

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

July 25, 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, July 25, 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. Jo Templin, Director, Human Resources; Captain Sam R. Houston, Sheriff's Department; Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care; 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

Ms. Kathy Walter, Arrowhead West, Inc.
Mr. Web Voth, Rainbows United.
Mr. Ron Pasmore, The Arc of Sedgwick County.
Mr. Kevin Fish, The Arc of Sedgwick County.
Mr. Larry Turner, Sedgwick County Extension.
Ms. Ernestine Krehbiel, Sedgwick County Voter's Coalition.
Representative Delia Garcia, State of Kansas Legislation, MANA de Wichita.
Ms. Patricia Dooley, League of Women Voters, Wichita Metro.
Ms. Marsha Dill, 12220 Hunters View, Wichita, Ks., Starkey.
Mr. Karyn Page, KWTC/ 111 S. Market, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Susan Armstrong, Armstrong/ Shank, 7450 S. Seneca, Haysville, Ks.
Mr. Jim Mock, Agri-business Council of Wichita.
Ms. Betty Ladwig, 206 N. Jaax, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Joyce Markley, 142 Penrose, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Aiden Dunleavy, 1023 Woodridge Ct., Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Karl Peterjohn, 11328 Texas St., Wichita, Ks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Dan Boyd of Cowboy Church of Benton.

FLAG SALUTE

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ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, June 27, 2007

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of June 27, 2007.

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, you’ve had the opportunity to review the Minutes of the June 27th meeting. Are there any additions or corrections?”

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 27, 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, “Before we call the next item, commissioners, I want to take just a moment to just express appreciation to the City Council of the City of Wichita for their adoption of a resolution yesterday. A resolution that indicated support for the downtown arena, Sedgwick County arena in downtown Wichita. I won’t read their resolution at this time, but it was very complimentary of the activities that we’ve taken towards economic development in downtown Wichita, with the arena, recognizing the fact that we’re working hard on parking and that they want to partner with us in trying to help solve that problem. But it was just a strong expression of support and I want to thank the mayor and city council persons for approving that resolution yesterday. And now Madam Clerk, please call the first item.”

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PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY 28, 2007 AS “THE DAY OF THE COWBOY.”

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

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County, Kansas is the birthplace of the Chisholm Trail and has a unique and special connection to the American West; and

WHEREAS, the Cowboy is an enduring symbol of America; and this year, 2007, commemorates the 140th anniversary of commerce on the Chisholm Trail; and

WHEREAS, the cowboy spirit continues to infuse this country with its solid character, sound family values, and good common sense; and

WHEREAS, the cowboy image embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect a strong work ethic and patriotism; and the cowboy loves, lives off of and depends on the land and its creatures, and is an excellent steward, protecting and enhancing the environment; and

WHEREAS, to recognize the American Cowboy is to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of Sedgwick County to an esteemed and enduring code of conduct; and

WHEREAS, Old Cowtown Museum honors this legacy and will commemorate the Cowboy during the Fifth Annual Rails and Trails celebration July 28 and 29, 2007.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of the Sedgwick County Commission do hereby proclaim July 28, 2007 as the

‘Day of the American Cowboy’

in Sedgwick County and encourage all citizens to join in this observance with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the resolution. What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

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Commissioner Norton moved adopt the Proclamation.

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, “We have several folks here to accept the proclamation. I’ll let you introduce yourselves, but Commissioner Norton has a comment he wants to make.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I can wait until after they’ve made comments.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, very good.”

Mr. Edward Leroy, Manager of Special Projects, Old Cowtown Museum, greeted the Commissioners and said, “With me today is David Abbott, our manager of earned income, Chris Connors, our director of education, and Ron Parker our caretaker at Cowtown. On behalf of the staff and thousands of volunteers in the community, wish to thank the county commission for this recognition of the continuing economic advantage the cowboy historic and commercial and its image has to Sedgwick County.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well thank you for being here and we’re very pleased to make the proclamation, but we do have a couple of comments. Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well my comments are really you know, when I was growing up the

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names Gene Autry and Hop-Along Cassidy and Roy Rogers and Tom Mix and obviously John Wayne and all those depictions of cowboys were infused into young people and if you look at today, it's a different thought process. So the preservation of that part of our history, of honoring the cowboy and the frontiersmen that settled this country I think is pretty powerful and I applaud you for trying to keep that in the psychic of our community, because it is a part of our history and it's very important. And you know we're generations away from Gene Autry and Roy Rogers and that group, and many of us hold that in high regard, as part of our youth and part of the history of this country. So I applaud you for this and I am solely supportive of the proclamation."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "Well other than the shocking fact that I see they made them check their guns at the door, I would like to invite everyone out, especially those people that have had a loss at another facility in the county that is no longer open are honoring those passes at Cowtown and come on out and have fun. I won't be redundant on what Commissioner Norton said, but it is a good time for all and utilize that pass for this weekend. I think you'll find that you want to come back again and again. Thanks."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, commissioner. Well we just surely want to thank you for being here again today and hope your event this Saturday is very successful and we're always proud of our cowboy heritage."

Mr. Leroy said, "Thank you, commissioner."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioners, we need to hear a motion for an off agenda item for another resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved consider an off agenda proclamation.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

OFF AGENDA ITEM

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, I have another proclamation to read for your consideration.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, adult learners are generally 25-50 years of age, have additional responsibilities such as family, career, military or community involvements, and are seeking a college degree to enhance their professional and/ or personal lives.

WHEREAS, for a large number of adult learners, a degree may mean the difference between a promotion or a significant opportunity to change ones life situation.

WHEREAS, education for adult learners must include information on pathways to formal learning with additional information on college admissions and financial aid.

WHEREAS, the TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers Program (hosted by Wichita State University) is working in cooperation with surrounding educational institutions and community-based agencies to provide free post-secondary education information to thousands of adults seeking to improve their job opportunities through higher education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim July 22-28, 2007 as

‘Adult Learners Week’

in Sedgwick County and encourage institutions of higher education and community-based organizations to continue to promote and widen access to post-secondary learning opportunities for adults.

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

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MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved adopt the Proclamation.

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, “And Kristi is here to receive the proclamation.”

Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Yes sir, we have been requested by Frances Ervin out at WSU to get this to her, and we will do that.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. We have a comment from Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well it’s interesting, the proclamation said ages 25 to 50 and you know, we just . . . I don’t know the lady’s name from Hays that was, what, 92 years old and finally got her Bachelor’s Degree. Adult education goes on until we are no longer on this earth. I think we all understand that continuing education is important for quality of life and it’s important for the economics of your family.

The county has taken the leadership role in trying to understand adult basic education and what that’s going to look like in our community in the future and I hope in the next month that we’ll bring together parts of our community to start articulating what we think adult education should look like, how do we deliver that in our community, how do we bring all the entities together that need funding and provide that service in our community and make it best for our community. So I support the proclamation not only given today, but as an ongoing process for the county, as we accept that role because it’s attached WATC.”

Ms. Zukovich said, “And Mr. Norton, with your leadership, we are working with Visioneering

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Wichita and that is happening, so . . .”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Madam Clerk, next item please.”

RETIREMENT

B. PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CLOCK TO SAM R. HOUSTON.

Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This item recognizes the valued contributions of one of our well respected members of the Sheriff’s Office and also Sedgwick County. Sam R. Houston retired July 1, after 30 years with this organization. Sam is joined by family members and would you like to stand and be recognized, as well as Sheriff Steed and many others from the Sheriff’s Office are here to celebrate with Sam upon his requirement.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Sam, we want to congratulate you on the occasion of your retirement and thank you for your service to Sedgwick County. Thirty years is a long time, but I’m assuming that it’s been rewarding and fulfilling to you and we certainly have appreciated your service to all the citizens to public safety in Sedgwick County.

But we want to mark this occasion with this certificate and nice token of this occasion, and also present you with the famous retirement clock here. We want you to have it and hope that when you look at it you’ll remember favorably your years here at Sedgwick County and the friends that you’ve made and the experiences you’ve had. And we once again just want to say thank you for your service and we’d like for you to say something.”

Mr. Sam R. Houston, Sheriff’s Captain, Sheriff’s Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you. Thirty years is a long time. When I started here I was a cadet, Jim Woods and I started together at 16 and went on to the Sheriff’s Office and achieved great things and we had a lot of opportunities here at Sedgwick County and worked with a lot of people here. I’ve seen a lot of changes in the county, a lot of good changes, a lot of growth and I look forward to my new career out at Goddard as the chief and I look forward to working with the county, working with the Sheriff and I’ve made a lot of friends and I will miss them, but I will see them.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Before you all leave, we do have a couple of lights on. I’m not sure who was first, Commissioner Norton.”

Commissioner Norton said, “I think maybe I was. Well I just want to congratulate Sam. That’s

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quite a milestone to put 30 years in with one entity and we're very proud that you did it at Sedgwick County. We look forward to working with you out in Goddard. I just happened to be at an event, I can't remember what day, I'm starting to forget my days, but the mayor of Goddard came up to me and said 'I'm taking one of your best guys' and I went 'wow, you know I think you're right'. I'm very proud of that, we're sorry to lose him, but I have to tell you, the mayor of Goddard is very happy to have you coming on board, so I think you need to know that, that you're highly respected in the county and Goddard is very lucky to have you going that way, so congratulations, Sam."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "To publicly congratulate you also on that job and I know . . . don't think it's going to let up any, because small town chief of police is a pretty tough job. So . . . but I know you can handle it and it's going to be a career . . . a little bit of a change for you, but it's going to be good for Goddard. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Well Sam, you've got a lot of good friends here, but we'll remain your friends, so we're looking forward to a continued relationship with you."

Commissioner Norton said, "But don't speed through Goddard."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, before we call the next item, as is our custom here, we recognize visiting elected officials and we have Representative Delia Garcia here in the commission room today, and she kind of screened out of there from some of the movement. Well Representative Garcia, now I can see you, make eye contact. We want to welcome you to our meeting today. Thank you for being here. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

PUBLIC HEARING

C. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2008 RECOMMENDED SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Last week I presented to you the recommended budget for 2008. I also told you last year [sic] that today would be the first public hearing. The next and last public hearing will be August 15th. Citizens can review the budget, online, they can participate on online public forum at www.sedgwickcounty.org. This is the 2008 recommended general fund budget for \$386,459,272. It's appropriate Mr. Chairman now to hear from the public about what they think about this proposed budget."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Mr. Manager. Commissioners, do you have any

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questions of the Manager before we open the public hearing? Okay, seeing none, at this time I will open the public hearing and ask for public comment on the budget. And we would ask you, you don't have to stand in line necessarily, but just be prepared to move to the podium as quickly as possible. And we'd like for you to restrict your remarks if possible to no more than five minutes, if you'd do that please. And when you step up, please tell us your name, address and who you represent."

Ms. Marsha Dill, Chief Operations Officer, Starkey, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I live at 12220 Hunter's View on the west side of Wichita. I want to thank you for the opportunity to share some of the challenges that we face in our efforts to provide community services to persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Today we have representatives from several different community providers to share some of the needs of our service system with you. One of the strengths of our system is also one of our biggest challenges. If a person meets the criteria for mental retardation and developmental disability services in the state of Kansas, and chooses to receive those at Starkey, we must serve them. There are extremely limited circumstances under which community providers would not have to serve a person. Starkey and other community providers are faced with unprecedented challenges in serving many of the people referred to us. We are now serving individuals previously not served by our community service system and we need resources that we do not presently have to serve them effectively.

I want to share Starkey's experience with one individual that we are serving. Jane is now 20 years old and has been receiving day services in our work activity program since she was admitted about two years ago. She is a former foster child, has mild mental retardation and is also diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder and diabetes. She returned to Wichita from the foster care system to receive adult services. She moved from a Level 6 facility, the most restrictive foster care placement, into day services at Starkey and a group home operated by another local provider.

Jane began having aggressive episodes toward herself and others almost immediately. Her behaviors included aggressive self-endangering behaviors and elopement. In the past two years, she has bit herself numerous times hard enough to remove tissue and even bit out her stitches after a trip to the emergency room.

She has used sharp objects, such as pins, tacks, box cutters and other items she found to reopen her wounds. She would hit her head on the floor, wall, table and windows. She threw small objects, as

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well as chairs. She forced objects into her ears and down her throat. She eloped, stood in the street, ran down the middle of the street, with no regard to her own personal safety. Additionally, she was aggressive towards others, by biting, hitting, kicking, spitting, and pulling hair.

Our staff restrained Jane, both to protect her from harming herself and harming others. Numerous staff have been injured, some multiple times, in their efforts to protect Jane and others from harm. There were numerous calls to 9-1-1. The police responded but found there was little they could do.

EMS has transported her to the emergency room on many occasions, where she was assessed, treated and released. Unfortunately, we found very few options to turn to for assistance. Many of the interventions used in the level 6 facility, including in-patient hospitalization, are not available to providers like Starkey.

I am pleased to report that Jane has made significant progress in the past two years. That both the frequency and intensity of her behaviors have reduced drastically. Now she is stabilized on her medications and can use other strategies in dealing with stress, her frustrations and other peoples.

Unfortunately, the resources were not there when Jane and Starkey needed them, but there are others with challenging needs in our service system in Sedgwick County, in crisis or on the verge of crisis that we must be better prepared to serve. We are advocating for resources from both the county and state to assist us in assuring that each person with mental retardation that has a mental illness or exhibits those challenging behaviors has immediate access to the services they need. We ask for your support of \$100,000 in the county budget as a first step in implementing the recommendations from the Sedgwick County Task Force on Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness. Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Commissioners, are there any questions? I see none. Thank you, Marsha.”

Ms. Kathy Walter, Community Service Provider, Arrowhead West, Inc., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here to tell you about another young man served at Arrowhead West who is yet another example of an individual in need of intensive local supports not currently available in Sedgwick County.

Jake is a 19-year-old referred to Arrowhead West on the SCDDO Crisis Plan. He was deemed a crisis referral due to the frequency and intensity of his behavioral outbursts. While living at home, Jake caused serious physical injury to family members, physically assaulted a convenience store

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clerk, destroyed property at a local bar and destroyed neighbor's property. Prior to his referral to us, Jake required two in-patient hospitalizations at Good Shepard due to aggressive and threatening behavior. Within the first week at Arrowhead West he set fire to the yard, he dismantled the outside electrical box and cut the phone cord in his apartment. He made frequent violent threats to his roommates and consumers living near him, which escalated to an incident where he broke out windows, then took a hammer and threatened to kill his roommate.

Police were called and Jake was admitted again to Good Shepard, where it took seven hospital staff members to restrain him. Three days later, he was discharged to us, at which time we were informed he was no longer eligible for admission to Good Shepard, due to his extremely violent behaviors.

No longer safe to live around other clients, Jake lived with one-on-one staff in an apartment by himself for 16 months, during which time he attempted to stab his staff with a screwdriver, choke his staff with a cable cord, commit arson, break out car windshields and attempted to break into a neighbor's apartment in the middle of the night. Police were called on many of these occasions and when they arrived, they were at a loss as to what to do. Admission to Good Shepard was no longer an option, nor did the police feel that jail was a viable option for Jake, due to his disability.

At one point, police recommended the COMCARE Crisis Line, however this service will not respond when a person is violent. Their response is to call 9-1-1. Jake was in crisis, yet no local resources were available to provide the supports he needed. The MRDD system provides for community living settings, not intensive psychiatric care. We cannot lock people up, put people in restraints or administer medication through injection.

The final episode started when Jake attempted to use a fire extinguisher as a weapon and caused the evacuation of his entire day program. When he arrived at his home that day, he pulled the shower curtain rod off the wall and assaulted staff who ended up needing serious medical attention. He kicked down a door leading to the other side of the duplex, where other clients resided, and while the staff member was trying to call our management team for help, he pulled the phone cord out of the wall. Police were called again to intervene and Jake was eventually admitted to a state hospital where he remains today for treatment.

We ask you for your support for resources to care for individuals like Jake without putting the community, other consumers, staff members and the individuals themselves at risk for harm. We do not want to be the community that looks the other way, to take action only after a tragedy has already occurred. Thank you.”

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Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Kathy. We have a question. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Kathy, just so I'm clear, both you and Marsha are here really supporting our consideration of funding of the CDDO's Task Force that we had in effect last year and we're considering \$100,000 towards these issues. Is that you're talking about, the same thing?"

Ms. Walter said, "Yes, that is correct."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, thank you very much."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "Along that same line, is this . . . and maybe this would be better suited for Mr. Buchanan, but is this along the same line as the \$11,000 for the Violent Offenders that Mark asked for?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "No. This request, commissioner, came from the Task Force that we established, Sedgwick County established about a year and a half ago to deal with folks who are diagnosed with several problems, most of which is violent behavior for the developmentally disabled. And it's a growing problem around the state, it's recognized by the state as a problem. They don't have a solution and they're looking for us to help provide that solution. This funds that have been recommended would be used to either establish a safe place or some beds some place where people can be stabilized and all those details have not quite been worked out."

Commissioner Parks said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Next speaker."

Ms. Deb Voth, Vice President, Rainbows United, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You'll see that there are a total of five of us here together addressing the \$100,000 request by the CDDO for individuals with challenging behaviors. I live in northwest Wichita and I'm proud to be a provider here in Sedgwick County among this collaborative group of individuals."

Rainbows has received funding, county funding and supported early intervention services for young children for many years. I welcome this opportunity to first thank you for your longstanding support of children with special needs and their families in Sedgwick County. County mill funding helps offset the cost of regularly scheduled home visits where therapists, teachers and social

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workers help parents understand how they can promote their child's development through naturally occurring daily activities. Parents are so appreciative of not having to transport their child or arrange for babysitting for other children in order to access these vital services.

County mill funding also supports center-based early intervention services at Rainbows for young children with special needs. Full daycare is especially critical for young children who need the intensity of full-day services and for child whose family rely on Rainbows for childcare during their work hours. Early intervention promotes school readiness. At least one in four infants and toddlers with delays who receive early intervention through Rainbows does not qualify for special education services at age three. Between 500 and 550 Sedgwick County infants and toddlers are typically enrolled in Rainbows home-based tiny case services.

Rainbows has also established specialized services and treatment programs for preschoolers with challenging behaviors and our hope is that we can prevent some of these adult behaviors that the adult providers are experiencing and seeing. A number of children do come to Rainbows following numerous terminations from community childcare providers that lack the mental health resources and the low staff-child ratios that are integral components of Rainbows' early intervention services.

A disturbing trend in the United States and other developed countries is the recent increase of a number of children with autism and it's currently 1 out of 150, a condition that significantly impacts a child's ability to communicate, learn and interact with other children and adults. Rainbows has added structured classrooms, mental health specialists and other support services in recent years to meet the specific needs of children with autism and those with challenging behaviors.

The increase in staff required to serve these children has, with the other providers, has had a significant impact on operational costs. Without early intervention however the future cost to society would be much greater. The intensive programming that children receive at a young age give them the skills they need to become productive citizens. Research shows a direct link between the quality early intervention services to higher graduation rates, lower delinquency and higher lifetime earnings.

We appreciate the county's continuing support and we ask that you support an increase in funding to help offset these rising costs and support providers here in the county. Thank you for your work and for your advocacy and we hope that you'll continue that with us."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Deb. You're request is not specific dollar amount at this time."

Ms. Voth said, "I believe that the CDDO has a \$100,000 in the budget request for . . . to help individuals with challenging behaviors and developmental disability."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Next speaker."

Mr. Ron Pasmore, President and CEO, KETCH, greeted the Commissioners and said, "KETCH is community service provider affiliated with the Sedgwick County CDDO and I also am here in support of the budget request, but with a little bit different take on the issue. I served on the ad hoc task force that met throughout last fall on the issue of individuals with developmental disabilities and challenging behaviors and the stories that you've heard this morning are examples of stories that the task force heard last fall and we heard many, many more similar stories.

The recommendations made by the task force, I believe there were nine recommendations that were geared towards the county, things that we could do at a local level to improve services to those individuals. We also had a number of recommendations directed towards the State of Kansas, things that needed to happen at the state level and that's what I'm here to address this morning.

Two things in particular, we saw an issue where individuals with challenging behavior, that the behavior keeps getting worse and worse and worse because there's not timely access to services. There's not timely access to services because there's a large waiting list for services in the State of Kansas. I believe the number is over 3,000 now statewide.

The second issue, it is very difficult to maintain direct-care staff to work with these . . . really to all the people that we serve because the wage is low. The funding level from the state supports a wage at about seven, seven and a half an hour. That is not equal to what you heard in the stories that staff have to do, have to know, have to be skilled at to appropriately serve these individuals. What we saw on the task force is the issue that we had tremendous turnover. When there's inconsistency in staff, you're unable to implement the programs necessary to serve these individuals.

We have been working with the state on this issue, advocating for what we call quality based community enhancement and I've given you a brochure of that in my written comments to you. Last fall, the legislative budget committee held an interim hearing on the state of developmental disability services in the community. They took a full day of testimony. The community-based quality enhancement expansion is part of what we provided, and very simply it's that if we're going to provide more funding for services to serve everybody in the community, we also have to create

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the capacity in the community to do so, and very central to that is paying wages adequate enough so that we have a quality workforce able to meet the needs of these individuals.

In response to that, the legislative budget committee made a number of recommendations, two of which are to expand community capacity through increasing rates through the waiver by adding a total of 35,000,000 over a three-year period. Our target is to be able to get our wage rate on par with the same wage that the state pays state hospital workers in a similar position, which is about a dollar . . . or 11.80 an hour.

The second is to, over a three-year period, eliminate the waiting list. This again would cost an estimated \$35,000,000. Those are state dollars. When added into the HCBS waiver Medicaid dollars, federal dollars coming into that over the three-year period, both recommendations would total about \$180,000,000.

My purpose this morning is to ask for Sedgwick County's support in your legislative platform this coming year to advocate to the legislature that they implement these recommendations of the legislative budget committee. The state funding that comes to Sedgwick County is the lion's share of the county budget for developmental disabilities. I strongly urge you to consider this in your platform. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. We have a question from Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Ron, do you have any idea, of the 3,000 that are on the waiting list, what percentage of that or numbers are Sedgwick County or our maybe five county area, the south central area?"

Mr. Pasmore said, "Off the top of my head, I don't have that number. I know the CDDO here can get you that number. We're the largest area though, I know we have the largest population of people waiting than anywhere else in Kansas."

Commissioner Norton said, "I would assume, because we have services, we're also a magnet for other parts of the state, for people with those particular limitations and disabilities to gravitate to get serve here, which increases the problem of our waiting list. Would that be a fair statement?"

Ms. Pasmore said, "Yeah, I believe so. I think Sedgwick County . . . I lived in the county for 30 years, and I've seen this phenomenon where we have services, so people in need come to this area for these services."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay, thanks for being here today, appreciate it."

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Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. I don't see any other questions, so thank you."

Mr. Kevin Fish, Executive Director, Arc of Sedgwick County, greeted the commissioners and said, "We do appreciate you giving us the opportunity to come and share today. I won't reiterate everything our past agencies have kind of shared, but really want to just stress the fact, just like you said, that because we do have such a strong service system here in Sedgwick County, we are drawing people to the Sedgwick County area and because of that, our growth has really been rapidly rising and that does make these challenges that we're seeing increase even more. We here from families all the time that they say they've come to the Wichita area because they know they can get the supports they need for their families. And because of that, those challenges have really created the need for more funds in order for us to do what these families are asking of us.

With this success over the last five years we've seen nearly a 35% increase with families coming to the CDDO seeking services. Over the last few years, we really haven't seen an increase of funds that really kept up with that growth. We're still trying to provide the quality system services that we can have here in our community, but unless the funds are there to take care of issues like the behavior challenges, eventually our services are going to begin to crumble.

The Arc has felt a lot of challenges with this growth scenario, because of the number of people coming in, the number of people needing these services, we begin to quickly outgrow our capacity to keep up. Our case management services over the last five years have grown by 75%. In that time, a new building we purchased six years ago we thought would last us 25-30 years and we've reached capacity there. The funds have not been able to keep with the fact that we need to be able to find, train, retain quality staff and have office space provided. And because of that, we've had to change what we're doing within our agency. We're now no longer able to serve those who are under the age of 14 in case management services, which effected 55 families. It was not an easy decision, but it was one that we felt because of the growth and stuff we had to make some sort of change and we do not want to see that in our services as a whole, that we have to start making drastic changes within the agencies on who we can and can't serve. We need to have the funds available to provide the supports and services that are.

We at the Arc received services for support for socialization and respite and we're able to serve thousands every year. We're able to serve the same individuals that are served through KETCH and Arrowhead and Rainbows and it's given us an opportunity to develop a lot of relationship, but because again the lack of funds, we really have to look at how we can keep ourselves fiscally sound in the years ahead.

The Arc is just one agency searching. We are all looking to provide the best support we can for the

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families here in Sedgwick County. And with your support, we know that we will be able to reach these goals. We know the \$100,000 is really just a start. Through the task force this last year, we were able to see that there's a clear picture of a need here in our community, a need that's just going to continue to grow and again we're just asking for your support, as we start making strides towards meeting that need. Again, we thank you for your continued support. We thank you for your time and consideration. I think our team here will try to move out so you guys can get on with your business, but we do appreciate your time again."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. We do have a couple of comments, Kevin. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "Well I was going to wait till everybody testified but the questions are mounting up here a little bit. I know I've heard the term that Sedgwick County is a resource rich community, and that's what you've alluded to here, that people are moving in. Several of the others have also said that. Is there some kind of a two-year wait or anything like that, once they move in, or just immediately provide services to them?"

Mr. Fish said, "Well, once a family comes in, they can apply for services, but as far as funding through the state, there is a two-year waiting list. Now a lot of families and in private pay for certain services. You know, programs and stuff through the Arc, the family may be able to come into, but a lot of times families need funding to help pay for those services."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay, you . . . correct me if I'm wrong, 55 clients have been turned down during this time."

Mr. Fish said, "And this is at the Arc of Sedgwick County. Basically, we have over the last five years become the largest case management provider in the county. But because of the growth that we've had and the fact that the funds aren't keeping up with the demand that we had, we were having to make a change. We're actually one of about three agencies in the Sedgwick County area that made that similar change, due to some case management funding changes from the state."

Commissioner Parks said, "Are there any remote parentage type things out there, where they move in and leave the client off for you and then move back to their home county?"

Mr. Fish said, "That's probably not unrealistic. I know of cases that are very similar to that, where essentially the family came seeking a certain amount of services and once their child was taken care of, they may move on, whether it's not necessarily back where they were, but maybe they had a job opportunity somewhere else and they felt like their child was well taken care of."

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Because of challenging behaviors, I've also seen where parents have literally turned their child over to the state because they could not handle the challenging behaviors within the home and it was because a child behaviors were more than the family could handle, they were concerned for their other children. They turned them over to the state and then that family moved away."

Commissioner Parks said, "Well for distinguishing responsibilities in the future, I would ask that those agencies that deal with this have those numbers broken out for me, because just being here six months, it may not be something I'm looking at this year, but in the future I may want kind of a breakout of that to see where that responsibility for county and state may lie. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "We have a comment from Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well Kevin, I read you newsletter as it comes through, as I do with Starkey and the other entities. Where do those 55 families end up, I mean, and the others? I mean, they fall through the cracks, they seek other services, they don't have case management at all but they get other services. Kind of explain that a little bit."

Mr. Fish said, "Well essentially those 55 families have move to other agencies within our community. There are a lot of small providers who do just case management who are absorbing a lot of those individuals and that growth is something they appreciate in a lot of cases, so all of those families, none of them have just been dropped off. Through the CDDO's assistance, we've been able to make sure that they've maintained case management so they've seen no lose in services. One of the challenges we have with serving that younger population is a lot of those families applied for services simply because they want the funding down the road. They know there's a three-year waiting list, so they're applying when their child is six years old but they don't want anything, so they don't want our case managers contacting them regularly, they don't want that in-house visit, they don't want the face to face contacts and really through the state we're mandated to do a lot of that stuff. And if the families aren't in need of it and not wanting those services, we have a few individuals that were just under the cutoff that do need a lot of supports and services and are kind of continuing with us because we want to make sure that they aren't lost through those cracks, but every one of those families will be served through case management."

Commissioner Norton said, "Is there a tipping point of growth in this particular problem that's going to put us in crisis in the community? We may not be there yet, but you know those small entities aren't going to have the capacity and maybe they're filling up and enjoy a little more growth now, but there will be a point where those small entities can't do it any longer and then we have no capacity to handle those. Are we . . . can you explain where you think we are in that continuum?"

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Mr. Fish said, “Well and I think that’s why looking at the behavior side of this is so important, because we do have such a growth of not only people coming into the services, but such an increase in individuals with those dual diagnosis, where they have mental health issues and behavior challenges, because it’s also a huge concern because if your child doesn’t have a behavior issue. The parents are oftentimes afraid to have their child in the same house. And you know, the agencies only have so much of a capacity to separate. With our summer program, it’s become a challenge for us. We’ve had parents that say, you know, I want to make sure my child is not sitting within two seats of ‘so and so’ because they know their child might get their hair pulled or their glasses thrown off or they may be assaulted in some fashion. And so it affects the other people who need the support, who are afraid sometimes seek it, sometimes afraid to have them within a home and agencies can’t afford to have a group home for just one individual and to provide that kind of support, there has to be other people there and they have to feel safe in that home.”

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

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Thank you Kevin.”

Mr. Larry Turner, Volunteer, Sedgwick County Extension Service, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here this morning representing the Extension Council Executive Board and I want to say publicly that we are appreciative that our commissioners understand and demonstrate continued support for the work being done at the extension office. We are the education arm of county government. I promise to be short with my comments this morning. I do want to share with you our greatest challenge at this time. As a result of budget impact over the past several years, the extension education program is in a unique state of uncertainty as it pertains to salary compensation for our staff.

During the 2002, 2003 and 2004 year the extension education program withstood budget cuts, like everyone else. But there has been a minimal amount of money for salary increases during that time. For the current school year, 2007, current year 2007, we received 2% increase in funding, which did not allow us to meet the suggested 4% increase in salary for our county employees. We understand the recommended increase for next year’s, 2008 budget is one half of one percent from the general fund. Based on the current appropriation that we received from the county, that equates to an increase of \$5,052.

The anticipation of only a \$500 increase for next year continues to define the state of uncertainty we have in being able to retain and reward staff in a highly competitive market. As a result, the executive board is requesting approval for an additional 4% supplemental increase in the amount of \$40,413. This increase is needed to give county agents and staff a 4% raise, which is in line with the salary increases approved for the city, county and state employees this year.

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This additional funding will allow us to appropriately reward staff who have fallen behind comparable positions across the state, but who have remained steadfast in bringing quality of life services to our county. We certainly acknowledge the difficult choices the commission has and must face during budget time. As in the past, the Extension Council Executive Board and staff take comfort in knowing you will at least consider our request.

Now Bev Dunning, our director, is here and she and I together would be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well thank you, Larry. We do have a comment from Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you very much. Larry, I think . . . I appreciate your being here and just wanted to clarify what Extension’s supplemental request is, and that is for the \$40,400 and your intension for that money would be salary raises for those folks at the extension office.”

Mr. Turner said, “Yes sir, that’s exactly the target area for this request.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, that’s the only question I have. Thank you.”

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

Commissioner Parks said, “Well I’d like to thank you, Larry, for being here and Ms. Dunning also. The Extension Service serves a lot of my voters in my area and just like to thank you for the service that you guys do out there and I’m going to be looking to see where we can come up with some of this and would be supportive if possible on this request.

I would say that your staff is working hard, you’re frugal, you’re saving money. I see that when I go to the building and grounds out there and you provide a place for the farmer’s market on Saturday morning and that’s a great service also. The services that you provide to the individuals in the county that if they had to go to Serve-A-Tech or another charging entity for those services would be great, so hopefully we can keep good people there at your facility and we do appreciate them. Just that the word I know is something, but we’ll try to work for some other things.

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Along with your being frugal, you have a new sign up out there and if I could advertise a little bit, you're not asking for any money to put that new sign up from the taxpayers."

Mr. Turner said, "No, that will be through contributions."

Commissioner Parks said, "Just totally donations and I have sent my donation in for that sign and I would hope that others in video and TV-land out there would consider picking up their pen, however slight that it may be, to support that sign project, because those things and those items that volunteerism is what makes this a little bit easier on the budget time."

Mr. Turner said, "Just a couple of closing comments, to thank you for that. I would tell you that the word of your contributions spread quickly through the staff, so please know that that was an appreciated decisions. The other thing in closing, I said I'll be brief and I will, I think folks in this county, and I know the commission does, we have a flagship extension program in the state. I happen to be on several state committees and I'm able to compare and contrast some of the other activities and services that are provided. Ours in Sedgwick County is one that everyone tries to emulate and we get, oftentimes, visits from other parts of the state to see how we're doing things, so I think we can all be proud of what we do at extension.

And the only closing remark I have is don't forget that this Saturday is Tomato Day. We want you to help judge the ugliest tomato, so if you have time, we'll welcome you out at Extension."

Chairman Unruh said, "We have one more comment, Larry. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well Larry, you know we've tried to be very supportive of Extension Council over the years and we've had some budget difficulties that we've had to deal with and that kind of rolls downhill. I think the public needs to know that Sedgwick County is very respected for their extension council, but we have a unique difference from every other extension council. We are a huge urban area with a large farm and agricultural population and so we're serving two masters.

So many counties, the extension agent is the old-fashioned extension group that deals with agriculture and things that have to do with farm life. Well today we find ourselves in a unique place that Sedgwick County is still very engaged in the agriculture community and research, but also has to deal with urban kinds of things and that really puts a stretch on what we use the extension building for and what your people are doing to serve the community. And I think I'm going to be supportive of trying to dig down in the budget and help this year. I think it's been three or four

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years that you've had that same kind of thought process on your agenda and we've had to say no, and hopefully this year we'll be able to dig down a little bit and see part of that.

It is a difficult budget year again this year, but I wanted to be sure that you knew that we understand that you're really serving kind of a two-master kind of proposition at our extension group and that makes it very difficult and we empathize with that and hopefully we can do some number crunching and come up with some help this year."

Mr. Turner said, "Certainly do appreciate it. I want to thank commission again for allowing us to present this this morning."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Larry. Next speaker please."

Ms. Ernestine Krehbiel, Co-Chair, Sedgwick County Voter Coalition, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You heard from my colleague a couple of weeks ago, about the supplemental budget proposal that we had submitted to you and to the manager.

We urge you to add to the proposed budget the previous request fund that would restore polling sites and purchase more voting machines. We are not asking anything to come to our organization or any of our 23 member organizations. We are asking for the voters of Sedgwick County. I understand that there are some who dismiss our concerns as if it's a cry of 'the sky is falling'. But I assure you that the various civic groups in the coalition have done their work carefully. We are Republican Women of Sedgwick County, the Democrat party, the NAACP, Inter-faith Ministries, as well as the League of Women Voters and many others.

We also urgently ask you to set up an advisory commission to work with the Sedgwick County election commissioner, that we may make plans for a very smooth running election in the future, something that has been left out in the recent years. Our concern is that if this county does not prepare properly for the 2008 presidential election, there will be many disenfranchised voters. While the coalition welcomes the proposed supplemental dollars to educate the public about advanced voting, we feel that the election office and others are banking far too much on the idea that Sedgwick County citizens are going to vote in advance rather than going to the polls on the

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traditional, over 200 year plan, that we will vote on the 2nd Tuesday . . . the first Tuesday in November.

We believe that that proposal is a necessary but insufficient measure to prevent voter disenfranchisement. We know that there needs to be education about advanced voting. If anything, patterned turn outs for voting suggests that voters prefer to vote in person, at their precinct on Election Day. The dramatic under-utilization of in-person advanced voting last November, only 10%, suggests that a large majority of the voters still associate the first Tuesday in November with the civic act of voting and a preference to cast their ballots in person, on Election Day, after the campaigning has ended.

Come 2008, registered voters turn out in Sedgwick County will surge to 80% of all our registered voters. This means that the additional voters that will be added in 2008, at the presidential election, will be as if all the registered voters from Reno, Harvey and Butler County suddenly surged across the lines into Sedgwick County to vote in addition to all our voters that voted last November. That's an additional 51,000 to 70,000 additional voters. We ask you to safeguard the voting rights of all county residents by insisting that the budget you approve restore the poll sites and purchase the same number of machines that the election commissioner himself asked for in his original request a year and a half ago.

It is the duty of government to guarantee the ability of every registered voter to cast a ballot on Election Day. If voting is made difficult, it is not acceptable to blame the victim for not having voted in advance of Election Day. All groups in our coalition strongly agree that the right of American citizens to vote is a fundamental right that defines our democracy. Do not risk an electoral meltdown. We have contacted national organizations, and Sedgwick County's severe cut in the number of polling places is the most drastic of any place in the whole United States. Thank you. We have other members of our group that are here in the audience too that are supporting this, that you add the election machines."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you very much. Commissioners? We do have a comment. Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I appreciate your concern for this and I know that in the last election it was a big worry for all of us and there were so many changes all at once. We changed the demographics of the precincts and the maps and everything, and the locations where we voted . . ."

Ms. Krehbiel said, "And decreased the numbers and added different machine."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Yes, and you're right, this '08 election coming up, that we need

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to have all these problems solved and we've heard your . . . I've heard your words. Thank you."

Ms. Krehbiel said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "Yes, I have a nephew in the Dallas area and I don't think he's been to a traditional election. He votes every election that he can, and I don't think he's been to a traditional polling place in ten years. They have on-line voting, you can go to Kroger's and vote, and he takes his driver's license out and does something, swipes it through there to confirm this or something. So I think change is upon us in this realm and the traditional voting day may not . . . to some, you know, it's a right and a privilege and everything but a lot of the precincts that I saw last time didn't have as many people at the advanced voting as I thought could, and I think if we do get out and educate them, and I know I'm going to be monitoring those next few days also myself in my precincts, and see just how many people are using those and I think we can utilize the numbers that Bill Gale gives us after this special election the next few days, take a hard look at this again. Thank you."

Ms. Krehbiel said, "Thank you Mr. Parks. Our coalition has also urged exactly the education and advance advertisement marketing quite frankly for the advanced voting. As a matter of fact, early on we tried to urge that he do some of the things that they've done in many other counties, which is put the polling places in places like Walmart that are having high foot traffic. But we didn't bring that up today because it is a budget time and that's not an issue that deals with the budget, but we still strongly advise that there be a great marketing experience . . . I mean activity, in order to encourage people to vote and we too agree with the idea of being able to vote at a Krogers or a Dillons. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well I'm very supportive of voter's rights and I think we need to do our due diligence. We've had many, many, many discussions about this exact issue and what our responsibility is and how it plays in with the Secretary of State and the Election Commissioner and all the groups that advocate. Certainly we have to understand what our due diligence is. I'm hopeful that a second election, this August 2nd [sic] ballot question, will bring out a large group of voters and we get to look at the whole process one more time, as we start to move towards and fortunately that's before we actually make any budget decisions, so we get to see another election

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before we have to make our final determinations.

I think it's critical that as we talk about the future, that we understand that there's going to be a huge generational difference on how people feel about voting and how they vote, as the traditional and Baby Boomers who have always gone to the polls and that's the tradition, move to the Gen Xers and the Gen Ys and the millennials, who are wired and it's more about electronically connecting with the community than personally connecting with the community and I don't know if that's good or bad, but all of us need to understand there's going to be huge generational differences and if we want Americans to continue to stay connected and understand their place in voting, we may have to understand what Americans want in the future. And I'm afraid that if we keep going . . . always keep going down the path of 'you have to have a location and a place and a certain time-specific day', that will not be good for Gen Xers, Gen Ys and Millennials and the next generations, as we try to understand who they are, how they think and what they want from America, as far as voting and a lot of other services. So I guess that's my little speech, that I'm going to be supportive of what you advocate for, because I think that's part of today. The Baby Boomers aren't gone yet. The traditionals are still voting but there's a whole new group of this world that are coming up that we need to understand or we're going to greatly diminish the voting public, and it's already at abysmal numbers right now and I can't image what will happen if we don't understand the greater community of the United States."

Ms. Krehbiel said, "Commissioner, I thank you for that comment. I don't want to let you think that we're troglodytes that are opposed to any kind of technology. I teach on-line, at Butler County Community College, and I'm getting ready to teach a couple of on-line for Friends University, so I'm very aware of that age group that if it's not in front of you on the computer, they probably don't pay attention.

Our problem is that there have been many places in the city where there are elderly, there are handicapped people, I mean they even cut out the site at the Timbers, and made it so that the people, the handicapped accessible apartments there, have to go a mile and a half before they can vote to vote in that. but our concern is indeed that we not lose a bunch of voters while we're trying to gain those young people, and I've got to tell you that I give my young people extra credit if they'll register to vote."

Commissioner Norton said, "Good for you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well along that line I'll be very brief, but one of my voting areas in my district was Planeview and there are a lot of people there that aren't going to have cars and now they have to drive out of their community for the first time to vote. There's no voting in Planeview. Another thing we have, I mean we can talk about computer voting and advance voting,

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but there are many, many people who really pay attention to campaigns and much happens at the very end, and so they like to wait and see what's going to happen before they vote. So I don't think we'll ever be to the point where we're going to totally get rid of polls. I could be wrong, but . . . That's it."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. I don't see any more requests to speak, so we will ask for the next speaker please."

Representative Delia Garcia, State of Kansas Representative, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's great to be on this side for once on a committee hearing and of course hello to my own commissioner, Kelly Parks. I have five, only five copies of what my remarks . . . here you go. And I stand before you today with two hats on. One as a state legislator, having gone through some of this work, and also as a board member of MANA. MANA is a national Latina organization, it's the largest Latino organization in Wichita, with their chapter here. And just wanted to . . . my main purpose for coming before you today is to request that you endorse a supplemental budgetary request for the 2008 fiscal year to do two things: one, to restore the 20 polling sites throughout the county for a total of 83 polling sites and then a second thing is to procure 150 additional touch-screen voting machines for a total of 695 machines.

Now I know you can read and so I'm not going to read this verbatim, but one of the things that I wanted to tell you is a couple of examples of what some of our members of MANA had experienced with their families and in particular they just happen to be my constituents as well.

One lady, one of our members, she lives on Emporia and her voting site was the newly renovated Horace Mann Middle School, which then . . . you know is now for sure ADA compliant with the elevator in the school. That was shut down and so she had received a postcard from me that said 'here's your new voting location' which came out of my campaign funds, and so I guess she misplaced the card, so she assumed that the closest one would be Evergreen, so she drove all the way to Evergreen and then stood in line there and then that wasn't the place so they told her 'well, you might have to go to another one' so then they called another one of the persons on our campaign, also another member and she said 'well the only other one in the district is in a non-residential area' which is downtown on 3rd and Broadway. So she drove all the way over there and

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it ended up being the place, so she voted because she didn't want to vote a provisional vote and so she said had she not had the extra time to spend all of that driving and that she would not have voted.

As well as I just wanted to make a note, the last two previous elections I had six polling locations in my district, then went to four and now only two, one being downtown in a non-presidential area and the other one being at Evergreen Rec Center, in a residential area but still far apart, because my north border is like about 37th Street North and my south border is Lincoln Street is my district and so that tends to be a problem because then I get a whole bunch of phone calls on my personal phone at work which is fine, but if we could prevent this, this would be a great service to our constituents.

Another example is one of our members, grandmother and mother, had worked at Our Lady of Perpetual Help voting poll location for many, many years and they would walk four to five houses down and do that and so when this came about, of course they called me and clearly explained their concerns and so, you know, they were disappointed because well they don't have access to a computer and nor could afford a computer and so, you know, they were like now they have to find a ride. So we're working things out, but this is just . . . has become a problem.

So those are just two examples of the many examples. I don't want to stand here in front of you and say all of them, but I do just want to urge you to think about this election. I agree with Commissioner Norton, I am a Gen Xer and I do prefer a lot of electronic things, but until we get to that point and federal law also puts stuff into place, for this next coming election specifically, I would hope that we could restore those poll locations, because we went from 208 to 63 and just it created a lot of problems and specifically that we know of with our members and in the areas that I worked in. So I'll be quite and I stand before you for any other questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well thank you. We do have a comment from Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "The comment on the one lady that didn't have the correct voting place, during advanced voting, those advance polling place, you can vote any location around the county on those and I wanted to make sure that that was out into the public on that. And that only the traditional Tuesday that you have to vote at your own precinct there or voting location.

In my conversations with Bill Gale, he's flexible on some of these locations that are . . . have been troubled. I think that we can talk with him and get some of these stats and things, instead of looking at hundreds of sites, maybe look at four or five that were really troubled and some of those I do plan on talking with him on some of the things that I've heard today here, especially the timbers and the handicapped thing. That's . . . I would think that would be one that we'd need to put on our

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priority, but of course that is ultimately controlled through another elected official, so I would say that in our districts if you see any this time, please let myself know and your commissioner know where those problems are as soon as possible. I will be open to that and if I have to drive to the location and see it and see what's going on there, so I do want to be informed about that."

Representative Garcia said, "Thank you and for the record, we did let the election office know, as well as we shared the story when we started to come together. And you know at the end of the day, you know the bottom line I think here is that voting is our fundamental right that defines our democracy and as a professor as well, when I'm teaching my students, trying to pound this in and when you have things like this, it's just a headache. So I would love to offer my help, to whether it be an advisory council or to work with you on this, I would be more than happy to do that."

Commissioner Parks said, "When we're talking about help also, this is another consideration. I know Mr. Gale has had a tough time getting people to work the polls. And this is another thing, if you would like a little stipend and be able to serve your community, get out and work the polls. Contact Mr. Gale in his office for the upcoming elections and he can certainly look at those people that would like to work the polls."

Representative Garcia said, "And the young lady who drove around all Wichita in a day, I told her and she knows she can do advanced voting because she's around the same age, but she likes to vote that day, so that's just another thing we have to deal with but I thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Representative. Next speaker please."

Ms. Patricia Dooley, League of Women Voters, Wichita/ Metro, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to talk about the topics that we've heard about from these previous two speakers. I'm co-president of Wichita's chapter of the League of Women Voters. And the league is a partner of the Sedgwick County Voter Coalition and we strongly support its mission and its work that's been done here, for this hearing and the previous hearing.

But I want to talk about advanced voting more specifically today. We don't oppose advanced voting as you've heard already. What we do is worry about the ramifications of rushing to advanced voting as if it's a panacea that's going to solve many, many of our problems and I really appreciate all the comments that you've given and response and questions that you raised in

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response to these two speakers. These comments on advanced voting I think could apply to almost any kind of change, that we tend to want to grasp for to solve the current problems.

Simply put, a citizen's constitutionally provided equal right to vote is a foundation of our democratic system. Tinkering with it is a terrible idea unless we know for sure what we're doing and we don't, quite frankly. Although no voting system is perfect and as we've painfully seen in the past decade, the time has come for some change but we don't want to rush to judgment on the value of advanced voting or other changes.

The League advocates that our community more carefully explore the pros and cons of advanced voting before adopting it. By encouraging more discussion of the value and the pros and cons of advanced voting. The League is standing up for old-fashioned conservative values, the kind that warn against wholesale change that isn't well informed.

So what are the pros and cons of advanced voting? There are plenty. Here are some of the arguments in favor of advanced voting that we've heard about in the past year or so. Early voting may increase turnout, especially among those who may not be able to get to the polls on Election Day. There is some limited evidence that states that early advanced polling has a slightly . . . leads to a slightly higher turnout, at least in some of the past elections.

Another argument in favor, some proponents hope that early voting will relieve potential long lines on Election Day. Another pro, another argument for is that it is a simple convenience for voters to provide advanced polling. Finally, others stress that it is more economical and that we're having trouble finding poll workers, etcetera. As I've said, we've heard all these arguments in the past year.

What we haven't heard much about are the arguments against advanced polling, wholesale acceptance of it that is. According to some political researchers, early voting may not increase turnout after all. It only makes it a little easier to vote for those who would vote anyway. This is the conclusion of some researchers who have studied voters, two groups of voters: voters on Election Day in Arkansas with early voting and Missouri, with limited absentee voting.

A second argument opposed to rushing to advanced voting. Some argue that early voting will ultimately reduce turnout, even after slight increases perhaps at first. In this view, early voting may have negative effects on the civic exercise of Election Day, eventually reducing turnout. Many experts believe that Election Day is a citizen event, where the feeling of civic pride and duty compels some portion of the population to vote. Pre-election day voting may ultimately reduce this

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feeling, ultimately reducing turnout.

Another argument against advanced voting, on the question of budget, early voting has been called a solution to the lack of funds for more voting sites. While early voting might eventually relieve long lines on Election Day, the shift is not free of costs. While early . . . where is the budget workup that provides a long-range cost analysis that would allow us to make a better informed decision on the budget ramifications of advanced polling.

Number four, a surge to advanced polling will have unforeseen ramifications, experts say, in terms of political campaigning. People who vote early do so without all of the information those who vote on Election Day have. What if something happens between the close of advanced voting and Election Day to change the course of the campaign? This is bound to happen sooner or later and when it does, we will have a political crisis on our hands. Shouldn't we have a broader discussion of this before we move toward advanced polling as the perfect solution.

We tend to study everything thoroughly before we make changes in our government system. We study arenas, we study water walks, we study casinos, we study whether certain roads should be put here or there. I was just reading in the paper this morning about maybe there should be some study about where the funds for roads and construction should be placed first or second.

Why not study this, why not form a group that involves citizens who have knowledge of these areas, people like political scientists or people from the League of Women Voters or the Voters Coalition or just plain ordinary citizens to talk about advanced polling, along with our officials and election commissioners before we throw the baby out with the bath water. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. I don't see any questions at this time, so thank you for your comments. Commissioner Welshimer has a comment however."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I would be happy to, if at some time we decide to have a task force on this issue, I would be happy to serve on that task force."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you commissioner. Next speaker."

Ms. Betty Ladwig, Co-chair, Voter Coalition, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Well most of my concerns have already been aired. I applaud Mr. Gale for wanting to educate our voters about advanced voting provisions and I think though that it was not well thought out because there are many people that don't drive any longer and it really disenfranchises the poor as far as I'm concerned and I'm concerned. I observed two polling places last November. I'm concerned at the number of people that get to the wrong polling place and then get discouraged because they don't know where to go to vote and they leave without voting. That's a big concern of mine and I think

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we or you as a governmental body, us as a surveyor and a concerned party over voting rights, need to be very concerned about this. I think it's wonderful that we want to educate our voters about advanced voting, but \$25,000 doesn't go very far if you're doing any spots on television, if you're doing any big advertising in the Wichita Eagle.

Many people don't have a computer, as others have said. They don't take the newspaper. Their only form of communication is the Wichita Eagle, radio or television, so how are we going to do this? How are we best going to use this \$25,000? Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Betty. We're ready for the next speaker."

Ms. Karyn Page, President/ CEO, Kansas World Trade Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I just wanted to say first of all I've applauded you before for your leadership, but being here today reminds me of how much of a challenge you have and thank goodness you're here, so I just wanted to start out with that. We've submitted to you a request for an annual investment of \$200,000 to support the trade efforts of the Kansas World Trade Center, specifically those funds would be used for trade counseling and education in the education area where specifically interested and need to provide a comprehensive, regulatory compliance program for area companies, which would include assessment of their regulatory compliance in the areas of international trade. Also would include counseling to tell them whether they are compliant or not, formal training in a classroom setting, as well as more one-on-one or individuals counseling and other kinds of education.

We also included in that request a past through for an impact grant, we call it an impact grant, it's a catalyst for international sales for companies in the area. And then as well as supporting incoming and outgoing foreign delegations.

We have kept track of our economic impact by asking our customers and those we assist to provide us a dollar value if they can as a result of the services we've provided in the past two years. Less than five percent of those companies who were able to give us a number, because often the service or the value is indirect or indeterminate at that time, spend 6.8 million dollars with a \$20,000,000 three-year projection.

I have two letters from individuals who were not able to be here today and then I have some friends that were able to join me this morning. This first letter is from Mommy's Helper.

Dear Sirs, My name is Martin Park. I am president and owner of a local company named Mommy's Helper Inc. The activities of this company are to design products that assist parents in the every day life chores of being a parent. The products range from potty training devices to safety items for the home. We've been located in Wichita for the past 16 years and through our presence

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here, I have grown this business to the point where our brand has become a well respected brand throughout the USA and in many international markets, such as Australia, Japan, Spain, Great Britain, Holland, France and Canada.

While as the past chairman KWTCA, I personally have a vested interest in the ongoing success of the organization and would like to take this opportunity to advise you that my global growth has been greatly assisted by the good people of the KWTC through the many valuable services they provide for nominal fees.

As a local company, it's always hard for us to strategize and support our globalization through publicly and privately funded organizations like KWTC that small to medium size companies look to for technical help and guidance in this growth process. It is civic minded of our state, city and county to appreciate that this organization needs funding so that our local community continues to grow internationally. While Wichita has a tremendous reputation for being an entrepreneurial community, it could not over these past years and decades have gotten to where it is without such local non-profit assistance.

As a benefactor of the great opportunities that KWTC has made available to my company, I implore you to once again recognize the importance of this organization and value that it brings through local success of our economic community and the ways in which it is assisted in the business community to expand, globalize ourselves and bring continued prosperity to the state, the city and above all, the business community within the county. I therefore respectfully encourage your financial assistance through this extremely valuable asset located right here in Sedgwick County. Sincerely, Martin Park, President, Mommy's Helper Inc.

And the second letter is from Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dear Sedgwick County Commissioners, This letter is in regards to the Kansas World Trade Center and its partnership with the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau. The CVB commission is to promote the greater Wichita area as a destination, thereby enhancing the economic impact to the city, county and state. Visitors to our area come from all over the world, including many international visitors. We often have international visitors who need assistance with various services that we cannot provide from our office. Having KWTC as a resource in these instances has been great, as it allows us to make those visitors' trip very enjoyable and welcoming.

We often have been the recipient of many international visitors, conference attendees and trade missions, due to the KWTC and their many international relationships. This has truly been a rewarding partnership and resource in helping us with our mission to make a positive impact to our economy.

The KWTC is a great resource for us and many others in our community and beyond. I hope that this letter provides you with an understanding of the importance of having the KWTC in our area

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and the value that it brings to the local success of our economic community. Sincerely, John Rolfe, President and CEO, CVB.

I thank you for your time and appreciate you switching gears to economic impact this morning.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you Karyn. What was the amount of . . .?”

Ms. Page said, “\$200,000.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Two hundred, all right, thank you. Next speaker please.”

Ms. Susan Armstrong, President of Armstrong Shank Advertising/ Marketing/ Public Relations Firm, 7450 South Seneca, Haysville, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We are what you might term the smaller members of Kansas World Trade Center and I thought it might be important for you to understand that world trade impacts businesses of all sizes and there are many, many businesses in Sedgwick County and in the south central Kansas area and in fact in the entire state who are trying to become globalized, more global in their business approach.

Our business primarily uses the Kansas World Trade Center for translation services, but there are many other services that they provide, including research and development, and all kinds of assistance with making contacts in several countries where businesses that we serve are looking to have exports or to import raw materials for some of their products.

It seems important to me to recognize that you all have an incredible job ahead of you, sorting through a budget that is never large enough to do everything you’d like to do. And I recognize this is a very different kind of non-profit organization, but it gives you a rare opportunity to make an investment in an organization that gives you a solid return on that investment. It’s definitely an economic asset to the community. It’s something where when you give what amounts to a nominal sum, it can make a multiplying effect on the dollars that come back to the county, because for every dollar that you spend in supporting efforts that help businesses grow, those growing businesses will bring back funding and tax dollars to the area. Appreciate you support and your consideration of an ongoing contribution to this incredible organization. Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Next speaker please.”

Mr. Jim Mock, Chairman of the Board, Agri-Business Council of Wichita, here to speak for Kansas World Trade Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m the Chairman of the board for the Agri-Business Council of Wichita, which is a new organization, was founded in 2005. We

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are in the process of putting together a strategic alliance through Visioneering Wichita in conjunction with the Kansas World Trade Center that would enhance the image of agriculture and agri-business in the Wichita and Sedgwick County area and what our purpose is, to develop a center for agri-business innovation. There are innovation centers being developed all throughout Kansas, the Bio-Science Innovation Centers in Olathe, or will be in Olathe. We think that we have the opportunity here in Wichita to become world-renowned in terms of innovative agricultural products. Now why Kansas World Trade Center, two reasons, number one; a lot of the new technology, a lot of the new ideas are international and through connecting through the World Trade Center. That helps us gain access to a number of these technologies. Secondly, a lot of the new products that will be coming out of the agriculture, as it moves forward within this next 10 to 15 years, will be obviously international in scope and therefore they bring the ability for agriculture and agri-businesses to expand their business, especially with the new technologies that are coming along.

So I fully support the request that Karyn has made and hopefully not only will it help the Kansas World Trade Center today, but it will help agriculture grow in the future. And I think you all are aware of the fact that agriculture and agri-business is the second largest economic sector in the Wichita area and we want to enhance that. Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, thank you very much Jim. Next speaker please.”

Mr. Aiden Dunleavy, Vice President, Managing Director for International Trade Operations at BG Products, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We too are supportive of the requests for your appropriate consideration in support of the Kansas World Trade Center. Our company has been in Wichita for some 36 years. We employ over 200 members of the community and over the last decade in particular, we have been blessed by the services of the World Trade Center in educating our staff, in dealing with international purchase and transportation, in protection of international property rights and in the development of distributorships in places such as Tokyo, Japan, Delhi, India and in St. Petersburg, Russia. The center provides companies of our size and nature within this community resources that would be otherwise beyond our reach. We don’t quite have the support of a Boeing or a Koch and the wonderful work they do, so we turn to Karyn and her staff and the network in particular that they bring to us to support us in expanding and understanding the international opportunities before us.

Right now, international business is about 10 or 11% of our total revenue and sales. We project to double or even triple in the next decade and the resources of the Kansas World Trade Center are

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instrumental in that activity for us. Thank you for your patients this morning. I know it's a long agenda, as it always is for you, and you appropriate consideration of this request is appreciated."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Aiden. Before we call the next speaker, I think I ignored Commissioner Parks. Did you want to . . .?"

Commissioner Parks said, "Well I was just going to ask Jim if he, in the agri-business, was working with the ethanol plants in the Colwich area and just wanted to kind of expand on that if you were."

Mr. Mock said, "Yeah, ICM and Avingoa are both members of the Agri-Business Council and are very active members of the Agr-Business Council. And one of the ideas that we have for this agri-business innovation center is for the corridor from, say Salina to Stillwater, Oklahoma to become know as the bio-fuels corridor. There is a bio-medical corridor that you may know runs from Manhattan to Columbia, Missouri. Why can't we do the same thing going this way with Wichita in the center as sort of the center of that area."

Commissioner Parks said, "Excellent. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you sir. All right, now I believe we're ready for the next speaker."

Mr. Karl Peterjohn, Kansas Taxpayers Network, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Approximately a year ago, I had the privilege of speaking to you all under slightly different circumstances, when you were considering a property tax increase at that time, at least those of you who were members of the board at that time. Fortunately, I appreciate the fact that there's not an increase being sought this year, however I am concerned about the future and with certain trends ongoing and I want to take a couple of minutes to walk through the preliminary examination of the budget. I will state for the record that I'm sure I'm going to run out of time, so I'm going to be in a position to send an e-mail to all of you with some of the material I don't get to cover today and would be happy to visit with you anytime between now and when you have to make your final decision.

I would state that with the upcoming election, I wish we'd been able to vote on the property tax increase like we're getting to vote on the casino issue August 7th and I think that's very important because when you look at the tax issue, that is a compelling and important issue. If you go back roughly 15 years, the county's mill levy has grown dramatically in that time. Although the mill

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levy isn't as important as the appraisal growth, the appraisal increases and the fact that on the revenue side of things it is costing folks a good deal more to live in Sedgwick County than we have in the past.

Speaking about specific budget concerns, I attended the Arena Oversight Committee yesterday and was quite disturbed to discover that all the interest income on the one cent sales tax for the downtown arena is going into the county's general fund, when there had been so many commitments during the arena campaign that every penny that was raised by that one cent sales tax would go to the arena project. And I am concerned that as you go through your budget process that you take extra care, because that arena project was handled in such a way where the voters were faced with this issue before there was legal authorization to proceed. And the county had to go to the legislature after 2005, after the vote had been committed and try and get that retroactively authorized and I think that was poor planning on the county's part at that time. It's put us in a position where I heard figures from between four and a half to \$12,000,000 of that one cent sales tax revenue will generate that much in interest income and that that's going to the county's general fund.

One of the commissioners, and I believe it was Commissioner Norton, at the last hearing talked about it was a question about where the cost . . . where money is being spent in Sedgwick County and what it's actually going for and general government was a big category. He made a good point and I'd like to make a suggestion that the county, because of your involvement in educational issues, have a specific section on education. You've got the one and a half mills for Wichita State and I've heard many old timers with a lot more gray in their beards than I have in mine state that that one and half mills was supposed to have been removed ultimately when Wichita University transitioned into Wichita State University and became a Regents' institution. That was before my time here in Sedgwick County in the 1970s, but I think when you combine that with the technical college or the community college as I view it, education, if you pull that out of the general government category, that would be a separate budget item that you think deserves close attention.

I would point out that in terms of the spending side of things, the county manager gave a figure in terms of the proposed overall size of the budget but if you break that down on a level that people can understand, that's roughly about \$850 for every man, woman and child here in Sedgwick County or a little less than \$3,400 for every family of four. That's an awful lot of spending per

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household and with that spending comes the responsibility to spending it effectively because I'm concerned about some spending programs that may not be in this year's budget but that are looming on the horizon and may put us in a position where there will be a lot more pressure to raise the mill levy even further and a lot of comparisons have been made and your budget book talks about the fact that Sedgwick County's mill levy is the 10th lowest of the 105 Kansas counties. Well our competition, economically and having a good, sound, firm economic basis. It doesn't end at the Kansas line. There are communities out of state that are similarly sized, some are even larger, and in many of those communities in neighboring states, they have more certainty on their taxes and there's less risk of doing business there because they know the people have a say and that the tax levels aren't able to grow without the people being able to put a break directly through the tax referendum process.

I throw that out because now that I have run out of time, I will amplify my remarks and get those along to you. I would urge you to look closely at all your spending, including spending for lobbying and also spending out of county for other county spending, such as in the housing department. I'll amplify that further and appreciate your attention and time and stand for any questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Karl. Is there anyone else wanting to speak? The line has evaporated so I . . . All right, if there's no one else that wants to speak, then at this time I will close the public hearing on the 2008 budget and we next, commissioners, need to recess to a fire district meeting, but first of all are there any questions about the comments we just recently heard? Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well Mr. Chairman, before we get out of here today, I mean obviously we haven't heard from everybody that has an issue with the budget and we may hear more the next public hearing. I believe that the CDDO grant of 100,000 is in the supplemental recommendation. Is that correct?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay. Everything else we've heard is not in your supplemental recommendation, is that correct?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes sir."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay. Now that we've heard from these constituents, I think we need to have some discussion at some point, either in a staff meeting or individually about what we want to do with the recommendations that were made that the county manager has not given to us. I

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would charge you, Bill, to take a look at each one of those one more time, now that we've heard kind of from the community and put it back through the filter, and if your recommendation stays the same, that's okay. If it doesn't then they will need to deal with that and have some conversation.

Certainly, as I go through them, the Extension Council, we've really pushed over the last few years to hold them in check, in fact even decrease their funding at some point. Whether the \$40,000 is appropriate or not, I don't know, but I'd like to put that back through a filter and take a look at it and see if there's some place we need to go.

I agree with Commissioner Welshimer that with the voting coalition has come to us several times, and has put some of the information on the table for us to deal with and I think we need to do our due diligence about what we think about the vote for next year and what our budget recommendations are going to be. Certainly, we've got your recommendation, but as we put together a taskforce, that's going to have financial implications. It's not just about saying we want to make voting more easier for the public. It's about spending money to make that happen and it becomes a budget issue, so we need to ramp up pretty quickly and decide what we want to do there.

And then finally, the World Trade Center, I'm a big advocate for knowing that international trade and globalization is very important to Wichita. What our role in that is I'm not sure of. Certainly, we need to know what GWEDC believes about this, what REAP believes about this because it's not just Sedgwick County. That's a service that goes beyond our borders and maybe we can be somewhat of a partner somewhere, but I don't know that accepting the full ticket is where we want to go with this, so I think we need a little more discussion and understand what our partners at some of the other organizations are that we already contribute to in an economic manner what they believe about this particular item."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. I think, Mr. Manager, we'll be prepared to discuss these things and argue back and forth if you will, at our next staff meeting when we do 'budget live' and we're going to be . . . should we not be able to do some of those conversations at that time?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "I'd remind the commission that what we've done in the past is present to you an issue paper on each of the subjects, outlining the pros and cons and recommendations and we will be prepared to do that in the next couple of days and have that in your hand before . . . right

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David? Before the staff meeting next Tuesday.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. We have a comment from Commissioner Parks.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Well just for brevity, I’m glad you added that last part about having that ready for staff meeting. I will be visiting with about five staff members, or I want to, over some of the things I’ve heard today and maybe this is kind of the same kind of process that we’ll be doing, being new at this particular process, with this government entity, I’ll want to visit with those people and I really think with the World Trade Center that some of that money might be able to be moved around and not an additional tax on there. So having said that, just wanted to say that there is work ahead of us and I’ll be looking forward to next Tuesday.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. I don’t see any other requests to speak, so at this time I will recess the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.”

D. RECESS TO THE FIRE DISTRICT #1 MEETING.

The County Commission meeting recessed into the Fire District #1 meeting at 10:53 a.m. and returned from recess at 10:56 a.m.

Chairman Unruh said, “Madam Clerk, please call the next item.”

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- E. MAPD CASE NUMBER ZON2007-19 – ZONE CHANGE FROM “SF-20” SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO “IP” INDUSTRIAL PARK GENERALLY LOCATED 800 FEET EAST OF ROCK ROAD APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE SOUTH OF 31ST STREET SOUTH. DISTRICT #5.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You can see the 60 acre site that’s the application area fronting along Rock Road, just to the east of McConnell Air Force Base, in between 31st Street South and 39th Street South. The portion of this property that fronts along Rock Road that’s not included in this application area was previously rezoned to LC, Limited Commercial and is under a CUP called the Rock Ford Commercial Community Unit Plan. As you can see from the aerial photo, the property itself is agricultural, currently zoned SF-20 and surrounded by property that’s currently in agricultural use

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or being used for large-lot residential.

The staff had originally, when the applicant came in with this request for IP or Industrial Park zoning had recommended that they seek the new industrial park/ airport zoning designation that was created as a result of the joint land use study for McConnell Air Force Base and that IP-A designation has some slight variations from the IP designation in that it is more restrictive for certain types of commercial use. The intent is to make that type of a zoning designation more compatible with airport operations. The applicant was very concerned about some of those restrictions. They wanted to be able to have certain types of uses, such as ATMs, banks and convenience stores, personal care services and other things that you might otherwise find associated with Industrial Park to be allowed and they would be restricted by the IP-A designation.

So after some discussion between staff and the applicant, we were able to reach an accord, and that was also after a deferral of any action at the first MAPC meeting on this matter on June 7th. And we came to an accord that was presented to the MAPC at its meeting on June 21st. At that meeting, the MAPC voted to recommend the IP, Industrial Park zoning for this project, subject to platting within one year and subject to Protective Overlay #190, which reads as follows: The property shall be developed in conformance with the IP-A district, the Unified Zoning Code with the following additional uses being permitted; that would include ATM, bank and financial institution, convenience store, general office, personal care services, personal improvement service and restaurants, subject to the condition that restaurants shall not be permitted within 200 feet of the north and east property lines. And that is the recommendation of the MAPC before you today. I'll be glad to take any questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you John. Planning Department approved it and the MAPC approved this."

Mr. Schlegel said, "And there were no . . . we have received no protests, there was no one to speak at the MAPC meeting in protest."

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

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Would you go back over just what type of industrial tenants would be in there or occupants?"

Mr. Schlegel said, "Well these would be a variety of different types of industrial park users, anything from . . . things that you would typically find in industrial park would be a warehouse use, light manufacturing and even some commercial type activities as well."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "And there's no residential close to it, adjacent?"

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Mr. Schlegel said, “Well there is residential zoning and you can see just to the south there are some residential properties that are currently being used and you can see on this graphic, the zoning is SF-20 but the Comprehensive Plan shows that those properties fronting along Rock Road, in this vicinity as being appropriate for industrial and commercial types of zoning and we would anticipate that that’s how it would develop in the future.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “And behind it, there are homes behind it, or is this vacant land is what I’m trying to picture?”

Mr. Schlegel said, “It’s primarily vacant land. You can see on the aerial photo that there’s a scattering of home sites in that vicinity.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “And none of them have come forward on this? They’ve all been notified?”

Mr. Schlegel said, “No. They have been not . . . those that would be within 1,000 feet have been notified and one of the provisions of the protective overlay was that no restaurants would be within 200 feet of the east and north boundaries and I think that’s out of respect for the possibility of residential development on those properties.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Are there any other questions for Mr. Schlegel?”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Mr. Chairman, I move . . .”

Commissioner Winters said, “Do we need to see if there’s anybody here?”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, commissioner. We can do that. Is there anybody here that wants to speak to this zone change, either affirmative or negative? No one seems to want to speak, so now we are ready for the motion.”

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the zone change to IP subject to Protective Overlay #190 and platting within one year; adopt the findings of the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission: direct staff to prepare an appropriate Resolution after the plat has been approved and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution.

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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, “Thank you, John. Next item please.”

Commissioner Winters left the meeting room at 11:03 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

F. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WICHITA TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO OAKLAWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Transportation is an essential ingredient in the recipe for a community and economic development in a community. Being a baker, it’s like leavening in a cake. If you don’t have it . . . if you put it in there, there’s no guarantee that it’s going to work, but if you don’t have it, you’re sure to fail.

Approving this 2007 contract with Wichita Transit will continue Sedgwick County’s involvement in the bus service to Oaklawn. The route was extended in 1990 and will not continue without our assistance. The contract provides a minimum of 18 one-way trips each day, Monday through Saturday, and paratransit service on-call. It originates downtown and goes down through Oaklawn and then back up.

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The number of riders increases annually and last year we had over 17,400 trips. The service helps area residents get to work and also get their children to, you know, outside people, bring children to the Opportunity Project on Clifton at the Early Childhood Education Center.

Sedgwick County pays the difference between the service costs and the rider's contributions, as they board the bus for or in Oaklawn and this contract is for \$29,014. Funding was approved for this 2007 budget, Community Development budget, and if you have any questions, I'll try to answer them for you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Brad. Commissioners, are there any questions about this agreement?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "That is in my district and I do believe this is a good service for this area."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, very good. I don't see any other requests to speak so Commissioner Welshimer, would you like to make a motion?"

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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Chairman Unruh said, "Thanks, Brad. Next item please."

Commissioner Winters returned to the meeting room at 11:07 a.m.

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- DEPARTMENT ON AGING

G. AGREEMENT WITH BUTLER COUNTY, HARVEY COUNTY, AND THE PARATRANSIT COUNCIL, INC. TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CENTRAL PLAINS COORDINATED TRANSIT DISTRICT #12.

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In 1992, the Kansas Legislature passed a Coordinated Transit District Act. This act authorized the formation of coordinated transportation districts in Kansas. The purpose was to enhance the coordination and management of state and federal transportation grants. The Sedgwick County Department on Aging, Central Plains Area Agency on Aging has been the manager of this since its inception in 1994. As a recipient of state and federal funds for transportation provided to older Kansans, people with disabilities and the general rural population, we disperse funds through the Kansas Department of Transportation grant sub-recipients. There are a total of 15 coordinated transit districts in the state of Kansas. On September 13th, 1994 the Central Plains Coordinated Transit District #12 was established with an interlocal agreement between Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick County and then Sedgwick County was the administrator of this.

The interlocal agreement has now been revised to reflect current practices and procedures. John Rosacker, the assistant to the Secretary of Transportation, has approved the revised agreement. The Butler County Commission approved that in June of this year. Now we're bringing it forward to you, to request that you would review this and approve the interlocal agreement. Next it will go to the Harvey County Board of County Commissioners and then the final step in the process is for this to be reviewed and hopefully approved by the Kansas Attorney General and then it will be submitted and finalized to the Kansas Department of Transportation. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Our responsibility is to act as a coordinator, manager of this program and we don't have a financial burden in this?"

Ms. Graham said, "Correct, there is no financial burden on this. The money then flows through us as the management administrator of these funds, so the funds come to us and we distribute that to those . . . all three counties for their transportation services and then we manage the reporting and pulling in the data and then reporting that back to the Kansas Department on Aging. But there is no financial consideration for us or no matching funds or anything."

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

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved approve the Inter-local Agreement 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, "Thank you, Annette. Next item please."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE

H. COMCARE.

- 1. CONTRACT WITH PROJECT INDEPENDENCE, INC. FOR CONSUMER-RUN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN A DROP-IN SETTING.**

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is a renewal that we've had with Project Independence for some time. Project Independence is a consumer run organization, or a CRO, that offers social activities, opportunities for consumers of mental health services to assume some leadership positions and to help educate members on mental illness.

The services are provided primarily in the drop-in center that they have on South Ida, but they also plan outside activities at least once a month for individuals that attend. The grant that we offer them helps with rent and utilities and supplies and it also helps to pay for professional accounting

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services. They have very specific outcomes on all of their activities and they're all listed in the backup materials you have and in fact they've met the outcomes in those, but I was also impressed by the number of new activities that they added for the 2008 year.

They also provide transportation to consumers who don't have any other means to get there. Rene Strunk is the director. She's there in the front row, if you want to wave your hand, Rene, or stand or whatever you want to do to be acknowledged and she work hard every day to make this program operate the way it needs to. We are recommending that you approve the contract and I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Marilyn. Is there one location or is there several locations?"

Ms. Cook said, "One location on South Ida."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, very good. And do you have an idea of how many folks utilize the service?"

Ms. Cook said, "Yes I do. They average 81 unduplicated consumers each quarter, although there's a lot of consumers that attend more than one day a week, so the duplicated attendance for April this year was 486 individuals, in May 575 and in June, 653."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Well, sounds like a very active and successful program and great benefit to many of our citizens, so appreciate your efforts on that. Commissioners?"

MOTION

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

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

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Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

2. RECLASSIFICATION OF CASE MANAGER, B216, TO CASE MANAGER B217; CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, B217, TO CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, B218; TEAM LEAD/CASE MANAGER, B218 TO CASE COORDINATOR, B220.

Ms. Cook said, "Commissioners, we have been aware of significant turnover rates for case management positions for some time in the Division of Human Services, in particular in COMCARE there was a 40.1% turnover rate in 2005 and just even a bit higher than that in 2006, as 41.5%.

High turnover rates impact revenue generation for COMCARE, they place a burden on the case managers that remain that are trying to accommodate the individuals that we serve and they very dramatically affect the consumers, who are switching case managers at a rate that is difficult for them, since those services depend very heavily on good relationships and trust.

The low starting salary, when compared to other agencies doing similar work also makes it very difficult for us to recruit new case managers and fill the positions that have been vacant for a while and they cause those positions to remain unfilled for a long period of time. So we have and have had for a time a creation of an inequity with the external market. Then in January of 2006, correction workers in the county's community corrections department went from a range 16 to 17 and this created an internal inequity within the county. So we've been working for several months with individuals and with Division of Human . . . of HR and we requested a compensation study of the case managers positions.

The results of the study that came back confirmed that our starting salary was lower than the external market. So as a result of this study, HR recommended that a one range increase be made for entry level case management positions and other levels of case management to be increased to maintain the career path and to retain staff that were trained and qualified and producing significant revenue for our organization.

The reclassification affects 202 case management positions in COMCARE, eight in the Department on Aging and two in the CDDO. The revenue generated from field positions and a reduction in the turnover rate will pay for the increased salaries. We are recommending that you approve the reclassification and authorize the budget transfer and I'd be happy to answer any questions you'd have on this item."

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Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. One of your last comments was that the revenue generated and the reduction in turnover will fund the increase in the personnel costs."

Ms. Cook said, "Yes, that is what we are anticipating. We currently, out of the 202 positions in COMCARE that are case management positions, 50 of them are vacant. So when we are able to fill those positions and we do believe we will be able to do that, and when we are able to retain the individuals that we have, the revenue that case management have produce as a core service for COMCARE will be . . . will justify this increase of expenditure."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. A couple of other comments. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "How much of this turnover is due to burnout as opposed to one step increase?"

Ms. Cook said, "Our turnover is impacted by a lot of things, Commissioner Parks. This is a difficult job for individuals. These case managers are out in the community with mentally ill individuals. I have to say from our listening sessions, it's one of the things, the relationship they have and the feelings they have about working with this population is one of the things, they're telling me, that keeps them coming every day.

Certainly there is burnout in our field in general, in working day after day with individuals that are difficult to work with. We also have a certain percentage of case managers that go on to get advanced degrees, so some of them leave those positions to pursue . . . most of them MSW, but other advanced degrees."

Commissioner Parks said, "Is the state your primary competition with those people leaving to get advancement?"

Ms. Cook said, "Our affiliates are part of the competition, our local SRS office is part of the competition. The corrections system is part of the competition, so when applicants look on the E-Line for positions for the county and compare it to starting salaries elsewhere or even within the organization, they're going to be more readily anxious to apply for the positions that pay a little more."

Commissioner Parks said, "So you think that that's why they're looking on-line in the first place, is to get more money, rather than the working conditions?"

Ms. Cook said, "No, I didn't mean to imply that, what I implied from that is that when there are a

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variety of positions within the county, people are going to be more anxious to apply for those that pay a little higher. Most of the people that are drawn to this kind of work are drawn for their passion to work with people and help those individuals.”

Commissioner Parks said, “I would hope so, think that.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Is that all, commissioner?”

Commissioner Parks said, “I guess so at this time.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, Commissioner Welshimer.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Do we subcontract any of the case management out to groups that are in this . . . you know, serve as counselors and consultants and that sort of thing.”

Ms. Cook said, “Commissioners, we do have affiliation agreements with two affiliate agencies that provide case management work. Those agencies are the Mental Health Association and the Breakthrough Club. Breakthrough Club does adult case management for us and our system of care. The Mental Health Association does both children and adult case management. When you looked globally at that, about half of the case management activity that goes on are produced by COMCARE employees and then the other half by our affiliate agencies.

I would point out that part of the reason we’re so anxious to hold onto this to hold onto this as a core function is that it is a core function of mental health to have this activity for individuals that have severe and persistent mental illnesses. The state, a number of years ago, set rates that were very significant for community mental health centers to work with this population and provide that service and so we in fact get about twice the revenue from case managers that we do from masters level clinicians. So it’s a core service, it’s a coordinating service for other services that we have and it’s one whose revenue we depend on so to have affiliates and others in the community doing a lot more of that business would financially impact us and eventually cause more reliance on the county’s general money.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioner Parks.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Well I just wanted to say that my vote is going to reflect on the procedure, not on the amount of money or the personalities or anything. Thank you.”

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Chairman Unruh said, “Are there any other comments or questions, commissioners? Seeing none, what’s the will of the board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved approve the reclassifications and authorize the budgetary transfer.

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	No
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Marilyn. Next item please.”

I. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS’ REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 19, 2007.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The meeting of July 19th results in three items for consideration.

**1) CHANGE ORDER #2 NAMING RIGHTS AND MARKETING FOR THE DOWNTOWN ARENA- DIVISION OF FINANCE AND FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
FUNDING:ARENA SALES TAX**

The first item is change order number two, naming rights and marketing for the downtown arena for the Division of Finance and Facilities Department. Recommendation is to accept the change order to Superlative Group Incorporated for an estimated cost of \$226,133.

**2) 3/8” CITY SURFACE MIX- PUBLIC WORKS
FUNDING- AGGREGATE MATERIALS**

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Item two, 3/8 inch city surface mix for Public Works and the recommendation is to accept the low bid from Kansas Paving and establish unit pricing at \$31 per ton, for a total cost of \$62,000.

**3) IBM INFO-PRINT 1552 PRINTERS WITH IPDS- TREASURER’S OFFICE
FUNDING: TREASURER’S OFFICE**

And item three, IBM info-print 1552 printers with IPDS for the Treasurer’s Office and the recommendation is to accept the low bid from Info-Print Solutions Company in the amount of \$64,900.

Be happy to answer any questions and I recommend approval of these items.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Iris. Commissioners, are there any questions about items on the bid board? Commissioner Norton.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts on items two and three and have more discussion on item number one.

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, “That has passed, items two and three, so now we’re ready for discussion on Bid Board item number one. Commissioner Norton.”

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Commissioner Norton said, “Well I believe I’m going to be opposed to this. That’s a lot of money and once again I’ve often thought that we should build these kind of items into the original proposal, we knew we were going to have to sell premium seating. How many premium seat stations are we going to have in the arena? Is it 24?”

Mr. Chris Chronis, CFO, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The designs that we’re working with right now provide 22 . . . I’m sorry, 20 seats . . . suites, each of which has I believe 12 seats in it. There are two party suites, which have a larger number of seats in them. There are 40, I believe 40 loge boxes, each of which has four to eight seats, and there are 300 club seats, which will be sold individually.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Okay. I guess my difficulty with this is that we’re talking about obtaining the highest possible values in the sales of premium seating. Does that mean as we show them that we’re going to negotiate up for people? The first guy might get a good deal and a guy later, we might negotiate up and get more for a particular thing or are we putting a price on each one of them?”

Mr. Chronis said, “We will be putting a price on each one of them, Superlative will be putting a price on each one of them. The price will be determined by the location within the facility and by the term of the lease.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Okay. Do we really believe that we have a market, if we set a price, that we can’t market just 20 suites to our community without spending this kind of money? I believe that I can name 40 companies that are in the market for that and if we went to them they’re going to be first in. They’re going to want to be in our arena and that we’re going to end up marketing to only two or three of these suites, because they may not be gobbled up right away.

You know, with the anticipation of this being the hottest ticket in our town, which we’ve promoted., I can’t believe that the largest companies, which I think any of us could name, aren’t going to jump on being in the middle of this without really seeing what this mockup of what they’re going to be buying. I think it’s going to be so compelling that they want to be in our arena that the texture of the seating fabric is not going to be near as important to them as that that they have that space locked up and be part of the best thing in downtown. Now it’s just my philosophy of it. I would think a good salesman and a good marketer could go to those folks that we already know want to be engaged in our community and won’t pass this deal up.

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Now if it's a matter of if they get to see it we can trade them up and make them spend more money, but if we have a set price, it's only going to be two decisions for them; do they want to be in the arena and does that price fit into their budget. It's pretty simple to me so I don't know that I'm going to be supportive of spending that kind of money for a sales office."

Mr. Chronis said, "Our view of the sales is somewhat different than yours. We believe that we can sell all of the premium seating and it's more than just suites, at a price. We don't believe that we can sell at the price we want to get without people being able to put their hands on it. Nobody is going to buy a car sight unseen. Nobody is going to buy a box in the arena sight unseen, especially in this market, where there has never been a comparable product. We've never had an arena that has loge boxes or club seats or suites for that matter. And so while everybody recognizes the terms, few people in this market have ever been in one, have ever seen one and for the prices that we're going to be asking them to pay, we feel that it's important that they be able to see what they're getting for their money, to get them to agree to those prices."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "This is paid out of the arena tax money, correct?"

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes."

Commissioner Parks said, "I had the same concerns that Commissioner Norton did before I talked with staff and one of the things that they said was, when they went around on the tours or whatever to the other arenas, were that this was something that was missing. It's a newer concept. It's something that might pay great dividends in those upscale clientele that would want to come in and do this. I would feel better I guess if it were an auction and were bidding on something and could bid the price up. I guess now my question is are we going to start high, on the high end of this, for the rentals or for the rents of those and is it going to be an annual . . . is it annual renewal, five years, life of the arena? I guess what logistics there?"

Mr. Chronis said, "People will be leasing the rights to a particular piece of real estate within the arena for a defined term and the terms will vary. There will be some products that can be leased for two years. There will be some that will be leased for seven years. The terms will vary. The price per year will vary with the term. For any given inventory, the plan is for the price for all purchasers of that product for that term to be the same. That is we don't expect to sell to the first customer at a high price because he's eager to buy and sell the last one at a low price because we think that that's what's necessary to sell it. We think that in fairness to all customers, the prices need to be the same, so we're setting the prices at what based on our consultant and our advisor's experience in

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other markets tells us is a fair price, but for this market a high price for these products and we're going to expect that price from every purchaser."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioners, any other . . . Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just two quick questions. One, Superlative, I mean they're in this business of selling and marketing suites, loge boxes, naming rights, this kind of activity."

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes, they're one of the two or three premier companies, the companies that everybody looks to for this kind of activity in the country and for that matter internationally."

Commissioner Winters said, "And they're coming to us with this proposal as this is the way they routinely do these sales projects in other communities."

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes, especially in communities that have had no precedent, and I would note that we've hired Superlative, originally, approximately a year and a half ago through a competitive process. Other vendors sought the business as well. Every vendor, at least all of the leading vendors that gave us proposals for this service, told us that they thought that we needed to have a sales office, a demo product to be able to sell so Superlative isn't the only one that said that. They all said that. At the time, neither they nor we could accurately price what that office would require. We didn't know where it was going to be, we didn't know what the rents were going to be. We didn't know exactly what the suite was going to look like, because it hadn't been designed yet and so we didn't know how much it would cost to build a demonstration suite.

So the county made a conscience decision at that time not to include the sales office in the original contract, because we knew that whatever price we put on it in that contract would be inaccurate because nobody knew what that price would be. So instead, we put in the original contract language that said 'at the point when and if the county determines that a sales office is required, the county will bear the cost of that sales office' and the change order that's before you, the contract amendment that's before you does just that. It doesn't in any way increase the compensation of Superlative, the vendor who is providing the sales services. What it does is provide the funding to lease a sales office, equip that sales office and construct in that sales office the demo suite and the demo loge box that they will use to market the products."

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Commissioner Winters said, "All right, and at the conclusion of the sales effort then, if all of this money is not expended, or the material that's in the office to make it function as a sales office and the suite mockups, the chairs, the seats, the couches, all of that stuff . . ."

Mr. Chronis said, "The contract amendment has a line-item budget attached to it and you've seen that. Superlative is required to spend the money according to that line-item budget. To the extent that any money remains unspent at the end of the deal, at the end of the sales campaign, that money will be returned to the county. Ownership of anything that is purchased with that money also will revert to the county at that time, so the furnishing that are in the office will come to the county and we'll be able to reallocate them to county offices wherever they might be needed.

The suite furniture and equipment, the loge box furniture and equipment that is in the demos that are located in the sales office will return to the county and we will place those in storage at the arena to be used when supplies in those suites and loge boxes become damaged and need to be replaced."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, thank you. That's all I have."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "Well that was what I was going to ask on that also, but the boxes, the mock boxes, that money has to go back to the arena, not be used in county offices."

Mr. Chronis said, "For clarities sake, the sales office will have office furnishings and the furniture located in the mock suite and the mock loge box. The office furnishings that will be in the sales office will come back to the county and may be used at the arena, but they could be used anywhere in the county where they might be needed."

Commissioner Parks said, "But those haven't been purchased with the arena tax money."

Mr. Chronis said, "They will be purchased with the arena tax money. And if it's your preference that they be used only at the arena, then we can certainly do that. That's a decision to be made down the road."

Commissioner Parks said, "I think that would be prudent for us to do that."

Mr. Chronis said, "The only point I wanted to make is that by the character of the equipment, you know a desk is a desk. There's not one desk for an arena and a different desk for a commission

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office or a manager's office.”

Commissioner Parks said, “I certainly wouldn't want to make the people that are paying in on the tax that we're collecting the tax for the arena think that we're furnishing county offices with those things.”

Mr. Chronis said, “Yeah, no that's certainly not the intent.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Another question I have, SMG's role in this? Do they have any role in Superlative?”

Mr. Chronis said, “SMG is the firm that has been selected to operate the arena once it's open and they are . . . they've been selected also to assist us in certain pre-opening tasks. We're in the process of negotiating a contract with SMG and we expect to bring that contract to you perhaps as soon as next week for approval.

In this transaction, in this project the county separately hired Superlative to sell the premium seating and the naming rights for the facility. We did that before we ever contemplated bringing a firm to manage the facility. And so what Superlative is doing is a piece of work that, in many cases, would have been done by SMG had we known a year and a half earlier that there was going to be an SMG on the scene. Because we've already contracted that work to Superlative, Superlative will make the sales. SMG, under their contract, will be responsible for serving those contracts, meaning you may chose to buy a suite or lease a suite through a negotiation with Superlative, you will agree on a price with Superlative. Superlative will in effect bring that contract to the county. The county, the board of commissioners, will approve that contract and then turn it over to SMG for implementation. SMG will be responsible for maintaining the suite, for billing the tenant for the lease revenue, for collecting that revenue. Once the initial term has expired, and as I said it will be as short as two years for some seating, perhaps as long as seven or ten years for other seating, once those initial terms have expired, SMG under the terms of their contract will be responsible from that point forward for reselling that inventory.”

Commissioner Parks said, “I would like to say, with budget time and everything, we're in this I would hope that I would get more than seven days to look at that SMG contract before we make a decision. Thank you.”

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Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Commissioners, any other comment or question?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts concerning item number one.

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	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	No
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Iris. Madam Clerk, next item please.”

CONSENT AGENDA

J. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Resolution authorizing disposal by destruction of Purchasing bid records 1998-2001. (DISP 2007-08-38).**
- 2. Resolution to authorizing disposal by destruction of DIO-Health WIC Records for 2000. (DISP 2007-07-37).**
- 3. Resolution authorizing disposal by destruction of Register of Deeds banking and deposit records, chattel mortgage, sales validation questionnaires, and receipts for the period 1940-2003. (DISP 2007-09-39).**
- 4. Agreement with Dream Catchers Case Management, Inc. to provide case management services to individuals with developmental disabilities.**
- 6. Addendum to FY2007 Contract with the Kansas Department of Social and**

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Rehabilitation Services to provide Developmental Disabilities Services.

- 7. Waiver of policy to hire an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), B329, at more than 6% above the minimum pay for this position.**
- 8. Amendments #5 and #6 to the Contract with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services / Health Care Policy for the Addiction and Prevention Services Grant.**
- 9. Amendment #5 to the Contract with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services establishing COMCARE as a participating community mental health center.**
- 10. Termination of Agreement with Wichita Psychiatric Consultants for Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner hours at Crisis Intervention Services.**
- 11. Public hearings (2) for August 8, 2007 regarding the Petition for Annexation of Certain Land Compromising the Greeley Drainage District by the Eagle Drainage District and the Joint Petition of Eagle Drainage District and Larry Williams for Annexation of Certain Land by the Eagle Drainage District.**
- 12. Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Contracts.**

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V07038	\$243	4	Valley View Apts.
V07039	\$287	4	Valley Lodge Apts.
V07042	\$598	5	David Pickering
V07043	\$118		Towanda Gables
V07044	\$290		Garden Walk Apts.
V07045	\$286	5	Hearth Hollow Apts.
V07046	\$272		Jack Taylor
V07047	\$293	5	Oakview at The Park
V07049	\$595	4	Country Park Apts.
V07050	\$450		Cottonwold Company
V07051	\$267		Daniel Hunt
V07052	\$293	5	Hearth Hollow Apts.
V06032R	\$635	5	Springcreek Apts.

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13. The following Section 8 Housing Contracts are amended to reflect a revised monthly amount due to change in the income level of the participating client.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V06050	\$460.00	\$358.00
V05045	\$88.00	\$92.00
V8009	\$286.00	\$292.00
V05038	\$290.00	\$291.00
V05046	\$285.00	\$279.00
V04050	\$34.00	\$50.00
V05042	\$259.00	\$285.00
V04049	\$262.00	\$237.00
V94049	\$124.00	\$124.00
V06048	\$291.00	\$247.00
V72016	\$246.00	\$252.00
V06040	\$339.00	\$529.00
V06047	\$441.00	\$264.00
V05049	\$174.00	\$111.00
V020049	\$321.00	\$303.00
V2045	\$235.00	\$257.00
V010126	\$260.00	\$284.00
V04051	\$317.00	\$287.00
V05036	\$84.00	\$82.00
V01023	\$221.00	\$230.00
V06035	\$342.00	\$274.00
V020052	\$411.00	\$389.00
V10118	\$264.00	\$236.00
V01024	\$501.00	\$441.00
V06052	\$303.00	\$355.00
V04043	\$429.00	\$421.00
V05051	\$615.00	\$640.00
V010103	\$276.00	\$246.00
V06045	\$425.00	\$425.00
V05048	\$210.00	\$235.00
V05043	\$200.00	\$128.00
V020051	\$288.00	\$136.00
V96065	\$229.00	\$239.00

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V010113-R	\$288.00	\$293.00
V06050	\$281.00	\$460.00
V94012	\$695.00	\$433.00
V04091	\$145.00	\$134.00
V05054	\$515.00	\$177.00
V07034	\$196.00	\$475.00
V05098	\$315.00	\$615.00
V05106	\$301.00	\$192.00
V04024	\$408.00	\$292.00
V0606	\$582.00	\$318.00
V05094	\$521.00	\$454.00
V07017	\$135.00	\$445.00
V04062	\$74.00	\$271.00
V07022	\$287.00	\$212.00
V06054	\$385.00	\$385.00
V07010	\$384.00	\$368.00
V05101	\$366.00	\$350.00
V04026	\$166.00	\$350.00
V05076	\$442.00	\$243.00
V04005	\$304.00	\$379.00
V04078	\$391.00	\$384.00
V07032	\$657.00	\$475.00
V06023	\$254.00	\$404.00

14. **Order dated July 18, 2007 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
15. **General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of July 8 – July 24, 2007.**

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would point out that number 11, the public hearing is on the Greeley Drainage District should be pulled. We’re not ready to do that yet, so I would recommend you approve the consent agenda without item 11 and remind you that there’s only 159 days until the sales tax expires.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 11.

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, “We do have a comment from Commissioner Winters.”

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Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you. I can’t put my hand on my consent agenda . . . oh, there it is. Just an FYI on this item number 11, and timing-wise, this is going to be a public hearing and if we don’t have it on the 8th, that means we’re going to have that public hearing on the 15th, because they have to have their stuff done by August the 28th if it’s going to affect their budget, so we need to postpone it because the legal descriptions are evidently not correct on what has currently been turned in, but if there are people that want to speak at this issue concerning Greeley Water Drainage District and Eagle, when are we going to do that, how are we going to do that on the 15th, because we’ll spend half a day on our budget for sure probably.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioner Winters, I found out this morning that it is possible they might want to try to schedule that for August 29th, knowing that that date is beyond the budget date, but since the budget date that is ones that themed to be directory and not mandatory, it’s something that they’re working with the county clerk on it, so I think that’s a possibility.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right. Well we just need to I guess have attention paid to when this is going to come back. That’s the only thing I have then.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Any other comment? Commissioner Parks.”

Commissioner Parks said, “My vote will reflect the same vote as earlier on the policy about moving people around in their positions and whatnot, so my negative vote is going to be directed at number seven there, so . . .”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, thank you. Any other comment? Seeing no one asking to speak, Madam Clerk, call the vote.”

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, “Well commissioners, we have arrived at the end of our agenda and we had a hoped for deadline of 11:45 so it looks like we might make it, but now we have opportunity for other. And Commissioner Parks, I think maybe you were first.”

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K. OTHER

Commissioner Parks said, "Well I think Tim was first, but I'll certainly go first if you'd like to. When we're talking about putting the RFP out I guess our 60 or 80% RFP is out for the arena. When it gets to be 100%, I would like the RFP to include certain things for the contractors. Certain building trades and other people have brought to my attention that health insurance for the workers, workman's comp, such thing as unemployment insurance, I-9s and certified skilled employees are important in that business and I would just like to discuss a little bit with the rest of the commissioners what we would think about putting that in an RFP or directing staff to put that in an RFP. Maybe you can hear from Mr. Buchanan."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, the request for bids have been on the streets since late Monday afternoon and the complete drawings are ready and the instructions to bidders are out. We can amend those instructions to bidders in the bid documents for the arena. We've indicated that August 31st was the last day by which we would amend documents and the reason we do that is to make sure that people have sufficient time . . . so that we have sufficient time to hear from contractors and if items need to be amended, that we can do it and give the contractors sufficient time to do that.

We've talked to, as you recall, plumbers and pipe fitters worked with us very closely on these Request For Proposals. They were helpful to the Sedgwick County in developing in helping develop the campaign and worked on the campaign for the arena. And with their help, we agreed to place language in the request for bids document. We had a meeting with them. I was told that they were satisfied that we had met our obligations to specifically address the issues that Commissioner Parks has indicated, worker's comp and unemployment insurance are required by the state, so you can't do business in this state without providing those. We did not specifically require those because the state requires them. We have not included health insurance in that request for bid. We have never required health insurance of any of our contractors and if that's a public policy and think certainly we need to think about what the ramifications of that might be.

That might fly and if we're talking about trying to be inclusive for small business, women-owned, minority-owned business, that may exclude some of those and we're trying to determine that. We certainly know that lots of small business people in this community don't provide health insurance and you and I can argue whether that's a good policy or not, but that's the facts. Facts are difficult sometimes.

On I-9s, we have not required that in the RFP or in the requests for bids we have not required that. Again, this is federal law but as we've talked about this issue over the last couple of days, it struck me that we are asking the bidders to provide the lowest and best responsible bid and we've asked

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them to present us a plan for safety, how are they going to make sure the workers are safe and part of our consideration will be not only price, but how are they going to consider safety as an issue.

So we also could include, we could amend the contract or request anyway that you want to to address the I-9 issue, to make sure they're documented workers working on our project. We could ask the contractors to show what their policy is and how their history of enforcement has been and how their compliance with the federal law has been over the last past several years. That's one way we could do it.

Another way would be for us to have some sort of inspection process that Sedgwick County would go down on that, but we can certainly talk . . . this about that some more and come back to you with some ideas."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "So this could be on an agenda item next week or the week after and still meet the August 31st deadline?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Sure."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Commissioner Norton, were you wanting to speak on this issue?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Well I had two other issues and I'll yield to whoever wants to stay on this issue before we get off of it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Welshimer I think was next."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I share these same concerns. I think . . . you're going to call these companies that have responded to the RFP and ask them if they do provide health insurance?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, we can do that but that's only one piece of it. There are all these subcontracts, and so I need to understand what it is the commission is trying to get to. If it's also the subcontractors, then that's a different approach and we're not going to know who the subcontractors are until September 14th."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "So it's after they accept the bid or we accept them that then they tell us who their subcontractors are."

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Mr. Buchanan said, "Right, but we could, you know if it's the commission's desire to require that all contractors . . . if it's the commission's desire to make sure that the primary contractor pays health insurance or all the subcontractors have health insurance then we need to amend that document by August 31st and we can do that."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "We just want to make sure that they're using skilled labor and that all of the people working on this project are legal in the United States. So I think we should have something to say about subcontractors that they contract with and I would think that a large employer, as large as a major contractor that we're going to have in charge of this project would be big enough to pay health insurance and of course you say the subcontractors. The subcontractors will be local, wouldn't that be right?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "You're asking . . . from Kansas businesses, yes."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "And on a project such as this, maybe they could arrange for that health insurance or things that would substantiate the skills and dependability of their employees. Anyway, I'd like to hear back from you on what those health insurance inquiries, the result of that."

Mr. Buchanan said, "We . . . the first . . . the pre-required, the pre-bid conference I don't believe is till August 7th or 8th, first or second week of August, and that's when we'll know who all the contractors are so although we know some people picked up the documents already, you're not going to know until probably the day before how many potential bidders there are, so we won't have that information until that pre-bid, required pre-bid conference and I don't know that date."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. I will just make a comment here before I call on the next commissioner, and that is coming from a small business background, I will tell you that we comply with unemployment compensation and worker's compensation and we make sure that we hire legal people when we work, small business guys do that, but not all small business guys provide health insurance. It's very burdensome and I think we need to be very careful before we make that a requirement, if we want to try to attract small, independent business people to participate in this project because that . . . I mean we just can't afford to do it, small business guys can't. That's all there is to it. With that comment . . . pardon me, I didn't mean to cut you off commissioner."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I was going to say that . . . I guess we'd have worker's comp for injuries on the job."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Right."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "And sometimes that's difficult for a person who is injured and so the health insurance is . . . I don't know, maybe we should look further into the importance of that. You may be . . . you're right in that it puts an extra burden on the smaller companies, but high incidents of accidents in construction work and that's a concern that should be addressed."

Chairman Unruh said, "I understand. Thank you. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Now it's my understand that this . . . that the request for proposal language is very similar to that that we use on virtually all of our request for proposals, as far as construction and contractors are concerned. This contract is not substantially different than the contract that we had with the last addition of the detention facility or the original detention facility or the juvenile detention facility. In fact, it may have been broadened a little bit that we can take into consideration some best practices, but this basically is our standard contract? And I see Chris has come to the podium."

Mr. Chronis said, "Yes, it is essentially the same kind of bid document that we submit or issue for all construction projects, but there are some features of this one that haven't appeared in prior county transactions. One of those is the language that the manager alluded to earlier, referencing a preference for certain kinds of firms being involved in the contract. Another key difference, from the standpoint of the vendors, is that on this one we are requiring the submittal of information in response to the requests for bids in two segments. The vendors will be required to submit their bids on a particular day which is specified in the documents. Then I believe it's three days later they will be required to submit supplemental information that supports that bid. We did that differently on this transaction than we do normally. Normally it's all required at a single point in time. We did that differently on this one, at the suggestion of a number of contractors in town who told us that for a deal this large, they are going to be struggling up to the very final few minutes, prior to the bids submittal deadline, to make sure that their pricing is as low as it can be and accurate and they don't want to have to have their time diverted or attention diverted to reviewing the accuracy of supplemental documents that support that bid, so they ask us for two separate submittal periods and that's' what we have included in the document and that's a key difference from normal, county practice."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, let me ask my question a different way. Do other contracts that the county has let include the provision that requires contractors and subcontractors to provide health insurance?"

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Mr. Chronis said, "No."

Commissioner Winters said, "Does it require them to check I-9s and check immigrations?"

Mr. Chronis said, "No."

Commissioner Winters said, "But we know that is the law. We know that the law requires those contractors, when they hire a person, to do that but we don't normally include that in our contracts."

Mr. Chronis said, "That's correct. We do have standard language in our bid documents requiring our bid documents requiring the vendors . . . or in our contracts, requiring the vendors to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, but we don't specify compliance with I-9 requirements."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, well that to me meets the requirements that we need to meet. And I'm not in favor of having staff spend any time figuring out any other items or having this come back as an agenda item. I think we've got a plan, we've got a request for proposal out there and I think we need to move forward."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "It's on the same thing. It's some of the concerns that was brought to this was not from the large contractors. It's from the small bricklayers, concrete workers and especially in relation with the I-9 and maybe not as much with them as the health insurance but the work comp and disability thing and they were concerned about some of that."

And one of the small bricklayers has indicated that state and federal enforcement is either lax or nonexistent on this and I would tend to agree with him on especially the I-9 issue. But I'll defer for the sake of time to the other commissioners."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well the only thing I can say is I respectfully disagree with that, having been a small business, I know the immigration service comes and looks at I-9s. I've been there, done that, had the opportunity to be involved in that. So you may think it's nonexistent. I think they're out there alive and well, checking I-9s. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Been there, done that. You have a tee shirt."

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Commissioner Winters said, "I have the tee shirt, 'been there, done that'."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Commissioners, any other comment directly on this issue? Do we have . . . Mr. Manager, did you pick up whatever instruction you needed regarding this?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "No, but I'll be around."

Chairman Unruh said, "No, but I'll be around."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. I think that's, I think, the answer I wanted. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I have a comment on that subject too and then I've got some others. I think there's a broad based policy decision and I don't want to get too mired up on an individual bid without having that conversation that sets the tone for every bid that we do in the future. You know and if it's important for the arena, then it should be probably important for our general policy for how we do this.

I tend to agree on the I-9s. I ran a business in this community for a lot of years and I've got to tell you, I got checked every year for I-9s and they go through personnel jackets and if you've got any kind of complaints from immigration offices or whatever, you had somebody looking at your job jackets. Now maybe they were chasing the big companies and didn't fool with the little ones, but I think there's plenty of enforcement out there and I think most businessmen take that pretty serious, particularly with the conversation nationally that's going on about amnesty and illegals and all of that. I think people are taking it a little more serious than they have in the past.

The other part of it is in our own community we had a company close down because they go caught violating immigration laws and changing records and letting people work illegal, so I think it's on the front burner for a lot of people in our community, so I'd put that aside.

Now health insurance, now, you know I'm an advocate for health access and healthcare for every constituent and I think it's important for us to advocate for somehow getting all people some kind of access to healthcare, but I don't know that regulating it through contracts that are only dealing with a few contractors is a way to do it. I think for us to try to enforce that, with the federal problems and the state problems on all this, that this isn't a way to try to regulate it. Now we can advocate for it, we can have strong language that we want people to, but our idea that we're going to get small businesses, minorities, women-owned businesses as part of this arena, and then require them to buy insurance for all their employees just to get this one job, but that carries over for every other job they've got, because once they buy insurance, you're not going to do it for six months that

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they're working on the arena and then say 'Oop, we're not going to do it any longer', I would think that's an ongoing thing.

I just don't think that's our job to dictate that. Now on the other part of it is I think people should have healthcare and insurance. We know in our state and nationally, the trend is for employee-based insurance programs to start going away. That's why we worry about this issue so much, because it is. . . there's a trend in that. I don't know if it's right or wrong, but we've gone to an employee-based insurance plan in this United States for years and years and years and I don't know if that's right or wrong, but we're drifting away from that. More and more companies are finding that it's hard to provide insurance, it's so expensive and particularly small businesses, minority businesses and women businesses are having huge problems with that. So to dictate that to a contract I just think is going to be hard, problematic and sets a policy decision for us are we going to do that forever? Are we going to have that language in all of it? That gets to be pretty dicey business.

If you look at Maryland and they tried to force all the Walmart stores to give insurance to everybody if they were going to do business in Maryland and that got to be a pretty dicey thing. I think we may create some unintended consequences if we force that language into our contract, so I think we can advocate for it. We can make it a part of the lang . . . kind of put it in thread of the best practices of businesses that we would like to see. I think just having this conversation today, publicly, starts letting the community know that we're serious about I-9s and companies making sure they follow the rules there. We want to make sure obviously that they follow the workerman's comp and employee kinds of policies at the state and federal level and we're concerned about companies that don't provide good benefits to their employees. But I think it gets pretty dicey on this short of notice for us to set major policy decisions just because of the arena. That's kind of my comments.

I'd like to go over to my other two, but we're probably off of the air already. The Sedgwick County Health Summit results are back. I've got the report. I'm sending it out to all the participants. It will be available to the commissioners and we'll start the hard work of the workgroups in the next month and I'll give you reports consistently on that, as to how we're moving along on that particular item.

And I did want to acknowledge that at the bench there's a parking workgroup report out. I said do we do that every meeting, for 7/25, Commissioner Winters, myself, Bill Buchanan, Ron Holt and

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John Schlegel attended the meeting. We discussed a lot of things but the three main topics that we talked about, one of them was the parking study and all the data that would be available and how we're going to dissect that and how we'll be involved in that. Secondly, we reviewed aerial maps and discussed available parking and potentially available sites for more parking. We discussed the city's responsibility in this whole conversation and finally we discussed a wide variety of issues that were germane to the discussion and I listed all those. I won't go over them today unless at some point you want to talk about all the things that we talked about, but I think there's two parts to this. One part is that we need to make sure that the commission is consistently knowledgeable of what we're talking about on parking, that we all share information, but secondly that the public knows that we're serious about this issue. It's not something that's kind of off our plate and we're just waiting for something to happen by serendipity. We're thoroughly engaged. We're talking about it with staff. We're talking about it with the city. We're engaging the public and we're taking parking for the arena and consequently the downtown very, very seriously by digging into it. And that's all I have Mr. Chair."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Okay, nothing else? Well, we're at the end of the meeting and a couple of us have 12:00 appointments so we won't belabor it. I can't refrain from one comment, and that is that Sedgwick County has been involved in construction processes and building large projects across our county for many years. We've done good jobs, we've had good contracts and I don't think . . . I don't want to leave the impression to the community that all of the sudden we're in new ground and we don't quite . . . we're floundering. We've done a good job, plan to do a contract, we've used the large contractors and small contractors. We've treated them fairly and got good results for our constituents, so I think these discussions are helpful and productive and help us think about what we're doing, but we have been doing a good job and we're going to continue to do a good job in these contract negotiations.

I don't see any other request to speak and I don't think we have anything else to talk about right now, so we will adjourn our meeting."

L. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

KELLY PARKS, Commissioner

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Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner,
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2007