

## **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**October 11, 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, October 11, 2006 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Ben Sciortino, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Lucy Burtnett; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Michael D. Pepoon, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. Greg Schauner, Captain, Sheriff's Office; Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Dr. Mary Dudley, M. D., District Coroner/ Chief Medical Examiner, Regional Forensic Science Center; Mr. Randy Duncan, Director, Emergency Management; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Manager, Facility Project Services; Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

### **GUESTS**

Ms. Ernestine Krehbiel, Co-chair, League of Women Voters, Wichita, Ks.  
Mr. Charles Thompson, 10001 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St. N., Wichita, Ks.

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Reverend Reuben Eckels of New Day Christian Church, Wichita.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting, September 20, 2006

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Commissioners, I think you've had a chance to review these Minutes. What is your will?"

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 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, "I think for the record we ought to mention the fact that the vice chair Lucy Burtnett has laryngitis and won't be talking much today. That's why we were waiting for who was supposed to make the motion. Normally, Lucy would make the motion but we'll have to fill in for her, because she's having a little trouble with her throat. Next item please."

**CITIZEN INQUIRIES**

**A. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING ELECTION PROCEDURES.**

**Ms. Ernestine Krehbiel**, Co- Chair, League of Women Voters, Wichita Metro, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have a frog in my throat. I'm also the co-chairman of the Wichita . . . I mean, Sedgwick County Voter Coalition. It's an ad hoc group of 24 civic groups within Sedgwick County. The coalitions mission is to advocate for all voters to insure the widest voter participation. That advocacy brings us here today, to express our profound concern over the dramatic changes in the elections in our county.

The coalition came together in early summer, in response to the drastic cuts of the number of polling places by 70%. We support more people participating in our elections, not fewer. Turn out for the August election was 40% lower than for the last gubernatorial primary held in Sedgwick County four years ago. It's one of the lowest in history.

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Only 16% of all registered voters participated in this election. Precisely why is a matter of speculation, however the coalition documented widespread voter confusion during the August primary, namely voters who were unsure or unaware of their precinct, their proper precinct and one person who was sent to four different polling places by election workers before he was offered a provisional ballot.

The coalition asserts the Sedgwick County Election Office must make changes prior to the November election to minimize voter confusion and enable the highest possible voter participation. Consider this, if you look at the election office's annual performance goals outlined in both the 2006 and the 2007 budgets you will notice that increasing voter participation was not one of that offices stated performance goals. If anything, increasing voter participation should be job one of any election office.

We're especially concerned that the election commissioner eliminated polling places in the poorest sections of our city. The center . . . there is one district in the center of Wichita that is over ten miles long, from north to south. Four years ago, that had six polling places in it. It now has two. Many voters in such urban areas have transportation difficulties that discourage their participation. Further, while citing HAVA and ADA compliance, HAVA the Help America Vote Act, and ADA compliance as a reason for these reductions, the election office ironically chose to eliminate a polling place near the Timbers, a housing complex for persons with disabilities.

Based on direct feedback from voters and our observation at the polls, we gave the Election Commissioner and each of you our recommendations to increase voter participation. Chief among these was increasing the number of polling places to maximize voter convenience, so that no site had more than 3,000 assigned voters. That's higher than what we think it should be. Wyandotte County has a maximum of 1,000. We contend that special priority should be given to restoring polling places to the more disadvantaged neighborhoods in our community. However, for the November elections, the average number of registered voters assigned still to the 43 Wichita polling sites will be over 4,200 each. Seventeen of those sites have over 4,500 voters assigned.

Further, the low turnout in the primary did not fully test the capacity and the limits of the new equipment and polling site consolidation. Since the Election Commissioner has not restored the polling places for the general election, there is a risk of delays and long lines at the peak . . . at peak times of these polling sites.

The reduction in polling sites has the potential to suppress voter turnout and disenfranchise voters. The League of Women Voters and the coalition are very concerned that this may raise Constitutional issues.

Therefore, we urge this commission to support and fund actions that help make greater voter

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participation in November. We ask you to request that the Election Commissioner restore polling places, particularly in the more disadvantaged areas. In last year's budget, you approved there would be 140 such polling places. We were startled that it became 62 and then 63. We ask you to fund and assist and Election Commissioner in massive voter education, such as a direct mailing of a large, brightly colored postcard to every registered voter in Sedgwick County. The card should tell the voter about their three voting options and where the election polling place is."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Ma'am, could you tell us about how much more time you're going to need, because normally we allow five minutes and the buzzer went off, but about how much more time would you need?"

**Ms. Krehbiel** said, "Less than a minute. We ask you to fund the purchase of large, outdoor banners, as they have in many other cities, the large ones, as signage at the polling places. The current signs are 26 inches by 16 inches, and are totally inadequate, especially now in the confused times.

I would like to end with a quote from "*Making of the President: 1960*" by Theodore Wright. Speaking about the elections he said: 'It was invisible as always on election day, for it is the essence of the act that as it happens it is a mystery in which millions of people each fit together a fragment of the total secret, none of them knowing the shape of the whole. What results from the fitting together of these secrets is the system of choosing who will hold the power. Heroes and philosophers, brave men and vile have since the Roman Athens, tried to make this particular manner of transfer of power work effectively. No people have succeeded at it better or over a longer period of time than the Americas.'

Commissioners, we are grateful for the expansion of voting opportunity by advanced ballots, by the way that they are going to make the privacy issue foremost, and for what this county manager has done with his office to help, but voting on election day has been at the heart of our nation from its very inception, 230 years ago. We must insure and enable the right of every person in Sedgwick County to vote conveniently and easily. Thank you very much."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any comments or questions?"

**Commissioner Burnett** said, "How are these going to be distributed? Do you have a large amount of these little postcards?"

**Ms. Krehbiel** said, "We have a relatively large amount. It's not like mass handing out, but at any kind of rally, any kind of meeting, any kind of place where we go, we hand those out."

**Commissioner Burnett** said, "Okay, thank you."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, I don't see any other questions, so thank you very much. Clerk, would you call the next item please."

### **B. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING CASINO VOTING FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY.**

**Mr. Charles Thompson**, 10001 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St. N., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I think I talked to most of you on this commission about what I'm going to talk about, so it will be nothing new. However, I do want it to be on the record. Do the people of Sedgwick County want a destination casino, yes or no? It's that simple, so why can't we vote on it? The question has been asked many times and needs to be resolved and not ignored. The commission has been approached many times in the past and for some reason ignored, with the promise that in the future it would be addressed. It hasn't yet. It seems to me that knowing what the citizens desire, we have the right to vote on gay marriage and the arena issue, but we do not have the right to vote on the casino issue. Why?"

I'm asking the commission to get a backbone, stand up for the people who voted for you. The next legislature . . . excuse me a second here. We ask the people that elected you to hand out . . . business and put this issue on the next ballot as soon as possible. Time is wasting and it's essential for the next legislature to have this information. People are going to gamble. We know that. The question is where and when. The economics tell us sending money out of . . . to the northeast of Topeka and to the south to Oklahoma, it seems like that largest city in the state of Kansas ought to have the right to vote. People should have that right to vote. Please don't let this revenue continue to leave this area. We might even have more people using the current venue than we have.

Why haven't we gotten the right to vote yet? Maybe we should ask Phil Ruffin or maybe we should ask our local legislators why they don't want us to vote. I don't know. I would expect some of you and some of the people in the legislature not to be here when I come back the next time.

In this issue of voting yes or no is all that we're asking for and we want you to stand up for the people that elected you and represent them, for us to vote. This is the simplest and the easiest thing that I can say the citizens have the right to do is vote. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. I hope that you will look into this issue and address it very soon. Thank you very much."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you sir, and we have some questions or comments. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "No, I do not have a question. I do have just a quick comment and

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Mr. Thompson, I appreciate any time citizens come and just as Ms. Krehbiel came and visited about the voting process, we certainly appreciate it when citizens come. From my standpoint, I just do want to say I think you're at the wrong place. I think this issue . . . and you're at a perfect time, because every one of our state representatives is up for election and this issue will be controlled by the state legislature. They will be the ones that give the citizens really something to vote for. So I appreciate your interest in coming. I would encourage you to go find those state representatives that are running a race for a position to go to Topeka and I would suggest that you go help and support them who share your view. So again, I appreciate your comments to us but I still believe we're the wrong place, so thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, that's all I had."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. And the other thing that I would like to say, first of all I do compliment you on your position, Mr. Thompson and this board agrees with your position. Presently, this is a state Constitutional issue, whether or not expanded gambling in any form should be done. I think the idea of denying people to vote is very inflammatory statement that says 'Hey, we want a right to control our destiny' and what have you. And we agree with that, but the type of vote that you're talking about is not a binding referendum. It doesn't mean if you vote yes, you get it. It's a non-binding referendum and as such, the state doesn't allow us to put it on a ballot. It has to be a separate mail-in vote because it's just a pulse of the community type thing. And when we checked it out, the Election Commissioner told us that it would be about \$165,000 to do this.

We also looked at the history of other counties that had done this, Wyandotte being . . . I believe they did 11 or 12 years ago. My understanding was 80% of the people that voted, voted in favor of a casino. The state legislature ignored it and they said 'this is a state issue, we'll deal with it when we want to'. Marion County, Crawford County, Geary County, just last year Harvey County, Sumner County held that same type of a non-binding referendum and each time the state said 'We don't care, we'll handle it, it's a state issue'.

So armed with that, we decided we didn't want to waste \$165,000 of taxpayer's money just for the state legislators to tell us, like they told the six other counties 'we don't care'. Now what we did do, we passed a resolution and we sent it I believe to every legislator and the governor and I'll read it. It states . . . and we even included that in our 2006 platform that our public . . . communication . . . our lobbyist up in Topeka lobbies for this.

*It states: In the event the state approves expanded gambling in any form, but not limited to casinos, Sedgwick County citizens deserve and should be afforded the opportunity to vote on whether said*

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*expanded gambling is appropriate in Sedgwick County. The board of County Commissioners strongly supports allowing the citizens to vote in a binding election on the question of whether or not expanded gambling should be allowed in Sedgwick County.*

Now I don't know how . . . what stronger position the county commissioners can take on this. We agree with you. To have a non-binding referendum could mislead the public thinking 'if I vote yes for it, I'm going to get a casino'. Well history has said that the state legislators feel that that's a state constitutional issue, they'll deal with it when they want and I agree with Commissioner Winters. The venue that you should be focusing your energy on is trying to get legislators that agree with your position elected so that we could get them to allow us to vote in a binding election as to whether or not a casino would be appropriate here in Sedgwick County.

We have and do support the right of the citizens to vote in a binding election. We opted not to waste taxpayers' money, like six other counties did before us, just to have the legislators say 'we don't care'. That was what we did."

**Mr. Thompson** said, "Then how would you answer the question that the legislature says 'we don't know what you want in Sedgwick County?' How would you answer that one?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, they haven't asked me that . . . they haven't told me that question. I know that there has been various polls taken over the last couple of years that show that the majority of the citizens of Sedgwick County are in favor of a casino and they have the results of those polls, so no legislator has told me that they don't know what the will of the people are. The issue is right now before the state whether or not they want to expand gambling, and they have to make that decision first and they have promised us that if they decide to have expanded gambling, they will allow the citizens of Wichita to vote whether or not part of that expansion is appropriate in Sedgwick County, but we have to wait on them to make that decision, because it's a state issue."

**Mr. Thompson** said, "Well I don't understand why the largest city in the state of Kansas doesn't have that right. That's all I have to say. Thank you."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Yes sir, thank you. Okay, next item please Madam Clerk."

### NEW BUSINESS

#### C. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT CREATING REGIONAL ECONOMIC AREA

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### **PARTNERSHIP.**

**Mr. Michael D. Pepoon**, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You have before you this morning an inter-local agreement which allows Sedgwick County to continue its membership in the Regional Economic Area Partnership. By way of a little background, REAP as its known was established in 1997 by cities in our region. In 1999, counties were invited to join and Sedgwick County became a member at that time.

This organization was established as a cooperative effort of local governments in our area which is currently a nine-county region and includes 32 cities and counties in that region to develop and coordinate planning and work on economic development issues jointly for our region to create a single voice to the legislature and to work at the state and federal level for more funding.

It’s been a very aggressive organization and has made tremendous strides over the last few years and I think it should be mentioned at this point that many of the accomplishments of REAP have come from our membership in the organization and due in large part to the efforts of Commissioner Winters, who has been a member and is currently the chairman of this organization.

Just to give you an idea of some of the recent accomplishments, REAP . . . a water study group that emanated from REAP has now become a water coalition, studying water issues in our area. The REAP economic development committee has been designated as the chief elected officials board and distributes Work Force Investment Act funds to our region, Local Area 4 and has taken a prominent role in workforce development in our area.

Two sessions ago, REAP was instrumental as . . . in helping Sedgwick County in the efforts to get sales tax for a downtown arena. REAP members were very instrumental in that and REAP as an organization was very instrumental in the 1 cent sales tax for the downtown arena. And in the last legislative session, it all culminates with REAP being the grant recipient of state funding, \$25,000,000 over a period of five years to help us with our Fair Fares program, to coordinate . . . reduce the cost of flying in and out of Mid-Continent Airport and it was largely out of that that we took another look at the organization, took a look at the existing inter-local agreement and through the efforts of Dr. Flentje at Wichita State University and Joe Yeager, the Executive Director of REAP, decided to revise the local agreement and under the inter-local cooperation act, decided to create REAP.

It’s now a separate legal entity and as a separate legal entity by statute, it has a right to sue or be sued in its own name, hold property, enter into contracts issue bonds and other indebtedness. It’s taking this organization to another legal . . . another step legally, and go along with all the accomplishments it’s already had. This agreement has been drafted in cooperation with legal

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council of the City of Wichita, City of Newton. It will become effective upon signed and execution by ten member cities and counties and Joe Yeager is present here at the meeting this morning to answer any other questions you might have and I'd ask that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign. Be happy to answer any other questions you might have."

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

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well thank you. I think Mike has done an excellent job of laying out the work of REAP and the need for this agreement and both with my REAP hat on and hat as a county commissioner I'm going to be very supportive of us moving forward with this inter-local agreement.

You know, a number of organizations that we belong to, part of their principle work is in a sense networking, getting to know each other and having better working relationships and that is certainly an admirable thing to do in a lot of situations and we all know of some of those that we belong to. REAP has really now, over the past couple of years, taken on in effect real work and particularly in working as the chief elected officials board for the Workforce Investment Act, which is the mechanism that the U.S. Department of Labor dollars flow into a six county area here in south central Kansas. Now with the addition of being the grant recipient for state funds for the affordable airfares program, again another real job type work that this organization is involved in.

I would like to ask Joe just to make a comment or two. Joe is the executive director of the REAP organization and is relatively new to the position. As you all remember, the position was filled by Keith Lawing for a number of years. Joe has stepped into the role as executive director and we have just not missed a step. I mean, Joe has just proceeded right on with the work and in fact there has been tremendous amount of just leg work and detail work in getting the affordable airfares process handled and we're now in receipt of the first amount of that money from the State of Kansas. Joe, Mike mentioned other cities. Have we received . . . some other cities have already signed this inter-local agreement and are moving on. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Joe Yaeger**, Executive Director, REAP, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you for allowing me to be here and for all of the great leadership and hard work that Sedgwick County adds to REAP. It is a wonderful collaboration that you all bring a lot to the table for helping on that.

To answer you question, commissioner, we have received several cities and counties that have passed inter-local. It was actually scheduled to be where you all were going to be passing the tenth inter-local. However, Kathy Sexton at Derby was able to slip one in last night and beat you to the punch on it. So we do officially have ten and with your passage would be the 11<sup>th</sup>, so we are on schedule for being able to forward the inter-locals up to the attorney general. We did set a date of

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October 31<sup>st</sup> to have everyone's in, and so it looks like we're going to have the majority of the inter-locals back, out of the 32."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "All right, very good. Thank you. One other issue that is on the horizon is the transportation issue and a comprehensive state transportation plan. The plan that we're working on now will soon expire in a couple of years. I know that I have been asked by Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller and I know that Mayor Willis Heck from Newton has been asked to serve on an advisory policy committee looking at the next highway transportation plan. Willis Heck from Newton has been very active in the REAP organization, so I'm sure that both of us will continue to look at that issue with a regional perspective, but commissioners, I'm certainly going to be very supportive of us entering into this new inter-local agreement. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well I'm going to be very supportive too. I go back to the very beginning of REAP, when it was a group of mayors that sat down, and I remember the first four or five meetings, and I have to applaud Mayor Knight now, because of what it's come to but in the very beginnings, it really looked like it was going to be the Mayor Knight show and many of the rest of us are going to be left out. But through hard work and collaboration and push of the counties being involved and the evolution of this, I think this is a wonderful culmination to take it to those next levels.

I think this now starts to be the vision of what we thought it could be in 1997, but in the early days it just didn't look like it was going to take on this form, and I'm pretty proud that this is what it's going to look like. It's a leadership role for south central Kansas and there's a lot of partners. I mean, when you talk 32 partners and I think there were seven elected officials at the very first meeting. It's evolved into a pretty great organization, so I'm going to be very supportive."

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well I just want to make a comment that I will be also very supportive of this and just want to make a couple of more comments about how REAP is very active and effective in its regional area that we have down here, as far as not only economic development but in water coalition issues, very active in that to the benefit of south central Kansas. REAP members sit on the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition.

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REAP members sit on the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority, so this whole concept of regionalism is really taking a very tangible form down in south central Kansas. It's been effective and beneficial to this whole area. So this is one piece of it. I'll be very supportive of it and I don't know if it's mentioned or not, but Commissioner Winters is chair of REAP this year and I think that's worthy of recognition, so along with the able leadership of Mr. Yeager, but Tom's had a lot to do with the progress that's being made. So it's an effective organization and this is just another step in moving forward and I'm going to be very supportive. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters 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
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Next item please."

**D. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE *SEDGWICK COUNTY CODE* REGARDING DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

**Mr. Greg Schauner**, Captain, Sheriff's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The resolution before you for consideration today concerns changes to the county code that governs the

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disposition of personal property that is lost, abandoned or unclaimed. And as you all know, the Sheriff is responsible for the collection of this type of property, its storage and eventual disposition of it. And of course the preferred method of disposition is returning that property to the rightful owner, but unfortunately that's not always possible.

And just for clarification, the type of property that we're talking about here does not include abandoned motor vehicles, weapons, stray animals, items that are seized pursuant to civil proceedings or forfeiture proceedings or anything that has been evidence in a criminal case. Those items are all covered by state statute and we dispose of them in accordance with the state statute.

The items that we're talking about are things such as a key ring that might have been dropped and found in a parking lot, a cooler that was left behind at Lake Afton after a fishing trip or a ladder that's fallen off a truck and ended in the ditch along side the road. In fact, right now I understand that we're holding a brand new fireplace unit that was found abandoned along a county road.

This current policies that we have to go by state that this kind of property, once we attempted to locate the rightful owner, we must hold that property for a minimum of six months before we can dispose of it by destroying it, if it's unfit for sale or put it to public auction. The proposed change to this will reduce the waiting period from six months to 30 days, so we can do something with that property in a more timely fashion.

It also, currently before we can sell at public auction any of that property, we have to advertise the sale and a detailed description of those items in a newspaper for three consecutive weeks before we can hold the sale. The changes to this will eliminate that need for the publication.

And also the change to this policy will allow us, after we've attempted to locate the owner, to destroy the items that are unserviceable without waiting the 30-day period or we can donate items that are less than \$50 in value to a charitable organization. And we currently do that now, for instance, if we have serviceable children's items, we donate those to the Wichita Children's Home. This will allow us to do it in a more timely fashion.

And if you adopt the change to the county code, the end result will be more timely disposition of this type of property. It would free up some space in our property and evidence area, where we don't have to hold them quite as long and obviously it would save expenses to the county in not having to advertise. I'd be willing to address any questions that you might have in this matter."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you, captain. I don't see any questions, so commissioners,

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what's the will of the . . . excuse me. We do have a comment or question. Commissioner Winters.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “I just have a question for Rich Euson. Rich, I know your office has been involved in the crafting of this and I’m assuming that since it’s come this far, that you’ve reviewed this, your office has reviewed this and believe everything is proper and in order in this change.”

**Mr. Rich Euson**, County Counselor, greeted the commissioners and said, “Yes, Karen Duranleau worked with the Sheriff’s Office on this and it is in proper form.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay. If there’s no other questions, commissioners, what’s the will of the board on Item D?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

- E. AGREEMENT WITH ATHLETICS WICHITA FOR CONTROLLED ACCESS TO CERTAIN COUNTY ROADWAYS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SPONSORING THE KAKE-TV/WICHITA MARATHON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

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**Ms. Irene Hart**, Director, Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Athletics Wichita proposes to hold their 27<sup>th</sup> annual Wichita Marathon on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the eighth year on the current course that they have outlined and there's various individual and relay categories for a 26-mile event.

Athletics Wichita has made arrangements with the Sheriff's Reserve to support the sections of the county that are controlled access and proof of insurance has been provided. Last year, over 600 runner from 28 states and two foreign countries participated in this event and more than 500 volunteers supports the event. The race begins in Derby, with an early start at 7:00 in the morning for those who take more than five hours to run 26 miles, but the main event starts at 8 a.m.

I have a map here. What this is from is from their flyer and the map doesn't . . . 26 miles is a long way, so their map doesn't . . . let me enlarge that to show you where they're planning to run. The race will begin in Derby. You'll see the numbers at the bottom of the page, one, two, three, four, five. Those talk about the miles, so it runs through Derby, between . . ."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Excuse me, is that over there by the Derby Recreation Commission? Or where is the start?"

**Ms. Hart** said, "It looks like it starts about there and goes south on Woodlawn to 87<sup>th</sup> and then they start heading north. About mile marker 10 it looks like . . . then they enter McConnell Air Force Base, run a trail through McConnell, exit McConnell, run north into Wichita and then finally finish up in Old Town. The awards ceremony will be at 1:30 the afternoon of October 22<sup>nd</sup> at City Arts.

The agreement before you is to allow controlled access on the designated roadways within the jurisdiction of Sedgwick County. Those would be the areas between Derby and McConnell Air Force Base. I'm not going to read the names of the street segments. We'd recommend your approval and authorization to sign the agreement."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Do they have run back to their car where they started, or how do they get back to their car?"

**Ms. Hart** said, "I think they start in Old Town and are bused down to the starting."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "They're bused . . . oh, okay. They start at Old Town, they're bused . . . okay, okay."

**Commissioner Burnett** said, "That was going to be my question."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well I answered it for you. Okay, well I think I did this once, back in 1988, so 26.2 miles and still 26.2 miles and this seems like a much more interesting run. We just kind of looped around and around and around the Wichita area back then. Commissioners, any questions or comments? If not . . .”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “My only comments, Mr. Chairman. I’m sorry I didn’t turn my light on. Do they want a resolution that there will be no north wind that day?”

**Ms. Hart** said, “That wasn’t included in there, but I’m sure they don’t want rain or snow or sleet or north wind.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “No, but cloudy weather and a little misty isn’t bad if you’re running. You don’t want sun is what you don’t want and hot weather. But you’re right about that north wind, that would make it a killer.”

**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.”

**F. DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY.**

**1. PRESENTATION REGARDING RE-ACCREDITATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.**

**Dr. Mary Dudley, M.D.,** District Coroner/Chief Medical Examiner, Regional Forensic Science

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Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm very happy this morning to share with you that we've received our re-accreditation for five years from the National Association of Medical Examiners, which is our credentialing board for forensic pathology.

Part of the accreditation process is that we have actually a checklist of 300 items that we will know, prior to bringing in a site visit whether or not we do pass the accreditation, so we spent many months in our re-accreditation being sure that we would be able to fulfill all of those items. They are divided into sort of major and minor deficiencies. If we have one major deficiency out of those 300 items, which about half of them are, then we would not receive our accreditation, so I'm very proud that we did receive that.

Part of the areas that they look at in our Regional Forensic Science Center, which mainly they are looking at pathology division and our toxicology, post-mortem toxicology department, is in areas of facilities, safety, personnel, notification, acceptance and release of cases, investigations, body handling, post-mortem examinations, identifications, evidence and specimen collection, support services, reports and records, mass disaster planning and quality insurance. And so I wanted to share with you also the letter by Dr. Jenny McLean who actually did our . . . she did our site visit five years ago and came back from Dallas, Texas and did our site visit. And in her letter from April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to Gary Peterson, the chairman of the accreditation and inspection committee, she said that: 'On April 7<sup>th</sup> 2006 I inspected the Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center in Wichita, Kansas. I had previously inspected this facility five year's ago.' The inspection consisted of touring the building, reviewing the documentation for the checklist and checklist itself. I randomly reviewed autopsy reports and then she lists the following with the different types of manners of death that she randomly reviewed the reports unnatural homicide, accident and suicide cases.

There were no phase two deficiencies, two phase one deficiencies were found. We could have had up to 15 phase one deficiencies and actually five years ago we had no phase one deficiencies. The deficiencies consisted of the following: 3A.8, is the medical staff sufficient size that no autopsy physician is required to perform more than 250 autopsies a year and we did exceed this. If we had . . . if one of our physicians exceeded 350, that would be a phase two deficiency. The other item, 11E.2, does the office have a computerized information management system, which we do not and that was the second deficiency. And then there was another deficiency on how we cataloged our

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histology specimens that we corrected at the time that she was there.

During the time period from my last inspection, the crime lab, including the toxicology lab, has been accredited by ASCOT. The annex is to be built starting this summer. That will increase the size of the facility. The location of the regional laboratory was well thought out as there is room to expand the facility for future needs. The forensic center performs autopsies for approximately 50 counties outside of Sedgwick County. These cases provide revenue that goes into the general operating fund of Sedgwick County. As the center continues to grow, additional personnel will be required to maintain accreditation. The current named checklist that was used in this accreditation takes into account the administrative and leadership duties of the department chief. NAME expects the chief to do fewer autopsies than a pathologist that is not involved in administrative duties.

External inspections are also taken into account in the calculation of the workload. Recommendations in order to operate a full-time, 24-hour a day operation, it is recommended that an additional medical legal investigator be hired. This would reduce the overtime generated and provide the needed help, as the center grows in the future.

An additional full-time forensic pathologist will be needed in the near future to maintain accreditation. With the additional pathologist, it would be wise to also hire an additional autopsy technician. This would improve turnaround time and efficiency in the office. Conclusions, Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center is an excellent regional center. Due to the support of elected officials, the Forensic Science Center passed NAME inspection and will be accredited for another five years. Dr. Dudley has demonstrated her leadership in maintaining high standards for the forensic center.

So we're very proud to have received this re-accreditation. I have a copy of it here for you to see, that we will put up in our lobby. And we are really only one of maybe 35 medical examiner offices in the country that have this accreditation and maybe for both the forensic crime lab and our pathology division we're probably less than five that have the double accreditations from NAME and from ASCOT.

I also wanted to just mention, because part of my accepting the position, is that we are a regional forensic science center and was asked to increase our regional activity. And when I first came here in 2000, we had 24 other counties in the state that would refer cases to us. And now I wanted to show you a map of Kansas with the red dots indicating the number of counties in the state that in the past eight years have referred cases to us. This really includes 65 counties in the state, so we pretty much have . . . and now with Homeland Security being divided up into regional areas, we really cover four areas in the state and this is something that we are currently working on, as far as our mass fatality planning, for Sedgwick County and also for these other reasons. Be happy to

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answer any questions but I'd just like to have you, you know, receive and file the report and I want to thank the commissioners and the community for all their support to the Forensic Science Center over these past few years. I'm very proud to be part of this organization. Thank you."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you Mr. Chair. Well Dr. Dudley, congratulations. I mean, that's an outstanding achievement and want to congratulate you and Dr. Rohrig for the great work that you do and the way that you represent Sedgwick County. You've answered most of the questions I had in your presentation. It was a very good about how many else have this designation, and so we are one among few that have this.

But I guess the comment I'd make, some of the comments you made about probably needing to expand our staff in the future to maintain accreditation, during this particular time when a lot of folks are talking about deficiency in government and not expanding our employment, not growing government, but here's a clear example where in order to provide the services that we need to provide, in order to be of service across the state of Kansas, sometimes new employees are needed, so I guess I'm just making somewhat of a political statement in a reelection year, that sometimes new employees are needed to do the good work of government that we're doing.

Now to get off of my particular issue and back to what you're doing, just want to say that you make us proud with what's going on there and I'm happy that Sedgwick County can be of service to counties across the state, so good job, congratulations. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thanks, Dave. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, we're very proud of the Regional Forensic Science Center. I guess my comment would be, as we move into the next couple of years, I think it's very important that we take a look at the strategic plan for the next five, ten years because number one, we want to keep this accreditation. Number two, we want to continue to serve the whole state of Kansas and you know, at 65 counties, that's well over half the counties in our state that we're serving. And as we look more and more at services in rural areas that are struggling with their budgets and population decline, the more that counties that have the capacity like we do can help out is going to help the whole state, a lot of local government. So I guess my caution is that we continue to look at the Regional Forensic Science Center as an entrepreneurial kind of system that we can help our own county, but help everyone else but we need to strategically look at that over the next couple of budget seasons to be sure we understand what's going to keep us at that level and expand it. So, I guess it would be a challenge to you, Dr. Dudley, but to also keep us informed so that as we're making budget decisions, we really understand your goals and the future of the Forensic Science Center. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. We didn't have a dinner this time. What happened?"

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Anyway, I think I will just echo what the commissioners said that we're very proud of the work that we're doing there and I think we have to attribute most of that success to you, so keep up the good work. We really appreciate what you're doing. You're reflecting very well on county government. Thank you, doctor. Commissioners, do we just make a motion to receive and file?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you again, Doctor. Congratulations. Next item please."

**2. KANSAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2007 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM SUBMISSION.**

**Mr. Randy Duncan**, Director, Emergency Management, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's also my privilege to come before you this morning to ask you to accept some money for next year. This is an annual agreement that we enter into with the Division of Emergency Management. They pass through federal funds to reimburse a portion of the cost of operating our Emergency Management program. I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding this."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, “I don’t see that there’s any questions, Randy. So commissioners, what’s the will of the Board on Item F-2?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a grant award agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this Agreement, 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, “Thank you, Randy. Next item.”

**Commissioner Burtnett left the meeting room at 10:00 a.m.**

**3. HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY.**

**Mr. Duncan** said, “I come before you now to ask you to approve an updated hazard vulnerability analysis document. This is a document that we prepare on a periodic basis, where we examine what the threats are in Sedgwick County, in terms of natural threats, manmade threats, homeland security issues and update that.

This particular version is an update from the one we did in 2002. The primary difference that we did this time is based on our experience from Hurricane Katrina response. We’ve now added a level of analysis that looks at catastrophic impact of these particular disasters. There’s really no

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new disasters on the list. They are the ones that we know and deal with on a regular basis, flooding, tornadoes, severe storms both spring and winter and that sort of thing. So I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have and we hope that at some point that you will consider accepting the plan and authorizing the chairman to sign."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you, Randy. Commissioners, any questions or comments on Item F-2 9 (sic). If not, what is your will?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Plan 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	Absent
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you Randy. Next item please."

**Commissioner Burtnett returned to the meeting room at 10:01 a.m.**

**DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE**

**G. CONTRACT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMING.**

**Ms. Marilyn Cook**, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a contract with SRS for COMCARE to participate in the Medicaid Administrative Claiming program, which is a program that provides federal reimbursement for outreach and administrative activities that are tied to Medicaid . . . doing Medicaid business.

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This is done by SRS by having them contact staff that we have on a list and they call them random moments, and they contact us either by phone or by e-mail and ask those particular staff what we're doing and if it's something that is associated with the Medicaid population and not something that is directly billable we get some reimbursement for that activity. The only change in this contract from previous ones and we've been doing this since late 2002 is that this year SRS is administering the program . . . or administering I should say, the program rather than Maximus, who was doing it in the past. So the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services were not happy with how that happened in the past, so state SRS is doing that and they're the ones that are administering the program and initiating those random calls. We're recommending that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**H. REAL ESTATE PURCHASE CONTRACT WITH RIVER CITY PROPERTIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 330 SOUTH COMMERCE, IN SUPPORT OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ARENA.**

**Ms. Stephanie Knebel**, Manager, Facility Project Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This purchase contract in front of you today represents property number six out of 24 properties currently being planned to purchase in support of the Sedgwick County downtown arena. The fee appraisal information of \$140,000 was provided by the Martens Company, as part of their overall scope of services for us for this project.

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The purchase contract amount for this property however is \$177,963.50. The primary difference between the appraised amount and this amount today comes into understanding that the owner of this property purchased this property in such a time where the fee appraiser was not aware of this information. The appraisal was done just before closing, just before some of those number were available to him for that.

This dollar amount has been reviewed and considered by both the county appraiser and our condemnation attorney and both are in support of proceeding with the purchase of this property at this price. I request your approval of this contract and am available for questions.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Do you have a question?”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “No, but I’m ready to make a motion if there are no questions.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well I just have one clarification. What we’re doing is like I’m remembering we sit on the boards reviewing individual owners and they’re trying to tell us what it’s worth and we . . . you know, if they say well hey look, I just bought it for this, that then establishes the fair market value and is that in essence what we did here?”

**Ms. Knebel** said, “Absolutely, you’re correct sir.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “All right, that’s fine. I no questions. Commissioners, what’s the will of the board on this item?”

### MOTION

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

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

### VOTE

Commissioner Unruh

Aye

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

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

**I. QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY TO THE CITY OF MULVANE, 111<sup>TH</sup> STREET SOUTH BETWEEN 95<sup>TH</sup> STREET EAST (WEBB ROAD) AND ROCK ROAD.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Robert W. Parnacott**, Assistant County Counselor, County Counselor's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is to wrap up an inter-local agreement we had with Mulvane, where we entered into a joint project to do some improvements to 111<sup>th</sup> Street. You can see there, in the middle of the screen, running from Rock Road to Webb, leads from the city out to one of their recreational facilities. Under the agreement, they were to annex the road after the improvements were done. In order to simplify their annexation process, they requested we quit claim our interest in the road to them and that is all we're doing here is to deed the road over to them. I would suggest . . . or recommend that you approve it and I'll answer any questions."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you, Bob. I don't see that there's any questions."

**MOTION**

Chairman Sciortino moved to approve the Quit Claim Deed 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
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Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you, Bob. Next item please."

**J. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2006.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of October 5<sup>th</sup> results in six items for consideration today.

**1) 911 CONSOLES FOR THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS  
FUNDING: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER**

The first item is 9-1-1 consoles for the new public safety center for the Division of Information and Operations. And the recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Xybix Systems in the amount of \$272,114.

**2) ON-CALL OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS & RADIO SERVICES- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
FUNDING: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Item two, on-call outdoor warning sirens and radio services for Emergency Management. Recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Phillips Southern Electric Company Incorporated to establish and execute contract pricing for one year, with two one-year options to renew.

**3) STORAGE BUILDING & SIGN SHOP ROOF REPLACEMENTS- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
FUNDING: FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

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Item three, storage building and sign shop roof replacements for Facilities Department. Recommendation is low bid meeting specifications from JB Turner Roofing and Sheet Metal not including the add option for a total cost of \$57,697.

**4) UNLEADED AND DIESEL FUEL- FLEET MANAGEMENT & VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**  
**FUNDING: VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

Item four, unleaded and diesel fuel for Fleet Management and various departments. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Petroleum Traders Corporation to execute a one-year contract with four one-year options to renew.

**5) LIVESCAN FINGERPRINT SYSTEM- CORRECTIONS**  
**FUNDING: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT 2006**

Item five, livescan fingerprint system for Corrections. The recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Crossmatch Technologies incorporated, option two, and execute a contract for a three-year cost of \$42,102.50.

**6) PEST CONTROL SERVICES- VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**  
**FUNDING: VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

And item six, pest control services for various county departments and the recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Schendel Pest Services to establish contract pricing and execute a one year contract, with two one-year options to renew for an estimated annual cost of \$16,189.

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “I don’t see that there’s any questions. Excuse me, there is. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Iris, comment on item number one a little bit. I mean, as we’ve moved through the public safety or upgrading equipment and really getting ready to move into the new 9-1-1 public safety center, this is another pretty large expenditure and I guess we need to talk about it a little bit. We’re obviously picking the low bid. Is this all new equipment or does it have to be compatible with old equipment? Kind of talk about that a little bit.”

**Ms. Baker** said, “It’s new workstation equipment and it’s equipment that’s used for 9-1-1 folks to

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do their daily jobs. It's technology equipment, it's workstation equip . . . it's similar to furniture, but it's not furniture. It's designed for those types of environments where you've got a lot of technology, you need a lot of space, you need the electrical considerations that go with that. It's also very ergonomically sound equipment, since it's a 24/ 7 operation, it allows any operator to go in and be able to adjust this workstation up and down, somewhat mobile, so it allows anyone to come in and be able to sit down and work at those stations."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay. So this equipment compliments the electronic equipment, the technology that goes at the work station, to make sure that it houses properly, can be used efficiently by our dispatchers."

**Ms. Baker** said, "Correct."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "That's all I have."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, thank you. If there's no other questions, what's the will of the Board on this item please?"

**MOTION**

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

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 very much, Iris. Next item please."

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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**K. CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. Amendment to the 2006 Capital Improvement Program to include replacement of rooftop HVAC Units at the Murdock Tag Office.**
- 2. Resolution stating findings made by the Board of County Commissioners at the post-annexation hearing held September 27, 2006.**
- 3. Tenant Estoppel Certificate for the Derby Tag Office.**
- 4. Cell Tower Lease Agreement with Pixius Communications, LLC.**
- 5. Order dated October 3, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 6. Payroll Check Register of October 6, 2006.**
- 7. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of October 4 – 10, 2006.**

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You have the consent agenda before you and I’d recommend you approve it.”

**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

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Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I think we have another thing that we have to discuss, but before we do that, is there anything else to come before this board, under the 'other' other category. Commissioner Norton."

**L. OTHER**

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well you probably will anticipate what I'm going to talk about."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Exploration Place."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Could be. It's the fifth week of Tyrannosaurus Rex Sue at Exploration Place and I have to do a little anecdotal talk today. Saturday at 9:00 I took my three granddaughters to Exploration Place and we stayed until 3:00 in the afternoon. We ate there and I'll tell you, we got tickets for the 'Cosmic Collision' and never made it there because they had so much fun and were so active. We went to see Sue three different times. Se played in the water at the little stream that talks about river management three different times. They went into the tornado four different times and they went into the castle six different times.

So if you have grandkids or kids and you think that it's an experience that is very static and kids don't enjoy, you might want to revisit because it's pretty exciting there and the good news is the first week of October, not quite as good as the first week of September which was Labor Day, but total gate attendance this year 3,298, last year 1,500 so still doubling the numbers. And the good news is store revenue last year was \$2,000, this year \$13,000 and café revenue is five times larger for that period of time, so another good week and passport sales are just flying. So I would encourage people to stop by the new and re-energized Exploration Place and be part of that great facility in our community. Good times can be had by all, grandparents, parents and kids."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Commissioner Norton, explain what you mean by passport sales."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, in fact I upgraded my passport. I've had one since it opened and I had one just for my wife and a couple of kids, because my kids were older and I just recently

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did it so that I can have two adults, two guests and up to five children and it covers the cost of the Cyberdome, so I don't have to buy extra tickets for that. So it's a blanket . . . it was \$125 and it covers up to eight people that I can take and all of them can go to the Cyberdome shows and everything else free, so there's some pretty good packages out there. And I kind of figured out if I only go two more times with those three granddaughters, that I've covered the cost of that and I've got two other grandkids. And when I have friends come to town, I always take them to Exploration Place and now I can do that with guests. I can just walk in and take care of any guest, any time."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "The passport . . . you sign up for whatever level, but then you can go every day if you wanted to?"

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Absolutely, it's not a limited thing and it's much like the zoo pass, but they have other levels where you can take any infinite amount of people. It's a pretty good deal, so I would urge people to stop by Exploration Place, pick up some of the information, understand what all the different levels of passports are and the Explorer's Club, which has other amenities to it, but a pretty good way to spend an afternoon, at least it was for the Norton family. That's all I have."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well on the heels of that good story, want to encourage folks also in this great weather to take the opportunity to visit the Sedgwick County Zoo. As always, great exhibits out there and as the animals go into the fall season, it'd just be good to view them in that circumstance. But when the weather is good, good place to go."

Secondly, I just wanted to mention the fact that I had the opportunity to take a tour of our Public Safety building yesterday and see the progress there. It's coming along very nicely. They're on schedule and it is a very impressive facility. I think if we use words like 'state of the art', and 'leading edge' and 'world class'. All those would apply to this particular facility and a lot of our staff worked very hard. Paula Downs led our little tour, along with Ken Koehler and Bob Lamkey. Of course he's kind of our chief public safety man. He was there giving his input and Randy Duncan, so we had . . . all questions were answered, but it's a very impressive building and the Sedgwick County citizens should be proud of the fact that we're thinking ahead and that we are providing a secure place to manage emergencies in the event that they arise. So something we can really be proud of, our 9-1-1 system will be there, our Emergency Management, Intelligent Transportation will be housed there and it's going to be a technological showcase, I think, when it's all completed."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "And we have press join us and TV."

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**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Well, we did have a little bit of press and coverage . . . press coverage there, so it was kind of a nice way to let the folks know what's going on in Sedgwick County.

Lastly, I guess I just want to say welcome back to Chris Chronis, whose been gone for a couple of weeks with some eye surgery and I've been missing seeing him around here, giving us all of his penny pinching advice and so we need him back but glad he's here."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I didn't even know he was gone. Of course he hasn't been our budget . . . I didn't even know he was gone. I'm glad he's back though."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "I'm very glad he's back, an important part of our team."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. Again, we took care of some REAP business today, but I do want to remind everyone that this coming Friday, October the 13<sup>th</sup> the Visioneering Wichita group and the Regional Economic Area Partnership, REAP are holding a leadership summit at the Airport Hilton. And the folks that have been invited to this include regional elected officials, regional leaders, economic development experts, leadership program classes and graduates, area chamber of commerce folks, REAP representatives, again elected officials and school officials and so far there are 160 people have signed up to attend this summit this coming Friday. So I would encourage those who are interested, reservations are requested, Diane Longfellow at the Chamber is accepting those registrations and you can reach her at 268-1141, so I would encourage anybody who has an interest to attend this meeting. It looks like it's going to be a very good regional leadership type meeting. That's the only thing I had, Mr. Chairman."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. And now we'll hear from Commissioner Burtnett."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Okay, short and sweet, Maize is having their fall festival this weekend and they do have a parade going on Saturday that I will be at. Hopefully I'll be able to say hello to everyone, hopefully have my voice back by then. Thanks. That's it for now."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, the only think I want to say is we heard a presentation from the League of Women Voters and if anyone is still watching us, I encourage you, if you haven't registered to vote, register to vote. If you registered to vote, make the effort to vote. We have probably one of the . . . as far as a country is concerned, the easiest ways for our citizens to vote. Unfortunately, there is a general apathy out there. At the primary, only 16% of the Sedgwick County citizens that were registered opted to vote. Actually, we were one of the highest in the state, but that's still very dismal, so the only way to can affect change in government, you know the one gentleman was talking about wanting the casinos here in the Wichita area, find out where

## **Regular Meeting, October 11, 2006**

candidates stand, vote for the candidate that you feel best represents your views and your points. You're going to feel better about it if you can take a difference.

Now by not voting, then you can act like a duck and squawk, but there's nothing much you can do to impact change, so I'm just telling you . . . requesting or encouraging you to make the effort to vote, regardless of whether you have voted in the past, try it, I think you'll like it. So please register, please make the effort and then if there's any questions here, the League has a website, [www.lwy](http://www.lwy) . . . that's League of Women Voters, Wichita.org. They've got phone numbers on here and I can't find them, I thought I had . . . Oh, yeah. If you have any problems you can call 1-866-OURVOTE. If you have any questions about what's going on, call the Election Commission. They'll have people there to accommodate you, to make it as easy as possible for you to get in and out, but do make the effort to vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>, or take advantage of the advanced vote. I think there's 16 advanced locations. It starts October 31<sup>st</sup>, so you'd have a whole week at your convenience and you don't have to, on advanced locations, go to the location closest to your area. You can vote at any of the 16 locations, no matter where you live and I think the Election Commission is thinking that because of this ease, about 30 or 35% of the ballots will be cast prior to November 7<sup>th</sup>. So make the effort to vote, make government better by your participation. End of speech.

Okay, now, I believe we have a Executive Session.”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/client relationship relating to pending claims and litigation and legal advice and that the Board of County Commissioners return to this room from executive session no sooner than 10:40 a.m.

Commissioner Norton seconded the Motion.

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

### **VOTE**

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

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

**The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into executive session at 10:20 a.m. and returned at 11:02 a.m.**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Let the record show that no binding action taken while we were in Executive Session. Mr. Euson, is there anything that we need to come before this board at this time? Mr. Buchanan, any thing else? This meeting is adourned.”

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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

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**BEN SCIORTINO**, Chairman  
Fifth District

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**LUCY BURTNETT**, Chair Pro Tem

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Fourth District

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**DAVID M. UNRUH**, Commissioner,  
First District

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**TIM R. NORTON**, Commissioner  
Second District

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**THOMAS G. WINTERS**, Commissioner  
Third District

ATTEST:

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**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2006