

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

July 12, 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 12th, 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. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Bill Gale, Election Commissioner; Mr. Brent Shelton, Chief Deputy County Clerk; Mr. Joe L. Norton, Bond Counsel, Gilmore & Bell, P.C.; Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Mr. Tim Kaufman, Director of Operations, Comprehensive Community Care; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Patsy Waller, Member, Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging.
Mr. Ron Thornburgh, State of Kansas Secretary of State.
Mr. Bill Cather, President, local chapter of the Kansas Sierra Club.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Rusty Westerfield of Countryside Christian Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, June 21, 2006

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2006.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I believe you've had a chance to review the Minutes of the meeting of June 21st. What's your will?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2006.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item."

APPOINTMENT

A. APPOINTMENT.

1. RESIGNATION OF DAVID PEADEN FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING.

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, I would ask that you accept Mr. Peaden's resignation at this time."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to accept the resignation.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item."

2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING PATSY WALLER (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this will fill the vacancy you just created. This is for a term to expire in May of 2007 and I recommend you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you."

MOTION

Chairman Sciortino moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Is Mr. Waller here? There she is. Okay, ma'am if you'll come over here to the podium we'll get you sworn in and get you started on your duties."

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Mr. Brent Shelton, Chief Deputy County Clerk, said, "Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Kansas and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging, so help me God."

Ms. Patsy Waller, Member, Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging repeated the oath.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Ms. Waller, if you'd like to say a few words, you'd be more than welcome to."

Ms. Waller said, "I can't think of a thing to say, except I've always been very supportive of the elderly, including myself."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Well, those of us that are chronologically gifted on this board thank you for taking on that responsibility and good luck to you. Next item please."

PRESENTATION

B. PRESENTATION OF AN UPDATE ON ADVANCE VOTING OPTIONS AND ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES FOR 2006 ELECTIONS.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Bill Gale, Election Commissioner, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Good to be here with you this morning and kind of give you an update on . . . there is an election coming up, primary election is August 1st, as many of you know and many more are becoming aware as we get closer to the election. First off, I do want to, before I jump in on the presentation, I wanted to . . . we've got a . . . as we update you on all the moving parts that are moving together and as the preparations have been and are continuing to be made for the election, I want to just take a moment to thank all the folks throughout the county that have been . . . throughout the county departments and offices that have been very helpful and supportive, as we prepare for these elections and many changes that are going on in elections this year. There's been a team of county staff that have been meeting and . . . regularly, and as we coordinate the efforts together, there will be many more being enlisted as the election activity happens and we appreciate all the help and support and appreciate your support as well.

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First off, important date to remember is the registration, the voting registration deadline and that's coming up this coming Monday, July 17th. So if somebody is not registered, or if they've moved and haven't re-registered, they still have a few days to get that done before the election.

Quickly, we'll go through and talking about some of the many several ways that you can vote in the primary. One is advance, voting advance or early by mail and this is a popular option for many folks, especially for the homebound individuals throughout our community. In fact we're today preparing roughly 5,000 ballots to be mailed out to many individuals throughout the county. In fact, we've already received back some from those that we sent out a few weeks ago for those serving in our federal services for our country, either throughout the United States or even overseas, so already many have cast their vote and sent it back to us.

Another option is to vote early or in advance in person and this is probably the one that's growing the fastest in popularity and we'll talk more about that later and then finally at your precinct location or your local polling place on Election Day.

Advanced voting by mail, as simple as pulling out an application form and giving it to our office and then we will, once that's processed, we'll mail your ballot right to you, whether to your home or if you're away for vacation or school or other reason, we can mail it to that address as well.

Applications are available not only at the Election Office to be picked up or we can mail those out or there are also, we've got a great partner in area Dillons stores that are providing those at their customer service counters."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now Bill, is that all Dillons stores throughout Sedgwick County, not just those in Wichita?"

Mr. Gale said, "That's right.

And then also, you can get on . . . print one off from our website and fill it out and send it into us and you can even fax those in if that's easier. As I said, ballots are starting to be mailed out today."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I've got to interrupt again, and this is because I'm chronologically gifted like that lady that was . . . you said that we could print an applica . . . a ballot off of our computer and just fax it to you?"

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

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Chairman Sciortino said, “So you don’t even have to put a stamp on anything and mail it. Okay, that’s what I thought I heard you say.”

Mr. Gale said, “That’s correct. We have been taking applications for these the last several months and many of our . . . as I said, many already have come in and many are coming in each day and we’ll continue taking, receiving applications up through the Friday before the election. But the sooner the better, as we have to get it, then process it, then send you a ballot to you and then you need to get it back to us by Election Day by the time polls close at 7 p.m. so the more timely the better on that. But you still do have, I got an e-mail this morning, somebody asking if it was too late. No, it’s not too late. You still have plenty of time to vote, if you want to take advantage of that option.

The next advance voting option is the in-person. As I say, this is . . . advanced voting in general is growing in popularity, more and more people taking advantage of voting early, each election time and we’ve been responding by increasing the availability and the options available to folks and in-person most definitely. This has, as I said, growing the most in popularity here in Sedgwick County and in response, this time as in the past, we’ve had two locations open at one time, the Election Office and one other, for folks to go vote at. These coming elections, we will have 15 locations open where voters can stop by and any of these, any voter in the county can stop by at any of these 15 locations and cast their vote. Some of the benefits, one, hopefully the convenience of the number of locations and the hours. Also, you can vote, as I mentioned, at any of the 15 sites and with this election, with the new voting machines that we’ll have. We’ll have some of those at the voting locations, actually when you go vote in person early, you’ll be voting on one of the new voting machines, so the new machines allow us to do that, with they’ll be able to hold every ballot in the county and for us now, this primary, that’s over 500 different ballot styles that we have here in Sedgwick County.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And Bill, before you go off this, there’s no applications if you want to vote in person, you just walk in, they’ll have your name, they’ll know where you’re at, you can go to any of the 15, regardless of where you live. You don’t have to fill out an application for this. This is only . . . the application is only for the mail-ins.”

Mr. Gale said, “Right, well actually you just show up and we’ll print the application there on the spot and have you sign it, right there at the location.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay.”

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Mr. Gale said, “Just showing the dates and times these are going to be starting in the Election Office, next Wednesday we’ll start voting in the office, on the first floor in the Historic Courthouse.

And those hours will be from 8 to 5 for the first several days and then starting on July 27th, we’ll expand those hours a little bit. Actually, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the 27th and 28th and then 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday before the election, as well as Monday morning, the Monday morning opportunity from 8 to noon and many people take advantage of that too.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “One clarification, on the print . . . on the screen here it says 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Is it 9 or is it 8?”

Mr. Gale said, “Yeah, it’s actually 8 on those two days, the 27th and 28th.”

And then the other 14 locations, the advanced voting centers we’ll have available throughout the county, we’ll have those open the week prior to the election on Thursday July 27th from noon to 7 p.m. as well as Friday the 28th from noon to 7 and then Saturday, all these locations will be open and available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we’ve seen Saturday for a lot of people is just more convenient and easier to go vote on Saturday than trying to squeeze it in during the week. And so we’re excited about this opportunity for folks and the last election, the only location that people could vote early on the Saturday before the election was the Election Office and on about 8 to noon that day we had over 1,000 people come in and through the building, and so you can imagine what kind of line we had there, and so we’re excited about the number, the large number of locations we’ll have and I’ll flip to the next one and kind of get a listing of those locations and throughout Wichita and the other city communities in the county, including Bel Aire and Derby and Goddard and Valley Center. And that’s a quick list and then the next we have a map that kind of gives you an idea, a feel of the geographic distribution of those locations.

And these 14 are actually also polling places on Election Day as well, in which that’s the . . . and that’s the . . . again though, on Election Day, each voter in the county is assigned a specific polling place on Election Day and many have changed. And as you all are aware, we’ve reduced the number from a little over 200 two years ago to we’ll have 63 locations open on Election Day and we’ve evaluated those sites and those 63 were sites included in that 208 and we’ve evaluated them based on a whole list of criteria, and to come up with that final list.

How do you know where your specified or assigned polling place is on Election Day? First of all,

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check your voter card. The last several years, we mailed those out once every year and we mailed this year's out earlier in March and you may have noticed it when it came, it looked different with our new computer system. It had a whole new look and different look to it and so hopefully it . . . I know it caught many people's attention, because they called us at the time with questions, but if you missed it or you tossed it, and you didn't hold onto it, feel free to give us a call at the Election Office at 660-7100, and we'll be glad to help you out and direct you to your voting location on Election Day.

Getting the word out, as I mentioned, there had been a lot of changes and so we've been working and again with a number of county staff including very much help from the Communications Office. We've been working on helping to get the word out in lots of different avenues. One, first of all, the media, probably the biggest help and they've been very good in running stories and articles and helping make people aware that there have been changes and to even running maps and items on their website, maps on their website to help direct folks to the right place, as well as to the other options, voting options that are available.

We've prepared, we've had prepare an advanced voting flyer, which includes a map on it that's being widely distributed and again through the Dillons stores, cities throughout the county are helping us distribute them to libraries and senior centers, other city facilities. Community festivals, we've been at throughout the county, including the Sedgwick County last weekend. We're working to get a voting machine demonstration scheduled at Town East in a week and a half and we've also had other groups in the community, including the Chamber and WIBA and the Hispanic Chamber have been helpful in getting the word out, so we are very appreciative of all our community partners.

Also, one that's a popular resource for voters, many voters every election time is the voter's guide that the Wichita Eagle newspaper puts out and that will be coming out here in the next week or so and I believe they're going to be running maps showing all the voting locations and the areas that are actually assigned to each voting location that will hopefully be even as more clearly helpful for voters than has been able to before.

Also, just at the end, mention other media avenues that have . . . opportunities we've had to help get the word out to the voting public. Also we want to thank other community partners we've had in helping raise the awareness for the upcoming election and the many changes and again, the many opportunities of ways to vote, including the League of Women Voters, as I mentioned earlier, the Dillons stores, cities throughout Sedgwick County and again, all our media partners.

And finally, again, if people have questions, still need more information how to vote by mail or

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where to show up to vote early or where their polling place is or if they're still registered or need to re-register, feel free to call the Election Office at 660-7100 or visit our website and we put . . . try as best we can to put more and more information on there. And in fact, I believe even later today and we'll have a new feature added or be able to link from our website to where a person can go in and enter their name or address and it will show the districts they live in, the precinct, their polling place and that's . . . it's called 'Voter View' for us and we're excited about that and that's a feature that we've provided by the Secretary of State's Office and on their website and then we'll be able to link onto it, as well as other counties throughout the state will be able to.

Speaking of which, that kind of leads me into and I'll still be around and be available for further questions, but I do want to introduce you all as well to another great partner of the Sedgwick County Election Office, he and his office have been a huge source of help and support for us and he's provided critical leadership in this time of change in election process, Kansas Secretary of State Mr. Ron Thornburgh is here with us this morning."

Mr. Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State, State of Kansas, greeted the Commissioners and said, "There's so much technology up here, I'm a little afraid of this whole podium thing. Thank you for allowing me to join you this morning. I appreciate the opportunity to spend a little bit of time with you. I want to take just a moment and thank Commissioner Gale for the great job that he's doing. You've just seen, by his presentation, the work that is being done for outreach within the community. Obviously, there have been big changes that have taken place within the election cycle and the election structure and the election administration and Commissioner Gale and his team, I think, are doing a great job of reaching out. They're using some very creative and innovative ways to do that.

I also want to thank the commission for your work as well, to be supportive in those efforts. I know we've asked you to do a lot of different things, over the last probably 18 months to two years, with the implementation of the Help America Vote Act, everything from the change of the voter registration data base to the new voting machines, to voter education. We've asked a lot of Commissioner Gale and we've asked a lot of the commissioners, and so we appreciate your willingness to be a part of that as well.

Before I go much further, let me just say happy Election Day. Today is the first day in which we're actually sending out advanced ballots throughout the state of Kansas. And I guess that's my point

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as much as anything today. We've really moved away in America from a single Election Day anymore and now specifically within the State of Kansas, we almost have the election season of 20 days prior to the election, where any person for any reason can ask that an advanced ballot be sent to them or they can use one of the satellite locations, as we get a little closer to the elections. And I guess my point is pretty simple in that we have done everything administratively that we can to provide access to registration and access to the ballot and access to voting. Voting is more convenient today than it's ever been before and now our job is to try to reach out to the voters to ask them to take advantage of that convenience.

The satellite voting moving from two locations to 15 locations throughout the county, the 20 days of which you can ask that a ballot be sent to you. If I can vent a personal frustration here, I refuse to believe someone doesn't have five minutes, they can sit at their kitchen table and cast a vote if we're willing to send a ballot to them, so I think we've made some great strides in that area.

Let me talk a little bit about the statewide perspective of what's happening with the elections. What we see in Sedgwick County today is mirroring a lot of what we've seen nationwide and in fact statewide. I know there have been a lot of discussion about the number of polling places and the reduction that took place. If you look around the state, in 2000 there were about 2,400 polling places. In 2002, there were about 2,200 polling places. In 2004, there were just over 2,000. Today there are . . . in a couple of weeks, there's going to be just under 2,000, so we've seen the back end of the Bell Curve, with a reduction in polling places and that is for a variety of reasons. Number one, one of the greatest challenges facing election officials throughout this county is board workers, finding board workers who are willing to put in a very long, very hard day quite frankly for volunteer wages is becoming more and more challenging and so finding the number of board workers that we need to conduct the election is very difficult and accessible polling place. We're under very strict requirements, under ADA, as to what kind of a building, what kind of a parking lot can accommodate the election cycle, and so we lost a number of polling places throughout the state because of the ADA requirements.

And then lastly, obviously with the requirements of the voting system, under the Help America Vote Act and the accessibility requirements of those systems as well, have created more difficulty in creating . . . in getting poll workers. A lot of our poll workers are just like my, intimidated by technology, and so we've had some difficulty there as well.

But while we've seen some changes in Sedgwick County, I guess I just want to reassure you that we're seeing this happen nationwide and it's not a spotlight on Sedgwick County for something like this, and we're in fact seeing it happening throughout the state of Kansas as well. We are moving to

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a different stage of voting in the state of Kansas. There's a much greater emphasis on advanced voting. There's a much greater emphasis on satellite voting. Within the state, we're seeing a statewide average of about 20% of all votes cast are now being cast in advance. In the urban areas, that number is growing even faster. It's probably going to be closer to 30 to 35% in a lot of the urban areas and especially suburban, I guess the suburban areas are where we're going to see a continued acceleration of advanced voting. That's why I'm so encouraged by the aggressive satellite voting program and the aggressive mailed ballot program as well, because that's addressing the needs of the way the voters are asking us to participate in the program right now . . . or in the process right now, and I believe we're making an appropriate response on that.

The last piece I want to address with the number of polling places, I know there was some concern about the reduction in the number of polling places. I want to thank the commission for your work in creating the redundant paper ballot system that will be used, in conjunction with the voting machines. If voters are concerned that the polling places are going to be . . . the lines at the polling places are going to be too long, because of your work to create that backup system, we can vote dozens and dozens of voters at a single time by allowing them to vote a paper ballot, rather than the touch-screen system as well, so I am not concerned that we're going to have long lines in Sedgwick County. I'm not concerned we're going to have long lines anywhere in the state of Kansas, because we built a redundant system that will allow us to handle all of those voters.

And as we look at these systems, the last piece I want to touch on just very quickly is just the overall security of our elections. I know sometimes there are some red flags thrown up about all this new technology that's being put out there and does it really work. Let me just give you an unqualified answer that absolutely, there is not a system in place in the state of Kansas that I don't have 100% confidence in. I believe the way a person casts their vote is the way it's going to be counted and the way that you will canvass it on the Friday following the election. The systems that are in use at the state have been qualified at the national level, they've been qualified at the state level and they've been qualified at the county level. They've been through the ringer, before they're allowed to be put into the polling place on Election Day. I have great confidence.

Now that's not to say that somewhere in the state of Kansas there's not going to be a hiccup on Election Day. We're going to hit a speed bump somewhere. Now I say that because that happens in every election. When we were using hand counted paper ballots we would run into a speed bump somewhere, but the beauty of the systems we have today are there are so many redundancies build into the system, we always, absolutely always had the capacity to go back and do the audit and capture the vote and make sure that the way a person's vote cast was the way it was counted. So I believe that we are set for a great election on August 1st and the last piece, I want to follow up on something that Bill had said, and that is to promote the voter view. If any voter has any questions about where they vote or what Election Day is or any question at all, you can simple go to voteks.org. V-O-T-E.ks.org. That will take you to the Secretary of State's website. You enter in

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the appropriate information and it will tell you everything you need to know. If you want your voter history, if you want to know who your representatives are, if you want to know anything about your districts or if you want to know where your polling place is, we can provide all that information to anyone in the state of Kansas who is a registered voter.

If you do not have web access, you can call the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-862-VOTE. That's 1-800-862-VOTE. We'll put an actual human being on the line with you. We're kind of proud of that. We'll put a human being on the line with you and they'll walk you through it and they'll figure out any information you need to know. So commissioners, in closing, let me just say thank you for the time. I appreciate your energy. I appreciate your commitment to the election process and thank you for all your support and Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to stand for any questions, should there be any."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any questions or comments of Ron or Bill or the process in general? Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well actually I have a few comments and then a question of Bill. Change is always hard and with the drastic reduction of polling places, obviously this year is going to be a lot harder for our citizens, whether you think it's going to be easy or not, change is hard. I also want to thank the League of Women Voters for all the hard work they have done trying to get the word out. They've worked very diligently and I know we've got our handbills that we're putting out. I know I'm putting these in all my little neighborhood newsletters that I can.

But one of my fears is and I was visiting with Mr. Lamkey earlier last week or this week, that when someone goes to their old polling place, because they've either lost their card, didn't get a flyer, are unaware of what's going on, they're going to go to their polling places and one of the things I wanted was to have a poster up that said, 'your new polling place is' and from what I understand, if you go to your old polling place, there may be different polling places to go, so that's not going to be exactly an option. Is that correct?"

Mr. Gale said, "That's right. It would be nice if it was that easy to where we'd have them specific to a polling place and say this is no longer a polling place, your new polling place is here at this address. So what we'll have is we'll have posters, we'll send out posters to each of the old polling places asking them to post those and it will say you know, this is no longer a polling place. To find out where your new polling place is . . . and it will have our phone number and website and other

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information available.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Okay, and are you going to have extra people onboard that day to handle the possible increase in volume of phone calls?”

Mr. Gale said, “That’s one of the nice things here, is you all maybe remember, we joined and partnered with the call center here a couple of years ago and we didn’t start sending calls of ours until earlier this year and we were willing to do that because we knew there was going to come a time when we were going to take plenty of . . . put plenty of load on the call center of our calls, and this time is now. And so again, with all the help from other county staff and DIO and others, they are working right now to increase the number of folks that will be available to take calls on leading up and on Election Day.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Well, I would like to see that, because the other day I called the number just to see how long it would take to get a real person and get an answer and with a very, I would assume, low volume time it was 45 seconds. So if you go to your old polling place on your way to work and you see a number and you call it, I’m just worried that if they have to wait on the line for two minutes, they’re going to say ‘I don’t have time to wait for this’ because we live in a very quick world, so that’s my concern is that there will be enough people to get those calls through very quickly, so they can find out where their polling place is, so I would appreciate you making sure that happens.”

Mr. Gale said, “Sure.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “That’s all I had.”

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

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well first of all, I’d like to express appreciation to the Secretary for coming down and helping us dialogue a little bit about the challenge that we’re facing here and Commissioner Gale, appreciate your efforts in helping us get through this time, a couple of questions though. Are other counties, urban counties faced with this same challenge? I mean, Shawnee and Johnson County and . . .”

Mr. Thornburgh said, “Yes, we’re seeing the same challenges. In particular, I would point to Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas. They had a major reshuffling of not only the polling places, but the precinct boundaries themselves and essentially, what had happened in Wyandotte County, there had been a population shift. Everyone was aware of the great economic miracle that has become Kansas City, Kansas and with that the population shifted to the west and the precincts

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had not adjusted to that, over the last let's call it a decade. This election cycle, with all the changes that are taking place, we have seen that initial change and with the new technology and the new polling places so there are similar challenges there.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have a case of a number of smaller rural counties are having some of these very same difficulties, as they transition to the new type of voting technology. Polling places have been reduced in smaller counties as well, creating an issue for individuals to drive say ten miles to a polling place in another town or vote in advance, so we're faced with some similar difficulties . . . I won't say universally, but it is in a number of counties in the state of Kansas."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, well thank you. Well, our particular issue though is not population shift as much as it is just implementing a mandated requirement that we transition to this type of a system that satisfies the Help Americans Vote Act."

Mr. Thornburgh said, "That's correct, Commissioner. The . . . to track the roots back a little bit, let me take you back to Florida, November 4th in 2000. Everyone remembers the fiasco that was Florida in 2000, and in the Help America Vote Act is the outcropping of the fiasco in Florida in the year 2000. Congress came down with a series of mandates and within those mandates, they provided that every polling place in America shall have a touch-screen voting system. Now as you're aware, Sedgwick County had a touch-screen system, but it did not have the accessibility requirements of the new federal act. Therefore was the need to replace the old system with a new, compliant system. Obviously, there are a lot of dollars involved in something like that so Congress did what I believe Congress always does, they created a 3.92 billion dollar mandate and they funded it to the tune of about 2.9 billion dollars, so they left the counties and they left the states holding the bag for about 30 to 35% of what the mandate required at that particular time, so they created the mandate here and they created the funding here and therein lies the gap and therein lies some of the difficulty in providing enough voting machines throughout the country.

In addition to that, there was a voter registration data base requirement. We now have a statewide voter registration database and I must say, our database today and I know this is insider baseball so bear with me for a moment, the database today is cleaner and more accurate than it has ever been before. We've had cases of individuals who lived in one county and then moved to another county and re-registered to vote. Well, they weren't trying to cheat, they just didn't tell us they used to live

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in a previous county. We've been able to remove tens of thousands of duplicates around the state of Kansas because of that statewide system. That's one of the federal mandates that came along with that as well."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, well thank you. I mean, the point of my question was really just to establish the fact that this was not an arbitrary decision by Mr. Gale or county commission to stay on the leading edge of technology, but this was a mandate, requiring us to do it and when it's all said and done, it is going to be an improvement and a more secure system for our voters."

Mr. Thornburgh said, "It is a response to a federal mandate and if I may add, commissioner, it is for the first time in our American history and I do believe this is an extraordinary statement, for the first time in our American history every single voter will have a right to a secret ballot. Now we had always thought everyone had the right to a secret ballot and that was true unless you couldn't see the ballot or unless you couldn't hold the pencil to mark the ballot or unless you didn't have the physical capability to mark the ballot. Well, with the new system any person has the right to a secret ballot, because we no longer have to send someone into the voting booth with them to help them manipulate the pencil or to work the system. I believe that's an extraordinary statement and the federal mandate required that and it has taken a lot of time and energy and pain and money to make that happen but I believe it's worth the cost."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Well, I just have one other question and I'd like to direct this to Commissioner Gale. You said that you had selected the new locations based on a whole list of criteria and I think our citizens here would probably like to know how did . . . what are some of those criteria that got you to chose these places, because it looked like we've eliminated a lot of places that were perfectly useable. So if you could just give us insight on what some of that criteria was?"

Mr. Gale said, "Sure, thank you commissioner. First of all, and the Secretary kind of touched on it, one of the advantages that go into fewer polling places that we've seen is the ability to concentrate our resources, whether it's the voting equipment and with your all approval of the optical ballot readers, we're able to have one of those in each of the new polling places, which as the Secretary mentioned will, I think and Commissioner Winters had pointed out, at that day be I feel a real relief valve, especially in those busier November elections.

It also allows us to concentrate our election workers and as Ron mentioned, it's getting . . . is more and more of a challenge each year, whereas in August two years ago we used 800 volunteer board workers on election day, this year with the few places and 600 spots to fill, even now with training starting Monday, we're working to fill those last 10 or so spots of that 600, so if we were trying to fill 800 again, I'd really be concerned. So being able to concentrate our resources, the voting equipment and the volunteer workers has been a big upside to the fewer polling places.

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Now the criteria we use to chose those polling places, one of the main ones and part of the big mandate in the Help America Vote Act was accessibility and so two years ago we went out and surveyed all 208 polling places, with the help of other county staff as well as the Independent Living Resource Center, and volunteers from there, we went out and visited each and every one of them and practically all of them had some accessibility issue or issues of one or another. And so since then, as we had that information, as well as when we were out surveying, we surveyed the number of parking spaces at each location, we measured the size of the room or hallway we were voting in and so we had that information as well to evaluate, as we were going with fewer polling places, we've looked and tried to select those that had more parking available, more larger room to vote in. For instance, I mentioned before gymnasiums are great, locations that have those available for us to use. Other criteria, we do want to keep it convenient for people to vote, so we work very hard to keep all voters, as much as possible, within a two mile radius of their new polling place if it has changed, and now we were not 100% successful but we never were before, especially out in the more rural areas. Many people had to travel more than two miles to their polling place and will still do.

We tried . . . we considered the mass transit, the bus lines and a majority of the polling places are located on the bus route. We even looked at the traffic count numbers and took that into account as an additional criteria and many of our places are on high-traffic arterial streets and so I think that's another big plus."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Well thank you Mr. Gale and thank you Secretary. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well I just, very briefly, wanted to thank Secretary Thornburgh for coming to our meeting today and helping us understand a little better. Because as you explained it very well, the voting manner in which we conduct elections is changing and it has not always been perfect in the past. I remember, in the 1996 presidential election, I stood in line for an hour and 45 to a hour and 50 minutes to vote and I made the commitment then that I was not going to stand in that line. That I was going to try to take advantage of some kind of advanced voting. And as we think about, from the election commissioner's standpoint and county commissioners standpoint, to

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have the system geared up to do all of your business on one day every two years and then one big day every four years, it just gets to the place of being virtually impossible to put that system together. So I think your explanation of 14 satellite places to vote and a way to request a ballot in the mail to be sent to your home and you can do that starting now, I think that you've really answered a lot of the questions that many people had.

I know we're still probably going to have some hiccups, Mr. Secretary, just as you indicated but I really do appreciate your attendance here in Sedgwick County to help all of us in Sedgwick County understand what the process has been. So I know this has been a real hotbed topic issue here, but again, I certainly appreciate your making the effort to come from Topeka to make sure that we all understand as much as we can, so thank you very much for being here."

Mr. Thornburgh said, "Well, commissioner I appreciate that. Thank you so much for the opportunity. It's important to me that we're able to educate the public as much as we can about the different options that are available because we had spent generations just showing up at the polling place on Election Day and just as you see a lot of industry branching out and providing branch locations, we're trying to take the same approach to the elections field now.

I also want to take a moment to thank the coalition that is doing such a great job to educate the public about what opportunity they have to vote as well. We intend to work very closely with them and continue to work closely with Commissioner Gale so that every individual, every voter in Sedgwick County has the opportunity not only to know what their voting options are, but the opportunity to know where their polling place is as well that vote is cast and counted in an accurate manner."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I appreciate your being here today, Secretary. It's interesting to me that I've always thought that the logistics and the change of this whole process is not going to be the enemy of the process. It will be the general apathy of the public, which is always a problem, is problematic when you go into elections. I mean, there's many years where you look at the number of registered voters and the potential that can vote and then you look at the numbers that actual vote with the system that we did have and it's pretty scary that people do not exercise their number one right as a citizen and we hope that all the change and all the things that will come with that will not impair people, but will inspire them to try to figure out how to vote, because it is

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certainly going to be change, but it's going to be easier in many ways.

But truthfully, for me, what always scares me is that people, as easy as you can make it, they still don't engage sometimes and that's the challenge is to somehow make sure that we inspire people to be part of the system and it's not about the system of voting or the process. It's about people engaging and wanting to have a voice and let's hope that that happens."

Mr. Thornburgh said, "Well commissioners, you're right. The system has changed and if you look at the reasons why people don't vote, convenience never reaches the top ten reasons. We have administratively made access to the process as easy as we possibly can, given the restrictions we have on technology today. I'm not a believer that we're going to have Internet voting any time in the near future, so we can kind of remove that one from the table for a while and I think we have seen administratively we're doing everything we possibly can and now I have to tell you, you opened up a big door I have to drive a truck through. I'm a proponent of a program called 'Kids Voting'. Kids Voting has been active in Sedgwick County for a number of years. We're teaching exactly what you're talking about in grades K through 12, teaching these young children not about the issues, so they can vote this way or vote that way, just teaching them the importance of democracy and the importance of participation.

What we've found, when we reach into the schools and we teach these children, voter turnout among 18 to 24 year olds in Kids Voting communities is 65%, versus the national average of 15%, so we've had an enormous impact on getting young people to the polling place. We've increased adult voter turnout by an average of 5% and as much as 10% and lastly and this is my favorite part, of parents who have children involved in the program, 45% say they're better educated about the candidates, the process and the issues because they helped their fifth grader with their homework so we're getting more people to the poll who have never been there before who are better educated. I've got to believe that's the trifecta."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Well, I've got to kind of dovetail on what Commissioner Norton just said. You know, in today's society first of all we resist change and I'm guilty of that and the older you get, the more difficult it is to keep changing. I'm still trying to figure out my cell phone and I only really wanted to make calls and receive calls and all these other features that are built in just leave me for a loss. But I'm also saddened by the apathy that was brought up. I'm reminded of some photos I saw about Afghanistan and Iraq where women were finally given the opportunity to vote and the lines were five, six, seven blocks long and they were there after having been threatened to be killed if they dared go out and vote, but yet right there, that fire of freedom was so great that they would risk all to go out and vote and here in America we're saying 'Oh my gosh, if a voter has

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to have five minutes, that's too much' and what have you. And the general apathy depresses me, I mean oftentimes we're sitting here at a meeting and the only people in the audience are staff or maybe someone might come because of a particular issue and then leave, and we've become kind of spoiled and complacent about these freedoms that a lot of men and women over the ages have died for on our behalf so that we could have.

And I know Commissioner Norton says exercise this right. I almost feel it's an obligation for registered voters to make the effort and vote. It's the only way you're going to get people elected that believe in your philosophy and your position and it's the only way to put politicians on notice that if you don't do the way we want, we're going to vote you out of office and I want to tell you, I think politicians pay attention to an engaged electorate more so than people that just complain, but we figure they're not going to vote anyway, so why should I do anything. So I would encourage everybody in the primary that's coming in August 1st and then also in the general election in November, make the effort, get out and vote. Vote your beliefs, vote for the candidate that you feel share those beliefs. Thank you very much for coming, Secretary. We really appreciate it. Any other questions or comments on this item? Okay, do we have a Motion to receive and file?"

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, "Next item please."

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CITIZEN INQUIRY

C. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING A 'COOL CITIES' PROGRAM.

Mr. Bill Cather, President, local chapter of the Kansas Sierra Club, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm pleased to follow Bill Gale, my colleague from the City Counselor's Office."

Chairman Sciortino said, "For the record, if you could just tell us your name sir."

Mr. Cather said, "I'm Bill Cather, 1920 South Hillside and I brought you perhaps a bright idea today, but the real reason for my appearing here today is to encourage you to help us curb global warming gases and to save money at the same time, save taxpayer money. I'm promoting a U.S. Conference of Mayors' proposal and we hope that you'll give us some attention, in the very near future. This proposal calls for a 7% reduction in global warming gases or pollution from the 1990 level by the year 2012. We hope that you'll sign this U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and we ask today only that you refer it to Mr. Holt or to his staff for their study and report back to you and then we hope, when you get it back, you'll take a look at it and you'll consider it favorably and we'd like to have a big signing party with you.

Now this thing that we're asking you to sign is essentially a pledge. It is not enforceable. You can't get sued over it. If you don't meet the goal, why there's no penalty for it or anything of that nature. It's just that, on a voluntary basis, we're trying to curb global gases and global warming and in the same process to save some money as well.

I'd like to quote one of the cities that has used, that has implemented this. Seattle reduced their global warming gases by 60%, not 7% that we're asking. Houston says in one of its printouts that the five-year lifecycle of the Toyota Prius Hybrid that it is using is cheaper, over the life of the vehicle by \$1,900 over a competitive vehicle. Now just like the light bulb, it's not cheaper to buy at the start, but it is cheaper to operate it through its entire life."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Now Mr. Cather, are you saying that the savings offset the initial increase in the initial cost and then overall it's still saving them \$1,900, even though the initial investment was more?"

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Mr. Cather said, "That's exactly what Houston is telling us.

Another quote I'd like to give you is from one of Wyatt Earp's descendents and he is the procurement person for cars for the Florida Sheriff's Association and he hails from Marion County, Florida and he says 'We spend taxpayers' money wisely and that means we don't run experiments, period'. We've got a good car here. Hopefully American car companies will offer something similar very soon. But essentially what we're saying that with this light bulb that I'm giving you, you have to pay somebody to come in and put these light bulbs in various places. This light bulb may cost about as much as a cheaper light bulb. But this one will last about ten times longer, so the maintenance cost or the replacement cost of coming in here, getting a ladder, getting to the third floor, climbing up there, taking the fixture apart and putting this in there and then putting it all back together, you're going to save 10 times over the replacement cost.

The replacement cost for putting that bulb up is perhaps as much as the bulb itself, so you're going to have a nine times savings just with this bulb, even though it costs double. And many of the proposals that are in the packet that I have left with you point out exactly what we're asking that you sign on for, but it's my hope that you will simply refer this to Mr. Holt or staff or to the appropriate division or department and have them give you back a report. You'll receive the report, I think you'll be pleased with it and we hope you'll do that and we hope you'll enjoy the light bulb.

Oh, by the way, the light bulb only takes one-fourth as much electricity, but the real savings to the county is not the electricity, it's the fact that your maintenance cost is going to be a lot less. Any questions?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "I have a feeling there's going to be a few questions, Mr. Cather. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well I just have a couple of quick comments. Bill, I do want to thank you for coming over and sharing this information. I think it is very good and I think we can always do better. I think we do need to sometimes toot our own horn. I know about two years ago, we started a process here in Sedgwick County to replace much of the heating/ air condition system in this entire facility with a new, modern, more expensive system. But over the long run, the savings and utility costs, because there's so much less power is being consumed, will pay for the installation of this new equipment, so we've already started.

But the one place where I want us to really continue to take a look is in our fleets, automobiles and trucks. I mean, we need to constantly think about how we can do that better. And I was going to

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suggest to Assistant Manager Ron Holt, I know that we have a committee of employees that work on recycling issues. I wonder if this is an item that we could take to that group of already assembled employees that are working on recycling projects to make sure that we're recycling at every opportunity, if they could start really analyzing the light bulb sequence and whatever else they can think about. Anyway, that's just an idea that we might share with how we could really participate in some meaningful way, so Bill thank you very much for being here."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well Bill, thank you for your presentation and the comments I was going to make, somewhat similar to what Commissioner Winters made. I know that about the first year I was here we went through that process of trying to become more efficient in our energy consumption and those sort of things, so Sedgwick County is in step with you on a lot of what you're telling us. I did have a question though, that in trying to achieve the goal that you've set, are the things that you suggested, changing the light bulbs and being smarter on what we do, which I believe we have an intellectual mandate to do that and a spiritual mandate, we need to be good stewards of this planet we live on, but can these suggestions that you made achieve the results that you suggest? I mean, surely 60% reduction in Seattle or wherever it was didn't come because people changed their light bulbs."

Mr. Cather said, "Well I think that certainly we can achieve those and you're already on the road to it, as Commissioner Winters says. As a matter of fact, there are a number of proposals that I don't know all of them, but the one that Commissioner Winters brought up is exactly in line with this. That's part of the savings. You've already done something with regard to reduction of global warming gases from the 1990s level haven't you? And so we're on the way. This community is on the way and this commission is the leader of the 19 communities in this county and so you're kind of the mentors for all of the cities and so that's why we would like to ask you to sign onto this voluntary pledge that has no penalties and we'd like to ask you to look at it first and see what it is, but I've kind of described it for you and I think you'll find it rather easy to achieve. The first things that you do are going to be the big savers. It's harder to get the second 50% than it is to get the first 50% of savings. We're only asking you to do 7%."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well, and I appreciate that. And I'm going to be very supportive of the suggestion to have our staff look into this and see how we can achieve some of these savings. It seems as though, in listening and observing this momentum towards trying to solve the problem of global warming, that there's three categories of ideas it seems like.

One is folks say 'that just doesn't make sense to me, it has no credibility, I don't believe this works, I think that nature is a bigger player in this than all the humanity put together'. There's another group of folks, it seems like 'Well, we've got a problem, we're measuring it and we need to do

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something about it, but we need to do things that are actually affective and that don't consume more energy to get to the place we're going and that doesn't cost us more than has got some sort of efficiency connected to it' and then there's folks who are more zealous in saying 'Let's jump on this right now and get going'. So I think the wise thing for this commission to do is to do just what you've suggested, and that's have our staff look at it and see where we can be a partner with you in trying to work towards solving this problem. So that's all I had, Mr. Chair."

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

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well Mr. Cather, I don't have a question, just a comment. Looking through the printed material you gave us, when I saw the words 'reduce, reuse, recycle' it rang a bell with me. It seemed like some years, before I was on this board, that the county did a big reduce, reuse, recycle campaign, because I remember seeing some old literature around. And I think that probably had a big impact at that time, but it might have been just a one or two year campaign or something and it's kind of waned down and maybe we could do a better job of reviving that and getting the word out a little better, I think that would help. So I want you to know, I feel good about Sedgwick County working with you and working with recycling and so forth and helping with global warming. I think we've been on that path, just maybe not quite as much as we were when we first started that campaign, so thank you for this because it just reminded me. It made a light go off. That's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "No pun intended. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well Bill, thanks for being here today. You know, the debate continues to rage on about global warming and what the affect man has on that. The truth is when the moral obligations meet the economic obligations, something will really be done. And as we talk about waste minimization in our own county, we've always thought of that as a physical waste that we need to worry about but you know there's an economic waste that we have to deal with and that may be spending too much on electricity because we're not using the right lighting techniques or too much on air conditioning and heating, because we're not efficient with what we do and there's no controls on which rooms are being used and which need to be turned off and turned on and that's where we invest our money.

I think there's a huge economic value to some of the things that you have advanced. If you don't get into just the moral aspects of it, there's a lot of economics that we need to be considering the

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waste on, because we have an obligation to spend taxpayers' money in the most efficient manner and we don't always do that. Just sometimes because it's the way we've always done it. We haven't looked at new technologies, we haven't explored and hopefully we'll do that. I appreciate you being here and kind of nudging us to think more about that. You know, we'll be only a small part of what happens with global warming. I mean, it is a huge, global issue. I mean, it really is. I mean, we've seen more and more information coming out on it, the debate rages. We can only do our small part. Certainly, we can do it for a moral reason, but we also have a charge and an obligation to do it for an economic reason for the taxpayers of this community and I think we'll start there. I'm going to be supportive of us looking into this."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, thank you. Well I've got to tell you, Bill, you and I have known each other for I don't know how many years but more years than I probably want to admit, fifteen years, twenty years, I don't know, from my past life and your past life and I really appreciate the dedication you have always had for environmental issues. I remember the time, back in my previous life, we got together and did some commercials on that.

But let me just go out on a limb. Teddy and I are all for this concept and we're going to be promoting it all the way from now on. That's kind of just the overall . . . you started making some really important concepts. Usually or sometimes an environmental issue is good and it costs a lot of money and you don't see any results immediately but it just sounds good, but here this light bulb starts making money for you the minute you put it into the socket. The one thing that you kind of conspicuously left out, it's going to reduce potential worker's comp cases, lawsuits because an employee fell off a ladder. If that person only has to get on the ladder once every ten years, as opposed to once every six or eight months, that's less exposure and opportunity.

If we can start looking at buying more of these hybrid type vehicles, the one thing you missed also was that I believe their miles per gallon are way up there compared to the SUV . . . well, compared to any regular, just gasoline engine, so again you start saving money while doing an environmentally sane thing.

So I mean, I'm going to also agree that we should turn this over to Mr. Holt or whatever that group is, but I'm going to ask you then to come back to us in a timely manner. Let's not just let that sit there and just die a natural death. I'm not comfortable maybe ordering from the bench come back in a week or two weeks, but I would like for you to come back as quickly, Ron, as you can and give this the priority that I believe you're feeling that this board wants to have put on it. So please come back to us again.

Bill, let's you and I at some time, let's go talk a little bit more in depth because maybe there's more

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things that a leader can do to engage the public, because what we do is great, what the City of Wichita is going to do hopefully is great, but what 459,000 people could do would be even greater and I think it's incumbent upon us as leaders to encourage our citizens to get onboard with this so that they can save money, so they can afford to pay the taxes we charge . . . no, I went to far there. But seriously, I'm excited about this and I want to be an active player in this game, so lets get together and visit on it."

Mr. Cather said, "Great, thank you very much."

Chairman Sciortino said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, I guess now we just have a motion to receive and . . . no, no. Should the motion be to direct the . . . do we have to have an official motion to direct to Mr. Holt?"

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file and direct Assistant County Manager Ron Holt to move this over to the Waste Minimization Committee for review and suggestions and get back to the Commission in a timely manner.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Bill, thank you again very much and your entire group for coming and showing us what this is. This is the right thing and it's the right time. Thank you. Next item please Madam Clerk."

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

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PUBLIC HEARING

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR AN INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE COUNTY.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Joe L. Norton, Gilmore & Bell, P.C., Bond Counsel, greeted the Commissioners and said, "With me today from my office is Robyn Busenitz, my assistant, and Jim Weber from Public Works to address any questions or comments you may have in respect to these matters in the public hearing.

This involves six capital improvement projects that the commission has previously approved in five different areas of the county. Once we have gone through preliminary information, I would recommend you open the public hearing. We'll receive comment on individual projects, then you may close the public hearing and consider the resolution that you have prepared implementing the special assessments.

A little bit of history, on June 21 you considered this matter, approved the statements of final cost, the proposed assessment roll and established today's date and time for the public hearing. Notice of that hearing was published in the Derby Reporter and mailed to all affected property owners on June 26th, in accordance with state law.

The final statements of cost that you approved at that time are on the screen and without further ado, I would suggest that we open the public hearing and then we'll take each of these projects individually, to see if there are citizens that desire to address the commission on these projects."

Chair Pro Tem Burtnett said, "Commissioners, are there any questions before we open the public hearing? Okay, we will open the public hearing. Is there anyone in the audience that wants to speak on this issue?"

Mr. Norton said, "I would suggest that we go through the individual projects and tell them what it is."

Chair Pro Tem Burtnett said, "Well this is my first time having to do this, since the Chairman left."

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Mr. Norton said, "We'll help you as best we can. The first project is Windridge Court Addition. This is an area located near Macarthur and Ridge Road, in the western part of the county. The development map is before you. The proposed method of assessment is to assess each of the 12 parcels equally for the cost of the improvements. The final cost statements are before you. It's about \$85,500, when divided equally among the 12 parcels about \$7,120 per lot and now I think it would be appropriate to ask if anyone is here to address the Windridge Court Addition project."

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Anyone here in the audience that would like to speak for or against the item? Seeing none, I'll just close the public hearing . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "No."

Mr. Norton said, "We have six projects."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Excuse me."

Mr. Norton said, "The second project is for Green Acres, an unplatted tract located near Greenwich Road and 87th Street South. There are four parcels in this particular tract. Proposed method of assessment is equally, per tract. The cost statement, as we've seen before, was about \$159,265 or about \$39,800 per tract. It would be appropriate to ask if anyone is here to speak on this item."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, anyone here in the audience that would like to speak on this item? Seeing none, lets proceed to item three."

Mr. Norton said, "The next project is Savanna at Castle Rock Ranch 10th Addition. This is near 13th Street and 143rd Street East. The plat map depicts the subdivision addition that's going to be assessed. May note here for the record that on the bottom of the map there is a 50-foot edge on each of those parcels that has been assigned to properties located immediately south of this addition that have been assessed for these types of improvements so that 50-foot strip will be removed from the actual assessment. It will be assessed the remainder of that lot, so we'll clean up the title work there. The cost statement before you is \$261,921. Again the base authorization was \$324,000 for this equally per lot, among the 15 lots is about \$17,500 per lot."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, is anyone in the audience that would like to speak on this item? Seeing none, let's proceed."

Mr. Norton said, "The next project is in Elkridge Addition. This is an area located near 183rd

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Street West and Maple. There are several phases to this project, four phases. We're talking about phase one and phase two today. Phase one is the area outlined in red, for general storm drainage improvements in connection with the streets. And then phase two, outlined in red, is the one to the right side of the map and they're for those lots that are actually getting street improvements. The cost statement, again phase one is about \$177,172, divided equally among the 55 tracts in phase one is about \$3,220 per lot. In phase two, for the street improvements, total cost is \$279,000, divided equally among the 30 lots in that tract, about \$8,962 per lot."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Anybody here that would like to speak on this item? Seeing none, go to the next item please."

Mr. Norton said, "The final improvement is for Gaither Addition. This is located near 79th Street South and Seneca. There are three parcels within this benefit district outlined in red on the map. The petition requests that they be assessed equally, per lot. And the cost statement on this project shows the total cost of about \$60,630 or about \$20,210 per parcel."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And do I have anybody in the audience would like to speak on this item? Okay."

Mr. Norton said, "The time schedule involved in this, as we said before, you approved items on June 21, notices around June 26th, the hearing today. Assuming the commission adopts the resolution levying the assessments, we will publish that resolution and have mailed copies of assessment notices sent to individual property owners. They will have 30 days in which to make payments in part or in full on these assessments. Whatever they do not pay in this time period, we finance by a county general obligation bond issue and will be spread on the tax rolls for a period of 15 years with the interest the county receives on their bond issue. So if there are no further questions at this time, I think it would be appropriate to close the public hearing and consider the resolution that would levy the assessments."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Before I close the public hearing, I'll just ask one more time is anyone in the audience that would like to speak on any of the items that have just been presented? Seeing none, I'll close the public hearing and limit comment to the bench. Commissioners, do you have any questions or comments of the presenter? Seeing none, what is your will?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

E. CASE NUMBER DER2006-07 – PRIORITY ENHANCEMENT AREAS FOR WICHITA PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS MAP. ALL DISTRICTS.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You probably recall this map from the 1993 Wichita/ Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan. It’s called the visual form map. It was included as part of that comprehensive plan update in order to encourage quality development in the built environment in Wichita and it focused on a variety of vistas, corridors, landmarks and community amenities that, at that time, were considered important to provide for any type of visual enhancement in the community. This map has been used informally over the years by the City of Wichita in helping its departments to determine for which CIP projects additional funding would be allocated for those visual enhancements.

Over the years, because of the growth of the City of Wichita and changes in the physical environment of the city, the city departments have found that this has been not as useful as they would hope it would be, and so in August of 2005 we . . . in responding to a request from the city’s design council, began working with them on updating this plan and following the series of meetings with the city’s design council this map that’s before you today was developed by the design council. We’re now calling it the Priority Enhancement Areas for Wichita Public Infrastructure Projects.

The purpose of this map is to help city departments, as they prioritize public works and other projects along the corridors and gateways, or at the gateways that are shown on this map and other

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selected locations throughout the city where esthetic improvements might be called upon . . . might be warranted. That might include things like landscaping, public art or any other type of visual enhancement, primarily for public facilities and right-of-way projects.

This map is being presented to you today as an amendment to the Wichita/ Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan. It has been reviewed by and endorsed by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and it was reviewed and adopted by the City Council at their meeting yesterday and with that I'll be glad to take any questions."

Chairman Sciortino said, "We do have some. Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, I remember this vaguely from last year, that we looked at these. What has changed on the map?"

Mr. Schlegel said, "You want me to go back and . . ."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well, have there been major changes on it?"

Mr. Schlegel said, "Yes. Well, if I just flip back to the previous map, you can see that there were far fewer corridors. A lot of the growth areas now are included in the newer map. There are more gateways identified out at the outer reaches of the city."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay and between last year and this year, have any of those projects been done or put on any CIPs or anything like that or is it just . . .?"

Mr. Schlegel said, "Well this is not a map to identify projects, per se. It's simply that if a project were to be identified in the city's CIP, in any of these corridors or at any of these gateways, then that would be a signal to for example the Public Works Department that they should be looking at whether or not any visual enhancements are needed for that project."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, I guess I didn't word my question well. Has this map done any good between last year and this year for any projects that were done to enhance the gateways or . . .?"

Mr. Schlegel said, "Yes, it has."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, so it has had some merit and some value."

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Mr. Schlegel said, “Yeah, the . . . particularly the City’s Public Works Department appreciates having a map like this to provide some guidance to them, so that they know when they should be including either public art or other visual enhancements, as part of the design for the project.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Okay. That was all I needed to know.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And the other thing too, commissioners, as I understand it all of this is within the city limits of Wichita, so any additional costs that might be done because of the identification of these locations would be by the City of Wichita. And the only basic reason we’re being presented because we have a joint city/ county comprehensive plan, so okay. Any other questions or comments, commissioners? If not, what is the will of the board on this item?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Priority Enhancement Areas for Wichita Public Infrastructure Projects Map as an amendment to *The Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan*, and adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, “And now there is some comments. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well, some of the legends on the maps have changed over the year, that the original map described blighted areas and pockets and everything. That’s not done on the new map, so it is only describing infrastructure based on where the portals to the city are and how that figures together and not so much on blighted areas, areas that we need to concentrate on with new infrastructure. Is that correct?”

Mr. Schlegel said, “That is correct. Yeah, and I think in that sense the purpose of this map has changed and it’s become more focused over the years.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Okay. Is there still some dialogue in the Comprehensive Plan about blighted areas, areas that need improvement? Infrastructure may be a part of that, but there are many other pieces to that. Is that still in the conversation?”

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Mr. Schlegel said, “Yeah, there’s still a number of policy statements that address that, but in particular I think that the way . . . what’s evolved over the years, as we’ve done neighborhood plans is those neighborhood plans which do address those issues that you’re talking about have been adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan and I think that’s probably a more effective way to do it because the recommendations then move from being general policy statements that you’ll find in a comprehensive plan to more specific recommendations that you would find in the neighborhood plan.”

Commissioner Norton said, “This more articulates a policy of which arterials, which main thoroughfares also will have priority. Is that correct?”

Mr. Schlegel said, “No. It’s not meant to provide guidance for CIP decision making in that sense. It’s only to provide guidance where a project is identified as being needed for one of these corridors, one of these gateways that the city would include or at least consider some type of visual enhancement for that project.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Okay, that’s all I had.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Seeing none, Clerk call the roll.”

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item. Thanks John, very much.”

NEW BUSINESS

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES - COMCARE

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F. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – COMCARE.

1. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR COMCARE TO PROVIDE ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER SERVICES AT CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICE.

Mr. Tim Kaufman, Director of Operations, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE), greeted the Commissioners and said, “The agreement before you is an extension of a current contract that we have with Wichita Psychiatric Consultants to supply us with an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner for 20 hours a week at our crisis center. We’re seeking to extend this contract so that we can continue the recruitment process. We’re hopeful to find and hire an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner to serve at Crisis. Until we’re able to do that, we would like to continue the contract with Wichita Psychiatric for this position. It is for 20 hours a week and they do serve at our crisis program. Be happy to answer any questions.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters 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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item please.”

2. AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER TO PROVIDE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES.

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Mr. Kaufman said, “Commissioners, this is a renewal of a long standing contract that we’ve had with Johnson County Mental Health Center. The State of Kansas contracts with Johnson County Mental Health Center to provide for all of the mental health services for those individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing. Johnson County in turn contracts with us and pays us money that funds about 40% of a therapist to deliver those services and that’s what this contract represents. Last year, we had 10 folks in service that were either deaf or severely hard of hearing and this year we’ve got about 10 folks across three different programs right now, of our outpatient services, at our addiction treatment program and at community support services. Again, this is a continuation of a longstanding contract. Be happy to answer any questions.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, I don’t see that there’s any questions or comments at this time, so Commissioners, what is the will of the Board on this item?”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh 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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item please.”

- 3. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH BEHAVIORAL LINK, A DIVISION OF JOB READINESS TRAINING, INC. TO PROVIDE PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH A SERIOUS**

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EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE.

Mr. Kaufman said, “Commissioners, this is a two-month extension of a current contract with Behavior Link. They provide psychosocial group treatment services for us. We are in the bid process right now, working with purchasing, doing a request for solicitation to identify vendors and we would like to extend this contract so that services continue to be available for the next two months and then we’ll enter into a new agreement.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. Commissioners, any questions or comments? What is the will of the board on this item please?”

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Agreements and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING

4. AGREEMENTS (THREE) TO PROVIDE RIDE COORDINATION

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SERVICES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION BROKERAGE'S VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

- **MOUNT HOPE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
- **X.Y.Z. CLUB OF BENTLEY**
- **GARDEN PLAIN SENIOR CLUB**

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a two year grant application to the Kansas Department of Transportation, included funding for a volunteer transportation program that was approved by you, the county commission, on January 26th, 2005.

Funding was later awarded by Kansas Department of Transportation and that was a two-year grant. This is transportation through this program that we provided by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program by volunteers in their private vehicles. This is a renewal for the first agreements that was initiated with these three senior centers. It was initiated in 2005. The three senior centers are Mount Hope, Bentley and Garden Plain.

They are reimbursed at \$7.00 per ride that they coordinate and they coordinate these rides with their own senior center participants that provide this for their own other members in their senior centers. These volunteer drivers can be reimbursed by the RSVP program at 15 cents a mile if they so request, many of which do not request that but the benefit of this is several. Number one, that people in these local communities, in the rural areas are able to access rides at a very low cost.

The senior centers benefit because they are paid a fee to their center for coordinating it, and then we all benefit because we're able to help people stay in their homes and in their community longer by having access to transportation, which is certainly a critical need in all areas, especially in our rural areas.

The program budget for this is \$33,788. That is programmed to meet 4,084 rides with an average cost of \$8.20 per ride, so this is just the renewal with each of these three senior centers. Last year was the first year and it proved to be very, very successful and we're excited to be able to continue this with the funding through KDOT, so I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. Annette, does this just supplement our Transportation

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Brokerage program that we have or is this a part of it?"

Ms. Graham said, "It was something that we developed last year. It was a model that we kind of heard something about from some other communities, so we wanted to be able to expand the number of rides that we provided and so certainly it has been able to do that and we do that through our Transportation Brokerage does help with that."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, so it's not intended to replace it."

Ms. Graham said, "Oh no, it just supplements. "

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, very good. Thank you. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Amendment to 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

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

DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS- HEALTH DEPARTMENT

G. GRANT AMENDMENT AWARD FROM KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL

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AND REHABILITATION SERVICES AND ADDICTION AND PREVENTION SERVICES FOR CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER.

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On behalf of Claudia Blackburn, who is out of town. This agenda item comes as an extension, an amendment to extend the grant period of an existing grant from 6/30/06 to 12/31/06 and increases the grant allocation by an additional \$40,000. You’ve been provided not only this agenda item, but a backup letter dated June 2nd, 2006 and the amendment documents in detail. I think it pretty much spells out the intent of this grant and that would request that you approve the grant amendment and authorize the Chairman to sign all the necessary documents.”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item please.”

H. KANSAS COLISEUM MONTHLY REPORT.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

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Mr. John Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The report today on our operations for June. Typically, the summertime is very slow for coliseums and arenas and facilities like ours. However, we had a little bit over 4,500 people who attended four events, seven individual performances. Net revenues, between the Coliseum operations and those of Select-A-Seat were in excess of \$83,000.

Highlights, Wheat State Morgan Horse Show, we had a little over 2,480 people in attendance at that. That is another annual event of ours. We had the Mid-American Flea Market again. As you know, we do ten of those a year. We had a little over 1,800 folks attend that one. And we had the 4-H judging contest with about 150 folks in attendance.

Commissioners, we want to talk a little bit about the industry. In the latest Poll Star magazine, which is an industry trades journal, it reported a news story that Live Nation, which is the largest concert promoter in the world, used to be the Clear Channel Entertainment, it was spun off as a public company at the end of last year, well, as every public company, they’re interested in shareholder value, and since they work in such a . . . operate in such a low margin industry, promoting events, it’s very glamorous to say we promoted Madonna’s concert tour, but when you only make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches out of it there’s no honor for the show owners, who are looking to increase their investment and their stake in the corporation.

So they have to look at other things. They have to look at sponsorships. They have to look at the food and beverage sales and Live Nation also controls a lot of the amphitheatres at some facilities around the county. And they have to look at ticketing services, because there is a lot of money to be made by providing those services, not only for your own events, but for others, so Live Nation is looking to go in-house with their ticketing. Something that we realized over 10 years ago, when Select-A-Seat became a regional, revenue producing ticketing service.

Last year, towards the end of 2005, we upgraded the software. We essentially had the same software we started with, so I thought it would be pretty interesting to take a look and see how we sell our tickets. As you know, we have different segments of customer bases. We have the family show people. We have the concert people. We have sporting events and many other ones so I thought it would be very interesting to take a look at that.

System-wide sales, first half of 2006, over 105,000 tickets excluding hockey. Now hockey is

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excluded for a reason and I'll get to that, because it's pretty interesting, at least for me anyway and I hope I make it interesting to you, but it's the buying habits and it's the selling habits of how people adapt to events.

As you can see, our Internet use is up 22%. The last time I reported to you, that was down about 15% and we've really made some gains in Internet sales, but it came at the expense of the phone. There's less people using the telephone now. They're still using their credit card to buy tickets, but they're using the Internet because you can do it almost anytime. The box office has lost a little bit too. That ticket buying, overall, system-wide, has gone to the Internet. The outlets are hanging in there. They're doing about exactly what they did before, which proves that in this market anyway the outlets is a very, very viable and a very important source of tickets. You go to Dillons, you do your shopping weekly, you buy your tickets. It's very, very simple.

Family shows, family shows are one of the most prevalent users of the Internet. Mothers are the entertainment decision makers in the family. We're going to go to the show this weekend, you get on a home computer, you go ahead and you buy your tickets. You also pick them up when you go shopping every week. It works out very well. Phones again have dropped a little bit, as that buying power has gone to the Internet, although we still do a lot of walk-up, 26% of our family show business is done at the box office. That's people coming up the night of the show.

Concert, concerts fall right behind family shows when it comes to buying on the Internet, with 23% of all sales. Now that's not only at the Coliseum. That's at the Orpheum, that's at the Kansas State Fair, and it's at the Cotillion because we sell all those tickets. Outlets, 45%, huge number and the reason its huge is because live concert is skewed to a younger demo. The younger folks don't have credit cards. The kids certainly don't and they go pay cash at Dillons, that's how they get their tickets, but again 25% walks up.

Sports, now this looks crazy and there's several reasons for that. 93% at the box office. Why don't people use the system? Well, a lot of that is due to the Thunder. When you have a sporting event like the Thunder, and included in this is the rodeo, high school wrestling tournament and any other sporting event we have. But the Thunder, you have 32 games, so you have a lot of choice. You just don't have one performance. You've got 42 performances. You have a history of tickets always being available. There's really no pressure on the inventory. You'll walk up the night of the event, you can get a good ticket, that's not a problem. And the Thunder have done an excellent, excellent job of doing group tickets from their box office and that's where they do their season tickets and

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that is included in this box office number, coming out of their office. So all those factors go into that, including there are group discounts are available through the Thunder Box Office, as well as the group sales down there. But anyway, as part of this, I just want to say that we are providing the service, our customers are very happy with the service and we were way, way far ahead of the curve when we decided to make that a regional ticket system.

Coming up, Michael Buble is this Friday. I'm going to make the point here that Buble is only doing 12 dates on this concert tour. We got one of them, because of our relationship with the promoter. We have a long history with Beaver Productions. We've worked with them very well over the years. We've co-promoted many events with them and that's one of the reasons we got one of the dates and it's selling very, very well. It's going to be a great show Friday night. So U.S. Weapons comes back August 4th and 5th . . . excuse me, 5th and 6th. The Wiggles Live, which is another show that we managed to secure in August because we have a long history with the promoter is August 8th for two performances. Kansas Paint Horse, September 9th and 10th. Park City State Barbeque Championship, down in the park 15th and 16th. Again, the Mid-America Flea Market the 17th, Junior Livestock Show the 22nd to the 25th and the Fall Circuit Futurity Horse Show September 28th to October 1st. Commissioners, that's the conclusion of my report. If there's any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners? Commissioner Unruh has a question."

Commissioner Unruh said, "I'd have a comment. First I want to congratulate you on your foresight with establishing that leading edge technology and leading edge effort in trying to sell tickets and make it easier for . . ."

Mr. Nath said, "It was actually Select-A-Seat, where we set it up this time, was actually the third system I've had the opportunity in my career to set up. We did one in Pittsburgh and we did another one in Cincinnati."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well very good. No wonder it works so well here I suppose. Also congratulations on getting Michael Buble. One out of twelve, I think that's kind of a homerun for our area to get him."

Mr. Nath said, "It's not going to be a real big show. It's going to be in the theatre, but it's going to be a very, very nice show."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, very good. One other question that I had. You mentioned our arrangement with the High School Activities Association, the wrestling tournament and that sort of thing. You've been having continuing conversations with them. Have we made any progress in trying to . . .?"

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Mr. Nath said, "We do have a proposal in front of the Activities Association. They have not made any decisions as of yet."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay."

Mr. Nath said, "It's a very strong proposal, in my opinion."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, well as long as we're doing our part of it, then that's all we can do is wait to see how they respond."

Mr. Nath said, "I'll let you know as soon as I hear."

Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, thank you John. That's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any other comments? What's the will of the board on this item?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to receive and file.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

I. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Acceptance of the 2006 Juvenile Detention Facilities Fund grant from the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority.**
- 2. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of July 5 – 11, 2006.**

Mr. Holt said, “You have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve as presented.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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, “Commissioners, this is our time for ‘other’, so anything else to come before this board? Anything that you guys have been doing last weekend or going to be doing this weekend? Anything exciting going on. All right, you turn on your light, I guess you want to talk. Commissioner Unruh.”

J. OTHER

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that I was able to

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participate or attend a roast and toast for Ms. Linda Merrill, who is the Executive Director of Envision, which is a local non-profit that helps folks in our area who are blind or poor vision. Allows them to gain employment and allows them to be able to live in community with some . . . just some little helps for folks who have poor vision, so Linda has done a great job for 20 years in leading Envision, so it was good to be part of that activity that recognized her contribution to our community. And Envision is really an outstanding asset that we have here for the whole region.

Also would mention that Commissioner Burnett and I took a tour of Cessna on Monday and able to see more about that facility and how it works and what a big asset it is to our entire region. They have about 9,800 people at work out there. They're trying to hire more folks, and it really emphasized to me the serious need we have to make good progress with our aviation center so that they can have the trained individuals to build airplanes and stay in this area.

And I guess I ought to comment on the fact that in moving forward with our Jabara Aviation Center, you know you all had probably had comments, as I have had, that well we don't have to be that aggressive because you know those aircraft companies are so heavily invested here with capital investment that they're not going anywhere. But the truth of the matter is, in talking to these folks that were taking us on the tour, they receive contact weekly from other communities who are telling them, whispering in their ear, saying if you want to come here, we've got people, we'll train them, we'll build you a plant, so they are being courted regularly, and so I think that . . . you know, the conclusion of that story is simply that we are doing the right thing and moving ahead with the aviation center and the more quickly we can accomplish that, I think the better and we need to be, as we are, very actively supportive of this core cluster in our region. So anyway, Mr. Chairman, that's all I had."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "A couple of quick items, I wanted to congratulate Reno County and City of Hutchinson and Prairie Dunes Country Club and all those involved with the U.S. Senior Open Championship. My wife and I had the opportunity to go over there on Saturday, July 8th and in just taking the bus drive from the parking lot to the golf course, had brief conversation with people sitting near us and they were from all over the mid-west. There are folks just right there in our bus from Texas, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas City. So I think we tend to forget how really attractive those big sporting events are to a lot of people and the amount of people that came not only to Reno County and the area but also to Sedgwick County and the surrounding area, so that was certainly a great event for that community and from what I could tell, they did a wonderful job of presenting and doing the whole activity, so congratulations to them.

I did . . . I meant to mention last week and I forgot, but I know that we have all acknowledged that our neighbor county, Harvey County, lost their commissioner Ken Meyers, who passed away on

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June the 28th and Ken was certainly a friend of Sedgwick County's and a friend of each of ours as we'd gotten to know Ken over the years and he was certainly a commissioner that made an impact across the entire state of Kansas with his work on the Kansas Association of Counties and his keen interest in solid waste issues. Ken was one of those people that believed there has to be a better way than burying solid waste. And so Ken Meyers will certainly be missed. Thank you, that's all I have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well, with all the media attention on the Kansas African American Museum, I just want to keep this board and people out there in TV land knowing that we are going to be addressing some very major issues tonight at a board meeting with the African American Museum and I think a lot of people are going to step up to the plate tonight. So I don't have any really good information for you right now, but I will keep you abreast of what's going on and try to get with all of you commissioners tomorrow to let you know what happened at that meeting tonight."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, is that all? Okay, well a couple of thing, first of all, Commissioner Winters, I want to congratulate you on the hard work that you've been doing and are doing with REAP. It was announced here just recently, REAP is involved in the overseeing of the funneling of the funds for the Affordable Airfares and they've given us that responsibility and I'm sure we're going to execute it properly but I'm sure that it was with your hard work that we got that through that organization as smoothly as possible.

And lastly, I was over in your district Sunday morning, the OZ Bicycle Club has an annual ride around Lake Cheney and we got all our bikes parked in that little parking lot by what used to be the bait shop there at 21st and whatever that highway is right there and we got on our bikes an 2.3 miles into the ride, the skies opened up and they kept opening up and the water kept coming down so we turned around and went sloshing back to the parking lot and that ride got abated. But the point I'm trying to make, I was driving Mary's car because I can put my bike in the backend easier and she had to go to a church function and she got back. And Mary, if you know her, she's a very passive person but she was miffed about something. It was just kind of . . . I said, what's the matter, you upset? No. Come on, what's the matter? Well, next time you go riding, you better take a blanket or a towel. She said, I got soaking wet and I had to go in church, she says, and my whole bottom was wet and boom, you know I didn't realize that the seat had gotten that wet so next time I'm

Regular Meeting, July 12, 2006

going to bring a towel and blanket when I go ride around Lake Cheney. All right, that's all. If there's nothing else to come before this board, this meeting is now closed."

K. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting, July 12, 2006

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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

BEN SCIORTINO, Chairman
Fifth District

LUCY BURTNETT, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner,
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2006