

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**October 4, 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 4, 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. Don Brace, County Clerk; Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Division of Human Resources; Mr. Sherdeill Breathett Sr., Economic Developer, Division of Community Development; Mr. Bill Gale, Election Commissioner; Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Mr. Tom Pletcher, Clinical Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE); Mr. Tim Millsbaugh, Fire Marshal, Fire District #1; Mr. Lonnie E. Smith, Sheriff's Deputy, Sheriff's Department; Mr. Richard Vogt, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Operations; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

### **GUESTS**

Mr. David Davis, Wichita, Ks.

Mr. Casey West, President, Kansas Paint Horse Association.

Mr. Chad Pettera, Alternate member, South Central Kansas Economic Development District Board of Directors.

Mr. Mike C. Ingersoll, Alternate, South Central Kansas Economic Development District Board of Directors.

### **INVOCATION**

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

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to consider an off agenda proclamation.

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

**OFF AGENDA PROCLAMATION**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Commissioners, I have a proclamation that I’ll read for your consideration. It states:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the International City/ County Management Association, ICMA, is the premier local government leadership and management organization. Its mission is to create excellence in local governance by advocating and developing the professional management of local government worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, ICMA members are committed to representative democracy, the highest standards of honesty and integrity in local governance, as expressed through the organization’s code of ethics, the value of professional management as an integral component of effective local government, the council-manager form of government as the preferred local government structure, the value of international association and ensuring diversity in local government in the organization; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Buchanan, Sedgwick County Manager, was recently installed as the President of the International City/ County Management Association, which reflects positively on Mr. Buchanan’s professional abilities, his commitment to serving citizens and our Sedgwick County government organization; and

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**WHEREAS**, Mr. Buchanan began his career in local government in 1971 and came to serve as Sedgwick County Manager in 1991, providing administrative management, encouraging professionalism throughout the organization, building community partnerships and assisting the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners in implementing their vision.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim and honor

**Bill Buchanan as 2006-2007 President of the International City/ County Management Association**

and recognize his continued commitment to serving the citizens of Sedgwick County and delivering democracy in our community.

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, "Kristi, do we have someone to accept the proclamation?"

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you Commissioners and thank you very much Mr. Chairman. One of the things I try to beat into the staff and beat into interns is the first rule of management and that is no surprises, so this was a surprise and thank you very much for this.

I'm honored and humbled to do this but be assured that my primary goal in being president of the

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International City/ County Management Association is to stay employed and make you happy.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well Bill, I think I can speak for our entire board. This recognition by you peers not only honors you, but I think it does a lot for Sedgwick County to have this prestigious position and we just hope that you can continue serving all of the citizens of Sedgwick County as well as you have in the past and we really do appreciate your service.

Call the next item.”

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**A. PROCLAMATIONS.**

**1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 6, 2006 AS “BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY.”**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Commissioners, I have another proclamation to read into the record for your consideration. It states:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, breast cancer is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 40 and 59; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 it is estimated that 221,920 women and 1,720 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, during this same period, 40,970 women and 460 men will die from breast cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of breast cancers occur in women without any family history of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 80% of the breast cancer occurs in women 50 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, early detection is the key to survival and a great quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Kansas and Sedgwick County are committed to the eradication of this

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disease, support the treatment of citizens that suffer from it, and encourage private efforts to enhance research funding and education programs that address these diseases.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chair of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2006, to be:

**‘Breast Cancer Awareness Day’**

in Sedgwick County to enhance the understanding of breast cancer and to encourage voluntary activities to support education programs and the funding of research programs to find a cure for it.

Commissioners, that is 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 we have someone to accept the proclamation I trust?”

**Ms. Kristi Zukovich**, Director, Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Judy Moody was to be here, but we will make sure she gets this. If Mr. Unruh would like to also comment.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “I would.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “All right, Commissioner Unruh.”

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**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you Mr. Chair. Well I’m sorry that Judy is not here today to receive the proclamation. She’s one of the co-chairs of the Race for the Cure this year and really has put in a lot of time and a lot of energy to make that a successful event.

It was held last Saturday and there were about 8,000 citizens from the area in attendance at that event. It was really a lot of fun, started about 7:15 in the morning. A lot of vendors were there, who were helping support this cause and making it worthwhile to be there. They had a lot of free goodies they were giving away, which was good. We had several races and it was a very successful event. It not only raises the level of awareness of this issue, but provides a lot of fun and it raises a lot of money and 90% of the money stays here in the state of Kansas, so it’s a successful event, Judy did a great job and all the whole bunch of volunteers, I don’t know how many people were out there working, but well attended and very successful.

And then, last night at a Cuisine for the Cure, they have Rice for the Cure, Cuisine for the Cure, a lot of activities to raise money and awareness for the issue of cancer with the hopes that some day we’ll just eradicate that disease from our society, so very successful.

Might say that one of the persons whom we met at the Race for the Cure last Saturday was former county commissioner Betsy Gwin, got to chat with her a little bit. She’s a 12-year survivor and my wife Karen is a four-year survivor now, and anyway a lot of folks, a lot of fun and sorry Judy wasn’t here today to accept the resolution. That’s all I had.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you. All right, Madam Clerk, the next item please.”

### **2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 9 - 16, 2006 AS “WORLD WIDE PAINT HORSE CONGRESS WEEK.”**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Commissioners, another proclamation I’ll read for your consideration. It states:

### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas Coliseum is the site of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual World Wide Paint Horse Congress, one of the largest American Paint Horse events in the country.

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas Paint Horse Association will be hosting participants from over 30 states and several Canadian provinces, who bring with them the colorful and talented American Paint Horse.

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**WHEREAS**, people will be competing with their horses in a variety of events from roping to cutting cattle, hunter horses and western pleasure and showcasing share the skills of both rider and equine with those in our community.

**WHEREAS**, Sedgwick County would like to welcome those who are participating in this longstanding event.

**WHEREAS**, to recognize the contributions of the horse industry to our community through events such as the World Wide Paint Horse Congress.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of October 9 through October 16, 2006 as

**‘World Wide Paint Horse Congress Week’**

in Sedgwick County and encourage the citizens of the county to enjoy the competition of these colorful horses.

Commissioners, that is the proclamation. What is your will?”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye

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Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “And I believe there is someone here to accept. I like the hat.”

**Mr. Casey West**, President, Kansas Paint Horse Association, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here to thank you, on the association’s behalf, for your support and recognition. We want you to know that we do appreciate it and we appreciate the work of John Nath and his staff out there at the Coliseum.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well thank you and good luck on your association’s event. Next item please, Madam Clerk.”

**3. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 1 - 7, 2006 AS “MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK.”**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well commissioners, I have another proclamation that I’ll read for your review. It states:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, mental disorders are the leading cause of disability (lost years of productive life) in the United States, Europe and, increasingly, in the world and that by 2020, major depressive illness will be the leading cause of disability in the world for women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illness strike individuals in the prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young adulthood, as all ages susceptible, but the young and the old are especially vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, the unintended consequence of untreated mental illness results in a negative financial and social impact to police, educators, emergency rooms, and businesses. Cost-effective, proven treatment and services exist that not only support recovery for people living with mental illness but also ensure the health of America’s communities and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the real recovery from mental illness requires community action, understanding and teamwork. Recovery is possible because of improved science, better community supports, and reduced stigma, but significant barriers still remain; and

**WHEREAS**, COMCARE of Sedgwick County is dedicated to continue to provide community

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education, treatment, support and advocacy for individuals and families affected by serious brain disorders and the fight against stigma.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chair of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 1-7, 2006 to be:

**‘MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK’**

in Sedgwick County and ask all Sedgwick County citizens, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate, accessible services for all people with mental illness.

Commissioners, that’s the proclamation. What is your will?”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “And we have someone here to accept the proclamation.”

**Mr. Tom Pletcher**, Clinical Director, Comprehensive Community Care (COMCARE) greeted the Commissioners and said, “On behalf of all members of the community that struggle through their lives dealing with mental illness, I want to express my appreciation for your support to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible care.

Mental illness can disrupt a person’s thinking, their feelings and their ability to relate to others.

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Treatments that support a person's recovery can be very effective in reducing these symptoms and resulting in an improved quality of life. Without treatment, consequences of mental illness can be very staggering.

People are well familiar with the connection of the Gold Gate Bridge and what that has with suicide, though few know that there are a number of people who have taken that plunge out of desperation, but have survived that fall. The reason I mention this is that, to a person, those people who survived have stated that they realized as soon as they let go that they wanted to live and that the jump was a mistake.

Treatment can help a person avoid such an act of desperation. We want to be sure that everyone that experiences mental illness has the support that they need to overcome their illness and to lead productive and healthy lives.

### **POWERPOINT SLIDE**

As part of increased awareness this week, COMCARE has placed the sign that you see before you on eight city buses for the month of October. Other community agencies have also scheduled events this week to highlight mental illness awareness. For example, the candlelight ceremony this past Sunday conducted by NAMI Wichita. We encourage everyone experiencing signs of mental illness to contact a provider for assistance, so again I want to thank you for your support in this."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. We have a question or a comment. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think between the proclamation and your comments Tom, that there's not much more really to be said, but I do think that awareness leads to understanding and understanding leads to treatment and all that leads to a reduction in the stigma associated with mental health and that all makes us a better society and a better community if we're able to be understanding and supporting of those folks who have this illness, so appreciate your involvement in that. I appreciate Sedgwick County's effort in the area of mental health. Thank you. That's all I had."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, I just came from a homeless task force, where we're meeting to try to solve the chronic homeless issue in our community and more and more, as you try to understand that issue, you understand that mental health awareness and taking care of mental health problems in our community is going to affect that. And we got off on a pretty powerful discussion about prison reentry and how mental health and drug addiction plays into that. So when you talk about some of the big problems we're trying to solve in our community, a continuum of care for

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people with mental illness is so critically important to solving many other issues. It's not just about mental health, because it gets wrapped around all of these other major issues that we're trying to solve in our community, so I applaud you for the good work you do and it's integral to what we're trying to do to solve some of the other symptomatic problems in our community. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. Thank you very much and continue to do the hard work. Next item please."

### 4. **PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 8 - 14, 2006 AS "FIRE PREVENTION WEEK."**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Commissioners, I have one more proclamation and I'll read it into the record for your consideration. It states:

### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners and the Sedgwick County Fire Department are committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our County; and

**WHEREAS**, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

**WHEREAS**, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has documented through its research that cooking is the leading cause of home fires. One out of three home fires begins in the kitchen- more than any other place in the home.

**WHEREAS**, Sedgwick County's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education. Sedgwick County residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire; and

**WHEREAS**, using proper care when cooking will have a positive effect on the home fire problem. Each cooking fire that is prevented in Sedgwick County is an opportunity to prevent painful injury and costly property damage; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2006 Fire Prevention Week theme, 'Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat' effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Ben Sciortino, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2006 as

**‘FIRE PREVENTION WEEK’**

in Sedgwick County and I urge all the people of Sedgwick County to heed the important safety messages of Fire Prevention Week 2006, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Sedgwick County fire and emergency services.

Commissioners, that is the proclamation. What is your will?”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Mr. Tim Millsbaugh**, Fire Marshal, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman and commissioners, for this proclamation. We do this every year. In the last 12 months, we continue to have fires, we continue to have fire injuries, we continue to have fire deaths. I think Commissioner Winters knew a couple of people that we lost in a fire last December. But we feel that our prevention efforts, which kind of kick off with the Fire Prevention Week coming up, do make a difference. We feel like they do prevent fires and fire injuries and fire deaths, so once again, I’d like to thank you for this proclamation.”

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you, sir. I don't see that there's any further comments or questions, so continued good luck. Thank you. Next item please."

**APPOINTMENTS**

**B. APPOINTMENTS.**

- 1. RESIGNATIONS OF ELDON MILLER AND RICK REKOSKE AS ALTERNATES TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SCKEDD) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**Mr. Rich Euson**, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, I would ask that you accept these two resignations."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to accept the resignations.

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."

- 2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING CHAD PETTERA AND MIKE C. INGERSOLL (BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' APPOINTMENTS) AS ALTERNATES TO THE SCKEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**Mr. Euson** said, "Commissioners, these appointments will fill the vacancies just created. These alternates serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners and I would recommend you adopt the resolution."

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton 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 Burnett	Aye
Chairman Sciortino	Aye

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “And I believe those gentlemen are here to be sworn in by Mr. Brace.”

**Mr. Don Brace**, County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and 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 South Central Kansas Economic Development District, so help me God.”*

**Mr. Chad Pettera and Mike C. Ingersoll**, Alternates, South Central Kansas Economic Development District Board of Directors, said, “I do.”

**Mr. Brace** said, “Congratulations.”

**Mr. Pettera** said, “I would just like to say thank you for the opportunity and we’ll work hard to represent Sedgwick County on this SCKEDD board. Thank you.”

**Mr. Ingersoll** said, “Same from my standpoint. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the county and looking forward to working with SCKEDD. It’s a good organization and am happy to be with them. Thank you.”

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Next item please, Madam Clerk.”

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### RETIREMENT

#### **C. PRESENTATION OF A RETIREMENT CLOCK TO LONNIE E. SMITH, SHERIFF DEPUTY, SHERIFF'S OFFICE.**

**Ms. Jo Templin**, Director, Division of Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This agenda item recognizes and values the contributions of one of our sheriff deputies, Lonnie E. Smith, who retired October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 after 28 years of serving in the Sheriff's Office. Lonnie is joined today by Sheriff Steed and a number of staff from the Sheriff's Office, as well as some family and friends, so we thank them for being here and we just want to congratulate Lonnie and wish him well."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Lonnie, come on up. This is a certificate recognizing your 28 years of invaluable service to the citizens of Sedgwick County and also we have, I believe, a retirement clock. You could do curls with this one, but just a small memento from the citizens of Sedgwick County. It's not much, but it's our way of saying thank you very much for your dedication to public safety and we'd like to have you speak if you have a few words. Tell us what you're going to do, now that you have a lot of free time."

**Mr. Lonnie E. Smith**, Deputy, Sheriff's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Well it kind of . . . it hasn't sunk in yet, because I keep getting up at 6:00 in the morning. I appreciate the chance to work for you all. It's been a good job. Thank you."

**Chair Pro Tem Burtnett** said, "Madam Clerk, would you call the next item please."

### CITIZEN INQUIRY

#### **D. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING "A CHALLENGE TO DO WHAT IS JUST AND HONORABLE WHEN THE PRICE IS SO HIGH TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT."**

**King David Davis**, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before I start my presentation, I would like to make a special acknowledgement in appreciation to our assistant county manager, Mr. Ron Holt for stepping up to the plate in his effort to help steady the course for Cowtown. We know this ride is not over. Once again, we say thank you."

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Greetings commissioners. I come to you today with much respect, humbleness of heart and gratitude. The opportunity to stand before those who sit in the seat of highest vested authority, positions of honor, wisdom, nobility and power who are entrusted with the common wealth and wellbeing of all of Sedgwick County. It is an honor that leaves me speechless, well kind of, sort of.

My name is King David Davis, a name given to me by my mother, a burden of honor for which I have no escape and a pair of oversized shoes for which my feet will never fit. Today I have come to you with a challenge. A challenge that I would like to equally extend to all the good and the honorable of Sedgwick County, law enforcement and government and most especially our citizens here in Wichita, Kansas. There is a saying 'Evil abounds when good men do nothing'. We live in a community where our citizens are conditions if you want to advance, be on the inside and not suffer penalties, you don't rock the boat, the you don't make waves, you use lots of lipstick, nose polish and always keep a short skirt close by.

A leadership standard that has weakened our community, undermined our leadership capabilities and made us vulnerable to the destructive and violent ways of the arrogant, ignorant, indifferent and the greedy, both from within our own circles and without, like vultures hovering about, waiting for the locals to do their dirty work, so they too can partake of the ill-gotten gains. Like I said, evil abounds when good men do nothing. I would like to challenge all of our citizens to stand up and speak out and make their presence felt in such a way there would be no doubt as to how serious they are. In fact, I call upon the true spirit of Kansas, the kind that goes down in the history book when push comes to shove. Men, women and children coming together in the spirit of honor and valor, stepping up to the plate and revealing to the world and local culprits just what kind of people we really are, while those citizens, organizations and institutions who would betray our most sacred trust, exploit the people's wealth for personal gain, turn the people's power against their own citizens, subverting lawful functions of government for the purpose of orchestrated theft, extortion and ill-gotten gains.

I would say to the good and the honorable if we in the community are wanting to get back on the path of economic recovery, restoration of honor, political respectability, healing of the wounds of injustice, it is time for the good and the honorable to send a message to those who exploit the weak, the innocent and the vulnerable for the benefit of the few. Like I said, evil abounds when good people do nothing. It is time to rock the boats of the arrogant and the greedy, make waves so high, the world can see and if they can't swim, throw them a rock. Look them square in the eye and let them know we ain't hiding behind no tree, no wall, no badge, no pretty face. I have been to the Emerald City. I have seen the Wizard of Oz. They are cowards who hide behind concrete walls, who send out the weak, the ignorant and the innocent to do their dirty work.

In the City of Wichita, government leadership has lost its honor and good standing with its citizens

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and it has becoming evident to all they have become desperate, greedy and violent. We, the good and the honorable, understand that you are sometimes stuck between a rock and a hard place. We ask for you to do what you can whenever you can and we will be grateful. During the meantime, the battle we fight is not one to be won by one man, but rather all of us doing what is right, just and honorable a little bit at a time, together, trusting that the God of our nation, truth and the principle of honorable justice will make up the difference when we have done all we can do. Let's let the history books speak well of this day, when the seed of honor was planted in the ocean of Sedgwick County, when it came to the good and the honorable answering the call, it was said they cowboyed out and the arrogant was last seen running for the hills. Evil that once abounded was now no longer to be found and the little guy was much bigger than he first realized. May our future be in God's hands, as we all together take a stand in this great land called Kansas. Thank you."

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **E. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A REQUEST BY CHARLES ENGINEERING, INC. FOR AN AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 11, SECTION 13 OF THE KANSAS CONSTITUTION, AND RESOLUTION PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF.**

**Mr. Sherdeill Breathett Sr.**, Economic Developer, Division of Community Development, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Charles Engineering Incorporated is a manufacturing facility that's located here in our county at 10400 South 119<sup>th</sup> Street West, in Clearwater, Kansas. This company was founded in 1984 and is a major manufacturer of contour roll formed sections for the aerospace industry. Charles Engineering Incorporated currently serves most major aerospace manufacturers and subcontractors, both domestic and foreign.

The company has long-term contracts with major suppliers such as Boeing Wichita. In 2005, this company expanded its facility with the addition to its physical plant of approximately 10,000 square feet as well as state of the art equipment and processes. As a result of this expansion, the company will add twelve new employees over the next four years. Cost benefit analysis has been performed. The benefit/ cost ratio is a positive. It does show that the benefits of granting this exemption outweigh the cost. I would ask that concluding the public hearing that the commission would consider and sign the resolution. If there's any questions, we do have James Charles, as well as Mr. Ed Dunn is his representative, who is here with us as well."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "How long is the exemption for?"

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**Mr. Breathett** said, "It's going to be a ten-year, five-year on a declining processing basis."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I'm confused. Ten-year, five-year, what do you mean?"

**Mr. Breathett** said, "Well, you have your real estate and then you also have the personal property that is included in the exemption."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay, so it's ten years for personal . . . for property taxes and then five years . . .?"

**Mr. Breathett** said, "For the real estate."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Would you explain that to me Mr. Euson?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "Commissioners, I believe the resolution states that it's ten years for the real property, five years for personal."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you very much. Commissioners, any questions or comments? If not, I'll open the public hearing and ask if there's anyone here in the audience that would like to speak against this item? Seeing none, is there anyone in the audience would like to speak for this item? Okay, seeing none, I'll close the public hearing and limit the comments to the bench. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Sherdeill, you did state our policy is that there is a formula that we go through to look at the cost/ benefit ratio of any of these exemptions and this application process, the exemption being given here have gone through that equation formula."

**Mr. Breathett** said, "Yes it has, yes sir."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "And the result of that was that there is a positive and that the benefits of this new expansion will outweigh the costs of the exemptions, is that correct?"

**Mr. Breathett** said, "That is correct."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "And it's your recommendation and staff's recommendation that we proceed."

**Mr. Breathett** said, "That is correct."

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**Commissioner Winters** said, “Well Mr. Chairman, I’m certainly going to be supportive of this request for an exemption. James Charles has been in business for over 23 years and he’s one of the people that I like to think can take advantage of some of the things that we continually think about our largest industries taking advantage of, and we all know that small business is a central part of the manufacturing base of this community that creates jobs. So from what I can see, this is well worth it and it’s an opportunity for us to work with . . . again, I don’t like to refer to anybody as a small business, because if you work 50, 60 hours a week that’s a pretty large commitment, that’s for sure, but this is one of the smaller businesses in our community that’s able to take advantage of this, so I encourage you all to be supportive. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well, as we worked through the GWEDC, and we put together the formula, I think most people think that that was put together for very large businesses in the industrial core of Wichita and here’s a great small business that’s kind of out in the rural area, close to Clearwater, that serves the south side of the community but works in the aerospace industry and I think it’s a good partnership. And it tells the message that we’re looking for economic development kinds of things to happen wall to wall in Sedgwick County, not in just a certain industrial core or where there’s big business, but that we’re trying to incubate small businesses, because I would imagine every very, very large business at one time was a small business and that’s how they got to be a bigger business is doing well at their product delivery and their service, but also finding the ways to find capital and growth in their organization. And I think we need to be helpful and be incubators of that and I’m going to be very supportive. That’s all I have, Mr. Chair.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you. Well I also am going to support this item. Charles Engineering is an integral part of the overall economic backbone of our entire state and that’s the aviation industry. And I could argue that without companies like Charles Engineering the aviation industry would not be able to succeed because they need subcontractors, they need the equipment and the services that companies like Charles Engineering provide and their employees make up the over 142,000 aviation people that get their income directly or indirectly from their industry and whatever we can do to encourage this, to hopefully get them into a business environment where they’re going to expand will guarantee the economic stability of our entire area and I could argue the entire state for the next 25 or 30 years, so I’m glad that the formulas that we have developed work for all sides of the business, not just the really large businesses, and I think that finger means you want to say something too.”

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**Mr. Breathett** said, "Well I just want to say that this organization is doing an outstanding job and with regards to the criteria of establishing or creating more jobs, they're more than 50% past that point at this time, so that's a good thing."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Now the exemption is only . . . or surely go to the expansion that they're doing."

**Mr. Breathett** said, "That's correct."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And I think that's important for the public to hear. This company isn't getting a free ride on their taxes. It's only we're saying that we want to encourage them to expand and we'll give them some relief on their taxes for the expansion that they're willing to commit and it's their dollar that they're putting into it and anything we can do to help Clearwater, because my son and daughter-in-law just bought a home there and all for Clearwater. Okay, Commissioner Unruh, you had something you wished to say."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "How many employees presently are employed there?"

**Mr. Breathett** said, "Right at 25 with Mr. Charles."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Okay."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Oh, that's going to be almost double, I mean 50% increase."

**Mr. Breathett** said, "Well they've already . . . they started out with like 19, commissioner, and they're currently at the 25-26 range. Mr. Charles could speak to that as well, if you'd like for him to and they've already begun that hiring process and of course they'll reach that goal here very soon."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "A leap of faith, they started doing that before they even knew if we would join them as a partner. That says a lot. Is that all?"

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "No. Well, I just wanted to make a couple of comments. I'm going to be very supportive, but from the backup material we have, it shows that it has a positive benefit to cost ratio for every level of government that's involved in this, so it's not just that we're looking at our government, but all government will have a positive benefit ratio so that's good. The other thing is one of the things that Commissioner Winters mentioned, is that many of the small businesses in our community thinks that it's only large businesses that have the opportunity to take advantage of some of these supports for economic development, so I think this is a good example of a smaller company that's using the system to expand and to the benefit of everybody in Sedgwick

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County, so be very supportive and appreciate you all's work. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

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

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "And I just need some clarification. The new legislation on machinery and equipment exemptions doesn't apply here because the equipment was bought prior to that, correct?"

**Mr. Breathett** said, "That is correct."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "And that's why we're doing this?"

**Mr. Breathett** said, "That is correct."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Okay, and I'm very supportive of this too. But I just wanted to make sure that was there. Thank you."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. I don't see that there's any further comments, so commissioners, what's you will on this item?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolution.

Chairman Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you very much and continued good success, gentlemen. Next item."

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**F. UPDATE ON ADVANCED VOTING OPTIONS AND ELECTION DAY VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER 2006 GENERAL ELECTION.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Bill Gale**, Election Commissioner, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm glad to be with you today and kind of give you a bit of an update on the preparations, as we are less than five weeks away now from the November 7<sup>th</sup> general election. And first off, just to kind of touch a little bit quickly on the primary. We did see a lower than normal turnout in the primary election, not only here in Sedgwick County but actually throughout the whole state and even sounds like it's pretty much been nationwide low voter turnout this primary season.

But some highlights for us, looking at numbers, as you look at numbers of the five largest counties in the state, we actually had the second highest overall turnout, percentage-wise, for those five counties, and the highest percentage of those that turned out to vote in advance in the state, so that's pretty good, especially comparing and oftentimes we compare ourselves to Johnson County and how they're doing in Johnson County has done really well over the years with their advanced voting program, so it's really good to see that we even had a higher percentage of advanced voters this year in the primary than they did."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Bill, do you attribute that because you went from two locations for advanced balloting to 15? Do you think that was the main reason?"

**Mr. Gale** said, "I think that was part of it, definitely. A lot more took advantage of the advanced by mail, as well. We had a lot of good thanks to a number of partners we'll talk about a little bit more later, that helped to let people know, more people aware of the advanced voting options.

Looking at voter experience improvements that we're working on making from the primary's count, after every election we always receive lots of good feedback and input from how things went or didn't go and we always try to incorporate that for the next time, to improve things, and one, I'd say the main concern that we heard out of the primary was the privacy issue. When voters went in and casted their vote, especially on the new voting machines, the issue of privacy and concern about people walking behind or being able to . . . or close, next to them, and so we've been working to address that. We've purchased materials that we will have board workers attach to each machine that provide additional screening for each voter, as well as we're working on improving site layout for each polling place, and encouraging board workers to make sure there's sufficient spacing between voting machines, distance between each and, as much as possible, have them backed

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against a wall to cut down on others walking or standing behind voters as they cast their vote.

Poll worker training, this is always . . . we'll have additional training sessions before the general, as we did before the primary. We've continued this year to have smaller class sizes, longer training sessions and we'll do all we can, on this upcoming session, to emphasize training on issues we heard concerns about in the primary and also, thanks to help from a number of other county staff, we're going to try to increase the amount of hands-on training with the new voting equipment and provisional ballots and others for the board workers.

Site issues, we for instance, there were a couple of locations that we heard concerns about the size of the area, the amount of space available for the voting area. For example, in Valley Center we've actually had to switch polling locations there from the public safety building to the Methodist church in Valley Center where we'll be using the gymnasium, so we'll have actually the gymnasium there which will provide plenty more space, as well as a great deal more parking as well. Evergreen Recreation Center, we had concerns about the size of the room that we were voting in in the primary and that was a function of the number of activities going on, summer activities going on at the rec center. But in working with the city's park department, we've been able to . . . it will be set up in the gymnasium there at Evergreen in the general election, so we'll have plenty of space available there.

We've continued to try to provide voting equipment demonstrations for voters, as they're becoming familiar with the new voting machines and the new voting equipment and we've got a new how-to video on the Election's homepage, on the webpage, working on this week actually on additional video in assisting disabled voters and how they would operate the new voting machines.

Another advantage I think, thanks you your alls approval of the Optical Scan Ballot Readers, we're able to have paper ballots more readily, that option more readily available to all voters, so if they're uncomfortable trying to learn the new voting machines, they don't have to. They can cast their vote on a paper ballot and if that's easier or preferable to them.

Just want to reiterate again the multiple ways that individuals can cast their vote: they can vote advanced or early by mail, advanced in person, or finally also in their precinct polling place on Election Day. Advanced voting by mail, as I said, we saw a great increase in that in the primary as well, and we're seeing the same for the upcoming election. We've already received thousands of applications for advanced ballots by mail and we'll . . . and those are available at not only the Election Office, but at area Dillons stores, as well as on the county website and we'll start mailing those ballots out on October 18<sup>th</sup>, so two weeks from today and already, today we have . . . we know

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of over 10,000 that we'll be mailing out that day and we're getting in more each day, so again, more and more people taking advantage of that, which is perhaps probably the most convenient way to vote, where we'll mail the ballot actually right to you.

Deadline . . . and we'll continue mailing those out through November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Friday before the election day, and so applications . . . we'll take those from now through November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and those ballots just need to be turned in, either mailed back to personally delivered to the Election Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman, you mentioned the increase we had in the number of locations for advanced voting in person. We pretty much have the same number again in the general as we did in the primary, with a total of actually 17 locations being used."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Now Bill, is that an increase, because I thought it was 15 in the primary?"

**Mr. Gale** said, "We added one, we're kind of having a tag team approach between the machinist building in southwest Wichita will be open part of the time and then the last couple of days at the Haysville Activity Center will be the additional, 16<sup>th</sup> location that we'll have available."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "But the machinist location will stay the same? I mean, it won't move to Haysville?"

**Mr. Gale** said, "Well, actually it will. The week before election day, the machinist building wasn't available every day, so when it . . . so it will be open for three days and then we'll actually move those people working at that location for the last two days to Haysville, at the activity center.

Some of the benefits of these sites, one, the hopefully convenient locations and hours, the additional hours those are open and available, including the Saturday before election day, which is a very popular day for people. And the benefit that any voter in the county can vote at any of these sites. You don't have to vote at the one closest to where you live, for instance."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Bill, what are going to be the hours?"

**Mr. Gale** said, "Good question, and that's the next slide."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I'm very good at always asking a question right before the next slide, yeah."

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**Mr. Gale** said, “This slide shows the hours of the in-person, advanced voting at the Election Office, across the street in the Historic Courthouse, starting on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> we’ll have voting going on in person and I’ll right there jump in and mention that the deadline for voter registration for the November election is Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> so just under three weeks yet people have time to register to vote, or re-register if they’ve moved and need to update their information, so still plenty of time to get that done.

And so again, here’s the hours that the Election Office in-person voting, all the way through the Monday morning the day before Election Day and then the next slide shows the hours available at those other advance voting locations throughout the county. We’ll be starting, we’ll have expanded hours beyond what we had in the primary, we’ll actually start on the Tuesday a week before Election Day, as you see, and then running through that Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and here’s the hours listed for each day there.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay Bill, and once again, when is the first day that a person can go to one of these . . . when is the first day that will be open?”

**Mr. Gale** said, “These satellite locations, the first day will be Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

And then the next slide shows the list of those locations, and as you see, we did change, as I mentioned, the polling place in Valley Center. It’s not only an Election Day polling place, but one of the early voting sites and it’s not open on . . . available on that first Tuesday, but the rest of the days it will be. The southwest Wichita and Haysville, as I mentioned, the machinists building will be open October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup> and then we’ll be at the Haysville Activity Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of November. And then the rest of the locations listed above, those will be open the full five days of early voting.

And then next slide shows a map of these locations and you get a good feel for the . . . we tried to spread them out as much as we can and make them convenient and available for folks.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Now Bill, I don’t see one for Mulvane. Is there not an advanced balloting place in Mulvane? Do they have to drive to Derby? Is that their closest one?”

**Mr. Gale** said, “That’s right. The closest one for Mulvane would be the one in Derby, just right off of K-15 there, so we do have a number of voters from Mulvane. Since we’ve been having locations in Derby, the number of voters from Mulvane do come in and vote at the Derby locations.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay, but now on November 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a location in Mulvane that they can vote. It’s just for the advanced balloting that they . . .”

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**Mr. Gale** said, "That's right. And the final option, voting at your polling place on Election Day, again many places have changed, so we'll continue to try to make sure people are aware of that. We've mailed out the voter cards to all voters earlier this spring, and we continue to mail out ones, as people register, and re-register and we update addresses, so we've mailed out thousands more since we did that initial mailing. Also, voters can go, they can go to our webpage, access Voter View, which is provided by the Secretary of State's Office, to look up their polling place, either based off their name or their address, or they could always give us a call at the Election Office, and again we've got great help with the call center, that makes many people available to take their calls."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Bill, another question, where it says 'Many polling places have changed', the polling places for the general are the same as the polling places for the primary. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Gale** said, "Right, with the exception of with Valley Center, they are the same. We tried to keep that consistent, as much as possible, for people and not continue to change on them, yet this year.

And finally, getting the word out and again every election we have great assistance from the media that helps make people aware that one, that there is an election coming and two, the options for advanced voting and other information that we try to get out to voter. Advanced voting flyers and maps, we have those printed again, with the locations and hours and the map of those locations. We're distributing them throughout Sedgwick County, thanks to other cities in the county help and to libraries, senior centers, etcetera, Dillons stores again a great partner in providing those, making those available at each of their area Dillons stores. And you see, some of the other avenues we're continuing to use, to help get the word out about the upcoming election.

The last item there, you see public service announcement, we've prepared one in the primary and have updated it for the general. If you don't mind, we'll go ahead and just run that real quick, since it's a short, 30-second spot.

*Video clip of election advertisement shown.*

All right, and we had great assistance from the League of Women Voters and Sedgwick County Voters' Coalition in the primary helping distribute the public service announcement before the primary election to the different TV stations and we're going to be asking to see if they would be willing to help us out again, before November, in helping get that spread around.

And again, thanks to the Voter Coalition for their help, not only in distributing the public service

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announcement, getting the word out about the election and advanced voting options, but also they did . . . I think you all were provided with the report, they were out at a number of our polling places and provided a report with feedback and suggestions coming from the primary election, and we've tried to implement as many of those suggestions as we can for the general. Again, Dillons stores has been a great partner as well as the cities throughout the county and all our media partners as well.

And again finally, you know voters who still have questions, are not sure, are wanting an advanced ballot or wanting to know where their polling place is, they're always free to call the Election Office at 660-7100 or to visit our webpage, the county's webpage and we try to get as much information as we can on there. And that's it for my update. Are there any additional questions?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I believe we have some questions or comments? Commissioner Burtnett."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Okay, I do have a couple. Most of this information that you've given us today is on the website, is that correct?"

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

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Well I did get on and look at that short video that you have to shows how to use the machines, and it's really great. The only . . . just like this commercial that we saw, it just went so fast, it seems like people are talking really fast, it's kind of hard to get all the information. I noticed, when I got onto the website, that's like a 20-second maybe clip, or is it 30?"

**Mr. Gale** said, "It's about a two minute . . . about a minute and a half or two minutes."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Is it that long? Well, you get a lot of information on it, but it seems to go really quick, and I noticed that you even had a . . . I think you were on the video, showing how to do a write-in, or something, I think I remember."

**Mr. Gale** said, "I think I had somebody else fill in, but yeah, we did . . . we showed even on how to cast write-in votes."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Yeah, it was very nice. One of the issues I had, during the primary, and I visited with you briefly on this and I never got to get back with you, is there's only like four days between the deadline for the application for an advanced ballot . . . between the time they can get their ballot back. Did you have a lot of ballots come in late, because maybe they got their

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application, and when they only had four days, with the mail, it seems like that's an awfully short amount of time that they can get it back."

**Mr. Gale** said, "It is. That is a short time and . . . but that's what we're required to take them, so we do what is our best on that Friday, to get them right back in the mail that same day, so they have time to get it, and voting back. But we are taking applications now, so always the sooner, the better."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "And I understand that, but people I know procrastinate. At the primary, did you have a lot of ballots come back after the deadline?"

**Mr. Gale** said, "We had a number that we presented to the board at canvass. I can't remem . . . I don't know the specific number, but there . . . and we always have a number, each election time, unfortunately that come back late. If folks aren't able to get it back in time, they still can show up on Election Day and cast a vote as well."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Okay."

**Mr. Gale** said, "And we had done that in the past too. They got their ballot and it was just too late and they didn't think they could get it back in time, and so they went ahead and showed up at their polling place on election day."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Okay, that was the only questions I had. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well first of all, Bill, thanks for including Haysville. That was an issue I had early in the primary, because Haysville wasn't included with an advanced site. It's not a full time advanced site, but that will give us a chance to see if it's used and if it makes sense to have one next set of elections down in Haysville completely, so I thank you for that.

Can you go back to the first slide? Maybe the second one, that has the numbers from the different counties. I guess I strikes me as a statement that Johnson County and Sedgwick County are within four or five thousand people population-wise as the same, yet we have 100,000 less voters registered. And that should tell a story to our community, that maybe . . . now, of those that are registered, we had a better voter turnout, but there's probably a huge gap in the number of people that could actually register to vote and then vote. And I guess I would urge people to get engaged

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and register and then apply that registration on the day of the election. Now maybe I'm reading the numbers wrong, but I sure looks like 229 registered voters and our population base of the two counties is almost exactly the same."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, even more than that commissioner, is the dismal percentage of people that register that even make a effort to vote. I don't know what it takes to engage the public to get them involved in government, because if you don't vote, I can tell you, a politician isn't going to really be listening much to you, because you can't hurt us and you can't help us. So why should we listen to someone that doesn't even bother to register or doesn't vote, but I'll guarantee you, politicians pay attention to people that vote because you can hurt us or help us, depending on what your feelings are. So please make the effort to register to vote and then examine the issues and vote for the candidate that you feel best represents your views and your ideas, but make the effort.

It's very . . . when I saw pictures of people in Iraq and Afghanistan lined up five or six blocks long, with threats of actual physically being killed if they made the effort, especially the women who were given the chance to vote and they were holding up their purple thumb or finger with pride and then here it's so simple and easy to vote by comparison, and we get as low as 12% of the registered voters in Douglas County made the effort, or even here in Sedgwick County, 16%. Get involved in government. You may be amazed at the change you can make. Thank you. That's the end of my statement. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the remarks you just made about encouraging voters to get out and vote. It is extremely important. However, I have a little bit different perspective on responding to the constituents in my district. I would say that whoever is in my district, I want to listen to them, and I'm sure you do too Mr. Chairman, but I just want to make sure that . . . and I don't want to get into a debate about it, but whoever is in my district, I'm going to listen to and I would encourage people to vote and I would say that many people are not voting, not because they are apathetic but because they made a deliberate decision because they don't think it makes any different. And so the way for me to personally address that is to let them know that it does make a difference and government is responsive. So just a little bit different perspective and I just wanted to put my two cents worth in. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

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**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay. Bill, I don’t see any further questions or comments. I applaud you on the efforts that you’re making and once again, I just want to encourage everyone, please make the effort to register to vote and then please vote. I think government would be a lot better if more people would get engaged in this process. It’s a freedom that we have and I think it’s really an obligation that the citizens have to make an effort to vote and get involved in government. Thank you very much, Bill.”

**Mr. Gale** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Real quick, Commissioner Norton, we looked at those numbers too and I read it pretty much the same way you did and we, just real quickly, this past year tried to increase our efforts on voter registration and we had great help through the schools trying to do that and we even tried to target the areas where we saw the greatest number of those eligible to register but not registered, and so hopefully we’re continuing to try to work, at least give people the opportunity.

And then finally, I just want to thank the commissioners again, and the county manager for all your assistance and help in providing support from throughout the county’s organization and for the Election Office in helping us this year in conducting the elections. Thank you.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Okay. And Bill, I think we have one other comment from Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well, it’s not a comment. If you done some demographic work or are knowledgeable about where the pockets are of people that are under-registered, I’d be interested in knowing that. I mean, if there are pockets in my district where there are people that are disengaged and maybe don’t register for whatever reason, I’d be interested in knowing that, because maybe that’s a place that we haven’t paid attention to or helped people get engaged. There a lot of reasons why people don’t get engaged, and I think part of our obligation is to work with constituents that don’t either understand government or understand their responsibility or somehow have gotten disenfranchised from the whole process, and I think it’s part of our responsibility to understand that. So if you give me some of those numbers or pockets and the demographics, I’d be interested in looking at it.”

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**Mr. Gale** said, "Sure, I'd be glad."

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "And also, Kristi, if you're within earshot, if we could get a handout of this information that Bill has just presented us, I think that would be helpful too. Bill, thank you very much and if there's anything that you see that Sedgwick County can assist you, and just contact Mr. Buchanan and we'll do everything we can within our power to help you. Thank you. Commissioners, I'd entertain a motion to receive and file this report."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to receive and file.

Chairman 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. Next item please."

**Chairman Sciortino left the meeting room at 10:16 a.m.**

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY- DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**G. APPLICATION TO KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 UNEXPENDED FUNDS.**

**Mr. Mark Masterson**, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The State Department of Corrections has announced a grant funding opportunity for community corrections agencies to request fiscal year 2006 unexpended grant funds for use this year through June, 2007. We've prepared an application for \$272,489 for your approval to submit to the state.

Our application includes a menu of items. We don't yet know the amount of available funds,

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because they moved this application process up earlier and that's still being determined and hasn't come out yet, but we do know priority one for us is critical and that's supplemental funding for the adult intensive supervision program to cover our operating costs.

The state grant award has not kept pace with the growth in costs, and the number of clients we're assigned in Sedgwick County to supervise by the district courts. We're asking for \$106,888 to make up this shortfall.

Priority two seeks more of what we need beyond that, which is three additional officers to help address the growth in our caseload sizes, which has now reached above 40 per officer and in our intensive supervision program. Down about 33 is a manageable caseload, so we're asking for that for \$88,448 to pay for three officers for the first six months of calendar year 2007. We do that with the expectation that in the funding formula we will receive additional dollars because of our growth in clients to continue those positions from July through the following June. So if the State Department of Corrections is so inclined, we can get started with reducing the caseloads early, if they have the funds to do that, but we do anticipate additional dollars in July to address this.

Priority three, we are asking for \$77,153 to help us pay for six months of the costs for our mortgage payment at the Adult Residential Center. That in turn will free up clients revenues . . . client reimbursements that we can use to support operating costs. The Corrections Advisory Board reviewed this application and approved it and recommends that you do the same. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

**Chair Pro Tem Burtnett** said, "Commissioners, are there any questions? Yes we do. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you. Mark, refresh my memory or help me understand a little better, the money that we're getting, do we plan on that in advance of receiving it? I mean, is it part of our budget considerations? I mean, my question is, if we don't get it, this unexpended funds, does that really impair our ability to deliver service, or have we already planned for this?"

**Mr. Masterson** said, "This is the final piece that we need to know to know if we need to make staffing reductions in the first part of calendar year 2007, to be within the budget. We've projected all of our client revenues and the grant award. We typically get about \$100,000 a year from unexpended funds and once we know the answer to this question, I'll be able to make the adjustments and they will be painful adjustments if we don't get, prior one."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. I mean, I just . . . that answers my question. I just want to know is this part of our planning for the funding of our program, or is this a bonus, and this has been part of our planning. Okay, thank you. That's all I had, Madam Chair."

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**Chair Pro Tem Burtnett** said, "Okay. Are there any other questions?"

**MOTION**

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

Chairman 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	Absent

**Chair Pro Tem Burtnett** said, "Next item please."

**Chairman Sciortino returned to the meeting room at 10:20 a.m.**

**DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE**

**H. CONTRACT WITH BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY TO PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT PAYEE SERVICES.**

**Mr. Pletcher** said, "Before you is a renewal of an agreement with Breakthrough Club to provide banking and payee services for the residents of the Transitional Housing program. We've had an agreement with them in the past and this is essentially continuing that same agreement. There was a slight change in terms of previously this had been awarded to them on a grant basis. We have moved that to a fee for service basis for this contract period. It is a two-year contract to coincide with the HUD funding schedule and receipt of those funds. We'd recommend that you approve this agreement and I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Commissioners, any questions or comments? If not, what is your will on this item?"

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**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**I. DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS.**

**1. ADJUSTMENT TO THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS STAFFING TABLE TO INCLUDE TWO APPLICATION MANAGER POSITIONS, B325**

**Mr. Richard Vogt**, Chief Information Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, as you know, the Emergency Communications Department will soon be moving into the new Public Safety Building and in that building they will be using a large number of new technologies. There will be a new computer-aided dispatch software system, there will be data bases, report writers, mapping, automated vehicle locator hooks. There will be a new radio system, new telephone system, new paging, recording systems, fire station alerting system, video wall, a large number of PCs and significant increase in the number of servers. In the future, there will be probably intelligent transportation system technologies moving in there as well.

At this point, you're probably wondering why the IT director is talking to you about emergency

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communications. Well, what happened is that while Emergency Communications did a perfectly capable job of supporting our technology for the last 20 years, they recently came to us and said we want to get out of that business, we've kind of reach that threshold, we want to the IT department to come in and to support the . . . we need IT professionals to come in and support our technology so we can concentrate on our core mission.

We worked with Legal, we noticed some complexities there, we worked Legal, we worked with Finance to come up with a solution that we can make this happen and a solution that will work is to have Emergency Communications pay us an annual maintenance fee, in exchange for which we will provide them a 24 by 7 support for all their technologies.

The problem for us is we do not have the resources, the staffing at this point to do that. That's why I'm before you today to ask for the addition of two application managers, for which Emergency Communications will pay us an annual fee to support. There's also of course project management services, networking services, customer support services that go along with that, but that's the issue. We have . . . it's part of our larger strategy, if I could just take a second.

Part of our larger strategy, we kind of shifted directions here recently. For a long time, we've been getting out of the mainframe business and been getting out of write your own code software business, getting more into what we call application management. And when Emergency Communications came to us and said 'we want you to support our technologies' we could tell them 'we can do this' because we're already heading that direction.

This year, in the process of realigning our technologies, we were able to reduce, for the coming year, reduce a number of positions, even with these two additional staff, we will be reducing the number of positions in the IT department by about four and a half positions and a consequent savings of about a quarter of a million dollars. So even though it kind of looks like we're growing, we're actually shrinking and we're just realigning and redirecting our energies to those places where our customers are taking us. I'm available for any questions you might have."

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

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. Richard, I see in the backup information, one of the alternatives would be to outsource the maintenance and repair that the Emergency Communications system would need, and according to your analysis, that would just be much more expensive because of the 24/7 requirements of service, because this is a vital link. Am I looking at that right? If we went to an outside supplier, we'd probably be looking at a lot more money."

**Mr. Vogt** said, "That's correct. We've had some limited experience with outsource. We outsource hardware support a few years ago and even that 8 by 5 support was at a higher rate than now, what

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we're proposing here at the figure we're proposing, so yes it's going to be more expensive to go out. You're going to find that very few vendors will want to train staff very specifically to this one goal. There's not a lot of 9-1-1 systems around that they can leverage that technology or that expertise outward, so it's a good fit for the IT Department."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you very much. That's the only thing I had."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Rich, is there going to be more training involved in this application management, when you start looking at open source, you know, networking and all of that. Is that going to take us to that next level of being able to understand the new IT industry that's out there?"

**Mr. Vogt** said, "Yeah, absolutely. You know, it's a much more service providing model that it used to be. We used to hide the programmers in the corner and you know, you'd throw them a bone every once in a while and they'd write you a program. Well now it's understanding what the business process is, it has been for quite a while, but it's increasingly understanding the business processes and how the technology, the changing technologies can meet those business processes. We expect our application managers to be just as well versed in the business process as they are in the technology. And we expect them to continue to stay up on technology, so that they can say 'okay, this is changing over here', this is like you said the open source. This is a better way to go now, and to make those recommendations to the customers and say 'this is the way you should go and we can take you there'."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "How much of the applications are proprietary? Most of them."

**Mr. Vogt** said, "Yes, all of them."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Are they?"

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**Mr. Vogt** said, “Yep, and the vendor support is very expensive for that. Again, you’re going from an older mini-computer that they have now, to a number of systems, a number of servers that we’re very familiar in working with and it’s just a paradigm shift for the Emergency Communications Department.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “That’s all I have, Mr. Chair.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you. There’s no further questions. Commissioners, what’s your will on this item please?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the adjustment to the Division of Information and Operations Staffing Table.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS- HEALTH DEPT.**

**2. RESOLUTION ADOPTING A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

**Ms. Claudia Blackburn**, Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The agenda item before you addresses two issues. It updates the 2003 fee schedule for Health

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Department services and it also authorizes the Health Director to adjust prices within certain limits.

A new fee structure is being proposed, based on a nationally standardized pricing process called the Resource Based Relative Value Scale system, the RVRVS and lab, pharmaceuticals and vaccines are not included in the system, but we're using other criteria that are also nationally recommended to calculate the cost of those services.

And these changes mean an increase for some services and costs and a decrease for others. It will allow us to bill Medicaid and insurance the maximum reimbursement and at the same time, our sliding fee scale will allow patients to pay what they can, based on their family size and resources and nobody is turned away for inability to pay. That is our policy. We consider this to be a revenue-neutral items and the increases and the decreases pretty much balance each other out.

The second part of this resolution allows the health director to adjust fees to maintain compliance with federal and state laws and also with contracts that we have. It allows an adjustment based on fluctuating vaccine prices. It also allows the health director to change prices if there's a public health threat and we need to quickly immunize or treat or screen people, I would be able to change the prices to respond to that. Other than that, all new fees, all new services will still come to you routinely. And I can tell you on the horizon is Rota virus, hopefully a virus for Shingles. We bring those to you individually for you to approve.

And once a year, around this time, I will bring an update to you of all of the changes that have been made to the fee schedule during the year. At this time, I recommend approval of this resolution and I'm happy to answer any questions."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you. I don't see that there's any questions. Commissioners, what's your will on this item please?"

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the Resolution 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

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

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

- 3. CHARTER RESOLUTION AMENDING CHARTER RESOLUTION NO. 54 AND EXEMPTING SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF K.S.A. 65-201, ET SEQ., RELATING TO JOINT LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH AND TO APPOINTMENT OF THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER; PROVIDING SUBSTITUTE AND ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO; AND REPEALING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHARTER RESOLUTION NO. 54 OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS.**

**Ms. Blackburn** said, "The resolution before you is a charter resolution to create a local health officer pro tem, which is basically a health officer that can back up the current local health officer, who is Doren Frederickson, if he is incapacitated or unavailable and this pertains mainly to emergency situations.

This resolution will also create a local declaration or law per se that relieves us of following irrelevant state laws, such as a bond requirement for the health officer and the health officer pro tem and there's also a requirement now that the health officer inspect all schools every year and that is not appropriate. It also removes language that allows the health officers to hire employees because that's not the way we operate here at Sedgwick County. And deletes criminal penalties for failure to perform official duties. The board of county commission and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment would still be allowed to remove the health officer or the health officer pro tem for failure to perform duties. And the manager can remove the health officer or health officer pro tem without any reason.

I'd also like to add that we are extremely fortunate, I'm very happy to be bringing this to you today because Dr. Keller, James Keller from the Wichita Clinic who is a local doc . . . an internal medicine doctor who is also the director of the WSU Student Health Clinic has agreed to be our health officer pro tem and he has a special interest in public health. He's worked a long time with emergency management . . . I mean Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management actually, but he has a special interest in public health, went to Anniston, I think some of you know him and so we're really pleased he's volunteered to do that. So I recommend approval of this request."

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

**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, “Thank you very much, Claudia. Commissioners, I think this is appropriate that there’s another off agenda item that we have to take.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to consider an off agenda item.

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

**OFF AGENDA ITEM**

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**GRANT PRE-APPLICATION TO UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR FUNDING OF CHILDHOOD BLOOD LEAD POISONING SCREENING AND EDUCATION.**

**Ms. Blackburn** said, "Thank you commissioners for allowing this off agenda item. This agenda item is a pre-application for a \$10,000 grant to the Environmental Protection Agency to support our blood lead screening program. We are requesting funds to purchase outreach materials that will encourage parents with small children who live in certain neighborhoods that are high risk for elevated lead levels to come to a safe kids event, where they can be educated and screened for elevated lead levels.

And we're requesting other materials as well, resource materials for local health care providers and cleaning kits for families who have children with elevated blood lead levels. We believe it will decrease the amount of nursing follow up time that is needed, if we have a kit, we can show them how to do the clean up and then we can leave it with them. I recommend you approval of this pre-application. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Thank you Claudia. I don't see that there are any questions. So commissioners, what's you will on this off agenda item please?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Burtnett moved to approve the pre-application 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, "Claudia, thank you very much. Next item please."

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**J. SELECTION OF A VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATES FOR THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "I know that I'm supposed to be making this presentation, but I'm going to defer to Commissioner Winters to make this presentation."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each year, our state association, the Kansas Association of Counties holds an annual meeting. This year it is going to be November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Topeka. Each year, there is a portion in time where the business meeting of the organization transacts the business, which again would include such things as setting the legislative priority for 2007 and other items that come before the body.

The bylaws of the association require that each county select one voting delegate for the annual meeting. I do serve on the board of directors of the Kansas Association of Counties, so if it's acceptable with the commissioners, I would like to be considered to be that voting delegate but we also need two alternates, in case the voting delegate is not able to attend. So, with that Mr. Chairman, we need to select our voting delegate for the KAC annual meeting."

**MOTION**

Chairman Sciortino moved to select Commissioner Winters as the voting delegate for the KAC Annual Meeting.

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Motion has been made and seconded to chose Commissioner Winters as our delegate. Clerk, call the roll. I'm sorry, excuse me, I didn't see you light. Commissioner Burtnett."

**Commissioner Burtnett** said, "Do we need to vote on the alternates, or can that be done at a different time?"

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Well, I was going to . . ."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "We can do that next."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "We're going to do it right after this one. Okay, so Clerk call the roll please."

**VOTE**

## Regular Meeting, October 4, 2006

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Thank you and now, Commissioners, we need to pick two alternates for this conference. Does anyone have a nominee that they would like to put up?”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “We need a poll to tell us who is going.”

**Commissioner Burnett** said, “I was just going to ask does this need to be other county commissioners or can this be staff, department heads?”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Well I think it could be anyone. I think we normally chose a couple of commissioners who plan on attending the meetings.”

**Commissioner Burnett** said, “I think I had planned on attending the meetings. I wouldn’t mind being an alternate.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “All right and I have a feeling that we have one of the alternates already selected. Do any of the other commissioners . . .?”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Commissioner Norton, are you going to attend?”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Yeah, I’m going.”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to select Commissioner Burnett as the first alternate and Commissioner Norton as the second alternate voting delegate at the KAC Annual Meeting.

Chairman Sciortino seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

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

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “So Lucy Burnett will be our first alternate and Tim Norton will be our second alternate. Next item please.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “One more thing. Madam Clerk, then I don’t know who has the official document but we need to get the Clerk’s signature and make sure we get that fired off.”

**Ms. Lisa Davis**, County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Okay.”

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

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

**K. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS’ REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2006.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The meeting of September 28<sup>th</sup> results in two items for consideration today.

**1) TRANSPORTATION & DELIVERY OF VOTING MACHINES & EQUIPMENT-ELECTION COMMISSION  
FUNDING: ELECTION COMMISSION**

The first item is transportation and delivery of voting machines and equipment for the Election Commission Office. Recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Get a Move On for \$105 per stop and establish contract pricing for 15 months, with three one-year options to renew.

**2) FULLY-RUGGED LAPTOP COMPUTERS/ TABLET- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS  
FUNDING: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE OPERATIONS FOR POSTS (for EMS purchase)**

The second item is fully-rugged laptop computer/ tablets for Emergency Medical Services and

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various county departments. And the recommendation is to accept the bid from Sigma Systems Incorporated and establish contract pricing for one year, with two one-year options to renew. Would recommend approval of these items and be happy to answer any questions.”

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “I don’t see that there’s any questions, so commissioners, what’s the will on the Board of Bids and Contracts presentation this morning?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Burtnett 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. Next item.”

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**L. CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. One Floodway Reserve Easement for Sedgwick County Project on 167<sup>th</sup> Street West between 37<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Streets North. District #3.**
- 2. Modification of Agreement with Bethel College requiring proof of liability insurance coverage for nursing students during their clinical rotations.**
- 3. Plat.**

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Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2005 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

Yoder Airport South

- 4. Order dated September 26, 2006 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 5. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of September 27 – October 3, 2006.**

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I’d recommend you approve it.”

**MOTION**

Chairman Sciortino moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Chairman 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 have a fire agenda also, but before I close the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, is there anything else that has to come before that we want to discuss here right now? Commissioner Norton.”

**M. OTHER**

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Is this the ‘other’ other section?”

## Regular Meeting, October 4, 2006

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "This is the other 'Other' other section."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well as always, I'll give us an update on Exploration Place. We finished the first month of a T-Rex Named Sue being there and I have good news. Total gate attendance this year 17,900. Last year, same month, 3,460. Revenues, including gate, store and café, last year 22,441, this year 129,936. That's a 479%, \$107,000 swing and I think it's because of new management and the exhibit. And I think that has to be good news for the community and certainly good news for the county commission. I know it's only one month, but you know, I think we took a little public heat and a little risk to backstop Exploration Place and help them change their mission and rethink what they needed to do. The first exhibit out of the gate has done pretty well and it's not over with yet. The whole month of October should be spectacular. They're going to do some wonderful things for Halloween with the dinosaur and everything, so pretty good news and the other interesting thing is passports have more than tripled, the purchase of passports, which will continue to bring people back in, because they've got the passport. So very encouraging news from Exploration Place. That's all I've got, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Sciortino** said, "Okay. I want to also echo that, even though as you know I voted against our increased participation in Exploration Place. I do believe that the decision that this council made of protecting that investment that has already been made by the Sedgwick County citizens is going to prove to be a very fortuitous thing that we did. I think it's a combination of not only hiring the right director, but I think it's also Mr. Buchanan and staff, giving them the proper direction as to what we expected out of Exploration Place and I'm now very optimistic that this is just the beginning of the turn around that will make Exploration Place very financially stable, and be the type of quality of life venue that communities our size have a right to expect. I applaud all of you for having the courage to vote the way you did and even though I had initially voted no, I am in full support now of what the county is doing and I'm very excited and optimistic that it will succeed. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, just a side note with that issue. Talk about the financially, them becoming stable, I'm not only on the Exploration Board but I'm on the finance committee and I'm there every second pushing on the staff and the finance committee to make sure that the endowment is in good shape, the investments are taken care of, that revenues that are projected really do come in, that the gate numbers are right, and that at the end of the day our contribution to this is . . . can be diminished over the years as opposed to ramping up. And they hear that message continually, that this first wave of public backstop I hope is the only wave of public backstop and that they can build their investments and their endowment up to the point where it's self sustaining. So I think it's a very important message that the public needs to hear, but I wanted to make sure that my colleagues understood that somebody is there watching our investment, financially, every time we have a meeting."

## Regular Meeting, October 4, 2006

**Chairman Sciortino** said, “Well . . . anything else? Well under ‘Other’, Commissioner Unruh, I have to say I really listened to that counter thing that you had about my talking about voting and I didn’t want to give the impression that I don’t listen to people. The message that I was trying to get out is that I really believe that an engaged citizenry that does make the effort to vote, makes the effort to get engaged, comes to our meetings, is going to do nothing but improve our ability to serve them. But I know I spoke a little strongly about ‘Why should we listen to you, you can’t hurt us, you can’t help us’, but I was trying to . . . not chide them, but trying to let them know that they are actually the government and the electorate, the power really rests in the electorate, not those of us being elected and it does make me feel, you know, sad. Oftentimes we’re sitting here and the only people in the audience are staff, you know, but we’re making decisions every day that affect a person’s life.

And I just, again, I want to just make sure that people don’t . . . I never, when somebody calls, may I ask them ‘Are you a registered voter and did you vote in the last election?’ or anything, but the point I was trying to get across is to please make the effort to get engaged. Register to vote and vote. We making it as easy as we can for you and that will do nothing but improve our ability to serve you. That was the point and I’m glad you brought that up because I think I spoke a little strong and I didn’t mean to convey that, but my message was get out and vote and be part of the government that we’ve had for the last 200 years that I think is the best in the entire world.

If there’s nothing else to come before this board, I will close the Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.”

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Regular Meeting, October 4, 2006**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:47 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  
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

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Third District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

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