

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 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, August 9, 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; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Ms. Jennifer Gluszek, Management Intern; Dr. Mary Dudley, M.D., District Coroner/ Chief Medical Examiner; Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Community Development; Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Director, Facility Project Services; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Greg Dye, 623 S. Grove, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Kalor Hebron, 4601 E. 57th St. S., Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Fred Marrs, 332 S. Fountain, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Kim Shank, 3311 E. Murdock, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Jack Pelton, 13030 Killenwood, Dr., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Wendy Garrett, 2456 S. Osage, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Betty M. Spingler, 2822 Rivera, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. David E. Harvey, 2121 E. 9th St. N., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Carolyn L. Riley, 3852 E. Pawnee Ct., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Marla Flentje, 7520 E. 21st St., #2, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Carl Kramer, 615 N. Oliver, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. John Todd, 1559 Payne, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Connie Roth, 2614 S. Fern, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Duane R. Smith, 125 S. Battin, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. William T. Davitt, 1205 Bitting, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Joel Weihe, 12201 Lockmoor, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Deanna Clayton, 2619 W. 15th St. N., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Nandine Wait, 2627 W. 9th, Apt. 811, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Karl Peterjohn, 11328 Texas St., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Laura Raudonis, 540 S. Broadway, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Tony Utter, 4237 Eagle Lake Dr., Bel Aire, Ks.

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GUESTS (con't)

Ms. Carolyn Risley Hill, 110 S. Ashley Park, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Trent Sebits, 201 N. Crestway, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. LeAndre Morris, 3151 N. Rushwood, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Cindy Vaught, 153 N. Tyler, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Garre Alfaro, 9100 E. Harry, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Kerry Franklin, 1005 E. 2nd St., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Rachel Mayberry, 1005 E. 2nd St., Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Larry Kaufman, 1621 Ridge Rd., Derby, Ks.
Mr. Ron Cook, 1313 Aksarben, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Benny L. Boman, 1914 Eucid, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Daryl Crotts, 8150 E. Douglas, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Paul Rhodes, 3740 N. Seneca, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Patty Gnefkow, 12411 Ridgeport Ct., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Lorraine Dold Bockorny, 340 S. Broadway, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Lowell Stuke, 1231 S. Fieldcrest, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Viola Burling, 11424 K-196, Whitewater, Ks.
Mr. Richard Phinney, 630 E. 61st St. N., Park City, Ks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Scott Goltl of Ascension Lutheran Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, July 12, 2006
Regular Meeting, July 19, 2006

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meetings of July 12th, 2006 and July 19th, 2006.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I believe you've had a chance to review the Minutes of the meetings of July 12th and July 19th of this year. What is your will?"

MOTION

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Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of July 12th and July 19th, 2006.

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. Next item.”

PUBLIC HEARING

A. 2007 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

1. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE RECOMMENDED 2007 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Chairman Sciortino said, “All right, ladies and gentlemen, I believe at the last count that we have, there are 36 of you that have asked to speak before us. I want to assure you that we will let every person speak to us that has indicated to do so. If anyone is in the audience either here or in the overflow room that hasn’t received a number, please raise your hand if you still wish to speak and you haven’t received a number and we’ll see to it that you get it. Okay, just a little bit of ground rules so we can kind of move this along. There’s three or four chairs here on the side. These are the numbers one through four, I believe, that were the first ones in to get a number. There will be a number on the screen showing what number the speaker is and when you see these seats starting to empty out, if you’ll just try to proceed over there and sit down in numerical order, we can proceed.

Because of the enormous number of people that are wanting to speak, I’m going to limit the presentations to three minutes and I will enforce that time, so try to collect your thoughts and see to

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it that maybe perhaps you can get your presentation to us and get the information that you wish us to hear within that period of time. As this proceeds, not knowing how long it will be, and this is maybe my own personal problem, but about every hour, hour and a half I sometimes need to go powder my nose so I'll be taking a short, five-minute break and rest assured if you have a seat here, just remember what your seat is, if you feel the need to excuse yourself during that break, then you can come back and take back the same seat that you're occupying presently.

Okay, with that we're going to open up the public hearing, so we have I believe number one that wishes to speak to us. If you'll give us your name and address and again I'm going to caution you, you have three minutes and only three minutes, sir."

Mr. Greg Dye, 623 S. Grove, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've been living in Wichita to 61 years. I'm going to read mine the same time, it's not going to take long. Thank you, county commissioners, for allowing me to speak on this issue. Something has been happening that many of you with alarm, spending is beyond the growth of the private sector. It also is beyond the population growth. Concerning the mill levy stays flat, the county appraiser raises taxes 5, 10 and 20% a year. Our taxes are higher than the larger cities: Overland Park, Lenexa, Shawnee, Lawrence, Liberal, Olatha, Leewood and Prairie Village. There are over 100,000 citizens in the county on Medicare and many on fixed incomes. Many, along with others, would like to be allowed to vote on this issue. Oklahoma, Colorado are two states that allow the citizens to vote. My qualifications for my opinion is that I'm out of debt and I hope all of you are.

There's one who thinks that I think like a caveman because I vote against everything, on the arena in Wichita. Divisionary steering committee put together a proposal that does not include planning. Webster's Dictionary definition of 'visions': other than ordinary sight, and I quote, created by imaginations, unusual powers, and foreseeing what's going to happen. The definition of 'dreams' by Webster's: vision of fantasies to dreamland that are unreal, imaginations, end quote. I don't think . . . I don't know if cave people had these visions and dreams. I don't.

Just let us vote on this issue. You know, we just can't spend our way to prosperity. It just seems like that certain people get special money to do things and other people don't on some issues and I want to thank you for allowing me to speak. I'll forfeit the rest of my time to Karl Peterjohn when he gets up to speak, because he'll probably need more than just two or three minutes. Thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yes, but I will tell you, he will only get three minutes, because every speaker is allowed three minutes. Thank you. Next speaker please."

Mr. Kalor Hebron, 4601 E. 57th Street S., Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have something to read also and I thank you for giving me a minute and a half of your time, that's what it will take to read this. People really don't learn from history. They repeat it. Since the beginning of

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time, no super power has ever been able to stand. This is because those in power became overtaxing, or over-regulating of the citizens in one form or another.

To put it another way, freedom was never meant to become a license or code. Independence was never meant to be a forced, funded, socialized program but that's what it has become. Forced taxation, regulations and socialized programs are the biggest enemy to the free market system, which by the way is the main building blocks of a strong and independent society. Our federal government is now trillions of dollars in debt and broke. Our state government is now billions of dollars in debt and broke. The majority of all the citizens are now living from paycheck to paycheck and they also have heavy debt.

If the status quo is to continue, those in power will soon not be able to meet any of the needs of those who were once independent, but now have turned to the government for dependency. The time for change is now. If those in power do not change, then it is the responsibility and the duty of the voters to vote for change, if freedom and independence and prosperity are to continue.

And finally I'd like to say that Carl Kramer and myself are running in this election for governor and we represent change that favors independence and a free market system through a limited government and fiscal responsibility and thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next speaker please."

Mr. Fred Marrs, 332 S. Fountain, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here on behalf of the Shocker Black and Golds. A year or so ago I did a study of the property taxes for the last ten years and the average property evaluation has increased 6.2%. Two years ago, they increased 10%. When it comes to our gift, WSU mill levy contribution, nobody elected you folks to be rubber stamps or potted plants for the university. We think that there's a legal obligation on behalf of the commission and on each of you individually, on behalf of your constituents, to require proper accounting for the mill levy monies. The university has a legal obligation to properly account for the monies and on Biggs watch the last eight years, we've been charged \$1,741,900 for accountings that do not properly explain how the monies have been spent and many of the lines items.

Accordingly, the Shocker Black and Golds would then object to the payment of any monies to WSU for an accounting that they legally have an obligation to do anyway. We also would object to the addition to the line item for capital improvements because it's been used as a method to turn the mill levy into a mill levy in perpetuity and it was never voted on to be a mill levy in perpetuity in

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the first instance in 1963. And then finally, if the commission doesn't request the documents necessary to do a proper accounting, we would request that the county's portion of the mill levy, some 25%, about \$402,000 of the \$1,660,000 that's debt service for capital improvements, we would request that that money be paid. And then the additional county contribution of \$1,258,000, that that money which is just a plain gift money ought to be contributed towards the Jabara Technical School so that we reduce the pressure to raise our taxes. If we can't get a proper accounting, we would like to see the money spent for the technical school. We know how it would be spent then and that \$1,250,000 would debt service, depending on the interest rates, something in the neighborhood of 20 to \$25,000,000 worth of the Jabara project, so with those comments, I thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. Jack Pelton, 13030 Killenwood Dr., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the chairman, president and CEO of Cessna Aircraft. I also wear numerous other hats. I'm also the chairman of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, a supporter of KTTI and most importantly, a proud citizen and taxpayer in Sedgwick County.

The aviation industry is a huge economic factor here in Sedgwick County and we're at a crucial time in our industry. Today, with the global competition and the demand for qualified and trained people, we're at a crossroads. Those crossroads are to keep the economic growth and vitality in Sedgwick County, by having a trained workforce to keep up with the growing demand that we have in the aviation industry. In order to achieve that, it requires fundamental infrastructure to be put in place in our county. That fundamental infrastructure is the world-class training center that's being proposed at Jabara Airport.

It takes vision, it takes courage to lead into the future, but more importantly, it also takes investment. Cessna was faced with a similar dilemma when the towers came down in New York City. We were in an uncertain time and we elected to make significant investments in Wichita. Over \$100,000,000 in a new service center and hundreds of millions of dollars in new products and services to be offered. As a result, we are reaping those benefits today and we see the future even brighter.

We were only a \$2,000,000,000 company when those investments were made and this year, we're going to have the most successful year in our history, at reaching over \$4,000,000,000 and we see the future here in Wichita of that doubling in the years to come. You understand what our communities need to grow and what our future needs and today we can insure that that fundamental

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foundation is put in place, with the line items in the 2007 budget to insure that we get the training center required to bring the strategic workforce into Sedgwick County.

I believe today, with industry, government and our community all pulling together, we can in fact create a world-class technical training system, beginning with the aviation/ tech school at Jabara Airport. As I stated, it takes vision and it takes courage to lead into the future. I want to thank the county commissioners for their bold vision and courage by demonstrating support and leadership for building the infrastructure that we so sorely need in the aviation community by supporting a world-class training center. Thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Next speaker please. Commissioners, just as a point, if you have any questions of the speakers, turn on the lights and I’ll stop it. I’m just going to assume, if I see no lights, that we’re just going to proceed with the speakers. I’m sorry for the delay ma’am. Please.”

Ms. Betty M. Spingler, 2822 Rivera, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m not a nice little gray-haired lady in tennis shoes. I’ve been around quite some time and I’ve been blessed with working with the company that started in 1938. It’s been a real estate business, mortgage loan business, insurance business and I’m still going in, but I do have a concern. I appreciate being allowed to come and speak but I feel that this is the last opportunity for the taxpayers and voters to have the opportunity to share their views and opinions before the 2007 budget is finalized.

If the county is considering a 17% raise and it is evident the taxpayers are not in agreement, the solution is to place this issue on the November 7th election ballot. It is my understanding that the cost would be minimum, since November 7th is a statewide election day. Two years ago, we were privilege to vote on the arena. I believe this situation is equally important and it would eliminate placing the burden on the county to decide.

In 1997, the county spent \$154,000,000. Two years ago, the county budget was \$309,000,000. We are hearing the a proposed budget of \$367,000,000 is possible. We should have concern that so many organizations and business are requesting aid. It seems somewhere or someone dropped the ball. I personally believe this assistance should be reviewed. All things should be scrutinized carefully prior to finalizing, reserve funds or maintenance funds established and we know where the money is coming from, in the event of failure.

Wichita is a beautiful city, with so many advantages, art, education, culture and wonderful colleges and technical colleges. Many citizens have participated, with large contributions to make us first class. We have been greatly blessed. Life itself has many risks. Individuals understand this and prepare for adversity. The old saying you cannot spend yourself rich is very true and it seems to have gone out of style. Ego and greed are detrimental. We want the best for Wichita and include

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the taxpayers. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, ma’am. Next speaker please.”

Ms. Wendy Garrett, 2456 S. Osage, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’d like to talk about COMCARE. I’m a consumer there and I have used their crisis services, their crisis case management services. I now have case management through COMCARE. I’ve gone to groups. I see my psychiatrist over at 1919 and what I’d like to see is that the budget doesn’t get cut because there’s a lot of things.

I’ve been hospitalized 31 times, from 1994 to 1999 and they weren’t short stays. When I came to COMCARE in ’99 again I have not been in the hospital since then and I thought that would be never coming, but I was very pleased. They kind of helped get my treatment straight and I’d like to thank the commissioners for letting me speak.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you ma’am for coming. Next speaker please.”

Ms. Kim Shank, 3311 E. Murdock, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m the Executive Director for Wichita Clinic. I also serve as the volunteer workforce solutions vice-chair for the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of the Metro Chamber of Commerce, I’m here to thank you for your leadership and support on the technical education and to ask for your continued support for the Jabara Campus.

You may ask why someone in healthcare is so interested in technical training for the aviation industry. It’s because in our community, aviation is a foundation and key driver in our economy. We’re very reliant on our aviation industry employers.

My company employs 1,200 people and we wouldn’t employ that many people if we didn’t have a strong aviation community. Without that economic driver in our community, many businesses would not employ as many people as they do today.

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University recently released a study of the economic impact of our aviation cluster. It confirmed what we all already know, that aviation is the economic driver in our community. Aviation employs over 36,000 people in high paying jobs and in these jobs people are paid almost twice the average wage. Each of those jobs in aviation creates almost three additional jobs in our community. I know it creates many jobs in my company.

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Consider just one statistic, if we lost 1,000 of these high paying aviation jobs, we would lose \$57,000,000 in annual wages in Wichita. Those wages pay for a lot of healthcare, homes, groceries, cars, movies, clothes and so on in our community. Many times, we take these jobs for granted but we know that other communities, other states and other countries are vying to recruit our aviation employers every day. They will pay to train aviation company employees and buy the machinery and plants as well. Aviation has a long history in Wichita and these companies have made a commitment to stay and to keep jobs here.

Your commitment to technical education has made a difference. This is about jobs and protecting jobs. There are those that say 'Let the aviation companies pay to train their own workers'. This is unrealistic and unfair. Wesley, Via Christi, Wichita Clinic and other healthcare employers depend on local colleges and technical programs and so do other large employers in the community that employ highly skilled workers.

This is about jobs and keeping jobs here now and in the future. Workforce development, jobs and technical education have been a top priority for the Chamber for the last two years. Your visionary leadership in this area, while working with business, has given hope that there is a solution underway and an opportunity to keep our large employers in the community. We know that you have a tough job ahead of you. Leading is never easy and there are tough choices to make. We you that you must balance the low cost of doing business . . . am I done?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "I like what you're saying, I'd love for you to keep going but in order to be fair to everybody, I must ask . . ."

Ms. Shank said, "I understand, thank you. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next speaker, please."

Mr. David E. Harvey, 2121 E. 21st Street, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a participant of the Senior Center, Incorporated and Northeast Senior Center on 2121 East 21st Street. I'm a disabled veteran and I've been disabled about 50 years and more recently on Social Security.

I was introduced to Northeast Senior Center last year through my sister and her husband, Sylvia Kelly and James Kelly. They drive from Newton every Tuesday and Thursday to come to our center, which we think is the best in Wichita.

I really enjoy the people and I have gotten to know, at the Northeast Senior Center. Everyone is so nice and helpful. We are just one big happy family. The director, Carolyn, is great. She makes sure we have what we need and keeps us plenty busy. I help Carolyn out with whatever she needs

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there, and glad to do so, on the volunteer, I just volunteer to help her whenever she needs it.

And they keep me active and feeling like I have a reason to get up and go every morning. I know you have some hard decisions to make, but please keep us seniors in mind. Without the senior center, most of us would just stay home. I would miss the many friends I have made and it keeps me connected to our community. I want to say thank you for your support of these wonderful services for seniors. So many of us look forward to our day at the center. We don't know what we would do without it. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, and sir, we want to thank you for the sacrifices you made. You actually are part of the greatest generation in this country and I salute you for your service. Next speaker."

Ms. Carolyn L. Riley, 3852 E. Pawnee Ct., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here as a volunteer and a participant of Linwood Senior Center, which I've attended since 1999 when I retired from my position.

Who else comes? People like David and he kind of explained why people need to be there. Why do they come? They come for health check ups with professionals who check blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol-count. There's an RN who comes to take care of foot care with diabetics and other foot problems. The specific activities that they provide at the center, which I take part in are the walking group in the spacious Linwood Park, the strength and stretching classes, the mind /motor coordination through ball tossing, the billiards games for concentration, moderation, coordination, the line dancing for motor coordinating, flexibility and fun, the mind activities, the card games, the competition, the tournaments. All of this is motivational and social, which people need as seniors when they retire more from the full community. There are crocheting and knitting groups, which also improve motor skills and all of these are accompanied by a lot of socializing and fun.

Other than the activities, which are provided by the volunteer, that I've just listed there are regular speakers at the center who focus on health problems, nutritional advice with samples, I might add, who come in and talk about legal problems, scam problems for the seniors. We've had people from the state, we've had people from the courts, we've had people from the police department. Before each holiday, there are large parties provided free with music, entertainment and participation by the members and refreshments are served by the members of the group.

One of the main necessities for maintaining health as you grow older is to keep active, to keep

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socialized and to take part in knowledge of the society. There are many people in this group who have prolonged their entrance to nursing homes who have been able to leave their homes where they were individuals . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, finish your sentence.”

Ms. Riley said, “And they’re often brought by the adult children who know they should leave their parents home alone. Thank you for hearing us.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you so much. I want to maybe modify my position. If you’re in the middle of your sentence, go ahead and please finish your sentence. But I am trying just to . . . I’m not trying to cut people off, but there’s a lot of people that want to speak and we want to give everybody a chance and so that’s why I’ve imposed this three-minute time limit, but finish the sentence, with the exception of Marla. Go ahead.”

Ms. Marla Flentje, 7520 E. 21st St., #2, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m a lifelong resident and taxpayer of Wichita at 7520 East 21st Street. This is a great day for democracy and I thank all of you for your committed public service. I am here today to ask you to support the proposed budget because I think it is a realistic measure of the needs and desires of our community for a quality of life.

I think it’s important to remind people that the services represented in this budget were not authorized by you and your predecessors out of self-interest. Those hundreds of county services are there because we as citizens have told you we want those things to solve problems and improve our quality of life and if government has grown it’s because we want improved roads, public safety, healthy children, economic development, etcetera.

And I think we need, if we want those things, we have to be responsible in our willingness to pay for them. And I challenge anybody who wants to cut taxes to say very specifically what services they would deny this community.

I bring a second perspective and that has to do with the area of the county budget that makes it possible for our most vulnerable citizens to enjoy the benefits of community. You recently appointed a task force on developmental disabilities and mental illness and I am privileged to be a part of that group. And while our work is not done, I can assure you that the agencies involved with these individuals are struggling mightily to address this problem and this is one more example of a problem that has been put at the county doorstep because the State of Kansas changed a policy and refused to provide funding for changes in that policy.

Please do not cut services for developmental disabilities and mental illness because it’s only going

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to make this particular problem more challenging. You have a difficult decision ahead of you. I ask you to keep in mind the needs of this entire community in making the decision about this budget and in particular, ask you to resist the anti-tax clamor that has been funded, fomented and factually misinformed by a group with a Topeka address, not here in Sedgwick County, who does not disclose its donors. Thank you very much for your time.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next speaker please.”

Mr. Carl Kramer, 615 N. Oliver, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’ve been in Wichita for 19 years at this time. I’m a candidate for governor on the Libertarian ticket. I’m here today to ask you not to raise taxes any further than you already have and through the city and through the county it’s becoming a burden upon the low-end economy.

Alexander Hamilton clearly stated that ‘to tax was to destroy’ so as you continue to increase taxing, you will debase the low end and create the poverty for which you are fighting. There’s a cause and effect upon the outcome and that cause is to raise taxes and the effect is poverty. I would like to talk about the currency system for which we all here today have to deal with and it’s called inflation. It’s a paper dollar. It’s a indebted dollar and that’s the struggle that we all face today, is that paper dollar that’s elusive and as we continue the mindset that more money, tax more and the federal reserve debases that dollar, as they sell the securities notes and bills there’s a responsibility to curtail that and recede back and bring things under control at all levels of government and that’s why I’m here to ask you not to raise taxes any further.

Inflation rate is right now at 9 to 12%. Energy increases in the last year have gone up 25 to 35%, depending on the regional area. The total ramification of a household and at the pump is becoming such a burden on the low-end economy, if you continue to raise taxes, it will be a burden on the low-end economy and shut it down. You will see bankruptcies. You will see foreclosures. They’re at an all time high here in Sedgwick County. And so I want to ask you not to raise taxes and the very fact that you’re wanting to expand on aviation education, well I went to the United States Air Force. I think you’ll be duplicating what is there, available to people and at the same time, WSU has an adequate educational system. The thing of it is is we continue to duplicate services and duplicate the taking from one to give to another all across the spectrum of government.

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And so I ask you today to reconsider any raising taxes. There's an alternative in the direction of good government and that's less government. Thank you kindly."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Again I'm sorry, I'm not trying to be rude, but I'm trying to be fair to everyone here. Next speaker please."

Mr. John Todd, 1559 Payne, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a real estate broker and I'm a Sedgwick County volunteer coordinator for Americans For Prosperity. I'm here to speak as a private citizen today and in opposition to the tax increase. As a property owner, I've witnessed this first hand, with the skyrocketing of property appraisals that have led to massive increases in my ad valorem property taxes and listened in disbelief as local officials have bragged that quote, we did not raise the mill levy, implying that they did not raise property taxes. And now, next year, you want to increase the mill levy and tie off the generous increases of property values that have come your way in recent years, courteous of the county appraiser's office.

I hope you will abandon this plan and still give people who pay the bills some tax relief and then allow them a chance to vote on at least two items of the budget. One is the jail and the other is the training center.

The need for a taxpayer-funded \$40,000,000 aviation-training center is perhaps one issue that needs to be publicly debated before it simply becomes another budget item, without voter approval. I believe no one will debate the positive economic impacts that the aircraft industry has had on the state and local economy. However, by the same token, I believe that state and local governments have extended generous taxpayer funded incentives to that industry for years and perhaps now it is time for that industry to recruit workers from other states, or provide their own training programs, just like smaller businesses do and do it without the benefits of the tax subsidies that these people enjoy.

As a real estate broker, I've noticed several highly trained and qualified people moving to our area from California and other states for job opportunities here. The economic benefits of attracting people from out of state is obvious, coupled with the fact that we as taxpayers do not have to pay anything to educate or train these people. I have been hearing about the need for an expanded county jail for several years. Before you approve getting the . . . spending the mega-bucks proposed for a jail expansion, I would ask that you please explain to us why you haven't been setting aside capital improvement funds for this project for several years, in the same manner, prudent manner people in the private sector save for business expansion, home remodeling projects, money for a new car, money for retirement or for their children's education. In the private sector, we don't always get all the things we want immediately. We have to plan in advance for those needs, sometimes for years. I believe you as public officials can do the same thing without raising

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property taxes simply by living within what appears to me a very adequate budget.

As you're probably aware, the Americans for Prosperity, Kansas is a group promoting a state constitutional amendment that would . . . thank you for allowing me to speak."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yes, sir. Thank you. Next speaker please."

Mr. William T. Davitt, 1205 Bitting, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "If crime, drugs, gangs continue to raise in Wichita like they have been, as soon as you get this new jail built you're going to have to raise taxes again and build another new jail and then another and another. To avoid this, we must start right now to eliminate the need for building new jails after the present jail.

Details are in these pages before you. Time will allow me to hit only a few of the highlights. Number one, drugs: an in depth study by Columbia University concluded that 80%, 80% of all the people in all the jails in all the prisons in America are in there because in large part drugs and booze. We desperately need to have available in Wichita long-term treatment available to drug abusers, long term like two years, as an alternative to incarceration.

Number two, Marriage Savers: we've got to get the children being taken care of and looked after by their own mother and their real father. Marriage Savers can do that. Up in Kansas City, Kansas, after five years of Marriage Savers divorce went down by 43%

And number three, we've got to get the fathers back in the family. The National Fatherhood Initiative told me that 70% of all long-term, hard-core inmates grow up without a dad. They told me that for the cost of one new prison cell, \$200,000 we could have in Kansas a statewide fatherhood promotion campaign like is going on in other states. You remember the Carr brothers, murderers now sitting on death row, costing the taxpayers millions of dollars. The Wichita Eagle told us that the Carr brothers grew up without a dad. Think, think of the magnificent contribution that the Carr brothers might, might have made to our community if they had grown up with a wonderful father like Tiger Woods grew up with. The saddest memory of all is the memory of that which might have been."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

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Ms. Connie Roth, 2614 S. Fern, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today on behalf of myself and Senior Services Incorporated. I want to tell you what one of the programs you fund has done for me. The Senior Employment Program was of great assistance to me in securing the job I now hold. In fact, it was through them that I learned of the position. It had been at least 15 years since I had written a resume and needless to say, that had changed considerably, since they offered assistance with suggestions and preparation. That is crucial. Without that, you don't get past go.

I learned of the Senior Employment Program from a friend. It is an unspoken credo, but one well known to anyone age 50 or over that we are virtually unemployable except in minimum wage jobs, no matter how well educated we are. Just ask the many older job seekers who have been looking for very extended amounts of time without success and must take employment in other fields or much below their skill level.

Senior Employment also tells the applicants where to find computer training, which is vital. They also offer interview advice, such as the type of questions that might be asked and how you could put your best foot forward, as well as proper attire and deportment. They then list the jobs that are available and it is up to the applicant to contract the employer. It is suggested that you always carry resumes with you, as you never know when an opportunity may present itself.

In my case, I learned of the job the day I enrolled in the program. I went home, prepared my resume and faxed it to the company. They called me the same day and said they received it and called a week later to set up an interview. I was hired at the interview. I will always be so grateful to Senior Services for their help and support. Their assistance in resume writing and announcing the jobs is available and what helped me get the position I now have at SRS Office. I assist their clients with filing Social Security disability claims. The personnel there have been most helpful in assisting the clients.

I want to thank you for your time and your continued support of these programs. Without county funding, this program would not be able to help people like me. I don't know what I would have done without it. Thank you for your kind attention."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next speaker please."

Mr. Duane Smith, 125 S. Battin, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am here as a full-time caregiver to ask that you continue to continue the much needed funding to the Alzheimer's Association. I hope that each of you received a letter from me, in the last few days, where I attempted to just outline the key value points that the Alzheimer's Association brings to our community. It is the only organization that is devoted to the hard to understand needs of Alzheimer's disease.

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I think we all know that there is significant growth in the health concerns and needs of our senior citizens. These needs impact quality of life issues, which the Alzheimer's Association is dealing with every day. Your funding is vital to an organization like this to help them keep up with this growing need for help. The money to the Alzheimer's Association goes straight through to the most needed point. That's to people like myself and many others who are struggling with the 24/7 stress of care giving. Their help goes straight to countless numbers of people who need the encouragement.

They send out newsletters with good information in it. They have educational meetings where one more good idea is what we get. They fund respite care and maybe more important, they're there to help. I call them and say, 'I've got a problem, I need your view on what I might do'. They help. They put the care in care giving. We might say that with your help the Alzheimer's Association is helping to build the woodpile a little higher than we found it. A lot of citizens in this area depend on the Alzheimer's Association to tip the scale in their favor. It is important that you continue funding this service that is so helpful to so many people in this area. Thank you. Thank you for your past funding. It is helping raise the quality of life in our area. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. Joel Weihe, 12201 Lockmoor Street, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm an American citizen and 10 years resident of Sedgwick County and I believe in the principle that this country is founded on and the free market economy that we're supposed to have and I am just taxed to the absolute limit.

Like countless others like me out there, I'm a homeowner. I've been taxed twice in the last two years that my mortgage has gone up. It's becoming unmanageable. I'm going to be taxed by the government right out of my home and eventually I'm going to be taxed into welfare, like many other and then you'll have to raise taxes again to support those of us that you have taxed.

Please don't raise our taxes again. These are all very good programs that these people come up here with. I know the government has enough money to take care of them without raising taxes again. They just need to learn to manage their money, like us private citizens have to do and again, please don't raise our taxes and stop stripping us of our American dream. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Ms. Deanna Clayton, 2619 W. 15th Street N., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "The COMPEER Program matched me up with Nadine Wait nine years ago. The Mental Health

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Association trains volunteers to understand people with mental illness. My diagnosis is schizophrenia which means sometimes I become nervous and agitated and then I have trouble with depression. I have trouble handling stress. I also have a learning disability, that makes me slow to learn new things.

It means a lot to me to have someone to spend time with. We also talk on the phone whenever we want. Nadine and I have a special relationship. We have a joke that by the time she gets me home, she has to take a whole bottle of Tylenol. Nadine understands me and accepts me as I am. I am very happy to be part of the COMPEER Program with the Mental Health Association.

Another agency I go to is Breakthrough Club. Breakthrough Club has supported me in employment at Commerce Bank, where I have worked 18 years, so I can be a responsible citizen and make it all on my own. They also work with me in the education unit on math and computer. And then I take computer at the Independent Living Resource Center too and cooking.

I also help in the business unit on data entry. My goal is to learn Excel and spreadsheets which is going to take a long time, so I can work. My dream is to be able to work on the computer on my job some day. They also work with me when we have social activities. I work on communication and social skills.

It is really very important. If I didn't have these agencies, I'd probably be at home sleeping and be depressed. It is very important that you do not cut the budget on the Mental Health Association, Breakthrough Club and COMCARE and Project Independence. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you and if you ever learn that Excel, I want you to come over and teach me because I'm having a hard time with it too."

Ms. Clayton said, "I'm going to learn it. It may take several years, but I will learn it."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next speaker please."

Ms. Nadine Wait, 2627 W. 9th, Apt. 811, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am with the COMPEER Program as a volunteer. I am matched with Deanna and I use the Tylenol. I'm here just to speak on behalf of these programs, COMPEER and the other programs that help those who need a little extra help. It is through these programs that people like Deanna and others are able to stay out of hospital, are able to be part of the community, to be able to work and be a person that they themselves are proud of. All they need is a little encouragement, somebody to talk to, somebody that they know is going to be there.

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It's . . . the COMPEER Program is a volunteer program. We are trained. We have the supervisors. Any time I have a question, I've got people to call and deal with. Deanna and I have been matched like 9 years. I have been matched with a couple of others also and it's a very worthwhile program. I would encourage anybody to volunteer. You get a lot more out of it than you put into it, but the funding is needed in order to take care of those who train us, those who are there for the volunteers and the others in all the other programs. So I would ask that it be strongly considered that the funding be continued, increased, whatever, but this is a very important part of our society that for so many years was so badly neglected. We're becoming more aware now and I just ask that we continue and thank you for your attention."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Kansas Taxpayers Network, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're a Wichita based taxpayer organization and I heard your previous speakers and I'm not going to provide additional arguments or repeat the arguments opposing the property tax hike you are considering today, but I do want to bring some information to your attention.

I have a statement from a precinct committeeman saying don't raise taxes. In the last week, we've gathered a few signatures. There's over 1,000 in here. If we'd had more, we'd be happy to provide folks who are saying don't raise taxes, but more importantly they're saying they'd like to have a say. And I'd remind this commission that 1997 there was a vote whether to keep the county under the property tax lid. Now that was a state law and almost 90% of the voters here in Sedgwick County voted to keep the county under the tax lid. Now how did the county respond? Well, the Kansas Associate, your lobbying group, your taxpayer funded lobbying group, the Association of Counties and the League of Municipalities helped kill the property tax lid in Topeka, so voters don't have a say in it. You can raise the mill levy any level you want and people are disenfranchised here when compared with our surrounding states.

I was very distressed that it appears that we will not have a vote like we had a vote on the arena, but I was also with the comment in yesterday's Eagle where the county manager claimed that a 16.2% hike in county property taxes was inaccurate and somehow overstated. Actually, by my calculations it's 16.8%. You're considering a property mill levy hike for the county of as much as 10.2%. The county appraiser's office is telling me that you're looking at a 6% increase in appraised

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value. When you combine those two figures, it's 16.8%. In fact originally it went 12%, it would have been even higher.

I would mention to you that July 28th USA Today published a listing of property taxes in all 50 states and you've heard some stories quoted from the Center of the Wichita State for . . . let me jump back and just give you the USA Today data: Kansas property taxes are not only higher than the surrounding states, according to this census data from 2004 that was published on page 4A of the July 28th USA Today, but where higher than the US average and that's despite the fact that the average income here is below the average.

Now you're considering a budget today of \$367,000,000. A decade ago, in 1997, the county spent \$154,000,000. This is an increase of over 138% during this decade. Bonding per capita has also grown over 111% between 1996 and 2005.

I'm very concerned that if the voters have no say, you raise taxes today, this is going to set off a cascade of other tax hikes. Now I realize as county commissioners you have no control over that, but I am concerned about the fact that the technical college is becoming a community college. I'll provide you a written copy of my testimony and I appreciate your attention and time. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Ms. Laura Raudonis, 540 S. Broadway, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the chief executive officer with the Wichita Area Association of Realtors, 540 South Broadway. As the executive officer of an association that pays property taxes on our building, as a private citizen that owns real estate here in Wichita and representing the members of my association who sell both residential and commercial properties I'm concerned about the impact that a tax increase will have on the property owners and the real estate industries in Sedgwick County.

I'm aware that the actual mill levy has not increased in some time in Sedgwick County. However, I have seen the appraised values rise every year since I moved here three years ago. The proposed tax increase also means that commercial property owners will be forced to pass on the increased cost to customers. In essence, this proposal will drive up the cost of living for each and every member of this community.

I know that your goal is not to destroy the dream of home ownership. It is the very heart of our community. We all need to operate within a workable budget. We all need to save for and invest in

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our future and we all need to make choices. The members of the Wichita Area Association of Builders already bear a considerable tax burden which allows for less and less discretionary funds. I'm not asking anything less of the county than I ask of myself.

Make the difficult choices, save for the future, set a new timeline for your goals. Do not increase taxes. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am."

Commissioner Winters said, "Ma'am could I? I didn't get your name and your title or position."

Ms. Raudonis said, "Laura Raudonis, I'm with the Wichita Area Association of Realtors and I'm their chief executive officer."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next speaker please."

Mr. Trent Sebitts, 201 N. Crestway, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm with the Kansas Chapter of Americans for Prosperity. I'm their policy director. In the budget process, I certainly understand the position that you all are in, and the needs that arise in the community, and your position that you need to fill those needs. But each extra dollar seems to be fairly minor on the margin each time another type of program needs to be funded. However, each incremental change somewhat puts us right where we are today, which is city and or county government ownership or support of things such as hotels, museums, a possible training center now, use of public dollars to promote certain businesses, possibly to the detriment of others and I think we would all be hard pressed to say that these are the core functions of government.

I think we've heard a lot of people describe what the core functions of government are here today, but I worry that we are drifting from that. And I would also say that I believe that Sedgwick County is probably in no financial condition to support the ever expanding role of government since as the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that we've lost private sector jobs since January of 2000.

So might I suggest a different model; empirical data suggests that nations that are lower taxed prosper more quickly than nations that are higher taxed. This applies to the states. States that don't

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have income tax grow more quickly than states that have high income tax. And I think that model applies to the county. I think if we took the approach that we would be a place that would treat all businesses fairly, with a low tax, low regulation system, that we would all be a better off in the long run. It might not seem that way in the short run, when people come with seemingly very important things to be funded, but I think in the long run we would all be better off.

So for these reasons, I urge you to vote down the proposed property tax increase, with the understanding that we cannot tax ourselves to prosperity, no matter how necessary the project may seem at this time. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, sir. Next speaker please. I believe we’ve hit at least the halfway mark so far. Yes, sir.”

Chairman Sciortino left the meeting room at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Tony Utter, 4237 Eagle Lake Dr., Bel Aire, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m pleased to be able to participate in the political process in this country, where average citizens and voters such as myself can speak to folks that we elect in a public forum to represent and look out for our best interests. My name is Tony Utter. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Wichita Area Association of Realtors. I know Laurie Raudonis. I’m a member of the Board of Directors of the Certified Commercial Investment Member Division Chapter in Kansas, hence my shirt logo. We essentially are the commercial division of the Realtors’ Association.

I own Utter Commercial Real Estate and I’ve been a commercial real estate broker practicing in this community for the past 28 years. Even though I’m opposed in general to real estate tax increases, I’m not an anti-tax guy. I supported the downtown events arena. I voted for it primarily for two reasons. I believed that it would generate economic growth in the community and also because the arena was being funded by a sales tax which would apply to everybody and would be a temporary tax, unlike a mill levy increase. I have yet to see a mill levy increase be decreased or eliminated during the time that I’ve spent working in this community.

I’m a little leery of real estate being viewed as the most likely source whenever it’s believed that we need to increase real estate taxes or increase taxes, excuse me. Despite the past few years, despite some statements that we haven’t seen a mill levy increase, we have indeed seen our real estates taxes increase because of valuation increases. I think somewhere between 4 to 6% every year for the past few years.

If the mill levy is increased by this commission, resulting in an additional increase of 10% real estate taxes on top of the increases generated by valuation increases, will a trend to automatically increase property valuations end? And I’m a little skeptical of that.

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Over the past 28 years, I've had many opportunities to show real estate, commercial real estates properties to out of state, perspective out of state buyers, investors and tenants. And the recurring question I heard from them is 'why are your real estate taxes so high?' Another one is 'why is your utilities so high?' but I realize you can't do anything about that. But you can have a direct impact on real estate taxes. I haven't been able to give these folks a good answer yet. I've been pretty successful in convincing many of them to invest in commercial real estate in this community or to become tenants in this community. I still haven't been able to give them a good answer as to why our real estate taxes are so high.

Today we're faced with increased taxes . . . excuse me, increasing costs in construction materials, oil and gas and energy prices, rising utility costs, rising interest rates, higher costs on many materials needed for real estate development and are we now going to face higher taxes, on top of all these other increasing costs? Time doesn't allow me to describe the ripple effect that occur on this economy if real estate taxes are increased even more but I would urge you to reconsider any thoughts about increasing real estate taxes. Thank you for the opportunity to address my concerns this morning."

Chair Pro Tem Burtnett said, "Thank you, Mr. Utter. Next speaker please."

Chairman Sciortino returned to the meeting room at 10:14 a.m.

Ms. Carolyn Risley Hill, 110 S. Ashley Park, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've been a citizen and a homeowner in Sedgwick County for over 30 years. Mr. Chairman, commissioners, Mr. Buchanan, I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I'm the CEO of Starkey. Starkey helps people with developmental disabilities to live, learn and work in our community. I want to thank all of you for the support you've provided to the people we serve and to the people served by the other agencies in Sedgwick County.

Starkey has an annual budget of \$12,000,000. We employ about 265 people and we're presently serving nearly 400 people with developmental disabilities. Our employees are taxpayers and many of the people we serve are taxpayers. They have jobs in the community, such as Carlos O'Kelly's, Ace Hardware. They work on local crews in the community, such as Dillons and they provide subcontract work to many area businesses, such as our aircraft companies at our work activity program.

We are constantly looking for new opportunities for work for the people we serve. Our newest initiative is the recycling of computers and other electronic equipment. The people we serve love the jobs, they love the paychecks. This is benefiting the taxpayers of our community, as well as our environment.

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Many of the people we serve live in our community today, but they once lived in state hospitals and would live in state hospitals without the community services that we and other agencies offer. The result is a considerable savings to the taxpayers of Kansas. The average cost to serve a person in the community is about \$100,000 per year less than the average cost of serving them in the state hospitals.

Community services benefit the people we serve, they benefit the taxpayers and they benefit the entire community. How is it that we use the funds that the county provides? Starkey and other providers receive funds from the county to offset the cost of services that are not funded by the federal government and to serve individuals who are not eligible for federal programs. These funds are critical to Starkey's ability to serve over 200 people in our community living and case management programs. We urge your continued support of all of the people with developmental disabilities in our county. We believe they are a good investment of taxpayer dollars and I thank you very much for the opportunity to speak."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Mr. DeAndre Morris, 3151 N. Rushwood, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the director of Pathways at the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas Substance Abuse and Live Skills Training Program for Adolescents here in our county. I'm also senior pastor of Kingdom Harvest Church here in Wichita. I'd like to recognize the board, also county manager and all county officials who are present here today and then furthermore I'd like to thank you all for all of the work you've done as far as providing prevention funds that make programs like Pathways available. As a result, Pathways has been able to serve well over 1,200 kids in the Wichita school system, also in Haysville and other areas in Sedgwick County through our effort through the prevention program.

Also I want to encourage you to build up on that process by continuing to fund prevention programs, as well as faith based initiatives that are geared specifically towards young people. I stand before you, a product of prevention programs, had many of the risk factors that guaranteed that I would end up in prison or I'd end up dead or anything like that and thanks to prevention programs, I'm a successful adult. I have a family, I own my own home, all those things that are part of the American dream.

As you know, prevention funds are a way of being a good steward over Sedgwick County funds. Some studies say that we could save up to \$3,500 per child versus putting them in a juvenile justice . . . in the juvenile detention facilities or even the Sedgwick County Jail. So please, please, please

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continue to fund preventive efforts. Thank you so much.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, sir. Next speaker.”

Ms. Cindy Vaught, 153 N. Tyler, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here today to speak about my first hand experience with Community Mental Health Services. My son was diagnosed at a young age with bipolar disorder. At the time, we lived in Oklahoma. There were no services, beyond therapy, med management and hospitalization, which was generally long term.

Consequently, he was not able to function and I was certain I would lose him to suicide or the juvenile justice system. We’ve resided in Wichita now for six years. Due to your support of COMCARE and its affiliate, the Mental Health Center, my son is on the road to recovery, thanks to his case management, attendant care worker and my parent support worker my son is succeeding in school and is working towards his goal of becoming an independent, self-supporting young man. It’s pretty exciting.

Early intervention services are critical for our children and results in less money needed for hospitalizations, jail beds and costly educational placements. Most importantly, the services keep a majority of kids diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances in their homes with their families.

I’m advocating for the continued funding of services provided by COMCARE and the Mental Health Association, not advocating for a tax increase, but we appreciate the funding you provide. Thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you, ma’am. Next speaker please.”

Mr. Garre Alfaro, 9100 E. Harry, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I would ask that you don’t cut the funding for COMCARE because if you cut it, people like me and others wouldn’t be so well off. I mean, I’ve got a mental disability and when I . . . like, three years ago, I wasn’t able to do nearly half the stuff I’m able to do now.

I’m a member of BTC and New Directions. I’m board of directors for New Directions. I’m a role model for my nephew and niece and I would like to keep doing that stuff and if you guys kept the funding for it . . . I don’t know if you guys are going to cut it or not, but if it was cut, a lot of that would not be possible and we wouldn’t and I wouldn’t and friends that I have wouldn’t be able to. The jails would be more fuller because we would be like homeless and we would not be able to go

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out. You would have more bums I think. It would just make the world more chaotic and I don't think it would be so fun to go outside. The funding right now I think is good cause you've got all these good little projects going on and stuff. That's all I've got to say."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Ms. Kerry Franklin, 1005 E. 2nd Street, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I receive services through Breakthrough Club, COMCARE and New Directions for about the last 13 years, since about the age of 12. This is a guide to me, productive member . . . the services has made me a productive member of society. The services that I've received throughout the time has led me to not live by a label, but with pride and dignity of self-worth.

The time I wasn't able to function with everyday life and was labeled criminally insane and a failure to society as a young teenager. Now I work at a position at Breakthrough Club as a housing case manager and I also work currently with clients with mental disabilities, as a community living instructor.

Without the guidance of services provided as a young member of society and as going through adult, with self-dignity, I would still be a lifer in an institutional situation. I'm thankful for my experiences as a consumer to be able to see life with a wide perspective, instead of tunnel vision, unlike those who feel that they have not been part of society with a disability or family with disabilities, I've been able to see life differently.

It's important for those who still struggle with mental disabilities or mental challenges to not be forgotten. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker, please."

Ms. Rachel Mayberry, 1005 E. 2nd Street, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm employment coordinator with the Breakthrough Club. Currently, in the last three weeks, we have placed nine people in different employment opportunities around Wichita and for a lot of the grumbling I've heard today, these are real taxpaying jobs that pay your taxes that help provide the services that we are getting.

I wish one of our members, one of the nine, could have been here today to talk to you but I will tell her story instead. She's witnessed the hardship of being unemployed. She's also seen the harshness of drug addiction and the heartbreak of homelessness. However, she can't be here today, because she's working fulltime. She's working a job that pays taxes, that pays her insurance and that pays

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her prescription drug and keeps her off public assistance. All things that I think people are wanting.

We at Breakthrough Club, we help people do their resumes, we help people gain work skills and we also help people do interviews and we help them go through job training. As a recent WSU grad and a future homebuyer, hopefully in the next six weeks, if everything goes through, I am reaching the American dream as it's said and I'm more than willing to pay more taxes so that other people can also reach those dreams. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please. Can we have the next speaker please."

Mr. Larry Kaufman, 1621 Ridge Road, Derby, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've lived there since 1963 and I just wanted to state that I'm not running for governor, I'm not running for mayor and I'm not running for city commissioner, so guys, it's okay.

I'm here more for a selfish purpose. A year ago, Spirit Boeing laid 1,200 of us off and I've been unemployed since that time, so I'm on a fixed income. So anytime taxes increase, of course I look into my wallet and I see whether or not I have money there and if I don't have it, I'm in trouble. Continued spending and taxing, have put a hard place for me and really not very, very fun.

The idea of this avionics, tech school, building it brand new for 40,000,000 is a little out of hand, I believe. 1,200 people were laid off last year from Boeing. It wasn't because of lack of skill. It was because they needed people and products that were produced cheaper and you cannot compete with China for 50 cents an hour, because that's eventually where it's going to go or elsewhere. So \$40,000,000 for a tech school for what? I don't understand. And why do we need a new one? I mean, WSU has got an avionics situation or training, they've got one of the finest wind tunnels in the world, in the United States and you know, why not encompass it in that area, where we already have the people, instead of you know, building a new facility, even though it looks real pretty, it's money coming out of my pocket, which I can't afford anymore.

So, you know, let's look at it and Cessna and Raytheon and whatever, they continue to offload daily. Do you think that's really, you know, make a difference. They're offloading because they can't afford to do . . . but it's going to eventually going to be gone and here we're going to have this \$40,000,000 building sitting empty again and you're going to go 'Well, so much for that'. So anyway, I think you guys need to consider that, let's look at the big picture. Let's look at reality. The reality is thousands of jobs and parts are being offloaded daily by the aircraft companies and making and building this tech school isn't going to make a difference in anything, because bottom

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line, it's pretty much all going to go.

So anyway, that's what all I have to say. Appreciate your time. Thank you much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir."

Mr. Ron Cook, 1313 N. Aksarben Court, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a retired Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputy, I served near 19 years with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department and I just want to speak on the jail. It's my opinion, you have escape from New York, escape from LA and coming soon to a theater near you, escape from Sedgwick County, because that's exactly what's going to happen if we keep building jails every five years.

Twenty-four basketball courts in the Sedgwick County jail, I don't think that's necessary. It seems to me, that's the largest waste of space I've ever seen in my life. We need to utilize the space we have in the Sedgwick County Jail and we need to get tough on these criminals in this county. When I started my career, inmates were scared to go to jail. As my career advanced inmates found out it's just an inconvenient time for them. It didn't bother them at all to go to the Sedgwick County Jail.

I say we focus on prevention, take care of our babies in their schools, our children and programs like the gentleman earlier was speaking, about prevention to help these people before they get to that point and take care of our citizens of this county, our senior citizens of this county have been taking care of us, but keep building jails every five years is not the answer. If we're going to build them, let's get tough policy and build a jail that's going to make the inmates not want to come back to Sedgwick County, as in Maricopa County, Arizona. Thank you very much for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. Benny L. Boman, 1914 Euclid, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've lived at 1914 Euclid for almost 50 years and paid taxes for 50 years in the city of Wichita. If you raise the taxes then you're going to present a dilemma to me. I'm supposed to be retired, but I'll have to go back to work, move out of the state, or do something because there's only a limit as to how much we can go on our budget.

My brother retired about two years ago and the first thing he did was sold his real estate and moved to Oklahoma. Why? Because of taxes in this country or in this state. And the winner of the fourth

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district Republican side of district four I say won his chance to go against the democrat side simply because he said no increase in taxes, so I feel any one of you votes for a tax increase will be targeted for replacement on the next election cycle.

During my time, I've worked for Boeing and I have no opposition to training people, but in the time that I was there, back in the 50s and 60s, Boeing trained everybody in-house and I don't see . . . and also Cessna. They even built a training center out here on 21st Street. I mean, the industry did that. Now why can't they do that now? We don't have . . . I mean, the people just don't have the finances anymore. We're run to the limit. We're getting pushed at the state level, local level and we can't take any more of it. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. Daryl Crotts, 8150 E. Douglas, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the president of the Kansas CCIM Chapter. I'm a commercial realtor. I represent over 100 commercial realtors in our organization. We feel compelled through our relationship with local property owners to protest the proposed increase in the mill levy that you're considering. Some pertinent facts: during the past ten years, from '96 to 2006, the population of Sedgwick County has increased according to what I could research by 8.1%. During the same ten year period, the consumer price index or otherwise inflation has increased by approximately 31%. While county employment has increased while the private sector employment has decreased.

But the most astonishing statistic is the change in the assessed value of real estate. Valuations have increased from 1.653 billion in '96 to 3.383 billion in 2006. This is an increase of 105%. You know, I sit on the district advisory board for district 2 and every year we have the budgets presented to us and they are happy to announce that there has been no increase in the mill levy. But as a property owner, I realize that that doesn't mean that the taxes haven't gone up because valuations are continually increasing. Valuations have increased by 6% this year alone. County spending has increased by 18.8% in the last two years.

The Kansas CCIM Chapter is not opposed to the special projects that you all are proposing. That's not the issue. The issue is a commission that can't develop a budget that lives within the revenue generated without new taxes. If you directed the county manager to do so, I'm sure he'd come back with a budget that matched the revenues that are projected.

New taxes will impact the entire community and not just commercial property owners. Some of the owners will be forced to absorb those increased costs, while others will pass the increase on to their

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tenants who will in turn pass them on to the consumer, causing a negative economic ripple throughout the community.

Increasing taxes also lowers the value of the property and produces a downward spiral of higher taxes, stifling business growth, making it harder to attract as well as to retain business in this community. This comes at a time when consumers are faced with additional pressures from the school bond, the arena tax which has already generated according to the paper this morning, 71.2 million dollars since it was enacted, and the ever increasing gas prices. I personally pay over \$30,000 in property taxes. I have a vested interest in seeing that they're maintained.

I've lived in Wichita most of my life and I fully realize that the economy is in a continual cycle. The current cycle has been a long one of growth and prosperity but anybody who has been through the reality of several recessions realizes that eventually that will end and the economy will retrench."

Chairman Sciortino said, "That's it. I mean . . ."

Mr. Crotts said, "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Surely. Next speaker."

Mr. Paul Rhodes, 3740 N. Seneca, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you commissioners and fellow citizens for your time and for letting me express myself. Some of you, most of you on the bench have met me at one time or another and know that I've served on some public advisory boards and today . . . I'm usually unassuming, but today I'm dressed in . . . I'll explain that later."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Could you give your name sir."

Mr. Rhodes said, "Yes, Paul Rhodes, 3740 North Seneca and I title myself involved citizen. I also had a mental illness, a member of the Breakthrough Club and I'm going to ask for accommodation if I run on just a few minutes today. I don't know if King David . . . I'm sorry?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "I'm going to give you three minutes and that's all sir."

Mr. Rhodes said, "Thank you sir. I come to you as a prisoner of this system, of which I am a part. Seven years ago, Margaret Miller asked me to come and speak on behalf of the trash recycling issue. I told you, who remain on the bench, that trash was not a high priority on the list of problems but that trash is a byproduct of affluence and is manifested in waste.

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Today I come dressed for this occasion as a new jail has to be built. Orange are the colors detainees wear and it's some they can be easily seen. It's a sign that something is slipping away. My white shirt is for the purity and righteousness which I believe most of us hope to possess and which is the foundation for all safety, prosperity and hope. My black tie represents the lies, willful and hidden, that are choking us all and the community in which we are a part.

Most detainees do not wish to engage in criminal behavior. Many are products of advancing frustration and revisit the jail because they cannot navigate the daily life in a growing uncivilized arena. We must build a new jail. It is mandated and after talking with Sheriff Steed for an hour yesterday, I'm really concerned that we're funding a un-mandate. He told me that we're housing prisoners that are being sent on parole and there's other things that are coming up and I don't think this is right as far as the tax is concerned.

The 1,400 beds in our new facility is a small fraction of the real problems that are breeding in our work places, government and associated social programs. In the article by Gary Steed and Michael Corrigan in the issue of safety was addressed. If we are doing an adequate job, then we would not need the security staff in this building. If this building is a center for social care and justice, all the people who work as public serv . . . are doing their job, we would not need this protection. We have a huge justice deficit and that is feeding many other problems, rules, mental illness and white collar crime that goes undetected.

It behooves us as a community, with all the education, psychology, technology, tax money, philanthropy and programs that we continue to digress. Bill Davitt summed it up well when he said that we've got to (*inaudible*) marriage and family. We both know that . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "That's it."

Mr. Rhodes said, "Excuse me, Ben, you said you'd let me finish my sentence. I have one more sentence."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, you just finished your sentence."

Mr. Rhodes said, "No I didn't, sir."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just let him finish his sentence."

Mr. Rhodes said, "Thank you, Tom. I've lost my train of thought, but the point is that we both

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know, for the correction I want to make for Bill's statement is that we both know if women were not in homes, that we'd have another set of problems that we have in our society, but the jail basically epitomizes the fact that men and women need to raise children and this commission needs to really look at trying to get the faith community to work together for a marriage covenant. Marriage is the foundation of any society and many other people in this room that spoke to that issue. Thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next speaker."

Ms. Patty Gnefkow, 12411 Ridgeport Court, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "When we moved here that asked us if we were an east sider or a west sider and we said 'What?' and we've come to find out that there's a river that runs through Wichita and you're one or the other and all this story and history.

But anyway I'm from Kansas City and what I found out, when I moved to Wichita, I worked for another non-profit agency. Right now I work for Mental Health Association. If I seem like I'm rambling, stay with me. Anyway, I worked for another agency here in Wichita and they had a fire and it was tragic and it was terrible and what I found out about Wichita is that you people, here in Wichita, you totally care about each other. That's what I know. And when people from the east coast and the west coast where my family is from and Kansas City say 'Wichita, Kansas, my gosh what are you doing there and what in the world do they have to offer there?' what I tell them is they have people who care about people. This is a wonderful community. We've found a wonderful neighborhood. We have a wonderful church home. Our kids go to great schools. We found great jobs. We're happy to pay our taxes. Nobody wants a tax increase but we want to support each other and the programs that are available here.

Let me ask you a question. I know I have three minutes, I'll stay within that, I promise I can talk really fast. If you break your leg or if you're bleeding or you're in a car accident, where are you going to go? To the hospital hopefully and get help. People with mental illness need the services just like we do when we get hurt. They need to be able to go the hospital, they need to be able to go to COMCARE, they need to be able to go to Breakthrough Club, Project Independence, Mental Health Association because we want to be well all over, don't we? We need mental wellness and we need physical wellness.

Everyone deserves the right to reach their maximum potential, which is exactly why you're sitting in this room, which is exactly why you want your community to prosper, right? This is why we want to have training opportunities and job opportunities and we want to be a healthy community. That's what it's about and we want to support each other.

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Do you know that half of the Americans will be affected directly by mental illness or a family member in their lifetime? Many, many, many of you right here in this room don't understand the stigma that's involved. For DeAnna Clayton to get up here . . . I am the COMPEER volunteer coordinator at the Mental Health Association and I manage those friendship matches. Many of you met Bob and Bill that were here receiving their award not too long ago for a longstanding friendship match, anyway and DeAnna, for her to have the courage to get up here, trembling. I met her out in the hallway and she said 'Did I do good?' I said, 'Yes, you did'. She said, 'I was so scared'. I said, 'I know you were'. She goes, 'This is important'. I said, 'It is important'.

What I'm saying to you is every single service that these people provide they need more service. We cannot, for one second, abandon one penny that these folks and that many of your families may need one day right here in your community and I know you've heard it and heard it and heard it. You've got the arena and you've got all kinds of issues with your training centers and big, big, big issues but you have had a big turnout of people from the mental health industry that want to say and the consumers to say this is important too. Thank you for your past funding and your future funding and all the hard work that you do, love Wichita."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next speaker please."

Ms. Lorriane Dold Bockorny, 340 S. Broadway, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "President CEO of Rainbows United. My address is 340 South Broadway. I'm also have been a property owner in Wichita for the last 18 years and I appreciate the opportunity to address you this morning.

When I was thinking through my remarks, I flipped to the page from my 'Life's Little Instruction' calendar for today, just simple words but it said 'Be the reason someone smiles today'. I'm not sure I'll be the reason that you smile today but I hope that you're hearts are truly warmed by taking a glimpse into the lives of people who you have touched.

These are only a few of the over 2,400 children and families, the young adults whom you have impacted through your support of Rainbows United this past year. The people whose lives I reference have been changed by unexpected disabilities. These stories come from some of our almost 400 employees.

This summer a referral of a two-day-old baby was made to our Hospital to Home worker. Parents

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went through tremendous efforts to conceive but baby was born early, with chromosomal abnormalities, hearing and cardiac concerns. By medical standards, the infants condition was not significant enough to require an extended hospital stay and the child was sent home. Our worker visited the family when the child was one week old. The parents had just returned from the doctor's office where it was further diagnosed, there was greater concern and the child did not pass hearing tests.

The mother was absolutely overwhelmed with grief and when the worker got to the home, the mother had herself locked in the bedroom. The father was very concerned about his wife's mental health and our worker spent hours talking with that father before leaving the home. She was able to make a contact to one of our social workers, who contacted the Mental Health Association.

Our worker left the home. They had gotten the dad to the phone to a private therapist who talked him through the situation and scheduled appointments for the family. The next week, Rainbows started the newborn assessment with mom and baby. Over several visits, the worker watched the mom and baby blossom. Rainbows was able to help move that family from seeing this little infant as a diagnosis to the baby as a person. This baby and family are now enrolled in services.

A teenage mom gave birth to twins prematurely. They remained in the hospital for several months, with the mother visiting only once. The children did leave the hospital in the mother's care, under the condition that they live with the twins and the maternal grandmother. Besides being premature, the twins had significant developmental delays. Rainbows was able to provide early intervention, speech/ language and physical therapy support.

Eventually, the children were placed in the grandmother's care. She worked very closely with our specialist to stimulate their development. At age three, these two little girls no longer qualify for services. They do attend one of Rainbows early childhood centers, but now as typically developing youngsters and not at the expense of Sedgwick County or our public education system. Again, I could go on and on and obviously I didn't time myself, because I thought I could do it. Thank you"

Chairman Sciortino said, "Ma'am, I'm sorry. Your three minutes are up. Next speaker please."

Mr. Lowell Stukey, 1231 S. Fieldcrest, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I feel very fortunate to be the chairperson for the Calfskin Neighborhood Group. The Calfskin

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Neighborhood Group is bounded on the south by Kellogg, on the east by Maize Road, north by the Calfskin Creek and on the west by the Cotillion Ballroom, so I'm sure you folks are familiar with where this is at. On July the 20th of this year, the Wichita Eagle published a small map down on the lower left-hand corner of the front page. And it was highlighted by a dark maroon color in certain areas around Wichita. Our neighborhood group was targeted for a major tax increase, personal property tax increase, up to 20% as the Eagle stated.

Our area stood out very plainly on that map. And at our last neighborhood meeting, a lot of the folks were very, very upset about this. Why were we singled out for this large tax increase? The only reason I'm here today is I'd like to ask you folks to answer my people and our neighborhood group, which has 112 families in it, why our neighborhood was selected for this tremendous tax increase. Naturally, most of us in that group are going to protest this, if it happens. We hope it doesn't happen. We'd like for you to just publicly answer these folks that live out there on the west side of town. That's all I have to say and I thank you very much for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Ms. Viola Burling, 11424 K-196, Whitewater, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have property in Kechi. I have a storage facility there and I have two houses there. And the property taxes have gone up on the storage and it has tripled in the last two years. The taxes are such a burden anymore I don't know how much longer I'm going to hold onto my businesses over there. And I wish you guys would reconsider on the tax hike because I'm retired and this is part of my income and it's taking away from my income and I don't know what I'm going to do. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Next speaker please."

Mr. Richard Phinney, 630 E. 61st Street N., Park City, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've lived in the Wichita area my entire life of approximately 48 years. I have been becoming more concerned with taxes the last few years, as I get older. I am self-employed. I have my own business with one employee. I do not rate the benefits of the large companies. I've heard a lot of people speak today in regards to the disabled people. They don't have large incomes either. Why do we give millions of dollars to companies that come in and tell us 'We have billions of dollars of profit'. I don't understand the reasoning to give these people taxpayers' money that can't afford the taxes these facilities, such as this school. Help those aircraft companies build it with tax incentives

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for them, don't take away from poor people to give to people reporting billions of dollars of profit. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Next speaker please."

Mr. David Davis, 1041 N. Waco, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here by happenstance. I've lived in Wichita since 1975 and I've noticed there are patterns in this community. Patterns where every time there's a new project, there's new taxes and every time the people rise to the occasion to reach out to their political leaders for help or to express their concerns, there's a general feeling that our political leadership is going to do whatever they're going to do and I really hope that today you've been listening to all of these folks and I'm sure that you have and I live amongst a lot of these people. I know some of them and there's a lot of truth spoken there today. There's a lot of unhappiness, a lot of anger and that usually takes place when people can only take so much.

And there's a lot of folks in this community who are expecting you to make certain kinds of decisions and it's the kind of decisions that most people feel like you're always going to make and today I hope you are listening deeply to the citizens of this community and this is the one time they can come to their political leaders and know that you're listening to them, knowing that you're going to make the decisions that really matter.

I've been in Sedgwick County Jail, I've been in this community. We don't need a bigger jail. We need leadership that knows how to deal with the issues that we have in this community. We have a police department in Wichita City Hall that goes out there and recklessly fills our jails up with people just because they can and I've seen them arrest people and then try to figure out something to charge them with.

And we need to . . . that's not a reason to build another jail. I think we need to start looking at some other kinds of solutions, other than the same old solutions that benefit a few folks with a lot of money and hurt a lot of people that you don't need to.

Anyway, I thank you for this moment and I hope I haven't offended anyone here today but thank you."

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. By my count, that was the number of people that wish to speak that had gotten their number, but is there anyone else that perhaps failed to get a number that wishes to address us? Okay, seeing none I'll close the public hearing and Mr. Buchanan, before we go to the next item, it's a little selfish on my part, but I'd like to call a five minute recess.

If any of you need to leave the room for the facilities or what have you, just make note of the seat you're in, and you can come back in five minutes we'll return and you can claim the same seat that you had."

The Sedgwick County Commission meeting was recessed from 10:51 a.m. and returned from recess at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, "I'll call this meeting back to order please. Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

2. RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FUNDING OF THE 2007 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The next agenda item is a resolution. It's called the resolution that the state requires us to perform, indicating your willingness or unwillingness to raise property taxes. But before you can take that item, it seems to me that we need to go through the presentation regarding the budget and we need also to come to some conclusion if that in fact is going to occur or not.

If it's not going to occur, there's no reason to adopt that resolution. If there is some agreement that some sort of increase is necessary, then that resolution needs to be adopted and then we would go to item three, which is the adoption of the budget. So the real discussion of the budget will take place now.

If it please the commission, I do have a presentation regarding the 2007 budget and I'd like to spend a few moments going through the presentation. We had a public hearing, I would remind you that we had a public hearing on July 26th, two weeks ago, where you heard, as you did today from consumers and clients from the disabled, mental ill community, aging community, all vulnerable citizens and you heard from providers July 26th about the services that they provided. You heard from business and industry and union representatives regarding the necessity to develop, build and operate an aviation technical center.

You heard from the Sheriff two weeks ago and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council about the need for a new jail and the need for the two programs that we have put in place, the Day Reporting

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Center and the Offender Assessment Center to attempt to stem the tide of building new jails and to see if we can keep other ways, alternative ways of making sure people pay their crime to society without putting them in the jail and then we heard from citizens, as we did today, who were interested in county government.

There certainly is lots of facts and figures. There's lots of information about the budget. You've received e-mails. We've received flyers in the mail. I thought we'd take a little bit of time trying to talk about what I think is relevant for you in the decision making process.

There's some suggestion that there's something wrong with the county debt. I would suggest to you that debt is not a bad thing. That if it's managed properly, in fact it's a tool, a fiscal tool that we have all used . . . that governments have used, that we use it for road improvements. We use it for development infrastructure, that's special assessments, so that builders can build subdivisions and sell their houses through the real estate community. We use the juvenile detention facility that's on-line, the 1990 jail expansion and you'll recall that we were partners in funding the building of Exploration Place. Debt is viewed by the private sector many ways but the private sector that I think that I would like for you to pay attention to is certainly the bond rating companies: Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Fitch. Those three companies have rated Sedgwick County one of the highest, one of the highest bond rating in the country for counties and cities. This is not Bill Buchanan saying that. This is the private sector who looks at our debt, looks at how we manage our finances and has suggested that we are one of the fiscally sound, most fiscally sound municipalities in the country. They wouldn't give you a high bond rating if that were not true.

There's lots of numbers and lots of ideas about budgets and actual expenditures and in fact these are mixing the budget and actual expenditures without explanation is misleading. It is confusing. It has been suggested that we've increased it by 24%. The facts in front of you that . . . in the budget process, we've grown 11.9%. That's . . . if you want to be unhappy with government, if you want to take us on about budgeting processes, that's the number we should be arguing about.

The budget dollars . . . in budget, we set aside dollars for planned expenditures, but we also set aside dollars for unplanned expenditures, or money that we don't plan to spend, so that the budget is always higher than your actual. We set aside money in case things are going to happen.

Remember last winter, a year ago, we had an ice storm. Ice storm cost us a million dollars. We were anticipating that. We'll be reimbursed 40 or 50% of that but we had to spend the money to solve that problem. We've started the two programs: the Offender Assessment Program and the Day Reporting because it was a need we meet the challenging needs of today and we've started those programs this year. Hadn't planned on spending it, but we did. That's why you budget more than you really plan to spend.

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The actual expenditures in the timeframe that was indicated by the flyer and by the e-mail, the actual expenditures in 2004 to 2005 it went down 2.7%. This year it's projected to be 9/10th of 1% increase. You expect, in 2007, if these programs are approved and if you approve the budget today that we'll spend 4.3 more than 2006, and so the three-year period is about a 2.3% increase.

Again, there was some discussion about employment and how employment in the public sector has grown and we have grown 346 jobs since 2000. We also eliminated 143 jobs, laid off 143 real people to go do something else.

The transfer of the Health Department was 150 jobs that were transferred from the City of Wichita to us. That's not new government employees, that's just a transfer of government employees from one agency to another. That's not new employment. The state and federal funded programs, yes they're new programs but that doesn't come out of local tax dollars. It does come out of my tax for state and federal, as it does yours. Juvenile facility, we absolutely needed those employees and the Offender Assessment, so that wasn't telling the whole story but telling only partial of the story.

I think part of the problem is the tax impact statement. You know people receive a tax statement, it looks something like this. It has our seal in the middle. You're requested to send a check to the county treasurer addressed to Sedgwick County, so I would suggest that people think the whole tax bill in fact is coming to us and our as you can see is a portion of that and let me go through a couple of the cities in Sedgwick County and how the tax rate that is being proposed, yes it's a 10.2% increase of county taxes but the information said a 10.2 tax increase and that's not accurate.

The school, the school . . . here's a tax for Derby. You can see the mill levy in the USD 260, you can see the City of Derby, the Sedgwick County rate, State of Kansas and cemetery district. If in fact you approve the budget of 10.2% increase, this person's property tax and these are real statements, would increase 2.2%."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Of the total bill. Is that what you're trying to say? Okay."

Mr. Buchanan said, "The impact statement on Haysville was USD 261 and City of Haysville. That percentage would be 2% and you would see 2.6% for the City of Wichita. Well you'll say, and rightfully so, what about the assessed valuation? What has happened to with the assessed valuation? In 2006 to 2007, that's gone up 5.88% on average, 5.8% countywide. 52% of that is new construction. 52% of that increase is people investing in property and new homes and new businesses and new factories that are on the tax roll, so the affect of the assessed valuation increase for real estates properties is 2.73%.

I think there's a real story about taxes and I don't want to sound . . . I loved Allen Cobbs' opening phrase this morning about bobbing and weaving and ducking like Mohammed Ali and I thank you

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for the compliment and it was a great turn of a phrase. And so I don't want to stand here and sound as if I'm trying to justify the tax increase. I'm not. What I'm trying to do is put it in perspective. What I'm trying to do is, in the marketplace of ideas, this talk about stuff, information that's relevant I think and significant. No one likes a tax increase. It doesn't serve me well professionally or personally to come and recommend a tax increase to you. That's not in my best interest, it's not in the community's best interest sometimes, but in this case it's absolutely necessary. So I want to put it kind of in perspective.

We heard from John Wong about the effective tax rate on residential property.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Now who is John Wong?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Dr. John Wong is a WSU professor who works at the Hugo Walls School, who was commissioned to do this study by the state. And what he has done is taken the effective residential property tax rate and this is the rate that you and I will pay, based on our adjusted gross income. Our adjusted gross income is the bottom line of the front page of your federal income tax, the bottom of your federal income tax on the front page.

The state average is 2.3% of a person's income, adjusted gross income, goes to real estate tax. You can see the other counties, the large counties and Sedgwick County is 1.78. This proposed tax increase, I've been told, will not affect that number. Putting it in perspective some more, we've heard that currently we were fourth lowest in the state in taxes. The new numbers just recently came out and you can see that Sedgwick County is still sixth out of 105th of the counties.

And the other real story is in this idea of the price of government and this is a book that's been floating around for a couple of years, the City of Wichita/ Sedgwick County staff have used this, as WSU has too. And the author suggests that there's a way to measure what a person is paying in taxes and fees, income tax, real estate tax, sale tax, all the taxes that someone would be paying and what portion or percentage is that of personal income tax. In this book they've compared the City of Wichita out of the 50th largest city has the third lowest price of government. Taking Sedgwick County's number alone, in 1972 it was 1.2 cents of every dollar of personal income and then 2007 proposed it's 1.5 cents.

I think when we put those kind of numbers in perspective, we can see that the tax is difficult for folks. It is not welcomed but it is, in relativity, it is not as difficult a step to take to proceed.

We have a mission. Part of that mission is the present and future wellbeing of the citizens of Sedgwick County for that present and future wellbeing. It's about safety of citizens. It's service to those most vulnerable. It's building a strong infrastructure and welcoming environment for business and families and meeting today's needs and the changing needs for the future.

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Where we've been, it's helpful I think to remind you that in 2002, during the 9/11 there was a stagnant economy and they began, right after the 2001 incident, for us to start reducing operating costs by a million dollars. In 2003, the state to solve their fiscal crisis stopped sharing their dollars with local governments, which meant a 6.8 million dollar reduction for us and we proceeded to take the necessary steps to cut back to deal with that.

In 2004, we developed a budget based on the 2002 levels. In 2005, we again set the base budget at a 4% reduction in the '04 and finally in 2006, we began to deal with some of the issues that had been postponed, including the new JDF, public safety center and the CJC recommendations. In spite of that, in fact, it has been the eighth year of no mill levy increase. I'm particularly proud of those years because you made the hard decisions to make sure that we had . . . were fiscally sound and fiscally prudent in the decision making process.

In 2007, we are trying to . . . recommending that we meet the changing needs. Those changing needs have come to us in several different ways. Certainly maintaining the services to those who are most vulnerable. The Sheriff has made and CJCC has made a compelling case why the dealing with the increase in jail population needs to be done in several ways, one of which is an addition to the jail. The second is developing programs to keep people out of jail, developing programs for judges to have alternatives to jail. Those programs have worked elsewhere. We expect that they will work here and we are in the process of standing both of those programs up.

Workforce development is a critical need for our skilled workers to retain and grow the community's major employers. The recommended budget in 2007 was 2.92 mill levy increase, \$365,000,000 and an annual residential property owner would be 33.66. In the last two weeks, we've had . . . to do that, we've had to make major changes in the recommended budget. We had . . . went back to make sure our numbers were correct with the Appraiser and discovered that we were a little shy in estimating the revenue."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Excuse me, Mr. Buchanan. These are new adjustments you're recommending?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes. These are new adjustments since the last two weeks we have gone back and looked at a number of issues. One is the Appraiser's assessment is at 5.88. We, the last time, we underestimated a little bit. We've also looked at the sales tax and believe it, because of some projects, that we can increase the sales tax revenues by \$350,000. We had to established a cash balance of residual project, a Cowskin project which would add another \$708,000 to have some technical adjustments for \$63,837,000. A total again adjustment, commissioners, of .380 mills, or \$1,393,000."

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Chairman Sciortino said, “Mr. Buchanan, I need to interrupt one more time, just to make sure people aren’t confused. The sales tax increases, would you delineate, this isn’t the sales tax for the arena. Would you explain?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “This is our regular 1 cent sales tax that the county gets, plus the share of the state’s . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Sorry.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “That’s all right. So if we take those four things into consideration, the new mill levy recommendation would be 2.547 mill increase, an annual increase of \$100,000 house. We use \$100,000 house because that’s the average, 50% of the properties are that. The average is really about \$98,000 but \$100,000 house, 50% of residential properties are more than that, 50% is less than that. The annual increase would be about \$29.29, not the increase 244. That’s an 8.85% increase.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Will that change those numbers that you showed us, about Derby, Haysville? And will you be able to show us that later on?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “I’m not going to show that later on but it will reduce those.

Investing in jobs and protecting the people are what the 2007 recommended budget is really about. It’s about the economic growth of jobs. We’ve heard from the aircraft industry about the necessity for that facility and why they think it’s important and critical to their businesses here and critical to sustaining and maintaining the employment in Sedgwick County. It’s about public safety, increasing . . . having an increased jail population, that continues to haunt us and we continue to find methods to deal with this. This budget would add, of the 2.576 mills would supply \$9,444,000 to deal with those issues.

We are investing in jobs. We know that aviation is important, 4,150 jobs are needed now. Other communities, states want our companies and jobs. You received the copy of the memo that folks from Senora, Mexico and Tucson, Arizona, Puma County in Arizona are working together in partnerships trying to recruit aircraft companies from Wichita, Kansas to move there. We know that exists. If we can’t compete, we lose the jobs, we lose the business and you know the drill there. The budget includes a technical education/ training facility for \$40,000,000.

We’re protecting people, expanding the jail, 384 beds, the cost is approximately \$48,000,000. Ongoing increase in the Sheriff’s budget seven and a half million annually, new alternative programs and you can see the cost for those.

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You suggest . . . it has been suggested to me, by some of you and by others, why don't we just reduce or cut all those kind of programs, some people referred to them as fuzzy programs that the government is in and we can debate whether we need to be in those businesses or not, but we have decided that these are the businesses that we were going to support last year and if we are going to support them this year, they are in the budget. There's no increase for these groups, they're at the same level. But if we were to reduce them all, as has been suggested, we could reduce that, we'd still an additional 4.4 million dollars to do the new programs. It would still require a tax increase.

So the budget summary, we've held and reduced mill levy for the last eight years. This is about jobs and protecting people. It requires an amount of funding that would drastically reduce other core services. Reducing other services will put a vulnerable or at-risk population in danger. The future budgets will require continued evaluation of how services are provided and that's the end of the presentation, Mr. Chairman, commissioners. If there's any comments or questions about that, but I would suggest that you now enter a discussion about whether there's support for the adoption of this budget or not and I would recommend that you proceed to adopt the resolution, item number two and adopt the 2007 budget."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, I sort of suspect there's going to be some conversation. Commissioners, any comments that you would like to make on anything that you've heard from the presenters this morning? Any comments about what Mr. Buchanan has presented to us? Commissioner Burnett."

Commissioner Burnett said, "Yeah, I'll start the ball rolling. We listened to 40 speakers today and what I have learned in the past 18 months as I sit on this bench is everything is 50/50 and that's exactly what it was today. There were . . . well, it wasn't exactly 50/50, there were 19 people that spoke in favor of keeping the programs that we do, and 20 against and one I really didn't know what the exact point was.

I haven't been particularly vocal on this commission over the past 18 months, but one of the presenters today talked about my opponent for this position, my republican opponent and why he felt this person beat me, and I'm going to tell you why I think so too.

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It is so easy to sit up here and say 'No new taxes, we're not going to do that' but there's a reality and there's a fine line that I decided I was not going to cross over and that was I was not going to lie to the people. I've looked at the budget. We've all looked at the budget and the reality is it's inevitable that we have to have some sort of an increase for Sedgwick County to grow and be prosperous and I believe that the current county programs that we have are very important to all of Sedgwick County and I believe that the new projects are important to the county and the region and that's why I had decided before the primary election, before I knew if I was going to be here or not I had to decide in my mind what is right for the county and I decided if we could get below a double digit percentage that I would be supportive because I know it's important.

A lot of the conversation has been about the jail and I think people need to really, if you're going to talk about 'We don't need a new jail' you need to maybe call us on the commission more often and get the facts. We are looking at alternative programs. I mean these are things we have been looking at now since I have been on the bench, for 18 months. We are trying to find programs so that we won't have to continually build new jails, but at this time it is important and by the time we get the new jail built, I hope some of these alternative programs will be working so that we don't fill it up as fast.

I also worry about the core services that we are trying to provide. Last year at this time, brand new to the county commission, I didn't know anything about budgets but I did know that we had one particular item and it was summer mowers. We needed more people employed so that they could mow the ditches along the county road, that when you're pulling up to intersection, you can see what car is coming. We still have that problem and if we still have that problem now, how can we not have an increase. One of the things I do want to make sure of in this budget is that we are going to be able to provide those services, the core services that I think are definitely important to our citizens.

The other one thing that since I'm kind of the lame duck person here I can say anything I want, but when I got this postcard in the mail, then I started receiving calls and it's irritating to me that the apathy of the people in the county, it takes something like this for you to call your county commissioners and say 'We want something done'. The other thing I would say is please call with suggestions. I've heard I don't know how many people say 'Don't raise my taxes, don't raise my taxes' and when I ask them what program do you want me to cut, they never have anything to say. It's always don't cut my program, and I understand that, but we need some help.

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I mean, I know you think that we sit up here and that we know every single answer there is, but we don't. We need help and if you have suggestions, I would highly recommend that you talk to your commissioner with some recommendations, not just saying don't raise my taxes. We have looked at the budget and I do believe that this is a necessary increase and I think the manager has done a great job of keeping it as low of an increase as we possibly can. So, with that I'm going to be supportive. Like it's easy for me to say, I could sit here and I could say 'Okay, I'm not going to raise your taxes, let the next guy do it and you could be mad at him' but I don't think that's the right thing to do. I think we need to look at what we need in this community and where we want to be, not just next year but five years from now, ten years from now, twenty years from now and I think this is going to help us get to that point. Thank you, Mr. Chair."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel like I'm a little disjointed, because I really have tried to keep a very open mind and have not come in here with really anything prepared that is going to speak some kind of magic. I certainly want folks to know that, I mean, I do not like the situation where we have to consider a tax increase at any time and place. I mean, I'm not happy nor excited about this. And I want everyone to know who has called me or contacted me, sent e-mails, letters, notes, phone calls that I have listened to those. I have listened to folks as they call.

I want to just follow on with Commissioner Burnett for a moment in talking about all the issues that we're involved in and the core services and she brings up a great example in talking about our mowing crews. And you know you just think something as simple as mowing crews would be pretty simple to eliminate, but it is amazing how many calls we've received from citizens about safety issues and quality of life issues of what it looks like in the county when you eliminate the mowers from our Public Works. So, you know, as folks look at the challenges, they also certainly call and say I need this service and they're not hesitant to call and let us know when a service is needed.

I guess to try to come to a quick point, I think basing our budget around this issue of jobs and public safety is critical and I don't know another answer to those two situations. Now I would say, Mr. Manager, as I think about this budget and would like to start the discussion as we think about the 2008 budget, I really think this adult detention facility issue is going to be a very expensive proposition. And you know, we probably have a multitude of different types of prisoners in our jail, but I want to talk about two for just a moment.

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One, we have a group of prisoners in the jail who have violated state statute and somehow they are in jail because of a violation of a state statute that's been set by the state legislature. It's our responsibility to provide jail space for those people and we'll continue to do that and those people are in the state system. The District Attorney will decide whether to proceed and they will be tried in our state district court. But we also have a group of prisoner in there who have violated a city ordinance in one of the cities that are in our county, and many of those 20 cities have passed ordinances that are much more stringent than state ordinances. And for a number of years, those people that are arrested in violation of a municipal court's or a municipal city's ordinances are brought to our jail. I think we've reached the time when we've got to reexamine whether we can house all of those prisoners from the cities in Sedgwick County on a free-of-charge basis. If we are going to address this issue of adult detention facilities, we need help.

Now I think we all consider the majority of city council people and mayors in Sedgwick County our friends and we're not looking to cause a tremendous commotion here, but if the city councils continue to pass municipal court ordinances that cause people to be arrested in our jail, I think they need to share, because each of those municipal courts has the ability to levy a fine against the citizen and I have witnessed some of those municipal courts, and I think I'm pretty safe in saying that they levy hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines and those go into the budgets of our cities. I think it's time that we ask them to help with this detention problem and so I'm at least one commissioner that's going to say to the manager please start investigating. I don't know what the right number is, whether the cities need to pay 100% of the cost of their citizens that are in our detention facility or if it's 50% or what that cost is, but I'm ready to start determining how cities can participate in the cost of incarcerating citizens that break municipal law.

Again, commissioners, I come back to our budget and as I look at jobs and public safety I think there's a number of things out there we haven't even begun to consider that we should be considering. I've been in contact with again the folks at the Extension Office and the need for additional extension agent in assisting with our agri-business community, which we know is a huge industry in our county. We're not even going to talk about that today because of the involvement and the intension in trying to get a budget as low as we possibly can. Commissioners, I look at this as an investment in the community. If we don't make this investment now, I'm afraid that in years to come our loss will be much more than this investment. So at this time, I'm willing to listen to other commissioners, but I'm not seeing much other alternative. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, commissioner. Commissioner Norton, excuse me, Unruh."

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Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it's probably difficult, if not impossible to avoid redundancy and repetition as we're in the middle of this discussion. It's an important decision and I think it is important for each one of us to clearly analyze our analysis of what's the right thing to do and how we arrive at this number, so I guess that's a disclaimer on the front side, to say that there's . . . that I'm going to be repetitive also.

But I would start by saying my fundamental philosophy is coming from a small business background is that I don't like to pay more taxes. I know the burden it puts on small business. I've experienced it and dealt with it. And I also understand the protestations and the arguments that have been provided to us from citizens and from organized groups. We have had a lot of contact. I checked with Carol and Lisa who manage our office. They said we've had 1,700 phone calls since this program started. That's a huge number. I have on my computer just over 350 e-mails that I have . . . and I've tried to respond to most of them, but I just ran out of time at somewhere around 275. But I understand people's reaction. I do believe, along with some of the comments from the manager and others, that the item on one of the main pieces about a 10.2% tax increase perhaps did mislead many folks into thinking their taxes were going up 10% and that stimulated a lot of that response.

But that's beyond the point, I think. The main issue is that we are faced with a tax increase and no matter what it is, folks don't like it and you know, I don't like it either but sometimes we have to make a difficult decision to achieve the goals that we need to achieve.

I think the manager did a good job of addressing some of the information and some of the other side of the issues that has been presented in recent public information: the tax rate increase, our total debt, our employment, the trends in our employment, and our need for public safety and for jobs and so I don't want to rehearse all of that same information. But I do want to just kind of respond to the impression that's been generated that Sedgwick County government has kind of run amuck, that we've lost control, that we're too far in debt. We're raising taxes indiscriminately. We're just growing this and I just want say that in my analysis, that's not true.

I guess I'm just afraid to make a decision based on a litmus test of one item or an isolated item. We need to look at what's been going on in county government over the last several years and how this commission and even commissions previous to this have handled the challenges this community faces. And once again, the manager has gone through much of that information. We have the sixth lowest mill levy in the state of Kansas, according to a study by a PhD at the Hugo Walls School. We rank about 85th in tax incidence, I mean across the state of Kansas the percentage of our adjusted gross income paid on personal property tax about 2.3% and here we're 1.78%.

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Our mill levy has been steady as a mill levy for the past several years. Our spending has been illustrated, by information the manager presented and that we have been given that information earlier, that since '04 our actual spending is just 2.3%. Now that's just a few facts from that information that indicate that I believe that our government has done a good job in trying to be good stewards of the money that we received and the programs that we're in charge of and that we have tried to shepherd this whole activity in a reasonable, logical, conservative way.

And if we look at what we've just done recently, I mean one of the biggest hits that's happened, the year that I came on the commission, this government lost 6.8% in demand transfers and the sales tax money was reduced that year also. I mean we just didn't have the same revenues. We dealt with a reduction in our budget of \$10,000,000 that year and then the next year the budget was set, in '04 we asked our departments to set the budgets at the '02 levels, the 2002 level so we didn't go back to '03, we went back to the '02 level. In '05 we had a base budget reduction of 4%. In the meantime we've had continuing pressures to provide services, so as we've been going on and historically, I think this government has not run amuck but this government is trying to do a very good job and be good stewards of our responsibility.

A lot of folks say 'cut the fat out, become more efficient'. And as I think said at our last meeting, we have to I think come to the realization that eliminating fat, becoming efficient is a process, it's not a project. And I would say that this commission, the manager, our CFO and this staff is involved in that process on an ongoing basis. We're continually trying to control excesses in this government. But as we get new programs, we've got the health Department, we've expanded the Juvenile Detention Facility, we've done different things that have added opportunities for service, it's added employees and it's caused an expansion of the budget. There's also, with it, more opportunities to become more efficient, but it is a process that we're involved in.

So that brings us up to the issue and the crisis that we're facing right now, what are we going to do in terms of public safety and jobs and we've heard the discussion but the fact of the matter is, on the one slide that the manager gave us, it shows that public safety amounts to 2.576 mills, which is really the entire amount of increase that we are considering right now, if you want to try to parse this out in pieces. You could say this is being driven by the whole issue of public safety. And in regard to that, we have not been idle. We've really been working hard at trying to offload that particular pressure in many ways. We have, through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, we have expanded our work release program. We've changed our inmate classification system. We've added 45 beds to adult residential. We've expanded pre-trial services to the City of Wichita. We've changed our bond schedules. The District Attorney, we're trying to work there with a new, expanded adult diversion. We've gone into double-bunking and Commissioner Winters, I want you to know that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has begun talking about housing fees, to

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help offload the cost of jail administration in the future.

So that's just a whole list of things that we've done to try to solve this problem. We didn't just wake up yesterday morning and say 'We've got to go do this and so let's figure it out'. We've been at work and the same thing with the whole issue of jobs in our community and trying to provide a well-trained, highly skilled technical workforce. We've been working this through the Kansas Technical Training Initiative, through Kansas Institute for Technical Excellence. We've been working with our local technical college. We've had support from industry. We've had support from the labor unions. We've had support from the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce. It seems like it's been clearly illustrated this is a real need that we need to be partners with and participating in.

So that is my analysis of where we've been, what we've been doing, what is needed, how we've been working hard at it and been doing this on a very analytical and deliberate method and one that's trying to do a good job in our responsibility as government officials. So all that being said, you can come to the conclusion I guess from what I've said that I believe I'm going to be supportive of this suggested budget at its current level. And that, Mr. Chair, is all I have."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well the truth is, for me, there's probably not a thing I could say on a sound bite today, at this little bit of time we have to explain to the public the kind of due diligence we've done at looking at this budget. I've spent hours and hours and hours and hours looking at different pages, different line-items, different revenue sources to try to figure this out and then dug deeper into the services to try to understand what services are necessary and what services aren't necessary.

You know, people say cut out the fat, cut out the things that aren't needed, but you know if you start looking at that perspective, you're going to gore somebody's ox. I put together thoughts about that and shared it with my colleagues and we spent several hours looking over just line-item after line-item. We looked at the budget transfer account and whether we could move some of that money out of the transfer account. It's used for contingencies and projects we don't know and just eliminate it but that puts you at risk, with bond ratings and a lot of other . . . you know, there's unintended consequences for everything you do deep into a budget. We looked at the BoCC contingency, the Public Safety contingency, Fleet Management, Department of Corrections. Department of Corrections has grown from \$17,000,000 to \$27,000,000 since 2002. But we've built a juvenile detention center, we've put in intake systems, we've done things to try to stem the tide of a problem that is onerous on our community and that's folks that are not playing by the rules and we have to deal with and it's not easy.

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We looked at Environmental Resources, we looked at COMCARE administration. That's about the only place there's any mill levy money in COMCARE. People say 'Well, you've got this huge budget, it's \$44,000,000' Yes it is, \$42,000,000 of it is Medicare reimbursement that we get only when we provide services and comes from another revenue source. Well that inflates the total budget but you know, that's needed resources and we only spend it when we have a client that uses that service. It's not like we're increasing the mill levy to do all of these programs.

We looked at the Health Department. There's a huge gap that's starting to grow there between the money that comes from the state and the needed Health Department things that we need to do. We looked at the Coliseum and its enterprise fund and what are we going to do there. You know, there's a little gap starting to grow and how do we shrink that down to make sure that it's a profit center. It's pretty hard to do right now, but we're trying to look at that. And then we looked at all the cultural things. You know I wrote down we could save the budget right now: Zoo, 4.4 million; Cowtown, 520,000; Exploration Place, 2.5 million; extension, 1.0; economic development 1.4; workforce, 2.2; county commission contingency, let's get rid of it, 500,000; 12.8 million. Let's just get rid of all of that. Is that government? Well, somebody's ox is going to get gored. It's quality of life.

Which is my next point, when you have people living close to each other, it's not government that we're working on, it's building our civilization and there's plenty of countries in this world that would love to have our civilization. But to build civilization, you've got to pay for it and there's only one source to do that and that's people coming together with shared responsibility to share their wealth to have the civilization. It's a pretty simple quotient and it is an elective, representative government that tries to make those decisions with good input from every citizen that wants to weigh in and we've worked pretty hard to try to figure that out.

The truth is, as you try to build civilization, there's a lot of money out there it deal with, but the truth is where money is spent most religiously for the people that it most affects is at the local level. Your local property tax money goes right back into the community you live in and I would say there is a huge tax burden in our country, but you know if you weigh it all together, it's federal tax, it's state tax, and it's a variety of local taxes and it's really maddening to be criticized on decisions you're making that affect the people you live next to.

It's not so easy when you go off to Washington and it all gets into a big pot and we don't even know what happens to it. Well, we think we know, \$300,000,000,000 for a war and you know, you can debate that all day long whether that's right or wrong, but that's a lot of our money that doesn't come back to take care of the problems we have in our own community, right here in America.

There's an imbalance in our taxes right here locally. The only tool we have in our toolbox and

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property tax. We have a \$360,000,000 budget. Most people don't realize that only a third of our budget that we deal with here is property tax. The rest of it is federal, state taxes that kind of drift back through us through grants. We have to spend it only in a certain manner. It comes to us as Medicare for a mental health patient. We can't pull that out and say 'Let's put that into building the jail'. We only have a hammer in the toolbox. Now personally, I'd like to have a screwdriver and a wrench too. I mean, those other two are sales tax and income tax, so if you balance out the three-legged stool a little bit and not put so much onerous on property tax owners.

I understand it's hard. There are many people that have worked hard, played by the rules, have their property but now have no income. They're called senior citizens and it's hard on them because the only thing we can touch is their property tax. It would be nice to have a little sale tax mixed in, which works to the advantage of people that have money and are spending it and also have a little income tax for people that are making plenty of income and let us put some of the burden on that. We don't have that. We don't have to do due diligence of property tax.

My next thought is that we wouldn't have the discuss at all if we hadn't lost the demand transfers from the state. I had Chris Chronis figure that up for us and yes, the number is 6.8 million that we lost the last year, but that was only a portion of the statutory limitation. If we got all of it, this year we would get 2.2 million dollars. I don't know what 10.2 looks like, but I think that's about . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "That's all of it."

Commissioner Norton said, "That's all of it right there. So you know, with a little help from the state, of them taking care of their responsibility, we at the local level would be having some pretty easy decisions right now, like many other years."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And that was designed, primarily was it not, to relieve pressure on . . ."

Commissioner Norton said, "The whole idea was to be a property tax relief mechanism for the locals and part of it was transportation plan. Part of it was property tax relief and that's dried up.

The truth is, it's been like a roller coaster for me, going through this budget and listening to people and listening to the e-mails. It's maddening to hear people that worry too much about which ox is going to gored and it's worrisome that I get e-mails are just a forward from an e-mail they got from somebody else, with no thought process as to whether the e-mail is right or wrong. And I'd rather have somebody call me and chew me out personally than to send me an e-mail that is just a one-minute attachment. If they don't have anymore time than to participate in government the right way and you know I'm available 365 days a year. I answer e-mails at 10:00 at night at home. I have a problem with that, that I get these e-mails that are just 'I don't really have time to weigh in on this and understand it', but I can sure because somebody has told me that taxes are going up, I

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can just say the easy thing, that's no taxes. That really upsets me and I hope the people out there hear the message. If you want action, call us 365 days a year and voice your opinion. That's really important.

I'm going to be supportive of this. It's been a roller coaster ride for all of us, trying to dig into this and understand it. But for me it boils down to one thing and I hope this is the message that people get, it's about trust. You elected me to do a job. I've been an elected official as a city council member, as a mayor and now as a county commissioner. I ran a business here that I hope people trusted and used for many years and for me it boils down to I've looked at this budget, I've tried to understand it, I love this community, I'm not out to hurt it and if you don't trust me, I understand the consequences of that but I'm going to vote for this budget."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, commissioner. Well, I guess I'm the next one to speak. I want to start off by complimenting Allan Cobb and Karl Peterjohn. You did a tremendous job, if the goal was to get a lot of people energized to make contacts with us. We have over 1,700 phone calls in our office. The two girls were working constantly, every day, just responding to the calls. So much so that a lot of other people trying to call us about other business were having difficulty getting in.

My own home phone, of which you were careful not to put home phone numbers down but they opted to call at home, we received over 100 phone calls just yesterday. Unfortunately, my wife had to take the brunt of those calls because I was down here. Some of those calls were rather testy, but Allan, I'm just going to make it personal. You and I have been friends for a long time. We have the same political party, the same side of the same political party. My only disappointment is, I wish if your organization had a difficulty or a concern, you would have called me. I mean, I think I've shown a history of when . . . well, you worked for private companies before and whenever they call, I try to make myself available, sit down, visit like friends and neighbors and I would have appreciated trying to explain where we were trying to go. And then you could have made a decision whether or not, you know, to throw the gauntlet down and move forward and I am a little disappointed in that.

I'll be right up front. I'm going to support this and this is probably the most political stupid thing I've ever done as to why would a person who has a reputation of being a penny pinching skinflint even remotely consider raising the mill levy, especially in an election year. And I will tell you, I

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have been sorely tempted, because I've been getting a lot of calls from people I respect suggesting strongly that I don't vote for this if I want to get reelected in November and I should be thinking just about Ben Sciortino, just about my political career, just about my chances of maintaining my job. That's what I should do if I was a typical politician and unfortunately, that's what a lot of politicians do. They just think about me, me, me to the detriment of the public.

I can't do that and I don't know what that's going to portend in November, but I will know, no matter which way it goes, that in my own heart I'm making the right choice, because I think we stand at the most defining moment in the history of Sedgwick County. And I am so proud of all of you and I'm telling you I congratulate you on what I consider bold, courageous leadership in going along with this program. Public safety and job creation, the aviation workers in this county form the economic spine of our entire state. To abandon them right now, in their time of need would be obscene. The action that we are going to take today in preserving these existing jobs and increasing the potential for more of these high paying jobs, these are not the 'do you want fries with that' type of jobs, these are jobs that with enough discretionary income that they can buy the homes that the Wichita Area Association of Realtors are selling. They can buy the cars that the Wichita Area Dealers Association are selling. They have enough discretionary income that they can patronize the clubs and the restaurants and the other entertainment venues in our area. These are people that have worked their entire lives and they have the right to continue until retirement and then their children and their grandchildren have the right to the same opportunities that their mothers and fathers have had.

We are going to insure, by our action today, that the economic spine of our state will not be broken. That it will in fact grow and strengthen to put the state of Kansas as the number one leading aviation technical training center in this entire nation. These students will come from all over our country, I think all over the world. They'll get trained here. The employers will be here. They will hire them here, they will stay here, they will buy their homes, they will buy their cars, there will be a good student and a good economic citizen that will contribute to our society.

This is the most exciting time in our Sedgwick County history. It's not doom and gloom. This is going . . . what we're doing today, in my opinion, will make the next 20 or 25 years to guarantee that the economic viability of our state will grow. Together, we can do this, folks and I am confident that once the citizens of Sedgwick County understand what these five commissioners are trying to do today, you will join us because together we can do, we should do it and I say to all of you lets do it. Thank you. Mr. Manager, you can continue now please."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Before you is a resolution, agenda item 2, if it pleases the bench I will read that:

A resolution providing for the funding of the 2007 Sedgwick County budget

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This is the truth in taxation resolution.

Whereas, K.S.A. 70-2925b provides that a resolution be adopted if property taxes levied to finance the 2007 Sedgwick County budget exceeds the amount levied to finance the 2006 Sedgwick County budget, except with regard to revenue produced and attributable to the taxation of: (1) new improvements to real property; (2) increased personal property valuation other than increased valuation of oil and gas leaseholds and mobile homes; (3) property located within added jurisdictional territory; or (4) property which has changed in use during the past year; and,

Whereas, budgeting, taxing and service level decisions for all County services are the responsibility of the governing body of Sedgwick County; and,

Whereas, Sedgwick County provides essential services in Sedgwick County continues to increase and the County has reduced costs of delivering services to the extent possible; and,

Whereas, at its special meeting of July 26th, 2006 the governing body of Sedgwick County authorized the County Manager to publish a notice of Public Hearing regarding the 2007 budget to solicit comments and suggestions from the public; and

Whereas, the governing body of Sedgwick County has received public input throughout the budget process and has evaluated public input in the context of providing essential public services to reflect County taxpayers' willingness and ability to pay for them.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, as the governing body of Sedgwick County, that property taxes shall be increased in order to finance the 2007 Sedgwick County budget, due to the above mentioned reasons.

Commissioners, I would recommend you adopt that resolution.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioners, what’s the will of the Board on this resolution?”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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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."

3. ADOPTION OF THE 2007 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Mr. Buchanan said, "You have a resolution before you that adopts the 2007 budget. Two public hearings were held on July 26th and 29th regarding this. This budget, as advertised in the public notice, represents a decreased from the Manager's 2007 recommended by \$1,816,100, which consequently reduced the estimated property tax by 5.92 mills or to 31.685 mills. David I think has prepared a resolution for you."

Mr. David Miller, Budget Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Yes. Some of those numbers you quoted there were from the August . . .or the July 26th meeting."

Mr. Buchanan said, "What are the right numbers?"

Mr. Miller said, "The commissioners have the new, updated numbers."

Chairman Sciortino said, "So we can actually make a motion under this one here. Okay, commissioners, what is the will of the board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the 2007 Sedgwick County Budget, as advertised in the Notice of Public Hearing, of \$349,502,609. The Budget includes a certified legal budget of \$232,979,573 with a \$118,839,946 property tax levy, which is approximately equivalent

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to a property tax rate of 31.305 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see any other . . . excuse me, Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I just wanted to comment. I know we've all struggled with this but at the end of the day, as I add up the numbers, the jail, those programs that have to do with public safety and the debt service and the operating cost of the Juvenile Detention Center are 3.122 mills and any way you slice it, that is what has brought us to this today, it is dealing with a problem that is not going to go away and it's the jail.

You know there's been so much talk about technical training and some of the other programs, but truthfully in any other year we could have dealt with technical training and done that facility without any worry at all. We would have figured a way to meld that in, but you add on the Juvenile Detention Center, the jail and all the alternative programs that we've tried to do, it's 3.122 mills and that just doesn't go away easy. You don't put that burden back into the operating budget without eliminating something in culture or mental health or so many of the other things that have been talked to us about today.

So at the end of the day, we've come to this conclusion, I'm sure with a burden that yes, we've been able to go eight years with no mill levy increase. You know, I believe that we've had tax increases but we've held the mill levy in line. This year it's just not going to happen. To do our due diligence and to be good servants of the public, we have to take this kind of step, but it's mostly because of those things that are considered important, critical, public safety issues. That's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I don't see any further comments, so Clerk call the roll."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Aye

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Chairman Sciortino

Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

4. ADOPTION OF THE 2007-2011 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) AND THE 2007 CAPITAL BUDGET.

Mr. Buchanan said, "Part of this budget includes a Capital Improvement Program from 2007 to 2011 of \$212,473,781. I would recommend you adopt that Capital Improvement Plan."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, what is the will of the board on our CIP budget? Excuse me, we have a comment."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, the only the comment I had was we usually do this, but this has not been done without review, as we went through our budget hearings in June and July, and we spent a number of . . . much time on this capital improvement, so even though it appears we're not going to discuss it much today, I mean we've worked this part of the budget hard also. That's my only comment."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, what the will of the board on this item please?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the 2007-2011 Capital Improvement Program and the 2007 Capital Budget with changes, subject to review and technical adjustments.

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

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Chairman Sciortino

Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I'm going to ask for a . . ."

Mr. Buchanan said, "If I may suggest you recess and go into the Fire District, adopt those budgets."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And then have a recess because some of us have a problem. Okay, I'll make a motion that we recess the commission meeting at this time and recess into the meeting of August 9th being the board of County Commissioners sitting as the governing body of Fire District #1."

B. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING.

The County Commission recessed into the Fire District #1 Meeting at 12:06 p.m. and returned from recess at 12:13 p.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, "And I'm still going to talk about food. Does anybody want to recess for lunch, or would you rather just take a brief recess?"

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I'd like to take at least a brief recess."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, why don't we recess for 10 minutes and return back and just kind of continue wading through this entire budget. We're now in recess, ladies and gentlemen."

The County Commission meeting was recess at 12:14 p.m. and returned from recess at 12:30 p.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, "I'd now like to call back the Board of County Commission Meeting of August 9th. Clerk, call the next item please."

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

C. CASE NUMBER DR2005-29 – DUNBAR THEATER REDEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY. DISTRICT #4.

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Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Got an easy one for you here, no decision on this one. Back in May of 2003, when this board and the Wichita City Council adopted the McAdams Neighborhood Revitalization Plan it contained a recommendation that states ‘Redevelop the historic Dunbar Theater area as a visual and performing arts center’. The plan went on to also recommend that a feasibility analysis be undertaken of a community-based, visual and performing arts reuse and redevelopment opportunities associated with the Dunbar Theater.

And as a result of that recommendation, in that plan, city council then allocated money in its Capital Improvement Program, for that feasibility analysis. And as a result of that, in January of this year, the Wichita City Council then allocated money in its capital improvement program for that feasibility analysis.

And as a result of that, in January of this year, the Wichita City Council commissioned a study by a group of consultants to undertake the feasibility analysis and what’s before you today, in our agenda backup is the result of that study, the Dunbar Theater Redevelopment Feasibility Study report.

In that report, the consultants found that there is an unmet niche in the community for a performing arts venue of about 200 seats and that this facility could then also provide the surrounding neighborhoods a much needed location to host meetings and receptions. The study estimates that the facility could be redeveloped at a cost of about 1.5 million dollars and that an annual operating subsidy of about \$215,000 would be need to operate the facility on an ongoing basis.

The implementation of the study’s recommendation will depend on some group from that neighborhood stepping up and carrying this project forward. The study goes on the name a number of possible funding sources for the project, which could include some local government funding but it’s really meant to be a tool for a neighborhood group to step up and carry this project forward.

There are no local government funds budgeted at this time for the project, other than the funding of the study. The study has been presented to a group of neighborhood leaders. They indicated support for the idea and some interest in moving forward with the project.

No action is called for today, except for you to receive and file this report. I placed it on the agenda for you to receive the report, simply because you had participated in the development of the plan. With that, I’ll be glad to take any questions.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And we have a question or comment from Commissioner Burtnett.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Actually, it’s just a comment. I want to give some credit to James

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Arbertha and the Power CDC because I think that is one of the neighborhood organizations that's stepping up to the plate and they're going to be trying to acquire the property, which I think is wonderful that they would own the property and then, with this other redevelopment plan, I think it's a great idea and I hope they can get it off the ground, so if anyone wants to contact Mr. Arbertha and give him money to help towards this, I'm sure he would be most appreciative, so thank you for the update and I'm glad we got that opportunity to tell people about it."

Chairman Sciortino said, "If there's no further comment, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett 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 Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

NEW BUSINESS

D. RESOLUTION CREATING AN AD HOC TASKFORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS.

Ms. Jenni Gluszek, Management Intern, County Manager's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you today you have a joint resolution with the City of Wichita to create this task force and this force will seek to create a plan to end homelessness in Sedgwick County and the Wichita

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area. I do recommend that you adopt the resolution and do want to draw your attention to the fact there are some slight semantic changes that were presented by the City of Wichita not included in your backup but those will be given to you shortly. Mr. Euson has seen these changes, signed off on them and they do not change the subject matter of the resolution whatsoever.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, I do have a comment or question. Mr. Manager, on this, how does the task force get formed? Who makes the appointments?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “This resolution authorizes George Kolb and I to make those appointments.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, well I’d like to talk to you about that.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Be happy to.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, thank you. That’s all I had. Commissioners, any other comments? And if there aren’t any, what’s the will of the Board on this item?”

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to adopt the Resolution.

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

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

E. AGREEMENTS (TWO) TO PROVIDE FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES.

- 1. DR. JILL COBB**
- 2. DR. GEORGE THOMAS**

Dr. Mary Dudley, M.D., District Coroner/Chief Medical Examiner, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have in front of you agreements for two doctors to provide forensic pathology services: Dr. Jill Cobb and Dr. George Thomas. This will really just be a temporary situation, while Dr. Oeberst is on maternity leave. And so I'd like to have approval of the agreements and authorize the Chair to sign."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreements 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

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Before you leave though Doctor, I think we have a comment."

Commissioner Winters said, "I just have one questions, I guess should have asked it before, but Doctor, you've got full faith and confidence that these are two qualified people and will be able to assume these responsibilities?"

Dr. Dudley said, "Absolutely yes. Actually, Dr. . . . her names was Thomas . . . sorry, Gold and Thomas, they actually covered prior to my coming here and they also covered in Topeka. They're board certified forensic pathologists with years of experience, so that will help us to keep our accreditation to have them here."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you very much. Just wanted that on the record, thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And Doctor, just a . . . will you be in your office this afternoon? I needed to call you about another item. It's a totally unrelated subject, but I wanted to visit."

Dr. Dudley said, "Yes, I will. Okay, that will be fine, I'll be around. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

F. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE TO OAKLAWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

Ms. Irene Hart, Director, Division of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We have for your consideration, the annual renewal of a subsidy for the Wichita Transit Authority to expend bus service into the Oaklawn area. We've unwritten this program since 1990.

It continues to be used. It grows a little bit each year. The subsidy is the cost of the program above what's received in the fare box. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

This particular agreement authorizes the agreement for this year and two consecutive one-year options to renew. The dollar amount has not changed significantly over time."

Commissioner Winters said, "And how much was that dollar amount?"

Ms. Hart said, "About \$28,298."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay commissioners, any questions or comments? If not, what's the

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will of the Board on this item?”

MOTION

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

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, “Thank you. Next item.”

G. CONTRACT WITH GLS FLANAGAN BUILDING JOINT VENTURE FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 200 SOUTH EMPORIA, RELATED TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ARENA PROJECT.

Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Manager, Facility Project Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This property, located at 200 South Emporia is more commonly known as the Dancer’s Building and it represents the fourth property out of the 26 that we are currently underway to purchasing in support of a new downtown arena.

This purchase price of \$290,000 was the final opinion of value provided by the Martens Company and their overall appraisal work for all of the properties located at this site. In addition to this purchase price, the county will also be responsible for relocation and closing costs for this property. I recommend your approval and am available for questions.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And this is, oh excuse me, Commissioner Unruh, you had a question sir.”

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Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Stephanie, is the property vacant?"

Ms. Knebel said, "It is currently vacant, yes it is."

Commissioner Unruh said, "And so relocation costs relate to . . .?"

Ms. Knebel said, "There is, because the State of Kansas pretty much adopted the federal law providing for our ability to purchase properties as a local government, we are required to pay relocation in terms of what we call a change of address to the owner. They are entitled to a type of compensation for this property, even though it's vacant."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, so it's relatively minimal?"

Ms. Knebel said, "It is."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Just a procedural thing."

Ms. Knebel said, "It's very much so, yes."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, thank you. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And this is being purchased not under the condemnation. This is a voluntary transaction that's being done now? This isn't under condemnation?"

Ms. Knebel said, "That's correct."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, all right, very good. Any other comments, commissioners? What's the will of the board on item G please?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Unruh 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, “Stephanie, thank you. We do have a comment though. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I just want to be on the record, you know I voted against the condemnation actions that we took and I voted for this, but this is an arms length transaction. It has nothing to do with imminent domain or condemnation. I just wanted to be sure that my colleagues knew that I’m not conflicted on this. It just has to do with arms length transaction.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “We understand that commissioner. Thank you. Thank you, Stephanie. Keep up the good work, kiddo. Next item please.”

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE

H. CONTRACT WITH PROJECT INDEPENDENCE, INC. TO PROVIDE CONSUMER-RUN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES; AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH, IN A DROP-IN SETTING.

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Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, “Boy, am I proud of you today. It was a big day. This is a renewal of a contract with Project Independence, which is a mental health consumer run organization on South Ida Street that primarily offers social activities for people with severe and persistent mental illness.

The socialization is a very challenging and important part of complete recovery and they have helped us out for a number of years. This contract requires monthly financial reports and quarterly program reports and we will be paying them this year monthly. And part of that is because we’ve had very renewed faith in their ability to manage the finances there. They have met all of their outcome goals and the contract is similar to last years, with a very slight increase, about \$2,000, for some replacement . . . one-time replacement costs for a couple of appliances in the kitchen that were inoperable. We are recommending that you approve the contract. Oh and I did want to say that Rene Strunk who is the director of Project Independence is here and listening to all of the conversation this morning.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. I don’t know that we have any comments. I don’t see any, so I’ll just ask what the will of the board is on this item?”

MOTION

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

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 very much. Next item please.”

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DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- DEPARTMENT ON AGING

I. GRANT APPLICATION TO UNITED METHODIST HEALTH MINISTRY FUND TO PROVIDE THE “HEALTHY TEETH, HEALTHY YOU: STEPS TO HEALTHIER AGING” PROGRAM TO OLDER ADULTS IN SEDGWICK COUNTY.

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “What you have before you is a grant application for funding through the United Health Ministry funds. This is an opportunity that we would like to proceed with to try to access some funding for oral healthcare for older adults in Sedgwick County.

Over the years, we continue to through our information and assistance identify the gaps in services. Approximately 10% of the calls and contacts we have from older adults and caregivers have to do with dental healthcare. Approximately 60 calls a month are in regards to this kind of issue.

Medicare and Medicaid do not cover the cost of dental care and . . . or denture coverage, so it’s a really big issue in our community and we do know that it has a big impact, not only on the dental care but physical health and mental health, when people don’t have the appropriate dental care they need.

This grant funding, if we were to receive it, would fund dental education and dental inspections in places like senior centers, senior-focused housing, the Senior Expo, other community based services. It would be similar to the program that they do in the school systems, where they have a dental professional doing a visual screening of an individual to identify if there’s cavities, if there’s problems with tartar build-up, plaque, also for older adults to look if there’s any indication of oral cancer.

So then what we would do also, we would then make referrals to appropriate community resources, our hope that this would give us some data. It would also give us some more partnerships within the community to help increase the number of dental services available to this population that would be low cost or free for some individuals who need it.

We would also be working with these professionals to train a group of volunteers who would then be on-site at all of these screenings to then provide an educational component, where they would educate individuals and their caregivers about the importance of dental care. Also for their caregivers to understand about it and also to do some demonstrations for those with impaired mobility to educate them on some of the supplies that are available. And then they would also walk

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away from that with some toothpaste, toothbrushes and floss. So it would really be an education component, for them to understand the importance of it. Also the link to physical health, because a lot of times people don't understand the really big connection between oral health and physical health. So, this grant application is for \$9,151 for a one-year program. It does not require any county dollar matches and we would request that you approve the grant application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I see that there is one. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Annette, how many folks do we think we'll be able to see? The grant is not a very large grant and I'm just trying to figure out how much?"

Ms. Graham said, "We were guessing, we were estimating that approximately 200 people could go through the evaluations and approximately 400 could receive the dental education, but then we were also going to include some things in this like an article in Active Aging where we could potentially reach 50,000 people and then do some pamphlet distributions at nutrition sites and Meals on Wheels programs. So just getting the education out would be a bigger reach than the actual services, but our hope is that through startup of this program that we would be able to get some data to hopefully be able to pursue other grants, work with Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department on Aging to maybe get some more funding available and just to build those partnership, because there's not a lot awareness about the importance of this issue."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Well thank you. That answers my question. I'm happy that we're going to be able to help facilitate this and improve the health of our senior citizens but I thought that number was so small we couldn't provide actual services, but it's more than that and thank you. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Commissioners, what's the will of the board on this item?"

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this Application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the grant award documents are executed.

Commissioner Unruh 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, "Next item."

J. PUBLIC WORKS.

- 1. APPLICATION BY VALLEY CENTER LIONS CLUB FOR RENEWAL OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM ON MERIDIAN FROM 61ST STREET NORTH TO 69TH STREET NORTH. DISTRICT #4.**

Mr. David Spears, P.E., Director/County Engineer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item J-1 is a renewal agreement with the Valley Center Lions Club for the Sedgwick County Adopt-A-Highway program. They will be responsible for Meridian between 61st Street and 69th Street North. I recommend that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, "I bicycle down there every Saturday so I'll be really happy to have them clean out the ditches and whatever to make it more attractive, as I bicycle past it."

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Mr. Spears said, “Do you take the bicycle path or the street?”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I ride roads.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “You ride in the ditch?”

Chairman Sciortino said, “No I ride on the roads, but I look in the ditch sometimes. Okay, what’s the will of the Board? Have we voted on this? Okay, let’s vote on it.”

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item please.”

2. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS FOR ALL COUNTY MAINTAINED HIGHWAYS AND PARTS OF HIGHWAYS WITHIN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT THEREOF. ALL DISTRICTS.

Mr. Spears said, “Item J-2 is a resolution listing the speed limits for all roads and highways designated on the Sedgwick County highway system. The last update to this resolution was in 2004 and it is being updated now to reflect the significant changes to the county system due mainly to annexation and also due to fringe development. Your backup contains a list of the changes. I believe it’s on page 151 if you’re interested.

Connecting links in the small cities are not included in this resolution, as the individual cities have the police power to regulate traffic within their corporate limits. Also, school zone times in the unincorporated areas will be established by working with the individual school districts.

This countywide resolution is a living document and individual speed limit changes will be made, as necessary, between complete revisions. I recommend that you adopt the resolution.”

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

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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, David. Next item please.”

K. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.

Deferred Item

- 1. ITEM #2 (2.1 - 2.4) OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 20, 2006: OUTREACH MARKETING/MEDIA SERVICES – HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This item was deferred for further review and after further evaluation, I’m going to change the recommendation and recommend that all proposals be rejected and that the work be rebid at a later date. The intent of the award was to establish contract pricing and create flexibility and resource availability for demographic outreach, as the county’s needs arise for public educational advertising campaigns.

And since the needs of the departments vary greatly and the target audience for the different advertising campaigns are so varied, instead of contract pricing approach, what we’ll do is handle each instance in a case-by-case basis and we’ll develop the advertising campaign first, then we’ll determine the media source to advertise and then we’ll competitively bid each one.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. Commissioner Burtnett.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Well commissioners, I’m the one to ask for this to be pulled from the agenda a couple of weeks ago, so I just wanted to let you know we did have some meetings on this regarding this particular RFP and I’m glad to see that we’re going to reject these bids and then

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kind of start over I guess would be a good way to put it.

I think the county would be better served and obtain the best value by determining first what sort of public education campaign we're going to desire and what constituent audiences to be targeted, so I am in support of this new motion to reject all the bids on this particular item."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I don't see any further comments, so Commissioners what's the will of the board please?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts and reject all bids.

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, "Next item please."

2. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2006.

Ms. Baker said, "There were two items for consideration at the meeting of August 3rd."

**1) POWER EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE APPARATUS- FIRE/ EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
FUNDING: AVL/ MDC INTEGRATION PROJECT**

The first item is power equipment for fire and emergency medical service apparatus. The

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recommendation is to accept the low bid from Weis Fire and Safety in the amount of \$26,189.28 and to establish and execute contract pricing for one year with two one-year options to renew.

**2) MUNGER PARKING LOT & MAIN STREET SIDEWALK REPAIRS0 FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
FUNDING: FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

The second item is Munger parking lot and Main Street sidewalk repairs, Facilities Department and the recommendation is to accept the low bid from Barkley Construction for \$28,400.

Would be happy to answer any question and recommend approval of these two items.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. Iris, just on item two, I’m not familiar with Barkley Construction. I assume that the Board of Bids and Contracts considers that a reputable contractor, he’s bid before because he’s substantially lower and that’s fantastic, but he meets all of the requirements and everything?”

Ms. Baker said, “Correct. He’s done work for us before.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “All right, thank you. Okay.”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you Iris. Next item.”

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CONSENT AGENDA

L. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Orders dated July 25 and August 1, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 2. Payroll Check Register of July 28, 2006.**
- 3. Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project 811-J, N¹/₂ K; widening of Ridge Road between K-96 and 53rd Street North. CIP# R-282. District #4.**
- 4. Agreement with First American Title of Kansas Agency, Inc. providing on-line access to Sedgwick County's electronic data.**
- 5. Agreement with City of Wichita and National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for development and operation of an automated Local Flood Warning System.**
- 6. General Bills Check Register(s) for the weeks of July 26 – August 8, 2006.**

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

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, is there anything else to come before this board this afternoon. Commissioner Norton."

M. OTHER

Commissioner Norton said, "I just had a couple. I happened to have a chance to go to the Southwest Village ice cream social last night. There was around looked like 100 people and 50 of them were kids and so I guess ice cream attracted them, but it was a great time, I was glad to have the invitation, it was a wonderful evening and a great celebration of a neighborhood on the south side.

The second thing I'd like to communicate to folks that live along 87th Street where we're cold mixing. We've got half of it pretty well done, but we've got some utility issues on the second half of it, between Seneca and Broadway, and that will be finished up hopefully in the next couple of weeks, but we have had a little bit of a snag and I've had some questions on that, so if any of them are watching, hopefully this will clear that up.

And then finally I'd like to send out just a howdy to Jim Skelton whose is laid up at home. I got an e-mail from him when he took a break. He's shattered his ankle and his leg and he's had surgery and Councilmember Skelton is at home so if he's still watching we're all thinking of him and hope that he'll get up and about and doing his public service here real soon, but he messed his leg and his ankle up pretty bad."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Hi Jim, hope you're doing well. Okay, commissioners I just once again want to congratulate all of you. I think you displayed some real bold, courageous leadership on the action that you approved today and I, in my heart, know that we did the right thing and I think that the action that we've taken today is going to ensure the economic viability of our county for the next 20 or 25 years. And I just want to let you know that it's an honor to serve as your chairman and I've never been more proud of this commission as I am today. We've withstood a lot of pressure. I would have been extremely easy for me, being the last vote, to just vote no, knowing it was already approved. It could have been a temptation of any of us that felt that they wanted to play that political game, but we voted our conscience and it will be up now to the voting public to decide whether or not they'd want to continue trusting us to act as their representative and leaders.

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But we did the right thing and I just want to tell you I'm very proud of all of you, thank you. Sorry, I'm sorry, Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I'm going to have to take a little umbrage with you. I think we took bold action. I think we took tenacious action. I think we took forward-thinking action. I think we took thoughtful action, but the word 'courageous' should be held in high regard to those that ran into the building at 9/11 and those troops that are serving overseas. I don't think we did anything courageous today. I think we could put it in a lot of other categories but it's not about courage. It's about thoughtfulness and bold action, but courage is . . . I hold that word in the highest regard and I don't think I did anything courageous today."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I accept that reprimand."

Commissioner Winters said, "It wasn't a reprimand, it was a suggestion."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Suggestion. We experienced bold and all the other adjectives Commissioner Norton just expressed. All right, well commissioners if there's nothing else to come before the board, gratefully I adjourn the meeting."

N. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.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