

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

August 8, 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, August 8, 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; Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Mr. Tom Pletcher, Clinical Director, Comprehensive Community Care; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. John W. Nath, Director, Kansas Coliseum; Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Amanda Matthews, Communications Coordinator, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Angela Cato, Community Relations Director, Girl Scouts of the Golden Plains.
Mr. Leroy Kreutzer, Field Director, Quivira Council of BSA.
Ms. June Bailey, Executive Director, Community Housing Services.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Mark Hoover of New Spring Church, Wichita.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, July 18, 2007

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of July 18, 2007.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners you've had the opportunity to review the minutes of July 18th. Are there any additions or corrections?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 18, 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, "And next item."

PROCLAMATION

A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING AUGUST 2007 AS "SIGN UP FOR SCOUTING" MONTH.

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

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the purpose of both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts is to inspire girls and boys to the highest ideals of character, conduct patriotism and service so they may become happy and resourceful citizens. The Girl Scouts of the Golden Plains Council serves 7,500 girls and 2,500 adults in Butler, Cowley, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties and the Quivira Boy Scout Council serves 15,000 boys in 30 counties; and

WHEREAS, while participating in activities that are fun and personally challenging, girls and boys learn valuable decision-making skills and build self confidence. These organizations are where today's girls and boys become tomorrow's leaders; through leadership and service, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts enrich the lives of those around them, and through many enriching experiences grow girls and boys who are courageous and strong; and

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WHEREAS, both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts are dedicated to making scouting available to every girl and boy and welcome all racial, ethnic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic groups; and

WHEREAS, Sedgwick County is committed to supporting the programs provided by the Girl Scouts of the Golden Plains Council and the Quivira Boy Scout Council and encourages our citizens to support both organizations and the ‘Sign Up for Scouting’ night activities at elementary schools on August 30, 2007.

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

‘Sign Up for Scouting Month’

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

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved adopt the Proclamation.

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, “And receiving the proclamation is a contingent of folks, and you’re Angela?”

Ms. Angela Cato, Community Relations Director, Girl Scouts of the Golden Plains, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m joined by the Boy Scouts this morning and we want to thank you so much for your support that you show us year after year for the work that we do in scouting and the work that we do in scouting. And without the community behind us, we wouldn’t be able to achieve the great things with young people that we are today, so we appreciate it. Thank you.”

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Chairman Unruh said, "Well, thank you. We appreciate your being here and you know, we're very please to support you in this way. I don't know how many of the commissioners have been involved in scouting. Many, many, many years ago I was a Boy Scout and enjoyed that experience. And you know, I think the whole scouting enterprise is really one of our national treasures and we really appreciate the input and support, leadership that you all provide. We thank you for being here.

Would you gentlemen, would you introduce yourselves."

Mr. Leroy Kreutzler, Field Director, Quivira Council of Boy Scouts of America, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I work for the Quivira Council as a field director. This is Brad Bechtel, he's our vice president of membership. We're just real excited about the opportunity to work with the Girl Scouts and provide the program to the boys and girls of Sedgwick County."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. So August is a real drive month for membership. If some parent or grandparent . . . I doubt if there's many scout aged folks watching our program, but if there's any grandparent or parent who thinks that they would like to know more about the scouting opportunities for their children or grandchildren, what should they do after hearing you today?"

Ms. Cato said, "Well they can either call one of our offices, and our phone number is 684-6531, and the Boy Scouts . . ."

Mr. Kreutzler said, "Our office is 264-3386."

Commissioner Winters said, "And you're both just listed in the phone book under Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts."

Ms. Cato said, "We are and they can give us a call, because even if they're not able to attend, we'll be at most elementary schools on August 30th to sign up all ages of girls and boys, but if they're not able to attend, they're more than welcome to call us, because sign up does go on all year round."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right, very good. Well having been a Cub Scout and Boy Scout, I appreciate all the work that you all do with our young folks. I think Scouting is very important. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Norton said, “Well I was a Boy Scout and a Girl Scout. I had kids that were both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and very active in the Boy Scout troop and certainly was also active in the Girl Scout group and went to Camp Wiedemann several times to help out, so I really honor what you do for our children and to build strength of character and to get them involved in things of our community so keep up the good work. It’s a great proclamation. I’m very supportive.”

Ms. Cato said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “And Commissioner Parks.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Also with Scouting, as a branch of that, is Exploring and I’ve been active in that over the past 20 years or so and you wouldn’t believe how many police officers you have out there at started as Explorers, or maybe you would. So thank you for your work in that and can continues also.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, well congratulations. Appreciate your being here this morning. Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- B. MAPD CASE NUMBER ZON2007-00023 – SEDGWICK COUNTY ZONE CHANGE FROM “SF-20” SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL “LC” LIMITED COMMERCIAL. GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER K-96 AND HOOVER (3955 N. HOOVER). DISTRICT #4.**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. John Schlegel, Director, MAPD, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The applicant is making this request to rezone about a little over three acres of their property located at the southwest quadrant of K-96 and Hoover Road. The applicant actually owns most of this 150 acre piece in here and what they’re asking for is this one small portion, a little over three acres, just south of K-96 to be rezoned to LC.

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The reason for doing this that they stated was to get the best use of the land. You can see from the aerial photo that I put up in front of you now that the larger 150-acre site was previously a sandpit operation that was operated under a conditional use that has now expired.

You can see from the zoning graphic, the zoning map that I put up in front of you, that most of the area in this vicinity is SF-20 zoning, although down at the intersection of 37th Street and Hoover you'll find the typical Limited Commercial zoning around that intersection.

When this item was heard by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission at its meeting on July 5th, they voted to recommend approval of this rezoning request. No one was present at that meeting to object to the request and we have not received any phone calls or correspondence regarding this request. So with that, you have a recommendation by the planning commission to approve this rezoning to Limited Commercial."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you John. Commissioners, do you have any questions of Mr. Schlegel? Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "It's in my district. I've looked this over and see no reason not to approve it."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. This is . . . on zoning cases, we typically allow interested individuals to speak, even though this is not a public hearing. Is there anyone here who would like to speak, to address this issue? All right, seeing no one requesting to speak, we'll just continue our conversation from the bench. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just a couple of quick questions, thank you Mr. Chairman. John, I know that the intended use is not necessarily what we consider in a land use case. It covers everything that it's capable. Do you know what the applicant's intended use for this property is?"

Mr. Schlegel said, "No, I don't think they have any plans at this time for any particular use. I think they're just seeking to have this intersection of Hoover Road with K-96 rezoned to what they've described as the best use."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right. I did see in the backup, there was evidently a brief discussion about the possibility of a future interchange at this location. But with interchanges a mile to the east and a mile to the west, I would foresee that there'll ever be an interchange there. Do you have a thought or a comment about that?"

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Mr. Schlegel said, "There are no plans for an interchange at Hoover and K-96 at this time. KDOT's policy, because there's already an interchange a mile to the west and a mile to the east, their policy is to discourage interchanges on roads like K-96 at every mile. However, there has been a request made by property owner to the north of K-96 for the City of Wichita to consider an interchange at this location. And that's under review right now by the City of Wichita. There is no funding that's been available . . . or identified for that kind of a project. There's no design at this point. It's simply an idea that is under review."

Commissioner Winters said, "But as you and your staff looked at this and think about the future of that, I'll call it a remote possibility, my words, I don't know if that's right, but that's not something that you would think that we should not grant this zone change, just on the potential of an interchange that may or may never come to be."

Mr. Schlegel said, "Correct. We would not recommend against this. As a matter of fact, we as staff recommended in favor or recommended approval of this zoning request and we would not consider that the future remote possibility of an interchange here as being a factor in going against this request."

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "Well that brings up another kind of answer to your question. One of my constituents advised me about three months ago that he had tried to get an interchange in there from back in the early '60s, when they were extending K-96 on through that area, and had kind of resigned himself to the fact that that wouldn't happen and I think that people down in that area, most of them at one time would have liked to have an interchange, but I think now that they don't have that they realize that there may be less traffic on their road."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Commissioners, are there any other questions or comments? What is the will of the board?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Parks moved to approve the zone change to LC subject to platting within one year and 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.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, John. Next item please."

NEW BUSINESS

C. GRANT APPLICATION TO THE KANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2008.

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, I think Randy Duncan, is he suppose to address this, Mr. Manager?"

Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "He was support to address it, but let me tell you what it is. Annually, we have a grant application for us, Sedgwick County, to . . . for the . . . through the state, and it's through Sedgwick County too, the federal government, for planning activities for emergency management group.

This is a routine and regular application and the backup indicates that this amount has been approved by both the legal department and the Chief Financial Office in Finance. And we would received about \$28,269 in funding for planning activities. I would recommend that you approve this grant application."

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MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved approve the submission of the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including a Grant Award Agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as this submission.

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, "Next item please."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

D. HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

- 1. AGREEMENT WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT TO ALLOW SEDGWICK COUNTY TO SERVE AS REGIONAL COORDINATOR IN SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS FOR THE KANSAS BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EARLY DETECTION WORKS PROGRAM.**

Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is an agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to allow the Sedgwick County Health Department to serve as the regional coordinator for the Early Detection Works program. That means that we provide support not just to Sedgwick County, but to 18 surrounding counties as well, that are listed in your backup documentation. We've had this program since 1998. We've served in this capacity and we provide services through this program to about 2,000 low-income women per year.

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And in 2006, we through this program discovered about 32 positive cervical and breast cancer tests, so it's really a very effective program. The program provides education about breast and cervical cancer and the importance of screening and early detection. We also do outreach to underserved women so that in a way that they understand through their culture they get the message that they need this test or these tests. We provide education to providers who do the screening and also do the diagnosing and testing and assure that there are providers in all of these different counties to serve women. And then we provide case management services to women who have a positive test, to make sure that they get follow up and if they do have cancer, to make sure that they get into the proper program so that they can get treatment so it's been a very effective program.

This grant is for \$166,985. It supports three positions, a nurse and an administrative officer and an outreach worker. Out of local funds come \$3,463 in 2008. That is 6% of one of the salaries. And I'd be happy to answer any questions and I recommend that you approve this request."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Claudia. We do have a questions from Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "As we're regional coordinator, do some of the surrounding counties that are involved in this regional grant, they provide any services or is it just Sedgwick County?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "They provide services to women in their counties and they get reimbursed directly from the state for the services that they provide. What we do is work with them to become providers, and then to answer any of their questions and manage the patients that have positive tests."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Do we do that in other areas too? I mean, is this the only type of . . .?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "We have regional involvement with Public Health Emergency Management, though that's more of a collaborative process, and we also do it some with sexually transmitted diseases."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Well I'm going to be very supportive of this. From our family experience, I know that early detection works, and so anything we can do to promote that is a good thing for the health of our citizens, so I'm going to be very supportive. Commissioners, are there any other questions or comments?"

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MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to 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	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

2. AGREEMENT WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF HEALTH, CENTER FOR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS, REGARDING MORTALITY AND NATALITY DATA ANALYSES.

Ms. Blackburn said, "This is an agreement between Sedgwick County and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for a study of birth and death certificates in Sedgwick County for the three zip codes that we target for the Healthy Babies program. And this will . . . they will look at the birth and death certificates for patients that we serve, and patients that we don't serve. We know we do a really good job with the patients that we serve. We had zero deaths for a five-year period ending 2005 but we continue to see a high rate of infant mortality and low birth weight in those zip codes and we need to better understand the people that we're not serving so that we can understand how to change our program so that we can serve them, and this is a way that we can do it.

We do not have access to all the information on our own, but if we contract with KDHE, they can look at this information. So we are going to contribute, if you approve this, \$20,000 from our Healthy Babies federal grant and the Kansas City Healthy Babies project is going to contribute \$31,000 from their grant and contract with KDHE so that they can do this study and give us information that will help us to improve our program. I would be happy to answer any questions about this."

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Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you Claudia. Commissioners, do you have any questions about this program? I see no questions, so commissioners, what’s the will of the board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to 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	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – COMCARE

E. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR COMCARE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO OFFENDERS PREPARING FOR RELEASE FROM KANSAS PRISONS TO SEDGWICK COUNTY.

Mr. Tom Pletcher, Clinical Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Before you is a renewal of a memorandum of agreement with the Kansas Department of Corrections for COMCARE to provide services to certain offenders preparing for release from Kansas prisons to Sedgwick County.

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This agreement focuses on individuals in prison who have been designated as having a severe and persistent mental illness and has the goal of maintaining them in the community after their release. This takes place through the efforts of a liaison who works with Corrections staff to coordinate discharge planning and to assist those individuals in accessing needed mental health services. About 10 to 15% of the 1,500 individuals released to Sedgwick County each year are designated as having a severe and persistent mental illness. With improved access to services, it's the goal of this program that these individuals will be less likely to re-offend due to their mental illness. In addition to direct contact and planning, our liaison provides information about resources to other Corrections staff to enable them to make better discharge plans.

A brief example of this program could be found in the case of a person I'll just call Clark. He failed to show up for his initial appointment with COMCARE after his release from prison, but the liaison was able to finally connect with him later and facilitated him getting into services that same day. He was referred for appropriate treatment programs, but didn't show up for those initial appointments. The liaison worked with him, with his parole officer and with others to get him reconnected to services. He established those services and was able to start following through with them and to this point be able to address both his mental health and physical health needs. He successfully completed his parole and has chosen to maintain connection with services, even after those obligations were done. That initial contact really seemed to help to manage those symptoms in a way to benefit him staying in the community. I'd be happy to answer any questions, but would ask that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you Tom. A question I have, this is a separate program from our Offender Reentry program. Is that . . .?"

Mr. Pletcher said, "That's correct. This is a very specific program, which identifies a liaison within COMCARE to work directly with Corrections staff who have identified individuals with serious mental health needs and facilitate that specific populations to be able to get the mental health and substance abuse services that they need."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Well as part of the goal is similar, in that we want to reduce recidivism, but I see the distinction, appreciate your response. Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "And we have . . . we get \$58,632 from KDOC. Do you have an estimate on how much you spend on this program?"

Mr. Pletcher said, "that covers the full cost of the wages, the benefits and travel for the person. The county's contribution is relatively minor, in terms of things such as cell phone, the office space that we have and those kind of customary duties, but otherwise KDOC pays all the other expenses."

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Commissioner Parks said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, are there any other questions for Tom? Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I'm just concerned, you said these 1,500 people have persistent mental illness?"

Mr. Pletcher said, "I'm sorry, it was about 10 to 15% of the 1,500 people who were released. 1,500 people are released from prison in Kansas to Sedgwick County and about 10 to 15% of that number have a serious mental illness."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "And they've served that . . . any number, any variety of number of years with that mental illness in prison."

Mr. Pletcher said, "They have been in prison and the prison has identified them as having that and they've received treatment in prison generally."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "They have."

Mr. Pletcher said, "That's my understanding, yes."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Any other questions, commissioners? What's the will of the board?"

MOTION

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

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Tom. Next item please."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- DEPARTMENT ON AGING

F. AGREEMENT WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING FOR THE SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING FOR KANSAS PROGRAM.

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Beginning in February of 2006, Central Plains Area Agency on Aging officially became a SHICK program and began to receive a small amount of funding to provide education to support older adults and caregivers with insurance needs and questions.

This contract will continue the needed funding for our agency to oversee the SHICK program through March 31st, 2008. We do this because we've always done this kind of services, providing information and assistance to older adults. With the Medicare Part D, it certainly became evident that there was a lot bigger need for this kind of information on Medicare and Medicare Part D, supplemental insurance and other insurance for older adults.

We do this but we also continue to have the Extension Office in Sedgwick County that offers that service. Butler and Harvey County also have a service that offers SHICK counseling. However, we were already doing this type of service, so the Kansas Department on Aging, in recognition of that, did begin to provide a small amount of funding, and this year's funding is for \$2,888 and it simply kind of supplements what we're already doing.

We're continuing to work with them to increase this funding over the years, as we continue to monitor and provide additional services in this program and we are working with them now for some additional funding to supplement this, but that will be coming before you in the future. I would be happy to answer any questions, and we would request that you approve this and authorize the Chair to sign."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you Annette. It seems like it’s not a hard decision to receive money to help us do what we’re already doing and we don’t have to change any policies. We just keep doing it with that little bit of financial assistance. So Commissioners, are there any questions or comment?”

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to 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	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Annette. Madam Clerk I’ll ask you now to call Item H.”

Item H was considered before Item G.

H. OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY HOUSING SERVICES/WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY, INC. FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN OAKLAWN/SUNVIEW.

Mr. Brad Snapp, Director, Housing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I believe most of us would agree that when we have a job to do or particular task, we like to choose a tool that will be the best for the task. I like to look for brand recognition, something that has a proven history, something that affective and dependable and something that won’t break down before the task is accomplished. In short, I just like to look for something that has good quality.

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Commissioners, Community Housing Services is the tool that we use for the principle tool for community development in Oaklawn. We depend on them for new housing, mortgage and rehab loans, residential leadership training and volunteer projects. They are a NeighborWorks@ organization under the umbrella of the NeighborWorks@ America national organization. They have an office in Oaklawn and have been filling our goals and objectives for over 11 years.

Before you is their 2007 operating agreement for \$34,250. That's down from last year's \$40,000, not because they've been doing a poor job but because we said from the beginning, as their capacity as an organization grows and they have more money coming into the organization, we will decrease their subsidy.

I've asked June Bailey to come and give a presentation about what they're doing and their history and I'd also like to recognize or acknowledge Maggie Flanders, who is their director of their homeownership center."

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Ms. June Bailey, Executive Director, Community Housing Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you for having me here today. Maggie and I are excited to be here to be able to share with you a little bit more about what CHS is all about. I have also a presentation that each one of you should have a copy of. To the back of the presentation is a three additional page attachment of information. Did a little bit different this year, so that I could actually let the new commissioners on board understand a little bit more about what we are, how we were formed and what we do.

Community Housing Services was launched in 1995 as a 501-C3. In doing that, we were trying to work towards revitalizing home ownership rehabilitation education throughout the neighborhoods. We joined the NeighborWorks@ network in 1996 and we were actually awarded the home ownership status in 2003. That homeownership status gives us the chance and the ability to actually be a one-stop-shop. The ability to have a one-stop-shop at a one-stop place for someone to come in and look at trying to buy, purchase, straighten out their credit or if in fact they own a home, help them keep the home and actually help with maintenance on it, so it helps us to be able to be the one location that they can come and go to.

The governance of the organization is by a volunteer board of directors. There are 18 members on that board of directors. Ten of those members are from business, financial institutions and local government. Chris Chronis would be the county appointee to that. The remaining 8 positions are filled by residents.

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The vision of CHS is creating opportunities and changing lives by developing individuals and the community in which they live. The mission of CHS is to improve the quality of life by building strong communities through increasing homeownership, providing leadership opportunities and improving housing conditions by mobilizing community resources and we're very good at that.

As Brad mentioned, we are a member of the NeighborWorks@ America. Before, you may have heard us say Neighborhood Reinvestment. Neighborhood Reinvestment is actually doing business as NeighborWorks@ America in trying to go a little bit more public. NeighborWorks@ America has been around for over . . . Neighborhood Reinvestment officially has been around for over 30 years and was the not-for-profit that was started by congress to actually help with the affordable housing needs across the country. There are over 235 agencies like mine across the country. There's three in the state of Kansas, only one in the Wichita area. The other two are in Kansas City.

Because we are a part of the NeighborWorks@ America network, it does allow us to access things other organizations or other groups couldn't. The letters that you have attached to the back of your presentation are in fact an overview of that. The first letter comes from Ken Wade, who is the CEO of NeighborWorks@ America showing what the charter status means. The second item in there is a letter from the CEO, who is actually showing our status on a organizational assessment, a report that is done on us that we go through every 24 months and we rank strong in that. We have one more category and we can go to exemplary, which is kind of great with the government standing. And then the fourth one is just showing that we actually are a member in good standing with NeighborWorks@ America.

Why is all that important to us? Because the majority of our funding does come from NeighborWorks@ America. We operate on about a half a million dollar budget a year and they are actually providing part of that capital and operating for us. So it does allow us access to the competitive capital and expandable grants. We're currently about a 1.3 million that we have right now that we have in capital that we can do loans and help people with and as far as preservation of their homes as well.

We have access to the different consulting, those areas where housing development management and community economic development. We have access to training through the institutes. They're offered five times a year. We can take staff. We have actually taken county and city staff to those institutes as well. We have been told when you go back it's like going back to college, as far as the class schedules go. They have access in the current knowledge on what's happening across the country and when you're looking at that industry knowledge and trying to figure out what's happening when it comes to development, or even maintaining or keeping a home, it's invaluable to us.

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We also have access to NHSA, which is a Neighborhood Housing Services of America. It's a secondary market in which we can take the loans that we are helping with, sell them to that market and then turn around and reuse that capital again and put it out there again.

CHS is also a HUD approved counseling agency, so we are HUD trained, certified and approved. We counsel as an agency on homebuyers education, credit, budget, delinquencies and foreclosures. We are there still to train, educate and assist where needed, whether that be in a homebuyers education class or a budget class or actually working with the neighborhood on a clean-up.

CHS does bring people together to work and address the neighborhood issues that affect young and old alike. As you see, volunteers and partnerships are key to our success in the community. What you see on the left is a group working on a deck as volunteers on the back of a house. On the right, you actually see that same group, some of those working on a clean-up in the Oaklawn area.

We offer home maintenance classes. Because they own the home doesn't mean they all know how to maintain it and sometimes they need help and assistance in that, so we actually do teach home maintenance classes, from painting to how to change out the interior of a toilet, to actually going through why it's important to make sure the systems in your house are clean to prevent the mold and things like that. So keeping the home more affordable for them is key for us to be able to make sure they're in the right, safe house.

Our tool library that opened up in 2000 has actually now sent out over 2,600 tools out the door free of charge. We do require a deposit to be made on the tool, but if they bring the tool back on time, clean and in working condition, the deposit is returned to them.

We are also part of the neighborhood builder program that we have established and the county is part of that, along with Intrust Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank. Using the federal program for the affordable housing money from the Federal Home Loan Bank, we have been rally successful at putting in 296 families into programs that allow them down payment assistance, which in fact if they stay in the house for five years, if they've qualified, they don't have to pay back, so that again gets them into the house cheaper.

We've done over a million dollars in that program. Sounds like an awful lot of money, at \$5,000 to \$3,000 a wack, but over the last 11 years we have actually grown and as the chart indicates, we put in the January through June numbers. We actually, the bottom number is the most impressive for me right now because we have hit \$40,000,000. When I started at CHS they were five and a half years old. They were at nine and a half million, and we have grown in six and a half years the additional 30 plus million dollars.

Now this is assisted loans and grants that we've been able to work out and help get someone so that they could actually get into a home. Doesn't mean we've done these loans, it means that we've

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assisted the clients to get the home. All of the homes you're seeing, we actually have the HUD ones for and we have been engaged with the client. The very bottom there's a little asterisk, the 2006 numbers reflect that \$1,013,723 has been in mortgage loans outside of the city limits, telling you that about a third of what we have done has been outside the city limits.

Every other year, NeighborWorks@ America puts on a community leadership institute for our district. They do them all across the country, they combine two different districts. This particular picture is showing you what that community leadership district meeting was about. It was held in Nashville, Tennessee and community leadership institute are around so that we take residents with us. We took ten to Nashville from different neighborhoods across the area, including the Oaklawn area and Fairmont, Kenmar and South Central.

There were over 1,200 people that were community people all across the area that came to this event in Nashville, so they were able to take classes and work together, network together to learn how to be better leaders in their own community.

Also at that meeting, Rick Waylen, who is actually one of the landlord, business owners in Oaklawn received the Dorothy Richardson award. This award is given to outstanding residents and individuals that work with the local not-for-profit NeighborWorks@ organizations to help grow and improve the neighborhood in which they are living and so it was quite an honor to have Rick actually recognized at that meeting.

A snapshot of how we've helped beyond our community involvement in 2006, CHS provided credit counseling to over 1,003 residents. We've taught homebuyers education to 270 households. CHS had contact with over 10,212 residents on housing issues. CHS assisted with 34 homeowners with post-purchase counseling that helped them to address their foreclosure issues. All of those are at least a 10% increase over last year.

New programs, CHS established a new home preservation loan program. Some of you may know that I have actually been attending a Harvard course. Out of that has come this new program. While at Harvard, our whole challenge for us is to pick a challenge in our local community that we could actually work on or work towards improving and I picked foreclosures way back last August, so foreclosures are what we are trying to target. If you or if you are not aware, you have seen on TV, technically Kansas ranks 16 in the country out of 50 states on foreclosures. We're high and we know that in the Midwest our homes are really reasonably priced, so we're trying to get a handle and we've created a taskforce, working with us to try to see what we can do to try to address some of that.

Out of that comes a need. We have had a client that called and said 'I'm about to lose my home'. They're in a really good interest rate, they have a state bond piece. It was closed 6.4% interest, husband and wife both worked, everything was going fine until they came into some legal issues

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over a custody battle, weren't able to make the house note payment, finally got back caught up and were making payments and had worked out a plan, and then the wife loses her job. So here we have a good loan, fixed rate, everything is great with it. It is a state bond loan, but the family of husband wife and two children are fixing to lose their home.

She had since found a job but they couldn't find that almost \$3,000 so they could catch up. We now have the ability to be able to provide that funding for them. So they can come, they can qualify, apply and then we actually can get it set up to where we can help them stay in their home. Because we can do this, that payment now can be made, caught up and they actually get to keep their home and they're not in foreclosure any longer. It also helps them straighten out their credit, so it's a neat program for us to be able to do. We can't save them all. We know that going into this, but the ones that we can save are the ones that we're trying to save.

We also recently partnered with USDA Rural Development. They actually want us to package, and we have agreed to do that, their loan programs that they use throughout the rural parts of the State of Kansas. We kicked off the south central area, which includes Sedgwick County. We actually will be processing their loan applications, via the web. They can apply on-line, we'll process them out and then because of our connection to NSHA through NeighborWorks@ we can provide CDFI money for 20% of each on of those direct loans. Thus, the state can do 20% more in a time when most of the state has been hit with flooding and/ or storms, it's going to go a long way as far as trying to help other families out.

In the last 11 years, we've actually built or rehabbed ourselves as and organization 40 homes. Some of those new and rehabbed are in Oaklawn. Right now we have six more lots. We're trying to take out a house and work it out right now to where the house comes down and we can start building on that house in the very near future.

We can make a positive and have made a positive impact on residents and neighborhoods. This is a picture of before and after and so many people say 'oh, that can't be the same house'. It's the opposite side of the driveway, but if you'll notice, the satellite dish is in the same place on the roof. It is the same house. It tells you that a little bit of paint and help can go a long way where you're trying to assist a family that needs help, even just in painting a house.

The Kansas State Housing Conference last year was the first conference that's been held for housing in the State of Kansas since 1983. I was asked to serve in the steering committee to see if this could happen, and I said absolutely. I don't understand, I'm passionate about my housing and why isn't everybody else. Our goal was to get 200 people at the two-day conference. Actually we

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ended up with about 280 people at the conference and that conference is happening now on a yearly basis and happens in Hutchinson the first part of September.

They've started something new, trying to recognize organizations across the state with innovative partnerships. The goal and the whole theory last year was housing and it was on partnership, so I was excited when we were actually one of the groups that actually won one of the new partnership awards from the state for partnership of the year for our program in which we teach homebuyer's education to the rural areas.

I was also asked to give the keynote address at the wrap-up, which was kind of scary, facing all the faces, but it really turned out really well and I was able to share with them some of the things that we have done in here in Wichita and in the Oaklawn and across the area, so it makes a difference on what's happening.

In the bottom picture to the right you can see how big the meeting room was with everybody in it. Like I said, they were over by a number of people. We were able to handle it. This year they're hoping to have at least 300.

Transforming communities together through partnerships does work and I think you can see in the pictures and our history and the things that we have been able to accomplish that we have been able to do that, but we could not do that without our partners, and I am proud to say that Sedgwick County has been one of our partners in this and I thank you for that support.

Our contact information, like Brad said, that we do have an office in Oaklawn but our main office is at 13th and Oliver. We are looking to move and see what we can do as far as owning our own piece of property instead of renting ourselves. I would welcome any questions that any of you might have."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well thank you for that presentation, June. That was very comprehensive, to give us an idea of what you're doing and it looks like a program that helps people acquire housing and keep it and maintain it and keep them out of financial trouble is a good program for communities, so we congratulate you. We do have a question from Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I just want to say thank you for what you're doing for Oaklawn. That's in my community . . . or my district. How many houses do you have under construction there or what's the status right now?"

Ms. Bailey said, "Right now we actually purchased six lots to actually build on. We had an issue

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trying to get all of the lots kind of in the same area, because the focus is if we can try to go in not just scattered so bad, but we were able to get six lots actually on the same street and one backs up to the another one. Then we've got to get past the rain piece to actually get the other slabs torn out. Cornejo could not come in with the equipment with as much rain and as much water that we have had. So it is drying out and then we're hoping to be able to get in there in August and tear it out and start new."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "And how many homes have you built there so far?"

Ms. Bailey said, "We've built four and then we have rehabbed another and had done several loans in the area."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay, thank you."

Ms. Bailey said, "I might mention that the foreclosure piece that we worked with the very first client was actually from Park City. It wasn't even a Wichita person, so we are getting phone calls from all over the place, even on the foreclosure side."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "But it was . . . you said it was a Park City citizens but they're Sedgwick County also. The tool library address, is it in Oaklawn itself?"

Ms. Bailey said, "We have a small one in Oaklawn and the main one is in our office at 13th and Oliver."

Commissioner Parks said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Are there any other questions or comments commissioners? What is the will of the board on agenda item H?"

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved receive and file

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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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, “Brad, June, thank you. Madam Clerk, I think we’re ready now for agenda item G.”

G. KANSAS COLISEUM MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2007.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. John W. Nath, Coliseum Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I was a victim this morning of underestimating the agenda and a train, so I hope to catch up now. My report is on the activities at the Coliseum during the month of July. And you know, summertime is usually is very traditionally in our business very slow. This is compounded because our pavilions are under construction right now.

This months report I have not included any of the pictures of the pavilions because visually very little has changed. It’s all behind the scenes work and hopefully next month I’ll be able to show you a lot of the finished product and how it’s really going to look nice.

But anyway for July we finished off the Wild season with a very good attendance. It’s double what they had been averaging during the season, and again they had won the game so they finished the season undefeated. We are talking for next year, looking at potential dates and it looks like they’re going to be playing at our facility.

We also presented the Bad Boys of Rock Tour. Now this was an in-house promotion. We partnered with the former vice president of the region for Live Nation, Mammoth Productions out of Lawrence and we were very successful. We had over 5,600 kids at the show. It featured rising rock group out of Oklahoma City, Hinder. It had Buck Cherry and it had Papa Roach and the kids had a wonderful time.

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And one of the things that we talk about a lot in the arena business is how the attractiveness of this business is. We do something different every day. Well that Tuesday morning of the Barton Solvents fire was certainly different than we had the Monday before, because it certainly turned our world upside down and we had to do a lot of very quick planning and movement to accommodate the folks that were evacuated from Valley Center. Keep in mind, we had no idea about the severity at that time and what was really going on, but I think the Red Cross did an excellent job. Of course all the county agencies did an excellent job.

We initially set up the building and set up some cool water fountains and stations for the folks that showed up and we did have a lot of elderly show up, as well as their pets. We moved the big screen TV out of the VIP room and set it up in the middle of the floor so folks could watch what was going on as they found a seat. As you can see from this picture, if you look to the left of the picture, we had a lot of disabled folks come over from one of the homes there and we were certainly glad to be able to accommodate them.

Not knowing how many folks were going to spend the evening, we set up for 200 people to spend the night on the arena floor. We had about 25 or 30 folks actually spend the night with us that first night.

And we were also able to accommodate the pets in a separate part of the coliseum, separated from where the people were sleeping, which satisfied the protocols of the Red Cross. It certainly made the pet owners, they were very happy and very appreciative to not be able to worry about as they see, a lot of folks, their children, like the pets and we work very closely with the Red Cross and the state agency with Dr. Skaer in setting that up.

So coming up, that was a short month, but coming we have Latin Grammy award winner superstar in Mexican music, Pepe Aguilar is going to be here Saturday evening. The Machinist Union will be holding a meeting on August 18th, Park City State Barbeque Championship down in the park on the 14th and 15th of September. Machinist Union is going to be back again on the 15th. We had the Junior Livestock Show, 19th through 24 and that will be the first event in the newly remodeled pavilions.

Gary Allen and Cross Canadian Ragweed concert on September 30th. Now that again is an in-house promotion. We are partnering this time with Richard Leslie from the Cotillion, a brand new partner for us to be able to present this show. Commissioners, if there's any questions at this time, I'd be happy to answer them."

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

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Commissioner Parks said, "I do have a comment and then a question. Good job on that negotiation with that in-house program with Papa Roach. It seemed to really draw the youth in. The Mid-American Flea Market is advertising that they're going to be there during September. Is that something that . . .?"

Mr. Nath said, "We are currently working with the flea market. Hopefully we can get them."

Commissioner Parks said, "Now isn't that a little bit before the Junior Livestock or is that . . ."

Mr. Nath said, "Yeah, they'll just be in the one pavilion though. Keep in mind that the livestock show takes all of them."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Well John, I just want to make a comment, commend you for your flexibility and responsiveness to the incident up in Valley Center and your ability to take care of our citizens in it seems like a . . . you took care of them very well, and so we appreciate your willingness and ability to respond to that."

Mr. Nath said, "I was very impressed by the Red Cross, even though they're pretty thinly stretched right now, with all the things that have been going on. They really got after it. It was a good deal."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, very good. Any other comment or question commissioners? We need a motion to receive and file."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you John. I guess we're ready for Item I now Madam Clerk."

I. KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FORM 1302, "REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT" FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY BRIDGE PROJECT ON 143RD STREET EAST OVER THE KANSAS TURNPIKE. CIP# B-444. DISTRICT #1.

Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, County Engineer, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item I is a KDOT 'Request for Construction Project' Form 1302. This initiates our request for construction and federal funding through KDOT for the bridge on 143rd Street East over the Kansas Turnpike. WAMPO just officially approved this project in the Transportation Improvement Plan and it is currently included in the Capital Improvement Program for construction in 2008 and designated as B-444. The project is estimated to cost \$3,900,000. KDOT will contribute \$2,900,000 and the county and the KTA will each contribute \$500,000. This federal funding is for projects inside the urban boundary and these funds are over and above our rural funds. I recommend that you approve the Form 1302 and authorize the Chairman to sign."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you David. Those of us who live near that bridge are very eager to see this project get started and get to completion, so I'm going to be very supportive."

MOTION

Chairman Unruh moved to approve KDOT Form 1302 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	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

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Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, David. Next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

J. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Agreement with Republic County for access to Sedgwick County's Motor Vehicle Tax Estimator Application.**
- 2. Five Easements for Right-of-Way for Sedgwick County Project 811-J, n ½ K; widening of Ridge Road between K-96 and 53rd Street North. CIP# R-282. District #4.**
- 3. Order dated August 1, 2007 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 4. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of August 1 – August 7, 2007.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it and remind you that we have only 145 more days left for the sales tax for the arena."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. We have a comment from Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "On the . . . I know I've asked this question before but I wanted to make sure that it was on record. Between K-96 and 53rd Street North, that is going to be a four-lane road on Ridge. Correct?"

Mr. Spears said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Parks said, "And those right-of-ways have been purchased?"

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Mr. Spears said, “Yes, after we . . . well, we’ve made the offer and the agreement is pending and we’ve put it on the agenda on the consent and then after it’s approved today then that’s official.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Okay, so are you meeting any resistance there?”

Mr. Spears said, “Just as usual, I mean, most projects there are . . . there’s a lot of tracts and property ownerships along this segment and we are meeting some resistance, but that’s not unusual. But sometimes, as the more we sign, then some of the original ones that resist, they’ll come along and sign. And we don’t go to condemnation until . . . that’s the very last thing that we do.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Any other discussion? Okay, we have a motion and a second. Madam Clerk, call the vote.”

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, “And we’ve reached the end of our agenda. Before we go to ‘Other’ I do want to recognize former commissioner Hentzen has been in attendance today, along with former commissioner Sciortino, so we welcome your attention to county business.

Commissioners, are there any other items that you wish to discuss at this time? Commissioner Parks.”

K. OTHER

Commissioner Parks said, “Did want to say that there is a meeting in Valley Center tonight with the Barton Solvents people again and kind of a debriefing on that. And they have really stepped up to the plate to serve those people that were displaced, any loss at all. They’ve been writing a lot of checks up there and I just wanted to commend them for being a good partner in manufacturing and employing people at that institution and hopefully they can rebuild quickly and move on with

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business.

I also wanted to say that during my campaign I had a checklist of promises. One of those was let the people vote. They have voted on an issue and hopefully they will continue to vote on issues. I do want to get into a little bit of just briefly on the casino. I believe the casino developers will be looking at the Mulvane exit from mere numbers, 15 miles south of downtown Wichita. But this issue I don't believe is resolved. There's going to be an attorney general's request for the supreme court to make some rulings and the legislature will be in session before some of these 90-day things are out there, so this issue may not be over.

Now an issue that kind of affects my neighborhood and the constituents on the north side, not the casinos, but the slots at the Greyhound Park and I'm just going to read a prepared statement and this is what I'm going to give to the media and no other media interviews. 'I've seen the positive impact that the Wichita Greyhound Charities has done, giving millions over the years to charities in Sedgwick County. That money has been critical to many non-profit groups, including the youth organizations. The county is faced with another structurally sound empty building in the area. The loss of 250 jobs, many of which were Valley Center and Heights High School kids, will be gone. Hopefully the 'NO' business leaders will step up and fill those jobs and donate to those charities and maybe they can get a job at Intrust Bank or something, I don't know'. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well I saw the . . . when I saw the returns, I came to the conclusion that another episode is over in 'episode city'. The purpose of putting the question on the ballot of course was to see if the public would want to approve gaming revenues in order for to pay the upcoming debts that we're looking at over the next few years. We're looking at \$40,000,000 to train aircraft employees. We've lost \$12,000,000 from machinery and equipment, mostly in aircraft manufacturing being taken off the tax rolls. We have a \$50,000,000 jail obligation that we found so far no other solution for. And so we're looking at almost \$100,000,000 I would expect by 2012. And that revenue we would expect would have helped us and now we're going to have to come up . . . we're going to have to go back to the drawing board and figure out what we're going to do.

I think we talked yesterday in staff meeting about putting a referendum on the ballot for a one cent sales tax. Of course I've just been hoping all along that we could find some way to avoid a tax increase. I think if we had our normal budget and we could follow through with a normal budget, we'd be okay. But having these three things put on top of us all at once is traumatic for us and so what we're going to do in the next year to address this, I hope this does not cause another episode in Wichita. That's my comments."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you commissioner. Commissioner Norton."

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Commissioner Norton said, “Well I’ve got several things. The first one is Exploration Place, Codex Atlanticus is still there. It’s the Leonardo DaVinci interactive displays and projects and I would encourage people to stop by. It goes till August 26th. It is an interactive kind of exhibit. If you think you’re going to walk through in 15 minutes and see something and say ‘check, done’ you probably want to take a little more time, make it a whole family kind of event because it is something that you sit down at computers and get to really go inside the mind of Leonardo DaVinci, and I would encourage anybody that’s interested in science, and aviation, and mechanics to stop by and visit Exploration Place while the DaVinci exhibit is there because it’s pretty powerful and very interesting.

The next thing I had was as we talk about bridges, and that’s really come into the psyche of the community about failing bridges and infrastructure, I have two bridges on the south side and one of them was listed in the paper today, 47th Street bridge over 135. And we’ve worked on that project for probably five years. That is a state project. The corridor of 47th Street to Broadway is a connecting highway, because that’s where Highway 81 jags, so it doesn’t go through the city. We’ve worked with the state. They’ve developed some preliminary plans, but I wanted to communicate to the public that that is a state project. Jim Skelton on the city side and I have worked tirelessly over the last year trying to get the state to put some money into that to fix that whole corridor. Now it seems like it’s even more imperative that the small little fix we did about six, eight months ago is not good enough, so I want to be sure that people know that the 47th Street bridge has been repaired, but it is one of those that is suspicious over the next five or six years and we have the opportunity with the plans we’ve already done and the infrastructure that needs to be built there to put some pressure on the state to get that finished up and get that fixed.

The other bridge in my district is the Hydraulic bridge over the Big Ditch south and we’ve done some repairs on that but I think in the near future that bridge will be totally replaced and I don’t have the timing on that. Dave, you may have that to comment on it real quick.”

Mr. Spears said, “We don’t have the timing on it yet. We have a consultant, it’s under design, right now and they’re trying to figure out a way to shorten the bridge slightly from 1,100 feet down to a shorter length, which means you’d come out slightly into the floodway and they’re working with the Corps of Engineers and the City of Wichita on that. So it’s underway and then after we get that determined, and can get the field check plans up to KDOT, we’ll be given a better schedule as to when we can go to letting.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Okay. The next thing I had was south side drainage issues. I wanted to be sure to publicly talk about that. It’s not flooding issues. There’s a large area on the south

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side, mostly Salem Township, and I've talked with other commissioners about this that have huge groundwater problems. And we're working on that to help that community and those neighbors figure out solutions for themselves and understand how government might be able to help. Unfortunately, when you have groundwater problems, which is not flooding problems, FEMA doesn't really get involved, there's not much state money to help, insurance doesn't cover it, and it is still a problem so we're working on that. I've committed to a newsletter and communication once a month to those citizens, we've communicated town hall meetings and I wanted to be sure that it's really on the public record that we're not ignoring that area. It's a tough situation, it's not a budgeted item and it may not even particularly be a county issue to solve, but we want to be the facilitator of getting people together and try to understand what are some solutions.

The next issue I want to talk about is the Health Access follow-up. We had our summit on healthcare access. We had almost 100 participants and now we're starting to work on the workgroups to work on the three issues that we identified. One of them was navigation of the system. One was coordination of emergency room, safety net clinics, the medical community and then finally just coverage, how to we cover the 48,000 people in our community that don't have insurance, don't have a medical home.

We met yesterday, and we're now moving forward with our steering committee and our workgroups and hopefully in the next three or four months we'll have some more real substantive answers to some of the dilemma about healthcare access in our community. It's fast becoming a national issue, crisis and I think we've taken some steps to put it into the psyche of our community and try to deal with this, talk a little bit about that.

And then finally, the parking work group, once again this Monday Commissioner Winters and I met with our work group and we talked about parking for the arena and the downtown parking and ingress, egress and all of those things involved with that. And I had a few bullet points of the things we covered and then maybe Commissioner Winters will want to comment too. But we did commit that we would report out every week about our meetings.

The first is we reviewed the study. The Walker study is on the street, it's a very complicated data book and solution book and we have reviewed that. We've talked about the different parts of it. We've had John Schlegel analyze it and distill some of the numbers down for us. We've put that into a map and I think the maps will be to the commissioners the week. We have a big map that has walking distances from the arena entrances, so that you can start to get a feel for what the distances are, where parking is within five minutes, seven minutes, ten minutes, whatever from the arena entrances. We have reviewed the available vacant property, so that we start to understand not only where parking lots are, both private and public, but also where there's land available if we did finally decide to put more surface parking or some kind of multi-level parking in the area.

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We visited about engaging with city elected and when that needs to start and what that engagement looks like. I know Chairman Unruh and Commissioner Winters have talked to the mayor and Sharon Fearey consistently and I know that's one of the topics they've talked about, but now as we start to really put together a plan, we think that there needs to be electeds on both side of the street actively involved in that, so we can talk to each other and talk to each others groups.

We talked about walking distances. We talked about an overlay that would tell us some other information about where parking is and who you use shuttles, and then we started . . . the finally thing we talked about was the price of a one-layer stacked lot in several different locations, maybe not multi-level but something more similar to what's over next to Gander Mountain. We're not sure yet that multi-level stacked parking is going to be the answer, so we've tried to get some pricing on some other things. But those are the key issues that we talked about. Tom, you may want to elaborate on that a little bit."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well you went right down the bullet point list. I took the same notes at our meeting. The only thing that you didn't talk about is we are going to take a look, the City of Wichita now is reconstructing Waterman Street and we discovered we didn't really know what that was going to look like, but I know we had a briefing probably a year ago from city engineers at a staff meeting, but we're again going to look at what that construction is going to look like and how that's going to affect those, but if I said anything else it would be exactly the same thing you said.

Now the other thing, and I don't want the commissioners to think that we're going to fall down on the job, but we've got some conflict with the meeting scheduled next week so we may not meet next week, so if you don't hear from us next week, don't think we're being lazy. We just have some scheduling conflicts."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well along that line, I'm hoping that the maps will be ready and maybe instead of having a meeting, I can meet with each of the other commissioners, or both of us can and some point, and go over those maps so that maybe we're all getting on the same page as far as what the big map looks like, where the parking is, what the walking distances are, what we're starting to think are the travel-ways along and routes that people will take. I think there's going to be some pretty defined kind of walking spaces, particularly if you think about Waterman, and I think that's what Tom was alluding to. We know there's going to be some parking on the east side of the BNSF tracks, and that Waterman will be a through-put . . . what do they call it, a vomitory, where people move through and go to the area, so we're going to have to be sure we understand what that looks like, where the sidewalk is, what the security protection to keep people out of the

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street, all of those things look like and we can describe that with the map. So maybe that's what we'll do next week because we can't meet on Monday."

Commissioner Winters said, "And then there has already been a walking map prepared, but last Friday over the lunch hours Sedgwick County has a walking club, it's a group of 20 or 25 people that walk on a routine basis. So right before noon Commissioner Unruh and I were here and asked if we wanted to participate with the walking club last Friday, for a walk over the lunch hour and we did. And we all drove down to the arena site and then in groups walked for 10 minutes, timing the locations of where we were in five minutes, ten minutes, and fifteen minutes and then turned around and walked back.

So again, it's kind of an interesting experiment and we haven't digested all of that information yet, but part of that will be on the map that you receive that will show walking distances from the arena."

Commissioner Norton said, "I would entertain any questions from the other commissioners, if there's a direction you want us to go, something you want us to look at, more information you want, now's the time to have the discussion, but we're very focused on coming up with a solution for parking and communicating to not only our fellow commissioners, but to the public that we take this very serious, something is happening, we are looking at it, we're analyzing all the data, trying to make the best decision. I think we still have plenty of time, but we want to take it serious and make sure we make the very best decision for our communities. I'd entertain any questions or thoughts."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "You are factoring in, in this available parking, whether it's available on the date. You know, I mean other functions can be taking this parking up and so, you know how . . . I'd be interested in knowing how that's going to be addressed."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, and I think the legend will tell you that there's like five different categories of kinds of parking. There's monthly parking that's public, there's daily parking that's public, there's private parking, there's on-street parking, there's a lot of mixes and some of it will be very available. Some of it will be semi-available and some of it may not be available at all, because it's a private ownership of a business and they don't want to have anything to do with it.

We're doing studies, I know we're going to contact every one of those people as we address 'wow, there's 100 spaces, we need to contact that owner and be sure we understand what they believe

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about their private ownership of that lot' so I think that's part of the conversation, Commissioner Welshimer. I think you're right. We need to understand that.

I also believe that at some point we'll engage SMG to also look at that, because as they do ticketing and have events, they're going to want to make sure parking is good and they may enter into contracts with a lot of these private lots so that they can have the usage of that, so we're moving towards that conversation right now. I think when you see the map, it starts to become clear. Like they've said, there's plenty of parking down there. It's whether it's all usable and accessible and affordable and available I guess, all of those things during the event, whatever particular event that is and that's the complication of this, but we're looking at all that. I think that will be part of the conversation."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Another complication would be these lots that we think are available might be used for their own employees to park for events at the arena, and . . ."

Commissioner Winters said, "That would be a good thing, I mean because arena participants, attendees would have a place to park."

Commissioner Norton said, "Yeah. The last thing was really looking at vacant lots. There's quite a few pieces of property that are vacant that could be utilized somehow and in the mix. They have nothing on them now. They're dirt, they're raw ground but that leads you to believe that maybe they could be served as parking lots, if you wanted to go that route and we'd have to think about all that. I think we're considering all those things."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "One of the questions that I had was somewhat answered with SMG and it was my understanding that they would be transitioning into this fairly quickly then, to take care of some of those problems to get those off of our plate."

I did go down, a couple of weeks ago, to the Museum of World Treasures and . . . for that rail meeting, which is by the way a very positive thing that's going on, a possible passenger train traffic coming in. There were about 400 more or less people at the meeting and a couple of our state representatives and senators were late because they said they couldn't find a place to park, so I just thought I would throw that out that that time of day, late afternoon, there was a . . . around the Museum of World Treasures anyway, a parking issue, so just for your committees to have that."

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

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Commissioner Winters said, "I just wanted to make a brief comment about a follow up on the SMG. Since we have signed the contract, I've had conversation with the regional manager with SMG about several issues and I was extremely impressed by his concern about having a good parking plan, and to the point that he wants a good plan because he wants the experience of everybody that steps in that door to be one that they'll want to come back. And so you know he wasn't talking about answers today, but he was certainly wanting to be in the discussion, in the mix of the parking and the traffic flow issues. So I think again we've got somebody at the table who is experienced in downtown traffic and they want to make it a good, workable deal, so I think they're going to be working hard with us."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. I think it might be worth stating that the folks at SMG want us to have a good experience and have good parking, not just because they like us so well. They have a financial stake in this in that they've guaranteed us that we're not going to have any losses, and so they've got a real incentive to make sure that this thing is successful, people like it and they want to come back. So I'm confident that we're going to get this worked out, appreciate the work that you all are doing."

May comments here in this section just have to do a little bit with Sedgwick County Zoo. It's having a great summer so far. They're running 15% ahead of their budget attendance figures, so appreciate the citizens in our whole area for their participation and support of the zoo, but it's an exciting place with the new penguin exhibit and they've had a lot going on out at the zoo, in terms of new zoo babies, got a new female black rino born out there, a female giraffe, a big giant anteater, a female pudu and a couple of flamingo chicks. I'm waiting for somebody to ask me what a pudu is."

Commissioner Winters said, "What is a pudu."

Chairman Unruh said, "A pudu is a little short deer. It's one of the smallest deers in the world, about 14 to 18 inches tall, little bitty thing, real cute. You have to go see it, so thanks for the question commissioner. Also wanted to mention the fact that I did attend the graduation out at the aviation tech center last Saturday where 32 of our citizens graduated from that aviation training. It was a full house there, but the classes are full and we've open some more classes out at a west campus, at the WATC facility out there. Those classes are also getting full and I think it illustrates two good things. One, I think that our aviation partners are going to be having a source of trained individuals to build this aircraft and secondly, it shows a demand for that from the student side. So I believe our involvement in trying to help facilitate aviation training through the Jabara Campus is

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already showing that it has great promise and we want to move forward with that. Those are my comments, commissioners. I don't see anyone else asking to speak. Mr. Manager, anything more? We are adjourned.”

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

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

Regular Meeting, August 8, 2007

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
First District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

KELLY PARKS, Commissioner
Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner,
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2007