

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

July 5, 2006

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., on Wednesday, July 5, 2006 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Ben Sciortino, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Lucy Burtnett; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Sheriff Gary Steed; Mr. Brent Shelton, Chief Deputy County Clerk; Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Mr. Ray Vail, Director of Finance, Department on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Ms. Aiko Allen, Director, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Health Department; Mr. Joe Brunk, Director, Noxious Weeds, Public Works; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. James McComas, Senior Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Eddie Drake, Clerk, Rockford Township.

Ms. Debra Teufel, Member, South Central Kansas Economic Development District.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Junius Dotson of St. Mark United Methodist Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting, June 7, 2006

Regular Meeting, June 14, 2006

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meetings of June 7th, 2006 and June 14th, 2006.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, I believe you've had a chance to review the Minutes of the 7th and the 14th of June. What is your will?"

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of Regular Meetings of June 7, 2006 and June 14, 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."

PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY 10-14, 2006 AS "SEDGWICK COUNTY L.A.W. CAMP DAYS.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, I'll read this proclamation for your review. It states:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, approximately one hundred fifty youth between the ages of 11 and 15 will attend the eleventh annual Sedgwick County L.A.W. Camp July 10-14, 2006 at Lake Afton Park; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the L.A.W. Camp is to create a partnership between law enforcement and youth by providing a positive experience using law enforcement and Guard personnel as role models- building self-esteem, confidence and trust; and

WHEREAS, a squad of 10 youth will be assigned to mentors who will keep track of the activity schedule. The mentors will operate in teams of two, consisting of one deputy and one soldier from the Kansas Army National Guard; and

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

WHEREAS, L.A.W. Camp is a partnership involving over 25 public and private sector organizations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim July 10-14, 2006 as

'SEDGWICK COUNTY LAW CAMP DAYS'

in recognition of this effort to involve our youth in alternatives to crime and violence.

Commissioners, that's the proclamation. What is your will?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "And I believe Gary Steed is our sheriff, if I'm not mistaken."

Sheriff Gary Steed said, "I want to thank you for the proclamation this morning. We appreciate the support of the Board of County Commissioners and some of the other county agencies that I'll mention just a little bit later.

As the commissioner said, this is our 11th annual L.A.W. Camp and we're pretty proud of that. It's one of our premier programs. It's one of the best ways we have of getting cops and kids together and I think that is almost always a very good thing.

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

A little bit of information about the camp, L.A.W. Camp stands for Leaders, Achievers and Winners and what I tell the kids at the camp, they're winners because they've been selected for the program, someone has saw something in these kids that have thought that they would benefit from this program and chose them to attend and participate. They're achievers because they're going to have the opportunity to do things in L.A.W. Camp that they might not otherwise do. Some of these things are programs that are going to challenge them. They're team building exercises, character building exercises and some of them are just plain fun activities and I'll mention those in just a minute. And all of them are leaders, because they have the opportunity to go back to the communities, go back to the kids that they hang out with to talk to them about their experience of what they accomplished and what the other kids in the community can accomplish, just like they have, as well.

We expect about 150 kids. Again, they are ages 11 to 15 and those kids are teamed with Deputy and Guardsmen in teams that work together throughout the camp. They have to rely and depend on each other. Many of the activities they have include anti-gang and anti-violence training and programs. We try to make it as interesting and informative as possible. A lot of team building and character building activities and activities such as fishing. The Kansas Fish and Game comes out and stocks the ponds out there so that we can almost guarantee that every kid catches a fish and they supply fishing poles and education about Fish and Game and fishing. Canoeing, air rifles are always popular and probably the most popular activity is the wall climbing that we do and we have competitions over the wall climbing and it's quite a popular activity.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention some of the sponsors that we have. Of course we couldn't do it without their support and their partnership and their sponsorship. The Kansas Army Guard are big in this. They supply the tents, they supply the water camels, much of the equipment that we use out there, the expertise to set up those tents and provide some of the programming and they provide personnel to be mentors and staff to all the kids as well, Wichita Crime Commission, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Koch and for food we rely heavily on Syl's Catering, Canteen Corporation and Dillons.

Some of the Sedgwick County partners include the Fire Department that comes out and of course we couldn't do this without EMS, who stations personnel out there to assist us with first aid and dispensing of medications and things such as that and of course Mark Scroufe and his crew out at Lake Afton make all this possible by attending to some of the activities and the needs that we have.

And of course the deputies, those folks that wear blue out there and take a great deal of ownership

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

of this program and really make this happen and do the work. It's an amazing thing, which reminds me, you should come out and visit and see it for yourself. You're welcome anytime to come out and see it. In particular, Thursday evenings we have a barbecue that's well attended by folks such as yourself and some of the sponsors, so I would invite you out for any of those activities. And I would be available for questions, should you have any.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Gary, I don't see any. I have one. I have a feeling that this means it's where you supply the water, but what's a water camel?"

Sheriff Steed said, "They're big tanks that you keep the water in, so we have to keep the kids well hydrated. They're the military tanks that the National Guard uses."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I mean, is it for drinking water?"

Sheriff Steed said, "Yes, mostly for drinking water. We have to keep the kids well hydrated. It's always hot and we always say you can count on it being hot next week, because it always turns out to be hot for L.A.W. Camp."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And you may have mentioned this, but how many total people will be out there?"

Sheriff Steed said, "One hundred and fifty, we actually have sent out I believe it's 180 confirmations, but we know that not all of those will show up."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And is this both male and female or is it just limited to boys?"

Sheriff Steed said, "No, it's males and females."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, any other questions? I'm sorry, Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well Sheriff, I just want to express congratulations and appreciation to you and your deputies and the other community partners that you have involved in this activity. It's investing in our youth in this way and developing character qualities, I think will pay off rich dividends for our entire community. And so I know it's not something that you have to do. It's not something you're require to do, so your willingness to do it I think is admirable and I think that we all will benefit from it, so good job."

Sheriff Steed said, "All right, thank you."

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thanks, Gary. Next item please.”

APPOINTMENTS

B. APPOINTMENTS.

1. RESIGNATION OF JOHN REDINGTON FROM APPOINTMENT AS ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP CLERK.

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Commissioners, Mr. Redington has moved away from the township’s jurisdiction and I would ask that you accept his resignation.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to accept the resignation.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item.”

2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING EDDIE DRAKE (COMMISSIONER SCIORTINO’S APPOINTMENT) AS ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP CLERK.

Mr. Euson said, “Commissioners, by statute you are authorized to appoint vacancies in township offices and this will fill the vacancy just created. This is for a term to expire in January of 2007 and I recommend you adopt the resolution.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you.”

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

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, “And I believe Eddie is here and Eddie, if you’ll step up to the podium, we have the assistant County Clerk that’s going to swear you in.”

Mr. Brent Shelton, Chief Deputy County Clerk, said, “Please raise your right hand.

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 Rockford Township Clerk, so help me God.”

Mr. Eddie Drake, Rockford Township Clerk, said, “I do.”

Mr. Shelton said, “Congratulations.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Mr. Drake, if you’d like to say a few words, feel free.”

Mr. Drake said, “I took early retirement so . . . I’m nervous as can be.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “You just relax and talk as if we’re just visiting over the back fence.”

Mr. Drake said, “Okay. I want to support my community. I’ve lived out there in Rockford

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Township since 1970 and I was asked by another board member to serve on there and I accepted it willingly and I'm just proud to be able to do it."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, well very good. Well, I'm sure you're going to be able to serve Rockford Township very well, because I know you've got a deep passion for the people out there and you're going to do a great job and we thank you for volunteering. Thank you, sir. Okay, Clerk call the next item please."

3. RESIGNATION OF WILLIAM LEWIS, JR. FROM THE SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SCKEDD) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, I would ask that you accept this resignation."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, Commissioners?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to accept the resignation.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Next item please."

4. RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEBRA TEUFEL (BOARD OF COUNTY

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

COMMISSIONERS' APPOINTMENT) TO THE SCKEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. Euson said, "Commissioners, this is an appointment to the South Central Kansas Economic Development District. These appointments serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners and I would recommend you adopt the resolution."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Commissioners, what is your will on this item?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thank you. Next item. Oh, excuse me. I apologize to you ma'am. If you'd like to come up and be sworn in."

Mr. Shelton said, "Raise your right hand.

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 South Central Kansas Economic Development District Board, so help me God."

Ms. Debra Teufel, Member, South Central Kansas Economic Development District Board said, "I do."

Mr. Shelton said, "Congratulations."

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Ms. Teufel said, “Well I believe that the South Central Economic Development District serves a very important function and in my role as the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition, I’ll enjoy serving on that board. I’ve served on it previously in Sumner County and look forward to serving, representing Sedgwick County. Thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Wait, don’t leave. This is one of the duties of the office of, you respond to comments or questions. Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well thank you. I just wanted to say welcome to Debra. Debra is new to working here in Sedgwick County with the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition and others, formerly from Sumner County so you know, we work very hard on trying to make the regionalness work here in south central Kansas and we’re certainly pleased that you’re here and we hope that you can assist us in doing a better job, where sometimes we don’t get it exactly right, but I want to assure you that this commission is continually working on trying to be good partners with everyone in south central Kansas, so welcome to Sedgwick County and we hope that your job goes terrifically.”

Ms. Teufel said, “Thank you. It’s going well so far.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, very good.”

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

NEW BUSINESS

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY – DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

C. PRESENTATION OF REPORT ON DAY REPORTING SYSTEM.

Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here this morning to announce that on Monday, July 10th the Sedgwick County Day Reporting Center will open for business to be located at 703 East 21st Street. As you know, day reporting is one of the new program strategies from the Criminal Justice Comprehensive Master Plan that was developed by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

The plan followed a great deal of study and collaboration with our criminal justice stakeholders in both the district and municipal courts, District Attorney and City Prosecutor’s Offices, of course

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Sheriff Steed and his staff and the Wichita Police Department. What we learned through this process was that many of the same people are arrested and detained over and over again at our jail and that any long-term public safety strategy would need to reach people earlier and address the root causes of their criminal behavior. The research shows that the most successful programs in reducing recidivism are achieved by pairing rehabilitative interventions with supervision and sanctions. And when this pairing occurs in well designed and well delivered programs, recidivism can be reduced by as much as 30%. The recommendations in the master plan are built upon the foundation that investing in programs that increase offender success increases the public safety and improves the community.

The Sedgwick County Day Reporting model and the company selected to operate it, provides us the opportunity to achieve similar results and save jail space. Here's how it works. It provides a new sentencing alternative for the judges to address a mix of individuals at various points and in various ways in the criminal justice system. The program is designed for lower risk offenders, convicted of misdemeanor offenses, who would otherwise be sentenced to serve time in the county jail. Judges will now have the option to use the program instead of the jail, or in combination with a jail sentence, with earlier release, to serve out the remainder of their time in the community, working the program to help make a successful transition.

The program is typically 90 to 180 days, which includes close monitoring, with daily check-ins, drug testing, thorough assessment, targeted and intensive case planning and management and a range of rehabilitative services. Those services include education, like GED prep, employment skills, career development counseling, anger management, substance abuse and mental health services, cognitive and life skills training and parenting classes. When sanctions or increased surveillance are necessary to address either rule violations or court-ordered conditions, electronic monitoring and global positioning technology are available.

Commissioners, this intensive approach will help reduce recidivism, generate savings for taxpayers through lower incarceration costs and improve the lives of program participants by targeting full employment, education and the altering of attitudes and behaviors through treatment and training. The expected impact is to reduce the jail population by 200 over the next year and that will grow to 350 by 2010.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Excuse me, Mark. Is that on a daily basis?”

Mr. Masterson said, “By an average daily population of 200.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Excellent.”

Mr. Masterson said, “The actual cost will depend on the number of clients, the volume of clients

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

and the specific services they receive but we estimate the cost per day would be in the range of \$24 per offender per day.

The company selected to operate the Sedgwick County Day Reporting Center is BI, Incorporated and they're out of Boulder, Colorado. They're a private company with 28 years experience in the corrections industry. They've been providing day reporting for the last 10 years and operate centers in seven states including Kansas. They operate centers for parolees in Wichita and Topeka now. They have an excellent track record and we believe they will deliver a quality program to serve our courts.

In the audience we have representatives from BI. We have Candice Rayburn and she is the program manager. Seated next to her is Sarah Haynes, and she's the supervising case manager that will work with our clients. We also have Kerrie Platt, who is seated here, who is serving in the new county position of Alternative Services Coordinator. Her duties include monitoring the contract with BI, as well as facilitating implementation of the programs contained in the master plan and tracking and reporting the results to this commission on an ongoing basis, so you'll be hearing back from Kerrie quite a bit about the progress, as the plan is fully implemented. We're all available to stand for any questions you might have."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Well I actually had a question over the weekend, over the long holiday weekend, someone asking me where this building was and was it a new building. Well, I know it's not a new building. It was just rehabbed but can you tell us where the address is and what it took to get the building ready for this program?"

Mr. Masterson said, "The building is located at 703 East 21st Street and it is the current site for the day reporting program under state contract with the Kansas Department of Corrections, so this is an expansion, with separate staff that serve our population, but it's at the same site that was already being used for this function."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "So it was kind of a seamless county getting in on this and worked out well."

Mr. Masterson said, "Yes, it was."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Great, well thank you. I appreciate that. That's it."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mark, good update on what we’re trying to do to solve our jail overcrowding problem with positive programs that will have long-term benefits, so thanks for the presentation. But can you tell me, what’s the relative comparison between the cost per day for this program, per individual, and incarceration in the Sedgwick County Jail, approximately. I think folks are going say ‘Well, you told me how much that costs, how much will we be saving?’”

Mr. Masterson said, “I’ve heard Sheriff Steed, who is in the audience, speak several times, but I would say it’s 50 to 60 dollars a day, 58 dollars per day at the jail.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, so we have substantial day costs and also that relieves the cost of brick and mortar, building a jail too, on that side of the equation, so it has a double benefit, these programs. Well, and I’m also glad to see that we have someone that’s our go-to person, who is in charge of all these alternative programs and I think that’s a significant thing that we have Kerrie identified as the one, ‘okay here’s the one who is in charge of all this’. That’s a major step to say we’re on the way, we’ve got someone in charge and if we have a question or we’re moving on, we’ve got somebody we can look at and say ‘what have you done and how are we progressing’ so I think that’s also a significant step.

That, along with our offender assessment program that recently has been initiated, I think that we’re doing the things that we promised to do to try to solve this overcrowding problem. And they’re . . . not only do they help us financially, but I think they’re the right things to do to help individuals rehabilitate their lives. So good job and thanks for your presentation.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Is that it? Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “I just, very briefly, wanted to say to both Kerrie and the contractors who are going to be working, BI, that the commissioners are really very interested and very committed to this. And so I know we see Mark a lot and Mark is . . . touches base with us often, but if you see instances or efforts, I mean, we’re going to be interested in this: the good, the bad, the ugly. We hope there’s more good than hitches but if there is, the commissioners have a great deal invested in this and we want it to succeed, so please don’t hesitate to be in contact with Mark, the management, the staff and commissioners want to know about what’s going on and want to be helpful.

So again, this is not something we just want to start and send off on your merry way. We want to really know what’s happening with this program and are going to be as supportive as we can possibly be. Thank you, that’s it.”

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “A comment and then a question, we have taken a lot of time and energy over the last couple of years to try to set up the Criminal Justice Council and figure all of this out. And now we’ve embarked on a multi-year, multidimensional plan to reduce recidivism and keep people out of jail, along with building some new jail space and all of that is very expensive and I think the taxpayer worries about that. In fact, I think we worry about it right now, because we’re in the middle of the budget season, so we’ve kind of taken that leap of faith, stepped off the cliff, said we’re going to do both of them parallel, so it is very important to us.

I guess the next question is, you know, the proof is going to be in the pudding over the next five years or so. How often will we get benchmarks that tell us how it’s going, are we really getting up to 200 people, is it really keeping the population that we thought were going to be in jail out of jail or is it just moving a few people around that were already in the system, the day reporting or work release system anyway? How often will we get that information? Is there a monthly mechanism? Is it quarterly, every six months? Because I think that’s going to be part of the selling point of us saying we spent all this money going down two tracks and it’s working or we’ve got to make some adjustments. It’s going to be a tough couple of years for budgets and the taxpayer, I think, is going to be asking those questions to us and I sure want to have the answers. So how often, I guess is, how often will we get information and is that part of the performance indicators that will be coming to us as commissioners?”

Mr. Masterson said, “As often as you’d like.”

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Good answer Mark. Currently the Sheriff sends us a daily report about the numbers in the jail, so we intend to couple that with seeing what’s going on in the day reporting system, so that we have some sense and then provide you, certainly for the first period, almost a weekly report and then I would assume back down to monthly would make sense. But for the first month or two, you’re going to hear lots about it.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I guess my next question is you talked about 200 people, hopefully, relatively quick. What is the capacity of that facility right now? Is there a capacity for 200 people?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “We’ve contracted for 200. We can contract for more people, if we see that this program is overwhelmingly successful and they have capacity for another 100 or more.”

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Chairman Sciortino said, “Is there volume price discounting? If we give them 300, does the cost per person go down?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Yes.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “And is there an escalator, if all the sudden we only get 50 people?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “There’s a cost breakdown per person and the more people you have in a group, the less it is, yes.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “So, is it a flat fee and then the more . . . is it flat or is it . . .?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Do you know the numbers?”

Mr. Masterson said, “It depends on volume and it’s calculated monthly. There’s a monthly billing and then based on the average daily population, that translates into a cost.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “All right, so if I’m understanding right, there’s a flat fee, based on volume. If you don’t hit the volume, you still have to pay the bare minimum. Correct?”

Mr. Masterson said, “Yes.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, so if there’s a flat fee, then if you get 300 you’re going to get less per customer than if you get 100. Got it. Anything else, Commissioner Norton. Commissioner Unruh.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Thank you. Well I just want to be clear though, we’re not running this on a ‘Let’s get the numbers up’. There are qualifications and requirements for individuals to get in this program. I mean, they’ve got to meet certain criteria before they’re eligible. Is that right?”

Mr. Masterson said, “Either a municipal or district court judge assigns them to the program, as part of their sentence.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “And that assignment is based on their suitability and their past history. I mean, we’re not going to be putting folks in this program that we think that we have reason to be fearful of those folks.”

Mr. Masterson said, “They’ll have their . . . when they’re identified for assessment, the company will go and assess them, present the information to the court and the court will make the decision,

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

certainly taking public safety into account.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, very good. Thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “But the point being made, the court has the final say who goes in the program. We can’t veto, if the court sends us somebody, we can’t say ‘No, I’m sorry, this person doesn’t fit our category’. We have to accept, if I understand it right, the courts will take advice from these people when they give assessments as to would this person be qualified or what have you, but whoever the court sends, we have to take.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “I understand the program. I just want to emphasize the point that this isn’t a volume-based program. This is a program based to offload people from the jail and to hopefully have these folks be reintegrated in our society at the end of the term. Thank you.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “One of the things I would like to see, because I do echo what Commissioner Norton said and I believe it’s probably the feeling of all of us, we do want to keep very close to this because we have reprioritized our spending, starting in 2007, to focus on public safety and job creation and this I would consider under the broad-based heading of public safety. Not only do I think it would be helpful if we could just know, on a regular basis, we’re going to get a monthly report or whatever, but also maybe working with us to find out what would we like to see in the report might be helpful. The concerns a few of my critics . . . yeah, critics would be a good word, that have whenever we start trying to do some of these social engineering programs is ‘Well, how are you ever going to track?’ It’s going to be like my wife going out and coming back home and say, ‘see how much money I saved you, because everything was on sale’ but all I know is I’ve got \$500 less in my checking account. Or is it going to be the 200 savings was ‘well, it was projected that the daily average would be at 1,800 from the present 1,200, now the daily average is really only at 1,500, based on the 1,200, so we really did save you 200’ but there isn’t really a reduction in the number of inmates in the jail, I mean a real reduction and I think what I took heart of is you’re talking about there’s going to be a real reduction in the daily average of 200 and that’s exciting. You’re still nodding your head yes that that’s the goal?”

Mr. Masterson said, “That’s what the research showed. We used consultants and we studied a lot and that was the estimate.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “That’s excellent. Well, I just want to . . . we have one other comment here, but I just want to say good luck, because we really are betting a lot on this one working and then we have some other ideas that we possibly will be implementing in the future too, all with an

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

idea toward reducing recidivism and reducing the pressure on the jail. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well, I think it’s important that the public knows that we haven’t run blindly into trying to change the system and add on these things. I mean, we’ve been studying it for several years. We’ve got all the key players together, but when you talk key players, that’s one of the difficulties with this whole process. There are a lot of moving parts, from what the legislature does on statutes and resolutions at the state level that runs through the judiciary system that trickles down to us and we could embark on what we think is a great program today and two years from now, the legislature could change sentencing guidelines, other statutes that guide the judiciary system and we are going to have to divert a little bit.

I think we’re taking great prudence in doing something that is going to solve some problems now and hopefully, with other things that we’re integrating into this, it will make great improvements and we’ll finally stop the flow of building jail space. I mean, that’s been one of our mantras for this is we’re going to have to build some now, but how do we keep from doing that again in five or six or seven years. But we’re going to have to wait to see how all this plays out and I’ll tell you, we’re in a society that wants instant gratification and sometimes spending money for three or four years to find out if we really did the right thing is going to be maddening for us as elected officials, but the public will step up and say they don’t like the ideas either, so there is going to be a lot of scrutiny for this, but the public needs to know there’s a lot of moving parts to all this. It has to do with work release and jail space and judiciary kinds of things and legislative kinds of things that will guide all of this, as we try to do the right thing. That’s all I had.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Mark, just one further comment. I would assume the state had all this research and data as to why it was a good program and why it really was a return . . . was almost a return on investment that you were able to garner. Why did they close it down?”

Mr. Masterson said, “They didn’t. They just changed vendors . . . they just changed operators. If you’re talking about the Day Reporting Center in Topeka and in Wichita, they just changed operators.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Yeah. Okay, so will there be two day reporting centers now, one for the state and one for us?”

Mr. Masterson said, “At the same location, yes.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. Different vendors?”

Mr. Masterson said, “No, it’s the same company.”

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay, all right, so we’re just . . . Okay, that makes more sense now, because I was getting confused, if we’re having parallel railroad tracks or what we’re doing, but actually it’s the same building, the same vendor, and we’re paying the vendor for the ones that our courts send in and the state pays them for the ones that they send in.”

Mr. Masterson said, “That’s correct.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Got it. Thank you very much. Okay commissioners, if there’s no further questions or comments, what’s the will of the board on this item?”

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to receive and file.

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, “Thank you and good luck. Next item please.”

D. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – DEPARTMENT ON AGING

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

- 1. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING FOR CENTRAL PLAINS AREA AGENCY ON AGING TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS OF FRAIL AND ELDERLY PERSONS TO RECEIVE LONG-TERM HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.**

Mr. Ray Vail, Director of Finance, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here today to present you with a Medicaid administrative assessment agreement which provides assessments of persons seeking and receiving HCBS services through Medicaid. The funding will provide valuable services to the elderly populations of Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick Counties. I ask that you approve this agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign and I'll answer any questions."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

Chairman Sciortino said, "Motion has been made and seconded and there is a comment from Commissioner Burtnett."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Looking in our backup, I noticed it says that this is reimbursed by Medicaid but the county is liable if Medicaid doesn't reimburse. Has that ever happened, where they didn't reimburse?"

Mr. Vail said, "Not since I've been here at the Department on Aging."

Commissioner Burtnett said, "Okay, that's what I figured, but I just wanted to make sure. Thank you. That's all I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. We've had a Motion and a second. I don't see there's any further comments, so Clerk call the roll."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

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

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE

2. AGREEMENT WITH MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS ALLOWING DIRECT BILLING OF MEDICAID FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO PERSONS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is a renewal of our affiliation agreement with the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas. This affiliation agreement, as others, allows Mental Health Association to bill Medicaid directly for the mental health services that they provide to adults and children. We’re recommending that you approve the contract.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. I don’t see that there’s any questions or comments. So commissioners, what’s you will on this item?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

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

3. CONTRACT WITH MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES TO ADULTS, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Ms. Cook said, “This is also a renewal of the contract with the Mental Health Association for them to provide a whole range of services that we call community-based services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances. The services are outlined in the contract and they include residential services, intensive supported housing services. There are crisis housing services there as well and a number of other services that help individuals with serious illness live in the community. Among those is the chat line, which is kind of what we call a ‘warm line’ where individuals who are lonely or have some need to reach out to someone can call, rather than calling COMCARE’s crisis line and tying up that line. We’re recommending that you approve the contract.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Thank you. Commissioner Unruh, you had a question or comment?”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Yes, thank you Mr. Chair. Marilyn, are there other organizations in the community that might provide these services? We’ve had this long-term relationship with Mental Health Association and I know we’re satisfied that they’re doing a good job, but this isn’t something that goes to any kind of a bid process or how are they selected?”

Ms. Cook said, “We do have other affiliates that supply some of these services. Where the Mental Health Association is unique is they provide residential housing services, which is intensive supervised housing and the crisis housing Mary talked about. They’re unique in that and they’re also unique in the chat line. But we also, in other affiliation agreements, have affiliates who do provide some of the other services such as case management and attendant care.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay. The other affiliates, do they also bill directly, their billing?”
Ms. Cook said, “The affiliation agreement allows for that. We have some community partners that don’t have affiliation agreements and we do the billing on those. They use COMCARE’s Medicaid provider number and then we reimburse them after we get paid.”

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay. And we don’t have the capacity, through our COMCARE, to provide these services for all these people.”

Ms. Cook said, “Not with the staff that we have. There are about 14,000 individuals in this community that receive community-based services and we serve about 8,000 of those at COMCARE, but we count on our community partners to help us with the remainder.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “Okay, very good. Well, I know that they’re a great community asset and a good partner of ours and I’m going to be very supportive. Just wanted to have that organizational structure or whatever clarified, so thank you.”

Ms. Cook said, “You’re welcome.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I don’t see that there’s any further comments, so what is the Motion on this item? What would be your will?”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “Next item.”

4. CONTRACT WITH BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES TO ADULTS AND YOUTH WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Ms. Cook said, “This is a renewal of a contract we have with the Breakthrough Club to provide a number of community-based services that they provide for us that enable consumers receiving these services to function to the maximum extent of their capabilities. The services that are provided through the Breakthrough Club include employment activities. They also run what they call a club house model, where individuals can drop by during the day. They have some evening activities and social activities there as well and it funds a project we call the YES project, where individuals, youth in particular who are returning to the community from correctional facilities who are newly diagnosed with a mental illness, they work with them for up to 90 days. We recommend that you approve this contract.”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

5. AGREEMENT WITH BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY ALLOWING DIRECT BILLING OF MEDICAID FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO PERSONS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Ms. Cook said, “And this contract is a renewal of our affiliation agreement with the Breakthrough Club and as in other affiliation agreements, it allows the Breakthrough Club to bill Medicaid directly for those services that they provide for adults and children. We recommend that you approve the contract.”

MOTION

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

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS- HEALTH DEPARTMENT

E. ADJUSTMENT TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFFING TABLE TO INCLUDE ONE GRANT-FUNDED HEALTH EDUCATOR POSITION, B321.

Ms. Aiko Allen, Director, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here to request your approval and authorization of a staffing table adjustment. Through KDHE, we receive funding for an additional health educator position. This health educator will work with the Derby-based Community Coalition Promoting Healthy Choices to implement the CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Comprehensive Tobacco Use Prevention and Control program.

The objectives include preventing initiation of tobacco use among youth, promoting quitting among young people and adults, eliminating non-smokers’ exposure to second-hand smoke or involuntary smoking, identifying and eliminating disparities related to tobacco use and its effect among different populations, collaboration and sharing of resources with Tobacco Free Wichita and the

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

health educator who is currently funded and its ongoing efforts to address the above objectives. Are there any questions?"

Chairman Sciortino said, "Yes, there are. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "I'm going to be supportive of this but just a quick question. This is a position that will be funded by the grant that we're receiving. Do we already have staff onboard capable of doing this that we'll put in this position? Or if we hire someone new, will they know that their position is funded by this grant money that may or may not be here in the future?"

Ms. Allen said, "Yes, that is clear in the application and we will convey that. This funding is renewed yearly."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, so this is not the first time that we've had this grant fund?"

Ms. Allen said, "Correct. It's been a different grant, but our current health educator is also under the same process."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, very good. Thank you. That's the only question I had."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, but I'm a little confused. If this is just a renewal, this person is already in this position."

Ms. Allen said, "Oh, no, no. This is an additional. This is an additional position to work with Derby."

Chairman Sciortino said, "But what did you do with the grant monies that we had last year, that we didn't have . . . what did we do with that money last year?"

Ms. Allen said, "We received one grant for the Wichita position."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Oh, this is a new one. Okay. And will you be using an existing Health Department person or you'll be hiring somebody from the outside?"

Ms. Allen said, "Hire a new individual."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. All right commissioners, what's the will of the board on this item?"

MOTION

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the adjustment to the Health Department Staffing Table.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

F. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (KDOT) FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY TO TREAT NOXIOUS WEEDS ON KDOT RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

Mr. Joe Brunk, Director, Noxious Weeds, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is our annual contract that allows us to spot treat the noxious weeds that grow on KDOT roadsides here in Sedgwick County. We do have a good working relationship with KDOT and would ask that you approve the agreement.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Joe, I don’t see any questions. I’ll ask you one though. I assume you’re saying that the money that we get from the state is sufficient to do the job that the state is contracting for us to do.”

Mr. Brunk said, “That’s correct.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Okay. What’s the will of the board on this item?”

MOTION

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

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Sciortino said, "Thanks, Joe. Next item please."

G. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 29, 2006.

Mr. James McComas, Senior Purchasing Agent, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of June 29th, 2006 resulted in four items for your consideration.

1) VARIOUS PAPER STOCK- DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS FUNDING: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS

Item one, various paper stock for the Department of Information and Operations. The recommendation is to accept the low bid from Southwest Paper to establish itemized contract pricing on virgin and recycled paper for an initial estimated annual purchase of \$183,137.24 and to execute a contract with two one-year options to renew.

2) HEALTHY START INITIATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATOR SERVICES- HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNDING SOURCE: HEALTHY START INITIATIVE

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Item two, Healthy Start Initiative program evaluator services for the Health Department. The recommendation is to accept the proposal from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita to establish and execute contract pricing for one year with three one-year options to renew for a first year cost of \$20,232.83 and a potential four-year total cost of \$84,646.64.

3) COMPUTER HARDWARE- DISTRICT COURT FUNDING: DISTRICT COURT TECHNOLOGY

Item three, computer hardware for the District Court. The recommendation is to accept the low quote from Dell Computers in the amount of \$35,827.12.

4) OFFICE SPACE REMODEL- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT FUNDING: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Item four, office space remodel for the Facilities Department. The recommendation is to accept the low bid from Sutherland Builders Incorporated for \$31,300.

I'd be happy to answer any questions and recommend approval of these items."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Commissioners, any comments? I have one, on number two, if I'm reading the backup, we sent the RFP to two people. Who was the second person we had sent the . . . ?"

Mr. McComas said, "Wichita State University."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay, and no one responded at the normal time?"

Mr. McComas said, "That is correct."

Chairman Sciortino said, "And . . . "

Mr. McComas said, "At which point we then went out and contacted both vendors to find out why they did not respond. The services needed to be provided for the grant. We then, again, contacted both vendors to see who would be able to do it for us. During that time period, the University of Kansas had hired some new staff and done some position changing, which allowed them then to

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

have enough people to provide the services that we were needing.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “So I just want to understand, since nobody responded after May 2nd, basically we just decided to do business with the University of Kansas and it was no longer a bidding process? Did we ask W.S.U. if they wanted to do business with us or . . .?”

Mr. McComas said, “Yes, yes. That’s why we went back and we asked them why they didn’t respond and we tried to find why the individuals or the vendors did not respond, but they all gave us the response that they were perfectly capable of providing those services to us. At the time they didn’t have the manpower, because of prior obligations to provide those services to us.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “So W.S.U. in essence just withdrew from consideration. That left you with one person.”

Mr. McComas said, “Correct.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Got it, thank you. That’s the only question or comment I had. Commissioners, what’s the will of the board on this item?”

MOTION

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

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

H. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Right-of-Way Easements.**
 - a. One Temporary Construction Easement and one Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project 839-L-1859; Bridge replacement on 143rd Street East between 29th and 37th Streets North. CIP# B-407. District #1.
 - b. Easement for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Cold Mix Project R-175D on 87th Street South between Meridian and Broadway. District #2.
 - c. Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project 644-27; CowSkin Creek Drainage. District #2.
- 2. Settlement and Release Agreement related to Eighteenth Judicial District Court Case No. 05 CV 3071.**
- 3. Non-disclosure Agreement with Southern DataComm, Incorporated to provide pricing information.**
- 4. Resolution stating findings made by the Board of County Commissioners at the post-annexation hearing held June 21, 2006.**
- 5. Subordination, Non-disturbance and Attornment Agreement for property leased at 1911 West 21st Street used by COMCARE for its Adult Community Support Services.**
- 6. Third Lease Amendment with One Valley Center, LLC for space used by the Treasurer's Office at 2330 North Maize Road, Wichita.**
- 7. Order dated June 27, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 8. Payroll Check Register of June 30, 2006.**
- 9. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of June 28 – July 4, 2006.**

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

MOTION

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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, “Commissioners, we’re now at the point in our agenda under heading ‘Other’. Anything go on this weekend or something that you might want to talk about? Commissioner Burtnett.”

I. OTHER

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Actually we had a great time at the Riverside Pancake Feed. Apparently, we had record crowds and I think had 100 more people than normal, so we should make really good money for the Riverside Citizens’ Association. The Park City parade went off without a hitch, although it was extremely hot. I wish the weather that we’re having this morning could have been there yesterday. That way it could have been great, but everyone had a really good time.”

The only other thing I want to talk about and Kristi mentioned it a little bit earlier, was on the advanced voting. With the primary only three weeks away, we just need to get the word out to everyone that if you’re going to do advance voting, there are numerous places you can go. At this point I’m just going to give the phone number of the Election Office, which is 660-7100, so if you have any questions about where you’re supposed to vote, you can call and find out at that phone number.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Where did you get that pamphlet?”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Well actually this is a pamphlet that the Communications Department has designed and I have been putting it in some of the news letters and trying to get this out to the public, so that they can see where all the locations are. So please, please, please be sure

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

and call if you do not know where your polling place is. We need to get the word out.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “I think that’s an excellent piece. It shows the map on the back.”

Commissioner Burtnett said, “Yeah, it’s got a map showing where every place is.”

Chairman Sciortino said, “Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I guess I was just wanting to follow up. I’d not seen this piece, but I wonder if we really shouldn’t . . . I mean, if we’ve got a plan or if Kristi Zukovich is developing a plan on how we’re going to even distribute this brochure, because I think this is very, very helpful.”

Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I did want to let you know, next week on the agenda Bill Gale will be here and apparently Ron Thornberg will also be here and he will be doing a presentation to talk about all of the outreach and all of the activities going on for the elections and how to get the word out and what’s the specific plan and what’s going on. We are providing support to him and some outreach. And I understand the League of Women Voters have also as well contacted him to help get the word out and so he will be coming next week with a full presentation about where people should go, how they should make sure they know where their correct polling place is and how to move forward.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Okay, so if you make the decision to do an advanced ballot, then you can go to a number of different locations. If you wait until election day, then you’re limited to your precinct polling place.”

Ms. Zukovich said, “That’s correct. And there’s even an advanced ballot where you can mail in, so you don’t even have to leave your home, so they will mail you the ballot and you can mail it back in. There are a lot of options.”

Commissioner Winters said, “So it sounds like, starting next Wednesday, then there’s going to be some pretty good discussion about that.”

Ms. Zukovich said, “That’s correct.”

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

Chairman Sciortino said, “I hope, Kristi, that part of the discussion might be a way of engaging the media. I don’t know if it’s appropriate that we buy ads but this map is very easy to read and it certainly shows where all of the advanced polling places are, notwithstanding you could call in and

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

get a booth and then this is very helpful too, showing not only the name, but the address of it and what have you and it also indicates that even on July 29th or 31st, now they're going to limit it just, I guess to the Election Commission Office. Is that right, or will that also . . .?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "I think there's a couple of days where the advanced voting sites will be open and then you can, at the last day, bring in your ballot, if you need to, to the election office."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Something about the Monday before the election the only place that would be open for advanced would be at the Election . . . and that's good. I look forward to when Mr. Thornberg is here to explain all of that to the public, because there's been a lot of, you know, naysayers you know, talking about conspiracies and etcetera and so forth. And I think we need to show them that we're trying to be open and aboveboard and that actually going from two advanced voting locations to 15 and with that schedule, to me I think we're trying to make it easier for people to vote, not hard, but that's good. I look forward to that."

Ms. Zukovich said, "And I do believe the Wichita Eagle will be putting out a voter guide where they as well are indicating where the sites are. So when we find out when that's coming out, we'll let you know."

Chairman Sciortino said, "If it's okay with you, maybe we could contact the Derby Daily Reporter and some of the other smaller towns and ask them if they would put out a voter's guide too, as a way of assisting us. Okay, that's great. Anything else going on, commissioners, over the weekend? Okay . . ."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, the Sedgwick County Fair is coming up."

Chairman Sciortino said, "I was hoping Commissioner Winters would say something."

Commissioner Winters said, "Right, well Thursday night, which would be the 6th, the parade begins out at Cheney at 7:00. The fair goes on Friday and Saturday. They have a great midway, fair. It's a great country fair and I encourage everyone to attend and the parade again is Thursday evening, begins at 7:00."

Chairman Sciortino said, "Okay. Well I just had one thing that happened over the weekend. As Commissioner Burtnett said, I can attest that July 4th was very hot and humid. We were down in Derby. Governor Sebelius was there. There was a lot of politicians. I don't know why they all

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

picked Derby, but anyway they did and they were all in the parade and one of the things that was really interesting, they had I'll bet you 50 antique cars in the parade and there was one Rio that, I don't know, 1901 or whatever, I never saw such an old car but it was putt-putting along and making it. And right when I really want to think that everybody came to see me and the other politicians, I think really the big draw was the antique cars. That was a beautiful display, so had a lot of fun and I would have wished that we would have it this morning instead of yesterday morning. Okay, if there's nothing else to come before this board, this meeting is adjourned."

J. ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2006

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SEDWICK 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