

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

September 19, 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, September 19, 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. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Evelyn Good, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Ms. Bonnie Lee Cowles, MICT, EMS, Retiree
Mr. Ronald R. Davenport, Administrative Investigator, DA Office, Retiree
Mr. Jack Focht, Chairman, TACH
Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Robert Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor
Mr. Larry Ternes, Youth Services Administrator, Department of Corrections
Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, COMCARE
Ms. Kim Parker, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Ms. Anne Swegle, Deputy District Attorney
Ms. Lou Heldmen, TECH
Ms. Janet Miller, TECH
Mr. Jason Gish, MKC
Mr. Randy Bargdill, Communications

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor Mark Pennington of First Family Church, Wichita

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item."

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PROCLAMATIONS

A. PROCLAMATIONS.

1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 19, 2007 AS “YOUNG @ ART DAY.”

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

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Kid’s Training Team’s award-winning annual “Young @ Art “ Calendar and Children’s Art Expo provide a venue for Kansas children identified with Serious Emotional Disturbance to display and celebrate their artistic efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Kid’s Training Team, which is a collaborative effort of Wichita State University, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Children’s Mental Health Team, the Training Advisory Group and Title 19 Medicaid Programs believe when children have a place to see their efforts shine, they benefit and are inspired to continue on their path of growth and healing; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 children identified with SED from Community Mental Health Centers throughout Kansas has submitted artwork to be displayed at the 4th Annual State-Wide Art Expo, and

WHEREAS, this is the seventh year for the State-Wide Award Winning Calendar, which began in Sedgwick County in 1999 with approximately 50-pieces of art; and

WHEREAS, the Kid’s Training Team is committed to servicing and supporting children identified with SED and their families.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 19, 2007 as

‘Young @ Art Day’

in Sedgwick County, and encourage all citizens to join with the Wichita State University Kid’s Training Team to celebrate the artistic efforts of children identified with SED.

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Commissioners, you've heard the Proclamation, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to 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 Stacy Rucker is here to accept the Proclamation."

Ms. Stacy Rucker, State Training Coordinator, Kid's Training Team, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We would like to thank you for proclaiming this day 'Young @ Art Day'. It has been a really awesome journey as we have continued to grow and we'll have at least 50-artists there tonight that we'll be celebrating with them and their families and you're all welcome to come at 5:00 p.m. at the Airport Hilton.

And I have invitations and calendars for you and that, of course, will be utilizing the art that will be at the art show tonight for the 2008 Calendar."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, we thank you for being here and we are very pleased to make the Proclamation and have enjoyed the calendars before and sure that we will enjoy them now, but, it's wonderful to give these kids an opportunity to kind of compete, express themselves. You know, art is good no matter what the source. Se we are very pleased to make the Proclamation."

Ms. Rucker said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Madam Clerk, next item".

2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 17 – 23, 2007 AS

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“CONSTITUTION WEEK.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, I have another Proclamation to read for your consideration.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2007, marks the 227th anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebration which will commemorate it; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a Proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17-23 as CONSTITUTION WEEK.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 17-23, 2007 as

‘Constitution Week’

in Sedgwick County and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the Constitution by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

Commissioners, you’ve heard the Proclamation, what’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Parks moved to adopt the Proclamation.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, “And here to accept the Proclamation is Willa Heisler, is that correct?”

Ms. Willa Heisler, Chairman of Wichita Round Table, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am the Chairman of the Wichita Round Table, which is a group we have to represent, there are several chapters of DAR in the Wichita area. And in order to help each other with things, we meet three times a year as a Round Table and discuss different objects of DAR and things of that sort. I do thank you for the Proclamation on behalf of all of the chapters of the Wichita area, the National Daughters of the American Revolution. Thank you so much.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well thank you. And we do have a comment. Commissioner Winters?”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, you answered part of my question, I thought there may be some people that weren’t quite sure, familiar with what the DAR was and what those initials stood for. Perhaps you could say just a word about that organization.”

Ms. Heisler said, “The Daughters of the American Revolution is over 100-years old. We’re made up of people who can prove their lineage back to, we call them Patriots, which they definitely were, but they were the ones who helped to make the country as it is now. They fought, or provided, shelter or food, they helped in some way with the American Revolution. They didn’t have to be a soldier, because some people did not believe in fighting, but they did provide food, they did what they could. And we honor them as, for the beginning of our country.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I think it is an organization that does honor history and the past and connections to those original founding fathers and so, again, we do this almost yearly, sign this Proclamation, so again, it is good to see your organization here again this year.”

Ms. Heisler said, “Thank you. One more thing, I don’t know that everyone knows the other things, but it isn’t only just our Patriots that we honor, we support several schools within the United States. Two of them, Barry College and Crossnor are, no not Crossnor, another one that escapes me, but we support wholly, there’s no public funding goes to them, the others we donate to. Most of them

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are in rural areas and it's been a great educational thing for these children.

I visited one at Crossnor in northern North Carolina and it is just unbelievable the treatment those children get. They have, it's a residential school and they just, they had one family there who the children had been abused and they are only there, these children, are only there temporarily because they could be placed with family members, but I think there were eight children in that family that were sent to Crossnor for education and some love. They have house parents, you know, it's really a great program.

We also support our troops overseas. We have Project Patriot that sends items to the hospital in Germany. So we have many programs as well. So DAR is, Daughters of the American Revolution, is important. Thank you so much for the Proclamation."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you very much for being here and thanks to your Organization for keeping these issues in front of us. Thank you. Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

RETIREMENTS

B. PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CLOCKS

Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This agenda item celebrates and recognizes the long term commitment and contributions of two of our employees, one in the Emergency Medical Service and one in District Attorney and we're just wanting to thank them and appreciate them and wish them well in their retirement. We would like to also thank all the co-workers and Managers of both EMS and District Attorney for being here, to celebrate this with their co-workers."

- **BONNIE LEE COWLES, MICT, EMS, WILL RETIRE OCTOBER 1, 2007 AFTER 18 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

Ms. Templin said, "The first retiree is Bonnie Cowles, who is an MICT. Bonnie come forward? And she will retire October 1st after 18-years of service. And I learned today, that Bonnie is actually the first female that Sedgwick County has had that has spent her career at EMS and is now retiring. So that's significant."

Chairman Unruh said, "We want to congratulate you on your years of service and congratulate you on the occasion of your retirement and thank you for the years of service that you've given to Sedgwick County and helping keep our people safe and healthy to their needs.

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And I guess this is quite an honor, to be the first female to have spent your entire career here. This is a certificate that commemorates this time that we want to give to you. And also, we have this clock, it is very heavy. This is what we give to the folks who retire, but hopefully as you look at it and check the time, you'll remember the good memories of the time that you spent here at Sedgwick County."

Ms. Bonnie Cowles, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "But congratulations on your retirement, we'd like you to say something."

Ms. Cowles said, "It is quite an honor and a privilege to be the first woman to retire from Sedgwick County EMS. Linda, I pass the torch on to you, you're the role model now to take these young women that are just starting as a paramedic to help them that they can retire also. In the next 3-5 years there is going to be a lot of well deserving paramedics coming up here to receive these recognitions. As because of their dedication and their experience, that the people of Sedgwick County lives have been changed. They have been helped so many ways, some lives have been saved, countless others have been helped.

I am very proud to be a paramedic; I've loved the job, most days, as we all do. I just want to thank my parents for their love and support, especially during those paramedic school years. For my children, for their love and understanding, for all the concerts and sporting events that I've missed because of the late call. To my, I love them all, all four of them. And I am so very proud of the adults that they have become. To my grandchildren, I don't have to miss anymore of your concerts because of the late call. I'm so happy. To my partners, my supervisors, thank you so much. I've learned something from each one of them, something professionally, and personally. And to Dean, my partner of one or two years, you were my partner; you will always be my friend. Thank you."

- **RONALD R. DAVENPORT, ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATOR, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, WILL RETIRE OCTOBER 1, 2007 AFTER 18 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

Ms. Templin said, "Our second retiree, Ron, Ronald R. Davenport, Administrative Investigator in the District Attorney's Office, will retire October 1st after 18 years of service. And I would like to introduce Chief Deputy District Attorney, Kim Parker, who would like to say a few words first."

Ms. Kim Parker, Chief Deputy District Attorney, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Many of us are here today, those of us that have worked side-by-side, you cannot help but love Ron when you are working with him, and many of the DA's are here today to honor him as well.

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Ron has spent a life career truly in Public Service. He started out in the Wichita Police Department and served there until he retired about 19 years ago. And then he joined the staff of the Office of the District Attorney. And he has provided security and investigative support for that office and friendship for many years. We, as I said, love Ron, but what I think needs to be said, clearly, is that he, his loyalty and dedication to Public Service is unmatched. That is a rare, rare thing. And we are so proud that we know and that he has been with us.

He, in receiving his clock today, probably won't need it that much, other than a beautiful decorative piece because he wakes up every morning, automatically at around 4:00, is that right? And then shows up at the DA's office at 5:00 or 6:00, I think. No one's for sure because there isn't anyone else in the office at that time. Ron, congratulations to you today."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well you've, in your 18 years, you've certainly gained and earned a lot of respect and admiration from your colleagues and on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, we also want to express our appreciation for your service to the County and the citizens of Sedgwick County. So on the occasion here of your retirement, we want to present you with this certificate of recognition and also this clock, as Kim referred to. And I hope that does help decorate your home and hope that you continue to get up early and get a lot of good things done, even in your retirement. We appreciate your service."

Mr. Ronald Davenport, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's been an honor to work for the County for all of these years and I really enjoyed it. Thank you."

Commissioner Parks said, "Before Ron got away, I'd like to say that the law enforcement communities has appreciated Ron. No more chasing around that unscrupulous transmission guy anymore now Ron, so go have fun."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, I think our guests have almost left the room. It's great to have our employees have so much support from their co-workers. Madam Clerk, I think we are ready to call the next item please."

PRESENTATION

c. TASK FORCE TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS (TECH) UPDATE.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

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Mr. Jack Focht, Chairman, TECH, greeted the Commissioners and said, “A creature of, something you created, along with the City, and you appointed us, back in August of 2006 to, and you charged us, and if I can figure out to operate the machine here, we’ll move it along. You charged us to develop a plan to end chronic homelessness in Sedgwick County. That is our charge.

That is a term we’ve learned as a term of art, chronic homelessness. I assumed that when it was used, it was meant to be used in that fashion. It’s defined by HUD and it is an unaccompanied individual who has a disabling condition and has been continuously homeless for at least one year or has at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Very simply what that means is that chronic homeless, as HUD defines it, is somebody that has a disability. That disability may be a mental disorder, it may be an addiction of alcohol or drugs or it may be a physical disability. And that they are without a home, they have been homeless for at least a year or they have sustained chronic homelessness.

Here is the slide that shows the members of the task force. Some of them are here with us, Lou Heldman is here, Janet Miller is here and others and they have been very patient. I’ve worked them like dogs. I set meetings, and Tim Norton is here, who is a member of the Task Force; I set those meetings every two weeks, 7:00 in the morning. Some people blanched at 7:00 in the morning, but we could get through at 8:30. And I thank those folks for all their work.

However, I want to thank the County for its commitment to this program, by your allowing us to have such great administrative help. We have had Jenny Gluszek, Deanna Carrithers, Rachelle Moody, of your staff that have been regularly working on it. And we had, not just Task Force meetings, but we had Sub Committee meetings, we had small group meetings, we met in between those meetings every two weeks and they were faithfully doing their chores. Donaldson did a great deal to help us. Ron Holt was there, and the County has certainly shown its commitment to trying to get at this problem.

So what have we been doing? You appointed us thirteen months ago and ordered us to report, directed that we report in about six and we didn’t do it then, except we decided that we needed to educate ourselves about the causes of homelessness. I didn’t know a thing about homelessness when I took over the Chair of this Task Force other than once a year my church, when we had the overflow, was one of the places that people came and my wife and I would go down there and serve the evening meal and come back the next day and serve the breakfast and you would see the people wander in and you kind of, you know, feel sorry for them.

That’s about all I knew, other than I knew that there were folks out there panhandling and that there were folks that disgusted many of the people in the community with their behavior. We didn’t know what, I didn’t know, and we tried to educate ourselves what are the factors that

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contribute to a person being homeless and the complexity of that problem. The task force that you appointed, with one exception, was not providers of services to the homeless. It is a different kind of a task force and I felt like, and we felt like, that we needed to gain an understanding who the homeless people are in Wichita, what's the size of the population?

I will say to you, very frankly, that you have disagreements among people about how many homeless there are because there are various ways of counting the homeless and there are various of defining it.

For example, the School District will define homeless in a different fashion because they will count those children who were doubled and not living in a single household, but living with aunts and uncles and those kind of things that they provide services to. There will be people who just define it differently.

We participated along with the County and the City and the United Way and a required Point and Time Count, that's required by HUD as a condition of receiving the funds that you receive through HUD. And so that at a particular day of the year you try to count the number of unsheltered folks in Sedgwick County.

And then we tried through a questionnaire process to determine which one of these people that we identify. The 526 are meeting the definition of chronic homeless as we defined.

We had a whole bunch of presentations and you have two or three handouts that we have given to you where we have tried to tell weekly or bi-weekly. The people that we were calling in to talk to us about what they are doing in the way of services or what there is in way of needs in the community.

Seventeen different agencies, and those included non-profits, Federal, State and Local government entities, we heard from the Police Department, the Department of Corrections, we heard from the Salvation Army, we heard from just about everybody that wanted to talk to us and then we looked at what the best practices were around the nation. Some of those places we heard from, some of those groups that are known for being the gurus of homelessness and how to end it in the nation, the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the National Center for Community Change, which is a group that advocates a homeless trust fund.

We looked at a variety of different communities. Some of those we actually visited, some of us visited Atlanta and we went on our own money. I think you were gracious enough to let our interns, but then help pay for those, I hope. Mary Kay Vaughn went down and looked at Phoenix, so we try to look at the communities that are working on this.

One of the things that the County does is participate in the Overflow, the Winter Shelter Program. You've participated by way of giving some money to that. That has been a matter there has been

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some dissention about over the last year or two. We've had kind of an openness and transparency about our group and said if you want to come gripe to us, you can gripe to us. Then we participated in discussion and the discussions resulted in an RFP that resulted in offering more flexibility to those people who wanted to, if you will, bid on the art piece. And I think it's getting close to being ready for issuance, if United Way, the Committee who decides who gets the funds, so it has been meeting and I think they have been working on that. It may be done, I don't know.

So we had to decide, okay, homelessness consists of a variety of faces. It can be this chronic homelessness; it can be the larger group, those people for example, that includes women and children who flee from an abusive situation and are unsheltered, it includes all kinds of people. And as we heard over and over again, many people in the community are just a paycheck away from being evicted. We had to decide, are we going to narrow this down and try to attack the charge that was given to us or are we going to be broader than that.

And finally, the group voted to adopt the HUD definition of chronic helplessness for the plans first phase. And the reasons for that, that particular group, that group that has the disability, whether it's drug addiction or whether it's mental illness, are the ones that consume the highest percentage of services in dollars in a community.

Interesting, when we had the folks from Via Christi come talk to us, and they talked about the \$2 million they spend every year in terms of emergency services through their, what do they call that, I can't think of the word? Emergency room. Yes. Emergency services through the emergency room are \$2 million for people that show up and receive services that had no address. And so those services are provided by a profit agency, non-profit, profit agency in the community.

You see on the slide in the handout that we've given you that the statistics nationally are that about 50% of the services that are given hospitals, jails, shelters, all that sort of thing, are used by these kinds of people.

We discovered when talked to, and you may know this, but when we talked to the Department of Corrections that they send back to this community every year 1,700 people, many of whom instantly go into homelessness or go to a shelter because the plan they had when they thought they were going to be released has fallen through and folks have decided we don't want that person living with us anymore and they don't have any money and they don't have a job and they instantly become homeless and they start utilizing services.

We decided then, we have increased community awareness about the issue of homelessness. There have been lots of stories, editorials, folks have come to our meetings. My e-mail, it just builds up. Told the City Commission yesterday, lawyers are prone to keeping track of their time so they can

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charge somebody for it. And you'd be surprised when you receive the bill for my non-profit service here, what it's going to be because it's a gigantic amount of time that the Task Force has spent in talking to citizens, listening to advocates, because there are advocates for various points of view out there, citizens are talking.

If you notice, a couple days ago, there was an editorial in the Wichita Eagle, and one of the things it says in there, it says, talking about the Task Force, it said they will likely need to enlist an A-list of the business community to get involved in leverage action and to help educate the public on why it is important to solve this problem.

The public knows in some ways what the problem is as they run into it. As they go to the library, or as they see homeless people talking to themselves or asking for money. Interestingly enough, Janet Miller and I met the other day for lunch and as she got out of her car and I got out of my car, I saw that she was being panhandled right there, so I took over and gave the guy money. That's what the average public knows about it, but they don't know much more than that. So we want to get the public involved.

We decided we could've handled this problem, and I use to joke to the Task Force that is somebody would just appoint me God, I could solve it real quickly. But one of the ways we could go about it would be just throw a plan out there on the table, because there was a variety of them in the community, everything from a 24/7 shelter on, and deal with that. Or we could try to determine what are the gaps in the services for the chronic homeless. You have a handout there that we have given to you that tries to identify what those particular gaps are.

In other words, where are the holes that we need to fill? Once we know and come to consensus about that, then we can start developing solutions. You need to know that we approach that from a point of view of the first thing that a person needs is a home, a house, an apartment, a room somewhere, you know.

But once that's established, what are the services that are gaps? First one was, the current drop-in shelter, which is run by the, what used to be the United Methodist Urban Ministry and is now the United Methodist Open Door, has limited space and operating. We discovered there is no place for a homeless person, generally, to go during the day. If you don't have a home, if you can't go home and you have been in the shelter and the shelter closes basically, sends you on your way at 6:00 or 7:00 a.m., where do you spend the rest of the day?

Well, we know from having the first people that talked to us from the library, that's one of the places they go. They need a place. The United Methodist Open Door used to have a facility over there where Big Brothers and Big Sisters is now on 2nd and Broadway, that building had COMCARE services in there and had United Methodist Open Door and homeless people could go

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in there. That was kind of the drop-in shelter. They had room for that. They don't anymore. They only have space for 57, we think they need space for about 150. They close, right now just because of finances, at 1:00 p.m. So from 1:00 p.m. until, oh whatever time, there's nothing for the homeless to do.

I'm going to give you a very simple story about what one of our homeless Task Force members told me. It was Bernie and I asked Bernie one day, are the homeless people going hungry in this community? He said oh no Jack, he said here is what the way that it is handled. You get a bus, first of all he said, you spend the night at the Union Rescue Mission, you get up in the morning and they feed you breakfast, you get on their bus and they drop you off Downtown, you wait for the Open Door to open, you go there if you can, you get a meal at noon there, after that, when it is dinner time, you go to the Lord's Dinner and you get fed there and then you go back on the bus and go back to the Union Rescue Mission and you can eat dinner again. So you can have four meals. But the problem isn't that they are hungry, the problem is where do they spend their time and the Methodist Open Door simply has not been able to stay open.

There isn't a centralized one-stop or number to call for help. One of our homeless members put it to us this way. Suppose you were dropped off in our parking lot out here at 10:30 at night and you were homeless, where would you go to find a place to stay for the night? Well, if you don't know the community, there isn't any one centralized stop, there isn't any number to call, there isn't any place to be, and so that's where folks just kind of hang out.

We've discovered that when it was over at 2nd and Broadway, there was more room for services that just don't exist right now. So that's a gap. One of the gaps, of course, is permanent housing with the supportive services. Now the permanent housing consists of two kinds of things. Some folks need supportive services anywhere from 24-hours a day to much less than that and they need to be in some kind of permanent housing. We've got 240 units, we think we need, according to the supernova 2,000 said HUD application, we need at least 119 more. There is lack of affordable housing units without services. We just need places for those people to be.

Another gap in one of the, I suppose dispute in the community, is the shortage of shelter beds. This is the overflow shelter that you talk about. We've given you the statistics that were kept last year. On the materials that you have, you'll see that 64% of the time there was a bed shortage from November 1 to February 28, that's that period of cold in this community, or can be.

We discovered this last year, that there also needs to be some kind overflow shelter for the summer heat because there is no place. And the number of beds that we are short in the nights are displayed on that particular (inaudible).

This is one of the interesting things. There is a lack of the availability and utilization of residential

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addiction treatment beds. We decided that is a matter that's probably beyond the purview of this Task Force but it's a matter that needs to be looked into. Where, if you have somebody that needs in-patient treatment, where do you put them in this community? For drug addiction or for alcohol treatment and there is disagreement even among the providers.

One of the things you should know about most of these chronically homeless is that most of them would be eligible for SSI money. But, one of the gaps is this tremendous challenge to them receiving the benefits that they are entitled to. They lack the identification, they lose their identification all the time. They minute somebody takes their backpack, which is where things are, it's gone.

They don't know how to fill out the application and follow through because the application generally says we've received it and we will call you at such and such time, where will you be? Well, they don't have any idea where they will be or if they do have an idea, bear in mind, these are people with chronic kinds of problems and the likelihood of them being there is just not very good.

We saw that there was a program called Soar that was training people to help them to fill these forms out, the applications that Philadelphia lawyers have trouble with from time to time. And Debbie Donaldson and some of us contact, and with your assistance, contacted our Senators and our Congressmen and said, because this was a Federal pilot project to train some people, can you get the State of Kansas on that because we would like to train some of our people to help that. We've had conversation with the Wichita Bar Association about them coming forward on a pro-bono kind of basis.

We have a computerized system for homelessness census data. It's required under HUD and we have it and it is operated by the United Way but there have been problems with it in part because the software, well you know if you've had software in computers, the kinds of problems you can have as you change software and do that sort of the thing. The largest provider in the community doesn't use it, the people that are providing these kinds of services care.

Let me say, you cannot underline anymore how much the faith community has stepped forward in this community to handle this problem. They have been working across the board with various kinds of religious groups have been working very diligently and from their heart to provide services.

And they are service oriented. They are not necessarily data entry oriented, it's more important to get the person a bed and get them the services than it is to see that it gets into the computer. So the data accuracy is not what you would like it to be.

You could, if you had it up and running the way you would like to see it run, everybody would

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know that, hey, this fellow is knocking on my door and wants a place to stay for the night. Hit the system, find out where there is a place that meets his needs and that he meets their qualifications and get him there.

I just mentioned another problem that is there and that's transportation and that is going to be a really interesting question.

There is a Case Management capacity within this data system that just isn't being utilized by most folks. Talking about Case Management. We were interested to discover that Case Management doesn't have a definition, doesn't have any qualifications, doesn't have any licensure, you can have a Case Manager by calling yourself a Case Manager. I guess I can be a Case Manager by just saying Jack Focht is a Case Manager for X and that's what it is. So we said that's a gap in the services. Somebody has to decide should there be some kind of standards for Case Management, what do they include and what are the qualifications? How do we coordinate among agencies? Big problem.

So, those are gaps that we have been about 13 months in finding. We now ought to have the community respond to that, tell us where we have gaps in our gaps. Respond and tell us whether we're off target or on target. That's why we have set this Town Hall meeting to discuss and for us to receive feedback from them. The Self-Help Network is going to facilitate that meeting, it's on Sunday, September 23rd at Horace Mann Magnet on North Market at 3:00-5:00 p.m. We set it deliberately as close as we could in the Downtown area, set it at a time when folks ought to be able to come, even though they are homeless.

What are we going to do after that? We're going to take whatever information we receive and we find that gap document. We're then going to start receiving, we're going to start working on a plan. Let me say to you, and I ought to be very blunt, that at some point and time some governmental body is going to have to decide whether or not we care enough about the capital expenditures for people the same as we do for animals and other kinds of agencies, so that we are willing to spend, as taxpayers, those kinds of dollars. And that, read that editorial a couple of days ago, they were giving me a little heck about that, but that's a fact. If somebody's got to bight that bullet, we're going to have to address a plan that identifies those gaps, figure out what it costs, present it to you all, after we've presented it to the community for their feedback, then present it to you and see what you want to do with it.

I really want to thank you though, for appointing me to this Task Force. It's taken a great deal of time, but I have benefited immensely from meeting some different people and learning a heck of a lot about a problem that I really didn't know much about. Thank you. I will stand for any questions you have got."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you Jack. Appreciate the report. It was very comprehensive and

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I'd say, first of all, thank you for the time that you've invested, I realized that is a considerable amount of time. But there are Commissioners who want to speak, so Commissioner Welshimer?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well Jack, the community has benefited immensely over many, many years from your contributions and I for one just want to thank you very much for all you do and you do such a marvelous job at it. It's obvious we need to do something about this and we need to do it soon. Thank you very much and appreciate everything you're doing."

Mr. Focht said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. A question that I have, out of your report, is the focus mainly on individuals or does it make any difference if these are homeless families or homeless individuals or have you categorized them that way, are the needs different?"

Mr. Focht said, "Certainly there are different needs. The HUD definition says an unaccompanied individual is who, what's a chronic homeless person. So that's where we're focusing. But we recognize that as we make that focus and as we come up with this plan, there should be spillover success for, you have families that are from abused situations that run to one of our safe harbors for them here in the community, you have Inner Faith Ministries, that sheltered some people that probably would not qualify under the chronic homelessness. I think you will address that problem, but the primary problem in terms of how much money is being spent in the community on services is the chronic illness.

So that's what we are going to focus on but we certainly think, in fact, most, best practices would say, you have two purposes, one trying to keep people from entering homelessness and two trying to get them out of there."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Thank you. Comments from Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well Jack, thanks for all that you've done in the Committee. I've made most of those 7:00 meetings. There was a couple that I bailed out on because we had Commission meeting right after that. But, as we've gone through this, there is some talking points that I'd like to go out to the Commission, because you're right, the community is going to wrap around this, there's agencies going to wrap around it, but at the end of the day I really believe the City Council and the County Commissioners are going to have to make some public policy

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decisions that help guide some of this and may have to tax some money to it. And we'll figure all that out..

Some of the things I thought are very interesting we need to talk about, and we can have the dialogue later, but I want to put them on public record. First one is reentry of people that are coming out of the criminal justice system that fall into our community. We've already started some pilot program, but we know that is a pipeline for chronic homelessness in our community. And we have got to get further upstream, and I don't know how far that is, to make sure when they are reintegrated into our community, that they have got more than a bus ticket and a \$100. No job, no transportation, no connection to family, no housing, those things that is just not good enough.

Now, I know that there are those that believe, they're criminals, they'll always be criminals, just let them be on their own. Unfortunately, they're on their own and they are among us in our community and their recidivism rate is not good. It's costing us extra money on the downsides, so we need to get upstream and work on that.

The second thing that I came to a conclusion on is that, addiction treatment in our community, I don't think we have a good grasp of what it is, who provides it, how we get people into it, how do we take care of the drug problem and the alcohol problems that also lead to some of these crippling, disabling, chronic diseases that make people chronic homeless and increases the recidivism of going back into incarceration.

So I think there needs to be a community dialogue about that and certainly with all the kinds of things we do with County agencies, through COMCARE and or CDDO, we need to be in that dialogue and really understand it.

The third thing that I came to understand, and I'm seeing this in healthcare access that I work on, adult education that I work on and homelessness, we don't have a very good transportation system, public wise, to get people to training, to get people to services they need, to get people to the services they need in the healthcare industry to improve their lives. And that continues to be a theme that wraps through every issue that I've dealt with recently is public transportation and how do people move around when their struggling with their housing and they don't have good public transportation to move them through the community to get services and to get to a job.

The next thing that concerned me is the whole issue of Case Management and we do a lot of Case Management as Sedgwick County and the organizations that we manage through COMCARE and other organizations. But there seems to be a huge gap someplace of the quality of Case Management, the amount of Case Management, the training of Case Management that will help this sub-group in our community. And somehow we've got to manage the Case Management, understand it and make sure that it works for all these people.

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I would challenge the County Commission to understand the concept of what's called Housing First.

It's a national model, we spend an inordinate amount trying to understand that is the Task Force, but that's going to be something that is very important to our community, that we understand as we move this forward because we deal with housing, through our Housing Authority.

Mary Kay Vaughn at the City is charged with that whole housing issue and we need to make sure that we understand it, can contribute to it, can make sure that Brad Snapp is a part of the dialogue because that is going to be critical, I think, a part of the solution is getting people into some kind of housing quickly and then try to wrap around services around them.

The next thing that I would talk about is what I call the next stage. We worked on chronic homelessness, but the truth is we have many families and children that are homeless. They are sleeping in cars, they are in hotels and motels or they don't have a home of their own, they've dropped in with families or friends, which is temporary, but they really don't have a home.

One of the dialogues that we've had and is a sub-dialogue, is with the school system with Connie Deets and Winston Brooks, that we would be amazed at how many children they identify as homeless that are in our public school system. That when they are ready to be taken home or bused, they may go different places every week, that they don't have a grounded home relationship and that's not good enough in our community. We need to do something about that.

Now that wasn't particularly our charge and I don't know that it's totally the school system's charge to find housing for every student, they work on it, they worry with it because it's hard to teach young people when they don't know where they are going to sleep at night, where they are going to get their next meal. So, that issue will have to tie with the next stage of keeping people, I call it the tipping point, their standing right on the edge of the precipice, ready to fall into homelessness because of jobs, a medical condition, because of a domestic violence issue, whatever it may be, and we need to get a little further upstream on those. Very complicated to do it, but we need to be thinking about it.

And the final thing I put down was just our public policy dialogue because at some point there will be some tough public policy decisions we'll have to make as a Board of County Commissioners, to move this along. That to agree with what the Task Force thinks needs to be done in our community and then back it up with public policy that makes it happen. I don't think it is going to happen by serendipity and out of good hearts in our faith community. Some of it is going to have to be hard-core public policy that the City Council and the County Commission anguishes over debates, dialogues and finally comes up with some kind of a decision that makes sense for our community.

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That's all I got. Thanks once a gain, Jack, for leading us through that dialogue and I guarantee you I learned a lot through all of that too. Thank you Mr. Chairman."

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

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well, I'd like to see what has been found from other communities. Surely other communities have addressed many of these different issues and some of them have found some solutions. Some of them haven't but rather than reinvent every wheel, I'd like to see what other communities are doing and ..."

Mr. Focht said, "We're trying to do that same thing Commissioner. We have visited some of those places. We are looking at their plans, we're trying to figure out whether they are successful or not.

Now, I should say to you, the City of Wichita has had four different studies of this, 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000. Commissioner Norton talks about public policy issues, they task forced it to determine the public policy issues and they determine it was okay and staff was supposed to do something and I could never find out what staff did. They didn't do anything because there was money required to do that and the will was not there to do it.

So I am just pleased as punch that the County has made the commitment that I've seen from the Manager and the people that you've given us to really look at this problem because I hope you're not just chasing, throwing bad money after good or visa-versa, that you really want to see this problem solved."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I really do. Thanks."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks?"

Commissioner Parks said, "Just briefly, I'd like to say that, kind of responding to the charge and where we fall into this with our tax dollars and all, the Board of County Commissioners job description, one of the things that is in that is provide a jail for people and the offender reentry program, which is in place, has a direct impact on our jail space. And if that is not a successful project, then we have all failed and we've incurred another cost in our jail space. So I would hope staff and encourage staff to come to us with any enhancements on those programs they would have. Thank you Jack."

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Mr. Focht said “Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well, I don’t see any other request to speak, so Jack thank you much for this report and we’ll look forward to the next conversation we have with you about recommendations.”

Mr. Focht said, “All right, thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Commissioners, I think at this point we need to take an Off Agenda item.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to take an Off Agenda item regarding the Sedgwick County Arena update.

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

OFF AGENDA ITEM: SEDGWICK COUNTY ARENA UPDATE.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Chairman Unruh said, “Good morning Ron.”

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you for providing this opportunity for an update, a quick update on the Arena Project.

As you know, and we continue to say and this has been our goal from the start and it continues to be, we are committed to building a modern first class sports and entertainment venue and Arena

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in Downtown Wichita that seats 15,000 for basketball and while there is much, much left to be done, we are excited that we are well on the way to attaining this goal.

As you know, Commissioners, last Friday, at 4:00 p.m., was the date and time that construction bids for the Arena were due. And while we were hopeful that we would receive bids from a number of contractors, that did not happen.

We received only one bid. However, we are very, very pleased with the one bid that we did receive and at about 4:30 last Friday, the bid was opened at a public meeting and it was announced that Dondlinger and Sons Construction, a highly regarded local general contractor, had joined with Hunt, our construction group, who's headquartered in Scottsdale Arizona, and they have been deemed the nation's #1 sports facility builder as ranked by Engineering News Record.

They had joined together and submitted a bid for the Sedgwick County Arena Project of \$136,415,000. Commissioners, this was some \$3.5 million less than the construction costs estimates that we had reviewed with you at your regular meeting on June 27th.

Specifically I am here this morning, Commissioners, to set the record straight with respect to the story that appeared on Saturday morning's local newspaper that reported on the announcement of the receipt of the contractor bids.

This is the headline of the story that appeared in Saturday's newspaper. Commissioners, the headline is absolutely incorrect and the content of the article was at best, was at best, misleading. Now, in yesterday's newspaper, this correction appeared and as usual it was on the inside front page of the newspaper and in very small print. This misleading story and the accompanying inaccurate headline serves to, intended or not, to undermine the charge that you, the County Commissioners, have put before us on this project and it really does undermine an over arching value that Sedgwick County has practiced for years and that is to be open and transparent in all aspects of our work, especially in special high profile projects.

So again, I am here this morning to, on the other hand, I talked about the Eagle's dealing with the story, but this morning I want to applaud the Wichita Eagle for this morning's editorial. But also to go further in detail to set the record straight and to provide accurate information for you and the public with respect to the Arena bid and construction estimates.

Here's the facts. The \$136,415,000 bid is not, it is not, \$60 million more than expected. This bid and this project in no terms is a fiasco. In fact, this bid is some \$3.5 million below the last construction estimate that was publicly reviewed with you at your June 27th meeting.

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Let's be clear, Commissioners, when the voters approved the Arena Project in November, 2004, they voted on and approved a 1-cent Arena sales tax to be in affect for 30-months. And the outcome of that was that the tax started July 1, 2005 and will end December 31, 2007. The proceeds from that sales tax were to be used, by the voters approval, for the acquisition of site and construction plus infrastructure for Downtown Wichita, was to be used for design of the Kansas Coliseum Project and improvements to the Pavilions and for an operation and maintenance reserve fund.

The project estimate that was presented in August, 2004, you see here by line item. And you note there that the construction estimate was \$77 million with a subtotal of \$141,517,000 and with a total project cost of \$184,528,000. This construction estimate was based on an overall concept for an arena in Downtown Wichita that would seat 15,000. That's it. That's what we had at the time that we started. We did not yet have a site selected nor had any building design work been undertaken. This construction estimate was not provided by Turner Construction, in fact, none of the A&E team had been selected in August 2004. The 1-cent 30-month sales tax at that time was projected to raise \$184.5 million and thus you have an overall project budget at \$184,528,000.

The project estimate was changed in December 2005 and again in January 2006 based on the site that had been selected in November 2005 and the work that had been done on the preliminary programming for the Arena by the A&E team. Construction estimates at that time were provided by Turner Construction, who is now on board as the cost estimator as a part of the architectural and engineering team.

Here you see that the Arena construction had been changed to almost \$120 million, \$199,808,000. These numbers were presented at a public meeting and were thoroughly reviewed with you and for the public in December 2005 and in January 2006. You also see that the total project budget was still at \$184.5 million, because that was still the estimates for the 30-month 1-cent sales tax. Again, this estimate now was provided by Turner Construction, who is the cost estimator on the project based on a more defined project both in location and in design.

A revised overall budget was approved by this Commission or by the Commission that was sitting in December 2006 and it was, we had updated construction costs. The changes at that time were based on the completion of the design development phase of the project and updated projections of the amount of receipts that would be collected by the 1-cent 30-month sales tax. In the December 2006 report that was given, again at a public meeting, the Arena construction estimates were now \$135.3 million and the overall project was moved to \$201 million and the reason that the overall project numbers are changed is because that now is the projection of the receipts and in fact the overall project budget will be whatever the receipts are from the 1-cent 30-month sales tax because all of the funds that are received have to go towards this project.

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For a fourth time in a public meeting, the project was reviewed with you at your June 27th, 2007 BoCC regular meeting. At that time, again based on updated estimates by Turner Construction, the Arena construction was projected to be \$140 million, \$139,973,101, the total project was, remained at \$201 million. Again, the final project budget will always be the actual receipts that come from the 1-cent 30-month sales tax because the tax can only be used for acquisition of site and construction plus improvements, infrastructure improvements Downtown, it has to be used for reimbursement to the work for the Kansas Coliseum Complex and the Pavilion's improvement and to establish the operation and maintenance reserve fund.

Commissioners, last Friday, the Arena bid was announced at \$136 million, again, some \$3.5 million less than the estimate that had been reported in June. Again, we are very pleased and excited about this bid and as such, the time line for getting the construction bid reviewed and approved is set out here, we're going through an internal review of that bid, started Monday, meetings yesterday, meetings again today, we will prepared to make a recommendation to the Bid Board tomorrow and we will be, and hopefully the Bid Board will be prepared. We plan to have the Bid Board prepared to make a recommendation to you on September 26th to go forward with Dondlinger and Hunt Construction bid proposal.

Where are we with the sales tax? The, to date, the projected sales tax earnings, to date through August, \$159,104,000, to date actual through August 2007 \$162,766,000. We are looking at the projections but again, right now; the project goal is still based on the 1-cent 30-month sales tax \$201 million. Not counting today, the Arena sales tax ends in 103 days.

As you recall, a portion of the sales tax will be used to renovate the Pavilions at the Kansas Coliseum. So where are we with that project? The project went out for bid in October 2006 with the actual occurring from May 2007 through early September 2007. The budget estimate for that project was a little under \$8 million; actually it was \$7.8 million. The construction costs came in well under the project, well under \$5 million, which was set in the project at \$4.4 million and even after reimbursements of the prior costs that were a part of this project, \$1.5 million, this project comes in still at \$1.5 million under budget.

The Pavilions out there reopened for business on September 16th, last Sunday. The bottom line, Commissioners, is that we delivered on the promise. The project was on time and under budget.

So what are the next steps? We are going to finalize the demolition; it's going on at the site now and going very well. We're going to have a ground breaking; a specific date to be determined in the next couple of weeks and we will be discussing that time frame with you. The naming rights will be determined, we hope, in the next couple of months, in the next month or so with the premium seating sales starting in November and going until they are all sold out.

As you know, Commissioners Norton and Winters are working with us and will be engaging the

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City Council, some City Council representatives, on the finalization of the mobility-parking plan.

A specific date for Arena construction to begin will be determined in the next couple of weeks as well. As you also know, the City's Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan is still being processed and the City will be signing off on that plan we would expect in a month or so as well.

And the bottom line is, in all of this, that the sales tax ends December 31, 2007. We have, and will continue to work very hard to deliver on the promise and that is, and to meet our goal, and that is to have a first class sports and entertainment venue in Downtown Wichita that will seat 15,000 for basketball. I will happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well thank you Ron, for that factual presentation and update on exactly where we are and where we have been and what the facts of that progress has been. We have a comment from Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "Thank you Ron. I do have a few questions I did want the record to reflect. I was sworn in this office January 7, 2007, so, and I do appreciate you trying to get those caveats in there about you and we and things that have been in the past that you haven't done that acknowledges that some of these decisions were made by a previous Commission.

In some of these figures, I just wanted to ask, the \$17 million that's our, the parking and O&M was consolidated some time during 2006, correct?"

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

Commissioner Parks said, "And then we have, that figure has been reduced about \$17million, if my math is correct on that. Where did that \$17 million go? Did that go just into the total project or back to construction or where was that absorbed?"

Mr. Holt said, "I think it is clear to see that almost all of that, in addition, was absorbed in the construction part of the budget. I would say to you that we're working on, with this bid now in, which is a significant part of that overall budget, with this bid now in we're working on an updated budget that will take a look again at that operating and maintenance reserve fund as well as the parking fund.

I would also, again, remind you Commissioners, that the contract that you approved with SMG significantly reduces, if not eliminates, any need for an operating and maintenance reserve fund. We will need a capital improvement fund, but not an ongoing year-in-year-out annual operating

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and maintenance reserve fund.

The other thing that hasn't been factored into any of the numbers yet at all is what dollars we will be receiving on an annual basis for naming rights for this facility."

Commissioner Parks said, "I certainly disagree with the operation and maintenance attitude on that. I think we need that there for the long-term of taxpayers. If something were to happen to that SMG contract and it would go south, it would take out bankruptcy, something like that, I just think that we need that reserve back in there. But that's...."

Mr. Holt said, "I'm not suggesting, Commissioner, that we eliminate it, I'm saying that whatever dollars are there, we will have little to no use of those dollars for operation and maintenance reserve funds, which gives us even more opportunity for those funds to grow and to build and to be there if we have, down the road, some need for that. The promise out of this project is that no additional taxpayer dollars would be used for the construction, operation and maintenances of this project and we are very, very confident, as of last Friday at 4:30, we're very, very confident that we can meet that now and well, well into the future."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay, and, well I just wanted to put my two cents worth in there, I guess, if you will. The \$3 million that was saved at the Pavilions, that went into this same construction fund then?"

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct. It went into the overall project. And again, if you add up the numbers, yes, most of that went to the construction line item."

Commissioner Parks said, "And how much of a percentage do you think that there will be for run-overs on Change Orders on this project?"

Mr. Holt said, "We, I don't know for sure. We are expecting few, however, early on in this project the big unknown is, although we've done soil testing and we rely on those soil tests and we believe, we've had environmental studies down there, until you start digging, there really is no way of knowing what we might run into with the soil down there based on the years and years and years of different kinds of things that have been on that site. But, once we get construction started, we'll be finding that out within the first two or three months of the construction project."

Commissioner Parks said, "I certainly would feel more comfortable having those done as soon as possible, before looking at the bids, but I know that's probably not going to be possible."

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Those Change Orders, I know in building a building, a public building, myself, you can get into 10%-25% of Change Orders that will increase the cost of your projects, so I was just wondering about that.

You did touch a little bit on naming rights and I guess I just wanted to reiterate or ask for the public and the people that are watching on TV, when, what the status of that is? I've had a few questions about that."

Mr. Holt said, "We think we're very, very close to having an announcement and we would hope that that announcement would come pretty much close to if not in line with an announcement of a ground-breaking. We think we're that close."

Commissioner Parks said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Commissioner. I don't see, well Commissioner Winters you...?"

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. I really don't have really any other comments except Ron, I do appreciate the update as you presented it today and as we work towards next Wednesday when, hopefully, we'll be able to deal with the contract and the bid submitted by Dondlinger.

And again, I agree that there can be, certainly, issues of Change Orders that we'll just have to deal with but I also believe that, in some conversations that I've had since Friday, that I think some believe there's some places to have some significant savings in the construction process.

And again, that would just be something that the contractor and the architects need to coordinate. But I believe there's some feeling out there that we can save money on this. So, hopefully that will be something we can take advantage of.

But again Ron, as a clarification for last Friday's or last Saturday's newspaper article, I do appreciate the update today."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you Ron."

Mr. Holt said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "You don't have to stay there if want, I see you are about ready to leave, I just wanted to make a few comments, but they're not really questions. Once again, I'll say I

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appreciate the update.

When the, some of us were out of town during the bid opening, we were on the group that went to Jacksonville on that city-to-city visit, so we weren't here at the opening and as probably many folks in our community who are watching this closely, may have known, we anticipated that perhaps there was going to be just one bidder on this. So that, for me personally, created a great deal of anxiety as to what that number might come in at, especially, you know, under the circumstances.

So when the bid came in as it did, well within the parameters of our in-house estimating and when we couple that with the fact that the contractor that bid on this is a local company that has great community connections, had partnered with an out-of-state company that has a national reputation for being the best there is, I was elated. I thought we had a great contract, we had a great number, we had a great company that was building the thing, everything looked like it was just going the way that we wanted it to go. And I know that we have been working very hard, intentionally and deliberately in a very professional manner on everything that has progressed to this point.

I also know that everything we've done, starting with community meetings where we had, I don't know how many meetings, but all over town, asking people what style they liked, asking folks where they want it to be located. Total transparent and open process. So we have come to kind of a culminating point and I was real excited. I was delighted. I thought this is the greatest thing in the world. We're going to have something, the City of Wichita and Southcentral Kansas, that's going to be usable for 50-years and it's going to be great stimulants for Downtown development, which it already has done. And it's going to be a good-looking facility that we'll all be proud of.

So I was kind of knocked off my feet by the headline and the story that you referenced at the beginning of your presentation. And you know, I've got to say how I feel personally and that is I thought that the headline was outrageous, I thought that the story was misleading, as you indicated in your remarks, because it does not characterize what's been going on in the development of this project, it didn't relate to that at all.

And secondly, as you went through the timeline of how we had publicly and openly revealed the progression and the evolution of our bids and the costs of this Arena, I just thought it was, well, misleading to our public. Not so much just on the, on how it relates specifically to our Arena project. Because we can respond to that. I mean, you know, we're big boys, if somebody wants

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to scrutinize us and criticize us, I mean we can take that. And we can respond to that. And where we need to correct ourselves, we will correct ourselves. And where we need to explain, we will explain.

So I don't mind criticism and I don't mind questioning, but what happens, as I see it, when you get things that are deliberately negative and, in my opinion, misleading, it creates a distrust of government. It creates a distrust of the individuals involved, not only for this project but I think it creates a distrust for government in general. It leaks over, it extends to the rest of what we're doing in County government. At a time, when I think things are, number one, going well, and a time when that distrust is not legitimate or earned.

An example of what I am talking about is a letter to the editor today, and I know that the Eagle or the media or government people do not control letters to the editor, but I think this helps illustrate the point I'm making where it seems like a deliberate attempt to discredit a process leaks into a lot of attitudes in our community.

I want to read one paragraph out of that letter. It says:

'Why don't we admit we're in the hands of a bunch of amateurs trying to operate out of their depth, under the influence of in-state and out-of-state contractors functioning in their traditional behind-the-scenes manner.'

Now that's just about the most absurd thing I've ever, I don't know this gentleman and I hope he doesn't take offense at what I'm saying, but that is absurd. We have been open, we have been intentional, we have been progressive, we have been telling people what we're doing. This is an honest, open government doing a great thing that was voted on by the citizens of Sedgwick County and we're going to have a great project. And those people, even who are opposed to it, when we're done, are going to be very glad we did it.

Our Downtown is growing, investment is coming, people are moving Downtown to live, we're going to have retail and things down there before this is done. We are going to straighten up the streets, and I don't mean they are not straight now, I mean we're going to improve the situation down there. I'm just saying that this is a great thing that is happening and we've been doing it right and the implication of that story is that we haven't been doing it right, it's incorrect and it engenders a distrust of us that is not earned. We have earned trust and respect and I think this thing took it the other direction.

I may or may not be totally logical in my comments, but I just wanted to say that the editorial on today's paper was very good. Very explanatory, very helpful. But we're all together working together. One of the things that we learned about in Jacksonville, is that all pieces and parts of

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that community was on the same page working together. They had good intelligence, they knew what each one was doing and they spoke as a unified voice. And whether it was private or whether it was the government or whether it was the help or whether it was the folks who built the Jacksonville Arena, they're all together on the same page.

Now, they don't have the answer to everything and they are not a perfect community, but one of the things that we need to learn about is that where it's earned, we need to speak together and work together and help this thing be successful. Where we have questions to answer, we need to answer them. And we will. And now I'm getting repetitive and so forth, but anyway, thanks for standing there and listening to me. I'm done but we do have another comment. Commissioner Norton?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Well this is one of those issues in our community that it's passionate on both ends. You know, it's that bell curve, there's kind of a cacophony on both ends of the spectrum and there is a lot of people in the middle that want it to be good but they want us to do our due diligence to make it that way.

You know, when we went into this, when we first decided that we were even going to put it for a vote, the one thing that I knew about this project, it was going to be hard. I had talked to folks that I knew in other communities that big projects like this and it is a nightmare for the community to go through because it is a large expenditure of public money and there's that sense, if you don't like it, you don't want it anyway and that money is totally wasted. So we knew that it would be problematic and hard to get through this process, to try to make sure that every piece of information that we knew, the public knows.

The truth is, as hard as you try to put out every little detail of public information, it's never going to be assimilated by the individual out there, maybe the way you intended it, for a lot of different reasons. In some cases, they don't want to assimilate it and understand it and try to believe it at face value. In many cases they don't have the time to get into the depth of the understanding of the difficulties in all of this. We do because we're dealing with it all of the time.

It is a hard issue to wrap your arms around and understand, whether you're for it or against it. It is a hard, hard issue. It is very complicated, it's not as simple as, you said it was going to be \$76 million and nothing can ever change. If you have ever built a home or constructed anything, you understand that you have in your idea when you start how much it is going to be. And you'd love for it to come out that way, but it is very difficult for that to happen. But we knew it would be hard.

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We also know that it was going to be a process. That is was going to take us years to do it and now, not only has the process changed, the County Commission has changed, the community has changed and the dialogue changes and the ebbs and flows, so we knew it would be a process that would take some time.

A couple of things that I wanted to talk about is that we talked about, there was a large dialogue in the community about construction manager at risk, that maybe we should go a different manner with the bidding process. Well, we didn't particularly have that tool in our toolbox. Counties aren't allowed to go through that process. Maybe there is some Legislative action and change that needs to be, to happen on that issue, but the truth is, we got caught up in what counties can do and how we have to bid projects and that particular method, which private industry uses a lot right now, was not available to the County.

You know, we talked about that, we process it, we had infinite amount of conversations with the business community and among ourselves to try to understand that. I think we finally came to the conclusion that it just wasn't going to work on this process whether we wanted it to or not.

We also talked about parking and how it fits into all of this. I know Commissioner Winters and I dedicated ourselves to trying to figure that out, that is a complicated situation. There are those that think the parking should be surface parking , close-end to the Arena, there are others on the other end of the spectrum of the bell curve that say, gee, it's going to be an urban design, it's metro, you walk, you enjoy the experience, that's what happens in every big metro area there is.

And somewhere between has to meet, we have to understand that in community, we have to talk about it, dialogue it, and at the end of the day we'll come up, we hope, with what is a great solution for Wichita and Sedgwick County and Southcentral Kansas that will use our Arena. We're working hard on that.

Please don't think that we're just going to let that happen by serendipity. It's like so much of this whole project, we're deeply involved in every decision, trying to understand what it's going to mean for our community, what parking is going to end up being, what the experience will be and what the feeling in the event center will be for the user and the constituent .

The next thing is, we've talked about and people have been, had angst about, the use of the Arena. We found out in Jacksonville, which I thought was a real plus, they've got a 14,000- seat arena and they've had NCAA, first level and second level games, already in their event center. The truth is, all of that talk that you have to have a 20,000-seat arena to get NCAA doesn't seem to hold water now. And I think that's a real new piece of information that's a plus.

If I learned anything in Jacksonville, that was one of the things that I could bring back that I am really happy about because I continue to hear people woefully tell me, well you built this Arena

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too small, you'll never get a NCAA tournament, it's going to fall apart and be a white elephant, you can't do anything with it. And here is a little bit of ray of sunshine that I am looking at in another arena in another community where they've had NCAA Round 1 and Round 2 tournament games with a 14,000-seat arena, and we're going to be 15,500 for basketball. Pretty good news.

Now, I tend to look at the glass as half-full, not half-empty. I'm pretty excited about that for our community.

The next thing I wanted to talk about was the sales tax going off. I had some pretty open and honest conversations about you using sales tax as a tool in orchestration with property tax and income tax. You know, whether you like it or not, government does have to fund itself and the mechanism is electing officials to try to figure out how they do that. And there are certain tools you use. Property tax is one of them. The State has an income tax. There's user taxes, there's revenue streams and there sales tax.

You know, I'd feel like that once I brought up that subject that at some point, down the road, not the day that the Arena tax goes off, but at some point we would have a conversation about how we would get some property tax relief for our citizens by utilizing some sales tax on a short term to build the jail to get rid of some of these capital projects that looming on us instead of bonding it over a long period time, paying all that interest, do something different.

Well, that got mixed up with, oh you're just trying to push this onto that Arena tax again. Well, the truth is the Arena tax will end, but we're still probably going to have to have a debate at some point about how we fund other projects, government in general, what it looks like and I wanted to be sure that was on the table because people are saying that , oh that tax will never go away, you know, the Arena is going to be a burden on us forever and ever and ever, the truth is, by law, the sales tax has to go away.

That doesn't preclude the fact though, that every day, as an elective official, one thing we have to think about is how we run the programs that people expect, counties and cities and municipalities of all natures, run their business. And unfortunately we don't do that with smoke and mirrors, we do that with taxpayer's money. We try to do it as best we can, as physically responsibly as we can, as judiciously as we can, but the truth is, that dialogue, I think, is open and honest.

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I mean, we can certainly have that dialogue behind closed doors and never let anybody in the public ever weigh in on it, be mad about, talk about it, think about it, but I don't think that's right. I mean, I'm open and honest about saying that is a tool that you have in your toolbox.

An Arena tax is not a sales tax for something else. And I wanted to be sure that was talked about because it just continues to make people angry and upset and it is not the same conversation.

The final thing I have, and it is just me and my glass is half-full, is we need to think the better thoughts to advance our community. Not everybody knows what that is or believes it the same as I do, but the negative issues in this community overwhelm me sometimes, that we can't disagree, agree to disagree and not take it such a personal, mean natured level and not understand that all citizens and all elected officials should be pulling this ox cart in the same direction together. Regardless if it has the baggage you want on it or the baggage somebody else has on it.

We just need to be thinking the better thoughts to advance our community and we just don't do that sometimes and I'm saddened by that because I've been an elective official in the middle of the worst disaster a community can have. And through all that, the thing that gets you through all the tough times and all the things that you have to do is thinking the better thoughts of the future, not lobbing grenades each other about the things of the past.

So I think we're moving forward on this. Trust me, I haven't agreed with every decision we've made, but that has been part of the dialogue and the discernment, and agreeing to disagree. But at the end of the day, we need to think the better thoughts for our community and make sure this Arena is the best that it can possibly be. That is all I have."

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

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well, without the management contract for the Arena, everything else, all the plans were made before I joined the Board and it was controversial before I joined this Board and I think it is going to be controversial until the public sees just how this Arena is going to serve them. And we are going to be addressing this many times more as this construction goes on. And probably, not such a bad thing to air it out every time because we are just going to owe that to the people who are paying for it.

Also, Rhonda Holman, wrote an article today, an editorial, I don't think we've mentioned, that does give us credit for what's been done and she does say that perhaps nothing is going to turn the Arena's critics into cheering fans at this point, but surely there's many residents capable of recognizing this, that a first-class, 15,000-seat entertainment and sports venue, what an asset it will be for Downtown Wichita. They went a little further than the back page rebuttal. So I think

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that's just, you know, what we're going to have to deal with is this life with politics."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, well thank you Commissioner. And in my rant, I did reference that editorial, I didn't say Rhonda's name but this was an on target editorial and I appreciated it. Commissioner Parks?"

Commissioner Parks said, "Well, I think questions are good in government and having staff and everybody, especially in this venue where a lot of people watch this on streaming video later and things, that gets the answers out to the people and it gets those things, so there is not a lot rumors floating around. So I don't think that my questions today were negative at all and nobody had said but I just wanted to say that.

And I do want to say that I have great faith in Dondlinger, it is a good company, they've built a lot of good buildings around, a local company, a long family history in Kansas, they built the Britt Brown Arena out at the Coliseum Complex and it stood up over the test of time for years. So I think that I just wanted to make that on the record also, that I think that Dondlinger is a great company. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Commissioner. I don't see any more comment or question Ron. Thank you for that update."

Mr. Holt said, "Thank you very much."

Chairman Unruh said, "Before we call the next item, we've been at this an hour and forty minutes, Commissioners, I'd like to call a 5-minute recess."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Do we need to receive and file his report?"

Chairman Unruh said, "When we come back, we'll do that."

COUNTY COMMISSION RECESSED AT 10:42 A.M. AND RETURNED FROM RECESS AT 10:50 A.M.

Chairman Unruh said, "We are back to commence with our meeting. I think at the last presentation we should take action to receive and file, so if I could have a motion to receive and file?"

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved receive and file.

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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, "Next item please."

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- D. MAPD CASE NUMBER CUP2007-39 AND ZON2007-38 – SEDGWICK COUNTY REQUEST TO CREATE DP-306, THE MOORINGS PLAZA COMMUNITY UNIT PLAN AND AN ASSOCIATED COUNTY ZONE CHANGE FROM “SF-20” SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND “OW” OFFICE WAREHOUSE TO “LC” LIMITED COMMERCIAL; GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF MERIDIAN AVENUE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 53RD STREET NORTH. DISTRICT #4.**

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Dale Miller, Planning Staff, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As she indicated, this is a request that is located south of 53rd Street and about ¼ mile west of North Meridian. The applicants are seeking to rezone some property that's currently zoned "OW" office warehouse and "SF-20" single family to "LC" and then down zone, a portion of the "OW" to "SF-20" and the "LC" part would be overlaid with a community unit plan that would permit "LC" uses and these have also provided a list of kind of the usual suspects of things that they would prohibit, such as adult entertainment and night clubs and those sorts of things.

The site is kind of an L-shaped and the property around it is primarily zoned residential. Here's the application area. You can see kind of the L on its side is the area that's under consideration. The property to the south is zoned "SF-20" single family as is the plotted lots there to northwest and then the property straight north of 53rd has been approved for a limited commercial zoning subject

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to plotting. It's located just west of the Wal-Mart that is being constructed today, if you've been out there in the last few months.

And then further south of the application area is the Moorings and so this is a residential area today but 53rd Street, as you are aware of, is quickly converting to a significant commercial quarter going east-west and so this zoning appears to be appropriate from the staff's standpoint.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Commission recommended approval. There weren't any citizens to speak in opposition, we did not receive any protests. The applicant is here today but I believe they are in complete agreement with the recommendations of the Planning Commission and staff for approval. And if you have questions, we'll try and answer those."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Dale. Commissioners, are there any questions directly at Mr. Miller? Commissioner Parks?"

Commissioner Parks said, "I don't have any directly with Mr. Miller but if applicant, his representative wants to speak, I would entertain that. But in light of everything that has gone on, I've looked at this property and think that, it is in my district and it would be applicable for, to be zoned this way. This is the new northern corridor, I guess you'd call it up there. It's, 53rd is rapidly becoming a commercial area. So, I'll turn it over to..."

Mr. Jason Gish, MKC, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Representing Kurt Bachman and Brad. As you said, I think it is kind of a new future link for commercial area and future growth in that part of the city and that being because of the river and the way the road systems work, with 53rd having the east-west connection all the way through town. I think it probably is a growing commercial opportunity, so, that's what my client recognized and wants to take advantage of that and be prepared for it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Parks said, "I haven't heard from any negative comments from anybody in that area, so."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Thank you. Is there anyone here who, it is not a public hearing, but is there anyone here who wishes to speak in opposition? I don't see anyone so, any other questions or comments Commissioners? What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Parks moved to allow the zoning change and authorize the Chairman to sign.

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Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, “Do we need to have anymore...?”

Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor, said, “(inaudible) the recommendation...”

Commissioner Parks said, “Yes, recommendation of the MAPC.”

Mr. Euson said, “The recommended action.”

Commissioner Parks said, “The recommended action.”

Mr. Euson said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay. And that recommended action came with an 11-0 vote from the MAPC, is that correct?”

Mr. Euson said, “The recommended action printed on the agenda is what I was referring to.”

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

There was no further 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.”

NEW BUSINESS

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- E. RESOLUTION REQUESTING SEDGWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO MAKE A FINDING THAT THE PROPOSED ISLAND ANNEXATION, FROM THE CITY OF WICHITA, WILL NOT HINDER OR PREVENT THE PROPER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA OR THAT OF ANY OTHER INCORPORATED CITY LOCATED IN SEDGWICK COUNTY.**

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Here’s the map of the area that we’re talking about today. The red parcel in the very middle is the island annexation that we are here to discuss. It is a 34-acre parcel, island annexations, of course, are proposed by cities and require the County Commissioner’s approval because they are not adjacent to City limits. You can see the purple is where the City of Wichita is and just to generally acclimate you, this is between K-96 and 45th Street North, just to the east of Ridge Road.

You can see over to the left of the screen, in the beige is the City of Maize, so they are in this area too and then one of the requirements that you find to approve the annexation is that this would not hinder or prevent the proper growth and development of other cities in the area. We’ve talked to Richard LaMunyon, over at the City of Maize, they have an understanding with the City of Wichita in this area and this does fall within the City of Wichita growth area, both in terms of the understanding of the City of Maize’s growth plans and with our own comprehensive plan. So there is no impact on the City of Maize’s growth plans by improving this annexation.

It is a commercial development. It came before you back in November as a CUP project, a zoning approval, you did approve it. It is connected to this area here, I’m going to move my curser over, in this part that is already in the City of Wichita, it’s being included as a benefit district, once it’s annexed and that will help spread the costs of some of the improvements that are going on in this area.

Again, the requirement here is you make a finding that’s not going to hinder or prevent the proper growth and development of the area or of any other city. We have a report prepared by MAPC or the MAPD staff, that is in your back-up, it goes through the purposes and some of the facts behind this. Having said everything I’ve said, unless you have any other questions, I’d recommend you make a finding and approve the Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign.”

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

Commissioner Parks said, “The two questions I had from people, other people in my district around here, was that no annexation can be done off of an island annexation and I assured them of that.”

Mr. Parnacott said, “That’s correct.”

Commissioner Parks said, “I’d like for the record to show that. Also there is no plans for any sand pit in the area? This is something that came up the last couple of days.”

Mr. Parnacott said, “Not in this particular parcel. I’m not aware of anything else going around it but this is a limited commercial parcel that is intended for commercial development.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Any other questions of Mr. Parnacott? Once again, this is not a public hearing, but is there anyone who wants to speak to this issue of the island annexation? All right then, Commissioners, is there any other questions or comment regarding this item? What’s the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Parks moved to take the recommended action and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, “Mr. Euson, is that adequate?”

Commissioner Parks said, “Take the recommended action?”

Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, all right, thank you.”

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye

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Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you Bob."

Mr. Parnacott said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

F. AGREEMENT WITH SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE 800MHZ FREQUENCY RECONFIGURATION PLANNING STATEMENT OF WORK.

Mr. Randy Bargdill, Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm going to be addressing you today on behalf of Diane Gage, who is not able to make it today as she is in Topeka at a meeting about this very topic."

In front of you, we have an Agreement between Sedgwick County and Sprint Nextel that provides for the funding of the planning process of the re-banding of our 800-radio frequency system that we have here at Sedgwick County.

Last year, in 2006, we started the first phase and programmed several radios, the radios that come in compliance with the FCC. This next phase, the planning phase is going to be a lot more in depth, it is going to require a lot more involvement. We are expecting there is going to be a lot of equipment that is going to be replaced and exchanged out.

This Agreement today just covers the planning expenses and we expect we will have future Agreements that we'll present to you and update you with our progress. That's really all I have. Do you have any questions?"

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

Commissioner Parks said, "I just had one comment that I'd add in there that this has been an ongoing thing with Sprint and Law Enforcement and public 800MHZ radio system for quite some time. They are doing their due diligence to advert any kind of lawsuit or action on this so this is a good thing to have happen and if see no other comments I would make a motion."

MOTION

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I just have a question."

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Welshimer?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "This planning, reconfiguration of planning, is this including the placement of any towers or anything like that?"

Mr. Bargdill said, "They are going to take an inventory of what we currently have, the equipment that we currently utilize here and make recommendations as to the replacement of mobile radios, portable radios, repeaters, anything like that."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "No 500-foot towers?"

Mr. Bargdill said, "We sure hope not. I don't believe that is going to be the case, no."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Any other questions or comment?"

There was no further 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. Next item please."

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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G. AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – WICHITA MEDICAL PRACTICE ASSOCIATION TO MEDICAL SERVICES TO JUVENILES IN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.

Mr. Larry Ternes, Youth Services Administrator, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The University of Kansas School of Medicine Medical Practical Association has been providing medical services to juvenile offenders placed in the Residential Facilities in the Department of Corrections since 1988.

This morning we are requesting your approval of a new professional services Agreement that covers a two-year period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. The maximum amount payable during the first year of the Contract is \$205,000 with a 3% allowable increase in the second year to a maximum of \$211,150.

We request that you approve this Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign. Be happy to answer any questions that you may have.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you Larry. Commissioners, are there any questions about this Agreement?”

MOTION

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

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

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

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES – COMCARE

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H. COMCARE.

1. CONTRACT WITH EPISCOPAL SOCIAL SERVICES FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT PAYEE SERVICES.

Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The payees are individuals who assume financial oversight for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who have been unsuccessful in managing their own financial situations independently.

Last month the Breakthrough Club provided notice that they were no longer going to be interested in providing payee services to, up to 20-individuals who are housed at our house at our Transitional Housing Project through Center City.

I have to give Jeannette Livingston a lot of credit for approaching Episcopal Social Services and they very readily agreed to provide the services through the remainder of this Grant period that ends July 30th of next year. So we are recommending that you approve this new Agreement.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to 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
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Next item.

2. AGREEMENT WITH SEDGWICK COUNTY AREA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE #618 FOR COMCARE TO

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PROVIDE CERTAIN SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Ms. Cook said, “Commissioners, this is a memorandum of an Agreement with Goddard Day School to allow two case managers and clinical oversight to work out of the day school setting in Goddard. The Agreement is fashioned after the one we’ve had for a very long time with USD 259, in addition to the case managers and whatever clinicians would be involved in the care of the children there, attendant care and parent support services may be provided if they’re needed in that day school setting.

In the Agreement the school agrees to provide space for our staff, give them access to phones, access to space to lock confidential documents that we would have there as well as computer connectivity. We recommend that you approve this Agreement and will answer any questions.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement 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
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Next item please.”

3. AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY ALLOWING DIRECT BILLING OF SERVICES

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PROVIDED TO PERSONS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.

Ms. Cook said, “Commissioners, this Agreement is necessary in order for the Breakthrough Club to provide and bill for rehabilitation services through COMCARE for Medicaid clients. The Agreement spells out access standards, the referral process that needs to be used, documentation requirements and consumer outcomes that are expected. We’ve had an affiliation Agreement with Breakthrough Club for a number of years. The appendices, which are large, (inaudible), spell out all of the new State Plan Kansas (inaudible) health solution, service definitions and requirements that have to be part of this Contract. We’re recommending that you approve this Agreement.”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement 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
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Next item.”

4. CONTRACT WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.

Ms. Cook said, “We’ve got a lot of Agreements, it’s that time of year. This is a renewal of a Contract that we have with the Mental Health Association that spells out the array of psychosocial rehabilitation services that they may provide through their affiliation with us.

Mental Health Association provides some very unique services for us that we get from no where else, including some residential services group homes and crisis beds for individuals that need them and something that we call the chat-line, which is a consumer-to-consumer warm line, is the term that’s used, where consumers who are lonely can call in and talk to other consumers rather calling our crisis line exclusively for that.

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The Contract also provides money for parent-support activities, partial funding for their comp-peer program and some money for individuals that are referred that have no other payer source. We're recommending that you approve this Contract."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Contract 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, "Next item."

5. AGREEMENT WITH WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING SERVICES.

Ms. Cook said, "This is an Agreement with Wichita State University's Self-Help Network to facilitate our strategic planning process with COMCARE. We have, this Contract has gotten hung up somewhere in the WSU system for a while, so we have started to work with them. COMCARE is funding this project through a \$10,000 grant that we applied for and obtained from the Sunflower Foundation. The Self-Help Network had very successfully worked with the CDDO and the Department on Aging and their strategic planning, we were pleased with that process. So they are helping us at this point.

The focus of that planning is on internal operating functions with the goal of defining a clear direction for COMCARE to head in and then to ensure that all of the programs are heading in that direction. It will also enable COMCARE to be as affective and efficient as possible by following that plan. We are recommending that you approve this Agreement."

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Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you. Commissioners, any questions?”

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.”

6. GRANT AWARD FROM SUNFLOWER FOUNDATION FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,800 TO PURCHASE LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR COMCARE FIELD CASE MANAGERS.

Ms. Cook said, “Commissioners, we are pretty excited about this opportunity. Earlier this year, COMCARE provided a laptop to several Case Managers that we know have good time management skills and are very well organized to see if having a laptop with them, rather than scurrying back to a desktop PC, would make their time with clients more valuable and cause them less windshield time and as a result we were very impressed with that pilot in that the Case Managers that piloted the laptop project had less windshield time, they had better access to our electronic medical record with clients when they were meeting in physician offices, they could pull up the treatment plan, they could document while they were in the field and they made less trips back to the programs. And in fact, for the Case Managers that did that, they had more billable hours then they had in a baseline up to that point.

So as a result of that, COMCARE applied to the Sunflower Foundation for a capacity building

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Grant to purchase 22 laptop computers to allow more Field Base Case Managers the opportunity to increase their efficiency. We will match that, there was a 10% cash match by purchasing three of those computers through our operational funds. We are pretty excited about it. We are recommending that you approve the Agreement.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you Marilyn. Commissioners, any comment or question?”

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve Grant Award and authorize the Chairman to sign the associated Letter of Agreement and all related forms; approve establishment of budget authority at the time the Grant Award documents are executed.

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

Ms. Cook said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Marilyn, you were efficient. Six agenda items, a hundred pages of backup...”

Ms. Cook said, “Like that.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Just went right through it. Thank the Sunflower Foundation for us.”

Ms. Cook said, “We have.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Madame Clerk, call the next item.”

PUBLIC WORKS

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I. PUBLIC WORKS.

1. RESOLUTION RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN ROADS FROM GARDEN PLAIN, GYPSUM, ILLINOIS, AND SALEM TOWNSHIP ROAD SYSTEMS TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY HIGHWAY SYSTEM; SPECIFICALLY, 23RD STREET SOUTH BETWEEN 295TH STREET WEST AND 311TH STREET WEST (624-7); 39TH STREET SOUTH BETWEEN ROCK ROAD AND WEBB ROAD (628-32); 55TH STREET SOUTH BETWEEN 135TH STREET WEST AND K-42 (632-E ¼ 16, 17); AND 10TH STREET WEST BETWEEN 79TH STREET SOUTH AND 87TH STREET SOUTH (819-Z). DISTRICTS #2, #3 AND #5.

Mr. David Spears, P.E., Director, County Engineer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item I-1 is a Resolution reclassifying all the roads the Clerk just mentioned. I guess I guess I can go through them again if you like. 23rd Street South between 295th West and 311th Street West, from the Garden Plain Township Road System to the Sedgwick County Highway System, 39th Street South between Rock and Webb, from the Gypsum Township Road System to the Sedgwick County Highway System, 55th Street South between 135th Street West and K-42, from the Illinois Township Road System to the Sedgwick County Highway System and finally 10th Street West, which is Seneca between 79th Street South and 87th Street South, from the Salem Township Road System to the Sedgwick County Highway System.

The reason for the change is that we will construct a coal-mix asphalt on these roads next year and we have to prepare the sub-base now. So we need to go ahead and take those roads over. From that point forward, we are better equipped to maintain a paved road then as for the Township maintenance and for snow removal. I recommend that you adopt the Resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye

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Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item."

2. AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF WICHITA IN REFERENCE TO SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT 817-V,W,X; WIDENING OF MERIDIAN AVENUE BETWEEN 47TH STREET SOUTH AND 71ST STREET SOUTH. CIP# R-281. DISTRICT #2.

Mr. Spears said, "Mr. Euson has requested that Item I-3, that it be deferred for a week and since I-2, I-3 and I-5 are all related to the same project, I would rather just do all three at the same time rather than approve two of the three, because they are all tied together. I respectfully request that we defer items I-2, I-3 and I-5 for one week."

MOTION

Commissioner Parks moved to defer items I-2, I-3 and I-5 for one week.

Chairman Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Norton?"

Commissioner Norton said "I would like to hear a little more information of why we need to defer it."

Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We had not received a Certification of Funds on this item I-3, items I-2 and I-5 do not require certification but we did not have one on I-3. And it's really a requirement that you do that before you approve a Contract. Under the cash basis law."

Commissioner Norton said, "Okay."

Chairman Unruh said, "A required procedure to keep us within the bounds of the law. Commissioner Winters?"

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. David, this will not delay this project will it?"

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Mr. Spears said, “No, one week will not hurt us.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Because I was going to say if it would we’d call Chris Chronis, have him come down here and certify that we’ve got funds.”

Mr. Euson said, “We’ve had some e-mail conversation this morning and in fact, Chris did attempt to certify funds, but he didn’t certify an amount. And I just thought the best way to deal with it was just to put it off for a week.”

Commissioner Winters said, “David, this won’t put a stop on this project?”

Mr. Spears said, “No. We’ve been working on this for several, this is culmination of several months, all the parties have signed but us and we, but I don’t think one more week is going to affect it.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Okay.”

Chairman Unruh said, “We will do that next week then.”

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, “So now I think we are ready for item I-4.”

- 3. AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE CITY OF WICHITA AND THE CITY OF HAYSVILLE IN REFERENCE TO SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT 817-V,W,X; WIDENING OF MERIDIAN AVENUE BETWEEN 47TH STREET SOUTH AND 71ST STREET SOUTH. CIP# R-281. DISTRICT #2.**

(Item deferred. Refer to item I-2)

- 4. AGREEMENT WITH BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY AND THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION OF KANSAS REGARDING THE**

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**INSTALLATION OF RAILWAY-HIGHWAY CROSSING SIGNALS,
FLASHING LIGHT STRAIGHT POST TYPE WITH GATES AT A GRADE
CROSSING ON 103RD STREET SOUTH AND THE BNSF TRACKS.
DISTRICT #5.**

Mr. Spears said, "On item I-4, it's a three party Agreement between BNSF Railway, Sedgwick County and the Secretary of Transportation for the State of Kansas regarding the construction and maintenance of the highway crossing signals at a grade crossing at 103rd Street South and the BNSF tracks. The project will consist of flashing lights, straight post signals and gates. Sedgwick County will be responsible for the continued maintenance of the advanced warning signs and pavement markings. The RR crossings in the State are prioritized by KDOT and selected accordingly. The total cost of the project is \$338,026 and will be 100% federally funded. I recommend that you approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

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

Commissioner Parks said, "Not only on this one, but on all of the advance warning signs, are you going to the diamond grade advance warning sign with the railroad?"

Mr. Spears said, "Commissioner, I would have to ask Mark Borst about that. I'm not sure the answer to your question."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay. Well, it's certainly not going to affect..."

Mr. Spears said, "We could get back to you. But, believe they will be in accordance with the MUTCD, Manual and Uniform Traffic Code Devices."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay."

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Agreement 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

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

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

5. AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HAYSVILLE IN REFERENCE TO SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT 817-V,W,X; WIDENING OF MERIDIAN AVENUE BETWEEN 47TH STREET SOUTH AND 71ST STREET SOUTH. CIP# R-281. DISTRICT #2.

(Item deferred. Refer to item I-2)

J. SELECTION OF A VOTING DELEGATE AND AN ALTERNATE FOR THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, at the next annual conference with the KAC, in order for us to vote, we have to have a voting delegate and also name two alternates, is the procedure that the KAC asks for. So this is the appropriate time for us to name those individuals.”

MOTION

Chairman Unruh moved to select Commissioner Tom Winters as the voting delegate, Commissioner Tim Norton as the first alternate, and Commissioner Kelly Parks as the second alternate.

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

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

K. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2007.

Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of September 13th results in four items for consideration.

**1. CHANGE ORDER #2 – MICROFILM PROCESSING SERVICES-REGISTER OF DEEDS.
FUNDING – TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT**

The recommendation is to accept the Change Order with Imaging Solutions Company in the amount of \$95,711.72.

**2. PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE AGENT SERVICES- RISK MANAGEMENT
FUNDING – RISK MANAGEMENT**

Recommendation is to accept the proposal from Cretcher-Lynch & Company and execute a three-year contract for an estimated cost, total cost of \$79,500.

**3. VIDEO DETECTION SYSTEM for PUBLIC WORKS – PUBLIC WORKS.
FUNDING – R305 INSTALL LED TRAFFIC SIGNALS.**

Recommendation is to accept proposals from Gades Sales Company in the amount of \$17,917 and from Mid American Signal Inc. for \$61,236 for a grand total of \$79,153.

**4. VIBRATORY ASPHALT COMPACTOR – FLEET MANAGEMENT.
FUNDING – VEHICLE ACQUISITION.**

Recommendation is to accept the low bid meeting specifications from Foley Equipment in the amount of \$109,574.43. Would be happy to answer questions and I recommend approval of these items."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you Iris. Commissioners, are there any questions about the items from the Bid Board?”

MOTION

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

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

Ms. Baker said, “Thank you.”

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

CONSENT AGENDA

L. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. VAC2000-00046 – Request to vacate a platted maintenance easement and a platted side yard setback; generally located north of Central Avenue and east of 143rd Street East. District #1.**
- 2. One Real Estate Purchase Contract 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.**

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- 3. One Easement for Right-of-Way for zoning on Meridian Avenue between 79th and 87th Streets South. District #2.**
- 4. Agreement with the Kansas University Medical Center Research Institute (KUMCRI) to permit KUMCRI use of buildings owned by Sedgwick County that are scheduled for demolition for the Downtown Arena located along Washington north of Waterman as a disaster training site.**
- 5. Agreement with the City of Wichita for joint funding and management of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Flood Control operation for 2008.**
- 6. Agreement with the City of to provide joint funding and management of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department for 2008.**
- 7. Addendum 2 of the Technology Management Services Agreement with The Mental Health Consortium for Wide Area Network connection to Tele-Video bridge equipment.**
- 8. Agreement with Daryl Handlin, LMLSW, provide clinical supervision to achieve licensure as a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker.**
- 9. Order dated September 5, 2007 and September 12, 2007 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 10. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of September 5 - September 11, 2007.**
- 11. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of September 11 – September 17, 2007.**
- 12. Payroll Check Register for September 7, 2007.**

Mr. William Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You have the Consent Agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it. And you have already heard from Ron Holt that there is only 103 more days left until the sales tax goes away.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you.”

MOTION

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Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks has question?"

Commissioner Parks said, "Just on number five, it says City of Wichita and Sedgwick County Flood Control, were the other cities involved in any kind of opportunity to give money to this or where they asked at all?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, as far as I know, that's not been the case. Ever since the initiation of this flood control district it was the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County without contributions from Valley Center or anybody else."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Are there any other questions or comments?"

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

VOTE

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

M. OTHER

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, we are at the end of our Regular Agenda, we do not have a Fire Agenda, so before we go into Executive Session, it's the perfect time for 'other' items if you,

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there are things, items of interest you'd like to speak about right now. Commissioner Welshimer?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Yes, I just want to repeat a couple of things that we talked about yesterday in Staff meeting. Two things that we're going to be working on, we brought a consultant in to tell us something about what they could do to help us reduce the jail population. And we have a recommendation from them, which would include their services. And they're offering to reduce that population by nearly 40% over a period of 18-months of work, so that's being looked at by the CJCC, this next week, or this week and we'll be addressing that in the next meeting, next Wednesday.

The other thing that, on my list of concerns yesterday, was the fact that we need to address organizing the employees of Sedgwick County and that process is also being studied and that will be coming as a motion that we'll be making a decision on in the future.

The other thing is that I am serving on a 47-55th Street South Joint Area Plan. It is a Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee, which includes Sedgwick County, City of Wichita and Derby. And we're making plans for the area between Derby and Wichita including, and McConnell is included for, actually for the next 50-years. It's quite an interesting group and I'll be making reports on that from time to time. That's all I have Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Commissioner. I don't know who was next. Commissioner Norton?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Exploration Place is kicking off the exhibit 'Race' and they're having some kind of a pre-opening, look at it, and I get a chance to take a look at that. But I'm very intrigued at the conversation that will engender into our community because one of the core issues of Visioneering was ethnic inclusion and racial reconciliation in our community and I think more understanding about race and what makes us similar as opposed to making us different is very powerful and I'm hoping people will engage this exhibit, try to understand it, stop by and see it for not only its scientific principals but also its social implications in our community. But that's 'Race, What Makes Us Different and What Makes Us The Same' and that's starting at EP, I think Saturday is the first day it's open.

I'd like to talk a little bit about the Jacksonville trip. Commissioner Unruh and I were in Jacksonville last week. We had quite an adventure. Susie Allstrand put together a pretty action-

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packed couple of days there. We started at 6:45 in the morning and ended at, I don't even know what time we finally ended most days, 8:00-8:30, depending on what Susie told us to do."

Chairman Unruh said, "That was 6:45 Eastern Time."

Commissioner Norton said, "Right."

Chairman Unruh said, "5:45 our time."

Commissioner Norton said, "It was, anybody that thought maybe we were there and got our golf time or our beach time in is sorely mistaken because it was pretty action packed. We took a really good look at the technical education and education community there through the Community College, which happens to have 30,000 students, which is pretty interesting.

We looked at graduate medical education and their health access and safety net clinics. We looked at some of the incubation of high technology in the medical community there. We looked at public spaces, their new \$100 million library, their arena and several other public spaces. We met with public officials, private Chamber business officials, it was pretty action packed and we got to be pretty close with Clarence Thomas, who was our bus driver.

When you're up and on a bus, probably 20 times, easily, while we where there, you get to know the bus driver pretty well. It was an interesting few days. I really capsulize these trips as, you know, you don't know what you don't know if you only know what you know. And we know what we know about our community but unless you go and kind of get into the psyche of another community and get to understand what other communities have done, you may not be able to change the environment of your own community.

I used to call that the red and white's at Target, because, you know, you spend so much time there everything started to look like the Target bulls-eye, red and white. And occasionally I went to Wal-Mart and K-Mart and TG&Y and other retailers to know what I didn't know because they may have a product or a process or some customer service ideas that I didn't have and I think that's why you go to other cities as a group to try to understand what we can bring back to make our community better.

Hopefully everybody has that same heart and idea about our community, that one of the charges that we have as citizens is to everyday strive to make our community better for every individual. And I think that's one of the things that we try to absorb when we were in Jacksonville, what are those things that that great community has done that we can bring back and apply to our community and I think we had some pretty good learning's. We'll continue to try to engage Visioneering and talk about the message we learned there.

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Jack Focht talked about that this Sunday there'll be a Homeless Task Force meeting, a Town Hall meeting at Horace Mann School, I think that's from 2:00-4:00 in the afternoon. If you'd like more information, I think maybe it's on our website, but I'm not sure. So, logon and find out about that. If your interested in the homeless conversation, I would encourage you stop by and be part of that.

Our Heath Access Summit is over with and now we've started our work groups. We've got chairmen that graciously accepted a position to help us move that process along. We have three work groups, one on coverage, one on coordination and one on navigation of the system. They'll be starting this next week to really dig down into that problem in our community on health access for the 50,000 uninsured and underinsured in our community. And I'm pretty excited that we've got some great chairmen and vice-chairmen to help us move that process along.

And then finally, as I've said we would do every week, Commissioner Winters and Manager Buchanan, Ron Holt and John Schlegel and I met on Arena parking on Monday. We really had more conversation this time then we did about digging down into the maps because we're at some decision making points that we're trying to formulate some ideas, we'll bring them to the City Council and to the County Commission.

We're looking at some pieces of land that might be available for our usages in the Downtown area. We're ready to engage the City and I think there is a meeting set up that will bring two City Councilmen in on the conversation as we try to make sure that we come up with the best determination that will be good for citizens and be good for Downtown and encourage the use of the Arena in a logical and mobile type manner.

Once again, I committed that I would report at every Commission meeting and we would meet every week and we have done. So there's my report, I'd entertain any questions if anybody has any interest or ideas or thoughts about where we're going with this."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I had one."

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

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Do we have any number of cars that we can park so far?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Have we come up with a number..."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "A number of cars that we have parking for so far?"

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Commissioner Norton said, “Is it 8,000? We know that there is 8,000 parking spaces in a defined area. Now whether we’re still iffy on whether every one of those would be available on event night and some of that is being worked on with private individuals in the public sector, but there is plenty of parking, if everybody would clear out and we could have absolute usage.

That’s the dilemma and I think we know that. But we’re also trying to look at the stock that we can add to that, either stack parking or surface parking, and we hadn’t decided that yet. But, we’re having all those conversations. We know what’s available, we know where it is, we know who owns it or runs it and now we’re trying to distill it down to what’s usable and what’s not. Did that answer your question?”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “Sort of.”

Commissioner Norton said, “Well, I’d like to say that we’ve distilled it down to the actual usable ones, but we haven’t quite got there yet.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “I think it will be helpful for us to spend some time at a staff meeting, going over Walker report because it does, it identifies all the available spaces and available, the report indicates what is vacant after 5:00. We know X amount of, and this is after (inaudible), so we know what is available. And then there is a margin for error and we take into consideration how many events that will serve, and how many events do we shuttle and what do you do about daytime, three distinct issues.

For the short-term, the next five-years, or seven, the numbers look very good. Our issue is, as development grows in Downtown, then what do you need it for?”

Chairman Unruh said, “Right.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “I think it would be helpful, Commissioner, if we get the right people to spend their time walking through the basics of that.”

Commissioner Welshimer said, “I’d like that too.”

Commissioner Parks said, “Another question, of the, visited with you a little bit about the park and ride at Jacksonville and they have a program down there for that also?”

Commissioner Norton said, “Actually, I’ll comment on that real quick, Commissioner Parks. It was interesting, they have a 14,000-square foot arena, not square foot, seating arena, capacity arena, I’m sorry, and originally they had no parking garages. And it worked out pretty good, but there was

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kind of an outcry that you have to have a stacked parking garage, so they put one, or maybe multiples in, one of them was actually for the Jaguar Stadium that's down there. What they found though is that people still like a surface parking, don't mind walking in a lot of cases and they don't always fill the stacked parking garages for whatever reason.

Now, I understand there is a little bit different dilemma because they don't have as extreme of weather in the winter as we have so we're going to have to think about that. They have virtually, not near enough parking for Jaguar Stadium and do a lot of park and ride into that stadium. Now it seats 65,000, but they do not have surface parking like Arrowhead Stadium or some other stadiums for all of those people to park right next to the stadium. A lot of it is done by shuttle service park and ride and different manner than that.

So, we looked at that real close, I had some conversations with management there, I'm not sure what Dave talked about with different individuals, but we got a tour of the arena and of the Jacksonville Stadium, so we really asked some questions about that tried and to entertain what they were doing to solve that in their community.

Chairman Unruh said, "And Commissioner, if I just might pigtail onto that, one of the things that I think that we should encouraged is that we got people here who are creative and who can respond to different requirements as they are needed. In Jacksonville, when they got the Super Bowl down there, and they didn't have enough hotel rooms to satisfy the need down there, they brought cruise ships up in the St. John's River and had people use the cruise ship for their hotel rooms. And that's just an example, if you have a problem and you've got creative people on it and you've got some resources, you're going to figure it out. And we're in the process of figuring that out and we're going to have a very workable solution when we're done. Anything else Commissioner?"

Commissioner Norton said, "No, that's all I had."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. I think Commissioner Parks was next."

Commissioner Parks said, "Well, I was going to ask you just real quick about Jacksonville, you didn't get to go to either one of the two casinos or their Greyhound Park, did you?"

Commissioner Norton said, "No."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay. Thursday 81-Speedway is having a free night, the Youth and the Hornets, Cruisers, if \$6 has kept you from going to 81-Speedway, that's something that's a free night this week. In conjunction with that Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Valley Center Fall Festival is going and there will be a lot of things and look to the internet or the, our website, in fact, has a

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few things on there about Valley Center Fall Festival.

The Greyhound Park in Sedgwick County's a short time, if you want to get a time of history to go out and say that you attended something at Greyhound Park, whether you're a gambler or not. There is a restaurant out there and there is a very short time that we're looking at before it's scheduled to close. I just thought I'd throw those things in."

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

Commissioner Winters said, "Well thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of brief comments about things I'll be working on in the next week. Friday I'll be out in Ellis County with the Kansas Association of Counties. The County Seat out there is Hays and we'll be holding our Board meeting out there. And again, this is the Kansas Association of Counties. And it's the one, principally, that our Commissioners and a number of our department heads belong to and participate in, not to be confused with the Kansas County Officials Association, which was in the news a couple of times last week, this is the Kansas Association of Counties.

I also will be in Topeka next Tuesday. I continue to serve on a long-range policy planning committee that Secretary, Deb Miller, with KDOT has put together. There are two County Commissioners on this 20-person Board. One from Thomas County, in far Northwest Kansas and myself from Southeast Kansas and the Department of Transportation continues to strategize about future transportation needs and I feel very pleased to be participating with that committee."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you Commissioner. Well, my comments relate a little bit to Jacksonville and one of the things that I would want to, I guess report on, is that we had a really outstanding presentation on diversity and discrimination by a fellow named Gerick Cooper, was it? Conrad, thank you. Gerick Conrad. Outstanding presentation that I think would be beneficial to citizens of our area if we could devise a way to get him back to the right group. It really kind of spun my head around; I was very pleased with that presentation.

Secondly, Commissioner Welshimer and I did participate in the presentation to the United States Bowling Congress and I think that presentation went well and the message that we repeated over and over is that we want you back and we gave them several reasons why they should and could select Wichita at their site for the 2011 championships. And I hope that they will give us good consideration. But I think that went well.

And lastly, I would want to thank all of our citizens in Sedgwick County that supported Zoobilee.

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That was a very successful evening and it helps raise a lot of money for the ongoing operation of Sedgwick County Zoo, which is 7th largest in the United States and in my opinion the best Zoo ever. That's all I have."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved that the Board of County Commissioners recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney client relationship relating to legal advice and the Board of County Commissioners return to this room from Executive Session no sooner than 12:05 p.m.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Chairman Unruh said, "We are in recess."

The Board of County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. and returned at 12:20 p.m.

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, we are back from Executive Session so I'll call back to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and declare that while we were in Executive Session no binding action was taken. So, Commissioners, anything else to come before the Board? Mr. Euson? Mr. Holt? We are adjourned."

N. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Regular Meeting, September 19 , 2007

**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

Regular Meeting, September 19 , 2007

KELLY PARKS, Commissioner
Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner,
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2007