

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF FIRE DISTRICT #1**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**February 14, 2007**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 1:26 p.m., on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Kelly Parks; Commissioner Gwin Welshimer; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Ms. Mandy Pankratz, Management Intern, County Manager's Office; Deputy Chief Rick Brazil, Fire District #1; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that Commissioner Winters was absent.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting, January 24, 2007

The Clerk reported that all commissioners were present at the Regular meeting of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Commissioners, you've had the opportunity to review the Minutes of the Fire District meeting of January 24<sup>th</sup>. Are there any additions or corrections?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2007.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

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**VOTE**

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPLICATION TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR A 2007 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 'THE FIRE SERVICE- A CUSTOMER'S ADVOCATE' PROGRAM.**

**Ms. Mandy Pankratz**, Management Intern, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is the second application for the 2007 NACo achievement awards. We have Deputy Chief Rick Brazil from the Fire District here to talk a little bit about their program and answer any questions you might have."

**Deputy Chief Rick Brazil**, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is an award that I have to thank the Board of County Commissioners and the manager for their support, financially, as well as moral support to lower the ISO rating within Sedgwick County, our fire station relocation program and our aggressive vehicle replacement program has helped us to achieve this, so this is just kind of a pat on the back for you all and to say thanks and get some recognition for Sedgwick County."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well, thank you Chief. I think this should be a winner, if you want my opinion. I'm looking forward to getting an award for that. This doesn't compete with the other application that we approved today, does it? Okay, very good. Well, it's good work. It's great benefit to the citizens of Sedgwick County and appreciate you all staying on it and making it happen, so appreciate that. Commissioners, are there any other comments or questions? What's the will of the board?"

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the application and authorize the chairman to sign.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Thank you. Well now we’re at the end of the fire district agenda, so commissioners, if there are other things that you would like to bring up or discuss at this time, now is the time.”

**B. OTHER**

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well these aren’t fire district things particularly, but all the commissioners did travel to Topeka for our legislative dinners and the KAC County Days and then some legislative meetings and I think we were effective in talking about some of the issues that are before Sedgwick County. The two major ones that I was interested in and I think we had good dialogue with legislators was on the return of the LAVTR, the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction monies that has been taken away from the counties and municipalities over the last eight years and it can be very debilitating, not only to Sedgwick County, but other cities and counties around the state and then we talked about jail overcrowding and population and legislative action that has helped cause that, and I think all the county commissioners from Sedgwick County participated in the dialogue, pushed our agendas and made our information very aware to legislators, not only in our south central area, but others that we talk to, so I thought it was very effective.

The weather was lousy and not all the turnout was good for KAC County Days, but I thought it was pretty interesting that four county commissioners from Sedgwick County made it up there and participated all day long and I thought that was good.

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The last thing I've got is as I always do is Exploration Place results and I'm proud to say that since Titanic has been there, from January 13<sup>th</sup> to February 11<sup>th</sup>, the total gate attendance is 17,497 and last year it was 7,200 so that's an increase of 10,000 people through the gate since Titanic has been there.

But one of the really good news is that the gate revenue is \$116,000, last year it was \$25,000. That's a swing of \$90,000 additional revenue. The store revenue, the little Exploration store, \$29,000, \$10,000 last year. The café revenue, \$11,800 this year, \$4,400 last year, so an increase of \$116,000 new revenue this year. So passports have grown, rental revenue for the facility has doubled during that period, passport sales \$25,764 this year, \$6,500 last year, so I guess the good news . . . well the last thing is the attendance for the Titanic dinner reenactment was 330 people and that raised \$22,000 additional dollars there. So I guess the good news is that with all the consternation and knashing of teeth and pain that we went through, we're still seeing really great, positive results coming out of Exploration Place. T-Rex kicked that off, Titanic has sustained it, we've got some great things getting ready to happen in 2007, with the Da Vinci Exhibit that will come here and some others, so we're not out of the woods yet, but the numbers and the increase in participation of our citizens at Exploration Place would tell us that maybe we're on the right track and at some point some of that subsidy money that we put into this will come back to us, because it won't need to be spent, because they're actually . . . they're making some money and bringing in some revenues that just weren't there before. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, "I did want to say thank you to engineer Spears and Weber for talking with one of the constituents from Commissioner Winters' neighborhood the other day about relocating or readjusting some of the bids for the bridges. One of those bridges is in Chairman Winters, excuse me, Commissioner Winters' area and the other one is in my area and they're going to signalize the one on Ridge Road and the one on 151<sup>st</sup> will be starting at its normal time, but they did listen to some of the concerns about emergency vehicles and things and did want to thank staff for sitting down with them and working that out. Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, very good. Commissioner Welshimer."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well, we are having a multi-county meeting next week, I believe . . . is it Saturday still? We changed it a couple of times, on the gaming issue, to further discuss if we want to put together a consortium of counties to address the legislature."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. Well, thanks to the staff, thanks to the commissioners. It's been a marathon meeting and the best good news I have is we are adjourned."

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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**KELLY PARKS**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

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**GWEN WELSHIMER**, Commissioner,  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2007