

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

April 5, 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, April 5, 2006 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Ben Sciortino, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Lucy Burtnett; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Ms. Jennifer Magana, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. Larry Ternes, Youth Services Administrator, Department of Corrections; Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Public Safety Department; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Joe Norton, Bond Counsel, Gilmore & Bell, P.C.; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Mr. John Nath, 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

Ms. Joan Martin, President, Wichita Bar Auxiliary.

Major General Todd Bunting, Adjutant General, Kansas Air National Guard.

Mr. Jim Leftwich, KDEM Regional Manager.

Ms. Lori Usher, Director, Sedgwick County Technical Education & Training Authority.

Ms. Ann Nelson, Program Director, Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Reverend Martha Sanchez, Campus Minister, Wichita State University.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

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DONATION

A. DONATION BY THE WICHITA BAR ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF A \$700 WATERMARK BOOKS GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE USED TO PURCHASE BOOKS FOR THE JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY.

Mr. Larry Ternes, Youth Services Administrator, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Wichita Bar Association's Women's Auxiliary has graciously donated a \$700 Watermark gift certificate for the Juvenile Detention Facility. The donation will be used to purchase books for the direct benefit of the youth detained in the facility and will enhance significantly our selection for the residents at the new juvenile detention facility. I would like to recommend that you accept this donation and authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of appreciation, but before you do that, I would like to recognize three of the members of the auxiliary that are with us today.

First of all we have Joan Martin, who is the president, Kathy Mompfrey, who is the treasurer and also Carla Fasio, who is the philanthropic chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Would any of you ladies like to say to something? Now is your time that you can address us."

Ms. Joan Martin, President, Wichita Bar Auxiliary, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're happy to be here today and we hope that you'll accept this gift of \$700 from Watermark gift."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, we never know until we take the vote, but I suspect we just might."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to accept the donation and authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of appreciation.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you and just I think we have a comment. Well we do from Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I just did want to make a comment that today is a pretty special day, concerning our Juvenile Facility. At 2:00 this afternoon, we're going to have the ribbon cutting for our new facility and I know that Larry Ternes and his staff have been hard at work, over the past months, getting the facility ready. A gift such as this will be one more added part to the job that Larry and all of the county employees that are involved with dealing with our juveniles that have some way found it possible to get in a bad situation that we're trying to correct and gifts like this will be certainly, I think, very well used.

And again want to say thanks to Larry and his crew, while we've got this chance, but we'll be out at the facility this afternoon to really have a ribbon cutting on a facility that nobody really wants to build, but it's one of those things that has to take place if we're going to make sure we're serving our youth in the best manner possible, so again thank you all."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I wanted to say thanks too and I also wanted to say, since we've got a room full of people, stop by and see this new facility. I mean, it's taxpayer money being spent for the betterment of the community and we've had to outsource and send a lot of our youth outside the county for years and this gives us the opportunity to keep them close to their families, integrate them into the community and not have to move them to other communities, to go through the process of getting back into society. It's a beautiful facility and we invite folks, not only in the listening audience here, but listening on television, to come out. So thanks for being a part of that. It's a wonderful facility and will serve us for many, many, many years. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

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Chairman Sciortino said, “And I’d also like to add my thanks and please let members of your association know we’d love to have you there and I think it starts at 2:00 and there will be a tour. There will be refreshments, which is always a motivator for me. That means cookies, and I like that, so please come and thank you again very much for your generous donation. Clerk, call the next item please.”

AWARD

B. PRESENTATION BY THE KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL OF AN ORGANIZATION COIN TO INDIVIDUALS VOLUNTARILY DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY OPERATIONS.

Sedgwick County Fire District #1

- **Bill Henrie**
- **Rich Lind**
- **Dru Kellerby**
- **Bob Ratzlaff**
- **Glendon Thompson**

Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office

- **Mauricio Ardanche**
- **Christopher (Shane) Brazil**
- **Jon Cherney**
- **Michael McGee**
- **Michael Morland**
- **Curtis Tracey**

Sedgwick County ComCare

- **Tom Pletcher**

Sedgwick County Division of Information & Operations

- **Kent Koehler**

Sedgwick County Emergency Management

- **Jack Kegley**

Sedgwick County Division of Public Safety

- **DeAnn Konkel**

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City of Haysville

• Carol Neugent

Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Public Safety Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I have the great pleasure of introducing Major General Todd Bunting, at the Adjutant General of State of Kansas and Jim Leftwich, who is the regional Homeland Security Manager for our region. Today, they’re going to recognize about 16 folks from the Fire District, from the Sheriff’s Office, from COMCARE, DIO, Sedgwick County Emergency Management, Division of Public Safety and one member from the City of Haysville, for volunteering in support of disaster relief and recovery operations as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

And I want to take this opportunity, as your public safety director, first to thank you for supporting this endeavor. The Manager and the department heads and certainly the City of Haysville for allowing to have them. Without further ado, I’m going to turn it over to General Bunting.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Bob.”

Major General Todd Bunting, Adjutant General, Kansas Air National Guard, greeted the Commissioners and said, “It’s good to be home. I know the commissioner is keeping a close eye on me, Commissioner Norton. I am Todd Bunting. I am from Haysville, so it’s good to be back in my old home city. I want you to know, as Director of Homeland Security too, how secure this county is, because I never come to this county where I’m not here for a few minutes and the Sheriff knows exactly where I’m at and he’s here this morning and so is the fire chief and Randy Duncan, and I believe shortly after this, I’ll be escorted back to my proper place in Topeka, so I wanted to share that with you.

I’ll also explain why I am here is that we did have a lot of folks did some great work in Katrina and Sedgwick County is always a lead county for that and I want to thank you for that. You’re busy and you have limited resources and to let these great folks go to Katrina made a big difference. We had a statewide after-action review, where we tried to learn the lessons from a storm of that magnitude and as a small token of appreciation, we did order in some coins and some certificates to present to everybody who came to that review, and we were very specific that those coins needed to arrive no later than 10:00 in the morning the day before the event, so that they could be presented. And they sure enough arrived at 10:00 in the morning the day after the event.

So with that, what I offered was that if they preferred, we would come to the locales where these people served and present them to them in person, so that’s the reason. So the Sheriff is clear, I didn’t come down here on my own. I was invited down, to present these coins.

Let me just tell you a little bit about this storm. Approximate size of this storm was the size of the

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state of Kansas, when the whole thing was said and done. I had occasion to go down there twice and look after a few things, and by the way, these people went down in some tough conditions. This was not a trip down to the Hyatt. Some of those firefighters, the EMS folks worked actually out of the coroner's office actually slept in one place and showered somewhere else.

An amazing storm, as far as that goes and we learned a lot from it and particularly we learned some lessons about communications and how critical those are. I went to Bay Saint Louis, which was ground zero. A lot of your folks were over in Gulf Port and in other places, but they went around and did a lot of duties.

You've all seen tornadoes. We know their devastating effect. This would be an F-5 level damage. I've never seen such damage in my life. It literally was the hand of God, for the first two miles inland and about 25 miles wide, just absolutely devastation in Mississippi, and Louisiana was a different type of damage. It was eerie. We took a Black Hawk Helicopter into Louisiana and flew over. And when you first descended, it looked tranquil and it looked like perhaps a giant public works' project and that all of the roads had been paved. It looked like a newly paved road, until you got a little closer and then you realized what you were seeing was six feet of black water that had covered everything, so it was an amazing storm.

So what you did was make that possible by letting these folks go down there and serve and so we are here this morning to provide recognition for them and the great job they did, and we've learned lessons for Kansas. Hopefully we'll never have that.

The last thing that I would leave for all the citizens of Kansas and the people of Wichita is the great resolve of the American people. And the people of Mississippi, who were absolutely devastated, were very pleased and grateful that you allowed some of your folks to go down there.

And when they would thank us for that, we would always say 'Well, would you be there for Kansas, if we needed you?' and without exception they said they absolutely would. This storm, this storm brought out the worst in a few people, but it brought out the absolute best in most people and it brought out the best in a lot of the public safety and public service people from Sedgwick County and appreciate the chance to be with you this morning. Thank you."

Mr. Jim Leftwich, KDEM Regional Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "At this time I'd like to read the names of the people who participated and if you'd come forward to receive your

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coin :Mauricio Ardanche, Shane Brazil, Jack Kegley, Kent Koehler, DeAnn Konkel, Tom Pletcher, Curtis Tracey, Richard Lind, Robert Ratzlaff, Glendon Thompson and Marty Morland. There are a few folks that aren't able to be here this morning, but we'll have coins for them and present them at a later time. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well General Bunting, thanks for being here today. We look forward to you stopping by home here soon and visiting with us in Haysville. Well, I have to tell you, I'm very proud of all these folks. You know, I have a little bit of knowledge of emergencies and tornadoes and I understand what that support does for the spirit and morale of the people that have been devastated and what that support does for the elected officials that are on the line, trying to figure out what to do and it's gratifying that we have the kind of people in our organization that can go down and take care of these kind of things and do it with an open heart, an open mind and a lot of skills.

That was a devastating emergency that hit the coast and it took a lot of people rallying, and I can't even understand or process what these individuals saw, once they got down there. I've had a chance and Carol Nugent wasn't able to come today, but I worked with Carol many, many years as the manager of Haysville and she had an opportunity to go down and the stories she has imparted to me are just unbelievable, what happened on the gulf coast and my heart goes out to all these individuals that volunteered to go down, but that certainly had imagines of life at its worst in the United States, and I don't know that that will ever go away from them and probably it shouldn't. I hope that they would impart that to each and every one of us, as citizens of the United States because in times of devastation, emergency like this, it's easy to rogue the naves under the door and second guess the individuals that lived down there, the elected officials, but a devastating emergency of that magnitude leaves a lot of people hurt and devastated.

This brings to mind a second thing for me, and I wanted to comment on it today while the Adjutant General was here, is that we've worked for several years to put together a homeland defense center in Wichita, Kansas and that whole synergy of bringing the National Guard, the Marines, the fire, police, HazMat, emergency communications to one location in our community to be able to constantly work with each other, train together, understand each other's protocols and be ready for not only natural disasters, but any manmade disasters is going to be critical and I think this is a good time to advocate for that.

I know General Bunting continues to work with the federal government and the state government, to bring that to our community but I'm convinced that, you know, it's better to have and not need than to need and not have, when it comes to emergency and our community deserves to have that

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kind of training facility and facility for our first responders, because at the end of the day, when we have these kind of critical incidents, we want everybody knowing each other, having talked to each other, having trained with each other, to be first responders, because it makes a big difference in your community, so I'll get off my soapbox now. Thanks for being with us and congratulations to all of those that went down and helped with Katrina. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to make a brief comment to General Bunting and to Jim and to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy to go out and try to help some people who were really in distress. It . . . our headlines get full of criticisms about lack of response and we did this wrong and it would give the impression that things didn't get done and that people didn't care. But you all are great examples of folks who do care and were willing to give time and energy to try to help someone in a time of need, so you represent I think the heart of Sedgwick County and Kansas, United States. We really appreciate your efforts, so thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Commissioner. And I think it's important to point out, in this era where people are very, very quick to criticize government and very slow to compliment. It's my understand these people volunteered to go. It wasn't mandated, it wasn't part of their job description and the general is right. In crisis, that's where you see real strength and it's true, it unmask some bad people, maybe they let the real bad come out but it's got to be a 1,000 to one the other way, where people were just helping each other and it does prove a little bit about what Commissioner Norton said and DeAnn Konkol, not to embarrass her, but she's been out in public safety talking to people for years and I've been present at a lot of presentations, where we try to educate the public that the very first responder, in any national emergency crisis, whether it's manmade or natural causes is the individual and they have to be prepared to respond and once they're taken care of, you go to your neighbors and you help and it branches out.

While you're waiting for government to react, because government, no matter how well they're prepared, can't be at each individual home at a minute's notice where there's a crisis, the individual has to take care of themselves, and these individuals went above and beyond the call of duty, because I can just imagine that living conditions weren't the best there. You weren't getting paid bonuses for going. All you did was go there so that you could actually feel that you were doing what one human being should be doing in a crisis, and that's helping another human being. So, along with the general, you have the heartfelt thanks of all of us here at the board of county commissioners for a job well done. Thank you. Thank you, General. Next item please."

APPOINTMENTS

C. APPOINTMENTS.

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1. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BETH GARRISON (COMMISSIONER WINTERS' APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION.

Ms. Jennifer Magana, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have before you a resolution reappointing Beth Garrison to the Sedgwick County Public Building Commission, her term expiring February 1st, 2009. I'd recommend you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Before that, I think we have a comment from commissioner."

Commissioner Winters said, "I'd like, I guess, to make a comment before I make the motion and just a comment would be here we have three appointments to the Sedgwick County Building Commissioner this morning and just very shortly here in our agenda we're going to be talking about some very important projects that the Building Commission is going to be assisting us on, and I just wanted to make a quick comment about all three of these people."

Beth Garrison has been serving on the Building Commission since this group was formed, to help us finance some of these projects, so she is very well experienced on the operations of the board, along with Kurt Watson, who has been on for more than four years I know, so he is certainly someone I think we can rely on, on his judgment. And along with former County Commissioner Bill Hancock, is going to be appointed this morning, Commissioner Norton is appointing Bill Hancock and I have served with a lot of folks on this bench and Bill is one of the finest gentlemen that I've ever served with and really is a clear thinker and will be someone that we can have a lot of confidence in, in this position.

So again, commissioners, not really much information there but just wanted to make my comments that we really are appointing some good folks to this board this morning that has been in existence for I'm not sure how long. Mr. Manager, over ten years we've been utilizing the Public Building Commission I would assume, or about that long."

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, said, "Yes, sir."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

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Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Is Beth here to be sworn in? I don't see her."

Commissioner Winters said, "No, I don't think any of these folks are going to be here."

Chairman Sciortino said, "All right. Next item please."

2. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KURT WATSON (COMMISSIONER UNRUH'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION.

Ms. Magana said, "You have a resolution reappointing Kurt Watson to the board. I recommend that you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I don't see that there's any comment, so what's the will of the Board on this item please?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye

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Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, “And before we go to the next one, we have Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “No, go ahead and take the next item.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, next item please.”

3. RESOLUTION APPOINTING BILL HANCOCK (COMMISSIONER NORTON’S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION.

Ms. Magana said, “The resolution is appointing Bill Hancock to the commission. I’d recommend you adopt this resolution.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “You know, I’ve been accused of not watching these lights so, boy, I’m really watching these lights. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well, I just wanted to say that I’m tickled that Bill Hancock would

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step up. You know, Bill has been in public service for a lot of years. He understands our mission and what we're trying to accomplish and I also wanted to compliment Yvonne Coon, who had been on the Public Building Commission as my appointee for several years, who has stepped down. She had served well, but did not want to take a reappointment and I'm glad that I could find somebody of Bill's knowledge and magnitude to step in and take that, as we move forward on some of these major items that we're going to be dealing with. That's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. We have a Motion and a second. Have we already voted?"

Ms. Magana said, "It's already been voted on."

Chairman Sciortino said, "It's already been voted, so I can say next item? Okay, watch this. Next item please."

4. RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY AD HOC TASK FORCE ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND MENTAL ILLNESS.

Mr. Buchanan said, "A couple of week's ago, you created a task force to deal with those folks who are clobbered in this community with developmental disabilities and at the same time, have issues with mental illness and violence and behavior that we would not normally think would occur with folks who have developmental disabilities.

We've asked this task force, very specifically, to try to figure out ways in which our service providers can go about dealing with these issues in a way that's a lot different and a lot better than what we have now and so I am recommending that we appoint a twelve-man task force that would include: Commissioner Sciortino; Frank Creeden from Via Christi; Ron Pasmore of KETCH; Marla Flentje, a Starkey board member and parent; Wichita Children's Home's Sarah Robinson; Greg Sullivan, Physical Disability Advisory Board member; Lieutenant Robert Burns from the Sheriff's Department; Bruce Brown from SRS; and Prairie View representative Carla Lehr; Mental Health System Rep. would be Lucy Shifton from the Mental Health Advisory Board; Tom Pletcher from COMCARE and Jody Stengel, who is a parent with a person of dual diagnosis and has encouraged us in this process. I would recommend, commissioners, that you appoint these folks to this ad hoc task force."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I'm certainly going to be supportive of this. Just one quick question, Mr. Manager. I know you mentioned Tom Pletcher, of course a COMCARE

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employee is going to be on that, but whose going to be staffing this task force, from our standpoint, is going to be really making sure things happen and get done.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “The primary staff person for this task force will be Colin McKenney. He is in Topeka today, but he is committed to make sure that we are doing . . . that local government and state government end up doing the right things for these folks in our community. So, I have all the confidence in the world in him and we’ll get it done.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Okay, and all these people have agreed to serve?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Yes, sir.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right. Well, it sounds like an excellent group to me. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. I don’t know who was first. Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Well I just want to say that I’m going to be very supportive of this also and I appreciate the initiative that the manager took in getting this moving on this issue, because it has come up with a couple of issues recently that were very real and personal issues to some of the folks in our community and we . . . it demands a response, I guess is what I’m trying to say and I appreciate the fact that we’re moving quickly on it. I especially appreciate the fact that you’ve established the fact September 30 date to have a report back, so that we’re going to put a timetable on this to get some recommendations back.

I want to thank the folks who have been willing to serve. I know that they’ve all had a very distinct and direct interest in this issue and so want to express appreciation for their willingness to be involved in what’s going to be, I think, important for the quality of life in our community.

It’s worth repeating, I think, to say that this population that we’re trying to deal with have really got quite a burden. I think the manager used the word ‘clobbered’, these folks are clobbered with this sort of a life issue they have to deal with. The information we have indicates that 40% of folks that are eligible for developmental disability services also have a dual diagnosis, so they have a heavy

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burden and I think this effort for us to respond to that, both for the families and the individuals is what we should be involved in. So, a lot of conversation just to say that I'm glad we're doing it and am very supportive, so thank you Mr. Chairman."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, this is another segment of our population that's not being able to enjoy the quality of life that we work so hard in our community to provide, for a lot of different reasons and I think it's our obligation to understand that population, to understand mental illness and to understand disabilities and it is such a complicated . . . both subjects are so complicated to understand and I'm really happy that we put together this task force.

I have to say, as they started forming it and putting together the names, there were many, many other names of very qualified people on the table that will be asked to sit on work groups and study groups and subcommittees to help us understand this important issue in our community and maybe help guide us in the use of our monies and our staff and our lobbying efforts at the state and federal level to make sure that we take care of this population in our community.

You know, if you link developmental disabilities and mental illness and homelessness and some of these kind of things that we worry with in our community and it will make a profound difference in the overall quality of life of all of our citizens if we can just move this just a little bit, on the scale of making their lives better. So I appreciate your moving forward on this, Mr. Manager. That's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Commissioner Norton. One thing the public needs to know. This whole problem of developmental disabilities and mental illness is in a state of flux or transition. The state has been closing more and more hospitals and people that normally would have been put in a hospital because of more severe reaction to their mental illness, where it could be violent or what have you, are now being thrust within the local communities and some of our agencies that have handled other forms of developmental disabilities and mental illnesses are seeing for the first time, individuals that they have had little or no experience in how to deal with and that's one of the main reasons that we're forming this committee is to, number one, identify the problem and figure out what type of help we can do at the local level and maybe perhaps united, what type of help we can request the state to accept and I have high hopes for this committee.

I asked to be on it because I got involved in Starkey many years ago, when there was some disfunctioning happening perhaps over there and we were able to get that together, taken care of, and right now it's once again one of the most credible organizations around and I've got a lot of high hopes that we'll be able, together, to identify the problem and find solutions that will be satisfactory to all. So thank you very much."

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Mr. Buchanan said, "Excuse me, sir. In your backup, in invisible ink, it says beside Marla Flentje's name, that we would like you to appoint her chairperson."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, I have no problem with that. So with that . . ."

Mr. Buchanan said, "I forgot to put that in."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, so with that addition to the recommended action, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to adopt the Resolution and appoint Marla Flentje as chairperson.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, it would be appropriate to recognize that Tom Pletcher is here and Ron Pasmore. Ron, if you would stand."

Chairman Sciortino said, "If any other members are here, please stand up and be recognized. One, two, three, four."

Mr. Buchanan said, "And Judy Stengel, I'm sorry, there's four people here."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you all for being willing to serve. We really appreciate it. Clerk, would you call the next item please?"

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NEW BUSINESS

D. RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION ISSUE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND EQUIP A TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS.

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, we have four items in front of you, all directing action about our intension to issue bonds. I’m going to request that two of those items, Item E for the Juvenile Detention Facility and Item F, the Regional Forensic Center, be postponed or delayed for a while. Both projects are really about, again, protecting people and part of our public safety initiative. And I want to assure you and I want to assure the District Attorney and the judges and the Forensic Science Center, medical examiner and their staffs, that we will deal with those two issues within the next 30 days.

One of my primary duties, it seems to me, is make sure that we all make informed decisions and there’s some questions about both those projects and how we fund projects that need to be answered and determined before we proceed, and so when those items come before you, I will be asking you to defer those.

The two projects remaining in front of you, and this is a tag-team presentation, I’m going to ask Lori to talk about the first issue and then Chris Chronis, the Chief Financial Officer, can talk about the necessity of what we’re doing, the technical reasons why we’re doing it.

Both of these in front of you are about our ability, this organizations ability to be flexible and change with the changing needs of our citizens. They’re about investing for jobs and there’s probably no more important act for that, except for protecting people, so both of these are major issues that fit with our mission, that this organization has changed its mind about what we’re going to do and have taken on this whole new initiative about investing for jobs. So, Lori, would you walk us through that, please.”

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Ms. Lori Usher, Executive Director for Workforce Development, Sedgwick County Technical Education & Training Authority, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Before I start my presentation, I’d like to acknowledge the folks that are present supporting the Jabara Campus plan

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this morning. We do have Chairman Jim Walters, chairman of the board of the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Please stand if your name has been . . . so we can recognize you.”

Ms. Usher said, “We also have representatives of KTTI, the Chamber of Business Leadership, regional educational and other governmental partners. I might ask all those folks to stand who are here to support the Jabara Campus project this morning.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Anybody against it?”

Ms. Usher said, “Thank you very much. Largely due to our aircraft manufacturing cluster, Wichita’s employment and manufacturing has remained strong, in approximately 21% total employment, compared to the national average of 11%. Why is that important? Manufacturing, particularly the advanced manufacturing required in the aircraft industry, supports higher waged jobs that drive our regional economy.

In early 2001, four major aviation companies in Wichita determined that the current infrastructure in our region was not capable of supporting existing and future demand for skilled workers in their industry. The solution? Partner with state and local governments to address the issue, resulting in the formation of KTTI, the Kansas Technical Training Initiative, a partnership of private companies and government entities, including Sedgwick County. It is largely due to the leadership of that partnership that we are here today. The need for a world-class technical education and training facility has been recognized as a number one priority for five years.

The need for more skilled workers in manufacturing is a national issue that has the potential of significantly impacting our global competitiveness. The National Association of Manufacturers issued a white paper last fall that pushed the panic button. According to their report, not enough employees are available. There are already shortages in specific skill areas. The report stressed the fact that a high performance work force drives future success for companies. It recognizes the urgency to fix it now. Baby Boomers are leaving the workforce and it’s only going to get worse and issued a challenge to recruit more students to change the image of manufacturing jobs.

That need for skilled workers is felt on the regional level as well. An informal assessment of workers needed for the top aviation companies in our community last fall produced the presented list, a total projected need of 4,150 workers.

So here we are. The aircraft manufacturing industry is back into full swing, as you can see from these reports issued last fall. Consider these forecasts: today’s world fleet of commercial aircraft is

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expected to double by 2024, the delivery of nearly 10,000 new business aircraft from 2005 to 2015 is forecasted with record breaking deliveries of 800 in 2006.

While it seems like an awful lot of emphasis has been placed upon aviation, consider these data points: nearly 35,000 of our regional workers are employed in aviation, drawing well above average wages, with an economic impact for our region and our state that can't be matched, over 80% of the world's general aviation aircraft is produced . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Are you saying the annual estimated payroll is 2 billion? That's a correct number?”

Ms. Usher said, “Right.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Two billion.”

Ms. Usher said, “Over 80% of the world's general aviation aircraft is produced in the United States, but over one-half of that supply is produced right here in the Wichita area. Aircraft manufacturing is one of the most important trade industries, with the highest net trade surplus of all exported manufacturing goods in the United States, a \$37,000,000 net surplus just last year.

So local employers in aviation and general manufacturing were asked to identify the guiding principles for a world-class technical training facility and delivery system, which produced the following list: serve as a marketing magnet, attracting new students to our community; provide interactive, hands-on training with the latest equipment and dynamic curriculum that matches industry needs; and provide easy, one-stop access for employers and students.

Community leaders recognize the value of using a collaborative approach, working with regional educational partners, those being our technical college, regional community colleges and W.S.U. with the intent to create an employer-driven technical education delivery system. Hence, the vision was created, a community-driven solution for a world-class technical educational campus, located at the Jabara Airport in northeast Wichita.

While the intent of this vision is to address the needs of a broader range of industry sectors, such as health care and information technology, the first phase of the project, a 211,000 square foot technical education facility, supports the aircraft and general manufacturing industry sector with the potential for growth.

Much like the airport authority manages the flight service providers in their facility, the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority is prepared to manage the service providers

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within this campus environment. The project vision is much like a hub system, with the state of the art facilities that are employer driven, easy to access and well coordinated.

The estimated cost for the first phase of the Jabara Campus project, from the architects, was \$36,000,000 supporting three functional buildings that provide services for aviation, general manufacturing technology and assessment career development. While you're being asked today to support a resolution investing in jobs that will essentially backstop the project with county funds. The proposed formula of partnership funding has been developed and will be actively pursued: \$500,000 seed money which has already been committed from Senator Brownback's Office; a 1.5 million dollar economic development administration grant from the federal government, which has already been pre-approved; seeking \$5,000,000 from state funding and another \$5,000,000 from federal money, leaving a \$24,000,000 local commitment from county and city, who has already supported the funding of a land lease with the Airport Authority.

The \$36,000,000 was the estimated cost from the design team, but a sharpened pencil from our Finance Department, with contingency and financing costs built in, brings an estimated debt burden of about \$40,000,000. We also have a \$5,000,000 projected commitment from the private sector, and as you would probably recall from this last weekend, we have an early commitment from both Cessna and Spirit at just over \$2,000,000.

So the estimated annual cost for the facility includes \$3,000,000 for facility debt service, 1.2 million dollars in annual operating costs. That would include maintenance, custodial, utilities and insurance for a total of 4.2 million in annual costs. The estimated offsetting revenue, with tenant lease and student fees comes to about 1.1 million, so it's projected to reach close to break even formula for revenue and operating costs.

If the resolution for project funding gains your support today, the county will be in the driver's seat to manage the project, with a timeline that projects the opening of the first phase of the campus in the year 2008. Mr. Chronis is here to discuss the proposed funding resolution, but I'd be happy to take any questions at this point."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see that we have any questions, Lori, right now of you but you may want to stand by, maybe after Mr. Chronis has talked we may have some more."

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The resolution that's before you is similar to those that you've adopted for other projects in the past. It first deems it advisable that this project be constructed and equipped. It requests the Public Building Commission to finance the project, with an amount of debt not to exceed \$40,000,000 and it declares your intent to reimburse certain expenditures that may be incurred prior to the bond sale,

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with the proceeds of that bond issue.

As Lori has indicated, the \$40,000,000 is intended to finance three structures: an assessment and career development center, an aviation technical training building and a manufacturing technical training building. All three of those buildings, along with associated parking and common space is estimated to cost approximately \$38,000,000 by the time we incur the construction contracts in 2007 and we will also need to sell bonds to finance the debt issue itself and that's what takes it up to \$40,000,000.

The issuance of the bonds is contemplated in the county's financial plan. As Lori has indicated, we estimate if we sell the entire \$40,000,000 of debt. We estimate that the annual debt service will be a little over \$3,000,000. The property tax rate necessary to repay that debt service would be approximately 84/100th of a mill. The amount of the bonds that we sell and the resultant debt service of course will be dictated in part by the amount of additional funding we can receive from the state or the federal governments, as Lori outlined for you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Let me interrupt you for a minute so the public understands. The increase in the property taxes, the bonding is worst-case scenario, that's the county backstopping the project, without any federal or state aid or that type of stuff. Any additional funding that we get from the state or the federal government will reduce that number. Is that a correct statement?"

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes, that's correct. This transaction will work, sort of similar to the deal that we did about 10 years ago for Exploration Place. We are to build this project on land that the county is going to lease from the City of Wichita. The county and its Public Building Commission will actually be the owners of the structures and they will be responsible for management of the structures. They will sublease the facility to the Technical Training Authority, which will be responsible for managing the facility. The county will enter into a lease with the Public Building Commission and that lease will serve as the Building Commission's security for the bonds that it sells. That lease will provide the revenue stream that the Building Commission is using to pay off the debt. The lease will become a general obligation of Sedgwick County.

As I said, the debt has been planned, in the county's financial plan. You're aware that in our debt policy, which is a factor in that financial plan, we have established five different ways of measuring the county's debt capacity, of setting a ceiling on the amount of outstanding debt that the county may have outstanding at any point in time. This debt will not cause any of those ceilings to be exceeded and I've included in the agenda summary, the individual ratios that are established in the debt policy and how much we expect our actual debt to be over the next couple of years, so that anybody who reads that can see how close we will come to the debt ceilings.

Once you adopt this resolution, assuming you adopt this resolution, we will call a meeting of the

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Public Building Commission. It will be asked to approve a similar resolution, declaring its intent to finance the project. Once that action has taken place, that resolution will be published in the official record of the county, the Derby Daily Reporter, and once those advertisements take place, a 30-day protest period will be initiated. During that 30 days, if a valid petition is submitted, containing signatures of more than 5% of the electors of Sedgwick County protesting the issuance of these bonds, the bonds may not be issued unless there is a vote of the people. But if there is not valid petitions submitted within 30 days after the publication date, then we have full legal authority to proceed with the issuance of the debt. Are there any questions about any of this?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see that there are any, Chris, so continue please."

Mr. Chronis said, "In the room, we also have Joe Norton, who is the County's bond counsel, who you know very well and he can answer any technical questions that you have about the resolution. It's a fairly straightforward action, similar to those you've taken in the past, and I'll be happy to answer any other questions that you have and if there are none, I'd recommend you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, do you have any questions at this time of Lori, Chris or Joe Norton? I just have one question Joe, and you can just nod. You're comfortable about how this resolution is formed and you're very comfortable, it's very appropriate, as a matter of fact, am I assuming right that you helped draft it?"

Mr. Joe Norton, Bond Counsel, Gilmore & Bell P.C., said, "I did."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you very much. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "I just had a question of clarification. Chairman asked if this was the extent of our obligation, financial obligation of this project. This does not take into account operating costs where we may or may not have involvement, depending on how well we do with our business plan and how well the project goes forward. Is that correct?"

Mr. Chronis said, "That's correct. All we're talking about here is the financing of the structures. The operations of the facility, according to the business plan that you've seen, suggests that it will roughly break even between the lease payments that are charged to the schools that are providing classes and student fees that are imposed on people that are taking classes."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, Commissioner, but you need to understand I believe it will go without saying that the county is taking on the responsibility of backstopping the ongoing annual

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operations and that was one element that I was holding off trying to embrace until I saw the business plan and when I saw the business plan and it was as conservative as the numbers that they presented on their capital requirements, worst case scenario, we've got less than a \$50,000 exposure, first year, so I'm extremely confident that that's going to very quickly be a pay-as-you-go situation.

Commissioner Unruh said, "Yeah, and that is our hope. I just wanted to make that clarification. And that's all I had, except I will probably ask for an editorial comment, so that's all."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I've been around for quite a few years on this subject and I'll just start out my comments by saying 'In the beginning' there was a meeting of the minds and I was at that first meeting of the minds of some elected officials and some business community and some educators to start to decide where we wanted to go with technical education and particularly with the education for the aviation sector. And we've been at this for around five years, so if there's public out there that believes that this has been hastily moved into and that we just looked at it yesterday and decided that we were going to spend this kind of money and put this together. It has been a very well thought out, arduous process to get to this day today.

At one time, when we were forming the GWEDC, there was strong conversations about the workforce development part of what the GWEDC's mission was going to be and we talked about job retention and job recruitment. And mixed in with that was making sure that we had workforce in our community that would support keeping jobs here and bringing new companies and jobs here.

And the decision was made and I think it was a great decision, to jettison off the workforce development piece and make sure that it was a support mechanism for job retention and job development, but that we didn't intermingle those. In fact, one of those issues years ago, with our old WISE partnership is that we got a lot things mixed in with our job recruitment and job retention and it watered down our mission to bring jobs to our community and build the economic base and the capital base in our community, so, workforce development particularly in the aviation sector kind of got moved to the side and we worked on that for this many years to come to today.

There is plenty of need now. You know, we had our downturn and 9/11 changed a lot of things and I have to give a lot of folks credit that they kept working hard, even during the downturn, to say that we were going to rebound. That the Baby Boomers were aging, that populations were changing in the workforce and that we could not give up on the idea that workforce development is critical to our community.

Well, there's still plenty of need today. In fact, it's more critical today than it was five years ago. It's interesting that we're moving ahead on the Aviation Tech Center. We've tried to make sure that we're delivering that now and we've got another graduation at the Aviation Tech Center this

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Saturday, but you know, that facility, as hard as they're working, is not producing the kinds of numbers of people. This is a critical juncture in our community that we're taking care of the number one cluster in our community. The cluster report that came out several years ago, I know there's people in denial and would like to say 'Hey, we diversified and we've got all these other things going' and you know we're working hard at that. We've brought new business here and we've created new jobs. But the truth is and the numbers don't lie, aviation is still very important to this community and this region and this is just a start.

What next? Well, we're dedicated. I think the whole community is dedicated to having the conversation, where do we take technical education next. I have to tell you, to make this omelet, a lot of eggs have gotten broken. Some people protect their eggs. They don't want their eggs in the mix of the omelet, but at the end of the day, it is critical for this community to work together to make sure that technical education is put on the highest level.

Regent's education, four-year college is important. Community colleges are important, but technical education in a community where manufacturing and aerospace is so critical, we need a strong technical education presence. I think Sedgwick County is dedicated to being a partner in that. You only have to drive about 200 miles from here, to Tulsa, to see what can be done in a community with a technical education infrastructure and facility. And I think we have the vision to have that in our community also and this is a great start. It's a great location. It's a great facility and hopefully, several years from now, we'll be proud of the whole campus that's developed that covers all the diversity of industries that are in our community today and that we would like to incubate in our community in the future and only workforce and people will get us there, so I'm going to be very supportive today. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, commissioner. Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well, as Commissioner Norton has talked about, this has gone on for a long time and the vision started long before I came on board and I have to admit that we were very nervous when we were talking about this much money, but I give credit to Lori for every time I had a question or concern, she would dash to my office and give me the answers that I needed to make an informed decision on this. I think this is a great project. Yes, it's a lot of money but I think in the future this is going to be just a wonderful thing for the region, for the nation and even globally, so I applaud everyone for all the work they've done to get to this point, where I didn't have to do a lot of the work. I just have to sit here and enjoy the benefits and reap the benefits of this great project."

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Chairman Sciortino said, “Assuming you vote yes.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Well, I’m very supportive of this now and like I say, at the very beginning I was very nervous, because it is a lot of money and I’ve had a lot of e-mails from people that say ‘Do you really want to do this?’ and that’s why I called on Lori numerous times and had her in my office to answer a lot of questions. So again, I’m appreciative of all the hard work that’s gone into this and will be very supportive of this.”

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

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I want to say that I’m going to be very supportive of this item also. But I did want to, once again, recognize the individuals who have come to indicate support. I was going to say that this impressive group of community leaders, but right now I’m thinking maybe it’s an intimidating group.

But anyway, we appreciate your continued and ongoing involvement and investment of your time and energy over all these years to bring us to this point. But I think, along with part of what Commissioner Norton has said, I think that this whole process has taken us through the philosophical foundation to establish what we want to do and how we want to go forward and recognizing the fact that this is not an economic development project only, but it also have to do with economic stability. I mean, not doing something is simply not an option, because what we enjoy right now will erode and eventually . . . well, as somebody said, you know, it might be our biggest attraction is the flagpole. But I really think it could be that negative of a situation, should we not tend to the need of the jobs that have been illustrated in this report, that 4,000 jobs a year is a lot of people and we have to do something to respond to it.

I think that what we’ve gone through, part of the shares, is really a metamorphosis in our method of how we’re going to address this. We’ve had a paradigm shift of trying to do technical education from strictly an educational perspective of what do we do with students, to now we’re focusing on a business-driven model and I think that’s what we have to do, if we’re going to be successful and we’ve recognized the concept and the fact that we have a new customer and that’s the business community and the people that are using this product that we produce in technical education, so I think that’s a positive step.

At the same time, we need not ignore a broader range of technical education and training that’s demanded in our community and I think that we’re trying to provide as much as possible, through this whole process, a comprehensive approach. And I think also, for it to be successful, you know

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we have to make an effort to drill down into the high school level that technical education provides the foundation for a great career, for great opportunity, being involved in this sort of activity is not second-class citizenship, but this is a great opportunity to earn a living and to enjoy the benefits of this community.

So all the thinking and all the right reasons, I think, have gone into getting it to this point, but a primary thing that I think is something to make a comment about is the partnerships that have worked together, between business and government and different coalitions of interests that have come together, the educational community also, to get us to this point. If we want to make progress in today's world and today's culture, it seems like the key words are partnerships and collaboration and cooperation and this is really a good example of how we've all worked together to get us to this point.

So congratulations to you all, and for bringing us to this point and I'm really proud to be part of the commission that's going to make a very bold step to insure economic stability and economic development. And then I guess the final comment I want to make is that I really like the tag line, you know, 'Opportunities Accelerated'. It's a great phrase."

Chairman Sciortino said, "What is it?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "Opportunities Accelerated. Lori came up with that."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Opportunities Accelerated."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Yeah, we've got great opportunities. They're coming so fast, we've got to be ready to handle them, so great line. Good job, Lori. So I think, from all that . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "So are you saying basically, that Lori always feeds us a line?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "No, I didn't say that. That's all I had."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I too am going to be very supportive of this. I think it's a huge step, but I don't think it's the last step either. I think that we're either going to start on really some work force development initiatives that are going to affect a lot of industries and a lot of people in this region, if not the state and beyond. I think there are just several things that are coming together. I know that the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas is now kind of taking a new step forward and there are just a number of entities that are, I think, really ready to get to work.

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I do really want to thank all of you who are here today. I know a lot of you worked very hard, over the past several years and we wouldn't have got to this point without your help and support. It was really gratifying to open the newspaper this weekend and see the commitment that Spirit and Cessna are making to this, as you're thinking about it this weekend. You knew today was coming and you think, 'What's the community support going to be' and to see that commitment this weekend was a great, great boost.

I do certainly want to thank Lori Usher particularly. I think Sedgwick County was very fortunate to have the timing to really be able to take advantage of Lori's leadership and collaborative skills in bringing a lot of folks together and when she came onboard, I think you know five commissioners, we were probably going five different directions and you know, we really wanted Lori to help us focus and come to some conclusions, so we've been very fortunate to have someone with her leadership skills helping us, and so Lori, I certainly want to say thank you to getting us to this point.

And again, Commissioner Norton, all of the legal ramifications of this are proper and in order. Is that correct?"

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

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, that's all I have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. I have some comments to that I'd like to make but I think I'm going to wait until we have the vote to make it, so if there's no further comments, what is the will of the board on Item D, please?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye

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Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "I want to talk about . . . Commissioner Unruh mentioned this briefly, about partners and first of all, I have to compliment Wichita, Kansas. They came up to the table big time and, in essence, are leasing us the land for free, if you work out all the legal ramifications in the contract and that's a very sizable donation. They didn't hesitate. They let us know that they wanted to be an active partner and our colleagues across the street need to be complimented on joining us in this vision, and I want to thank them publicly.

I also want to thank the private sector. We've got a major contribution from Spirit Aerospace and Cessna, in excess of \$2,000,000. I have extreme confidence that the other aviation industry leaders will step up to the plate. I even mentioned to the Chamber of Commerce that if there were any other businesses in Wichita that would like to make a donation, that we would probably accept that. So I have no doubt at all that they would probably exceed the \$5,000,000 that we're looking for from the private sector.

I also feel the need to compliment the Authority, because as Commissioner Winters, Commissioner Norton and Commissioner Unruh have mentioned, those two gentlemen have been working on this from its inception and it was a dream. But without a well thought out plan on how to implement it, that's all it is, is a dream and I hesitated to fully embrace this project until we saw this business plan and the authority of Lori was active in helping work with them. They came up with a very well thought out and for me a very conservative budget. There wasn't a lot of hot air, a lot of wishful thinking on revenues, etcetera, it was a very conservative budget as evidenced by the fact that initially, the first year, they're only looking at a shortfall in the operating costs of less than \$50,000.

This plan will work and this plan will become reality and I thank them for coming up with the plan that will allow us to do what we just did today and backstop it, with no reservation. It's a unanimous vote of this board. We want to make this happen because we can't afford not to make it happen.

Some of you out there are as chronologically gifted as I am and I remember a statesman by the name of Winston Churchill saying something when the allies landed in Sicily, so I'll paraphrase it. This isn't the end of technical education in Sedgwick County. This isn't even the beginning of the end. But by golly, it's the end of the beginning and it's going to happen. Thank all of you very, very much. Well, after that it's going to be a let down, but next item please. Oh, let's take a five minutes recess because I think some of us are going to come and talk to you privately about other items or something. I don't know. So let's have everybody get out."

The County Commission recessed from 10:15 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

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Chairman Sciortino said, "I'll reopen the meeting at this time and Mr. Buchanan, you had talked about something about deferring something?"

- E. RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION ISSUE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING ADDITIONAL COSTS TO ACQUIRE A SITE AND CONSTRUCT AND EQUIP THEREON A JUVENILE JUSTICE COMPLEX FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS.**

- F. RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION ISSUE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "Mr. Chairman, rather than read the items E and F, I would recommend and request that you defer Items E and F."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to defer Items E and F.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

- G. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF THE COSTS THEREOF.**

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Mr. Chronis said, “This item is equally important to that that you just adopted, just as it’s important for the county to invest in jobs, so is it important for us to make further investments in protecting the people of Sedgwick County. The action before you proposes to finance a 380-bed expansion of the existing adult detention facility. The estimated cost of the project, including financing costs, is \$49,225,000.

The resolution that’s before you declares your intent to construct those improvements and to provide the payment of them with bond proceeds. The bond issue in question would be a General Obligation Bond issue of the county, backed by the full faith and credit of the county. This issue is included in the county’s financial plan and the project is included in the county’s adopted CIP.

The bond issue of roughly 49 and a quarter million dollars will require annual debt service of approximately 3.7 million dollars over 20 years and that 3.7 million dollars will require a tax rate of approximately 1.07 mills in order to produce sufficient property tax revenue to make those payments. That does not mean that the property tax rate necessarily will increase by that much, but that is the equivalent rate that would be necessary to generate sufficient revenues. We of course will use whatever revenues we have, other than property taxes first, and then property taxes to make debt service payments.

Once again, your debt policy has five different ways of measuring the county’s debt capacity, of establishing ceilings on the amount of debt that can be outstanding at any point in time and as you will see in the agenda summary, we have shown you that this debt issue will not cause any of those ceilings to be exceeded over the next several years.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Let me interrupt for a second and that’s accumulative, including what we just passed on Item D.”

Mr. Chronis said, “It is, it is. Once again, in the audience we have Joe Norton, the county’s bond counsel, who drafted the resolution that is before you. I’m sure he’ll be happy to answer any technical questions that you might have about the content of that resolution and we also have . . . well, we had but we don’t have any longer, the Sheriff to answer any questions about the jail.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “No, he took the general back to Topeka.”

Mr. Chronis said, “Okay, but I’ll be happy to try and answer any questions that you might have about the project itself and if you have no questions, then I recommend you adopt this resolution.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Commissioners, any questions? Commissioner Norton.”

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Commissioner Norton said, “Not any really questions. It’s just another comment to the public that it’s not anything that’s happened in the last two weeks that we’re making a quick decision on. It’s been going on for several years, along with studies about what we can do to keep jail population from going up, so this is not anything that we’ve done hastily, without due diligence, but that it is something that we’ve looked at. We’ve continued to work with the Sheriff and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, to understand the ramifications of building a jail, not building a jail, creating programs that keep people out of incarceration and recidivism, all of those things have been in the mix and this is something that we’ve been looking at for well over two years. So it’s not anything that we’ve rushed into quickly. It’s something that we’ve tried to think out arduously over several years and tried to make the best decision we could, so we haven’t come to this with some kind of willy-nilly thought process. It has been something that we’ve talked about at a lot of staff meetings and workshops to get to this day. Just a comment for the public.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Any other comments or questions? I see none. Oh, excuse me, Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “I just want to emphasize the fact that this is one step in a comprehensive criminal justice plan to handle what is a big problem in our community. It has been, I think, publicized, that the last quarter or 2005 the average daily population under the Sheriff’s control is 1,515 individuals and our jail holds 1,068, including medical beds, so I just want to bring those facts to highlight, so that everyone understands that this is a serious issue, but we’re not just trying to solve it with one easy fix, and that is just build more room to house people, but this is a piece of a plan that includes alternatives to incarceration and hopefully we can control the population and in just five or six years we don’t have to come back and ask our citizens to support another expansion.

But as Mr. Chronis said at the beginning, this is just as important as the last agenda item, in the overall administration of government in Sedgwick County. So it’s an important step, but appropriate and well analyzed, well thought out to take us to this point, so that’s all I had, Mr. Chair.”

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Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Any other comments, Commissioners? I see none, so Madam Clerk, would you call the roll please.”

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Just a comment that Mr. Chronis talked about the mill levy rate for both these projects that would cover the financing of it. As we go into the budget process, that’s not an automatic that we’re going to raise the mill levy, countywide, that particular incremental amount, that it will blend into the budget and we’ll figure out the mix of all the projects and all the expenditures and all the needs in the community to come out with whatever the mill levy rate will have to be. If nothing else changes and there’s no new money, we very well could have a mill levy increase, but I’m sure we’ll do due diligence in trying to mix it in with all the other projects that we’ve got going on and revenue sources and bonding to try to figure out what that mill levy rate will be. But I think it’s important that the public knows that we’ve taken some tough action on two very specific issues and that, you know, we’re going to have to make now at budget time some other decisions . . . finish up the financing to put all the budget together, and it will be interesting this year to see how that works out, in the mix of all the other priorities that we’ve got, and what it will do to the mill levy at the global level.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, Commissioner. I’m glad you brought that up,

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Commissioner Norton, because a lot of media has been asking me 'Well, now how much is the mill levy going to be increased, etcetera' and that makes for good copy and good sound bites on television, but at this time, it's very premature to assume that there's going to be a property tax increase. You're right in saying we're going to go through our entire budgeting process and we won't know what the mill levy will be, if there's every going to be an increase until we're done with that process, some time the tail end of July or first part of August.

Mr. Buchanan and his staff are going to be working diligently. It's a matter of prioritizing. I'm sure they're going to be looking at ways that they can reduce some expenses in some areas. I mean, it's a normal process that we go through, but the one thing that I want to tell the public, that these two items, and as you saw the commissioners voted unanimously for it, job creation, public safety are the two number one reasons the five of us are sitting at this bench and these are projects that we have to do and I'm going to be bold enough to tell the public taxpayers, as far as that Jabara Technical Aviation and Manufacturing Campus is concerned, it isn't going to cost you one cent. Not only will it pay for itself on an ongoing basis, but when you talk about potential \$2,000,000,000 annual payroll, that's a nice return and I think this investment will prove out, in the long term, to be a tremendous investment for all of the taxpayers that are joining with us in making this facility happen.

As far as the jail is concerned, I compliment this board. We didn't take the easy course and say 'Oh, well let's just build more'. That doesn't take a lot of brainpower, let's just build more beds, build more beds. No, we're looking at and we're beginning to implement alternative programs to give our judges options, when they see someone coming to their court that it's very obvious they are mentally incompetent, they've got a severe mental problem or an alcohol or a drug problem, right now they have no choice. If they committed a misdemeanor or whatever, they have to be thrown in jail. Now we can maybe divert these people to a program that can help deal with the root cause as to why they got in trouble with the law and if we can help them help themselves, we're going to reduce recidivism. And I compliment this board on the hard work that we've all been doing in making sure that we're looking outside the box, while at the same time paying attention to the Sheriff's immediate needs, because I believe what we're doing here gives him about another 400 beds, but in addition to that, we're looking at alternative programs.

These are two projects that this community cannot afford to duck from. It's the responsibility, we've come up to the table and executed our responsibility and I compliment all of you for the unanimous vote that we did on both of these. Editorial comment is over. Thank you. Clerk, call

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the next item.”

DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

H. HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

1. PANDEMIC FLU UPDATE.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m pleased to come before you this morning and share the executive summary of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan for Sedgwick County. Last November, I came before you to provide information on pandemic influenza and urge our citizens to get informed and be prepared. I explained then how Sedgwick County is working with state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in the community to prepare for the possibility of a pandemic or a worldwide outbreak of disease.

Thanks to your leadership, the planning process for pandemic influenza preparedness and response for our citizens has been established and continues to progress. The following PowerPoint presentation features key points associated with the executive summary of the Sedgwick County pandemic influenza preparedness and response plan, which I believe you have in front of you.

Information about the H5N1 influenza virus or the flu virus continues to evolve. We learn more about this flu virus every day and according to the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this is what we currently know about the H5N1 virus. Right now, we know it’s a changing virus, just as all flu viruses are, which is why you have to get a flu shot every year, because the virus changes a little bit.

We know that there have been some human infections with H5N1 and that it is present in ducks and migratory fowl and birds. To date, the H5N1 flu virus in birds and migratory has been reported in 37 countries, in three continents. One hundred and eighty-six people have been infected with the virus and 105 have died, so that’s about a 50% death rate, and those are the people that we know have been infected. There are people I’m sure that have been infected that we don’t know about.

Let me say that the people that have been infected with the virus are people that have very close contact to poultry, very close contact with their chickens. A lot of the Asia countries, people live with their chickens, they sleep with their chickens, so it’s very close contact. Fortunately, there has yet to be sustained human-to-human transmission of the disease, so we are not seeing easy spread

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among humans, but the rapid spread of the virus in poultry is reason for concern.

Sedgwick County is taking this public health threat very seriously and because of that, we have produced this 'Sedgwick County Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan' which is a living document, because it is changing constantly, as we receive new information about the virus.

Scientists still believe that the H5N1 virus could become the next cause of a flu pandemic, although no one knows exactly when this might happen. A pandemic is defined as a worldwide outbreak of disease. It's a global event, but it is also a local crisis, worldwide, and that's a different way to look at it. It's not like a tornado or a severe thunderstorm, where you can move resources from one place to another and you can move help around, because everybody will be affected at the same time, so should a flu pandemic occur, every community is going to be responsible for taking care of itself.

Both the federal and state plans have been released, related to pandemic influenza and so now it is the local health department's responsibility to develop a plan and of course that's what we've been working on. We have been informed that federal monies will be available to assist us with this process, and so that will help. As more information on the H5N1 virus evolves, we will incorporate better strategies and practices into our local plan.

The goals of the pan-flu plan, and I'm going to refer to it as the pan-flu plan, so that I don't stumble over my words, are to minimize serious illness and death, attributed to a flu pandemic and limit societal disruption, economic losses. The collaborative partnerships that we have developed have absolutely flourished during this planning process and they are the cornerstone of our planning process.

Officials from local, state and federal agencies have remarked on the leadership that Sedgwick County has initiated regarding the involvement of the Pandemic Influenza Work Group that has our key stakeholders are part of it. A key function of responsible governance is to provide frequent public information and updates, to keep our citizens informed. And for the past five months, twice a month, we have released a pandemic influenza update that is a one-page paper that tells the newest information about our local planning process, what's going on at the state, national and even the international level and that is posted on the Sedgwick County website.

The Sedgwick County Pan-Flu Plan is designed according to the World Health Organization's pandemic phases and I know some of you have seen this before, but as you can see, the World Health Organization uses a series of six pandemic alert phases. It's a system for informing the

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world of the seriousness of the threat and the need to launch an intense preparedness activity.

As viruses mutate and evolve, they can become more infectious to humans and that increases the potential for pandemic influenza. If that happens, if we see more evidence of human-to-human transmission, then the phase would increase.

According to the pandemic phase information, we are halfway toward approaching a pandemic at this point. The world is presently in phase three, which is a new influenza virus subtype, is causing disease in humans, but is not yet spreading efficiently and sustain-ably among humans.

While a pandemic response is primarily a public health response, many agencies, organizations and private institutions will need to be involved, to collaborate and respond in a coordinated manner.

The Sedgwick County Health Department has assumed primary responsibility for planning and response. Through the Pandemic Influenza Workgroup, the various stakeholders are encouraged to develop their own respective business continuity plans. For instance, the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce is a member of the workgroup and local businesses are being encouraged, through the workgroup, to start planning. And the Department of Health and Human Services at the federal level have provided some very nice checklists to help us with this process.

But even though you're providing leadership and businesses are working on their plans and agencies and faith-based organizations are working on their plans, the individual citizens have got to prepare themselves and their families and that is going to help us be successful, as we prepare to respond.

The Sedgwick County Pan Flu Plan provides detailed planning and response activities. It provides a description of the overlapping authorities of you, the Board of County Commissioners, the local health officer and our state officials, as they relate to healthcare, emergency care and social distancing.

The Health Surveillance and Disease Control section of Sedgwick County Health Department is responsible for local surveillance efforts. Various surveillance tools are utilized to monitor regular flu activity. We want to know when the pandemic has made its way to Sedgwick County. That's what surveillance is about, so that proper containment measures can be implemented.

Elected officials play a vital role in reassuring the public with timely and accurate information. The terms 'isolation' and 'quarantine' have been used a lot. I know you've been hearing about isolation quarantine on the radio and on the news. These are traditional public health tools that are used to

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isolate a person with a contagious disease and quarantine people who have been exposed to a contagious disease but are not ill.

Most of the times, these tools are used voluntarily by affected persons and by the healthcare system.

When somebody comes into the hospital with what they think is a contagious disease, they are automatically put into an isolation room, so those tools are used all the time, usually in a voluntary capacity. On a rare occasion, isolation is used . . . enforced isolation is used, for instance if we have an active case of Tuberculosis where, for some reason, the person cannot comply with public health recommendations but usually it's voluntary.

The national dialogue around the best way to prevent the spread of disease during a pandemic centers on voluntary home isolation and quarantine, which . . . and if we're going to go with voluntary, which is probably the best way to go, we must educate people to stay away from others when they're sick and for people who know they've been exposed to a flu virus, to stay away from others during their incubation period. That's going to require quite a bit of education.

This type of intervention requires lots of communication and support from friends, employers, families and social networks, but we'll continue to update our recommendations, as new information is released from the CDC.

Insuring that timely, clear, coordinated messages are delivered to citizens before, during and after a flu pandemic is so important. It may be the most important thing that we do. Communications will play a critical role in helping our citizens get informed and be prepared and we will coordinate with mental health professionals, because we know the mental health impacts of a pandemic would be great.

It's essential that we prioritize the use of vaccine and anti-virals if they are available and that we define effective distribution methods during a pandemic. Right now, we're looking at locating sites to do drive-through flu clinic. If we have vaccine available, we feel that this would be a more effective way to deliver the vaccine to the public, versus having them all come to one place.

Continuity of operations plans are very important. It's possible that 40% of the workforce could be home sick or with ill family members. If, we call them COOP plans are not developed, detrimental consequences could result in overwhelmed medical centers, schools closing, disrupted transportation, shortages of food and fuel and power and telecommunication outages. There are three areas of emphasis related to continuity of operations planning. For the Health Department, we're looking at what services we could reduce or close, as staff engages in coordinating a prolonged response in the community. Sedgwick County is involved with this process. We're

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building on previous plans and we're all working on this. And the pandemic influenza work group is finding ways to communicate to businesses, community organizations, faith-based organizations about their continuity of operations planning, as I mentioned.

Mass care could be needed for an extended period of time and because of this, surge plans are being reexamined, surge plans that would increase the capacity of hospitals, to have more people, have more sick people in their facility. We also have access to some national resources and we would take advantage of those, during a pandemic. We are especially concerned about care for people with special needs, and we'll be working closely with our partners to develop plans for these special populations.

Recovery from a pandemic could last for months and maybe years. It's not uncommon for a flu pandemic to occur in repeated waves and they can last several months at a time, so during this process, recovery actually starts while we're still in the pandemic. We would be evaluating all of the efforts that we're making regarding disease containment and emergency management and continue to communicate with our partners to get feedback from them.

There is the possibility that a pandemic might not happen for even years or even decades, and that would be okay. Some might accuse us of crying wolf, but that's a risk we're taking. An informed public is essential and I would like to recognize you, the Board of County Commissioners, for your leadership and commitment to protecting the citizens of Sedgwick County. We have an opportunity to learn from the past and to become the first generation in history to be properly prepared for a pandemic.

The Sedgwick County Epidemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan, as I said, is a living document that will be changing constantly and the executive summary will be posted on the website this afternoon, along with a couple of fact sheets, well a fact sheet that is in both English and Spanish, called 'Preparing Your Family' so these fact sheets will help people to think about what they can do for themselves and their families.

As more information evolves on this particular influenza strain and its potential to become a flu pandemic, our plan is subject to improvement and change. So together with your leadership, and our partners, we will confront this emerging threat and will remember, let's all remember to get informed and be prepared. Any questions?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yes, I believe we have some questions or comments. Commissioner

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Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Claudia, are we going to, or maybe Mr. Manager, are we going to continue to have briefings and agenda items, over the next several months, regarding this? I mean, I think it would be a good thing but I guess I’m asking the question what your intentions are.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Yes, the Health Department produces, every couple of weeks, a fast facts sheet that we all receive and I think that’s the basis for some discussion at regular . . . these meetings or staff meetings, just so that you are kept updated on what’s going on. Part of the internal planning that’s going on, that Claudia talked about, is being led by Marv Duncan, to find ways in which we can help departments do their own plans. We’re not going to plan for them. We’re going to expect them to present plans and what happens if 40% of their workforce isn’t there for a month or so. And once we get real good at that, and that won’t take very long, we’re going to offer that up to the community.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, well I think this is extremely important that we continue to receive this information. I don’t know, for me personally somehow it wasn’t really registering all that much. I thought, you know, something maybe will or won’t happen. But then to become aware that there are some major businesses in Kansas and the United States that are beginning to plan their business strategies for what this could mean to them, you begin to see that and think that there are people really putting some major resources into planning for just the things that Claudia has outlined.

So I guess three questions I had, and I don’t really need to know this now, but maybe in the future we could talk about it some more, is one, how are we going to help business and make sure that we’re not just keeping that information to ourselves, but are making it a community-wide effort and how is our health department going to . . . you I know, for everybody that plans ahead, there are dozens that don’t and we know some businesses are planning, but I’m sure there are many, many more that have no clue of what this is about, so how are we going to drive out that educational process to businesses.

And then on individual and family planning, you talked a little bit about that, but I guess I would be interested in what specific things people should be thinking about and if it would become something of voluntary home isolation, what all does that mean and how is that educational process to be dealt with in helping individuals and families prepared? And then I guess the last question I had and

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maybe there's no answer here, but just like everything else, you would think prevention would be the best cure and if we don't have a significant vaccine yet that we know of, are there natural ways that we can stay healthy that, if we did have a pandemic, that we would be naturally more resistant, or if you breath the germ, are you going to get it, kind of deal?

And I don't know the answer to any of that and maybe there aren't any good answers, but at least future discussion might talk about some of those."

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

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Winters made some of the comments that I was going to make, but first of all, I just want to express appreciation to Claudia and our Health Department for making sure that this is something that we're paying attention to. I know that there's a little bit of a delicate balance here in trying to be prepared and get the information out and yet not going to the point where we're creating unnecessary fears. We have to have the education timed right, so that it . . . people don't forget it and it's useful at the time we really need it, but I know that's part of your thinking of what we're doing.

And what really brought this home to my thinking is the thing that Commissioner Winters mentioned, that many businesses are focusing on this, just on the basis of how are we going to deal with reduced capacity to run our business and, I mean, not that they're ignoring the health issues of sickness and death, but I mean how do you run the business. And for us, as you mentioned, the continuity of operations is a serious problem that we're trying to take care of now, so I appreciate all that effort that we are involved in and I appreciate the pace. We're not crying wolf, but we're letting everybody know that we are aware that this is a serious, worldwide threat, and we're trying to make the necessary preparations of the job.

I think one of lines in the booklet here about our response plan, it says 'local preparedness is the foundation of pandemic readiness' and so I think we're involved in that and as much as we can communicate it, then that right now is our big job, so appreciate what you're doing. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well, having just returned from China, I was very interested in all of the prep work that you've done before this, that we talked about and I know there were a lot of people that were going to go on this trip that were nervous about the avian flu and decided not to take the trip, which is very sad, because I don't think they were informed well enough.

On our way back from China, talking about the global impact of this, we all had to fill out a form on

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the plane asking if we had been to a ranch, been around chickens and those kind of things. Our tour group obviously did not go to any of those places. It was very touristy oriented and of course we were able to answer 'no, we did not have any contact with any farm animals'. But I don't worry, but I wonder if maybe people that do go to these type of places mark on their little card 'No, I didn't' and then come back and possibly have the flu and I think that's why it's very important that we are prepared, because there's going to be people that don't want to mark, 'Well, yes I did go to a farm and I did come into contact with chickens'. They just don't want to admit it, because they're scared that they might get taken away from the plane and say 'Well, you can't go back'. So I think it's great that you are on top of this and I think it's important to keep on top of it, and I appreciate these updates and have appreciated all the information you've given us over the past few months, so thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you. Claudia, a couple of things. I noticed on the executive summary, in the past I've asked the question 'Has there been any human-to-human transmission and the answer I've gotten back, 'No' but now I hear you say there has been limited human-to-human transmission of the H5N [sci] Influenza Virus? Is that true now?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "Well, they're not really sure. They're thinking that in one particular instance there was, possibly, but no one is really sure."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, all right, so okay. The other thing is I was reading something or I saw something on television that indicated that an unintended consequence of this flu, in Europe, the consumption of poultry has dropped 70%. So, is that's a real fear, like if we're in the throws of a pandemic, you don't go to Kentucky Fried Chicken? Can you then get it from a well-cooked chicken breast?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "No, you cannot. Cooking destroys the virus."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, so you keep eating that coagulated animal fat and greasy fried chicken."

Ms. Blackburn said, "Keep cooking you chicken well."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Chicken cooked properly, that the fear that they shouldn't have. The idea that quarantine . . . what was the other word that I saw?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "Isolation."

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Chairman Sciortino said, “No, the other word, social distancing, will those determinations, if we have to elevate from voluntary to mandatory, will that be falling on the Sedgwick County Commission to make that final decision?”

Ms. Blackburn said, “That decision can actually be made by the local health officer, the board of county commissioners.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Don’t we sit as the board of . . .?”

Ms. Blackburn said, “I think the responsibilities are overlapping, but I would say that any decision like that is probably going to be made jointly. You may be the ones to . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “No, I just wondered if there was a legal thing that would require us to actually take a vote and . . . or does that just come down as a mandate from the state, a mandate from the federal government or would it require us to actually take official action? I don’t know.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “The answer to the question is the expert, Bob Parnacott is not here, but the Health Officer can require that. In this case the Health Officer, that reports to me, is not going to do that without consulting the Board of County Commissioners.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And that’s a worst-case scenario.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “But I think it’s more important for Claudia Blackburn to talk about whether that’s even going to be a possibility. Please talk about what’s recommended.”

Ms. Blackburn said, “Well, right now mass quarantine and closing schools and closing public events have not really been highly recommended. But mass quarantine has not been shown to be effective and it’s likely impossible to do. Bob Parnacott is here. Because if we were to quarantine large groups of people, we would be responsible for providing for them, so it’s just not feasible.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “So, in practical application, that’s probably not something we’re going to deal with.”

Ms. Blackburn said, “Right, and history tells us that it has not really made a difference.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “I want to add something here, because this is a living, growing, moving document. If we’re talking about if the Board of County Commissioners is requiring quarantine or

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isolation, who is going to reinforce that? What happens if . . .?”

Chairman Sciortino said, “That was going to be my follow-up question, do you put people in jail for not being quarantined. You have to quarantine them in jail. But I mean, these are things, and I really applaud you Claudia, number one, the whole Health Department on preparing the plan, and Commissioner Norton has always been quick to say that it’s great to have a plan and never need it than to need it and not have it, and you have gone to great lengths to make sure you don’t over-panic the citizens, but that was a question that was asked of me at a meeting about whose going to have the responsibility of quarantining and we’re not trying to shirk our duty, that’s why I just asked would it be coming before us.

I’ll just join the other commissioners. I believe what you’re doing is proper and I think it’s good to continue to let the people know that these are things . . . a pandemic does happen about every 100 or every 150 . . . at least history has said it happens in about 100-year cycles and we’re coming up to, about another 10 years, about the 100-year cycle of another one. I think this one, we’re going to be much better prepared than the health people of 1916, I think it was 1916.”

Ms. Blackburn said, “1918.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “1918 it was, so thank you very much for the update. If there’s no other questions, we can take some action on this, which I believe is just needing to be received and filed and go on to the next item. What the will of the board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Burnett moved to receive and file.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you very much. Next item please.”

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2. AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL PLAINS REGIONAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION PROVIDING FUNDING FOR PROJECT ACCESS.

Ms. Blackburn said, "Commissioners, the item before you is an agreement allowing Sedgwick County Health Department to partner with Project Access under the Central Plains Regional Healthcare Foundation. The county supports this program for the medically underserved and contributes \$192,000 for prescription medication subsidies, to underinsured people. And this morning, I have Ann Nelson here in the audience. She is the chief operating officer for Central Plains Regional Healthcare Foundation and she's going to give you an update on Project Access."

Ms. Ann Nelson, Chief Operating Officer, Project Access, greeted the Commissioners and said, "There are approximately 46,000,000 uninsured people that reside in the United States, 50,000 to 55,000 of which reside right here in our community, so Project Access was established in 1999, to address the needs of the uninsured, locally."

The program is managed under the umbrella of the non-profit organization, Central Plains Regional Healthcare Foundation and close affiliation with the local Medical Society of Sedgwick County. We coordinate access to donated medical care for our area's uninsured people. Our partners include: 550 physician members of the Medical Society, eight local hospital systems, six safety net clinic that include your local Health Department, the Wichita Area SRS Office, several residency programs, 78 pharmacies, 44 dentist members of the Wichita District Dental Society, the K.U. School of Medicine and many other local healthcare providers.

Our funding partners include Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita, which both fund our prescription program, which our patients need very much. The United Way of the Plains funds a significant portion of our operating expenses and we also have a current grant from the Sunflower Foundation for a special (*inaudible*), that crosses the clinics and other healthcare providers.

Since September 1st of 1999, since we first opened our doors, 6,540 uninsured people have been enrolled into Project Access. We enrolled 1,124 just in 2005. 48.8 million dollars in donated medical care has been provided to those 6,500 people. That's been donated by hospitals and physicians. 10.4 million dollars in care was donated specifically in 2005. We've purchased 2.6 million dollars in prescription medications for our patients. We've spent \$470,573 in 2005 alone. We've also leveraged more than 1.2 million dollars from pharmaceutical companies, as a way to preserve our funds locally and get those out of donations for our patients.

I'd like to tell you about one of our patients that was enrolled last year. We'll call him John, that's

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not his real name, but to protect his identity, we'll call him John. John's a young man in his early 20s. He works at a local restaurant, lives in his own apartment. He thought of himself as young and omnipotent, like most young 20-year-olds do. He saw his doctor, mid-year last year, because he was having some unusual symptoms and his physician gave him some very shocking news. He was diagnosed with a very rare form of cancer. It would be deadly, if he did not receive ongoing treatment for that condition. He was very frightened. He had no access to health insurance through his employer and he lives on a very modest restaurant wage. He was referred to several specialists. He had his hospitalization and surgery. That was all donated, on his behalf.

John also filled his prescriptions through the Project Access program. I can tell you very positive news, that he has made a full recovery and is back at work and we hope that he has a very long, healthy and productive life ahead of him. John is just one of more than 6,000 people with stories. I wish they could all be here to tell their stories to you.

What's the return on investment for contributing to the Project Access program? We know the patients experience a statistically significant improvement in their health status, because we do a pre and post-enrollment health survey. Patients and providers express high rates of satisfaction in being a part of Project Access. We have a number of other evaluation reports specific to our 2005 services that can be found on our website, at projectaccess.net. Those should be uploaded onto our website by Saturday, so please click on those for further reports.

The county's 2005 investment of \$192,000 facilitated the purchase of prescription medications for our own rural patients and also facilitated the funding of a ¾ time prescription assistance coordinator, who leveraged \$446,972 in donated medications from pharmaceutical companies. Every county dollar invested in that prescription assistance coordinators position leveraged an additional \$16 that was donated on behalf of patients. That's a good return on the investment.

Other communities across the country have been watching what's been happening here in Sedgwick County. They've learned about our Project Access program, as they've attempted to implement their own Project Access programs. We've provided technical assistance to more than 70 communities to date and Commissioner Norton has been kind enough to help provide some of that leadership to these other communities.

I'm here today to say thank you for the partnership, from Sedgwick County. Over the last six and a half years, the county's prescription funding is really essential for our patients and our providers. Our local medical community appreciates you very much. We respectfully request your continued funding in 2006 and in 2007 in the amount of \$192,000 per year. I appreciate the opportunity to

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speak before you today and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I believe we have some questions or comments. Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you very much. Well Ann, thank you for coming and sharing your information with us. It was very worthwhile for you to be here. I’m going to be supportive of moving on. I did have a question and it’s kind of off the beaten path, but you mentioned 55,000 uninsured folks in Sedgwick County. Do you have any idea what that is for the state of Kansas, or do you have access that you can find that out and e-mail me that. And the only reason I asked is I participate on the Kansas Association of Counties Board and we’ve had discussions about prescription drugs, uninsured in Kansas and if you had access to that state of Kansas number or if anybody else in the audience does, I would appreciate if you would e-mail me that information.”

Ms. Nelson said, “I’d be happy to get that for you.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “That’s it? Any other comments or questions, commissioners? I see Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well certainly I’m going to be supportive, once again. Project Access does wonderful work within our community to be a safety net for those that, for some reason, don’t have insurance or availability to health care and prescription drugs. They’ve done a wonderful job in our community and have formed a wonderful partnership, because there are a lot of entities that have pulled together to help out: the Medical Society, the United Way, Sedgwick County, City of Wichita and other entities that have helped make this happen.

The truth is, there’s a lot of need out there. I mean, we’re really, with all the safety net clinics and all the medical providers, and grants that are available, there are still plenty of folks out there that, for some reason, are underserved, that don’t have insurance, that don’t have healthcare provision, that don’t have a primary care physician, that need exactly what Project Access is doing for our community and I’ll continue to be supportive of the \$192,000 and at some point, if the need continues to grow and not shrink, like we hope it does, then certainly I’m going to be supportive of maybe raising that level.

I think at one time we were at \$200,000 even and through budget cuts and everything, we shrunk that down, but it seems like it’s been adequate the last couple of years, but at that point that it’s not, I’m going to certainly be supportive of taking another look at this. I’ll be supportive today.”

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Chairman Sciortino said, “Very good. I see that there are no other comments, so commissioners, what’s the will of the board, please?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, very much, Claudia. Thank you both for coming. Next item please.”

I. AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY OFFSET PRINTING, INC. FOR ADVERTISING SPACE.

Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is our standard agreement for advertising rights at the Coliseum. What the Valley Offset receives is valuable advertising exposure. What we receive in return is a lot of the items that we need to conduct business during the year. Among them are: letterhead and envelopes for business use for both Select-A-Seat and for the Coliseum, ticket envelopes. As you’re aware, Select-A-Seat moves and prints about a million tickets a year. We also get printing of flyers and some of the box toppers that we use through our sponsorship with Papa John’s on the delivery of pizza, so if we put box toppers talking about the Sesame Street Show, the Rodeo and select concerts.

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We also have flyers and other things that we pass out during the year, including our business cards are printed this way. This saves us budget authority and we don't have to ask you for additional funding. We recommend approval."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, "I have a Motion and a second. Before we vote on it, John, when I used to be in the radio, this was called a trade-off and they tried to trade out the car for the manager and whatever, but that's okay."

Mr. Nath said, "So I can trade for a car?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "No."

Mr. Nath said, "I had to ask anyway."

Chairman Sciortino said, "The concepts of trade-outs is it works well in business, if you're not . . . do we still have sufficient inventory that we're trying to sell, to generate some actual cash revenue? Is this just excess inventory that we haven't been able to sell, and now this would be a good way to offset some of our expenses?"

Mr. Nath said, "Commissioners, we have plenty of inventory to sell, absolutely."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And that makes very good sense and that's a very astute way to work it. That's all I had. I believe there has been a Motion and a second so what's the will of the Board? Excuse me, Clerk call the roll."

VOTE

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

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Chairman Sciortino said, “And no you cannot.”

Mr. Nath said, “I had to ask. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item please.”

J. RESOLUTION RECLASSIFYING 13TH STREET NORTH BETWEEN 143RD AND 159TH STREETS EAST FROM THE MINNEHA TOWNSHIP ROAD SYSTEM TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY HIGHWAY SYSTEM. DISTRICT #1.

Mr. David Spears, P.E., Director, County Engineer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Item J is a resolution reclassifying 13th Street North, from 143rd Street East to 159th Street East from the Minneha Township road system to the Sedgwick County highway system. This portion of 13th Street will be reconstructed to a four-lane urban standard street with construction beginning this summer as a part of CIP project #R-253. This project will improve 13th Street from K-96 to the Butler County line and will tie into an Andover project that will extend the four-lane facility all the way to Andover Road. I recommend that you adopt the resolution.”

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

Commissioner Unruh said, “Well, Mr. Chairman, I’m going to be supportive of this. Just want to say that this is a major transportation improvement in District #1, and the citizens out there are looking forward to having that road improved and this is kind of a necessary step to finish 13th Street and 13th Street improvement is a necessary step before we do 21st Street, which is carrying just a lot of traffic. So, the most expeditious way to take these projects forward is what we want to do.”

MOTION

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Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "David, thank you very much. Next item please."

CONSENT AGENDA

K. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project 616-3 though 36, widening of 13th Street North between K-96 and 159th Street East. CIP# R-253. District #1.**
- 2. One Temporary Construction Easement and one Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project 839-L-1859, bridge replacement on 143rd Street East between 29th and 37th Streets North. CIP# B-407. District #1.**
- 3. The following Section 8 Housing Contracts are being amended to reflect a revised monthly amount due to a change in the income level of the participating client.**

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V94034	\$374.00	\$349.00
V94012	\$253.00	\$278.00
V03036	\$223.00	\$223.00
V05019	\$188.00	\$251.00

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V01083	\$340.00	\$307.00
V04032	\$187.00	\$177.00
V03037	\$196.00	\$179.00
V04024	\$481.00	\$409.00
V05025	\$71.00	\$164.00
V04025	\$192.00	\$235.00
V05015	\$286.00	\$283.00
V04029	\$322.00	\$336.00
V04037	\$615.00	\$630.00

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4. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V06015	\$229.00	Butler	Country Cottage

5. Order dated March 28, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.

6. 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 plat:

Mies & Sons Trucking Addition
Stonebridge Addition

7. General Bills Check Register(s) for the weeks of March 29 – April 4, 2006.

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.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much. Commissioners, we're at the point where we have 'other' and Commissioner Winters."

L. OTHER

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you very much. Well Mr. Chairman, I would just like to acknowledge that the Mayor from Viola is visiting our chambers today. Rhonda Mellencamp is here. Rhonda, it's nice to have you in our chambers today.

Just one update on activities, tomorrow David Spears and I and I'm not sure if any other commissioners are going over to the Commissioners and Engineers of South Central Kansas are meeting in Hutchinson tomorrow. Commissioner Norton, are you going to be able to go to that?"

Commissioner Norton said, "I don't know. I'm not sure quite yet."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I'm going to be there for at least part of their meeting and it's always interesting to have some conversation with some other commissioners and then I just would want to compliment Commissioner Burtnett's jacket that she has on, on her return trip from China. You made a great purchase when you purchased that jacket. It's nice to have you back."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Winters said, "That's all I had, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Well, now I'll have a travel log from Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Yes, thank you. Well, I could go on for hours, but I won't, on this great trip that we had from going to China. I went with a group of the Prairie Rose Wranglers, who were doing a cowboy concert, and they did four concerts throughout China, in Beijing and Shanghais and we had an excellent time on this trip.

The Wranglers did a great job. The Chinese people absolutely loved the concerts and there was a group of 27 children from the independent school that also helped with the performance on a few of the songs and the Chinese people absolutely loved seeing the children on stage too. They did a little routine with cowboy hats and they took the cowboy hats off and did a little dancing and it was really nice.

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And my husband and I love to travel, and that's why I decided that I would go on this trip. It was our personal vacation, but I took a few mementos from Sedgwick County to give to the Chinese delegation and they were very pleased to be now wearing Sedgwick County pins.

But every time we go on a trip, especially in foreign countries, my husband and I are always happy to get home and these trips always make us appreciate what we have here in the United States and this trip was no different. It was a wonderful learning experience and we saw many wonderful places, but again, you just really appreciate home and Sedgwick County, everyone was very thankful to get home and in our own beds and not have the traffic.

It's a great experience, if anyone gets the chance to go to China. There's a lot of Kansas trade going on. I was just reading in the paper where I think Harley Davidson is getting a plant and selling motorcycles over there and when you see all the American companies over there, buildings and signs, it's encouraging to know that we're really being a big partner with China and these type of trips, especially with concerts and children going, showing that we do want to reach out our hands and become global, I think is a wonderful opportunity."

Chairman Sciortino said, "How about bicycling. Any bicycling?"

Commissioner Burtnett said, "There were thousands of bicycles. It was incredible. I was so nervous when the bus was going, because these were big tour buses, we had five tour buses, and you'd look out the window and you'd see these bicycles and you just knew they were going to be hit, and none of them ever got hit. We only saw one vehicle accident on the whole trip, which surprised me, but it was quite an eye opener, so thank you for letting me share that with you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Welcome back, and also I think it's important to reiterate one more time that you paid for this trip on your own, even though there were some times that you were representing us as an ambassador for Sedgwick County."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Yeah, I'd do it again in a minute."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd also say welcome back, and nice jacket."

Chairman Sciortino said, "We'll let you know about all the boards we put you on while you were gone."

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Commissioner Unruh said, “I just want to say that we did go to the groundbreaking ceremony at the zoo last Saturday and so we are underway to having a penguin exhibit at the Sedgwick County Zoo. And it’s an active place out at the zoo, because Saturday, their Link For Life run is out there and I think several of the commissioners are going to be out there to help participate in that, as the effort is to heighten awareness for suicide prevention.

And this coming Saturday, I’m going to be at the Goodwill Easter Seals telethon with Commissioner Norton, extending greetings and encouraging people to be generous and then this afternoon, I think we’ll all probably be at the Juvenile Detention Facility open house so we are busy and active and that’s kind of what my agenda is.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, commissioner. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well, it is the season for chicken dinners, I can tell you and I’ve hit a lot of them recently, but I stopped by the WIBA annual meeting last week. Dick Morris was the speaker and was very provocative. It was a great crowd of small business men and women that were celebrating I think 75 years of their organization. Is that right, Commissioner Unruh?”

Commissioner Unruh said, “That’s correct.”

Commissioner Norton said, “So it was a wonderful celebration of small business and their place in our community. Saturday night I was at the Kansas African American Museum Gala, which was well attended and an extreme amount of fun, and they had a silent auction and life auction and entertainment and a fashion show and it was celebrated that great organization in our community.

Last night, I was at the Boys and Girls Club Smiles for Kids Gala and it was a celebration of the Boys and Girls Club and a fundraiser for them and they’re pretty excited about their new campus that they’re putting together at the corner of 21st and Opportunity Streets in northeast Wichita, so congratulations to the Boys and Girls Club.

We will be at the ribbon cutting at the JDF facility today and I’d encourage folks to come by and see where taxpayer money is going to serve that population of our community that, for whatever reason, as juveniles, have found themselves in a situation in their life where they need some help and to move on with their life.

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Just a note that Cowtown officially opened this last weekend and there's been a lot of conversation about Cowtown and its future and truthfully, it's best future will be realized if people in this community will stop by and enjoy one of our cultural parts of our community. Cowtown has been here for 50 years-plus and needs a little help. Attendance is always an issue and one way to support Cowtown and understand what at least Sedgwick County is trying to do with it is to get out and see the new visitors' center, enjoy the interpreters and take advantage of Cowtown. And the final thing that I've got is after I'm at the Link For Life, I'm heading to the Aviation Tech Center, where they graduate their second group of AP and airframe mechanics. I think there's going to be 35 graduates and they continue to produce people that are going into the workforce and filling the need for business and I'll be there for that graduation, so that's all I've got."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you. This meeting is now adjourned."

M. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

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

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman
Fifth District

LUCY BURTNETT, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner,
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2006