

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**January 11, 2006**

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, January 11, 2006 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. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Division of Human Resources; Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department; Ms. Jacque Wedel, Marketing Director, Kansas Coliseum; 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. Pete Schrepferman, Former Chairman, Wichita Independent Business Association.

#### **INVOCATION**

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

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Next item."

#### **AWARDS**

##### **A. PRESENTATION OF THE 2005 SEDGWICK COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S AWARD.**

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Commissioners, each year the Sedgwick County Chairman has an opportunity and has the prerogative to name someone as the recipient for the Outstanding Service Award for outstanding service to Sedgwick County and that award goes to some deserving individual or group of individuals or association that has particularly contributed to the well being of the culture here in Sedgwick County."

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This year, the award is going to be given to the Wichita Independent Business Association and there are three representatives here from WIBA, and why don't you all just stand up here with me. First is Mr. Pete Schrepferman, who is the outgoing Chairman of the Board of WIBA. He's chair in 2005 and Mr. Ken Bender, who is incoming Chairman of the Board and Mr. Cliff Sones, who is President and Executive Director of the WIBA. This has been really quite a significant time in the history of WIBA. First of all, they were founded 75 years ago, so this year they will celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization, but also they moved into a new building, at 445 North Waco, which is really an outstanding facility. It's attractive and a good addition to downtown Wichita and we appreciate your investment in our community in that way.

But we also want to recognize the fact of your ongoing support for independent business in Sedgwick County and the support that you give to primarily smaller businesses. We know that WIBA provides educational opportunities and provides counseling and advice to smaller businesses. Along with that, you provide political advocacy, so that your voice is heard in Topeka and, I might say, in the last few years it's really been stronger and people know that WIBA does exist and has an opinion.

There are great networking opportunities available for the small businesses here in Sedgwick County and probably a very valuable component of the services you offer is that you offer a variety of insurance programs for small businesses that can't otherwise avail themselves of insurance opportunities and options. So for the fact that you're doing so many things right now and the fact that you have 75 years of consistent good service to the small business community, to our culture and to the economic backbone of our county, we want to present to you now the Sedgwick County Chairman's Award for 2005 and appreciate your continued presence and service to the small businesses in Sedgwick County."

**Mr. Pete Schrepferman**, Former Chairman, Wichita Small Business Association, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is an unexpected surprise, but we're very pleased and honored that you've elected to see us fit to earn this award and we hope to continue to uphold the tradition of WIBA and to serve the community, on behalf of the small business community in Wichita. Thank you very much."

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

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- B. ADOPTION OF THE 2006 SAFETY SLOGAN FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY EMPLOYEES, “DON’T LEARN SAFETY BY ACCIDENT;” AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO TONYA BUCKINGHAM, SHEILA DIEBOLD, MARILYN FLOWERS, SHARON LANGLEY, KATIE MERSEAL AND JOSHUA PAYNE, MEMBERS OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS “KEEP IT SAFE SQUAD.”**

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’d like to defer this item, not that they got in an accident, but there was a miscommunication about when they need to be here and when we would have the agenda item, so I would rather have them here.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved to defer Item B indefinitely.

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.”

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**RETIREMENT**

**DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES - COMCARE**

**C. PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CLOCK TO JANET L. LEIKER, PSYCHIATRIC NURSE, COMCARE.**

**Ms. Jo Templin**, Director, Division of Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We had planned to have Ms. Leiker here, who is a psychiatric nurse at COMCARE, Division of Human Services, who will retire February 1, after seven years of service and is retiring under the KPERS retirement system. However, I don't know why she didn't make it, so I've asked Marilyn Cook, who is the Director of COMCARE to come and accept her certificate and her clock and make sure that Ms. Leiker receives this. Thank you."

**Ms. Marilyn Cook**, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thanks. I hope she's not sick. Jane is a person that worked for COMCARE for seven years, but she worked in the psychiatric community for many years before that, so she came to us with a lot of experience and she has been working in our out-patient program, so I'll be happy to get this back to her. Thanks."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you, Marilyn. Be sure to express our gratitude for her investing her career for the good of Sedgwick County."

**Ms. Cook** said, "I will do that. Thanks."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Madam Clerk, call the next item."

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**D. PUBLIC HEARING TO RATIFY NOTICES PUBLISHED BY GILMORE & BELL WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPLE AMOUNT OF SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS IN ONE OR MORE SERIES OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS AND SHAWNEE COUNTY, KANSAS.**

**Mr. Brad Snapp**, Director, Housing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Sedgwick and Shawnee County are proposing to issue this up to \$200,000,000 in single family mortgage revenue bonds this year to help low and moderate income families use this longstanding program to buy their first home. Last year, nearly 400 families in Sedgwick County bought a home using this program and notices were published on December 26<sup>th</sup> and if you don't have any other questions, we can open the public hearing at this time."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Brad. Commissioners, before we open the public hearing, are there any questions directly of Brad? I see none, so at this time I will open the public hearing and ask if there is any comment? I see no one moving, recognize most folks here, so I will close the public hearing and restrict the questions to the bench. Commissioners, are there any questions or comments or clarifications that we need to have? Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "My only question would be to our county counselor, Rich Euson. Rich, you've reviewed all of this and everything seems to be proper and in order?"

**Mr. Rich Euson**, County Counselor, said, "Yes, sir."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. That's all I had."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right. What's the will of the Board? Does it require an action?"

**Mr. Snapp** said, "I don't believe so."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, then we will call . . . are we required to receive and file or we just had a public hearing and closed it and that's all the action that's required?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "All you were required to do was to have a public hearing and you've done that, so you can go to the next item."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you. Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

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**NEW BUSINESS**

- E. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL RESIDENTIAL HOUSING FINANCE PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS (MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES PROGRAM) 2006 SERIES A, OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS AND SHAWNEE COUNTY, KANSAS, TO BE ISSUED IN NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE SERIES.**

**Mr. Brad Snapp**, Director, Housing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, this \$125,000,000 resolution . . . or this would be the 2006 A, so the public hearing covered a gross amount of \$200,000,000, this would be just one issue, the 2006 A. This program continues to grow and expand throughout Kansas.

We have more lenders, Realtors, homebuyers, counties and cities involved than ever before and last year, nearly 1,100 people across the state bought a house using this program. It provides 4% cash grant of the mortgaged amount, so if a family bought a \$75,000 house, they would get a grant of about . . . almost \$3,000 for down payment and closing costs.

Again, it's a great program. You know, the largest barrier to home ownership is actually the down payment and closing costs and monthly rents are usually more than a house payment, so it's a great opportunity, very successful to get people into home ownership. If you have any questions, I'll try to answer those."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Brad. Commissioners, are there any questions on this item? Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "No real question. I would like to acknowledge that we do have some good partners in this and would like the record to show that Chuck Bouly with George K. Baum is here today, along with Joe Norton of Gilmore and Bell and Jack Ranson of Ranson Housing Compliance. Again, certainly agree with Brad, this is a great program and it's been successful for many years."

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

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, Brad. Gentlemen, thank you all for being here. Next item please."

**F. KANSAS COLISEUM.**

**1. AGREEMENT WITH CUTCHALL MANAGEMENT CO., D/B/A/ FAMOUS DAVE'S BAR-B-QUE FOR ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT KANSAS COLISEUM.**

**Ms. Jacque Wedel**, Marketing Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We have an advertising agreement with Famous Dave's Barbeque. This is a partial cash, partial barter and what we use the barter for is to host our sponsor appreciation barbeque each year in connection with our Wrangler Pro Rodeo, which is coming up next week, so we ask that you sign the agreement."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Jacque. Is this the first time that we've used Famous Dave's?"

**Ms. Wedel** said, "No, actually last year was our first year with Famous Dave's, so the barbeque is excellent."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, I understand that and the agreement has worked out satisfactorily?"

**Ms. Wedel** said, "Yes."

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

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Just one question, Jacque. Is that what we'd normally charge . . . we'd normally charge \$3,500 for whatever?"

**Ms. Wedel** said, "Yes, that is our standard. When we set out to do a barter agreement, we charge our standard rack rate on our sign and then we pay their standard rack rate for catering, so it's a dollar-for-dollar barter."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Thank you, that's all I had."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Other questions, commissioners? What's the will of the board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Burtnett 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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Next item."

**2. KANSAS COLISEUM MONTHLY REPORT.**

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### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Ms. Wedel** said, "I've got the report for December and we actually had a very good year. For December, we only had nine Coliseum . . . in our sports zone, we had nine games, with 25,272 in attendance and despite informing our event partners that we would be closed the better part of the year . . . the better part of two years, starting in May, we finished the year with only an 8% decrease in events, a 7% decrease in attendance and then 18% decrease in revenues, so we were able to recover some very valuable events, and if you'll look in your documentation, you'll see that the revenues were actually down almost identically what we were up last year, when we hosted so many more concerts.

So we hosted 15 concerts in '04 and we hosted 9 in '05. So, just to give you a little bit of perspective, we know that out in the community there's this perspective that we don't get the big events, but we'd ask you to consider these facts, which are actually from billboard magazine. We hosted three of the top 50 concerts in 2005, including John Mellencamp, Motley Crew and Brad Paisley and the number one comedy tour, Larry the Cable Guy. So there's a little bit of perspective. We do host a lot of large events at the Kansas Coliseum and we do see that those will all translate to the downtown arena.

And speaking of concerts, we have Nickleback on sale, which has the number one adult Top-40 single at the moment, and we also have several other concerts on sale. Rascal Flats is scheduled for March 2 and then we have Nine Inch Nails scheduled for March 27. And Rascal Flats finished in '05 with the number two position on Billboard's country artist chart.

We also have quite a few events coming up. January, February, March are some of our busiest months for the year and we've got the Wichita RV Show January 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. We have the Hotrod Thunder Nationals coming up this weekend. We've got the Wrangler Pro Rodeo next weekend. We've got the Kansas Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and then Thunder games on January 28 and 29. Model-A Swap Meet February 3 and 4, which if you haven't been out for that, we generally host about 30,000 people over three days for that. Our entire parking lot and all of our pavilions are used for that event.

We have the Nickleback concert February 9, Sport, Boat and Travel Show February 16 and 19 and then State High School Wrestling February 24 and 25 and Equi-Fest also that same weekend, February 24<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>, so we are very, very pleased with the events that we're hosting at the

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Coliseum and we hope that all of you can attend our Wrangler Pro Rodeo barbeque next Friday night and also our Wrangler Pro Rodeo, because that is one of the events that we actually buy and produce through our co-promotions fund. So, are there questions?"

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well thank you, Jacque. That's an encouraging report and you guys have done good work, in light of the fact that a year or so ago, the use-ability of the Coliseum was still a little bit up in the air. And so you've rebounded very well, appreciate your hard work."

**Ms. Wedel** said, "One other thing I would note, our average concert attendance for '05 was just under 5,000."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "And is that higher than before, on average?"

**Ms. Wedel** said, "It tends to be somewhere around there, it's just depends on the event mix, a lot of years, and how many sellouts. Many of you may remember, I believe it was in '03, we had nine concerts that sold out, so that kind of skews that number a little bit, but part of it depends on how many seats the concert promoters believe that they can sell. Some of them will go with a half-house show, so it's still considered a sellout, but it's only maybe 4,500 or 5,000 seats."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "I see. All right, well thank you and it's a good report and as I said, you all have been working hard to make our Coliseum successful. Appreciate it."

**Ms. Wedel** said, "Yes, you've got to have fun to sell fun."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, you know, and I get the sense that you do have fun."

**Ms. Wedel** said, "Absolutely."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right. Commissioners, any other question? What's the will of the Board?"

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Burtnett moved to receive and file.

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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, Jacque. Next item please."

**G. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2006.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of January 5<sup>th</sup> results in one item for consideration today.

**1) TRASH SERVICES- VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS  
FUNDING SOURCE: VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

Trash services for various county departments. The recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Waste Connections Incorporated and establish a contract for one year, with two one-year options to renew, for an estimated annual cost of \$72,409.04.

Would be happy to answer any questions and I recommend approval of this item."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you Iris. The proposal was sent to 12 vendors and did we only get two responses?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "Correct."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "And there is a great disparity in the bid. I mean, is there any explanation for that, or just the other company didn't really want the business?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "No explanation for it. That did happen the last time we bid these services in '01.

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There was about this much disparity in the bids as well, from low to high.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, so things are as usual in this bid. Commissioner Sciortino.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Thank you. I just wanted to get comfortable. We did send this bid out to the David Lies Companies and some of the smaller companies and they just opted not to bid on our service.”

**Ms. Baker** said, “Right. That’s why the number 12 is up there.”

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, “Okay, thank you.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioners, are there any other questions for Iris? What’s the will of the board?”

**MOTION**

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

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, Iris. Next item please.”

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**H. CONSENT AGENDA.**

**1. Right-of-Way Easements.**

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- a. Right-of-Way Easement for Sedgwick County Project 733-CC-4750, widening of bridge on 375<sup>th</sup> Street West between 103<sup>rd</sup> St. South and 111<sup>th</sup> Street South. CIP# B-396. District #3.
  - b. Right-of-Way Easement for Sedgwick County Project 773-CC-5200, replacement of bridge on 375<sup>th</sup> Street West between 103<sup>rd</sup> Street South and 111<sup>th</sup> Street South. CIP# B-405. District #3.
- 2. Temporary Construction Easements (five) for Sedgwick County Project 821-AA, Cowskin Creek. District #2.**
  - 3. Plats.**

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2005 and prior years have been paid for the following plats:

Holt Addition  
Monsanto Addition

- 4. Amendment to Contract with Communities in Schools to provide one full-time mental health professional to provide Second Step programming to schools.**
- 5. Order dated January 4, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 6. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of January 4 – 10, 2006.**

**Mr. Buchanan**, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You have before you the consent agenda, and I would recommend you approve it.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Sciortino 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, “Commissioners, before we take the next item off our regular agenda, I would like to recess the Regular Meeting.”

**The County Commission Meeting was recess at 9:30 a.m. into the Fire District meeting and returned from the Fire District meeting at 9:34 a.m.**

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Our next item is Agenda Item I, and before I call that, which has to do with the election of a new chairman, if you would allow me the opportunity to just make a couple of statements, as outgoing Chair.

I just want to, first of all, express appreciation and thanks to the Commissioners for their support and their leadership during this last year. I think that we’ve accomplished many things and we’ve got a lot of things that are underway, so it’s been a very active and productive year. The arena is well underway. We have a strategy and a structure now to carry that forward after we’ve got approval early last year from our legislators.

Our Criminal Justice Coordinating Council came forward with a master strategy to resolve our jail overcrowding issue or problem, by both a plan to look into our jail capacity and also going forward with some initiatives to start using alternatives to incarceration and try to control the population and provide other ways to deal with offenders.

We’ve also made great progress with the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority. It’s beginning to take shape and we can see, in the future, that we will have a system that will provide not only customized training, but also ongoing education for post-secondary technical education and training and supply the needs . . . the demands actually of our business partners in the community and we’re looking forward to the plans for a facility that we always use the word ‘world-class facility’. Perhaps we don’t know exactly what they means, but we know it’s going to be a good facility that we think will be a leader in technical education and training.

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We have initiated some conversations with the City of Wichita on fire protection consolidation, which is a progressive move. We opened a new facility for our health clinic, so Sedgwick County Health Department has got greater capacity and more up-to-date facilities to serve the citizens of Sedgwick County.

We've been involved in some decision in community support, dealing with Exploration Place. We've been involved in visioneering. We've been involved in economic development activities, so everyone has worked together and been active and I think our activity has produced good results.

Now beyond all that, we have continued, as a government, to provide the services that are expected of us, that are our responsibility in our core areas of responsibility and without just trying to rehearse all the line items in the budget, just let me say that we've been continuing with human services, we've been continuing with good work in public works, in the area of public safety, in the area of community development, in the areas of culture and entertainment. We have been active and progressive and forward thinking in all those areas.

So the commissioners have been very supportive of the Chair, of me personally, I appreciate it, have shown great leadership in policy development and have demonstrated that we have a vision for the future. But beyond all that . . . again, I keep saying beyond. That means I'm going to talk just a minute more. I really want to thank our manager and the management team for their support of the commission, for all those who are not only division leaders and department heads, but all the folks of Sedgwick County who work very hard to accomplish their tasks, which for elected people, it really makes us look good because you all are doing such a great job and we really appreciate it. We appreciate the fact that you all are committed to good government.

And as we all work together, we will definitely improve the culture and the livability of Sedgwick County, make this a desirable place to live and make us all happy to be here. As Jacque said earlier, you know you've got to have fun to sell fun. Well, we're having fun. We're doing good government and it just all works together.

Well, after this brief congratulation and thanks, I guess now is the time to say we just need to be about the business of creating circumstances where we can go forward with building the preferred future for Sedgwick County and I want to thank commissioners and all our staff once more, so thank you very much. Now Madam Clerk, we're ready to call the next item."

### **SELECTIONS**

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**I. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIR DURING 2006.**

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well Commissioners, we are ready to hear nominations for a new chairman."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Mr. Chairman, I would like to nominate Commissioner Sciortino for the position of Chair for 2006."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to nominate Ben Sciortino as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for the year 2006.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the nomination. The nominations were closed and the vote was called.

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well congratulations, Commissioner. Let me shake your hand and let me present you with a gavel."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "I've been waiting for four years for this."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Congratulations. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

**J. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIR PRO TEM DURING 2006.**

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right commissioners, this is the opportunity to make nominations for Chair Pro Tem."

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Sciortino moved to nominate Lucy Burtnett as Chair Pro Tem of the Board of County Commissioners for the year 2006.

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the nomination. The nominations were closed and the vote was called.

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Well Commissioner Burtnett, congratulations. You are now Chair Pro Tem. All right, we are at the end of our agenda and this is an opportunity to speak about other things of community interest.

I was looking for our Director of the Sedgwick County Zoo, Mark Reed. I thought he was going to be here today. I know that he had suffered a little injury over Christmas but I was going to congratulate him on having another year of over 500,000 attendees at the Sedgwick County Zoo, which I think is good news. That’s all I had. Chairman Sciortino.”

**K. OTHER**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well you know people have been reading a little bit in the paper and saw a little blurb on the television on our recent trip to Little Rock, Arkansas, so I just thought I’d bring up something on that. Some people have asked, you know, why didn’t we plan this trip two or three weeks ahead of time so we could have got lower fares and the problem, we had seven people here that we felt was crucial to go and to get all seven people’s calendar cleared for one day, because we wanted to go and come back so we wouldn’t interrupt county business. That problem was compounded by trying to get the five key people in Little Rock who were going to be our hosts to be able to be on the same page, and when you try to start coordinating 12 people’s agendas to try to . . . we didn’t finally get a date that everybody was comfortable with, what two days, three days

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before and then that's when we had to buy our tickets and as shocking to me as the cost of these tickets, which I think is obscene.

I think the airlines are just really soaping the heck out of the business community, know when they have to go, they have to go and they don't have the luxury sometimes of booking it three, four weeks ahead of time just brought into focus crystal clear, and I hope the legislators of Topeka are listening in on this meeting, we need affordable airfares in Kansas. I mean, I'm convinced that this is what . . . one of the main roadblocks that is slowing down the Chamber of Commerce and all the folks that are trying to encourage companies to come into Wichita or to stay here is because of this impediment that if you have to take a trip, you're going to pay premium prices for it.

But even at the amount that we had to pay, I have to tell you and this is coming from a pretty conservative guy, I'm convinced that the citizens are going to receive a very good return on that investment. We saw a lot of things that we're now educated. They got the experience, meaning they made the mistakes and we're educated not to make the same mistakes. One thing that we saw that if I hadn't have seen it, I would have been screaming and hollering 'why are we spending this much money for this fancy floor at the entrance, why don't we put in the less expensive tile?' Well, we found out what happened when you put in less expensive tile, and cement sweats, the tile lifts up and they had masking tape or whatever on their entranceway, trying to keep the tile down, which looked kind of shabby.

In that particular case, I think it would be wise for us to consider a more expensive floor that could be kept shiny and fresh and new for the next 20 or 25 . . . that would be a good, long-term investment. I wouldn't have been one supporting it, had I not seen it with my own eyes and there were other items, but I think the trip was well worth the expenditure and I just want to let all the citizens know that personally, if I was looking to go out for a weekend junket on taxpayers' expenses, it wouldn't be 'let's go book Little Rock, Arkansas, I think that would be a terrific, wild, raucous weekend'. We went there for business. We flew in, had a dinner, toured the facility and got out the very next morning, to come back so that we could be here for the staff meeting and I think it was a trip well worth while and I'm glad, personally, that we invested the money to go and see, with our own eyes, the difference between the two arenas and the difference, there was a lot of

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contrast difference between the two so that's all I had."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, I said the other day at the staff meeting that I really thought that Little Rock was kind of a baseline for the arena. They raised one cent over one year, and raised about \$85,000,000 and that was all they had to spend. There wasn't any luxury things in this. They built an 18,000-seat arena, one concourse and in a lot of cases, it was pretty well baseline amenities, there wasn't a lot of extras and that gave us a look at where a good starting place was, that we would want to build on. For me, it was about looking at a very similar situation with downtown redevelopment also.

Some of the other places we've been, there isn't a river. Well it just happens, the Arkansas River runs right between Little Rock and North Little Rock where the Alltel is, very similar decay of a downtown that we've got here in our downtown area, so it's not just about the arena, but all the other things that went with it, and that was very important, but it was a pretty Spartan arena. They had to make a lot of decisions along the way that will have major ramifications later. Commissioner Sciortino already talked about the flooring. That was a decision they had to make. They picked a floor covering that probably wasn't as long-term and resilient as they could have picked and now they're having major problems, and they're going to spend more in maintenance and repair and time and effort to keep that up than if they'd made a decision on the front end to do something, maybe a little more expensive but a little more cost effective and maintenance-free.

So you know, once again, we could debate until the cows come home whether spending a little money to understand this process better is prudent. I happened to talk to a citizens' group last night of about 25 people and expressed this and told them it was a little more money than I would want to spend, but I didn't get one ill-received answer. They said, 'you know we're glad you went and tried to understand this'. You know, when you think of this in the context of \$185,000,000, the largest capital project ever done in this area, I don't think you want me to just make one phone call to some guy that I don't even know who I'm talking to and accept what he says as gospel and then apply it to our arena. I just don't think that makes sense. You want to have great architects, great engineers. You want your elected officials to be knowledgeable of all of the things that they're going to have to do. I think you want your staff to understand it.

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You want your project leaders to know what they're doing, so I don't think it's as simple as just saying 'Why didn't you make a phone call, you would have solved all the problems in the world?' I don't think it was that simple. I think we took some folks that really needed to understand this process and it's great that you say 'well just send staff and let them do it'. That's okay too, but at the end of the day you've elected five commissioners to make that ultimate, final decision of where your money is spent and if we only wanted to leave it up to a couple of engineers, an architect and one staff member, we probably wouldn't need elected officials.

We'd just kind of do it a different way, but that's not the way it's done in the public sector and I'm perfectly glad that we went, we spent the time, we didn't overstay our time there, but I think we learned some very, very valuable lessons.

The other thing I thought was really good is we didn't get a package from a management company or anything that ran it. We got to talk to the elected officials and their staff that run it and that helped build it. There was no varnish on these conversations we had. They told us every wart and blemish and problem that they had, as they went through their process and I'm glad that we had that chance to not repeat some historical things that Little Rock did that we don't want to do, so I think it was time well spent and I felt pretty good about it."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you commissioner. Commissioner Burnett."

**Commissioner Burnett** said, "Well, I could talk for hours on the arena, but that's not why I decided to speak right now. I wanted to inform everyone that we're all wearing our Martin Luther King buttons and this Sunday is the celebration. It will be at the Orpheum Theater at 4:00 and if you want to buy a button, you can call the Kansas African American Museum and visit with Elaine. Her number is 262-7651 or probably go to their website, which is TKAAM, which is the Kansas African American Museum, @aol.com. It's going to be a really nice celebration and if we can all make it, that would be wonderful. I just wanted to put a plug in for them and let people know what's going on this weekend."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well, thank you. As one of the commissioners who went on the trip

## **Regular Meeting, January 11, 2006**

to Little Rock, I just wanted to echo what Chairman Sciortino and Norton have both said. I think the trip was very worthwhile. I've been to four arenas now and again, I don't pretend to be an expert, but information is so key in making these decisions and information is so key as we work with our engineer, design and architect teams, that we understand what they're talking about and they're still the experts, but we now have a much clearer, I think, understanding of what all of the things that we need to look at, think about, take their advice on, have our input, so I think the only way that you gain that knowledge is, as Commissioner Norton says, you've got to go see some things with your own eyes and I'm glad we went. I too was surprised at the cost of airline tickets, but again that's why we think affordable airfares for all Kansas is a very important part of our legislative agenda this year. So again, I think these trips that some are saying appear to be expensive, I think they may be expensive, but I think they're very valuable, they're very important and they're very helpful to commissioners and the staff. Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you. Commissioners, I don't see any other lights on. Anything, Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman, I mean Mr. Manager? Commissioner Sciortino."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Well, I don't know if this is my first official duty or what have you, but Chairman Unruh, you have served this commission well, you have a very smooth style of serving and I think you try to accommodate all sides of the issues. You like to look into both sides of the issue before you make a decision. You've shown us that once you get sufficient input, you're capable of making a decision and making it in a timely manner. And in recognition of your service as Chairman to us last year, on behalf of the county board of commissioners, I'd like to present you with this small recognition of your service to the citizens of Sedgwick County."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you very much. Thank you, Commisisoners."

**Commissioner Sciortino** said, "Now would you get out of my chair?"

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Yes, I will get out of the chair because I'm going to say meeting adjourned."

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

**Regular Meeting, January 11, 2006**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

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

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**BEN SCIORTINO**, Chairman  
Fifth District

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**LUCY BURTNETT**, Chair Pro Tem  
Fourth District

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**DAVID M. UNRUH**, Commissioner,  
First District

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

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

ATTEST:

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**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2006