

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

July 19, 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, July 19, 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. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department; Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. Tom Pletcher, Clinical Director, Comprehensive Community Care; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer; 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. Edward LeRoy, Manager of Special Projects, Old Cowtown Museum.
Mr. Chris Conner, Director of Education, Old Cowtown Museum.
Mr. Fred L. Marrs, 333 S. Fountain, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Betty Ladwig, Co-president, League of Women Voters, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Joe Johnson, Developer, Schaefer, Johnson, Cox & Frey.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Mr. Ashok Aurora of the Hindu community.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, June 28, 2006

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of June 28, 2006.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I believe you've had a chance to review the Minutes of the meeting of June 28th. What is your will please?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 28, 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, "Next item please."

PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY 22, 2006 AS "DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I have a proclamation that I wish to read for your consideration. It states here, partners:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Cowboy is an enduring symbol of America. Sedgwick County, Kansas is the birthplace of the Chisholm Trail and has a unique and special connection to the American West; and

WHEREAS, the cowboy spirit continues to infuse this county with its solid character, sound family values and good common sense; and

WHEREAS, the cowboy image embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic and patriotism. The cowboy loves, lives off, and depends on the land and its creatures, and is an excellent steward, protecting and enhancing the environment; and

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WHEREAS, the cowboy was a key factor in establishing Sedgwick County commerce and continues to play a significant role in the culture and economy of the county; and

WHEREAS, to recognize the American cowboy is to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of Sedgwick County to an esteemed and enduring code of conduct; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim July 22, 2006 as

‘Day of the American Cowboy’

in Sedgwick County and encourage the citizens of the county to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Commissioners, that’s the proclamation and I stand ready here for consideration of this here proclamation.”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Next item. Oh, we have some people to take this proclamation. Who is here to take the proclamation? Please stand up and you can act a little bit foolish and stop me from acting any more foolish.”

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Mr. Ed LeRoy, Manager of Special Project, Old Cowtown Museum, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We do appreciate the recognition. This is the National Day of the Cowboy, it's the second annual Day of the Cowboy. I say, Chairman Sciortino very well stated the reasons that we are celebrating the cowboy and of course Sedgwick County has something else to celebrate and that's its own living history museum at old Cowtown Museum. We do invite you all out this weekend. Kansas Governor Sebelius will be joining us, in celebration of the cowboy, and also Red Steggal, so please come out and join us and once again, thank you for your recognition."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now I'm going to be there Saturday about 1:00 is when we actually have the official recognition and the governor is going . . . there's going to be some talking and visiting."

Mr. LeRoy said, "Absolutely and we hope you will too, commissioner."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now, I'll be there. Now is that the mayor of Cowtown? This gentleman behind you, or the coroner?"

Mr. LeRoy said, "Actually, this is one of our gamblers."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, okay."

Mr. LeRoy said, "This is Chris Conner. He's our director of education."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Very nice to meet both of you. Commissioners, any . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I was just going to ask both of them to identify themselves and just I didn't know if you were volunteers out there or employees or what. If you would identify yourself, we'd sure appreciate it."

Mr. LeRoy said, "Absolutely, I'm Ed Leroy, the manager of special events and special projects at Cowtown."

Mr. Chris Conner, Director of Education, Old Cowtown Museum, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm director of education."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now Chris is just relatively new, and they're starting to really do an outreach program to the students and what have you and trying to entertain them while at the same time educate them on what is a very strong part of our heritage. Okay, well thank you all very much. I'm going to take off this hat now. Okay, next item please."

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CITIZEN INQUIRIES

B. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING “THE WICHITA SEDGWICK COUNTY 1.5 MIL-LEVY FOR WSU.”

Mr. Fred L. Marrs, 333 S. Fountain, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “To speak to the 1.5 mill levy issue, city/ county mill levy issue for W.S.U. The number one thing I’d like to establish if I could today is football should not be blamed for the problem. The number one problem is for the last 20 years W.S.U. has continually lost students. Where we were even with K-State in 86, we’re now down some 9,000 students. Two years ago, on July 8th of 2004, I had a meeting with Jim Meek of our group with President Biggs and suggested that we use just the annual increase to the mill levy and therefore avoid any problem with affecting any existing program, use that in combination with a contingent sale of tickets to raise sufficient monies to bring back football to stop our student loss program. President Biggs advised that he would bring back football if we could show him how to pay for the scholarships including Title 9 scholarships. Subsequently, my analysis showed that two years worth of a slot of increase in the mill levy would be sufficient to cover \$1,250,000 for 85 football scholarships and even 85 Title 9 scholarships.

Mayor Mayans then, having discussed the issue with me, decided that he wanted to also add into the addition the amount of the contingency line item, which was not my original idea but was Mayor Mayans. And he said because nobody on the city council could tell him exactly how the contingency funds were being used and if we used them for athletic scholarships, we’d at least know how that money was being spent, and therein I think and believe is the basis of the problem, because I believe President Biggs could not use the contingency money because I believe it was already earmarked for other purposes. I’m in the process of trying to obtain documents and I’ll tell you about that in a little bit.

In FY 2006 budget we had \$2,721,241 in general scholarships supporting 2,090 students out of 14,229 or 14.7% of our student population on scholarship, 83.5% of those scholarships were paid for by the mill levy in the amount of \$2,272,236, accommodating 1,683 students. One would think another 85 for football wouldn’t make much difference but apparently it does.

We continue to lose students and the president covers this loss by using our mill levy money to buy students. You know, we . . . as I say, we have 1,683 students on the mill levy on regular scholarships but we can’t have 85 athletic scholarships. Last fiscal year of President Hughes’ tenure he requested \$7,091 for the contingency fund. President Biggs’ first fiscal year he increased the contingency fund 66.9 times, to \$474,356. I submit that that increase is perhaps unconscionable but to my knowledge has not been explained. At least I’ve been unable to understand what happened that occurred that was necessary to increase the contingency line item 66.9 times. In the eight years of Biggs tenure, we spent \$4,323,653 on the contingency fund. The University

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shows that in some manner we've spent in some manner . . . actually spent \$2,587,382, for a delta difference of \$1,736,221 and I believe that difference was apparently transferred to quote, the president's contingency account, which I do not find listed on the mill levy. I don't believe anyone can properly account for the mill levy contingency fund.

I have brought today the last eight submittals of . . . for the mill levy that the university provides us and I'll leave just one copy of them here for the commission."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Sir, excuse me. Normally we allow five minutes for a presentation. Could you share with us about how much more time you will need?"

Mr. Marrs said, "I have timed my notes at trying to get through this, I have a little trouble reading, but it's timed me in ten minutes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, let me just ask the board, would you wish to extend this gentleman's time to allow him to make this presentation?"

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Another five minutes, but not another ten."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, we'll go ahead and let you have ten minutes. That will be five more minutes."

Mr. Marrs said, "Yes, sir. The mill levy contingency account, I find, is numbered 8823 on the documents of the mill levy. The president's contingency account is 9755-5068. The 5068 account has been referred to in some documents by the president as 'my carryover fund account' so it's clear to me that there is three to four different contingency accounts. Clearly, the one that's identified as 5068 is a separate account that I don't find on the mill levy but I believe it contains mill levy carryover monies. There's also a quote, University Fund President that doesn't seem to have a number attached to it, but I believe it's probably also referring to the 5068 account number.

There's also an account number RS3010-1PR001 that may be a W.S.U. foundation account. I haven't been able to determine that yet, because I don't sufficiently have those documents. A university professor recently advised me that the president has a 5% contingency reserve carryover policy requirement for every department, so that at the end of the fiscal year, in June, 5% of the monies for the mill levy that was provided to the department are available for carryover.

On June 16th, last month, in the next to the last document that I previously provided this

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commission, the president transferred \$500,000 from this account RS3010-1PR001, which I think is probably a foundation account, to the scholarship account and then a mere eight days later told the press that the majority of the money in the mill levy contingency account went for scholarships. In the seventeenth document that I previously provided you, that I produced from the university, in a missive dated 7/30/2002 Linda Gill says quote, Eric, here's the information you requested regarding FY2002 mill levy carryovers. And it lists \$580,753.44 carried over, which monies I suspect were spent in FY2003. The thirteenth document I provided is a document that you all ought to really focus on. It's a memo from President Biggs that says now that we know the final revenues from the FY2002 mill levy budget, please transfer the amount of \$246,219 to the president's contingency . . . from the president's contingency to the welcome center account. In addition, for budget presentation purposes, which are these annual deals you get, for the FY2004 mill levy budget process, these funds should be presented as spent during FY2002. In fact, they were spent in FY2003 for you know a welcome center fund, but the monies apparently came from various line items in FY2001.

I'm in the process of trying to obtain the documents to take a look at stuff. In the oversight . . . or the organization and development line item, for eight years of oversight and accounting by the trustees, we have paid W.S.U. \$1,741,900 to account. For that, you get two letters, one to the city, one to the county manager, you get a summary statement of three years presentation and nine pages of language that is mental gymnastics, to say it kindly. It does give you some idea, but in many cases you don't have the total amount of information. I do not believe that you can look at those eight submittals, which the university tells me is all of the information that they have provided to the city and the county for accounting purposes, and properly know how the line item for contingency has been expended.

In his letter to William Buchanan this year, the president says, and he says this every year, it's the same letter basically, in addition, each proposed program expenditure has identifying goals to increase our accountability to taxpayers. I'm a taxpayer, but apparently not me, because when I asked to see documents, they tell me that 'well, it's going to cost \$3,000 just to get the documents together' and of course if you want to look at Roger Lowe's documents . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Mr. Marrs, we've now gone . . . one more minute? Okay, I'll give you one more minute."

Mr. Marrs said, "That if I want to look at Roger Lowe's documents, that will be a thousand more

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and in addition, it's open-ended. It takes us more time. It could be thousands more, so apparently they're profoundly concerned that the taxpayers understand how the monies are being spent, but when I want to see it and we've already paid them \$1,741,900 to see it, I'm told it's going to cost you a thousand more. So I would ask you, I have prepared today and I will leave it with you, a request for the documents I think is necessary to properly, you know, identify the issues and I'm going to leave you six copies of these and as soon as I find a disk I'll leave you a disk that if you want to modify it in any fashion you can. I would ask the council in general and Commissioner Unruh specifically, my commissioner to request the documents. I will go out and look at the documents and provide you a report, a detailed report pro bono on behalf of the people of the community. I thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, sir. Commissioners, any comments or questions that you would like to ask. Okay, thank you very much Mr. Marrs, for your presentation. Mr. Euson, do I have to have an official 'receive and file'?"

Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor, said, "Normally, we receive and file these. Yes I would."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Were you trying to approach the council for some reason, sir?"

Mr. Marrs said, "No sir, I thought you were talking to me."

Chairman Sciortino said, "No, I was talking to our counsel, I'm sorry."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton 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, “Next item please.”

C. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING REDUCTION OF POLLING SITES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VOTERS.

Ms. Betty Ladwig, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I welcome this opportunity to address to you some of the concerns that we have on behalf of the League of Women Voters.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Ma’am, if I could, just legally, if you could just maybe give your name and address. We always ask that.”

Ms. Ladwig said, “I’m co-president of the League of Women Voters, here in Wichita. I welcome this opportunity, commissioners. The League studies and takes action on government measures and policies in the public interest. The League has assumed leadership of this coalition that was formed in June in response to the many phone calls and contacts we’ve received after the Sedgwick County Election Commissioner announced the drastic reduction in polling places for the upcoming elections. The coalition is made up of ordinary citizens who are concerned about the rights of voters in Sedgwick County. They represent 18 different groups and two new groups have joined this past week.

The Election Commissioner, Mr. Gale, is trying to justify a 70% reduction in polling sites, from 208 down to 62, by noting the ADA guidelines and HAVA, the Help America Vote Act. Some of those polling sites that are new still have ADA problems and many of the sites from the old polling sites were completely ADA compliant. HAVA required that Sedgwick County had one ADA compliant machine at each site, not necessarily all. The older machines could have been used while we were in transition to fewer polling places and we know that this would make it difficult, because essentially it would be like holding two elections.

The lack of any citizen input to this major decision on voting for Sedgwick County citizens is of grave concern to our coalition and many of them are here today. We urge that a citizen task force

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for the purpose of working with voting decisions and issues and difficulties be appointed for elections now and in the future. We ask for assurance that if there are problems in the August 1st primary election that there will be changes made for the November election, including adding poll sites.

The new machines, purchased in Nebraska from E S and S do provide a paper trail, for which we're grateful. There have been difficulties with these machines in other states and one report and state showed it counted backwards. We ask that a random audit be made of all machines during the August 1st and the November election. HAVA requires all polling places to be ADA compliant as to access and we cheer that policy that expands the ease of voting for people that are disabled. Mr. Gale says that the old sites were rejected because they were not compliant or because they had parking problems. All the Wichita public schools were eliminated, leaving two-thirds of all of our new polling places in churches. The ADA compliant schools, virtually all in the Wichita district would have been fine with the neighborhood polls as before. They would not be adequate for parking of the 3,000 to 5,000 now assigned to the new polling places within the city. The school district was never contacted about any problems with the schools.

In our 2004 election, we had over 800 machines in use throughout Sedgwick County. Mr. Gale only purchased 545 new replacement machines. He contends that the lower number of machines and the few numbers of polling places won't be a problem, because of the addition of an opti-scan machine at each polling place and we thank all of you for seeing that those would be purchased and these will be used in conjunction with paper ballots.

This points out to us some concerns, that large numbers of voters assigned to the 62 sites will still have to find parking, that large numbers of voters assigned to the 62 sites will still have to check in. The lower number of poll workers than were used when there were 208 sites, in conjunction with the introduction of the new machines, both the E S & S and the opti-scan, will almost certainly lead to delays, at least in the general election.

Some voters will almost certainly be confused by the new machines, especially the elderly. The bottom line is that the combination of these issues will likely result in voters who don't know where to go to vote, voters who are intimidated by the new machines, voters who decide not to vote rather than risk long lines, voters who cannot stand in long lines for health reasons and will thus stay away, voters who cannot stand in long lines due to work obligations."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Ma'am, if I could just ask you, normally we allow five minutes. Could you give us an indication how much addition . . .?"

Ms. Ladwig said, "Probably one more minute."

Chairman Sciortino said, "All right, fine."

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Ms. Ladwig said, "Okay. Voters who cannot stand in long lines due to child care or school schedules and who will stay away or leave after they see the lines. Voters who do not understand or even know about early voting options. Decreased voting by those who don't want to deal with the changes. Voters who have transportation difficulties and not being able, as Lucy said last week, to get through to the call center. Democracy is diminished in Sedgwick County by the cut in polling places. By law, voters have an equal right to equal access to voting. The cost of getting to a polling place this election can be like a modern poll tax for some Sedgwick County residents, especially the poor. We call for signs to be added to the new polling places, showing where the new polling place is.

There's confusion among people as to where their new polling place is, and the coalition wants people to know where to vote, when to vote, how to vote on the new machine. One of the past presidents of the League of Women Voters noted that voter participation is the flesh that hangs on the bones of democracy. The coalition and the League of Women Voters will do everything they can to insist that every voters in Sedgwick County can vote and we want to thank the county. I especially want to thank Chad VonAhnen and Kristi Zukovich and Mr. Buchanan for realizing that there are some legitimate concerns and we are concerned and we want to help in whatever way we can. I do want you, if you have time to read this, it's an excellent publication on election reform across the country. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, ma'am. Commissioner Burtnett, you have a question or a comment of the presenter."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Just a comment. Betty, if you wouldn't mind getting a copy of what you just presented to us, could you have our Communications Department make a copy?"

Ms. Ladwig said, "I've got it marked up now, but I've got the documents at home on my computer."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, you could either e-mail that to us . . . I'd appreciate having that. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Is that all? Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well thank you for being here, Betty. You know, if nothing else, this debate that we're having right now out in the public, in the editorial page, on the front page, out in the community maybe will spur more people to think about what their rights are, as far as voting.

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We know that . . . and I've said it before that apathy is our biggest enemy in all of this. Certainly more polling places, less polling places, ease of voting and all of that is certainly a part of it. But you know, we've had terrible voter turnouts when we had all those machines, so the key now is to get information out to people, make sure people are engaged, they understand the process and that we try to stem that tide of apathy that washes over our community sometimes when it comes to elections. And hopefully the more we can talk about this, the more we can put it in the public eye, the more we'll push people to come out to the polls and really engage in the electoral process."

Ms. Ladwig said, "Thank you, commissioner. I think one of my concerns personally is that there's a lot of people out there that don't have computers. A lot of people that don't take the newspapers, so we've got to figure out a way to reach them. Most of them have televisions, so the PSAs that the county have prepared I hope will be bulleted and pushed and shown frequently in the days ahead. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Mr. Buchanan, there was some comments here. Is there anything that you would like to add to what we're trying to do? I hope you folks understand that the commission has absolutely no authority to direct Mr. Gale or Secretary of State Thornburgh. This is something that's a state driven thing. We did ask Mr. Gale what could we do and he came to that request to ask us would we spent another \$300,000 or whatever it was on these machines. We immediately said yes, but I'd like to have Mr. Buchanan, if you could share with us any of your thoughts, but also what other things have we done to try to get the message out."

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, said, "We have, as indicated, we have made a PSA and with the help of the League, and they've been a . . . the League of Women Voters, have been very helpful in making sure that gets distributed to the television stations and I have seen it and so I know that it's working."

Next week Mr. Gale, the election commissioner, will be here as part of the agenda to give you an updated report of what he's been doing, along with some of the assistance that we've provided him for our staff. We have a plan, a communications plan, we have a plan to notify people about where they're to vote. Ms. Ladwig is correct, not everybody has a computer, but if you do you can get on sedgwickcounty.org and right on top it say 'Vote' and you go there and either put your address in or your name and it tells you where to vote, which is . . . and also is kind of neat, also it gives you a history of your voting record, on how many times you've voted in the last couple of years. So next week you will hear a full scale report of what is occurring."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. And the other thing also that I would like to point out to the public that wasn't as part of the presentation, to his credit he has increased the number of locations for advanced balloting from two to fifteen and advanced balloting has become more and more popular and there could be an argument that by dramatically increasing the number of advanced

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locations and extending the hours and the time, that could be helpful and hopefully more people will take advantage of that, reducing the amount of pressure on the polling places on Election Day. And Mr. Gale came to us with Secretary of State Thornburgh last week, and assured us, because the question was asked directly if any hiccups or speed bumps are noted in the primary, will you react to it and correct it for the general and I think unequivocally both of those gentlemen indicated yes, that the primary would be a test, so to speak, and if they saw or even got the sense that there could be a problem, that they would adjust to eliminate or ease that problem for the general election.

But Mr. Norton said something that I believe all of us have a problem with, and that's the general apathy of the voting public. Overall, I would have to assume that the manner in which we as folks in the United States vote is pretty easy compared to how other democracies around the world vote. We remember seeing the long lines in Afghanistan and Iran and these people for the first time are able to vote and the lines were wrapped up, I don't know, blocks long, in some cases women were given the right to vote, plus being given death threats if they dared exercise that route, but they said 'yeah, our democracy is so important to us we're willing to take the chance and put our lives on the line because we want that ink on our thumb to prove that we had the courage to stand up and vote for the person of our choice'.

Here in the United States, unfortunately I guess we've enjoyed our freedoms too much and we're just beginning to just sort of take it for granted or what have you, but the key element is make the effort. Even if you have to stand in line for ten or fifteen minutes, which I hope you don't have to, it's worth it because unless you can exercise your right, politicians like ourselves are just going to just continue doing whatever we feel we want to do or we can do, because we don't have anything to fear from the electorate. They won't even have the courage to vote. So regardless of what your political affiliation is or who you want to support, make the effort August 1st to vote and then make the other effort in November to vote, to let the people that get elected know that you're watching and that's the biggest thing we can do as a democracy, is exercise that right that a lot of men and women died to give us. Mr. Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well I wanted to talk a little bit but I've engaged Commissioner Gale, Election Commissioner Gale with some ideas about some changes already for after the primary. One of the flaws I saw in the program was Haysville didn't have an advanced voting site. Third largest cities in the county and doesn't have one. I mean, you look at Derby, Goddard, Valley Center has two, Bel Aire has one and Haysville doesn't. And we engaged and talked about what

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that looks like. I've talked to the Mayor of Haysville and we've engaged Commissioner Gale and he assures me that they can't do anything for the primary but we'll look at the general and changing some of that and that's going to be really important.

I'm going to be watching that because as we try to find pockets where we're not serving the public as well as we should, we have to keep that dialogue moving continually and we have what we've got right now. We can lament it that we don't like it, but now our challenge is to observe and understand and find out where the pitfalls are in what we've got and make those error corrects that hopefully in the future by the general and for future elections, we have a system that works for every citizen in our community."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioners, any other comments? Seeing none, what is the will of the board on this presentation?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to receive and file.

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."

NEW BUSINESS

- D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES HELD IN THE ESCROW FUND PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH THE RENO COUNTY,**

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SEDGWICK COUNTY AND FINNEY COUNTY, KANSAS SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS, 1984 SERIES A.

Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In 1993, an escrow account was set up with the help of George K. Baum, using U.S. government securities that would pay off a 1984 Series A mortgage revenue bonds issued by Reno, Finney and Sedgwick County. On January 15th 2016 the account will hold sufficient funding to pay off the bonds but the bond issue cannot be called until later that year, on April 1st. Adopting this resolution will allow the escrow account to be reinvested during the period between January 15th and April 1st of 2016.

Investors will pay the present value on earnings projected for the 75-day period. We expect each county to receive around \$100,000. Reno and Finney Counties have already approved their resolutions and if you have any questions, I'll try to answer them. If not, I have expert help in the audience."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, I don't see that there is any questions, so commissioners, what's the will of the board on this item? Oh excuse me, Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I guess I would acknowledge and like the record to show that Chuck Bouly from George K. Baum Company is in the audience today and Joe Norton, bond counsel is here and I assume both of them are recommending approval of this also and see no flaws here."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I see two heads bobbing up and down, so I think that's a yes."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters 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

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Chairman Sciortino

Aye

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much, Brad. Next item please."

E. PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY MANAGER'S 2007 RECOMMENDED BUDGET.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Buchanan said, "It's my pleasure to present to you the 2007 recommended budget. There's lots of people to thank in this process and certainly I wanted to make sure that you understood that the budget team was . . . the budget advisory team, which met on a routine and regular basis consisted of Troy Bruun, the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Chris Chronis, the CFO, Ron Holt, the Assistant Manager, David Miller, the Budget Director, Jo Templin, HR Director, and Kristi Zukovich in Communications.

But the real work was done by the division heads, elected officials, department heads, and folks on the management team who crunched the numbers and who looked at programs to do things differently and all that information was put together by the budget team and led by David Miller, our budget director. Tonya Cole, budget analyst, Chris Duncan, Bernadette Francis, Pete Giroux and Misha Jacobs all did yeoman's work in putting the document together, along with Tammy Brandt and Linda Roush. And of course it couldn't be done, again, without the help of Communications, Chad VonAhnen and Kristi Zukovich.

You have the budget book that was given to you. It is similar to what we've done in the past. It's a process. The manager's message is here. The organizing principles and then it gets into the details of each department and division budget. This budget process was . . . I'm pleased with it this year. It's been a creative work. I think it's responsive to citizen's needs. I think it's appropriate and certainly it's more than practical.

And so with that, let me go through some of the issues that we are faced. Our mission and goals continue to be quality public services that provide for the present and future well being for citizens.

It's a partnership and we also honor partnerships of delivery of services. Last night, Commissioner Burtnett and I were at a reception where some of our partners were there. Those in the non-profit area who provide our services for us, for whom we contract, we recognize those as their good partnership. We want to recognize our employees as the quality of good public service and to build trust, confidence, teamwork, informed decisions and an open and transparent way.

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We also focus on the basic and essential services that meet the changing needs. I think those words are pretty powerful, because it's basic and essential services that you get to decide what they are. And also trying to meet, and this year's budget it does address some changing needs that we have never had before.

I want to talk a little bit, because I want to put this budget in perspective, of where we've been because I think we have been good stewards of taxpayers' dollars over the last several years. We have worked real hard to face the financial realities and have spent their money I think pretty wisely in doing that. We all recall that in the fall of 2001 the tragedy, then that happened, but our budget for 2002 had already been adopted and we have begun immediately looking at ways to cut costs, because we were already feeling the pinch by October, November and December of what was going to happen in 2002 and so we started trimming down the budget then.

In 2003, for the budget year, we know the state was in fiscal crisis and one of their responses to the fiscal crisis was to reduce the demand transfers to local governments. That was about 6.8 million dollars and, because of the bad economy, we lost another million or so in state revenues."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Bill, just for the public's edification, maybe not right now, but when it's appropriate, could you just in a couple of sentences explain to the public what demand transfers are?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Demand transfers are revenue sharing theory that the state would give local governments dollars based on population, based on the state budget, to help offset real estate taxes and to provide services. What the state did in their fiscal crisis was to say we're not going to share our revenue with you anymore."

Chairman Sciortino said, "So that necessitated us coming up with 6.8 million dollars that we hadn't anticipated coming up with to keep providing the services. Is that basically it?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes. Exactly, thank you. We did a lot of reprioritizing in 2003. We eliminated 41 positions, we froze 10 and a half and then we . . . when people retired or lapsed, we took a look at taking a long time to fill those positions or not filling them at all. We reduced funders to local partners. Our local partners were the Arts Council, African American Museum, Wichita/ Sedgwick County Historical Museum, those kinds of agencies. We eliminated by doing things differently, more effectively and more efficiently deferred . . . eliminated 2.8 million dollars of operating costs. We deferred a million in capital projects. We implemented that year some new fees for EMS that produced an \$800,000 revenue and we eliminated merit increases for employees

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and gave . . . that year, employees received a very small increase.

In 2004, we faced what we called the new financial reality, again this was a bad economy and we were not getting any help from the state. We eliminated another 42 positions, almost 43 positions. The important part about this is department heads were asked to create a budget in 2004 based on 2002 levels, so what they were doing is each department division went through the process and reprioritized how they were doing business and implemented a whole series of ways in which to deliver services the same, tried at the same level but doing things differently. In 2004, people received a 2% general pay increase.

In 2005 budget, the base budgets were set at 4% reduction from the '04, so it was a reduction in the '05 budget again to the '04 budget which were set at the same levels as '02. The positions were again, a whole series of positions were eliminated, 14 and 10 were frozen, reallocated funds to meet the critical needs of again public safety issues. And the . . .”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Bill, excuse me again. What does it mean you ‘froze’ a position? I’m just trying to make sure the public . . .”

Mr. Buchanan said, “If the position was empty, we wouldn’t fill it for the whole year.

The locally supported expenditures grew from 2004 through the end of 2005 at a rate of 1.6% and I think that’s pretty remarkable for an organization of this size and that was due to your diligence in that process.

2006 we began to see that public safety needs were increasingly funded, provided funding for a new juvenile detention facility. We’ve funded a public safety center that you can see right up the street, as it gets closer to completion. We had CJCC, the Community Criminal Justice Coordinating Council recommendations for double-bunking and day reporting came out of that, but were not funded. This year, they’re funded out of the contingency. Next year, we are going to fund those through the budget process and it was the eighth year of a no tax increase.

This year, 2007, and I want to put that in perspective so that you can see where we’ve been but for 2007, besides all those activities that we have done in the past, we are taking on several new projects under the headings of investing in jobs and protecting people. It’s about economic growth in jobs. It’s about public safety, because the jail population has increased. It continues to try to find efficiencies in delivering quality public service as we keep demanding that from our division directors and department heads. There’s a Japanese word ‘kizian’ which means continuous improvement and you can see, since the financial crisis in 2001, that we have on a daily basis tried to come to work to continue to find processes, a ways to improve on a daily basis to be more efficient and more effective.

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We're trying to meet the changing needs of the community because of the public safety issue and because of our jobs. Investing for jobs, aviation is critical, it is important to Kansas. We know that.

You received an e-mail from me yesterday where other states, to name New Mexico and Virginia, and other countries, the Sonora Province in Mexico are actively recruiting the aircraft industries that are here in Sedgwick County. And it seems to me that if we can't make a business climate that includes providing their ability to get employees, because that's what they tell us is absolutely critical, then they're going to be in a difficult position.

They tell us it's 4,100 jobs are needed. Other communities, one air company . . . I mean, we wrote this a couple of days ago, but that e-mail just struck me as a ton of bricks how serious that issue is. If we can't compete, you and I know that we'll lose those jobs. That is absolutely critical. It is the driving engine of our economy and the budget includes, our budget includes a technical education and training facility for \$40,000,000.

Protecting people, the Sheriff has told us again and again that the expansion of the 384 additional beds is critical. That expansion contin . . . that the growth in the jail population continues to grow. We know that. That's going to cost \$48,000,000, estimate now. And ongoing costs, which are not in the 2007 budget but will be in future budgets, as we build that facility, as we need to staff it, will cost seven and a half million dollars to operate. Not the whole facility, just the new part, just the new addition will be seven and a half million dollars to operate."

Chairman Sciortino said, "In addition to what . . .?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "In addition to what's already being spent. The new alternative programs that have come from the CJCC, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, are things that we're requesting funding for in 2007. We have begun the day reporting. That's been up and running for about eight days. We will have much more information about that. Both these programs, the day reporting and the offender assessment program are designed to keep people out of the jail. Those give judges an alternative to jail and make sure that our community is safe and people have appropriate punishments. What is occurring now in this community and what has occurred in the past is we have build jails every seven or eight years and that's been going on since the late 1998 and before that.

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Our response to changing laws at the state, and we have no control over those laws, now you have to go to jail for beating pets. I'm not trying to be pejorative of whether that's a good law or not. The state legislature passed that. We need to find what's the appropriate punishment for that and in Sedgwick County it has been put them in jail. The number of increases of the jail population have continued to grow and our response has been build more beds, build more beds. Well, in other communities for the last 20 or so years, with these alternative programs, they have slowed . . . they have stopped that trend or have slowed it significantly so it makes a big difference to taxpayers' dollars. These are hard programs for you to . . . for us to get our hands around, but this is the fiscally prudent right thing to do for our community, for us and for our children and for our grandchildren, because you and I cannot afford to keep building more jails. We just can't afford to do that.

We're protecting people, continuing to protect people. The EMS program quality assurance, we're going to keep response times for our EMS at a reasonable level. They have started to increase. You have noticed that. You've heard the report from Bob Lamkey and Tom Pollan, and to reduce those response times so that our ambulance can be on site, providing the care, pre-hospital care for people, we need to add a couple of crews and a couple of quality assurance folks to do the . . . sure that we're training. You'll recall a couple of years ago, we put together a whole system of emergency services so that the fire departments and the EMS are training together so that people who need their services get quality care immediately, quality care that counts and quality care that is helpful to the patient. We need some equipment replacement for those.

The District Attorney, we're requesting a new computer information system for the District Attorney. It's been top of her priority list for the last several years. This will make them more efficient and more effective. For the district court, again some laptop computers for judges that will help speed up the process of keeping people out of jail. Also some furniture that just is falling apart and we ask citizens to come to this courthouse and serve on juries that those pieces of furniture are in bad shape.

We have debt service this year, in 2007, that we've never had before for the new Juvenile Justice Complex, in the south part of town. We have . . . we are also gone through some efficiencies in delivering services. We have a behavioral health system that works out of the Health Department that does counseling for drug and addiction abuse. We also have a program in COMCARE that does a similar program. We're going to combine those programs under the leadership of Debbie Donaldson and save a quarter of a million dollars.

We're no longer going to staff 24-hour internal data support system. We have someone on duty 24 hours a day. We're going to stop doing that and we think there's ways in which we can do that as efficiently and effectively. We've eliminated 46 positions, about 32.5 full-time equivalents out of this budget and we continue to provide infrastructure and investing in the future. The five-year

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capital improvement program is a \$212,000,000 and the 2007 capital improvement program is \$52,000,000. We have several projects there that you can see, including a significant road and bridge projects, design work on the Heartland Preparedness Center, outdoor sirens and sprinklers for the adult detention facility.

Employee compensation, we've started a program for pay for performance, continuing for pilot departments in 2007 and full implementation in 2008. We have a first step towards consumer driven health costs and dental costs. We haven't calculated the savings of that for the organization and we'll be talking to employees about that today. It is on the bid board tomorrow and will be on your agenda in the future, but this is a different way of delivering health services around the concept of consumers have some choices and consumers get to make those choices. And when we add the idea of consumerism in the process of health care, we know that two things occur. The costs are decreased and health care is improved, because you're just not using the system because it's there, because you're making choices.

And finally, we're recommending a modest increase that includes benefits of 4% for our employees. I want to put that in perspective. Over the last three or four years, our employees have received less of an increase than those who are on Social Security."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Would you say that again."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Our employees have received less of an increase than those people who are Social Security recipients. 2007 resources, we have \$376,293,985. You can see the big chunk of these comes in a variety of ways. We have 36% in ad valorem tax. We have cash equivalents are 5%, sales tax is about 6%, motor vehicle tax is about 4 and you can see where those dollars come from to . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Bill, before you go off of this, just for everybody's edification, ad valorem taxes, that's property tax."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Property tax, yes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And that's the only taxing source that we really have that we have any control over."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Right. Total expenditures is \$366,293,985, 36 cents of that is public safety, 31 cents is general government which includes our bond and interest, our debt service so that's a big portion of the general government. Health and welfare are 21 cents and you can see the rest,

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public works, recreation and community development.

The budget summary, we continue to focus on quality public service. I think this budget addresses the changing needs of our community. There are two huge projects, public safety and jobs, investing in jobs which are critical to our county, to our community. We have demonstrated in leadership and planning for the community needs. We have stepped in when no one else would for those issues because again it's the right thing to do for this community. We're entrusted with the taxpayers' dollars and this plan is, I think, prudent use of our resources.

We have held or reduced our mill levy over the past eight years. Jobs and protecting people require the amount of funding drastically or that would drastically reduce other core services. This drastic reduction, in my opinion, would not be acceptable in this community. Reducing other services will put the vulnerable at risk and put them in danger of their health and safety. And finally, this results in a recommended 3.5 mill increase. Mill levy in 2006 is 28.7 mills. In 2007, it will be an increase of 3.519 mills. That's a 12% increase, equal to \$40 annually for a home that is valued at \$100,000. That's \$3.37 a month. That's equivalent to a one and a half annual increase over the past eight years, and as we heard yesterday from Dr. John Wong of Wichita State University, for property tax in Sedgwick County the average property tax in Sedgwick County to the residents is 1.78% of their gross adjusted income . . . adjusted gross income. Less than 2% of our income goes for property tax. This sort of mill levy increase will not affect that number. And if you recall, that number compared to the state was lower than the state and put us in good stead when compared to other urban counties in other counties around the state.

The Fire District budget, recommended budget is pretty simple. There is no change in the mill levy. The ISO rating change resulting in taxpayer savings for taxpayers, those letters have gone out to those property owners whose property insurance has been affected by this rating. Because of the good work of our fire department, we have affected some 5,000 folks who will save significant dollars. In Commissioner Winters' district we did have somebody call up and thank us for our work and saved that individual \$1,300 annually on their insurance. That's a pretty significant piece of work from our fire department.

We're continuing with our fire station relocation projects. The 2000 budget summary, this is the first step in the changing needs of our community. Just starting on this process in technical education and training. I'm pleased that the county has taken that on. We have been involved in this for two years, only two years. This has been in crisis for over a decade and finally we are

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moving in the right track, in the right way and so I'm pleased with our involvement there.

You see that the future budget will continue the evaluation of how our services are provided in response to community needs. We do that routinely and actively every year. This financial situation, these new projects, these changing needs is going to require us to do that on a continuous and constant basis, looking at ways to become more efficient, more effective, but at the same time meet the changing needs of our community.

Finally, I would remind the commissioners that what is going to occur next is that we have next week is a public hearing for you to receive input from citizens regarding these budgets. On August 9th . . . between July 26th and the next week is the primary day, so we will not have a meeting on the day after the primary, August 3rd I think that is. We will meet on August 9th for a final public hearing and for the adoption of the budget.

We would suggest to citizens that we can review the recommended budget on line, that's at www.sedgwickcounty.org and they can participate in an online public forum regarding the budget. We have used this form in the past. We have found it helpful, to engage citizens using the Internet and we intend to do that again this year. Mr. Chairman and commissioners, I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Commissioners, any questions or comments of the manager on this proposed budget? Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "I know we don't get into much detail today. No we've got it. I've already read through it and made my highlights, but as you talk about the fire district, one of the things you talked about was new stations and there's been a continual public dialogue about what's happening in the City of Wichita with their station relocations. There's a lot of people bubbling up with thoughts about that. I think it's important that as we move forward on that, we integrate that with what the city is trying to do. I don't know how that works out, but we would want to not have unintended consequences on the station relocations that we do, based on what they're getting ready to do. I don't know how we work that out, but I want to be sure that we think about that thought process, because it is really starting to bubble up as a big issue it looks like within the city limits. But certainly what we do because there's first responder agreements and all of that, they're going to be tied together, so it's just a thought based on that one issue."

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Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioner, if I may comment, there is a meeting today about fire house relocation with the City of Wichita. We need to understand that we have two separate and distinct constituents and the fire district is . . . because we do not have a unified, as suggested by this commission, since you don’t have a unified fire delivery system, you have two separate, distinct constituents and in the case in front of the group today is requesting us to move one of our fire houses, which will help them save a million dollars, but which will put one of our biggest customers outside the five-mile range, eliminate a whole bunch of people from the five-mile range, that gives them a lower insurance rate and so you have those two conflicting values. We are very careful in thinking this through, because we want to do what’s right and we want to do what’s right for all the taxpayers but cognizant of the fact that the fire district is its own constituent.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well and that’s that unintended consequences, that if we go blindly and don’t look at the county holistically, including those that sit in the confines of the city limits, that we may do something that tries to serve a constituency and ends up hurting other constituents and we just need to be smart with that. That’s not particularly totally a budget issue but it is a policy issue that will guide budgets for many years in the future.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Absolutely.”

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

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Bill, it seems like we struggle with the day to day things that we have to have with the county and I’m reminded that last year we were talking about summer mowers and summer interns to try to get things done around the county and we cannot stop those kind of issues. We have to have those done. Have you looked at any of the outside agencies that we deal with and have we cut them off or what have we done to try to cut back on some of those type of agencies and money saving issues.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Let me address that in two separate ways. We have had a request for a number of positions in this organization and have chosen only to add positions in public safety so we’re not adding any other positions, mowers, technical workers, health department folks, none of those have been added in the budget. We have looked at the outside agencies and I will get back to you with that. If I recall correctly, we did reduce the funding for many of them in 2002. I don’t recall what we’ve done in 2007. I’ll be glad to take a look at that, and get back to you.”

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Commissioner Burnett said, “Okay. And can you also . . . I don’t know if you can do it here or just get with me later. You’ve gone from a 7.5 mill increase down to a 3.519 mill increase. Can you give us some ideas of what has been cut?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioner, I have an extensive list but let me just give you a couple of examples. The Health Department requested some people to gather data, in doing the investigations of disease. That’s critically important. We have tasked Claudia Blackburn to go perform that function, but without adding any people. To reshuffle priorities, managers need to on each basis reshuffle those priorities. The zoo asked, because of the penguin exhibit, for a couple of zookeepers. We said, critically important, it’s going to draw lots of people we can’t afford it, go figure it out differently. So there are two examples of positions. There are some other programs and again, I’d be happy to bring the list to you.”

Commissioner Burnett said, “Okay, I would like that list. That’s all I have right now.”

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

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, thank you very much. Bill, I want to say I think this was an excellent presentation today, and in the format that you presented it. I don’t know what the final answer is going to be yet. I don’t think any of us do, as we continue to do this. But one of the first things that struck me is looking at the past, since really the disaster on 9-11, 2001 and what the organization has moved through and when you look at starting and right off the bat starting with eliminations of over a million dollars in 2002, the immediate year after that, then in 2003 having a 6.8 million dollar revenue reduction, loss of sales tax dollars of a million dollars.

Then in 2003, eliminating 41 positions and freezing ten others and in 2004, eliminating 42 positions and then going back to 4% reduction and going back to 2002 budget levels. I would certainly, we’ve got a lot of staff members in the audience today, department heads and others, and I say just looking back at what we’ve done in the past four or five years, you’ve done an amazing job of managing the organization, because this is not, in my opinion, growth of government gone awry. This is really staying firm to the task of managing our resources.

Now this year we see two huge needs. One is investing in jobs and without . . . this is not pointing a finger at anybody, but the State of Kansas was not able to obtain that. It’s really out of the realm of the school district to be involved in this technical education. I mean they’re, I think, doing a great job of K through 12 and that’s where they need to focus their resources. So if the state’s not going to be able to do it, school boards are not going to be able to do it, who is going to meet this need and then of course this keeping people safe and the continuous overcrowding at our jail, which is an

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area where we have little control. I mean, someone does something wrong in society and we've got to be the people that provide a place for them to go.

So I don't know the answer, Bill, but I think you've laid out a plan that says this has not just been a grow, grow, grow your local government but has really been . . . I think our staff has been doing a superb job of keeping things as efficient as they are in this really very demanding time of revenues which has not been good and I think we've responded well, so I don't have an answer yet or a real comment, but I think you've laid it out in a very workable manner for us to deal with. Thank you. That's the only comment I had."

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

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well Mr. Buchanan, good job, nice presentation. I know that a lot of people helped you put this all together and would want to make sure that Mr. Chronis and all the department heads know that we appreciate the hard work that's gone on between your budget summary of 7.4 mills and this recommendation at 3.5 mills. I'm a person who the majority of my constituency says do not raise taxes, no matter what and I hate to . . . I don't want to repeat the words of our 41st president and say 'read my lips' but Mr. Manager, I hope that there are ways that we can work on this some more, going forward.

I appreciate what you've done and I understand the challenge that we as commissioners face and our staff faces. We've got a growing community, a growing population, growing business concerns and I know that demands new services and creates problems and opportunities for us. It also means, obviously, as many folks have pointed out that that also means more revenue, just in terms of growth of our community and inflationary pressures gets us more money through our mill levy without raising the mill levy rate. So I realize we've got more to do. We've got a few more resources to do it with, but in the meantime, as has been pointed out now a couple of times, we've been faced with the loss of demand transfers.

Going forward, we're faced with the machinery and equipment exemption and we just have some

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major problems that we've tried to deal with and its been listed some of the things that we've done. We've reduced positions and eliminated positions and we've, as much as we can, we've tried to implement fee for services so that those folks who use the services are the ones who are paying for them, so I think there's been a lot that we've done and the information I have indicates that our total government spending in 2003 was \$277,000,000, in 2005 it was \$277,000,000. I mean we've done . . . there was a little bump in between there, '04 I think was \$285, 000,000 but the point I'm making is similar to what Commissioner Winters made, that we've done a good job of managing this. We've had lots of pressures. We're providing services and doing a good job and trying to do it without impacting negatively the mill levy, so I just want to encourage if possible to wring that out a little bit more.

We've got some time left and you know, I feel . . . I don't feel happy about saying this. I remember when I coached a little league wrestling team, after practice and the little kids had done 100 pushups and 100 sit ups and I'd say 'guys, we're going to do some more pushups and we're going to do some more sit ups'. I mean, we're just going to push it to the limit and I think that's what I'd ask you to do.

I know that the two main drivers that we've got here are the whole area of workforce development and public safety and as has been said and as you've illustrated in your presentation, there are people who are courting our major industries every week. Not only the recent correspondence that you shared with us, but as I talked about last week, Commissioner Burnett and I heard it directly from the folks out at Cessna that there are folks that say if you will come to our state, we will help you build a plant. We will help you train people. We've got folks ready to go to work, and we need to do everything we can to keep them here.

And I think our industry and manufacturing partners in our community don't want to leave. I think they want to stay here, but they've got serious business challenges and I think if we do not do the things that are necessary to help them, we're not doing right in our positions. Doing nothing is a decision that has long term consequences, so we have to do the right thing for the most people for the longest amount of time and I think that means that we need to avoid those negative consequences of not partnering with them going forward with the workforce development. I suppose there are other arguments about that, but that's my position, so I'm fully supportive of that, in spite of the fact I want you to work on the budget.

I also want to say that I've been a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council since its inception, so I'm familiar with the challenges that are faced in trying to provide adequate public safety for our community and I understand fully that the Sheriff says I need a new jail, I just simply can't handle this. The alternative to incarceration that we have initiated that I think are going to be successful and help us a lot in trying to solve our jail overcrowding problem, I think they're going to be successful. Can we delay the jail? Can we not go forward with that? For my review and for

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the rest of the commissioners' understanding, for the public understanding, I think we need to state that again or talk about it. Can we hold off the jail for a year or what's the potential there, I guess?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "If you would indulge me, I would ask that you come back next week and have the Sheriff respond to that. This is . . . and I think that's the appropriate way to get that answered. He's the expert. He's the one whose accountable. He's the one whose responsible for it and I think that would be appropriate, commissioner."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, and I don't want my remarks to be interpreted as I'm promoting that, I just want to hear that conversation one more time before we go ahead on a consideration of a mill levy increase.

One other comment about this proposed budget, we're still involved, as Sedgwick County government, in the support of the Historic Cowtown, which we showed support for and want to be supportive of as a community asset. And I know, in the budget we have a fairly substantial number and we've been supportive for the last two or three years, but each year since I've been on it seems like the crisis has . . . it's been in crisis and that's demanded for us to continue to put more money into it. I guess my concern right now is I don't see a plan that indicates we won't be in the same place next year, and in light of that, I just think that the commissioners between now and our final budget approval need to discuss whether or not we need to extract ourselves from involvement in support of Cowtown.

And Cowtown is a great place but if the property is owned by the City of Wichita, the building is owned by the City of Wichita, it's kind of a three-headed monster out there, between city and county and the board and once again, I don't want my remarks to be misinterpreted but I think that's a legitimate question to ask is will this entity do better if it's run by one governmental agency instead of two, and we take our resources and put them in what we think is absolutely, unequivocally essential to the good of our community and so I'd like to have that conversation between now and the final budget.

So I don't know if there are a lot of questions in that. A big commentary, so pardon me for that. But for right now, that's all I have Mr. Chair."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, on a broad, kind of philosophical discussion, yesterday at our staff meeting we had Dr. John Wong from Wichita State come and he gave us a little lesson in tax incident, which really talks about where taxes come from and how they apply to the average citizen,

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be it income tax at the state level, sales tax or property tax and how they affect our citizens, based on how much money they make in an adjusted gross income and it was pretty provocative information, but the truth is the idea was that we're trying to do our homework on understanding how what we do, what implications it has to the citizens. There is a certain level of services and community that we're responsible for helping maintain and build, but there's also a responsibility for doing it in a prudent and tax efficient manner and I think we have embarked on not only understanding what the implications are of just individual people that talk to us, but what the numbers actually say. And it's pretty interesting to start understanding which taxes are progressive and which are regressive, which are proportional. You know, regressive taxes are admonished because they put more burden on the lower income folks that really don't maybe have the means to pay them and we spent some time yesterday trying to understand that, and I think the public needs to know that we're not running willy-nilly into the good night trying to raise taxes and to hurt anybody but that we're trying to understand the implications of what we do, based on all the other taxing entities. You know, if you understand that what you pay in property taxes at Sedgwick County is only 1.78% of the tax burden that you pay overall, be it sales tax, state income tax, school district taxes, library taxes, city taxes and all the others, that implication is that we are using the funds prudently and that all of the tax burden is not based on what mill levy we set today or in the future.

We've lived on incremental increases for eight years and I call them incremental increases because we haven't raised the mill levy rate. Now you know it's certainly ingenuous if we say that taxes haven't gone up, because taxes do go up as your assessed value goes up but the truth is, the mill levy rate hasn't and we've lived in this organization on the incremental increases. You know, price of doing business and price of living goes up every day and certainly the price to do government goes up incrementally every day and we've lived on that small mill levy . . . the mill levy staying static in the incremental increases from the assessed valuation.

The easy sound bite is to say no new taxes. Commissioner Unruh, you know, talked about a president that said that once and got himself into a lot of trouble. No new taxes is the easy way. The hard part of it is addressing problems and concerns and community needs, putting it through the filter of the community, using your best intellectual capital to come up with solutions, and then applying a funding formula that gets it done. Certainly we've tried to do that with the jail. We've looked at every alternative for three years to not building a jail.

We've even come up with great, we think, alternative programs but the jury is still out as to whether

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in five years the money we're spending today on those programs is going to quell the tide of building more jail space. So no new taxes, that's the easy sound bite, but we're elected for more than just sound bites and part of that is to apply good principles of business and good use of our intellectual capital and the staff that we have, to making good decisions based on the problems and concerns of the community.

You know, I think there should be continual debate and dialogue and discussion on some of these very critical issues in our community. Obviously Cowtown is one of them. It's gone on for two years and we continue to languish over what to do. You know, we've stepped up in some cases and tried to help some entities, Exploration Place is a good example, and we're certainly hopeful, based on our \$20,000,000 decision years ago to help build that that we can keep that functioning and make sure that it is going to continue to be part of our civilization here in Sedgwick County.

The truth is, we made decisions every day on different entities and the debate becomes whose ox is going to be gored. You know, whose favorite project gets touched a little bit and diminished because of a decision we make. We get lobbied every day based on what individuals want done in their community and I see it as the blind man grabbing the elephant. Depending on where you touch our community and how you understand it, it's what's important to you. Some people, you know, it's only about business and jobs. Others, it's about the favor of the culture. Others, it's about the infrastructure, you know just give me the basics, give me some roads and bridges and I don't care about all the rest. Others, it's about the money and that's all it's about and it depends whose ox is going to be gored as to which way we make some of these decisions and they're certainly not easy.

I applaud the manager for doing due diligence to try to give us a budget, a starting place. I don't think anybody likes the idea of raising taxes, but I think it is part of the mix of making the best decision for our community, how it's going to shake out at the end of the day, I don't know. I've tried to analyze, I've looked at a lot of the numbers. I see a few places where there's some tweakings and things I don't understand. Certainly, we've been talking for months about philosophical decisions and debt loads and our bond rating and all those things that figure into the

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decisions of why you spend money and how you spend money and is it prudent to even spend that money on long-term capital items or whatever.

The truth is, I think the public needs to know that we are not . . . this isn't something we do in two weeks and set the course of how we spend their money. It is an ongoing conversation with this commission, day in and day out, about what the community needs are, how we engage in that and is there going to have to be money spent to do those projects. And the dialogue will heat up in the next few weeks, but it has been a long-term one year dialogue and not something that we've done in the last couple of weeks. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Just one quick follow up on a comment by Commissioner Unruh and then some by Commissioner Norton, that's concerning Cowtown. I think I would like for us to explore that further, as Commissioner Unruh suggested. We had a stake in Exploration Place, a large stake in that facility and that building. Cowtown is owned by the City of Wichita, the buildings are owned by the City of Wichita and I just think we need to rethink about our commitment and whether that's our responsibility or not, so I would share that concern. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, eventually I'm going to get to speak, but Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well following up on what Commissioner Norton was saying and talking about the jail, as we look at these really large construction projects, in the future they are going to get no cheaper and we have to make these hard decisions now, because in five years, if we decide to hold off on something, it will probably cost us two to three times more, so I think these are really difficult decisions and I know, like you said no new taxes is a great sound bite, but we have to do something now. We have to make some of these tougher decisions and get these big projects done and just deal with it. It's hard, I know it's hard, but I really . . . I'm very much in favor of going ahead with the jail project because I know he definitely does need it and with the alternative programs were working on, I think by the time we get it built, hopefully it will not be completely full, so I just wanted to put that little piece in real quick. That's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Okay, I'll just say it, Bill I am one commissioner that will not vote for this 3.519 mill levy increase. Now I commend you on what you have done. It's a substantial reduction from what you originally presented to us. I've had occasion, like Commissioner Norton said, to read this. I've got some ideas that I want to present to you privately that I think we can still dramatically reduce what's going to be necessary. And while I'm starting to

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get resigned to the fact that there may have to be one, I'm one commissioner that's not going to embrace what's been presented today, as far as that mill levy and I would like to even meet with you this afternoon or as quickly as you can. I'd like to share some ideas. I think we can still dramatically reduce what may be necessary and I want to talk to you in public . . . private, excuse me, not in public.

I hope the people understand like when the state decides to just stop funding us 6.8 million dollars, demand transfers and we have a budget set, we could take and I guess it's because of our sense of community, that this commission . . . and I guess I'm applauding this commission, because we say 'wait a minute, notwithstanding the state doesn't think it's important, we think this is important so we'll take on the responsibility'. Well, state's pretty sharp, it says well why do we do it, we'll just stop funding it and Sedgwick County will take up the slack'. I mean, technical education is a primary example. I mean, I think that should be a state function but they decided no it wasn't that important to be a state . . . I don't know where that, . . . but we said no, protecting high paying aviation jobs is important. Looking to the future to increase those types of jobs is important, we'll take it on.

Well, that has to come from somewhere and the only funding source we have is property taxes. We've asked the state to allow us to have some other ways of doing it. They have voted themselves in many creative ways to do it. City of Wichita does raise the mill levy but they have the option of raising water fees or some other fees to people. We don't have that option. We have one option and for the last eight years we have laid off people, we have reduced funding to sources. I think there's still a lot that can be done and I do want to talk to you about it but I do want to compliment you on understanding that when this board said we want to prioritize our focus for 2007 on public safety and job creation, you did take that to heart. I just feel that there's some additional work that can be done.

Cowtown, everyone knows that I personally have a passion for Cowtown. I believe it's our heritage and I think the potential for international tourism to bring people into our community because of that living history museum has not even begun to be tapped. However, I agree with each commissioner that has mentioned that unless that autonomous board and it is a very unique governance, the City of Wichita, as has been said, owns the land, owns the building, the board is totally autonomous and can do whatever they wish, and the county somehow is a major funder. I don't know how that got started, but that's the reality of it today and I will tell my fellow

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commissioners that express concern, that unless that board establishes a financial stability plan, I will join you in saying we're going to stop throwing good money after bad, no questions asked. They have to figure out how to stabilize themselves financially and that then is the only chance we have to try to figure out 'Okay, now they're stable, what can be done to make it grow and maybe reach a potential' that I personally feel that they have, but I'm in unison with the comments that have been made on this board about Cowtown.

Exploration Place, I voted against it but I do understand why the rest of you felt obligated to fund them. We had to . . . the argument, we had to protect an entity, I mean a facility that the public had already bought. Notwithstanding when we made that \$20,000,000 commitment to build the building and to fund it we were given all assurances by everybody included, 'If you'll do this for us, we promise you we'll never come to you for another penny, we've got an operating plan that will never need subsidy', etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. We made the commitment in good faith, and then all of the sudden, changed circumstances and what have you, so I understand why we did what we did, I just could not get comfortable with it.

This is a challenging year for us. I believe that this board should be complimented on taking up the slack when the major aircraft industry came to us and said 'We need 4,000 plus jobs this year, and for the next ten years we need another 1,000 or 1,100 quality aviation jobs and skilled manufacturing jobs related to aviation and unless we get them, we may have to go someplace else'. I looked at the e-mail that Mr. Buchanan sent us and Sonora, Mexico is right now trying to collaborate with a border city in New Mexico I believe . . . Arizona? And they're starting to contact these aviation people saying 'No problem, we'll do it, we'll build the building, we've got cheap labor, we'll do this and this' and believe me, I don't take comfort like a lot of my constituents that have called me and said 'hey, they've got so much invested in bricks and mortar, they're not going to leave'. I'm not willing to take that chance and I compliment this board. When no one else would backstop this Jabara Aviation Technical Campus we said we will.

Now you're going to have to trust me on this one, but we are going to be putting a lot of pressure on our federal legislators and our state legislators. We're going to get the state and the federal government involved in helping Sedgwick County do the right thing and increasing aviation jobs here in this part of Kansas but it dramatically impacts all of Kansas. So this isn't the end, . . . everybody's been quoting different people, so I'll quote Winston Churchill or paraphrase it, it's not the end of the budgeting process, it's not even the beginning of the end but at least it's the end of

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the beginning. So I look forward to visiting with you and we'll get back to everybody and I guess August 9th is when we finally come up with the last up day or down day or whatever.

That's all I have. Is there anything else? I'm sorry, Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "I just have one more comment. And Bill, can you put slide number 16 back there, can you find that? That's the one that I guess I just want to make a comment to anyone whose watching or going to look at our minutes to know that we're not discussing these budget issues in a vacuum but we've got certain philosophical platform from which we're operating and our purpose is providing quality public services, responding to changing needs, show some leadership and a full realization that we know that these dollars are not our dollars but they're taxpayer dollars, and so I just appreciated that particular slide and the fact that I just want folks to know that we're not just out here grasping at straws and reacting but we do have a purpose in what we're doing, so that's all I had, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, is that it? Okay, thank you very much."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

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. I'm going to recommend that we just take a brief, five-minute recess in case anyone needs to do anything, what have you."

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The County Commission recessed at 9:45 a.m. and returned from recess at 9:50 a.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Clerk, call the next item please."

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- F. CASE NUMBER ZON2006-00023 – ZONE CHANGE FROM "SF-20" SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO "NO" NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE, GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SOUTH BROADWAY AND KIRBY STREET (8441 SOUTH BROADWAY.) DISTRICT #2.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You can see the location of the site for this application request on South Broadway. A little broader view from a larger scale map shows that it's pretty far south on Broadway, south of Haysville.

The photo that I've put up in front of you now shows the building that's on the site. It's a former gas station that the applicant has bought for purposes of operating a one-man office out of that building, right adjacent to South Broadway. The reason the request is in front of you today is that a neighbor complained about his operation of this office in this building because of the residential zoning. It's currently SF-20 and the request is for Neighborhood Office zoning. The zoning that's requested is the most restricted zoning district that would allow him to continue operating this office in that building.

Going back to the aerial photo . . ."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Mr. Schlegel, if you could go back. How did the gas station get there, if it was Rural Residential? How did they have a gas station there?"

Mr. Schlegel said, "I'm sure that goes way back in zoning history."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, probably before we had countywide . . . okay, got it."

Mr. Schlegel said, "It could have been before there was countywide zoning and the matter that it

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was vacant for many years meant that it lost its legal non-conforming status.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay.”

Mr. Schlegel said, “Just very quickly, looking at the aerial photo, you can see that the area is residential in character. It’s all zoned SF-20. A little bit further to the north, there are some commercial uses that are non-conforming, but basically it is a residential area. The application does lie within the City of Haysville’s zoning area of influence. The item did go before their planning commission on June 8th. They unanimously approved the staff recommendation for approval. Went to the MAPC on June 14th and they voted to approved the request, per the staff recommendation and that’s what’s before you now. Today is a recommendation by the MAPC for approval. We have received one protest letter that’s in your agenda backup, but there are no valid protest petitions on this item.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, any questions or comments of Mr. Schlegel?”

Commissioner Norton said, “I’ve gotten no complaints or comments on this, it is in my district. The unit has been there for a lot of years. This just kind of cleans up the zoning on the property and everything.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the zone change, adopt the findings of the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, approve the Resolution, and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item please.”

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DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- DEPARTMENT ON AGING

G. CONTRACTS (SEVEN) TO PROVIDE CLIENT ASSESSMENT REFERRAL EVALUATION ASSESSMENTS FOR PERSONS SEEKING NURSING HOME PLACEMENT.

- 1. GAYLE CLOUD**
- 2. KATHRYN COIT**
- 3. MARY CORRIGAN**
- 4. CINDY CRANGLE**
- 5. WILMA LOGANBILL**
- 6. JODY LUJAN**
- 7. AILEEN VAUGHN**

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "These are seven contracts with individuals which will be providing assessments for individuals receiving nursing home placement, including those individuals with a mental illness, a developmental disability or mental retardation.

In the State of Kansas, it is a requirement that anyone seeking a nursing home placement is required to receive a client assessment referral and evaluation. The purpose of this program is to inform and educate those individuals who seek out nursing home placements of the options available to them, so that they can . . . a lot of times, individuals don't know what resources are available in the community so it gives them more information to make an informed decision on. It also helps the State of Kansas to gather information about what the gaps in services are, as they seek to increase home based services and to keep people in the community longer.

This contract is for our department to work with individuals in the community. We contract for these level one assessments. The amount we reimburse for each assessment is \$35 per assessment and mileage. The contract period is for one year, with a month to month continuance, pending a new contract. This entire program is reimbursed by the State of Kansas. There is no county funds that go into this. We've already passed through you the contract with the Kansas Department on Aging for us to continue to do this on an annual basis and then we do this through contractors out in the community. This is a service that's provided through our Area Agency on Aging, so it does serve Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick Counties. These individuals that we're contracting with are listed here. There are seven of them and I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Annette, I see that we have one comment or question. Commissioner

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Burnnett.”

Commissioner Burnett said, “Just out of curiosity, about how many people does this serve in Sedgwick County lets say?”

Ms. Graham said, “We do approximately over 2,000 a year.”

Commissioner Burnett said, “Oh my, that’s quite a few.”

Ms. Graham said, “Yeah, there’s a lot of people that seek out nursing home as an option.”

Commissioner Burnett said, “Okay, great, thank you. That’s all I had.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I see no further questions or comments. What’s the will of the board on Annette’s presentation?”

MOTION

Commissioner Burnett moved to approve the Contracts 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 Burnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

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

H. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE.

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1. AGREEMENT WITH NORTHRIDGE FRIENDS CHURCH FOR RENTAL OF SPACE AT 2655 BULLINGER USED BY COMCARE FOR ITS SUMMER YOUTH PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAM.

Mr. Tom Pletcher, Clinical Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This agreement allows our Family and Children Community Services Program to use space at the Northridge Friends Church for their summer psychosocial program where 35 youth are involved in highly structure activities that focus on developing social skills, improving self-esteem and leisure time activities. There’s a different curriculum each day that’s based on well accepted principles for working with children with a serious emotional disturbance.

In this program, we’ve taken children who were not successful in other programs in the community, or who were not able to be served elsewhere. This provides these children with an opportunity to work on their treatment goals in a social setting that they would not otherwise be able to access. While the program has just begun, staff members already see progress as the children incorporate the curriculum and some behaviors show improvements. We would ask that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Any questions or comments? What’s the will of the Board on this item please?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item."

2. AGREEMENT WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES ALLOWING DIRECT BILLING OF MEDICAID FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED TO ADULTS WITH A SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS.

Mr. Pletcher said, "This is a renewal of our agreement with Catholic Charities to allow them to bill Medicaid for mental health services for adults with a severe and persistent mental illness. Psychosocial group services are provided under this agreement to approximately 25 adults to increase employment and social skills, as well as to avoid hospitalization. They've done very well in meeting these goals in previous agreements, with almost half of their individuals participating in their employment club program and all of them avoiding hospitalization during the past contract period. This renewal also provides for a grant of \$5,000 to Catholic Charities to partially offset the cost of serving consumers without insurance coverage or a means to pay for those services. That is also similar to previous agreements. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you have. Otherwise would ask that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. I don't see that there's any questions or comments. So commissioners, what's the will of the Board on Item H-2 please?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you very much. Next item."

I. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS SUPPORTING AIR

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, Division of Finance, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Beginning in 2002, the City of Wichita entered into a revenue guarantee agreement with Airtran to provide low-cost flights between Wichita and Atlanta and subsequently between Wichita and Orlando. And as you know, those flights have served to reduce airfares and increase air traffic from the Wichita area considerably over the past several years and it has become a very valuable tool for our business community.

Last year, Sedgwick County joined with the City of Wichita in a financial partnership and we've provided a share of that revenue guarantee to Airtran. This year, the State of Kansas and approximately 15 other jurisdictions around south central Kansas have joined the partnership as well, and Sedgwick County's role in that partnership has changed. Last month, you approved a contract between Sedgwick County and Airtran in which the county government now is providing a revenue guarantee for Airtran in order for them to be able to provide flights between Wichita and Atlanta and Wichita and Orlando.

The agreement that's before you is an agreement between Wichita and Sedgwick County in which Wichita agrees to pay Sedgwick County up to \$1,000,000 for a portion of the funding of that contract with Airtran. We have requested and received approval for \$5,000,000 of state funds through R.E.A.P. and we are working out the contractual details to obtain that money as well, and we've received the pledges from those 15 or so other local governments to contribute towards that arrangement as well. I'd be happy to answer any questions about this agreement that's before you if you have any. It in summary provides not to exceed \$1,000,000 from the City of Wichita to Sedgwick County in support of the contract that Sedgwick County executed with Airtran last month."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioner Burtnett, you had a question or comment?"

Commissioner Burtnett said, "So does this contract pretty much mirror what we had done with the city last . . .?"

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "So it's just . . ."

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Mr. Chronis said, "It's the same contract, it just changes the two roles."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, that's all I needed to know. Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Chris, for my edification, could you explain 'up to'? Because I thought it was just automatic that it was a million from the city and a million from us, that's a 20% and then the five from the state. What does 'up to' mean?"

Mr. Chronis said, "If . . . almost certainly it will be a million dollars. Our contract with Airtran obligates us to pay up to \$7,000,000 as a revenue support."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, depending on ridership and what have you."

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. But if we don't spend the money, which I'm assuming that we won't have to spend all of it just on Airtran, aren't we obligated by what the state has done to spend the money . . ."

Mr. Chronis said, "Well, we're obligated to pursue a low-fare airline to the west coast and we will do that, but if we don't achieve that in the course of this year and as a result don't have to spend the money in this year, then the money is pledged but whether or not Wichita pays it to Sedgwick County or holds it in reserve for future use is a question that hasn't yet been answered."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, I understand. Okay, thank you very much. If there's no other questions or comments, what's the will of the Board on this item please?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh

Aye

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

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

J. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 13, 2006.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of July 13th results in seven items for consideration.

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

First item, bridge improvements for Public Works. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Wildcat Construction in the amount of \$319,622.

**2) ROOF REPLACEMENT- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
FUNDING: FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Item two, roof replacement for Facilities Department at the Judge Riddel's Boy Ranch. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from J.B. Turner and Sons Roofing including add option one, for a total cost of \$27,107.

**3) JUMBO ROLL PAPER TOWELS & TOILET PAPER- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
FUNDING: FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Item three, jumbo roll paper towels and toilet paper for Facilities Department. Recommendation is to accept the low bid meeting requirements from Massco and establish contract pricing for one year, with two one-year options to renew, for an estimated annual cost of \$30,904.

**4) CONSULTING SERVICES for a 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN- HUMAN RESOURCES
FUNDING: HUMAN RESOURCES**

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Item four, consulting services for a 457 deferred compensation plan for Human Resources. Recommendation is to accept the proposal from Arnerich Massena & Associates for a cost of \$50,000.

**5) A & E SERVICES FOR AVIATION TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER-
FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
FUNDING: FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Item five, architectural and engineering services for an aviation technical training center for Facilities Department. Recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Shaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey for base services and option one for a cost of \$1,800,840 and reserve the right for option two at a cost of \$84,000 for a potential total cost of \$1,884,840.

**6) FINANCIAL LEASING FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT- FIRE DISTRICT #1
FUNDING: FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Item six, financial leasing for fire equipment for Fire District #1. Recommendation is to accept the low proposal of Bank of America option one to execute an agreement for fire equipment financing based on the proposed index rate.

**7) ON-CALL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY SERVICES- CODE
ENFORCEMENT
FUNDING: CODE ENFORCEMENT**

And item seven, on-call environmental laboratory services for Code Enforcement. Recommendation is to accept the proposal from SDK Laboratories for an estimated annual cost of \$10,000 and establish contract pricing for one year, with two one-year options to renew.

Would be happy to answer any questions and I recommend approval of these items.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioners, any questions or comments on the item that’s before us? Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Iris, on item number four, on the consulting services, these folks are just going to help us analyze and evaluate and would help us publicize our decision?”

Mr. Baker said, “They’re going to help us through a request for proposal process for a new plan administrator, so they’re going to help us put together a project, they’re going to participate in an

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RFP, help establish the requirements, the selection criteria, participate through the evaluation process, contract negotiation and award of a plan administrator.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay. Are the bidders here, are they all local people?”

Ms. Baker said, “No, they’re from all over the country.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, I guess I was just struck by the differences in their bids on that item, but we’ve got confidence they’ll be able to provide what we’ve asked for.”

Ms. Baker said, “Yes, the proposal we’re recommending is a very good proposal, a very qualified firm.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “All right, thank you. I guess, looking at differences in bids, just to comment. I noticed the folks from Shaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey are here relative to item number five and I’ve done work with those folks before and . . . but you guys sure got a low bid compared to the other bidder. I guess that all works out just fine. I don’t understand that big difference.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “They don’t either now.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, well congratulations to you gentlemen and I’m sure we’re going to get what we want there too, I suppose.”

Ms. Baker said, “Yes sir.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “All right, thank you. That’s all I have.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And you’re convinced that this architectural firm is a credible firm. That they can do the job.”

Ms. Baker said, “Yes, the committee feels they put together a very good team.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, all right, Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “I’m going to ask a very obvious question I’m sure, Iris. On item six, on the leasing for the fire equipment, this passed through our financial department and was found to be the best method of financing this fire equipment? I see Chris Chronis is in the room and I’m sure if he wasn’t in agreement he’d be standing up, but I just thought it would be appropriate that all involved, including Finance Department, believe that this is the best way of financing this

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equipment.”

Ms. Baker said, “You are correct.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you. And then I would share with Commissioner Unruh, it appears that we are most likely going to select the firm of Shaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey to assist in our architectural and design for the aviation technical center and we look forward to working with you. If there’s any way I can be helpful, I’d certainly like to do that. Thank you, that’s all.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. I don’t see any further comments, so what is the will of the Board on Iris’ presentation on the Board of Bids and Contracts?”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh 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. Looking forward to working with you, Joe.”

Mr. Joe Johnson, partner, Shaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On behalf of the firm, I just wanted to thank the commission for having confidence in us. We look forward to this fantastic project for us and certainly for the community and my two partners are here, Sam Frey and Kenton Cox.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Well, we’re sure you’ll do a good job for us. Thank you. Next item please.”

CONSENT AGENDA

K. CONSENT AGENDA.

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1. **Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project 644-27, Cowskin Creek Drainage. District #2.**
2. **Resolution temporarily suspending the Sedgwick County Zoological Society Inc.'s cereal malt beverage license.**
3. **Amendment to Lease Agreement with Market Parking, Inc. for space at 7701 East Kellogg used by COMCARE's Family and Children Community Services.**
4. **Schedule post annexation public hearing for September 27, 2006.**
5. **Order dated July 11, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
6. **Payroll Check Register of July 14, 2006.**
7. **General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of July 12 – 18, 2006.**
8. **Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.**

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V06027	\$485.00	2	Clayton Helms
V06028	\$329.00	4	Valley Lodge Apartments
V06029	\$393.00	2	Main Street Residences
V06031	\$203.00	4	Valley View Apartments
V06032	\$635.00	5	Springcreek Apartments
V06033	\$270.00	Butler	Sunflower Apartments
V06035	\$279.00	5	William Favreau
V06037	\$388.00	5	Doyle Davis

9. **The following Section 8 Housing Contracts are being amended to reflect a revised monthly amount due to a change in the income level of the participating client.**

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<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V010116	\$292.00	\$286.00
V04045	\$417.00	\$382.00
V99050	\$193.00	\$154.00
V05045	\$88.00	\$88.00
V8009	\$295.00	\$286.00
V05038	\$300.00	\$290.00
V05046	\$268.00	\$285.00
V04050	\$325.00	\$325.00
V05042	\$248.00	\$259.00
V05047	\$101.00	\$205.00
V04049	\$240.00	\$262.00
V94049	\$131.00	\$124.00
V03061	\$71.00	\$385.00
V72016	\$254.00	\$246.00
V03060	\$640.00	\$640.00
V04039	\$299.00	\$282.00
V05049	\$170.00	\$167.00
V020049	\$317.00	\$321.00
V05039	\$600.00	\$600.00
V2045	\$206.00	\$235.00
V020040	\$299.00	\$298.00
V01039	\$450.00	\$315.00
V03058	\$289.00	\$308.00
V010126	\$241.00	\$260.00
V04051	\$315.00	\$317.00
V05036	\$215.00	\$84.00
V01023	\$256.00	\$221.00
V020052	\$485.00	\$423.00
V2060	\$220.00	\$220.00
V01094	\$466.00	\$525.00
V010118	\$260.00	\$264.00
V020035	\$190.00	\$200.00
V99035	\$178.00	\$186.00

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V01024	\$492.00	\$501.00
V04043	\$436.00	\$429.00
V010103	\$284.00	\$276.00
V05048	\$196.00	\$210.00
V05043	\$164.00	\$188.00
V020051	\$327.00	\$288.00
V96065	\$229.00	\$229.00
V010113R	\$296.00	\$288.00
V04050	\$279.00	\$325.00
V04036	\$316.00	\$277.00
V06001	\$325.00	\$365.00
V05054	\$206.00	\$339.00
V06006	\$521.00	\$422.00
V05106	\$430.00	\$317.00
V03100	\$320.00	\$334.00
V05091	\$510.00	\$600.00
V04062	\$77.00	\$221.00
V05092	\$358.00	\$495.00
V01094	\$525.00	\$525.00
V04021	\$389.00	\$389.00
V06019	\$450.00	\$571.00
V04067	\$355.00	\$201.00
V05058	\$450.00	\$450.00
V04014	\$500.00	\$500.00

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, before I ask you for approval of the consent agenda, I would just tell you that the Division of Information and Operations has already put the recommended budget on the website so that anybody that wants to go through the details can find that and begin participating in the hearing.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Good, okay.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “So having said that, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it.”

MOTION

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Commissioner Norton moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please. I believe we do have an executive session, but before we do, given the time and I don't know how long we may be, why don't we discuss 'other'. If there's anything else any of you would like to discuss before we recess into executive session? Commissioner Burtnett."

L. OTHER

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well I just wanted to say that I went out to the zoo on Saturday and it was 102 degrees, but it was county days out there and I don't know if we ever got a count, Mr. Manager, do you know if we got a count of how many people were out there?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "We know that there were at least 400 by 11:00 in the morning."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well that's great. They had the fans going with the water thing, so that was very helpful. It was really hot but it was a nice day, so I'm glad to see that the county employees went out and enjoyed the day at the zoo."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. We were also out at the zoo, took our family out there and had a great time, but it got pretty hot, pretty quick. But there were a lot of county folks out there so it was really a good event."

Mr. Buchanan, I did want to just mention real briefly, at last week's meeting former City Council

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member Bill Cather was here talking about 'cool cities' and this is of course a great subject for weather like this, but I think that tripped a number of interests with several of us and I know Assistant Manager Ron Holt heard the discussion but if we could pursue some of that through our waste . . . I thought it would be something our Waste Minimization Committee could get involved in, but I thought we were interested in proceeding with doing something."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Thank you, yes."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. I'll just follow up on some of the zoo comments to say that we just had a new camel out at the zoo. If anyone would like to see a camel, this is the second one and I think his name is going to be Cody Storm. One of the citizens who bid for the right to name that animal named it Cody Storm, but at any rate, a new camel and we're going to have a lion out at the zoo towards the end of the month, a brand new baby lion. They're trying to set up some cameras so that we can watch the cub after it's been born, but that should happen right here at the end of the month, so everybody I think would be interested in hearing that and when you get the opportunity, go out and visit our zoo. And that's all I had, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Well, the only thing I had to say on the items is this weekend we are having some tremendous celebrations out at Cowtown. We're celebrating the Day of the American Cowboy and the governor is going to be there. Would encourage people, if they haven't been to Cowtown recently, come on out. There's going to be a lot of activity, fun, food and frolic. There will be a cattle drive, the stagecoach will be out there. There will be some Italian cowboys, at least one that I know of that will be out there, so have fun and come on out and if you want to, after you've gone to Cowtown and you still have time, then you can go visit the zoo."

Okay, one other thing too, I want to encourage anyone that may be viewing us right now, at the end of our meeting we have a TV program called Around the County and we have taped this show and this show will be with the Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh and our Election Commissioner Bill Gale and myself discussing what was discussed this morning about the election process, what's happening, why it's happening so if you have any concerns or questions about why the Secretary Thornburgh and Bill Gale did what they did, I think they responded to the questions that were put forth to them in a very good manner and understandable, so would encourage you maybe just to watch it and then all of our rebroadcasts this week that will be the lead, prior to the show but they'll be there. So right after this show it will be on, if you want to watch it. So, that's all we have and I believe we have something."

MOTION

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Commissioner Burtnett moved to recess into Executive Session for 15 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/client relationship relating to pending claims and litigation, legal advice and preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property for public purposes and that the Board of County Commissioners return to this room from executive session no sooner than 11:42 a.m.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, a motion has been made and seconded. One other thing I forgot about the election thing, if you don’t want to watch it on TV, you can access www.sedgwick.org and watch the entire show at any time that you wish to also. Okay, so we have a motion and second to go into Executive Session. Clerk, call the roll.”

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “We are now recessed into Executive Session.”

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into executive session at 11:30 a.m. and returned at 12:15 p.m.

Chairman Sciortino said, “Let the record show that there was no binding action taken during Executive Session. Mr. Euson, did you have something for us?”

Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor said, “While in Executive Session we discussed a claim for back wages involving a former employee named Mario Hernandez. At this time it is my recommendation that this claim be settled in the amount of \$25,000, so, we would ask for your approve at this time.”

MOTION

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Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the settlement agreement, as presented by the County Counselor and authorize the Chairman to sign it and any related documents necessary to affect the settlement.

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		Absent
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye	
Chairman Sciortino	Aye	

Chairman Sciortino said, “If there are no further items to come before this board, we are now adjourned.”

M. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:16 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