

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

REGULAR MEETING

June 27, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 4:23 p.m., on Wednesday, June 27, 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 Gwen Welshimer; Fire Marshall Tim Millspaugh, Fire District #1; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, May 23, 2007

The Clerk reported that all commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of May 23, 2007.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, you've had the opportunity to review the minutes of the May 23rd meeting. Are there any additions or corrections?"

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of May 23rd, 2007.

Commissioner Winters 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."

NEW BUSINESS

A. REVISED MGT FIRE STATION RELOCATION PLAN.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Fire Marshall Rick A. Brazill, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have another short PowerPoint program for you to watch. I'm sure you're all happy to hear that. Just a little bit of background. About three years ago, four years ago we endeavored a fire station relocation plan and again, the goal was to have an impact on insurance rates for the citizens of Sedgwick County and lower those rates and in also doing that cut our response times down.

Five stations were identified at that time to be relocated and those stations were Station 32, the station in Park City, station 33 in the Maize/ Colwich area and those two stations are both in the construction process right now. Station 36 was in the Derby area, that was another station identified in the study, Station 37, which is in the Bel Aire area and Station 38 is on the east edge of the county, in the Crestview area.

During unification talks with the City of Wichita and some other factors that come about on response times and call volumes, it made us take a step back and revisit this issue and really look and make sure that we were putting our stations where we needed them, but have the biggest impact on those insurance rates that would reduce response time. And again, the unification talks came out that we can work with the City of Wichita maybe not as a unified department, but we can look where each other puts their fire stations and not build them a mile or two apart and also not hurt each others departments.

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So we revisited that issue and we have a proposal today in front of you to change one fire station that was included in the original proposal. There are some other changes and I will get to those in a minute, but again there's no change in the number of buildings or the number of equipment from the original plan. There's still going to be five fire stations relocated. What we are proposing to do, instead of moving the Bel Aire station is leave that one there. That one is in a great location for us right now. In the future it may not be because Bel Aire will grow north and east. We may have a need in the future, but it also helps the City of Wichita.

So we have identified Station 35, which is the station on 247th West in Commissioner Winters' district, as a station to be relocated. That station would move to the Goddard area. We feel with the call going there, the growth of Goddard that is a good location for that station. If you think back to the original plan, Station 38 out east, which is our Crestview Station that we cohabitate with the City of Wichita and EMS at this time was going to be closed at some point in time and a southwest station was going to be built. Since we don't know the future at this point in time of how long that agreement is going to last out there, we're proposing to build that southwest station at this time. That station will be located somewhere in the southwest part of the county to serve the Garden Plain and the Lake Waltanna area out there, and in those areas around it. So that would give us an eight fire station deployment like we have now, with the one shared location, so really we're talking about nine locations.

This slide here is . . . gives you an overview of the current plan and the new plan that the fire district is proposing. Again, I kind of reviewed that with you on the previous slide. We're talking about leaving Station 37 in its location in Bel Aire. We do have a proposal for a use for that administration office in the basement there. This is just an illustration, a map of our current configuration and our current locations and this one would be after the change in plan, and you can see if I toggle back and forth here, the amount of coverage that that gives us. There are a few gaps, northwest and southwest, but again, in talking with the City of Wichita and cooperating with them, they have proposed three new fire stations that will help cover these gaps in coverage that we currently have.

Response times will dramatically change. You're seeing the current and what the new plan will do on response time. Again, we're talking about a two minute and 17 second shorter response time to Goddard, a minute 40 to Garden Plan and two minutes and 45 minutes to the Lake Waltanna area.

Just to illustrate the call volume we have here, I know this is a cluttered mess commissioners, but this represents 18,000 calls over the last three years that the fire district has ran. And you can see those populated areas around Haysville, the Goddard area, the Maize area, the Park City area, those are high call volume areas. And that's where we can make the biggest impact when we have a fire or medical call to shorten those response times.

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Again, when we started into this process, the goal was to lower insurance ratings and we've done that under the current plan, but we can do better. We could do a half a million dollars better. We could include 1,311 more households into that five-mile area under that new plan.

Again, this is . . . there's always a cost that comes with a new plan. Neither plan calls for a mill levy increase, but there are some operational costs that come with this new plan and we have visited with the Finance folks and they've assured us the money is there. This would require an additional six firefighters at the cost of \$300,000 a year, plus the operational costs of \$32,000 to operate Station 38 for \$332,000 additional cost to the fire district each year.

We've done some calculation. If we did this plan and we didn't hire these six firefighters, our staffing costs would be over a half a million dollars a year, so we're looking at a savings really by hiring these six positions of about \$200,000 a year for the fire district. But again, neither plan calls for a mill levy increase.

At this time I'm open for questions or any discussion that you might have."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you chief. We appreciate the presentation and it looks like you all have continued to massage the plan to get us the best results but I have a couple of questions. I think Commissioner Parks is first."

Commissioner Parks said, "On Station 38, I don't know how far up the brass line the comments came from, but there was some talk at one time about maintaining that facility as a training structure and maybe a reserve unit there. I don't know if you or Chief Curmode could talk to that."

Fire marshall Brazill said, "There was some discussion at one time about the future of that station. I'm not real aware of what those discussions were on that station at that time. I think our preference would be for the City of Wichita to, at some point in time, take that station over. That was kind of the premise that we worked under when we started in this station relocation project.

Most of that area out there has been annexed by the City of Wichita, with the exception of Savanna at Crestview and Raytheon, so about 70% of the calls out there are in the City of Wichita."

Commissioner Parks said, "If Major Millsbaugh would like to address anything, you had your hand up, I didn't know if you did."

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Fire Marsall Tim Millsbaugh, Fire District #1, said, "I was just wondering if maybe you were talking about fixing 32 we discussed that may be a training facility and that was the one we were looking at."

Commissioner Parks said, "My mistake, that's what it was. Thank you."

Fire Marshall Brazill said, "One other thing we do have in the plan, in CIP projects is we also have some updates to some existing fire stations, Station 34 in the Haysville area, we're going to do some major remodel in 2008 down there. We've got a brand new apparatus that should be here for that station in the next two to three weeks. We'll have a new mission for those folks down there so that . . . even though that won't be a new fire station, it will look new when we're finished."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. We have Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well actually Rick just answered one of the questions and that was about Station 34. I mean, that's a pretty high volume station, it serves a growing area and it is a little dated. I mean, when you look, we're building a lot of new stations and they're going to look new and fancy and clean. That station is starting to look a little worn, so it's nice to hear that they're getting a little more mission, a little more apparatus and a face life, because I think that will be good and Haysville is starting to encroach . . . the actual urban area is getting close to encroaching and you want it to look more like an urban fire station than a rural fire station I believe, so that's going to be important."

The second thing is go back to the map of the new coverage, Rick. Just a comment and Commissioner Winters will probably not like me for commenting on this, but I have a little heartburn with the overlap with the new Maize station and the old Andale station over into Colwich and that township that don't belong to the fire district, for us to give them that much overlapping coverage and I don't see any way to get out of it. I'm supportive of the new Maize station and certainly if you take Andale out of the picture, then that really hurts northwestern, so it's not really a comment other than that's a lot of overlap into somebody that doesn't want to pay fire district taxes."

Fire Marshall Brazill said, "You're absolutely correct, that's a problem that we have had in that part of the county for some time. There are a lot of properties out there, residential and commercial, that are in the fire district and we can't abandon some of those customers out there also."

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Commissioner Norton said, "I'm not advocating to abandon. It's just a comment that rubbed me a little raw as a county commissioner to look at you know there's a place there where we're actually overlapping coverage from two different stations right in the middle of Colwich, where they've continued to say they don't want to be part of the fire district."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Well just to follow up on that, one of the things that this relocation has already started is that station, the yellow station at Maize used to be right outside Colwich, right in the middle and so by moving it to Maize, we have just really given it, I think, a tremendous benefit to Maize and the citizens in Maize but we have taken a step out of that Park Township, middle of Colwich."

Fire Marshall Brazill said, "It puts us in a bad location, and again we've tried to look at the population growth of the cities over the next 15 to 20 years and especially down there in the Derby area we're kind of in the same situation, we're at 63rd and Rock and Derby is knocking on our door there and the growth projections show them out to Greenwich, which is pretty close to the location we're proposing, so in 15 or 20 years, we're going to be in the same situation that we're in now."

Commissioner Winters said, "I just had two more quick questions and Rick, you said this would not require a mill levy increase."

Fire Marshall Brazill said, "Correct."

Commissioner Winters said, "And in fact, as I went through that, didn't quite see that, the projection though is for really insurance savings for at least some citizens in Sedgwick County is going to amount to \$500,000."

Fire Marshall Brazill said, "That's collectively sir, yes sir, I'd rather that, again . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "And at least we can say that, with this relocation, there's 1,311 households that are going to have a savings of \$560,000."

Fire Marshall Brazill said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, well commissioners as you can suspect, I'm going to be supportive of this."

Chairman Unruh said, "And that's a savings in addition to the savings from the original plan."

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Fire Marshall Brazill said, "That's correct."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "I think I may have titled Assistant Chief Millspaugh incorrectly there, I called him major. Just take that from an old cop, I guess, in looking at the brass and not knowing what the fire department's (*inaudible*) You've done a lot of arrive at this and I would just like to commend the staff of the fire department (*inaudible*) and they are appreciative of this, so I'm certainly going to be (*inaudible*)"

Chairman Unruh said, "I don't see any other requests to speak. Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Relocation Plan.

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, "Well Chief Brazill and Fire Marshall Millpaugh, thank you for being here today. Well commissioners, we're at the end of our agenda. Is there anything else that maybe one wants to bring up or say at this time. Commissioner Parks."

C. OTHER

Commissioner Parks said, "Are we at the record yet?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "I'd like to present the longest meeting award."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thanks, I'll treasure it."

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Commissioner Parks said, “Well, not to belabor anything, but the resolution that we . . . I thought I needed to bring this up, in the consent agenda about the 457, there’s still some thought out there, some confusion. I’ve had a couple of people in my district call me again and say we’re really not knowing what’s going on with ING. I would like to make sure that the department heads get the message to take this back to them and if they have a problem to call Ms. Templin in HR and get it worked out with the retirement system and just really make sure that information is out there.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. The process is going according to our design at this point. All right thank you. Commissioner Welshimer.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Well just one comment for ‘other’. I’ve been working over several weeks and along with Commissioner Parks as well researching the idea of the minimum security facility to help relieve our jail population. I’ve talked to legislators about possibly funding that for us through whatever source they wanted to do that. It would be an addiction facility. I’ve talked with the judges, not all of them of course, but this is something they’ve been thinking about also or have been in favor of for a while, the ones that I talked to and it would be a lower cost facility and we’d have to find a site for it and so on, but the other thing that sort of goes in the midst is a courtroom over in the jail, and so that’s my week.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, very good. Well, we will relay your comments to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and see how they advance on that and of course . . . or you’re welcome to bring them to the CJCC. Anything else commissioners? We are adjourned.”

D. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

KELLY PARKS, Commissioner
Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner,
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2007