in the outline in red the three tracts of property proposed to be accessed for this improvement. The commission previously considered this in September of 2004, authorized this project, bids came in higher than expected and now we’re back reauthorizing the project with the owners consent at a little higher cost.

The proposed cost prepared by Public Works for this project has a total of approximately \$68,126, which divided by the three parcels, results in a principle component of \$22,709, or if spread over 15 years at 6%, about \$2,338 per year. Jim Weber of Public Works is here also, to answer any questions you may have about this or the other projects. I believe, according to your agenda, you are considering the resolutions on a project by project basis.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay Commissioners, are there any questions for Mr. Norton or Mr. Weber?”

MOTION

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Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item."

2. SAVANNA AT CASTLE ROCK RANCH 10TH ADDITION

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Norton said, "This is a project located north and east of the intersection of 13th Street North and 143rd Street East. The map depicts tracts that are 15 parcels. The petitioners requested each parcel equally share the cost of the road improvements. Estimated cost by Public Works is a total of approximately \$324,000, divided by the 15 tracts, results in a principle component of about \$21,600, or about \$2,225 per year spread over 15 years. Again, we'd be able to answer any questions you may have."

Chairman Unruh said, "Any questions, commissioners? Seeing none . . ."

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

Commissioner Norton returned to the meeting room at 10:45 a.m.

3. UNPLATTED TRACTS AKA GREEN ACRES

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Norton said, "This is a development located approximately Greenwich Road and 87th Street South. There are four parcels proposed to be assessed. This is not a platted area, but there are four approximately same sized tracts. Estimated costs are approximately \$200,000, when divided by the four parcels equally results in a principle component of about \$49,887 or about \$5,136 annually, if spread over 15 years at 6%."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, is there any questions or discussion? Is this in . . ."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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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, "Thank you, Joe. Next item please."

I. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF A SPECIAL ONE PERCENT (1%) COUNTYWIDE RETAILERS' SALES TAX AND RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is the last formal action that you will take to adopt the sales tax that we all are very familiar with. This tax was approved by our voters in November. It was approved by the state legislature this spring, as Senate Bill 58. The action that's before you then is to formally impose that sales tax for a period of not more than 30 months. It will be a 1% sales tax that will commence July the 1st of this year and upon your approval of this resolution, assuming you approve this resolution, we will send notification of that action to the state Department of Revenue and they will commence the collections July the 1st. We expect to receive the first revenue from this tax about October the 1st of this year."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay Commissioners, you've heard the presentation. Questions? There are . . . Okay, Commissioner Norton."

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Commissioner Norton said, "Certainly one of the issues that we've heard from citizens, as we've gone through this process is 30 months, it's going to go past 30 months. You know, once you start a tax, it goes on forever. That's not the case, is that correct?"

Mr. Chronis said, "That absolutely is not the case. The statute that was adopted, authorizing this tax specifies that it rules for not more than 30 months and the action that you're taking today directs the Department of Revenue to terminate the tax not more than 30 months after July the 1st of this year."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay, now we also have a dollars ceiling or target that we're looking at, and at the point that we raise that money, then it will also shut down at that point. Now, it's not as easy as shutting it off that day, but there is a mechanism for that. Is that correct?"

Mr. Chronis said, "Well, that mechanism would require you to take subsequent action, and you can do that at any point. You can direct that the tax be terminated in advance of the 30 months. In order to do that, you need to give the Department of Revenue three months advanced notice, and they take the action at the start of a calendar quarter, so affectively, that means that if you want to terminate the tax earlier than 30 months, you need to notify the Department of Revenue of your intent to do so by the start of the 24 months."

Commissioner Norton said, "But there is a mechanism to do that?"

Mr. Chronis said, "There is a mechanism, that's right."

Commissioner Norton said, "And the targeted amount that we feel like that we're going to need is what, 184?"

Mr. Chronis said, "Approximately \$184,000,000, that's correct."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay. Well, I think it's important to the taxpayers to understand that. You know, there's been a lot of good information, a lot of misinformation about how this whole mechanism works and the truth is, there's no intent to go past 30 months, nor do we have legal abilities to do that. And if it can be sunsetted quicker than that, then the commission I believe will try to take that action, under the legalese that we can. So, that's really all I wanted to talk about."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. The issue that Commissioner Norton was talking about, there will be an oversight committee established that will help weigh in on that issue and give advice on how we might approach that."

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Mr. Chronis said, “You’ve indicated your intent to do that, yes. It’s not required by statute, but it is something that you committed to the voters that you would do, and we’ve had, as you know, discussions about the composition and mission of that committee. I expect that we will be coming back to you with suggestions about those decisions sometime in the next month or two, with the intent of the committee commencing action approximately July the 1st of this year, even though we won’t receive the revenue until closer to October.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, so we’re going to put some substance to this idea of oversight and regulation, those sort of things.”

Mr. Chronis said, “That’s correct.”

Chairman Unruh said, ““Very good, thank you. Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I just wanted to recap again what Chris had said earlier. I mean, earlier this week, Monday, the governor signed Senate Bill 58, which was the final action that we needed from Topeka and this then is the culmination of both our work last year, the election in November of last year where this was approved by the citizens of Sedgwick County and now we’re taking our final step.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, thank you. Any other questions or discussion, Commissioners?”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Chris. Next item please."

J. AMENDMENT TO THE 2005 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) TO INCLUDE THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ARENA.

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to ask your approval to amend the 2005 Capital Improvement Program to include the Sedgwick County Arena. Again, as you know, voters approved a temporary 1% sales tax to fund the arena and improvements to the pavilions at the Kansas Coliseum in November of 2004. With the legislature's approval of and the governor's signature on the legislation authorizing the imposition of that temporary sales tax, the project can now be added to the 2005 Capital Improvement Program.

Just as a bit of background, in July of 2003, you approved a 55.3 million dollar renovation plan for the Kansas Coliseum Complex. This plan consisted of three distinct projects and was included in the five-year CIP plan adopted in 2003 and with modifications, it was again included in the CIP adopted in 2004.

In both cases, the projects were to be funded with proceeds from a bond issue to be sold in 2005. The bond proceeds were to be used to reimburse other operating funds for a small amount of planning and design expenditures incurred prior to that bond sale and then to pay for all the construction bills.

The bonds were to be repaid with Coliseum revenues and property taxes over the following 20 years. Before the bonds were sold, in other words, before the county obtained the cash to pay for the Coliseum project and reimburse the other operating funds, the arena proposal surfaced and work on the Coliseum plan was aborted, at least in part, because we're still, as you know, doing the pavilions.

In accordance with the November 2nd vote and the subsequent approval by the state legislature, the action before you today is to replace the Coliseum plan with the arena plan and a 30-month, 1% special sales tax will provide all funding, without the need to sell bonds. This new plan includes \$9,128,000 of expenditures in reimbursements related to design for the Kansas Coliseum complex and construction improvements in the pavilions and again, all of that was included in the vote and the approvals by the state legislature and the bill that was signed by the governor.

So again, this CIP amendment requests approval of adding the arena to the 2005 CIP, Capital Improvement Program. It also requests approval of deletion of the existing planning, design and construct projects at the Kansas Coliseum. Those deletions will appear and in accordance again

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with the arena ballot question that was approved by voters, a transfer of expenditures in those projects will be transferred to the Sedgwick County arena project when funding permits.

I've asked Chris Chronis, our Chief Financial Officer, to stay close so I or Chris will be happy to answer any questions you have and we recommend approval of the amendment to the CIP."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you Ron. This action essentially is to get all of our plans in order with the passing of the Sedgwick County arena project and we just need this as housekeeping, to a certain extent."

Mr. Holt said, "That's right."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just hopefully as a point of clarification, as you talked about the plans to conduct the Coliseum project with selling bonds and using the proceeds from those bonds, that was a plan that was to happen in 2005, but did not take place."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "So there are no proceeds from that bond sale, there is no funds that are designated through any of those bond sales. It was not done."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "And the new plan is sales tax financing for the new downtown arena. Thank you. That's all I had."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this action will also put to rest some of the rumors that were rampant during the entire arena project work, for the new Sedgwick County arena, and that was probably going to go ahead and do the renovations at the Coliseum anyway and there was a lot of confusion and what we've just done by our action today is stop the \$55,000,000 renovation that we would have gone forward on, had the Sedgwick County downtown arena issue failed and now we're going to go forward with the new arena. There will be work done to the pavilion or what have you, but that renovating it and making it a brand new façade has been put to rest and now we just have one major project, and that's to provide a brand new, shiny arena that we'll locate in the heart of downtown Wichita for the benefit of all the citizens. Thank you."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I think this is a bell weather day for our community, that we've added this to the CIP, that it kind of sets in motion what the voters have mandated to us. The Coliseum project will diminish right now, but at some point, that will bubble back up, as we try to decide what to do with the Kansas Coliseum, as the Sedgwick County arena comes on line and the Coliseum is still a building that we have care, custody and control of, and at some point, we'll have to decide that.

We still have pavilions that bring in a large amount of revenue and truthfully, we still have a coliseum that's going to function as our entertainment venue for the next several years and we still know that they have some ADA problems out there that we'll eventually have to deal with and address, as we move forward in supplying this quality of life issue to our community.

And I think it's interesting and I want to be sure that the community knows that, as we describe this in our Capital Improvement Program, we're calling it the Sedgwick County arena, and really to me that is significant. We've always kind of called it the downtown arena, but it is in downtown Wichita, but it is an arena that will serve the citizens, all citizens of Sedgwick County.

And as we saw Cheney today has the Sedgwick County Fair in their city limits, it is still Sedgwick County's fair and serves the citizens of Sedgwick County. It just resides in Cheney, Kansas and no different than our new arena will preside in downtown Wichita, it serves the citizens of Sedgwick County and certainly those taxpayers are going to be footing the bill for it and we want everybody to feel like they're included in that new arena. So, from . . . forward, until we get some naming rights, I hope that people will understand it is the Sedgwick County arena. It will serve all citizens of Sedgwick County. That's all I have."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Ron, did I hear you right that it's going to be about \$9,000,000 that will be allotted towards the pavilions?"

Mr. Holt said, "Nine million, one hundred twenty-eight thousand dollars, which was a part of the dollar question, support for the ballot question that the voters approved. Well, Chris reminds me, the \$9,128,000 is the total amount for the Coliseum. About \$2,000,000 of that will be for reimbursements of funds we've already expended in doing work out there. The rest of it will be for

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the improvements to the pavilions.”

Commissioner Burnett said, “And that work will start . . . we have to gain the money from the sales tax, so it might be a while before we see the improvements.”

Mr. Holt said, “The plan now is that in early 2007, we would begin the improvements on the pavilions at the Coliseum complex.”

Commissioner Burnett said, “Okay.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Yeah, and I think the public again needs to know, and the only reason I think we’re making some of these comments is that we’re convinced that we’re going to be probably the one major construction item that the county has ever done that’s going to be under a microscope and we want to keep it open and we want to keep the public engaged at all times. And just like Commissioner Burnett was talking, this is going to be a pay as you go. We’re not going to go out, now that we’ve gotten approval for the tax and go ahead and borrow the money in advance and start repaying with the money, so we’ll have to pay interest.

We’ll start our major spending, other than staff has to do something . . . there’s some incidental expenses, but I mean, acquisition of land, site preparation, any changes that have to be done to the roads, the building etcetera, we pay with this project, like my grandmother and grandfather did, the old fashion way. When we get the money, we’ll pay for it. We’re not going to borrow it. I assume that’s still our plan.”

Mr. Holt said, “That’s correct.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay Commissioners, I see no more lights on, no more questions. We’re ready for a Motion I think.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the CIP amendment.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Ron and Chris. Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

K. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE A CLINICAL TRAINING SITE FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANT STUDENTS.

Ms. Pamela Martin, Director, Clinical Services, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Historically, the Sedgwick County Health Department has provided a clinical rotation site for students of various health professions from local colleges and universities, as well as different disciplines such as nursing, physician assistance, medical technologist and social workers. This partnering participation at the Health Department allows each student the opportunity to observe patients and nurses, as well as to learn applicable procedures in a public health clinical setting. We strive to furnish clinical facilities in an effort to provide an optimum learning experience for each student.

We would like to extend this participation to include the Wichita Area Technical College Division of Health Sciences Medical Assistance students. We believe the clinical rotation, through the Health Department, encourages an interest in public health and provides a source of future medical professionals for the Sedgwick County Health Department. And our proposed recommended action

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is to approve this agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. Pam, is this the first year that we’ve had this agreement with the Arena Technical College?”

Ms. Martin said, “Yes it is.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well, I think it’s a good thing to do. They have a large student population out there in their health services and so I’ll be very supportive of this.

Commissioners, are there any other questions or discussion?”

MOTION

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

Chairman Unruh 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, “Thank you, Pam. Next item please.”

L. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM.

Ms. Gloria Vermie, Public Health Emergency Coordinator, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Commissioners, since 2000, the federal government has sent money to our jurisdiction for the Metropolitan Medical Response System. This coming year, and that will include a 30-month reimbursement contract, the MMRS is now a pass-through from the state, through the state, and it is through the Office for Domestic Preparedness and in Kansas, the Kansas

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Highway Patrol manages that. We are asking that you accept a reimbursement allocation for \$227,592 to further enhance what the MMRS is doing in our county.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, thank you Gloria. I think we won’t have too much resistance to accepting \$227,000. Commissioners, is there any discussion?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett 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, “Thank you, Gloria. Next item please.”

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – DEPARTMENT ON AGING

M. CONTINUATION OF RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM GRANT FUNDED THROUGH THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “What I bring before you today is the continuation of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program grant.

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Sedgwick County Department on Aging was awarded a three-year grant in 2004 from the Corporation for National Services Senior Corps Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, also known as RSVP. The purpose of the grant certainly is to fund this service and make it available in Sedgwick County to our older individuals, and I say that lightly, because that's age 55 and above, which we no longer think of as old.

Sedgwick County is looking forward to certainly another year of doing this. This will be our second year. Last year was our first year and we did some really exciting things with this program last year. One of the first things we did with the program was to really look at making the volunteer opportunities more impact based, to make sure that what the volunteer activities that we were preparing and arranging for and helping these populations get into were more impact based.

Some of the things we did last year, we started up a new program called Care-Ring, and what this does is arrange for volunteers to call individuals that are isolated, older adults that are isolated in our community, that are home-bound, that have been perhaps victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation and pair them up with a volunteer who will call them on a daily basis to make sure they're doing okay. To make sure they're up and around and that they're doing okay in their homes and then have a process in place in case they don't have a phone, who do you contact and what the process would be, so that was a brand new program. The goal is to provide 2,500 volunteer hours doing that.

Certainly putting more time in with the schools, as we know from the Wichita Visioneering, they have a valid need for about 30,000 tutors and they've currently got 5,000. We're working on filling that need. The goal is to provide 3,000 hours of volunteer work and tutoring kind of work, working in the actual schools for this coming year.

One of the things that we talked about today was National Volunteer Recognition Week. Certainly, this is a prime example, this program, of using volunteers, making them more involved in the community and have that impact. Last year, with the River Festival, our volunteers through this program did 80,000 button packets, they put together the button packets for the River Festival. This year their goal is 100,000 packets. They started work over a month ago. This is a major project for them, so it really has some major impact, the kind of work we're doing.

One of the new things we're trying to get some additional funding for from another grant is a volunteer transportation program that we would manage in three small communities in the rural area where they lack transportation, so some really exciting things going on with this program.

Currently, we serve about 900 individuals through the volunteer program, at age 55 and older, that are coming through this and getting volunteer opportunities in places such as schools, hospitals,

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nursing homes, senior centers, programs assisting the mentally and physically impaired, day care centers and many other community organizations.

They also, through our involvement, have increased the involvement with the other Sedgwick County departments, so they're involved at the jail. They're also involved with our transportation program, with the District Attorney's Office, with the Health Department, with community policing and the Department on Aging, so we're really working on making that more available and getting some very good quality volunteer opportunities for this population. These volunteers use their life skills and job skills to strengthen their community, to give back to their community, to stay involved and to keep them active and healthy.

The grant amount that we're going to be receiving is \$58,415. It does require a 10% match, which is \$5,842. The grant, the matching funds have already been approved in last year's budget and we do however exceed their required budget. Sedgwick County puts in \$33,211. The reason for that is before we ever acquired this program, Sedgwick County was funding a program that's not funded through the regular program and that is a home-based, for those older adults who really can't get out of their homes but still have the ability and talents to provide something, give something back to the community, this money went to fund those in-home projects, because out of the national program, that's really not a service that's available in other communities through this program.

So, with that I would certainly be open to questions. Our recommendation is to receive and file the continuation of the RSVP grant."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well Annette, I'd just make a comment that since your department has taken this over, it seems like it's really given it a lot of substance and taken it to a higher level and so appreciate what you're doing. It's so beneficial to both sides of the equation, borrow a line from Shakespeare, 'Blesses him that gives and him that receives', I think, so it's very good. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I mean several years ago this was a program that languished a little bit and really kept its legs because of the very strong dedication of two or three very dedicated people, but it did lack from a little funding and a little guidance and Sedgwick County stepped up and became the sponsor and it's really taken it to new levels. And as we understand, there is a power of intellectual capital and knowledge and experience out there in our group of seniors that reside in our community and to be able to harness that and to push it into very mainstream things like the River Festival and volunteering throughout the community is pretty powerful.

You know, and as we found out in Visioneering, we need everybody from the youngest citizens to the oldest citizen to engage and be part of our community. To leave anybody out and exclude them

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gives us less than powerful results and I think this is a way to harness our senior group and let them be active in the community and provide some great services, so I'm going to be very supportive of this and you know, I think this is . . . two years ago, when we looked at this, we were really worried that this program wouldn't go on and it was not going to have the kind of sponsorship that its found right now, so I'm very proud of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Let me . . . I'm just trying to get my hand around it. I know last year, or a couple of years, we took it on because there was no monies coming in to support this program."

Ms. Graham said, "The previous sponsor had relinquished sponsorship."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "So, now that we have this sponsor, does that mean that our local commitment can go down to where it was when there was another sponsorship, so can we go down to the \$5,000 and have as much, if not more money than we had last year?"

Ms. Graham said, "No. There is a set limit amount and that is \$58,415. That's the maximum amount of the federal grant. Before we took this on as a sponsor of this, we were putting in the \$33,211. That was our level of commitment, prior to sponsorship, and what that did was fund that home-based portion of the program. Now what we did when we took that on was we just used that amount and said, 'That's where the 10% match is'. We didn't increase funding to bring the program in. We just utilized the money that we were already, and counting that as the match, although that is more than the required match, it's no more than what we had been putting on, prior to sponsorship of the program."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Last year, we didn't have \$58,415 awarded to us. Is that correct?"

Ms. Graham said, "Yes we did. This is the second year of the program."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay, so the monies do not . . . okay, so we had it last year, and what was the program that was being dropped?"

Ms. Graham said, "It was the RSVP program in total."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "But I mean, how could it be . . .?"

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Ms. Graham said, "Senior Services no longer was being the sponsor of the program, so they were going to be without a sponsor and if no one stepped forward and took that program over, it would not have been available in our community any longer."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay. So, had we not taken on from Senior Services, we would have lost the \$58,000 grant."

Ms. Graham said, "Yes."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And the grant never did cover Retired Senior Volunteer Program?"

Ms. Graham said, "The grant never covered the in-home portion of that, the community-based in-home portion."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay. So that's something we're continuing to do, and that more than covers our commitment."

Ms. Graham said, "Yes."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Got it. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Well Commissioners, we are ready for a Motion to receive and file."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton 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

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Chairman Unruh

Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Annette. Next item please."

N. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – COMCARE.

1. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANTS TO PROVIDE ADVANCE REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER HOURS AT CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICE.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a six-month contract with Wichita Psychiatric Consultants. They are the group that does our inpatient care for us, to provide 20 hours a week to our crisis program to do medication evaluations and follow-up reviews.

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner that they've identified for this project is a nurse that used to work for COMCARE, so she's familiar with our electronic medical record, which is also an advantage to us. It's a six-month contract to cover the gaps in service in our crisis program, while COMCARE fills several open Advanced Nurse Practitioner positions. We recommend that you approve the agreement."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioners, are there any questions?"

MOTION

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

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

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Chairman Unruh said, "Next item."

2. AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, INC. FOR COMCARE TO PROVIDE ONE FULL-TIME MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TO PROVIDE SECOND STEP PROGRAMMING TO SCHOOLS.

Ms. Cook said, "Several months ago, I brought a response to an RFP that we had written to you for a Safe and Caring Communities grant that was awarded by the State of Kansas to provide violence prevention programs in schools and we recently did receive that grant and we're now wishing to contract with Communities in Schools to hire one clinician to utilize that Second Step program that we've talked about in the past and have utilized in the past, which is a tested violence prevention curriculum.

The clinician will serve approximately 135 students in seven schools and we talked about this a couple of months ago. Commissioner Norton, you in particular expressed a desire that this be not just Wichita public schools, and they have agreed that they will be . . . she will be in two Wichita public schools, Colvin and Curtis, she will be in three Haysville public schools: Rex, Nelson and Freeman and be in the Derby 6th Grade Center and Derby Middle School.

The program teaches children about empathy and anger management and impulse control and it provides much better ways of handling anger than the ways that they have been displaying. We are recommending that you approve this contract."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay thank you. Are there any questions of Marilyn?"

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 Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye

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Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

3. AGREEMENTS (TWO) WITH WICHITA CENTER FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE-WICHITA, AND SECRETARY OF THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR COMCARE TO PROVIDE A CLINICAL TRAINING SITE FOR PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL RESIDENTS.

Ms. Cook said, "Commissioners, you have two contracts in front of you to consider, regarding our residency training program. The contracts are between COMCARE, SRS, Division of Health Care Policy, and the Wichita Centers for Graduate Medical Education or WGME is what we call that. The contracts provide funding, state funding for psychiatric residents who are in their fourth year of residency to provide services in our community mental health centers.

They have these contracts throughout the state. We get about five residents each year, or the equivalent of one FTE, so five different individuals split their time and come to us and provide some services. The State of Kansas funds the majority of those costs, that are associated with that training experience and COMCARE funds the balance.

We have been in extensive negotiations with the state over this money. Part of that had to do with the state's own financial crisis and SRS was not sure, for a long time, whether or not it had the money to provide this for us. So we felt it was so valuable to have these residents in our community and trained in the community mental health model, that we did pay for that until they came through with the money, and this indicates that they have. And in fact, the contracts provide a rate increase, and this would be contracts for 2004 and 2005, a rate increase of \$3,691.

It is a win/win situation for us, for the residents to understand the complexities of our system, and for us to get a chance to meet them and see how skilled they are in what they do. We recommend that you approve the contracts."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay Marilyn, we could use more residents if they were funded. I mean, this doesn't nearly satisfy the need we have for that."

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Ms. Cook said, “No. In fact, we’re very lucky in Sedgwick County that there is even a residency program here. There are many community mental health centers throughout the state that do not have sufficient psychiatric support. They do that via tele-conferencing some times. We’re lucky to have a small school here that produces psychiatrists, and have a setting that’s attractive enough for people to want to stay. So, we could use many more, particularly board certified child psychiatrists. We have three here and it’s three of the few that are in the state.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. Well, this is a good program. We’ll do all we can do with what we have, I guess. Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “In order to adequately serve the citizens of Sedgwick County, how many do you need?”

Ms. Cook said, “How many does COMCARE need or how many does the county need?”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “How many does COMCARE need? If five isn’t enough, how many do you need to adequately serve the people?”

Ms. Cook said, “These are residents, so we would like to see as many residents go through that program as possible, so we would have our pick of residents. We constantly have a medical provider position open in our organization. We have two open currently. We have three Advanced Nurse Practitioner . . .”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I was talking about the psychiatry residents. We’re having five, which is equivalent to one full-time and that isn’t enough. How many FTEs would you need to be adequately funded?”

Ms. Cook said, “I would say two would be fabulous.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “So ten.”

Ms. Cook said, “Right. We don’t have that many people in the program.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I understand.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, is there any other question? We are ready for a Motion.”

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MOTION

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

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 please."

4. AGREEMENT WITH WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR USE OF CLASSROOMS AND GYMNASIUM TO PROVIDE AFTER-SCHOOL PSYCHOSOCIAL GROUP ACTIVITY FOR SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH.

Ms. Cook said, "This is an agreement with West Side Baptist Church for the use of several of their classrooms, their gym and their kitchen to enable COMCARE children's program case managers to provide psycho-social groups after school. We would be using this location Monday through Thursday, from about three in the afternoon to about 6:30 at night.

The church was selected, due to its central location, given the children that needed that service in that particular area. The children will be served . . . about 35 children will be served in the activities. About 20 who are middle and high school students and 15 elementary school students and in lieu of rent, COMCARE is agreeing to pay, with this contract or agreement, \$1,000 to partially offset the cost of maintaining the utilities and the other expenses that are associated with keeping that building open during those hours. We would recommend that you approve this agreement."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. I would just say thanks and appreciation to West Side Baptist Church for their partnering with us in this effort."

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Ms. Cook said, "It's great."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah, thank you and I echo that, because I think it's great. I'm a little confused as to what the difference it would be to pay the church \$1,000 rent or to make a \$1,000 contribution to the church. Why did we debate that in the contract?"

Ms. Cook said, "I didn't do those negotiations, but I understand that they really didn't want to rent the space and have that kind of agreement. They just wanted us to be able to cover whatever expenses they would have. We had a very similar arrangement when we had our Center City program downtown, where we didn't pay for the building, but we didn't pay for the building but we did pay for the parking. So, when they incurred an expense, we helped cover it."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, the only reason I'm mentioning that, because I've got a few rather right-leaning constituents that might argue about this separation of church and state and why are you making a contribution to this church and how are they going to use the money and then we don't believe in God. I mean, you can't believe the questions that I get and rent would have just been a cleaner way to do it, as opposed to a contribution to a church. And I'm hoping that I don't get those calls."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, the only . . . I have no real idea, but some churches don't want to rent space. I mean, they don't want to become an income-producing place, but make a contribution to them and that's a much easier deal."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "I understand that part."

Chairman Unruh said, "And I think \$1,000 is pretty . . ."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "No, no question about it. I was just . . . you heard where I was coming from."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Any other questions or comment?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

5. GRANT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO REMOVE MIRACLES, INC. FROM THE PROJECT AS A HOUSING AND SERVICES PROVIDER.

Ms. Cook said, "This item, any time we talk about HUD it gets confusing to me, but I tried to encapsulate it. In August of 2003, COMCARE's homeless program at Center City did receive HUD money to implement a transitional housing project for individuals with co-occurring disorders. And at that time, Miracles Incorporated, who is a local community partner, was planning to provide some housing and provide some services. Miracles decided not to move forward in that participation. We brought that to you last year, actually last July, in a BoCC meeting, saying they're not going to do it anymore. COMCARE will do that part and they were released from the project.

This is HUD's amendment that said 'Yes, we agree to that'. It's just a slow moving process for them, so this is something that you looked at in July of last year, but this is their acknowledgement that they received that. They agree with it and they acknowledge the changes. It's clear they do like to have the last word."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, well as long as we’re getting the services provided, I guess that’s all that matters, but boy that’s slow, isn’t it.”

Ms. Cook said, “It’s very slow.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. Any questions, commissioners?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Marilyn, good job. Next item please.”

O. PRESENTATION OF UPDATE ON THE OFFENDER REENTRY PILOT PROJECT.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Over the past three years, we’ve worked in partnership with the state, city and Wichita State to engage the community in planning about offender reentry. I’m here this morning to provide an update and a review of what is called the Offender Reentry Initiative and to help prepare you for an

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upcoming conference of lawmakers that you're going to participate in on April 18th that I'll speak about in more detail in a moment.

To begin to understand offender reentry, it focuses on the transition from prison to the community. This new approach can be simply understood as beefing up efforts to help people leaving prison to rejoin society. This approach starts behind the walls, with detailed, individual release planning, programming to prepare and connections to the community.

Services, support and supervision are in place prior to arrival and continue to help facilitate the transition and improve the results. This approach is gaining momentum with lawmakers across the nation, in Kansas and in Sedgwick County. There's now agreement across the country that locking up and mostly ignoring offenders has been far from a cure-all for crime. I saw an interesting quote from in the paper that I'll share as a background, before I go into the details here, that kind of helps grasp and drive the point home.

The director of Ohio's prison system was quoted in the Kansas City Star saying, 'Who would you rather sit on a bus next to, a person who is very, very angry about their prison experience and untrained and uneducated, or a person who obtained a GED and vocational training in prison and is on his or her way to work'. So, offender reentry is about not only improving the lives of offenders, but it's about public safety.

I'll get right to the point, and give you the meat of the update about offender reentry. Nationally, there's movement on this issue. Congress is discussing legislation called the Second Chance Act, to provide funds to help offenders find jobs, housing and treatment services for substance abuse and mental health. Senator Brownback is a sponsor of that legislation and it's expected to be introduced very soon.

In Kansas, and Kansas has been a leader in this area, the legislature is considering funding reentry initiatives in both Sedgwick and Wyandotte Counties in their state fiscal year 2006 budget. The legislative policy conference that is coming up on offender reentry is going to be held here in Wichita on April 18th. The purpose for that conference is for lawmakers to come together to plan for the next generation of reentry initiatives. I know that you all are attending. I've provided you the agenda for that meeting.

The morning and early afternoon is filled with information and then there's a strategic planning session to work on those next steps for Kansas. Governor Sebelius will be delivering a key note address, as will Senator Brownback.

In Sedgwick County we're going to participate in the Kansas Policy Conference and we stand ready, on our offender reentry plan, to partner with the state and the city upon the state notification that the funds have been appropriated in the Department of Corrections budget, so that's where we

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stand. As soon as we know that, and it's probably a month away, we will be ready to finalize those plans and move forward with the reentry plan in our community.

A little bit about the offenders returning to the community from prison, nationally, 600,000 per year leave prison, in Kansas, 7,400. To Sedgwick County, there's 1,850 offenders per year that leave Kansas prisons to come to our community. Of those, approximately 1,250 are on parole supervision.

The bottom line, that's foundational to this whole reentry movement across the country is the realization that 95% of the people in prison are coming back and we need to do a good job to improve the results.

A few characteristics about those offenders in the community: 25% lack adequate housing, 50% lack adequate job skills, 66% have addiction histories, 20% mental health needs and the bottom line is, 55% return to prison in the first year and 66% return in three years. That's true nationally, as well as in our state and that's not only costly, it's costly to the lives of victims who are victims of crime, as well as the cost to the system in having to house them and start over again.

A review of the local activities that have taken place, for background, Wichita Assembly was held here, called 'Community Reconnection: A Beginning for New Offenders' that you sponsored, along with the city, and the state at Wichita State, resulted in the publication of this book. That was back in 2002.

Following that, in the broad recommendations there, was the recommendation to develop a task force, to develop action plans to implement those recommendations. That was done in 2003 and resulted in a task force report that involved the community in this project and a meeting of the governing bodies to receive the report recommendations in 2004.

That was followed by your approval of the recommended pilot project, which is modeled after a program in Shawnee County, that was federally funded, which is one of 68 programs around the country to address offender reentry. And in 2005, the City of Wichita has approved that pilot plan to do some further planning about it as soon as we know that the state is on board, we will all get back together and finalize that agreement and get ready to move forward.

The Wichita Assembly, the key point I wanted to point out here, as you get ready to go into this conference to focus on, there's four elements to look at: community safety, housing, employment and connection to support services. We have a long way to go here and a big job ahead of us, in the housing and employment arena, and there's a lot of work to do. There are things going on, but there's a lot of work to do, and as you're in meetings about this, that's something to really focus on

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and listen for innovative ideas to locate our plan on where we are.

The task force key concepts were a need for ongoing partnership, a need for ongoing oversight, a definite need for a system change to try to improve upon the results and a need for community education and information sharing.

The more specific recommendations out of that report were to establish a reentry pilot project to start to facilitate that system change. The pilot project should be a joint effort of the state, county and city to establish a body to oversee that program and subsequent to this report, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council was established by the commission and they have been tasked with the oversight of this project, if it moves forward. And then to include community involvement and information through the entire process.

At this point, I can stop and we can discuss this, or I'm prepared to go into more detail about the specifics under employment, housing, public safety. I would seek you direction."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, I think that gets us pointed in the right direction here, Mark. But, how many . . . in the pilot project, how many individuals will be included in the first pilot project or has that been determined, or can we know that yet?"

Mr. Masterson said, "Our plan was for 150, 150 a year. Remember, that in the pilot project, it starts behind the walls and so the first year is working behind the walls to develop detailed plans to work in the community, before those offenders are actually transitioned to build the connections with employment support services housing."

Chairman Unruh said, "But that first step of working behind the walls has not yet started. Is that correct?"

Ms. Masterson said, "That won't start until the actual program is approved. The funding is approved at the state level and we get engaged."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mark, you said that you were prepared now to kind of pause here or go into more detail. Is that correct?"

Mr. Masterson said, "Yes."

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Commissioner Winters said, “Well, Mr. Chairman, and I can go either way, but I think Mark has given us the background information to get us ready for this meeting on April the 18th and I’d like to go to that meeting and hear what we hear there and then stop again and look at a more detailed, after we’ve heard the governor and Senator Brownback and all of those people make presentations.

We’re probably going to get plenty of detail if one stays all day to hear that and then come back again and continue the conversation with Mark.

I do have one question of Mark, though.”

Chairman Unruh said, “It’s not detailed, is it? I’m kidding. Go ahead.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Has the Shawnee County pilot project been in existence long enough to see any trends there? Are they having any successes in Shawnee County?”

Mr. Masterson said, “Very promising, early results, have been in operation for 17 months and they’ve got people actually out in the community, it’s a very small number at this point, but only one of 12 that have come out has been returned.

K.U. is studying the results of that project, doing a full evaluation, and as soon as results are available, we’ll release them. That program is modeled after a program in Fort Wayne, Indiana that started in 1999 that there are results on the Internet, at www.allencountycorrections.com that is a very exhaustive evaluation of the reentry project there. They were one of the original eight, and so there is some hard data available, but it’s still preliminary.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Okay, thank you. That’s all I have.”

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

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Does this pilot project include people that aren’t being let out on parole, that have just spent their entire sentence in jail and now they’re released because they were sent to jail for 10 years and they spent 10 years and now they’re leaving or is it just the people that are getting out on parole?”

Mr. Masterson said, “Well, the plan for 150 is to target those with at least a year left in their sentence that would have parole supervision, as part of their release plan, and so that’s the pilot that we would be looking at.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay. Are most people that are sentenced to a finite number of years get out early on parole? I mean, how many . . . what percentage of them actually spend the

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entire ten years there, or whatever their term is?”

Mr. Masterson said, “I’d have to ask the Kansas Department of Corrections and I can certainly do that. I don’t know the answer.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “But I mean, unless the judge decreed it going in, they’re free to do anything they want, because they’ve served their supposed debt to society and now they’re under no . . . they can be that angry person on the bus if they want to, because they don’t have to report to a parole officer. Is that correct?”

Mr. Masterson said, “Six hundred a year that are coming back to Sedgwick County are exactly that way.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay, because those are the ones that kind of concern me too. If you’re on parole, you’ve got some controls on you, but if you’re out, you’re out and you can do anything you want. You can elect to join a program if you want to say, ‘To heck with you, I’ll still stay angry and frustrated and go back when I decide I want to go back’ I guess. Okay, so right now it’s the parolees that we’re dealing with in this pilot project . . . that would be paroled.”

Mr. Masterson said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Yeah, okay, thanks.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. Commissioners, any other additional comment or question? If not, we need a motion to receive and file and we will continue our understanding of this at the next meeting.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well, if we’re going to go to the Motion and everything, I do have a few comments. I think it’s critically important, and I’ve been kind of an advocate for us to kind of get re-briefed on this before we go to this very important conference, because I think there is going to be some legislative kind of discussions and decisions on where does the state go and since we have such a large percentage of the people that come back as offenders into the community, I think it’s imperative that we really understand the issue and get it back on the front burner for us to be thinking about it.

I don’t know that it’s critical that we continue to dig down today, but I wanted to be sure that we understood the gravity of this and the citizens know that we’re taking this pretty darn serious, that we’re trying to re-understand everything that happens in offender reentry and how it’s going to affect our community, that there is a task force recommendation. It probably would not be inappropriate for us to all pull that out and dust it off and read it one more time before we go to this and be sure we understand what’s in there, what the recommendations are.

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The thing about all of this is the recidivism is onerous on this whole project, and when you think that 1,800 people plus, which over a five-year period is almost 10,000, come back into our community and that 55%, half of them, go back into incarceration, it doesn't take you long to realize that is a huge drain on government, taxpayer money, that has to incarcerate those folks and pay for them to be in a prison system. And if we could just start reducing that 55% down to 25%, that is huge savings for the taxpayer, not to mention the human capital that's saved in our society, because they are going to be functioning as workers and taxpayers and are going to be adding to society, as opposed to detracting from society.

So, it's a critically sensitive issue, it's a tough issue and I really see it, in some respects, as kind of the Fram Oil Filter ad. It's pay me now or pay me later. If we can put some money into these programs and I know there's going to be people out there that say, 'Hey, let them sit there for 10 years and rot, I don't care', until you figure out, just like we've talked about, they're going to come back to our community and they can either be prepared to come back and we can pay a little money on the front end, and I know sometimes that there are those that believe, 'Well, that's social engineering, don't put any money into those folks, they're lost to society' but the truth is, they're only lost for a certain period of time and then they're back with us. And we want to be sure that they have every opportunity to succeed and not go back to prison and what we're working on today is going to hopefully ensure that for our community, anyway, that we're very serious about it, we want to protect the rights of everybody that plays by the rules and has lived within the law from those that maybe have trouble doing that. And the only way we may solve that is to help them out a little bit. And it's really no different than helping kids that are in really bad positions early on in their childhood, to get to them early, before they get into the system. Well, we've got to do the same thing for people that are in prison, and get to them early, try to help them find housing and jobs, as they integrate back in society.

So, I don't know that I need a lot more information, but I do want the public to know that we take this pretty darn serious, this is a tough issue and you're putting your head in the sand if you think that, 'Well, it's not my problem', that they go somewhere else. No, 1,850 a year come back to Wichita and Sedgwick County and live as neighbors and 55% of them go back to prison for some reason. So, important issue and I think I've had enough information, if that's the way we'd like to go today."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on that, one of the things I think we need to be prepared, on the 18th, is it appears that there's going to be a number of our state legislators there and I think they'll be looking at us and we'll be looking at them and saying, I mean, can we make this state/ local partnership thing work. And Mark, I guess I would ask you, if there's anything else of if you think of anything or if there's anything that we need to either say in support of these pilot projects or if we have some reservations that things are unclear, we probably need to know that, because I just have a feeling we'll get into some conversations where they'll want to know what our enthusiasm for participation is. And again, I don't know what those specifics are, but I think we need to let them know that we are. So, Mark do you have anything else?"

Mr. Masterson said, "I would say that Margie Phelps, Director of Release Planning for Kansas Department of Corrections was the task force chair. I witnessed, was at a committee hearing of the Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, about the offender reentry initiative and about the Sedgwick County plan, the cooperation, the things that we've done here to be ready and positioned and ahead of the curve and so, many of the key legislators are aware and again, this is on their plate to approve funding in the current budget that they're working on."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, I think that's all I have."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Well, what's the will of the Board at this point?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye

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Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Mark, for that update. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

P. AMENDMENT TO THE 2005 CIP TO INCREASE CIP# B-409, 53RD STREET NORTH BETWEEN 167TH AND 183RD STREETS NORTHWEST.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Pete Giroux, Senior Management Analyst, Budget Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today we have a request from Public Works for additional funding in a 2005 CIP project, a bridge project that located just west of Colwich, over the Cowskin Creek, and you can see the condition rating on the bridge. Here's a map, and of course 53rd Street serves the northwest portion of the county too. Initially, the design of the bridge called for road closure and a rural standard of construction. When consulted, the City of Colwich asked that we consider keeping 53rd Street open and also adding pedestrian access.

After a detailed review of their request, the traffic, the length of the detour as well as the duration of the closure, Public Works added a shoofly or a temporary bridge to the project, as well as sidewalks. Of course, that resulted in an increased cost to the project. The low bid was \$1,023,500 and of course that needs additional funding to be accepted, after adding back an appropriate contingency, the bridge project will need \$625,000. There are funds available for that within the sales tax road and bridge fund.

After an extended discussion, the CIP Committee, as well as staff, recommended approval of the project. Do you have any questions?"

Chairman Unruh said, "We have a question. Commissioner Winters."

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Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I don't really have a question. I just have a comment again, to add in, if any commissioners have any questions, I'd be glad to help respond to those. Also, I've had a chance and David Spears I think, to speak with most of you about this project. I think it is a change worth our consideration and I'm going to be supportive. The location of this bridge just makes it different than one that would be four or five miles away from the City of Colwich, so I'm going to be supportive and hope you can also. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "And I don't know who will answer this, but what kind of imposition would this be if we actually closed down this bridge? I think I'm going to be supportive of this, but it looks like, that close to Colwich, people are going to have to drive . . . if we close that down, they're going to have to drive way out of the way to get around that area."

Mr. David Spears, P.E., Director/County Engineer, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Twelve mile detour on paved roads and if you figure the traffic count, and I think it's in the 3,000 range, you figure the time, effort, money and energy, all those cars going out of their way 12 miles probably twice a day, and this road also leads into Andale. It's the main . . . it used to be a state highway. We took it over when we built K-96 and we were a system enhancement project with the state and that was one of the agreements that we took that road over. So the economic impact is significant."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, having just experienced some citizens having to drive two miles out of the way for a railroad project, I can't even imagine, you know, the kind of consternation that 12 miles out of the way would cause for those citizens, so I'm going to be very supportive. I mean, that is a lot of money, but I think that's going to add real quality to it and make sure the project is not onerous on Colwich and Andale and those citizens in western Kansas. You've got my support."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, well thank you and I'm supportive too. In light of the fact that we have the funds available from other project savings in the Road and Bridge Fund and it would be a severe imposition, or issue with the citizens of Colwich, so I'm supportive also."

Are there any other comments or questions, Commissioners?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the CIP amendment.

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Commissioner Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Pete. Next item please."

Q. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING BRIDGE WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BRIDGES WITHIN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS; AND RESCINDING ALL PREVIOUS DESIGNATIONS OF BRIDGE WEIGHT POSTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COUNTY BRIDGES WITHIN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS. ALL DISTRICTS.

Mr. Spears said, "This resolution updates the bridge weight posting requirements for all county maintained bridges. The basic changes are a direct result of the construction of new bridges in 2004.

We have a total of 650 bridges, of which 137 are posted, four are closed, and 509 are open. Open load limit bridges are defined as those bridges that can handle any Kansas legal load and as far as posted bridges are concerned, in 1985 we had 318 and as of this date we have 137, which is a significant reduction over a time period of 20 years. This resolution designates bridge weight posting requirements for all of our bridges in accordance with procedures outlined by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Therefore, we will remain eligible for federal funds. I recommend that you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, David. Your last comment is convincing to me, that we will remain eligible for federal funds. So Commissioners, are there any question or comment?"

MOTION

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Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton 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, "Thank you, David. Next item please."

R. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 31, 2005.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of the 31st resulted in 12 items for consideration today.

**1) STREET IMPROVEMENTS- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS**

The first item, street improvements for Public Works. Recommend the low bid from Ritchie Paving in the amount of \$813,170.59.

**2) STREET IMPROVEMENTS- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS (SPECIAL ASSESSMENT)**

Item two, street improvements for Gaither Addition for Public Works and I'm requesting that this item be deferred.

**3) BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS**

Item three, bridge improvements for Public Works. Recommend the low bid from King Construction in the amount of \$1,023,207.09, subject to approval of the CIP amendment by the Board of County Commissioners.

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4) STREET IMPROVEMENTS- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS (SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS)

Item four, street improvements for Elkridge Addition for Public Works. Recommend the low bid from APAC Kansas including modification of plans and construction, in the amount of \$376,126.05.

5) REPAIR OF CHILLER SYSTEM- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING: PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Item five, repairs of the chiller system for Public Works. Recommend the low bid from Piping and Equipment in the amount of \$35,174.

6) SUBURBANS- FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: VEHICLE ACQUISITION

Item six, Suburbans for Fleet Management. Recommend the low bid from Don Hattan Chevrolet, including manuals, for a cost of \$61,285.

7) CREW CAB PICKUPS- FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: VEHICLE ACQUISITION

Item seven, crew cab pickups for Fleet Management. Recommend low bid from Don Hattan, including manuals, for \$48,170.

8) LARGE INTERMEDIATE SEDANS- FLEET MANAGEMENT
FUNDING: VEHICLE ACQUISITION

Item eight, large intermediate sedans for Fleet Management. Recommend low bid from Don Hattan, including manuals, in the amount of \$46,553.

9) SAP MAINTENANCE CONSULTING SERVICES- ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING
FUNDING: ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING

Item nine, SAP maintenance consulting services for Enterprise Resource Planning. Recommend the

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expenditure with SAP Public Sector for a not to exceed cost of \$295,000.

10) IBM HARDWARE MAINTENANCE- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS
FUNDING: DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS

Item ten, IBM hardware maintenance for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommend the proposal from Decision One for an annual cost of \$27,048 and execute a contract for one year, with two one-year options to renew.

11) RADAR UNITS- SHERIFF'S OFFICE
FUNDING: LLEBG

Item eleven, radar units for the Sheriff's Office. Recommend low bid meeting specifications from Applied Concepts for \$14,988.

12) RADIO SHOP RELOCATION- FACILITY PROJECT SERVICES
FUNDING: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

And item twelve, radio shop relocation for Facility Project Services. Recommend the low bid from C. Smith Company in the amount of \$50,503.

Would be happy to answer any questions and I would recommend approval of the Minutes today."

Chairman Unruh said, "I see no questions. This Motion would have to be then to approve everything except the deferred item. Is that the way . . .?"

Ms. Baker said, "And defer Item 2."

Commissioner Winters said, "I have a question, I guess."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "The Gaither Addition was in our resolution we did on creating road improvements earlier today. Is this the same project, but you're just wishing us to defer this bid?"

Ms. Baker said, "Correct."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay. Do you expect to bring it back soon, or do we have a

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problem?”

Ms. Baker said, “Well, I’m not sure that the proper action was taken for the item, due to the engineer’s estimate and got some questions. We’re trying to answer those and figure out how we’re going to bring it back.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Okay, very good. That’s the only question I had.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Let’s see, who was next here. Okay, Commissioner Sciortino.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “So on Item 2, are we denying all three bids and going to re-let it out for bid or what is occurring?”

Ms. Baker said, “You’re deferring the award.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “To a later date, or . . .?”

Ms. Baker said, “Yes.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay?”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “I mean, we’re still going to go ahead with the project. Is that correct?”

Ms. Baker said, “Hopefully we will. When all the questions are answered, I’ll bring it back through.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Commissioner Norton. Were you done?”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Yeah, I think so.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I was interested in Item #9. Again, we’re talking about updates and reconfigurations and consulting services on SAP and you know, that whole enterprise system, you

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know we've had issues over the last few years, \$295,000 is a heck of a lot of money to put out to re-look at I think it's 13 or 14 issues in the whole Human Resource part of SAP. The one challenge I made to Chris Chronis and Jo Templin was that, you know, if SAP can come in or their consultants, I'm hoping that we don't . . . it's not a deal where they spend the whole \$295,000 to solve the problem. I've got to believe that some of those are going to be pretty simple fixes, that obviously we've identified that we can't do, but somebody that we expect will solve them pretty quickly and without a lot of time and effort involved, once they see it and that it's not going to be an issue that they use the whole amount of money that we've allotted.

It seems like sometimes if you say that we've got that much money, the work expands to the amount of money that you have, and I would like to challenge us, as an organization, and SAP is the organization we're going to work with, to not use the whole amount of money to solve the computer problems that we've had in HR. So just kind of a comment that I wanted to have on the record, because I'll be very dismayed if all the sudden, the final bill comes out at \$295,000 even, when we want to really push that to a lower amount. And the other comment is Item #1, that's a great project that, I think isn't that down in Mulvane. That started several, several years ago and that's out by their sports complex and I think it's going to be a great project for that south side of the county, that many times gets left out of things, and I know Ben has worked awful hard on that."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "And so have I think two or three previous commissioners. This has been a long work in progress."

Commissioner Norton said, "And I think it's going to be in an area that's growing pretty fast and I think it's going to be a great project."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Yeah, they're very happy with it."

Commissioner Norton said, "That's all I had."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, all right thank you. Any other comments or questions of Iris? Commissioners, we're ready for a Motion."

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MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts, with the exception of Item 2, which will be deferred.

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, "Thank you, Iris. Next item please."

CONSENT AGENDA

S. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Dedication Deed for Sedgwick County Bridge Project 821-J, K; Bridge on Broadway over Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad at 45th Street North. CIP# B-310. District #4.**
- 2. Metropolitan Area Planning Department Case Number ZON2003-00041 – extension of time to complete the platting requirement for a zone change from "SF-20" Single Family Residential to "SF-5" Single Family Residential for approximately 75 acres located north of 13th Street North and west of 159th Street East. District #1.**

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- 3. Order stating the Board of County Commissioners' findings regarding the City of Valley Center's request for a county-approved annexation.**
- 4. Order dated March 30, 2005 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 5. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of March 30 – April 5, 2005.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it."

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Burtnett 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, "Commissioners, we need to have a meeting of the Fire District. Before we do that, before we adjourn this meeting, would be the time for community comment if there is any. Commissioner Norton."

T. OTHER

Commissioner Norton said, "Just a little information. Next week, Chairman Unruh and myself and I don't know how many staff members are heading to Anniston, Alabama. We've been invited

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to participate in a MMRS event, sponsored by FEMA and I'm not sure who all the other sponsors are, but it takes elected officials, staff, emergency management folks, first responders, media folks and takes them into this IMEMC Center for a full week of activities around bio-terrorism events and planning and emergency preparedness. I think it's going to be a pretty intense week and we're one of very few communities in the whole nation that have been invited to do this, that's picked up by the federal government and I'm pretty excited about it.

I don't know that I know exactly what we're going to be doing, but I think we're going to be put on the firing line, in a mock event, to understand what our responsibilities are to our community and in the area of emergency preparedness and bio-terrorism and medical events. So, it should be a very interesting week for the Chairman and myself."

Chairman Unruh said, "Interesting. Nice way to put it, Commissioner. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "As you know, we had the stagecoach rolled into town last Saturday and I had occasion to be on there. We got held up. It was kind of dangerous, but the Omaha Herald, in 1877, came out with a whole list of suggestions and hints for people riding stagecoaches and I'll just read one. They suggest very strongly that men don't grease their hair before starting, or dust will stick in there in sufficient quantities to make a respectable 'tater' patch. Must have been kind of dusty on the road. That's it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Thank you, Ben. Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "I know we're running late, but I just want to remind people to mark Friday the 13th of May on your calendar for the Sedgwick County Block Party for the River Festival. And be sure and tune in to our April 27th meeting, because we're going to have a special guest here for the River Festival."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Well, two things just quickly. One, the zoo had three otter pups, so in about 90 days you all want to get out to the zoo. They're a fun animal to watch and we hope that they will remain healthy.

Secondly, if you see a lot of activity around the Wichita Area Technical College, there's about 900 kids out there for the rest of the week that are in the skills competition and it's a great exercise for the kids. They get pretty intense with that, but you see that activity, you'll know what it is.

With that, Commissioners, is there anything else for our Regular Meeting? Seeing none, I will

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adjourn our regular meeting.”

U. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.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

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LUCY BURTNETT, Commissioner
Fourth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2005