

Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, July 11, 2007

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item."

RECOGNITION

A. RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO FIRE DISTRICT #1 FOR ITS "THE FIRE SERVICE – A CUSTOMER'S ADVOCATE" PROGRAM.

Mr. Anthony Swartzendruber, Management Intern, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm now here to recognize the recipient of a second 2007 NACo Achievement Award, which is awarded to the Fire District #1 for their Fire Service, a Customer's Advocate program. Today Fire Marshal Tim Millspaugh of Sedgwick County Fire District #1 is here to briefly highlight the program and answer any questions that you may have."

Mr. Tim Millspaugh, Fire Marshal, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As you all are aware, we've talked about this in meetings over the last two years, it's been in the press, it's a project that has come to fruition because you've supported the fire district, the manager has supported the fire district and Bob Lamkey has given us the support that we need from him."

As far as bragging goes, we've bragged about this already. What we've done, we've saved money for fire district taxpayers to the tune of 2.8 million dollars, which is a conservative estimate at this point. We have the lowest rated city protect class in the Wichita metro area, as well as south central Kansas area and in the whole state of Kansas, with the exception of the Kansas City metro area. That's Haysville with a class two. There's only five class twos in the state of Kansas, Haysville being one of those.

We also have the best large area rural protection class, without fire hydrants, in the state of Kansas at a class five, almost unheard of, especially in the state of Kansas and we are proud of that. We're pleased to get this award and thank you for your assistance in this."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well thank you Tim. We're also proud of you and we've got some comments here from Commissioner Parks."

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Commissioner Parks said, "Well I'd like to thank you Tim for doing your work on this. I know this has been a monumental task for the fire department specifically. You've done a lot of work on this. I know this personally and professionally, working with you on this project. I'd seen your work on this project. I didn't have anything to do with it, but thank you for your hard work on it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, and I think that all the citizens who have reduced insurance rates would second our thanks to you and appreciation for the hard work to accomplish this and it's truly a significant award and we're glad that Fire District #1 was given this recognition, so send our congratulations to all the folks in the fire district."

Mr. Millspaugh said, "Will do, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you sir. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I was just thinking about 'other' comments."

Chairman Unruh said, "We're ready for 'others' sir."

B. OTHER

Commissioner Winters said, "All right thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the other business, I did want to mention a couple of quick things. One is the Sedgwick County Fair out in Cheney starts later this afternoon and this evening. They put on a great fair, the Sedgwick County Fair Board does an excellent job. The City of Cheney is a good supporter of the fair, and if you're interested in just attending a small town county fair, this is a great fair to attend and I would encourage you to think about that this coming weekend.

The fair is from today, Wednesday July the 11th through Saturday July the 14th. In today's Wichita Eagle, July the 11th, there is a detailed outline and fair schedule so I would just encourage folks to take advantage of the fair. The fair board has invited the commissioners out. Tomorrow evening, the parade starts at 7:00 and then after the parade, we'll go to one of the eating places on the fairgrounds and have some dinner. So it's a great weekend in Cheney.

Just one other comment, I am going to be working in Topeka tomorrow. Our long-range transportation planning group that Secretary Deb Miller has called together will be meeting in Topeka all day tomorrow, so I'll be up and back but plan on being out at Cheney for the parade and the dinner, so thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you sir. Commissioner Parks."

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Commissioner Parks said, "Along the lines of your long-range transportation planning, I've had a surprising considerable interest from people in my district about the possibility of passenger train from Wichita or Newton to Oklahoma City/ Dallas area, so please keep that in mind if you would on that."

Commissioner Winters said, "I might say that I believe that there is a meeting coming up this month, and if you're not aware of that, Irene Hart has all of the details on that."

Commissioner Parks said, "Yes, and in fact I have some citizens that have inquired about going to that meeting, putting some input in on that."

Commissioner Winters said, "Good."

Commissioner Parks said, "I do have that on my schedule. The other thing that I have with 'other' here is I know we strive to have open, accessible government and I've had a couple of people from my district ask about the TV, the . . . I know we had the marathon meeting a couple of weeks ago, and that's the exception rather than the norm, however I think we need to pursue looking into when it does go past the noon hour, does go past our contract, what it would cost us to either have somebody sponsor that or cost of going . . . showing the whole front to backside of that and maybe Kristi has got the information readily available for us."

Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications, said, "I can give you just a little bit of information, we can find out some more. We have contract with Channel 8 and we run up to 12:00. We are able to extend up to 1:00 with them, if we can give them notice. They do have other programming that they have set in on a regular basis for the time after one, but what we do is we capture video anytime we know it's going to go beyond 1:00 so we can put that on our website. So we do have the whole meeting and it's accessible, people can access it on our website."

Commissioner Parks said, "In fact one of the adamant people I had talking to me about that is an older gentleman and he doesn't have accessibility to even the Internet, let alone the website, so he was rather limited and asked if we could do something different."

Ms. Zukovich said, "We will have conversations with Channel 8 to see what other options, for those rare occasions."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Is that all? All right, commissioners . . .? Commissioner Norton."

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Commissioner Norton said, “Just a suggestion on that, before we get off of it, City of Wichita has channel 7 and if we tape it we also may be able to replay it, at least in the city of Wichita and the small towns that have channel 7, via that conduit. Now it won’t be live, but it will be a pretty accessible, other than computers, for many people. I know Derby, Haysville, I don’t know about Valley Center if they have a channel 7, city of Wichita, a lot of the communities have a channel 7 that is a community station that could rebroadcast. So just a thought.

Da Vinci Code Codex Atlanticus is still at Exploration Place. There’s been huge crowds. If you haven’t been by, if you’re a science nut or an inventor or just want to see some incredible thinker’s ideas that came out of many centuries ago that are now being applied in our technology, Da Vinci Codex Atlanticus is at Exploration Place. It’s interactive. You can go in and pull up any of his designs and drawings and turn them 360 degrees and even make them work, see how they actually work. It’s pretty interesting to gaze into the mind of somebody that I consider probably the smartest guy that ever lived. I mean it’s just incredible.

Today I was at the Homeless Task Force and we’re getting pretty close to presenting a document to the community that will describe the gaps we see in the services we provide to the homeless community and those gaps are what’s keeping us from starting to really solve the problem of chronic homelessness. So I’m hopefully that in the next month, month and a half, we’re going to have a document out to the community to help them analyze and look at and try to understand this issue that’s in our community. It’s kind of a silent issue. We know that it’s happening but we don’t always know the impact on the economy, the impact on families, the impact on the quality of life in our community and we’re hoping to describe that to the community and then try to do something about it.

And then finally, you know, we’re suffering from some of the same maladies that the rest of the state, particularly the southeast has had, and that’s flooding on the south side of the county. I’ve had a pretty big problem in an area that encompasses about 300 homes. Certainly not all of them have flooded, but there’s a huge groundwater issue down there that we’ve worked on. I wanted to announce that I’m having a town hall meeting Thursday, July 26th, 7:00 at the Haysville Community Center and anyone in that area, really south of 71st Street, that’s had some groundwater or even some storm water flooding, I’d encourage them to stop by, be part of that, articulate you know the things that have happened in your property.

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Certainly, this is not a 'We're going to fix every issue down there' but we need to be able to describe what's happened, understand the implications to the community, describe what the county and the government can do and what we're capable of doing and then try to make sure solutions for the community. So I would encourage anybody that has had some basement flooding or flooding in that area to contact us at 660-9300 and . . . or show up at that meeting and give us some information so we kind of know the depth and breadth of what we're dealing with, and my heart goes out to everyone in Coffeyville and Neodesha and Fredonia and other places that have had this problem, but we've got a little bit of it in Sedgwick County and we're going to try to deal with it. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Well I would just want to encourage everybody to go out and see Bebe's baby. Bebe is the mother rhinoceros at the zoo and she's got this little 60 pound bundle of joy and I'd encourage everybody to go out and have a look, along with all the other attractions at the Sedgwick County Zoo. It's a great place to spend a weekend, and you could spend a few hours at the Sedgwick County Fair and then come by the zoo and just have a great time this weekend. So with that, commissioners, I will declare us adjourned."

C. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.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