

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**May 16, 2007**

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, May 16, 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; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Ms. Linda Leggett, Administrator, County Clerk's Office; Ms. Charlene Stevens, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Robert Parnacott, Assitant County Counselor; Ms. Monica Cissell, Program Manager, Department on Aging; Ms. Stephanie Knebel, Manager, Project Services; Mr. Chris Chronis, Chief Financial Officer, Bureau of Finance; 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. Jordie Hannum, National Council of State Government.  
Ms. Sharon Fearey, Wichita City Council Member.  
Ms. Terry Cassady, Development Assistance Director, City of Wichita Manager's Office.  
Mr. Don Kirkland, Assistant Director, Wichita Water Department.  
Ms. Lori Usher, Director, Workforce Development.  
Fire Chief Ed Bricknel, Wichita Fire Department.  
Mr. Larry Birchfield, 2401 N. Cedar Crest, Wichita, Ks.

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was observed by a moment of silence.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Our invocation this morning was going to be led by Reverend Butch Lambert, but he is in Greensburg this morning, helping his family, daughter and son-in-law and their families recover from the tornado that occurred out there so we continue to keep Greensburg, that community and that county government in our thoughts and in our prayers. Madam Clerk, please call the next item."

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**ROLL CALL**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “And before we call the next item, I want to recognize Councilwoman Sharon Fearey, who is here from city council, and City Manager George Kolb is also here. They’ll be here to speak to an agenda item later on in our agenda, so welcome to the county commission meeting this morning. Next item please.”

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting April 25, 2007

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioners, you’ve had the opportunity to review the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 25<sup>th</sup>. Are there any additions or corrections?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2007.

Commissioner Norton 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, “Next item.”

**PROCLAMATION**

**A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 16, 2007 AS “NATIONAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY.”**

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioners, I have a proclamation for your consideration.

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**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, physical activity can help Americans live longer, healthier, active lives; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many benefits to incorporating physical activity into your daily routine, including:

Helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints.

Helps control weight, build lean muscle and reduce fat.

Reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression and fosters improvements in mood and feelings of well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General recommends that children and adults have at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity each day and even broken into smaller segments of 10 or 15 minutes throughout the day provides significant health benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, employers across the nation are promoting ‘worksites wellness activities’ in order to help employees take charge of their health, practice healthier behaviors and reduce healthcare costs; and

**WHEREAS**, health and wellness are important to Sedgwick County, with our Sedgwick County Health Department and Sedgwick County Wellness Committee promoting healthy eating and physical activity at home, at work and at school;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 16, 2007 as

**‘National Employee Health and Fitness Day’**

in Sedgwick County and encourage employees throughout the county to begin a habit of living healthier lifestyles by participating in a brisk walk over lunch or a break to get your recommended 30 minutes of exercise a day.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the proclamation. What’s the will of the board?”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Parks 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, “And Claudia Blackburn is here to receive the proclamation.”

**Ms. Claudia Blackburn**, Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you so much for this proclamation. This is a very important way for the Health Department to continue to promote physical activity in the community. It’s an opportunity to encourage employers to encourage their employees to get out and walk. Many people have a difficult time getting 30 minutes a day in. If they don’t do it before work or after work, then that leaves the work day and it’s really not so difficult to grab a buddy and get out and walk for 15 minutes on a break. If you do that a couple of times a day, you’ve got your 30 minutes in or do it over lunch.

So today, this is an opportunity for employers to remember this and to get their employees out and walking. It does help to create the overall culture of health in our community that we’re so interested in and we know that healthy employees make us more competitive in the global market place.

It also has a number of benefits for employers, including increased productivity, I’m not going to say stress-free, but employees that are less stressed and overall more healthy and then for employees, if you’re trying to lose weight it’s helpful, and if you’ve lost weight, it’s one of the main ways to keep weight off and it also really does clear your head and help your stress.

So today we are encouraging people to walk and then to log onto [sedgwickcounty.org](http://sedgwickcounty.org). If they do that after their walk, they will be automatically signed up to possibly win a prize. We have many gift certificates and some trial gym memberships available, many different prizes and that’s always

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fun, so we want people to log onto sedgwickcounty.org so that they can register their walk and if you're a county employee and you want to walk, there will be a group that's meeting on the west side of the Historic Courthouse at noon. You can take a one, two or three mile walk and if you can't make it to the courthouse because you're off-site, form a group of your own and walk as a group and then register your walk. That's the main thing.

So we're really excited about this. Last year, we had over 60 employers participate and 2,000 employees and we hope that this year we exceed that goal. Thank you again."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well Claudia, before you leave just wanted to make a comment. It's a very proper thing for us to do is to promote health and so I appreciate your leadership on that. It's interesting that not only do the folks walking have the incentive of good health for walking, but they also can get some prizes and gift certificates, so we're going to incentivize them in more ways than one.

Well I do want to say this morning that I saw an interview with you on one of the television stations this morning early and I want you to know that I watched that while I was on the treadmill. All right, well thank you very much.

Madam Clerk, call the next item."

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **B. APPOINTMENTS.**

- 1. RESOLUTION APPOINTING SANFORD ALEXANDER (COMMISSIONER UNRUH'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD.**
- 2. RESOLUTION APPOINTING NICK TAYLOR (COMMISSIONER WINTERS' APPOINTMENT) TO THE WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD.**

**Mr. Rich Euson**, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, Items B-1 and B-2 are appointments to the county's Access Advisory Board. This is a joint board with the City of Wichita. These are one-year appointments and Commissioner Unruh is appointing

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Sanford Alexander and Commissioner Winters is appointing Nick Taylor. I would recommend you adopt both of these resolutions.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Resolutions.

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, “I think neither of these individuals are here this morning. Oh, all right, we do have. If you want to stand up and Linda Leggett is here from the County Clerk’s Office and she will administer your oath of office.”

**Ms. Linda Leggett**, Administration, County Clerk’s Office, 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 Wichita/ Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board, so help me God.”*

**Mr. Sanford Alexander**, Member, Wichita/ Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board said, “I do.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Would you like to say something.”

**Mr. Alexander** said, “Just a word if I can. Thank you very much, Commissioners, good morning. It is an honor and a pleasure for me to take this appointment. Access for all residents in Sedgwick County is a very important issue. I had my first appointment officially 33 years ago in Philadelphia on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee. I had an opportunity there to work with cross-disability

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groups and have for many, many years understood that accessibility is something that is a complex issue, not only for the able bodied population to understand the needs of people with disabilities but it's a difficult issue for people with disabilities to understand each others unique and quite different needs.

So I look forward to this. It's a great opportunity, working with the Wichita Access Board, in a combined effort and I'm very, very grateful to have this opportunity. Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well, thank you very much for your willingness to serve. We appreciate your willingness to invest the time in what's really quite an important work, especially as we're going forward with some of the major projects here in Sedgwick County, but we have another comment here from Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Yes, sir. Could you just for our record so we clearly got your name and address, could you just give your name and address for our record please."

**Mr. Alexander** said, "Right, I'm Sanford J. Alexander III and I live 5321 Plaza Lane in Wichita."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well thank you very much for agreeing to serve. I think in that about 60 second explanation or a comment that you've made probably summarizes what we're trying to be about with this committee and you just, in that brief statement, have certainly demonstrated your knowledge of the issues that we're dealing with. So again, on behalf of the commission, we appreciate your making the effort to serve."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, well thank you very much. I'd also mention that Dave Calloway is also here who kind of chairs this effort I think, and is here just to lend support, so appreciate your presence Dave.

Madam Clerk, please call the next item."

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **C. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE NEW COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE.**

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**Mr. George Kolb**, City Manager, City of Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We are excited in being here this morning to present to you what we are considering a very exciting initiative. We’re calling it the ‘New Communities Initiative’ because it is a new approach to developing and helping communities in urban area.

As you may or may not be aware, we have undertaken what we call ‘Stop Blight’ in northeast Wichita as our pilot site. We believe this is only a stopgap measure in terms addressing immediate problems of urban decay and urban blight in the city of Wichita.

The New Communities Initiative, as we will present to you in just a moment, is a step beyond and we’re looking to the future and looking and dealing with the root causes of urban blight and urban decay.

We have with us this morning our Director of Housing and Community Services who will make a brief presentation to you about New Communities Initiative and will hope that you understand the importance of the partnership that we are forming between the state government, county government, city government, the private sector, private foundations and others in trying to address and deal with these problems.”

### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Ms. Mary K. Vaughn**, Director, Housing and Community Services, City of Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This morning, I am going to, as my boss said, I do what he says, I’m going to share with you a presentation on the New Communities Initiative. Following my presentation, there will be one other speaker who will make just a couple of comments and I’ll introduce him in just a moment and then we will of course be very happy to answer and respond to any questions that you might have. But as we have said, the title of our initiative is New Communities Initiative and it is coming soon to Wichita neighborhoods.

This morning’s purpose is to provide background on what the New Communities Initiative is, to describe what it looks like today, to identify our partners in the planning team, to identify the neighborhoods and to describe our next step.

By way of background, the initial concept from which New Communities has grown was started when our city council approved a pilot project to serve up to 150 individuals who were coming out of Kansas prisons and coming into Wichita. A year later, the council approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Department of Corrections, which actually funds two city positions which were designed to help those offenders coming out of the prisons. One of those positions is a

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housing specialist and that position is located in my office. The other position is a police department liaison.

The original prisoner reentry goals were to identify housing options for the returning offenders and to create a support system for offenders and their families. The local prisoner reentry project however received attention and support from the National Council of State Government and they recommended a broader, neighborhood-based strategy to deal with this population.

At their suggestion, city officials visited St. Louis and we toured several comprehensive redevelopment initiatives in that city. That occurred last summer. The city and CSG, Council of State Governments, invited the St. Louis based developer, Richard Barron, to Wichita to discuss the potential impact of a comprehensive redevelopment on our local prisoner reentry project and some of you might have attended the presentation that he made last August.

From that presentation, city, state and county officials began a series of meetings. We met in August, we met in January and again in March and agreed to expand the prisoner reentry project concept to include a more comprehensive look at neighborhood revitalization and resource integration.

So now you might be asking ‘Well, what’s going to be different, you have the same players, are they going to be doing the same thing?’ And the answer to that question is no, they won’t. What we realize is we had these series of meetings and again there were three levels of government represented, is that we had all been serving the same community but from our own individual perspectives, from silos if you will. And we recognized that that was inefficient and probably not nearly as effective as it could be if we changed our approach. So the new initiative will pool existing resources, we’re not asking for new resources, and we’re going to create a coordinated, comprehensive approach to service delivery covering all three levels of government. The new initiative will create new alliances among existing service providers.

So what does it look like? I thought that I would share with you the vision statement that the various staffs have created for the new communities initiative, that that would best answer the question of what it looks like. The key points of that vision statement were that the initiative will provide quality housing for all incomes, provide employment opportunities for those needing and seeking jobs, will enhance the learning environment across all age groups, will reduce the conditions of blight and revitalize the neighborhood, will address and positively impact quality of

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life issues and will develop nurturing opportunities for children and youth all for the purpose of supporting and enhancing successful families and sustaining communities.

The operational structure for the New Communities Initiatives will include a policy group, which will oversee the activities of five pillars areas and those areas are: adult education and economic development; housing for all; physical, mental and behavioral health; children and youth; and safe and secure neighborhoods. Each of those pillars areas has a work group that has already been creating goals and strategies to address the areas. As those workgroups continue, they will identify task groups that will be . . . that will represent experts in particular areas within each of the overall pillar area.

The partners and planning participants include city and county staff, our mayor, Council Member Fearey, our city manager and his staff, me, my staff and our police department, Captain Norris and other members of the police department. From county government, Debbie Donaldson has been an active member, as has Raquel Moody, Sally Frey is a part of the reentry staff, and I believe actually she's state, on the wrong slide, and Mark Masterson who is, as you know, your corrections director.

We've had other state planning participants, members of the Governor's Cabinet, from the Department of Corrections, KDHE, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Commerce and also from the Kansas Housing Research Corporation. All of those specific people, as well as members of their staff have participated in our planning meetings.

We've had representatives from USD 259, the Council of State Governments, which I mentioned earlier has been represented by Jordie Hannum and Marshal Clemont. Jordie is actually here today and he will, if you don't mind, a few comments when I'm done.

And then Urban Strategies is a consultants that the Council of State Governments has hired to facilitate our meetings and their representatives are Sandy Moore and Ester Shin.

Funding partners; the Council of State Governments is an important partner for us and they have brought to the table funding partners. They identified national foundations who are interested in this kind of concept and one such foundation, the Open Society Institute, has actually funded the initial phase, the resource integration phase if you will, and that is the Urban Strategies group I mentioned just a moment ago, so the Open Society Institute is funding Urban Strategies to help facilitate the resource integration.

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We recently added a new community partner, the Center City Organized Revitalization Effort, or CCORE as it's known, was recently added as a partner to our initiative and we've also incorporated a part of CCORE's redevelopment area into the initiative coverage area.

Well, I've mentioned the areas, let me show you know where they are. I do need to say however that this is our initial area. Certainly, we want to focus in on a particular area, test our theories, implement our strategies and once we realize the successes that we are anticipating, we will move the same concept and approach to other communities throughout the City of Wichita and perhaps even Sedgwick County.

The initial area is bounded, and you can see on the map, by Hillside on the east, by 21<sup>st</sup> Street on the north, Central on the south and Topeka on the west and that west boundary goes up to 9<sup>th</sup> Street and then over to Mosley. So the area marked in red on the map is the coverage area, and I do have copies of the map, just by itself, if you would like a copy so you can better see the coverage area.

Our next steps, Urban Strategies plans a series of community meetings to engage stakeholders in the process, to introduce the initiative to them, to seek their input, their feedback and their buy-in. One of the reasons that we're here today and that this presentation was made yesterday to the city council and will be made to USD 259 is that we believe that the elected officials of our community certainly deserve a preview if you will, an explanation of this initiative before we start having the community meetings, and so this is an opportunity for us to share with you as our elected leaders what the initiative is all about.

The community meetings will include non-profit developers, faith community representatives, neighborhood groups and community service providers. The policy group members are listed on the slide before you now. I also have a handout for you that lists each of the policy group members and their affiliations. Mr. Buchanan is a name you might recognize as being a member of the policy group, certainly the city manager, our mayor, Council Member Fearey and then a host of others, representing not only the public sector but the private sector and we are really excited about the interest and the commitment that these leaders have made to serve as the policy group for our initiative. They held their first meeting in April and plan to meet quarterly.

As I mentioned, the workgroups have already been hard at work, if you will. Their makeup is diverse and the members represent, for instance, in the adult education pillar group as you would expect there would be education representatives there, but then we've also tried to incorporate people who maybe are not necessarily well versed in that area, but would bring fresh and new ideas to the workgroup, so we're really trying to approach this from a different perspective and not from the one that we generally operate from, where we've got on blinders.

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The workgroups have had a series and meetings and the next several slides present to you the purpose that the workgroups have created for themselves and outcomes that they expect to see happen when their work is complete. Most of the activities of the workgroups are on a 12 to 18 month calendar, and so we realize that it won't be immediate results, because we're going to be trying to make systemic changes, although there will be some short-term victories and we will be excited to invite you to share with us as we celebrate those.

In the interest of time, I will not read each of these next five slides, but I do hope that you have a copy of the presentation and would be happy to meet with you individually or at another time if you'd like to explore in depth some of what the five workgroups are doing. But again, the general information is presented here for you for each of those five pillar groups.

I'd also like to add that Debbie Donaldson is the chair of the Physical Behavior and Mental Health workgroup. Rachel is the chair of the Adult Education and Economic Development workgroup, Rachel Moody. And so again, we've tried to incorporate and integrate staffs from all of our organizations into the leadership of this effort.

The workgroups, as I've said, will identify task groups, individual like subsets, to start really honing in and focusing in on individual components of each of the workgroup strategies, or pillar group strategies.

In summary, our short and long-term next steps are to continue all of the meetings that I listed earlier, to present this initiative to USD 259 officials at the first opportunity, to schedule a major launch activity in early summer and you will be apprized of that and invited to participate with us in that, and then to report our progress to the policy group and the community on at least a quarterly basis.

As I mentioned earlier, Jordie Hannum is here. He is a representative of the Council of State Governments, which has been a significant partner for us, and he would like to make a few comments and following which I would be happy to answer your questions, as would any of those who have been part of the initiative. Jordie.”

**Mr. Jordie Hannum**, Representative, Council of State Governments, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you for allowing me some time today. I just wanted to briefly go over who the Council of State Governments is and then why we're here.

So the Council of State Governments is a non-profit, non-partisan membership association. We're similar to the National League of Cities or the National Conference of Mayors, but we represent all three branches of state government. I work in the Justice Center, which is our criminal justice policy shop. And one of the things that state legislators across the country have been talking to us

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about is the unchecked growth in corrections spending. Twenty years ago, states were spending \$9,000,000,000 on corrections. Today, it's over \$60,000,000,000 and for that sort of money there hasn't really been significant changes in recidivism rates and in fact in many places its gotten worse and legislators have come to us and said 'What are strategies to combat this, what are different strategies we can use?' And the one we've advocated for is called a Justice Reinvestment Strategy, which is a data-driven strategy which looks to manage or reduce the growth in corrections spending, improve public safety and then reinvest in high stakes communities, communities where many individuals from prisons and jails are returning and communities where a lot of resources are already being spent, Medicaid or TANF.

And we're working with states across the country. Here in Kansas, the Council of State Governments staff work with lawmakers and actually a bill was just passed in the beginning of May which it's projected would reduce corrections spending by \$74,000,000 over five years, without harming public safety and that's just one example. But there's also a reinvestment component and legislators are interested in how to best reinvest in high stakes communities. And the reason why we're here, and the reason why we're funding new communities initiative and other foundations are is because we think this approach, the New Communities Initiative approach could be a model for communities across the country. One, in terms of the leadership we've had at the state level, Senator Brownback, Governor Sebelius, with Councilwoman . . . at the local level, with Councilwoman Fearey, City Manager Kolb, Mayor Brewer, and then . . . but just as importantly is the collaboration.

Mary K. sort of talked about the agencies involved, but we've got eight state agencies, four county agencies, three city agencies, you see several of the county representatives here. That's what really makes this unique and the reason why we are supporting it. I mean, this is sort of, I mean in the states that we're working, it's really almost unprecedented to have this type of collaboration and the focus is on integrating existing services, and that's what this collaboration entails and we hope for this to be a model for other communities. And we also are hoping to share this story with other communities to say 'this is a good approach to dealing with the growth in corrections and different strategy', so that's why we're here and that's why we're big supporters of it and I'd be happy to answer any questions."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you."

**Ms. Vaughn** said, "Mr. Chairman if I may, I'd like to as Vice Mayor Fearey to perhaps provide concluding remarks and then again we would all be happy to respond to any questions that you might have."

**Councilwoman Sharon Fearey**, City of Wichita Council, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I just am going to be very brief, because I think the program has been explained very well. I do want to give a special thank you to the county. We could not be doing this without the participation of

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both the elected officials of the county and certainly through you providing so much good staff support. So much of what will make this initiative work is the kind of services that could only be provided through the county in healthcare, mental healthcare, housing initiatives and that type of thing, so we are very appreciative of that.

As you all know, the people are coming into our communities from the prison system. Unfortunately, they are going back to prison too often and too quickly. This program is our opportunity to continue to work together, both on the local and state level, to change that trend to keep these people as valuable and productive citizens in our community and at the same time to help our local neighborhoods embrace these people and realize that they can turn their lives around, that they need all of our help in doing that, and together we can all be safe and feel comfortable in our neighborhoods.

I'd just like to close by saying that I do hope that you all understand when we're inviting you to actively participate in the launch of this program this summer that we do mean wear your work clothes. Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay. Well thank you. We do have a few comments here before you all get away from us. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Yes, I'd like to convey to Ms. Vaughn that I'd like to thank you for your hard work on this and about the sub-groups that are meeting, I'd like to be kept informed on that if you would. And it seems like that a lot of district that you're working in is in the 4<sup>th</sup> county commission district and I would like to be an active participant in some of those situations. I'd like you to also to continue to meet with Chairman Unruh and make sure that you bring back any successes or any other reports that you have to us, because I think communication is the key to a lot of this problem solving that we have, not only in the blight but in the criminal justice system and I think that this venue on the TV gets that out to the community."

**Ms. Vaughn** said, "Be happy to."

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I don't even have to throw on my light at all?"

**Chairman Unruh** said, "I saw you move."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I didn't know I could telegraph it like that. Well, I thank everybody

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for being here. I do have a couple of comments and then some questions. I think it's important we understand that we're trying to take a macro approach to solving a micro-issue. The micro-issue is the reentry. The macro is that we've got blighted areas that continue to not solving that problem, so I applaud the city for taking this on and understanding that there are areas of our community that are non-sustainable, that are blighted, that need work and part of the issue in those subcategories is the reentry problem of prisoners coming and where do they live and how do we reintegrate them into society, so you're really trying to take two tracks of solving two problems at the same time.

One of the things, it appears to me that we've been very involved in the prisoner reentry, with Mark Masterson and his group. That's something we worry about a lot, dealing with Corrections on the county side, so this is something that we've been embedded in for quite a while, and now we'll be more embedded in the macro-look of the workgroups that you've put together.

I did have a concern on the policy committee. There's two elected officials from the city and no elected official from the county and that always worries me, because when you start talking policy, the elected officials are the policymakers and it's good that we have County Manager Buchanan on there, but we don't have an elected official, if we are starting to set some kind of policies or have to bring that back to the five county commissioners, so I always worry about that, that we don't have an elected appointee in the group to represent us as we look at policy decisions, budget decisions, how do we help drive this with the city. And I know you're driving the bus, but I think we're going to be important on the bus, helping out with this.

Another thing that concerned me was there's nothing south of the river, and that . . . I think that would probably concern Gwin and I both, because there are areas in the south part of the area that particularly along Broadway, along Hydraulic, some other areas that really need some attention too. Now I know you said this is your first area of concern, but I know that there's a South Wichita/Haysville Revitalization area. I've been working with Jim Skelton on that for almost a year now and we have plenty of meetings, that we've got a group together trying to think about that. Maybe it doesn't fit into the reentry part of it, but I know it fits into the blighted part of it, so I would encourage you to think about areas outside of this, because I think there are other areas that might need to be included.

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The other thing that concerned me was we're talking about adult education and I just signed up as a Visioneering partner to take that on, because adult education is embedded in WATC and we now control that as the county and we're trying to go into that and really describe what that is. I just want to be sure we're not going down on divergent paths to try to solve a problem and we're not connected to each other so I think there's only one solution to that problem, not four or five and I hope that we'll bring those together. I don't know that it has to be done through Visioneering or through this Community's Initiative group, but if we're not talking, we're not understanding each other, we're liable to start describing two different solutions and neither one of them have talked to each other, so that would be a concern of mine, particularly on adult basic education, because I've been pretty involved in that for about a year now, trying to figure out how to solve it and we've got work groups starting up and are going to be tackling that through Visioneering and now I heard that there's another work group out there that I wasn't even aware of, so I want to be sure that we make sure there's good coordination on those issues. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

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

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well I just wanted to say thank you all for coming and sharing this with us. I've kind of been, I guess, hearing bits and pieces around the edges and once you explained the five pillars, I think it became much more clearer to me and it was also clear that we're interested and concerned about those very same issues. So I appreciate very much your presentation this morning and I think this is a way to get at, as Commissioner Norton said, a much bigger problem through one step at a time and I'm pleased that you all have come. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well I applaud you for your effort in this and for the wonderful people you've pulled together to work on it. It's about the broadest agency cooperation program that I've seen and it's going to take a lot of dedication and equal dedication from each division, the state, county, city and I hope we do our part in keeping that up and I hope to hear from you if we need to do more and wish you the very best. Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you. Well I'll just make one comment, Mary, before we let you get away. I think it's well documented that this commission has a very strong interest in our problem with jail overcrowding and so one of the solutions to that is do a better job with the offender reentry issues and the solutions for that. So this collaborative, comprehensive approach to the problem, I

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think, really gives our offender reentry program a chance to be successful and that we know when folks return to our society and the number returning to Sedgwick County from prison each year is about 1,200 individuals and those folks, to have a good chance to succeed, need to have housing, transportation, jobs, opportunities for retraining and new set of friends. And so in developing this sort of a community and this sort of approach, I think it gives that reentry program a chance to be successful, and all the while it's helping to regenerate an entire neighborhood and make it a stronger part of our community, so good effort. We're happy for this report and we'll be sensitive to ways that we can be involved."

**Ms. Vaughn** said, "Thank you very much. I've made notes of all your comments and you'll be hearing from me again."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you very much. Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

### **D. PRESENTATION OF THE JABARA CAMPUS PROJECT UPDATE.**

#### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Ms. Lori Usher**, Director, Workforce Development and Charlene Stevens, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to talk to you about the Jabara Campus project, along with Charlene Stevens, your assistant county manager. I want to begin by updating you on the new model for delivery of technical education that positioned WATC as the managing partner for the Jabara Campus project.

Several of you will remember, as you received it at the bench last year, that you approved a new delivery model for technical education relative to this project, and later it was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in December for us to proceed with this new model. In doing so, a new leadership transition took place in January for Wichita Area Technical College and I can tell you with confidence that this new board and leadership is highly engaged in increasing the capacity of Wichita Area Technical College. Commissioner Norton is serving on that board for Wichita Area Technical College, as is Ray Fredrick, who is in the back of the room here today.

As anticipated, the leadership of Wichita Area Technical College studied the program and administrative costs and benefits that resulted in a staffing reorganization in April, which was

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reported and I think you heard about it, a very challenging but necessary initiative for the college to proceed. A full report of the program and administrative review will be provided to you, the Board of County Commissioners, in late June, as was outlined in our funding agreement with Wichita Area Technical College. In addition to that, the second component to that agreement is also due to the Board of County Commissioners in late June, which will be timeline for the development and launch of new programs slated for the Jabara Campus project as well.

At this point, I'll turn the podium over to Charlene Stevens, who will review the details of the construction project."

**Mr. Charlene Stevens**, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As you know, we began the master site planning back in February. We've now gone through the master site planning and are moving into schematic design and what you see in front of you is the master site plan today and what we're showing there is a manufacturing technical center. That's going to be a two-story building and there is room for expansion in the rear on both sides. There's the aviation service center and that is primarily a one-story building. A small portion of it is planned to be a two-story and then there's the hangar space behind that and then there's also a gateway building, which will be the administrative and the assessment center. And then there's the parking, which currently shows approximately 800 parking spaces and that's what the master site plan and the footprint looks like today.

We are moving into the schematic design. We expect to complete the schematic design in late June and then we will begin the design development phase and that should be completed sometime in mid-August of this year. After design development, then we go into the more formalized construction drawings, etcetera and get prepared to bid the project out.

We are looking at a site preparation timeline of January of 2008, with construction beginning in March of 2008, keeping with the schedule to open the campus of 2010. And the other thing I would like to note is that the county DIO, Richard Vogt and Rodney Horton are providing some technical assessment to WATC in terms of infrastructure planning and IT planning and taking a look at what programs they have, what software, what networking capabilities they have, and providing them with some options for that going forward and then also fitting that into the infrastructure planning and making sure that when we're building the campus we're preparing for the IT of today and tomorrow as well. And with that, both Lori and I would be happy to answer any questions that you have."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Commissioners, are there any questions about this? Commissioner

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Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Charlene, the site plan looks different than the original site plan. The manufacturing was on the far right or far south of the property and now that’s been moved to the north side and kind of has a horseshoe look to it. That’s a little bit different, so the original schematics and drawings and thoughts have kind of changed as this has evolved. Is that correct?”

**Ms. Stevens** said, “It does. And you know it may change a little bit more as we move farther into design development. Right now, I mean, you went from the master site planning to schematic and nothing has been really engineered, nothing’s been fully developed, so things can shift a little bit more, but the space that we’re planning out there is still approximately 200,000 square feet.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay, and the administration is still central to the middle of the project, aviation on one side, manufacturing technology and other manufacturing skills will be on the other side of it.”

**Ms. Usher** said, “Correct.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “That’s all.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, thank you. Commissioner Winters.”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “Charlene, perhaps either you or maybe Lori knows this more. One of the things that I’ve been impressed about are the number of businesses that have been involved in this process of designing, I guess is maybe not the right word, this project but if I’m remembering correctly, could one of you comment about not exactly how many people have touched this, but how many folks in the community you’ve talked to in getting to this point in deciding space requirements?”

**Ms. Stevens** said, “Certainly, and I think I’ll let Lori answer that question, because she was a little bit more involved in those meetings than I was.”

**Ms. Usher** said, “Well as you know Commissioners, the study of this project has gone on for many years and even before the county began to manage it, much of this concept was vetted through dozens of businesses and KTTI was putting together conceptual plans, but as we did the program planning in the fall, we invited in business and educational leaders across the aviation and manufacturing industries and they all participated. I really regret we don’t have that on video, so that we could show folks just how engaged that process was. As we went through those full day planning sessions, the architects then did follow-ups with a number of companies when they wanted to dig a little deeper into the details. For instance, an avionics lab, what does that really look like, let’s go talk to Rockwell Collins and see their operation, so it was that type of process that basically

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put together this plan so I would say it's been fully vetted with both education and business leaders across the community."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well I think sometimes we tend to just think that this project is driven completely by the four or five major aircraft manufacturers, but as I looked at the list of people that have participated and given their two cents about what ought to be here and what ought to be there and how much space, I believe there was over 30 or 40 from large to small businesses have been involved in the planning process of just the space requirements."

**Ms. Usher** said, "That would be true, commissioner."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you, that's all I have."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "To continue along that line, one of the other things that's important is that architects and some of these business partners have gone to other venues and looked at other similar kind of projects around the United States to see what other people are doing.

The other part I think that is important for the public to know is that thinkers in that manufacturing and aviation sector have thought about what this should be 30 years from now and we're not building it for today's manufacturing and today's aviation, but with the idea that we can conform it to deposits and advanced materials and whatever the new, new technology is and it's not just about well, we've built a little paint booth and a welding shop and that's what it's going to look like. It's tried to think about how this will serve us for many, many years to come and I think that's important for the public to know that we're not building your daddy's Oldsmobile, we're building the Oldsmobile of the future here to service this community for a lot of years."

**Ms. Usher** said, "One other note I might make, commissioners, is that the A & E team that we contracted with for this project brought with them a team of educational consultants and one of those includes Dr. Kim Braden, who was the former commissioner for technical education for the State of Georgia and as you all know, Georgia is seen as the world leader in technical education, so I think we have a fair amount of world-renown expertise as well to weigh in on this project."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right. Well thank you for the update. I just had one question. The staging of this is . . . this isn't all happening at once, or are the buildings that are shown on this graphic here all part of stage one?"

**Ms. Usher** said, "They're all part of phase one. The only thing that we are potentially trying to

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separate is the site preparation from the actual construction, that we would ready the site for the general contractor prior to his coming on site and building the buildings. If we able to do that, we will. If not, those will continue . . . they would go along the same time frame. Both of those contracts would occur at one time, but it would not have an impact on the opening of the campus either way.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, thank you. I don’t see any other questions, so thank you for the report.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton 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, “Next item please.”

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- E. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE CITY OF WICHITA HAS PROVIDED SERVICES AS SET OUT IN THE SERVICE PLAN PREPARED FOR ANNEXATION NUMBER 98-33 AND 01-08, 119<sup>TH</sup> STREET WEST AND 21<sup>ST</sup> STREET NORTH – 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Robert Parnacott**, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is one of our post-annexation hearings that we have five years after an annexation by a city where they’ve annexed without the consent of the landowners. As part of that annexation process, they

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have to adopt a service plan. The service plan has to provide a schedule of what services that city intends to provide those new residents after the annexation and on what terms they would provide those. That service plan was prepared in connection with this annexation.

As the map shows, the areas we're talking about are two different annexations; phase one and phase two, located west of 119<sup>th</sup> Street West, running from about 13<sup>th</sup> Street North up to above 21<sup>st</sup> Street North. The two phases are shown in different colors. The number of residents involved in this were 150. We sent out notices to every one of them, inviting them to this hearing if they had any issues. They could also call us in advance and let us know if they had any concerns about city services. We did get about nine calls, which is pretty typical for this type hearing. Most of those calls really had nothing to do with the services that were an issue in this. We did have two that raised some drainage issues and as you see by the service plan schedule that's in your backup at page 44, the City did provide or did promise to provide drainage and ditch/ culvert cleaning, those types of services upon a complaint-based basis.

And during the period, according to the city's report that's on page 45 of your backup, during this five-year period, they have not received any complaints so these two new complaints we received, and they weren't really complaints, they were just questions about drainage and that issue, and we were talking in particular this subdivision in the northern part that I'm moving my arrow around right there, which really doesn't have ditches and they have some culverts in driveways, but they're very small culverts and really aren't appropriate for, I think, handling any real drainage issues. In any event, those two callers did not really have any complaint about city services or raise any issues, they just had some questions. We referred that to the city. They've been dealing with them and the city people are here to answer any questions you might have about that.

Typically, at this point, unless you have any questions, I'd recommend you open the public hearing. We'll see if there's anybody from the public that wants to speak and then you can hear from the city, turn it over to the city. At this point, based on the phone calls I've received, based on my review of the service plan, based on the submission of the report by the city, I believe the city has provided the services they said they were going to provide, but let's open the public hearing and see if there's anybody wants to speak."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Bob. Before we open the public hearing though, I think we have a question from Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Yes, on this annexed area, the lots are like city-sized lots, not one or five-acre lots?"

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**Mr. Parnacott** said, “You know, I’m not very good with spatial relationships. I can’t really tell you what the size of those lots are. Those are . . . maybe somebody from the city can address that, particularly, but they are a typical subdivision I think you might see, so no I . . . they’re certainly I don’t believe five-acre lots.”

**Commissioner Parks** said, “Okay, thank you.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, I see no other questions for Mr. Parnacott, so at this time I will open the public hearing and ask if there’s anyone who wants to speak to this annexation question. If when you get to the podium, if you’d give your name and address please for the record.”

**Mr. Larry Burchfield**, property owner, 2401 N. Cedar Crest, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “After reading your agenda, I’m not sure if I’m included in this, because I’m north of 21<sup>st</sup> Street and west of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, commonly known as Cedar Downs Estates. Is this part of it?”

**Commissioner Winters** said, “I think so.”

**Mr. Burchfield** said, “Okay. My problem I have is we’re not receiving adequate fire protection, in regards to city hydrants. There’s no house within the development except the ten or twelve that are along the streets of 21<sup>st</sup> Street or 119<sup>th</sup> Street, that are within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. Our problems are . . . give you a little background on myself, I’m a 42 year agent of Casualty and Property and in my learning over the years, I’ve viewed many videos in regards to fires. Whether you commissioners are aware of it or not, the average room, if it catches on fire, can reach the degree of 1,200 degrees in less than 60 seconds. That does not include the smoke and the toxic fumes that come with a fire.

And my problem is that we’re paying for city services, but we’re not getting it. I think we need to have fire hydrants in the development, all within 1,000 feet of any given house there and we’re not getting that. That’s my only complaint at this point. I don’t see a police officer very often in that area, but that’s not something that I can’t live without. They’re there and they know where we are, so my big complaint though is the fire.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, thank you sir. Is there anyone else who would like to speak to this issue, any citizens who wants to make a comment or has a question? I don’t see anyone, so we have representatives here from the City of Wichita and Terry Cassidy is here, so perhaps you can respond to that question and give us any other comment from the city.”

**Ms. Terry Cassidy**, Development Assistance Director, City Manager’s Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, “As Mr. Parnacott mentioned, we did supply a report of services delivered

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by the City within the last five years. We feel that we are in compliance with the requirements of the service plan and also have responded to the citizen calls and requests that have come in to Mr. Parnacott regarding both of these annexation areas. I do have staff here that would be happy to respond to particular questions, If you would so like and I would be willing to respond to the first citizen's question, if you would like for me to provide a response."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "If you can, are able now, that would be good."

**Ms. Cassidy** said, "Typically, in order for fire hydrants or other sorts of public improvements to be installed, such as paving, other infrastructure work, it requires that the citizens and property owners in that area petition for those services. At this point, we have not received any valid petition for fire hydrants or to my knowledge requests from property owners in that area for the city to, you know, consider the installation of fire hydrants to serve that particular area."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. We have a question from Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Right, and so in other words, Terry, this Cedar Downs area probably is not currently being served by City Water. They're probably all on well water. Is that correct, or do you know, or could I ask Mr. Burchfield if he's on well water? Mr. Burchfield, are you on well water or are you on city?"

**Mr. Burchfield indicated that area is still on well water and septic tanks.**

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Okay, thank you very much. So then the process that you've indicated is that if the citizens want to go up to that next level, it's a petition oriented procedure, where they request the city to come in and provide that service."

**Ms. Cassidy** said, "That's correct."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "And going to Commissioner Parks' question, this is an issue that or an area that does have larger lots. It's a larger lot development and I know you can't see that map very well, up there, but it's that big green area at the top of the map. If you look just immediately to the east of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, in that new development, where the lots are much smaller, I would guess each of those lots is probably has four or five thousand or maybe much more in special assessments on those lots to pay for their water, their sewer, their streets."

**Ms. Cassidy** said, "Their paving, their storm water."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "And once you have an existing development, such as Cedar Downs, which at one time was out in the country, and the city grows up to them, they do not have those and

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did not go through that process. They can go through that process now if they go through the petition process and ask for that to be assessed back to their property, is that correct?"

**Ms. Cassidy** said, "That's correct and I mean, we would certainly be willing to meet with those property owners in that area and just explain the entire process and do some cost estimates and that kind of thing for them."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Where is the closest fire station to that intersection of 119<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>?"

**Ms. Cassidy** said, "I'm going to ask Chief Bricknel to respond to that."

**Chief Ed Bricknel**, Wichita Fire Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The closest station would be Station #16, would be at the 1600 block of North Tyler, approximate four to six response time. The second closest would be Station 17 at Maize and Maple, six to eight minute response time. And there is a station currently being planned for 135<sup>th</sup> West and 21<sup>st</sup> Street, so that should be up and running within the next year hopefully."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "All right, is there any . . . as fire hydrants come up or main water lines come up and along 21<sup>st</sup> Street, going west of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, is there opportunity to put hydrants along 21<sup>st</sup> Street, even though they may not be in the development of Cedar Downs? And I guess the second part of that question is when you receive a call in a location like Cedar Downs that does not have hydrants, do you respond in a special manner to locations like that?"

**Chief Bricknel** said, "Yes sir. To the first question, the answer is yes. And the second question, in cases where we know there's a lack of water, we bring water with us. Engines carry no less than 500 gallons of water and in a situation as this, we will bring a tanker or tender, which holds thousands of gallons of water so we bring our water where we know there's a lack of water in the neighborhoods."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "All right, thank you very much. I think just one more question for Terry. Terry, would it be possible to explore with Public Works or whoever, the water department, because I mean 21<sup>st</sup> Street is going to become a much more arterial street and I'm sure there's going to be water lines, if they're not already in the right-of-way, up and down 21<sup>st</sup> Street, that there might be hydrants placed there, even though the system may not extend into the homeowners in that area? Is that a possibility to at least discuss?"

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**Ms. Cassady** said, "Certainly, certainly."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. I think that's all I had."

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, "I know there are not only City of Wichita but other cities that deem the infrastructure and the like fireplugs being part of that infrastructure going back on the homeowners to pay for those through the water district, and I just wondered what kind of policies that the City of Wichita had for any kind of fireplugs or water mains that wouldn't require a benefit district to be set up, especially the people on larger lots. They're going to be paying not \$4,000, but more like \$20,000 a piece just to get water out there. And in that question, if I could add another part to that, I would hope the City of Wichita would work with those people in that area that request water and take that into consideration with the percentage of that infrastructure, they realize that fire hydrants is a part of the infrastructure."

**Ms. Cassady** said, "I'm going to ask Don Kirkland with the water department to address that for you."

**Mr. Don Kirkland**, Assistant Director, Wichita Water Utilities Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Currently, the policy is that petitions are the way that these water mains are extended and then fire hydrants are put in. Since that would be a policy decision to make any changes in the way that's done, it's my understanding that that would be a council type of action."

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you. Commissioners, any other questions for the City of Wichita representatives? Okay, I see no other questions Terry, so at this time we will close the public hearing and restrict the conversation to the bench and Commissioner Winters, you have a comment."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well, I appreciate the discussion we've had. All of this area is in my district and I do want to say that I certainly respect the comments of Larry Burchfield, the citizen who did speak here. I've known Larry for a number of years. He's a well-respected westside business person and I've known him and his business for a long time.

I think that I am going to be supportive of taking our action to agreeing that the City of Wichita has met their obligations, even though this water issue is somewhat distressing to some folks in a way, but you know, as we think about and we go forward with all of our planning efforts, particularly on

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the county side, I know this development has been there many, many years but when we think about these large lot developments, this is the exact issue we get into is how do you provide services to the large lots, when we know just across the street to the east, those people are paying a lot of money on small lots for them to receive the services, so this is certainly an issue.

I would hope that there would be some way that the city's water department would look, as they move more water lines down 21<sup>st</sup> Street to that additional expansion that is going to be to the west of 119<sup>th</sup> Street, that there would be opportunities to put some fire hydrants in there that would assist the fire protection all along the way. But Mr. Chairman, if there's no other questions, I would be prepared to make a motion."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well commissioner, I don't see any other requests to speak, so now would be an appropriate time."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to that the City of Wichita has extended services as provided in the service 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, "Motion passes, thank you Mr. Parnacott. Terry, thanks to you and thanks to all the representatives from the City of Wichita for being here to respond to questions. Madam Clerk, please call the next item."

**NEW BUSINESS**

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**DEPARTMENT ON AGING**

**F. DEPARTMENT ON AGING**

**1. CONTRACTS (3) FOR FY 2007 AGING MILL LEVY FUNDING.**

**Senior Clubs**

- **Colwich Senior Club – City of Colwich** **\$5,000**
- **Maize Senior Club – City of Maize** **\$5,000**
- **Mulvane Senior Club – City of Mulvane** **\$5,000**

**Ms. Monica Cissell**, Program Manager, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, “First I have three Aging mill levy agreements for Colwich, Maize and Mulvane Senior Clubs. These clubs all provide a variety of services, information and recreational activities for adults who are 55 and older in their communities and in Sedgwick County. They have proven to be effective and assist our agency in engaging older adults in their community and I recommend that you approve the three agreements and authorize the Chairman to sign. I’ll be glad to answer any questions.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, thank you. We do have a question. Commissioner Welshimer.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Hi. On this, is the \$5,000 for Mulvane, is that what they’ve been getting, year after year?”

**Ms. Cissell** said, “I would have to double check on that. I’m not familiar, right at the moment, what they did receive. In 2006, we began a funding formula and at that . . . at the beginning of 2006, all of the senior clubs began receiving \$5,000, so it is quite possible that they had not received that amount.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well, I was thinking it was 18 or 19.”

**Ms. Cissell** said, “No, Mulvane is a senior club, so they have not received over 5,000. I do know that.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “They have a director and they have a building.”

**Ms. Cissell** said, “Yes they do. It’s based on the size of the facility and the number of people that

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participate, and so that years ago was established as a senior club.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Okay, thank you.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioner Parks.”

**Commissioner Parks** said, “Yes, I was just going to ask, \$5,000 they have to meet a certain criteria for that, is that correct? Could you kind of go over that.”

**Ms. Cissell** said, “That’s right. Correct. Let me get my notes out real quick, so I tell you correctly. They are to meet three baseline activities annually, which are three activities that are provided on a regular basis, such as exercise programming. They are also supposed to provide four special events or projects annually. Generally, that is potluck or community get togethers. Then they’re also to provide eight educational events, which are required, and that can range from a trip to a museum, could also be a presentation by a local vendor, a home health agency, representative of a university, so that really can vary.

They are not required to have a senior center director, but as you pointed out, they . . . Mulvane does, so they go over and above that requirement. And those are the three standards that we have set out for programming.”

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay. Well, the criteria for the different categories are very well defined and the different groups can move up in their classification if they meet the new criteria and demonstrate the ability to provide the services.”

**Ms. Cissell** said, “That’s correct.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay, that’s the only comment or question I had, so commissioners, I see no more questions. What’s the will of the board?”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the three FY 2007 Aging Mill Levy Contracts and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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."

- 2. AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING, CENTRAL PLAINS AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND KANSAS HEALTH POLICY AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE THE MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.**

**Ms. Cissell** said, "Today I have a Medicaid Administrative Assessment agreement from the Kansas Department on Aging. This is a fee for service agreement that allows our agency to be reimbursed for assessments that our case managers do for clients who are interested in home and community-based services programs. I recommend that you approve the agreement and authorize Annette Graham, our executive director of Central Plains Area Agency on Aging to sign this agreement for Kansas Department on Aging. I'd be glad to try to answer any questions."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Executive Director of the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging 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

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Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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

**3. ADJUSTMENT TO THE AGING DEPARTMENT STAFFING TABLE  
ADDING TWO PART-TIME, GRANT-FUNDED POSITIONS: VOLUNTEER  
COORDINATOR POSITION, B114, AND BUS DRIVER POSITION, B115.**

**Ms. Cissell** said, "Today I have two positions that we'd like to be added to our staffing table. First is a volunteer coordinator position, part time, which is created to support the Kansas Support Services for Elders program, which our department has acquired. At the close of 2006, Legal Services of Kansas determined that they no longer wish to provide this program through their agency, and because this is a volunteer program, we felt that it was a natural fit with our RSVP volunteer program, which already is connecting older adults to volunteer opportunities. The majority of the 18 volunteers that participate in this program already are over 55 and so would qualify for the RSVP volunteer program and the benefits that we provide through that program.

Through Kansas Support Services for Elders program the volunteers provide financial support. They might do check writing, bill paying, sorting of mail, reconciling bank statements and record keeping for the 40 clients that are participating in that program right now.

Beginning March, 2007 our agency took over this program, gladly, and the part time position will monitor the volunteers, the clients, and assist the RSVP program manager and this program covers Sedgwick, Harvey and Butler counties and will be funded through the Older Americans Act funding.

Secondly, the bus driver position is our second position and this position will allow the transportation brokerage the flexibility of having an experienced, trained back up driver when our full time driver is on planned leave. In the past, we have worked with vendors to support the transportation bus driver when they are on leave and this will allow more flexibility for our department. This position is funded by a KDOT grant. I recommend that you approve the to adjustment to our Department on Aging staffing table and I'd be glad to answer any questions."

**MOTION**

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Commissioner Norton moved to approve the adjustments to the Department of Aging Staffing Table.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. We do have a question. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. Monica, just so I heard you right, the first position is funded by federal money from the Older Americans Act and the bus driver is funded from KDOT transportation funds."

**Ms. Cissell** said, "Correct. An NAMT grant, I'm told through KDOT."

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "And these grants have been ongoing? I mean, this is . . . I mean, I know this is not a permanent position if they're grant funded, but it looks like this will be a stable service we'll be able to offer."

**Ms. Cissell** said, "We anticipate them to be stable positions."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you. We have a motion and a second. An further discussion? Hearing none, Madam Clerk call the vote."

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you, Monica. Next item please."

**DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS**

**G. PROJECT SERVICES.**

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**1. REAL ESTATE PURCHASE CONTRACT WITH INDIAN HILLS MEAT AND POULTRY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 920 EAST LEWIS IN SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY ARENA PROJECT.**

**Ms. Stephanie Knebel**, Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This morning you have in front of you a purchase contract with Indian Hills Meat and Poultry. The county is needing to purchase this property as related to street improvements in support of our downtown arena.

The fee appraisal information was developed by the Martens Company some months ago and they appraised this property to be worth \$360,000 as the fair market value and that’s the same dollar amount we’ll be purchasing the property for if approved by you this morning.

In addition to this purchase price, we will be paying relocation costs as established by Land Acquisitions and associated closing costs. I request your approval and am available for questions.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Any questions, commissioners.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Real Estate Purchase Contract and authorize the Chairman or his designee, to sign.

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Norton	No
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	No
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Next item please.”

**2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH INDIAN HILLS MEAT AND POULTRY LOCATED AT 920 EAST LEWIS, WICHITA, KANSAS.**

**Ms. Knebel** said, “With the purchase of this property, this document provides us the ability of that

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current owner to stay in his place of business through September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. This Memorandum of Understanding that we've put in place for tenants and owners on the specific arena site. If the deadline is not met, then we have the . . . of this company moving by September 7<sup>th</sup>, we have the ability in this document to begin charging rent until they're moved off the site. I recommend your approval and am available for questions."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you. I may have got a little fast calling the next item. Commissioner Norton wants to make a comment."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "No, that's fine. I just want to be sure everyone knew my vote on the last one. I've consistently said I didn't think that the Washington corridor should be part of the arena, that we shouldn't be spending arena money on that. That should be infrastructure money that comes from other places, City of Wichita, maybe Sedgwick County but I've never been enamored with that. I've been pretty consistent with it and I think my votes have pretty well shown that, so I just wanted to be sure, for the record, everybody knew what I was thinking when I voted no on that."

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

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I just wanted to say again Commissioner Norton and I agree on many, many things and this is one that we just continually have the . . . seeing this in a difference when we first started on this project, consistently from the beginning of this project we've said that if the arena caused traffic issues and concerns in the immediate, adjacent area, we would be responsible for those and so that's why I continue to support this effort along Washington Street. Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioners, any more comment on Item G-2, which is a Memorandum of Understanding on vacating the property?"

**Commissioner Winters** said, "I have a question."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Stephanie, the owners of this property have signed this and recognize that this is the procedure?"

**Ms. Knebel** said, "They have. We worked with them a lot in understanding what this memorandum of understanding would mean to them. They are comfortable with the requirements and they're very comfortable with the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to be off the property."

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

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**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Chairman Unruh 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, Stephanie. Next item please."

**H. DEFERRED COMPENSATION. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY ANY MARKET VALUE ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW EMPLOYEE FUNDS FROM THE ING FIXED ACCOUNT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRANSFER OF SECTION 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FROM CURRENT PROVIDERS TO GREAT WEST RETIREMENT SERVICES.**

**Mr. Chris Chronis**, Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "A couple of weeks ago approved a recommendation of the bid board to replace the existing providers of deferred compensation services with a new provider. We told you at the time that one fund of one of the providers, the existing providers, carries with it a penalty, if you will, for participants who withdraw their money from that fund prematurely. The item that's before you today asks for authorization for the county to make that payment, that penalty payment, on behalf of employees using funds that would be drawn from the commission contingency account.

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The rationale for the county making this payment, despite the fact that deferred compensation is a solely employee funded program is that it is the county, as the administrator, as the sponsor of the plan that has made the decision to move to a new vendor for very valid reasons, but nonetheless causing some penalty to be assessed to certain participants in the plan and so there is a view that the county should bear that cost.

The estimate of the cost, the last time we calculated it, was \$122,000. The actual cost will be determined on the day of withdrawal from the old fund and transfer to the new fund, that will be approximately 90 days from now when we actually make the transition from old providers to new providers, and the amount of the payment will be determined by a formula that is contained in the contract with the old provider, ING and that formula is based on the size of assets being withdrawn, the market conditions in effect at that time, and so we have asked for authority to make the payment up to \$200,000. We don't expect that it will be that much, but we want to make sure that we don't have to come back if market conditions have changed dramatically in the next 90 days, causing an unexpected increase in the amount of the payment. I'll be happy to answer any questions if you have any. If not, then I would ask your approval of the action that's before you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Chris. We do have a couple of comments. I just want to make a comment, so that everyone who is attentive to this issue understands that it was a couple of weeks ago that we made the decision to change. This is a decision of the commission deciding to bear the responsibility for what has been called a market value adjustment or . . ."

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "So I think that's legitimate for us to do that and appropriate, in light of the fact of our somewhat fiduciary responsibility, as we manage this. So I'm favorable to going ahead with this, but just didn't want to misunderstand, the decision to make the change was made a couple of weeks ago. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well, as the commission knows, I voted no on this a couple of weeks ago and that was one of the paramount decision that I voted no for this and I think this tends to rectify that and the 457 is an employee generated fund. It's nothing that's matched by the county and I just think that this is the thing to do for the employee, to not have them out any expense or their funds or anything during this transfer. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, we got some requests from various individuals representing

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other groups of people to maybe reconsider or defer this and truthfully, we've already taken the action to move forward on this. I think this is a chance to hold harmless the employees that will be penalized if that money is pulled out of the ING account and I think it's a good way to mitigate those concerns. Now I don't know that it will mitigate all of them, but we're two weeks past people complaining about it. I think we asked some pertinent questions. I went to several meetings to listen to employee concerns of people who were participating and I don't know that I . . . you know, I heard a few, but I didn't hear, you know, a real unrest and I certainly hadn't received e-mails or phone calls from employees saying 'oh, why did you do this, this is terrible' so I'm ready to move forward today.

I have a little mixed feelings that I would like to be sure that all employees feel good about this, but I thought we did our due diligence to try to be sure that we were doing the right thing, and if we take this action today as a commission, then it's like insurance or some other things, we're trying to make it as palatable for employees to participate as we possibly can."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to authorize the County Manager and Chief Financial Officer to pay market value adjustments.

Commissioner Parks 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, Chris. Next item please."

**I. KANSAS COLISEUM MONTHLY REPORT.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

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**Mr. John Nath**, Coliseum Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Report today on the activities for April. April was a very interesting month at the Coliseum, comprising of several returning favorites and several new shows that haven't played the market before. We had over 82,000 people through the doors, 18 events, 36 performances. Net revenues were in excess of \$303,000.

Some of the new events, we'll go right into the Blue Man group. Now this thing has really taken off, very popular show, it's doing well everywhere across the country. It's a mixture of comedy and technology, if you want to call it that. Anybody that plays the plastic pipes, it's very interesting, a lot of percussion in this show and it was very well received. We had nearly 6,500 in attendance.

Going to the Dogs show, the annual returning Sunflower Cluster, what a great show from the big and the small, now it was actually one of the top five shows in the country this year and when it comes to AKC.

Then we had the Freaknic Jam, featuring Akon as the star this year from Power 93.9. And then the Shrine Circus, another annual recurring event, which is very popular with our folks. And we had another first time event, Chaos in the Coliseum, mixed martial arts. This is one of the fastest growing sports in America today. Pay Per View returns for the octagon fights are just absolutely incredible. Las Vegas is really picked up on a lot of this and they're playing many, many arenas around the country. We've had calls I'd say from about 18 different promoters that want to put these kind of shows on. Then we had the music of Chip Davis, presented by Manheim Steamroller in a fresh air concert, very nice show, and we had Thomas the Tank Engine, very popular with the kiddies, two performances.

Sports zone, three playoff games with the Thunder. They finished a great year in attendance, had over 10,000 people for those three games, and the Wichita Wild and they opened up their season with over 2,400 in attendance on the season opener.

Coming up, we have Heights graduating tonight, we have Southeast tomorrow night, then we go into Goddard and Derby and that finishes out the weekend. Martina McBride is in concert on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Wild play football in June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup>. Then the Hays Company is going to do their overstock sale at the Coliseum this year. They've put in a new inventory system, so they're not going to use their own facility. They going to come right across the street and that's a lot of fun, because I go every year. That's how I get all the nick knacks for my yards. And then the Wild return again the 16<sup>th</sup>, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of June to finish out their season.

Commissioners, if there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them at this time."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well, I don't see any questions John. I guess it's perfectly legal to have

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Chaos in the Coliseum and have two guys just beat each other up.”

**Mr. Nath** said, “We have that ever day just about.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay, all right, thank you. I don’t see any other comments or questions, commissioners. What’s the will of the board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Parks 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, John. Next item please.”

**J. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS’ REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 10, 2007.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The meeting of May 10<sup>th</sup> results in eight items for consideration today.

**1) ROAD IMPROVEMENTS- PUBLIC WORKS  
FUNDING: PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ROADS- 07**

First item, road improvements for Public Works. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from APAC Kansas, Shears Division in the amount of \$1,748,765.85.

**2) TELESCOPING SIGN POSTS- PUBLIC WORKS  
FUNDING: TRAFFIC OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

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Item two, telescoping signposts for Public Works. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Northwest Pipe Company in the amount of \$18,544.

**3) CHECK COLLECTION SERVICES- VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS  
FUNDING: VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

Item three, check collection services for various county departments. Recommendation is to accept the proposal from Progress Financial Services and execute a contract for one year, with four one-year options to renew.

**4) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL- COMCARE  
FUNDING: COMCARE ADMINISTRATION**

Item four, membership renewal for COMCARE. Recommendation is to accept the quote from the Association of Community Health . . . excuse me, the Association of Mental Health Centers of Kansas Incorporated in the amount of \$35,863.86.

**5) ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT- REGISTER OF DEEDS  
FUNDING: TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT**

Item five, annual maintenance renewal and support for the Register of Deeds. Recommendation is to accept the quote from Computer Information Concepts for an annual cost of \$28,450.

**6) SL500 TAPE LIBRARY UPGRADE- DIVISION OF INFORMATION &  
OPERATIONS  
FUNDING: NETWORKING & TELECOMMUNICATION**

Item six, SL500 tape library upgrade for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Data Link in the amount of \$67,918.

**7) COMMUNICATION CIRCUITS- EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
FUNDING: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

Number seven, communication circuits for Emergency Communications. Recommendation is to accept the quote from Southwest Bell Telephone LP for \$1,686 a month and execute a contract for a total 60-month cost of \$101,160.

**8) PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND LICENSING AGREEMENT- VARIOUS**

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**DEPARTMENTS**

**FUNDING: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

Item eight, Professional Services and Licensing agreement for various departments and the recommendation is to approve the quote from Approved Technologies Companies Incorporated in the amount of \$12,500 and that's an annual cost.

Be happy to answer any questions and I recommend approval."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Iris. We do have a question. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "On the check collection services, has there been any thought to some of those departments that have the high rate of recidivism that would be for going to the ACL or the automatic check withdrawal system?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "I don't know if they had that conversation during their request for proposal process for consideration or the evaluation, but I can find out and get back with you."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well I think maybe on the next . . . when we look at doing that, maybe some of those would be prudent."

**Ms. Baker** said, "Mr. Chronis would be happy to respond to that."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "And I don't know the cost on that, so . . ."

**Mr. Chronis** said, "As a part of our collection services agreement, we have obtained the ability to do what's termed 'e-checks', which is when the check is handed to our cashier, it is run through a machine and automatically debited from the account at that point in time and we're in the process implementing that service. That should, as we roll that out, eliminate the need for having bad check collection, but until we do that we're going to continue to need that service."

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, any other questions, commissioners? What's the will of the board?"

**MOTION**

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

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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, Iris. Next item .”

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**K. CONSENT AGENDA.**

**1. Plat.**

Approved by Public Works. The County Treasurer has certified that taxes for the year 2006 and prior years have been paid for the following plat:

**Hill Addition**

**2. Order dated May 9, 2007 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**

**3. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of May 9–May 15, 2007.**

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**4. Payroll check register of May 4, 2007.**

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it and remind you that there's only 229 more days until the sales tax expires."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well, before we have a motion to go into executive session, commissioners, now would be a good time if there are any other items of interest or comment that you want to make. Commissioner Parks."

**L. OTHER**

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well, I did walk in the parade, in the Riverfest Parade and enjoyed seeing a lot of my fourth district constituents there. Also, I would like to thank Dave Spears for his quick action, in conjunction with the City of Wichita and some graffiti in the Riverside community that presented itself immediately before Riverfest and did get some action on that and was taken care.

I also had the opportunity last night to attend the festivities at the Penguin Cove at the Sedgwick County Zoo. I think this is a wonderful cooperation between the Zoological Society and Sedgwick County. I think, in keeping with my saying 'Vacationing Kansas' theme with gas nearing \$4.00 a gallon, this is certainly a venue that people in Kansas will have and there's a lot of new things out

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there. In the last four or five years, if you haven't been to the Sedgwick County Zoo, please attend, with the Downing Gorilla Forest and some of the new things that have been added and then the penguins just added to that venue for entertainment and education.

The Wichita Wild in the north end is not going to play again until June the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but there's still plenty of sporting events going on in the north end of the county, those being 81 Speedway and International Drag Way. There's some special events coming up around Memorial Day, so you could also plan those. Having said that, thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you commissioner. Commissioner Welshimer."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well, I just want to remark on the last Thursday and Friday meeting with the other county commissioners of the state in Hutchinson and the major issue that seemed to surface to the top in that conference was the rising property tax around the state and of course here, and we did have senators and house members come in to talk to us and we had almost a whole afternoon of addressing that issue and I think we all came to the same conclusion, that it is a problem that it must be address and we do need the help of the legislature. And I think that from that, that it will be addressed in the next session and hopefully we'll get some relief to some extent, I don't know what, but I think we should stay with it, stay in communication with them. And I want to compliment Commissioner Norton on an excellent conference, being president of that organization and it was very well planned. It was an educational experience from beginning to end. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well, I really can't add much more about the conference to what Commissioner Welshimer has said, but I guess I'm appreciative that Commissioner Parks and Commissioner Welshimer attended. I think it's important to continue to cultivate those relationships with our neighboring counties or counties all over the state and sometimes, in the morning I know the sound system was so bad I couldn't hardly hear anything and so you wonder if you made a mistake by going, but then after that was solved later in the day and listening to the state representatives and the senator was there, I think you just begin to pick up things and you begin to develop these relationships of communicating with other commissioners and I think that's helpful. Tim and Dave and I have done that quite a bit, but I really want to thank both of you for attending that and I know we can't attend every conference every time, so not trying to put anybody on the spot, but I think Sedgwick County is looked to and looked at and I think we made a good statement that with all our commissioners at that statewide Commissioners Association meeting, so those are my comments."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well just a little bit of a comment about the agenda up there. We wanted to make sure that this year was very pertinent and that's why we talked a lot about taxes and tax base and the climate. Dr. Jabara was there to talk about the climate of renovation and how do offset some of the property tax woes by creating job opportunities and economy in locations and so of that's very pertinent for our county, but it's an agenda for the whole state because one thing you learn when you go there and you talk to people from 60 or 70 other counties and Gwin, you're right. Everybody was talking about the property tax burden and I know we worry about that here, but it's not just Sedgwick County that's got that issue, even though we had a little property tax increase, you look around the state and some of the diminishing communities out there and what they're dealing with. They're raising their property taxes a lot more than we ever will and are not getting much for it. At least we can generate a little money to do some things, so I think it was a very pertinent time to discuss that, to put it on the table.

And I also thought it was good that we brought some representatives and some senators and let them discuss that, because they've got a real dog in the fight too, as we look at demand transfers that are dried up and aren't helping the counties anymore and that's their responsibility. So to have them there and let them be a part of the discussion I think was very, very important. But I think it accomplished what we wanted to, we had a good turnout and truthfully, we had about 20 cancellations at the last minute, because of the tornado, so we would have had even a bigger crowd if we hadn't had that event in the state. So I think it was a great conference, I was very encouraged that we had a lot of people there and good dialogue.

A lot of times, when you throw out issues and say 'let's talk about it' nobody stands up and asked the questions, there isn't much buzz around the tables, and I was very gratified that people were pretty engaged. You know, they were asking pretty tough questions and there was a lot of buzz around the tables, when we went to the small group sessions. It wasn't 'well, let's talk about what the farm community is going to do this year, how are the crop' or whatever it is. Everybody was laser focused on the issue, because it is our issue, as county commissioners so that's all I've got."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you. Well I would just want to take the opportunity to publicly recognize and congratulate our winner for the Excellence in Public Service Award Mr. Brent Shelton, who is Assistant Deputy County Clerk was awarded that the other day. It's an annual award that comes from the DeVore Foundation and Bill and Dick DeVore are great community supporters and contributors to our community and this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year that they've supported that award and for the 20<sup>th</sup> time, we've had a very outstanding recipient and this year Brent Shelton got it and we're real proud of him and the work that he does for Sedgwick County.

Would just want to let everybody know that if they've got anything to say to the commissioners, well you can come meet us at lunch. We're going to be over at the River Festival today, eating

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some of that food I think. And this evening I have the opportunity to visit with some of the folks from Cancun, our sister city of the City of Wichita at a reception this evening, so lots of opportunities to hopefully promote Sedgwick County.

Well, that's all I had, so Commissioner Norton would like to make a comment."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, I'm not going to make it to the River Festival luncheon today, so everybody enjoy a bierock or a funnel cake or some corn for me. The governor is sponsoring a Health Institute luncheon today and I'm going to attend that. Health policy, as you know, is really something that's high on my agenda and I want to be sure that I'm there to hear kind of what the state is doing and how it ties into what we're trying to do here locally. So I'm going to beg off from that luncheon and go to another one."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Very good. All right, we are ready I think for a motion to go into Executive Session."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to recess into Executive Session for 15 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/client relationship relating to potential litigation legal advice and that the Board of County Commissioners return to this room from Executive Session no sooner than 11:05 a.m.

Commissioner Norton 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

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**Chairman Unruh** said, “We are in recess.”

**Board of County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session at 10:51 a.m and returned from Executive Session at 11:20 a.m.**

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, we are back from our recess into executive session, so I call the regular meetings of county commissioners back to order and we’ll declare that while we were in executive session no binding action was taken. So at this time is there anything more to come before the commission meeting, commissioners? Mr. Manager? Mr. Euson? Then we are adjourned.”

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.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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**Regular Meeting, May 16, 2007**

**KELLY PARKS**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

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**GWEN WELSHIMER**, Commissioner,  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

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**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

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, 2007