

## **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**July 20, 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, July 20, 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. Jo Templin, Director, Division of Human Resources; Mr. Frank E. White, Jr., Chief Attorney, District Attorney's Office; Ms. Sheena Lynch, Management Intern, County Manager's Office; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Manager, Facility Project Services; Mr. Pete Giroux, Senior Management Analyst, Budget Department; Mr. Bill Meek, Register of Deeds; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

#### **GUESTS**

Mr. Larry Turner, Chairman, Sedgwick County Extension Council Board.

#### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Chairman Unruh.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

#### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting, July 6, 2005

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of July 6, 2005.

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Commissioners, you've had an opportunity to review the Minutes of July 6<sup>th</sup>. Are there any additions or corrections?"

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 6, 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."

**RETIREMENT**

**A. PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CLOCK TO FRANK E. WHITE, JR., CHIEF ATTORNEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.**

**Ms. Jo Templin**, Director, Division of Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This agenda item recognizes and appreciates the public service of Frank E. White Jr., Chief Attorney in the District Attorney's Office for his 15 years of public service. Mr. White is joined today by family and several members of the District Attorney's Office."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, we want to officially recognize your service to the county and congratulate you on this occasion of your retirement. We know that during your years of service, you've seen a lot of different, unusual and interesting things happen and we just appreciate, as you've been faithful in your service through all those issues and instances and want to wish you well in your retirement."

I have for you a certificate here that kind of commemorates this day, want to present that to you and also to present you this clock so you can kind of keep track of time, as you're doing whatever it is that you want to do. And I don't know how many times you've heard this, but are you going to be continuing to coach baseball?"

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**Mr. Frank E. White Jr.**, Chief Attorney, District Attorney's Office, said, "Yes. I also will continue as the Governor of Arkansas."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay. Well we really want to thank you for your service to our community and we're very pleased that you've brought friends and family here with you to help celebrate this occasion and we'd like to have you say a few words, if you'd like."

**Mr. White** said, "Thank you. I just want to say that I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to live and work in Sedgwick County for the last 15 years. I have of course been involved in prosecution longer than that, but it's been a great experience. I've had a wonderful opportunity to work with some of the best colleagues that one could ever hope to have. Some of them are here with me today and I appreciate the opportunity to have been associated with them and worked with them. Thank you very much."

**Chair Pro Tem Sciortino** said, "Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

**AWARDS**

**B. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 2005 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS.**

- 1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**
- 2. FRIENDS OF LAKE AFTON**
- 3. WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM**
- 4. ON-LINE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Ms. Sheena Lynch**, Management Intern, County Manager's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm happy to recognize the 2005 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards. These awards represent techniques used by county departments to improvement the quality of service within Sedgwick County. I will ask that the recipients of these awards please stand and be recognized for their outstanding work."

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The first award being honored by the National Association of Counties is a community engagement process. The Sedgwick County officials have developed a three-step plan to address the public health needs of the citizens. The plan includes citizen participation, project team formation and implementation of the project. Community engagement and information transference were key to the success of this program. Participants in this program include Irene Hart, Ann Guteirezz, Sonja Armbruster, Bill Buchanan, Chris Chronis, Bill Farney, Doren Frederickson, Jo Templin, Andy Schlapp and Kristi Zukovich.

The next program honored by the National Association of Counties is Friends of Lake Afton. The Friends of Lake Afton program began in January of 2001 to improve the water quality of the lake, through the voluntary implementation protection measures by landowners within watershed boundaries. Participants in this program include Susan Erlenwein, Monty Munyon, Andy Megrail and Rosemary Renner.

The next program honored by the National Association of Counties is West Nile Virus Surveillance and Control program. The West Nile Virus Surveillance and Control program was developed in 2004 as a way to control mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus outbreaks. The primary goal of this program is to protect the public from West Nile Virus by early detection and elimination of mosquitoes. Mansoor Tahir, of the Sedgwick County Health Department, is the primary participant for this program.

The final program honored by the National Association of Counties is on-line public hearings. These hearings were established to give the public the opportunity to view local County Commission meetings on-line while engaging in the meetings by posing questions and comments to the County Commissioners. Those involved in this program are Kristi Zukovich and Jeff Piper. And once again, I would like to recognize those participants. Thank you.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay, well thank you Sheena. Are there . . . those folks that we just mentioned their name, those who are in the room today, would you all stand so that we can recognize you and your efforts. Manager, you have to stand up too. Okay, thank you. I have said, from this bench previously, that I’m very proud to be involved in Sedgwick County government and I’m very appreciative of the capable and creative and energetic folks that we have on our staff that help make this particular government, a leading county government in our nation, and so your efforts, I’m glad to say they haven’t gone unrecognized and perhaps we as a commission haven’t recognized them frequently enough, but others do and we’re aware of it and we want to tell you that we really appreciate the work that you give to the citizens of Sedgwick County.

Have a comment from Commissioner Winters.”

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**Commissioner Winters** said, "I just want to just take just a few brief seconds here to also acknowledge that the National Association of Counties really does do good work in helping counties communicate with each other and share ideas such as these and we're very fortunate to have Debbie Donaldson with COMCARE as a board member of that national organization, so we appreciate all the work that those board members and that the staff of National Association of Counties work in and this is just one of those programs, so thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay. Well thank you all again very much. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **C. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2006 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.**

##### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today is the day that you will have an opportunity to hear from the public regarding the recommended budget, but before we begin, I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify an error that has occurred and that has caused some folks consternation, and for that I take responsibility and ask your forgiveness."

On page one of the budget book, it's right after section . . . it says 'Executive Summary'. In the first paragraph under budget expenditures, it says '7.6% increase'."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "I'm trying to find the page."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Page one, under Executive . . . under the tab 'Executive Summary'."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Okay, got it."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Under budget expenditures, in those big, bold letters, the second lines says a 7.6% increase from 2005. That's wrong, that's an error, that's a mistake and it shouldn't have happened, but it did."

If you turn to page 24, under the budget summaries, go the tab 'Budget Summaries' and go to page 24, you will see at the bottom of the page on page 24 clear . . . over in the right-hand, next to the last column on the right hand side, percentage in change from 2005 budget to the 2006 budget is 4.7%. That's the number it should have been on page one, it wasn't there and that was a mistake."

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You have, up on the screen, a compilation of what the budgets have been for the past several years. You'll see that between the 2002 budget and the 2003 budget, that increased 3.5%. In 2004 to 2005 it reduced just a little bit. In 2004 to 2005 . . . 2003 to 2004, reduced a little bit. From 2004 to 2005, it increased by 1.3% and this year, because of a number of activities, it increased 4.7%.

The 4.7%, and you can see that we've broke it down into general government, public safety, public works, human health and welfare. That has increase the most and that mainly because of grants that we've received and the increase in fees. So, that has driven the increase in the budget and I know that this was a concern of lots of folks, but I wanted to make sure that we had it . . . you had it correct and that the public has an opportunity to have it correct, that the increase for Sedgwick County is 4.7% this year.

Again, I would suggest to you that that increase is because of some normal and healthy growth and that we are as fiscally conservative as any government certainly around, and do not border on fiscal irresponsibility as some do.

The purpose of today's hearing is for you to hear recommendations and suggestions and ideas and thoughts of the public on our 2006 budget and this budget is for the general fund, it's \$341,000,000 and then, after we hear from this public hearing, we will go into the Fire District public hearing and hear about that budget and that's 13.6 million dollar budget, so Mr. Chairman, if there's no other questions, I'd recommend that you open the public hearing."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. We do have a comment here from Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "All right, thank you very much. Mr. Manager, I appreciate that explanation. So last Thursday, this headline in the Eagle that says 'County may spend 7.6 more', they got the number legitimately but that is not the correct number."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "That's right."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Our budget, if approved as it sits today, would go up 4.7%."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes, sir."

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**Commissioner Winters** said, "Okay. Well I would just hope that our Communications Department would make sure that all the media has this breakdown that you've just presented, showing the percentage increases. I know a few percentage points really perhaps don't mean a lot but I had a number of people comment that they just thought 7.6 was a pretty good sized increase in one year and this chart does a very good job of explaining what our budget has done over the past several years. So if we can make sure that the media has that, I think it would certainly clear up some confusion."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes, sir."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. Any more comments, Commissioners? Well, seeing none, at this point I will open the public hearing to accept public comment. Anyone here that is wishing to speak to commissioners relative to the budget, now is the time to do that. I don't see a lot of people I don't recognize here, but how many people, can you hold your hand up, that are wanting to speak. We might have a short budget hearing this year."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well, this is just the first one."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well I understand that. All right, here we go. Please state your name and who you are."

**Mr. Larry Turner**, Chairman, Sedgwick County Extension Council Executive Board, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Earlier this year, Bev Dunning, our director, and I visited with you about our 2006 budget needs. Before I share with you our supplemental request, I want to express our appreciation for you continued support of our educational programs. Several of you have participated in some of these programs and it's always refreshing to have your input."

Our shortened mission statement is 'Knowledge for life'. Our responsibility is to teach researched, unbiased information to our residents in mandated areas of agriculture, horticulture, 4-H youth development, family consumer sciences and community development.

In addition to the many on-going services that we provide at Extension, I thought you would appreciate hearing a few of the extraordinary ways in which we provided service to the county this year. We're all aware that on January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of this year, the county was hit with the worst ice storm in history, resulting in damage to trees, power lines, homes without power for up to one week and three storm related deaths.

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The storm made a large economic impact on our county. Bob Nye, our horticulture agent, immediately provided educational information through the media, website and presentations on how to save damaged trees and shrubs, as well as information about replacement varieties that research have shown are better adapted to this part of the country.

A tree book, which I think all of you received hopefully, authored by volunteer Master Gardeners, it was printed for consumers and businesses as a tool for learning. Bob currently is in Buffalo as we speak, New York this week. He's presenting a seminar and receiving a first place national award, given by the National Association of Agriculture Agents for his work during the ice storm.

Our family consumer science department responded when the ice storm hit within two hours from the start of people beginning to lose their electricity and concerned about food stuffs and how to preserve things. Calls came in to the Extension Center, Denise Diaz, our ag agent in family consumer science went to a local television station with information. She shared safe food handling practices with approximately 24,000 viewers on January the 5<sup>th</sup>. She provided pertinent information to the Wichita Eagle for use in a news story, which circulated to 238,000 people in Wichita and surrounding communities. She provided a direct link from our homepage at the Extension Center to a publication on keeping food safe during the storm, provided information to county departments on safe food handling practices and recorded a web-cast to listen to on the homepage of our website.

Another important event that's going to affect and currently has begun to affect all of the seniors and other Medicare recipients in our county and in fact, throughout the country is an important event for seniors, because on January 1, this coming January 1 of 2006, a new prescription drug coverage program becomes available through Medicare. This is going to virtually affect every person who is on Medicare. They will have to make a choice, regardless of what kind of supplemental insurance or drug coverage they have now, they will have to make a choice to either stay where they are, due to the new program.

Sedgwick County Extension Agent Janelle Smith has taken the leadership to provide educational information on the new drug program and her target area, and she's rapidly approaching this through the use of training and volunteers, is 60,000 recipients in Sedgwick County alone who are on Medicare. Roughly 45,000 of them are 65 and above and are on Medicare. The other 15 represent the disability younger than 65. Medicare recipients in Sedgwick County are going to benefit greatly by Janelle and her volunteer efforts.

She's providing training to senior health insurance counseling, these are volunteer counselors and I'm proud to say that I'm one of them to accomplish this task. The change may prove to be very

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difficult for seniors to understand, and you have read and will continue to read about it in the paper and through the media, the new presidential program on drug benefits. So it's essential to provide education counseling, so that the seniors are comfortable not only with learning about their choices, but they can rely on accurate information, those efforts.

The 4-H Youth Development program provides positive relationship building with caring adults and an opportunity for mastery, self-determination and serving community needs. Through their organized 4-H Clubs throughout the country, youth program reaches out in other ways with these same youth development skills. Each summer, a day-camp is organized of diverse backgrounds. This is done in collaboration with Mid Town Community Resource Center and funded not through tax dollars, but from grants, donations for Boeing, Optimist Clubs, individuals and this camp was just completed a week ago.

I'm within one minute, if I could have just one minute."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, one minute, that'd be fine."

**Mr. Turner** said, "The past several budget years have been very lean. The Extension Council understood that they had to step up to the plate and do their part in helping meet the budget challenges. Part of their effort to do so was the freezing of two position that became vacant two years ago. One position was in horticulture and the other in foods and nutrition. Our remaining agents have done a commendable job of recruiting volunteers to help fill the gaps, but as you know, these very willing volunteers are not effective, there's not a professional to train and organize them.

Each year, until this past year, we've expanded our volunteer base and Master Gardeners by inducting a class of 30 new volunteers each year. This was not done last year, because of our lack of human resources to train and organize their volunteers.

I tell you this to ask that you provide resources to restore these two positions. Our supplemental request of \$87,918 would bring in \$12,082 from State funding to provide the funding for two entry level professionals in these positions. I ask that you consider this request, not for new positions, but to restore two frozen positions to help us heal back to where we were two years ago.

Our second supplemental request is for \$7,000. Knowing our website needs updating and not having internal help to do this, we're advising it be used for this update. The remaining \$3,000 would be used to translate our most needed educational bulletins into Spanish. Again, thank you for

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all the past support that you have provided. In closing, I'd like to remind everyone that this coming Saturday is 'tomato day' at the Extension Center, begins at 7:00 and goes through 12 and if you have any questions, either I or Bev Dunning will be happy to answer them."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you Larry. Commissioners, are there any questions for the leadership of the Extension Council? Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Just one very quick comment, Larry. We appreciate all the work that you and the volunteers on the Extension Council do and we certainly consider your comments and will consider you comments, so thank you very much for your work and input."

**Mr. Turner** said, "Thank you very much, appreciate it."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Another comment, Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Not a question, just another comment. We don't fund specific positions, specific educational programs. We just donate a block of money and then their board makes the decision on how to spend that money. If these two positions are crucial and key, other things could have been adjusted and they could have had these positions in there. I mean, I just . . . I don't want to get us in the trap that it's us that's denying this person's ability for the board to function. That's the decision the board makes on how to establish their budget, once they know the amount of revenue and that's a decision they make on how to spend the money that we give them.

We are increasing our budget, if I noticed correctly, about 3% this year over last year, if I quick and dirty read it, but I wanted to make sure that if they made a cut in 4-H, it wasn't us making the cut and saying this is what you have to do with the money. They make that decision solely themselves.

I also, like Commissioner Winters said, I'll take into consideration anything that was mentioned, but I think it's important that the press know that we don't dictate . . . well, actually we don't have any authority on how they spend the money that we give them. That's their decision, so that's my only comment."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. Any other comments, Commissioners? Okay, so Larry, of your supplemental request, the total amount that you're talking about is \$94,000?"

**Mr. Turner** said, "That's correct, the \$87,000 would be the commission's part and then the Kansas State would the supplemental that would go with that and the combined 90 . . . whatever you added, would be enough to fund the two positions."

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**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, all right, thank you very much. Are there any other persons here present who would like to address the commission about our proposed budget? I will repeat again, anyone else wants to speak? Okay, well if there's no one else who want to speak today then I will close the public hearing at this point and I will ask commissioners if there's anything else . . . any other comments that you want to make at this time? Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Just some explanation, as we go forward, before we really have to authorize the budget in a couple of weeks, if you look at this functional area summary, at 2002, when we really started having our problems and the transfers, the revenue transfers from the state dried up and the economy changed and revenues were if-y, you look at that 2002 as one of the kind of the baseline areas, and if you look at general government, from 2002 to today, it's grown relatively well, but if you look at Public Works, it's less money. And as we move forward and look at the infrastructure and roads and some of the things, the growth that's going on out in the county, that doesn't make sense to me. Now I know there's probably some state money that's dried up, and is not available to us, but we've gone from \$27,000,000 in that budget down to 26 ½ yet general government has grown from 93 to 110 and that concerns me.

If you also look at Community Development, it went at a baseline of 7.9 down to 5.3. Now I'm sure there's some reasons in there why that's happened but I think I'd like to know kind of what the changes are and why we've gotten to that, because Community Development, which is economic development and stuff we hold in high regard has gone down. The Public Works, which really guides some economic development, gets the infrastructure fixed to be able to grow out into the county has gone down, yet general government has gone up and I'd like to visit that and understand it a little more, as we go forward.

This summary, it is a lot easier to try to start making those global, 40,000 foot viewpoint decisions than trying to go in and look at the nuts and bolts of every one, so I'd like to have that big discussion first, narrow it down and then we can work on the nuts and bolts, as we go towards authorizing the budget."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "I know a little bit about it and we will be happy to have a full discussion. The number that drives Public Works budget the most is sales tax, and we know what has happened over the past several years and as that continues to rebound, the money that's dedicated, half the one cent sales tax that this community voted on several years ago goes directly to Public Works and that's the single most important driver that has effected that budget. For Community Development, there's a . . . this is like death by a thousand cuts, and so we will . . . I will get into that later and explain to you why that number has decreased but it has been several different reasons from a lot of different programs."

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

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you and just as a side comment, I'd be glad to participate in that discussion. I don't know that I have enough information to have it this morning, but my comment was going to be, Mr. Manager, what the action is that we are taking today is to establish the maximum amount that this budget will be and what the maximum dollar amount of this budget. I know that we've all had conversations with some citizens who are still interested in thinking about the budget numbers. We've had discussions with some elected officials that still are thinking about their budget, so even though today we set this maximum amount, we still have some flexibility to move and adjust the spending in certain areas within the budget. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "It is not my recommendation to increase the taxes and I believe we have lots of choices to make and depending upon those decisions that you make, some will be easier and some may be a little more difficult, but we have the flexibility within the budget to change programs, the reduce services, shift money around to do the things that you think are priorities."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "So this budget that we're working on today is in effect setting an approximate mill levy and it is not increasing from last year."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "That's correct."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you very much."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "So we're setting the size of the loaf today and we still have the authority to slice it the way we chose."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes, sir."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "You just said exactly what I was going to say. This is the dollar amount. We can't exceed it, but we can shift around in there any way we want, just as long as we don't go over that dollar amount. I think that's what Commissioner Winters was talking about. That's fine, I'm fine."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Go ahead, Mr. Manager."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "We are starting to talk about the next agenda item and maybe it's appropriate to close the public hearing and move on to the next agenda item, which is exactly the kind of

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questions that you've been asking."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, very good. Is that okay with you, Commissioner? Okay, well we closed the public hearing and now we will move to the next agenda item. Would you please call that."

### **D. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY MANAGER TO PUBLISH A NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2006 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET**

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Before we get into the details, we have even more info, I mean, before we get to the details of this, we have more information about the previous question."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Very good. We're ready to hear that."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "And we will detail this for you at the next staff meeting, or the next meeting we'll have a discussion again about this issue."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, but now you've got something for us. Mr. Chronis."

**Mr. Chris Chronis**, Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Just briefly, in response to Commissioner Norton's question about this functional summary table, the biggest source of increase in General Government over the past several years has been the cost of employee benefits, principally the employees' health plan and we've had other discussions with you about that program.

The biggest source of decrease in community development has been the community college tuition program where, as you know, the legislature recently adopted a reduction of the fee that we're mandated to pay to community colleges throughout the state for out of the district tuition for county residents."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "And the reason for the Public Works reduction? What was that for?"

**Mr. Chronis** said, "Well, Public Works, from 2002 to 2006, hasn't reduced, it hasn't grown very much, but that, as the manager said, principally a function of the sales tax. The largest piece of the Public Works budget is capital projects, the annual program for roads and bridges and that has been a function of the amount of sales tax that's available and that's been pretty stagnant for the last several years."

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**Chairman Unruh** said, "Commissioner Norton. You've been very patient."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well I appreciate that. I'd like to dig in deeper. Community Development, even if you talk a million dollars for tuition reimbursement that's come up, there's still a gap there and I think we need to look at that. Community Development is pretty important when we talk economic development and I'd like a little more dissection of that particular line. I don't know what we do about Public Works. I understand that sales tax and so much of it is predicated on that but it doesn't make sense to me that that line item is decreasing when other parts of the budget are increasing and that is, between public safety and infrastructure, those are two of the things that we're most charged with as county commissioners and I want to be sure that we're at least prudently taking a look at it.

The other comment is that we consistently say we're not raising taxes, we're not raising the mill levy, but the truth is people's tax bills may go up, because of their evaluations. And I always want to be sure that we have that disclaimer, that people understand that we're not raising the mill levy, but we are not decreasing the revenue generated by taxes, because there is a growth in the property valuations and the amount of property in our community and I want to always make sure that's not a slight of hand that use by saying we haven't raised the mill levy, because we cannot raise the mill levy and still get additional revenues as a county commission and I think the average public doesn't always understand valuations and assessed value and how that's applied to a tax rate, so we're not raising the tax rate, but there is a chance that when you get your bill, your tax bill that it will go up a little bit. That's all I have."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. Well, I would just want to make a comment that through these last few years, there's been some real difficult but expert management of our financial capability, of our resources and our expenses over the last several years. I mean, we've corrected the structural imbalance that we've had. We have maintained the mill levy level. We've maintained our high bond rating. We've continued, even through the most difficult times, with a budget plan that met the basic needs of our citizens. We have had to eliminate positions. We've had to reduce assistance to some of our community partners. We've had to cut operating costs. We've had to change around our Capital Project plan and we've, at the same time, we've worked very hard to make those decisions that enhanced revenue.

And I think that this budget that we've got before us, in total, is another step that certifies to our community that we're trying to do the right thing with the resources we have the best way we can. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't very carefully scrutinize the detail of it and make improvements where we can and take into consideration the issues that you've raised. But I am comfortable with the overall process and that there's been some very hard work done and that it has proved profitable . . . fruitful for us. So, any other comments for the manager on Item D, which is the authorization

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for the county manager to publish notice of hearing on the budget.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved to authorize the County Manager to publish a notice of public hearing regarding Sedgwick County 2006 budget of \$331,678,116, the total budget includes a legal budget of \$219,709,585, with a \$103,058,056 Ad Valorem tax levy, which is approximately equivalent to 28.8 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments and establish August 3, 2005 as the final hearing date on the 2006 Sedgwick County Budget.

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, Mr. Manager.”

**E. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING.**

**The County Commission meeting recessed into the Fire District meeting at 9:45 a.m. and returned at 9:55 a.m.**

**Chairman Unruh** said, “I will call back to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and we have comment from Commissioner Winters.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Thank you. While we’re still visiting about budgets, we have two more opportunities for public comment, or is there one more opportunity.”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Just one more on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. However there continues to be an opportunity to comment on-line, so if anybody wants to see the budget that’s on-line, you can click on it, sedgwickcounty.org and then you can respond or send in your comment regarding your thoughts and wishes about the budget.”

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**Commissioner Winters** said, “All right, and then we will take, on August the 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is two weeks, we will have another public hearing and at that time, we will finalize the budget.”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Yes sir.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Okay, thank you very much.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay, thank you Mr. Manager and Mr. Chronis. Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **F. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA AREA BUILDER’S ASSOCIATION FOR A SHARED PARKING AGREEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER TO BE LOCATED AT 710 NORTH MAIN, WICHITA, KANSAS.**

**Ms. Stephanie Knebel**, Manager, Facility Project Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This agenda item before you requests your approval of an agreement between Sedgwick County and the Wichita Area Builders’ Association for a shared parking lot agreement between our two organizations.

When we first got into details about the site development and programming for our new safety building. One of the items we take into consideration and need to understand is how many parking spaces do we need and we found out, through the size of the building and the size of the lot that we had, that we couldn’t fit all of the required parking we needed.

In working with the Office of Central Inspection and the Zoning Department at the City of Wichita, we were reminded that there is a zoning provision that we can request a 50% reduction for new construction in the downtown area, so taking advantage of that opportunity, as well as knowing that we have an existing employee parking garage within the parameters allowed by code for people to walk to work, we were able to go forward and ask our new neighbors to the north, the Wichita Areas Builders’ Association, if we could share their parking lot during times of emergency situations. They gave a verbal agreement to that and we went forward to the Board of Zoning

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Appeals and requested a formal reduction in parking requirements, because we could meet all the other parameters. This document in front of you memorialized the verbal agreement from the Builders' Association and I ask your approval for this and am available for questions."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay thank you, Stephanie. How many spaces are we talking about?"

**Ms. Knebel** said, "What we're going to be sharing with the Builders' Association is about 10 to 15 and only be needed in cases of emergency, when the public safety center is elevated to emergency status, like a tornado, is the easiest example to come up with. We assured them that we can't control the number of emergency situations, but history was that we don't have that many events that happen here in Sedgwick County."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, very good. So we're not . . . I mean, it's a very easy agreement to make."

**Ms. Knebel** said, "Very much so."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, very good. Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Yeah, as I understand it, this is just Wichita Area Builders' Association wanted to be a good corporate citizen and help the county out in time of need, basically, is that what it is?"

**Ms. Knebel** said, "Absolutely."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "So I think we just need to give them a thank you for being part of the solution that we have."

**Ms. Knebel** said, "Yes, absolutely."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. Any other comment or question?"

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Agreement 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. Next item please."

**G. AMENDMENT TO THE 2005 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) TO INCREASE THE DESIGN PHASE OF CIP# B-426 ON MACARTHUR ROAD BETWEEN HOOVER AND RIDGE.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Pete Giroux**, Senior Management Analyst, Budget Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today we have a request from Public Works to make an adjustment to a current bridge design. It's another mid-year adjustment. The project in question is B-426 and this is the design phase for replacement of a bridge that's over the Cowskin and built in 1930. It's located on MacArthur just east of Ridge Road and its condition is quite low on the scale of 28.2. Construction is planned for next year. Here's a map of the bridge location. You can see how close it is to the intersection.

As the design progressed, both the design consultant and Public Works staff, they went out and did site checked, determined that both the growth in the area and traffic on Ridge Road suggested the need for a turn lane in the bridge and that meant additional width and also meant a related adjustment to the intersection.

The construction phase is proposed for adjustment on the 2006 to 2010 CIP. The increase in the design phase is \$8,700. The project will increase from 1.0 to 1.75 million dollars. Both staff and the CIP committee have reviewed the project and recommend approval. If you have any questions."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you, Pete. Can you put the screen up that shows us exactly . . . the map that shows us exactly where that is again."

**Mr. Giroux** said, "Yes, sir."

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**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay, and so future planning requires that that be built to accommodate turns, a five-lane road.”

**Mr. Giroux** said, “That was the judgment of both Public Works and the design consultant and Mr. Spears could probably comment on that.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay, well, it’s 75 years old. We got our money out of the first one. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well David and I looked at this probably a year ago, as we toured and I believe the bridge needs to be replaced. But if you look at the growth that’s moving along MacArthur and then down Ridge Road, that area is going to continue to grow and it’s going to be more and more traffic. What you don’t see on the map is further south on Ridge Road there’s starting to be more development, and as you move over to Hoover, there’s development filling in there, so that’s going to be a corridor that’s going to have more and more traffic and it doesn’t make sense to replace that bridge, fix it and then five years from now decide that we need a turn lane. So I think it’s very prudent to spend the money now, while we’re doing the whole program and be prepared for what the future of that intersection is going to be.

The other thing is MacArthur gets a lot of traffic heading out towards Garden Plain and Cheney and Lake Afton. That’s a pretty well traveled corridor and will continue to be that way, as those areas grow, as Cheney and Garden Plain and Lake Afton and that whole corridor grows, you’re going to have more and more traffic going through there, so that’s a good utilization of money and planning.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Any other comments?”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the CIP amendment.

Commissioner Winters 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, Pete. Next item."

**H. ADJUSTMENT TO THE REGISTER OF DEEDS STAFFING TABLE TO INCLUDE A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSITION, B323, AND WAIVER OF POLICY TO HIRE ABOVE A STEP 3.**

**Mr. Bill Meek**, Register of Deeds, greeted the Commissioners and said, "What you have before you today is an adjustment to the Register of Deeds staffing table to include a senior administrative officer, step B-323 and waiver the policy to hire above a step three."

You have, with backup documents accompanying that, you have the budget impact statement, and the recommended action on this is for you to adjust the Register of Deeds staffing table and approve the policy waiver."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. This will just assure the completion of this electronic filing project, that will bring significant efficiency to your department. I mean, that's the end result of this. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Meek** said, "Yes sir."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, and it's been through all the steps of approval for this position?"

**Mr. Meek** said, "Yes, it has."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Any other . . .? Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well just another comment. This is not that we're dealing with this just today and you've brought it forward to us. I think we've been talking about this for well over a year, as we look at the technology and how it's managed and what position may need to help get through that, so this isn't 'Oh, you brought it before us today'. We've been dealing with Bill for quite a time about ramping up. I know we've been dealing with Bill for quite a time about ramping up and making sure that this happens and this is just a culmination of all those discussions that

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we've had over a pretty good period of time. So, I'm going to be very supportive of it."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Any other questions, Commissioners?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the adjustment to the Register of Deeds Staffing Table, and approve the policy waiver.

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 Bill. Next item."

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**I. CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Drainage Project north of 15<sup>th</sup> Street South (Harry) and east of 199<sup>th</sup> Street West. District #3.**
- 2. Order dated July 13, 2005 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 3. Plat.**

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2004 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Wooded Acres Addition

- 4. Payroll Check Register of July 15, 2005.**

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**5. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of July 13 – 19, 2005.**

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioners, I do not think that we need an Executive Session and we got through this meeting much more rapidly than anticipated, not as much public comment. Now is the appropriate time, if there are other items of interest that you’d like to talk about, now is the time. Anyone? Commissioner Norton.”

**J. OTHER**

**Commissioner Norton** said, “I’d like to let everybody know, I think it’s no mystery that Exploration Place has gone through some turmoil here recently but there’s some good news. On Sunday, I’m not sure of the hours, I think it’s 1:00 to 6:00 they’re having their Sunday Sundae. You can stop by, it’s free admission and you get an ice cream sundae and you get to enjoy the use of Exploration Place with your family and children and see how wonderful space it is for families and people willing to explore science and other things. So I think it’s going to be a great event. You know, I think we’re trying to get some people reenergized to look at Exploration Place with new eyes and with a new vigor to make sure that the public is engaged in what we’re going to have to do in a few months, as far as determining what’s going to happen to Exploration Place.

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And I think the more people that can show up and enjoy Exploration Place and take a second look at it and decide what you like about it and what maybe you dislike and can give us some feedback, the better decisions we'll make as a public policy decision, so I'm urging people to stop by, enjoy Exploration Place this Sunday and you know, bring your children, your grandchildren and have some ice cream and enjoy Exploration Place.

The other thing going on this weekend, out at Sedgwick County's own Lake Afton is the Wheatland Jam and it's become a big event out at Lake Afton. I think Friday night Journey and 38 Special will be there. One other night, John Michael Montgomery will be there, a little country music for country music fans. It should be a good time, it looks like the weather is going to be good and a good time to enjoy Lake Afton, the outdoors and some outdoor music. So that's all I've got Mr. Chairman."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. Well you said the names of those performers. That makes me think you know who they are even."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, when you raise five kids, you know a lot of generations of performers, whether you want to or not."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, good. Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Well, speaking of Cowtown, really I mean my hat, and I think all of us here need to compliment Jan McKay and the people down there as to what they are doing with the limited resources they have. I mean, every weekend there's something exciting that is total family entertainment and it's fun, but it's also educational and there's something going on to where if you want to watch a blacksmith or you want to see some old fashion ranch-hand type cooking, cowboys shooting or lariat throwing, or the new stagecoach. I mean, there really are a lot of fun activities that if you went last week, go again this week, because there's something new happening this weekend and I'm very excited about some of the direction she's trying to carry that museum and it makes me feel proud that the county is as involved in it as it is.

And I also know exactly where Commissioner Norton was going as far as Exploration Place, but just to make sure that we don't confuse the public more than it is already confused, Exploration

## **Regular Meeting, July 20, 2005**

Place is the façade, it's the building. Presently housed within the building is the children's museum/ science center and I think what they're trying to do, which is very commendable, is figure out from the public what else has to be done. Our charge right now is we're going to try to keep the doors open at least for a couple of months, while we hear what our consultant has to say, as to us making a decision what's the best use for that facility, but I don't want the public to be confused thinking that we run the children's museum and the science center. Right now, that's a separate board, a separate corporation that does that and they'll be ultimately making the decision as to what they want to do with that, going forward. It's my hopes that something can come forward that would keep those entities here in the Sedgwick County/ Wichita area, regardless of whether or not it's in our building or not."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay. Well, Commissioners, my comment at the end of the meeting is to kind of reiterate what Kristi said in her opening presentation, that it's really hot and everybody needs to take special care to make sure that they stay safe and their kids stay safe and those that need special help, look in on them and make sure that you can take care of your neighbor.

And that would also mean that you need to bring a bottle of water with you when you visit Sedgwick County Zoo, because it's hot out at the zoo also, so we'll see you out there this weekend. Is there anything else, Commissioners? Mr. Manager? We are adjourned."

## **K. ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DAVID M. UNRUH**, Chairman,  
First District

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BEN SCIORTINO**, Chair Pro Tem  
Fifth District

\_\_\_\_\_  
**TIM R. NORTON**, Commissioner  
Second District

\_\_\_\_\_  
**THOMAS G. WINTERS**, Commissioner  
Third District

\_\_\_\_\_  
**LUCY BURTNETT**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2005