

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**November 7, 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, November 7, 2007 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Kelly Parks; Commissioner Gwen Welshimer; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Ms. Susan Wilson, Representative, Project Manager, Healthy Babies program, Health Department; Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department; Mr. Sherdeill H. Breathett, Sr., Economic Developer; Mr. Dave Rush, Interim Director, Kansas Coliseum; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, Comprehensive Community Care; Ms. Monica Cissell, Program Manager, Department on Aging; Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Public Safety; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Mr. Steve Claussen, Facilities Director, Facilities Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

### **GUESTS**

Ms. Sally Dewey, League of Women Voters.  
Mr. Harvey Sorensen, Co-Chair, Visioneering Wichita.  
Mr. Allen R. Cooley, Wichita, Ks.  
Mr. Tyler Levy, Corps Commander, JROTC.  
Colonel Hester, JROTC.

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Reverend Tim Harlan of Woodlawn United Methodist Church, Derby.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

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**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting October 17, 2007

The Clerk reported that all commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2007.

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioners, you’ve had the opportunity to review the minutes of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Are there any additions or corrections?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2007.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Before we call the next item, I notice that we have some folks here from the League of Women Voters and with some visitors from out of our country and Sally Dewey is here. Perhaps you can introduce them and tell us what you’re about.”

**Ms. Sally Dewey**, Member, League of Women Voters, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Your chuckle for this morning may be the pronunciation Sally Dewey makes of these beautiful names. As I call your name, will you stand. These young women are from all over Russia. They are beautiful, intelligent, articulate and we are having a wonderful time. They are here in our country for eight days to see how we correlate and cooperate local governments with media. They are journalists and broadcasters, so they’re very interested in seeing how we do it: Kseniya Ivanova, Viktoriya Lebedinets, Tatyana Lopatina, Yuliya Manakyan, Svetlana Prokudina and thank you for having us. Thank you especially to Commissioner Welshimer who met with us before and made us feel very welcome.”

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**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well thank you Sally, thank you for your leadership in this effort. We want to welcome the guests, not only to the United States, but also to Sedgwick County and hope that this visit proves fruitful and profitable for you all, but welcome to our meeting this morning. Commissioner Welshimer."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "I appreciate meeting all of you, have enjoyed getting to know you a little bit and I'm very impressed with your professional background and the purpose of your visit here. I think it's a wonderful idea and I hope you're going to write something good about us when you go back to Russia."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you commissioner. Well once again, welcome from all of us. Madam Clerk, next item please."

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**A. PROCLAMATIONS.**

**1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 5 - 11, 2007 AS "WICHITA JROTC LEADERSHIP WEEK."**

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

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, JROTC was officially implemented in American high schools in 1916, began in 1917 and in Wichita in 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, cadet leadership programs were started in selected middle schools in 1997 making Wichita a leader in the nation in this initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the JROTC and leadership programs are recognized in Wichita for building citizenship and good character in our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, there are now more than 2,400 Wichita youth participating as cadets in 19 of our public schools.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Dave Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 5-11, 2007 as

**'Wichita JROTC Leadership Week'**

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in recognition of these fine young men and women who are becoming better leaders and citizens for the future through their involvement in the JROTC and leadership programs.

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Winters 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 receiving the proclamation is Tyler Levy, the Corps Commander, is that correct?"

**Corps Commander Tyler Levy**, JROTC, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Yes sir. On behalf of all the JROTC and Leadership Cadets, I thank you for this."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well thank you. We're very pleased to make the proclamation and I've been able to attend your . . . your big meeting at Century II. I don't know the right name of it."

**Corps Commander Levy** said, "The Veteran's Day Ceremony."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well it's very impressive and I notice that Colonel Hester is also here. Would you like to say anything?"

**Colonel Hester**, JROTC, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd just like to invite everyone to

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our Veteran's Day Ceremony, that's going to be at Century II this coming Friday at 10:00. We're going to have over 2,000 veterans there from all of our 19 schools. We've got Junior ROTC, and all high schools, comprehensive high schools, the Northeast Magnet and then we started a new program at Robinson Middle School this year, which gives us 11 middle schools. Mayor Brewer will be our keynote speaker. It should be a very good ceremony. We're looking forward to it and hope you'll be able to join us.

And then on Saturday we have our Veteran's Day Parade, the school district has got responsibility for planning and coordinating the Wichita parade. Governor Sebelius is our grand marshal. The state adjutant general, Senator Roberts, Congressman Tiahrt, the mayor will all be in the parade. We've got four vans, 312 U.S. Army Reserve Band will be there and will be performing at Lawrence Dumont Stadium at the conclusion of the parade, along with the South High School Madrigals will be singing and then the Prairie Rose Wranglers will be there performing for us. So should be a great event, the parade starts at 11:00. It will last about an hour and 15 minutes. It starts at Central and Main and goes down Douglas Street to Lawrence Dumont Stadium. Thank you very much."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well thank you. We have some more comments here, but it sounds like you have a great weekend of events scheduled. But Commissioner Winters wants to make a comment."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well thank you, just two quick comments. I would certainly like to encourage anyone who would like to see the event at Century II on Friday to make the effort to do that. I'm sorry that I'm going to be out of town this year and won't be able to be there. But if people have concern about the youth of our community, if you attend that event and see 2,400 youth marching in in a very professional and orderly manner, it will give you chills up your spine and Tyler, please express all of our congratulation to all of the cadets that participate.

And then I would just like to say, you know, I don't know how many years Colonel Hester has been involved in this but Colonel, our hats are off to you for the participation and the work that you've put in this program. You are here every year, you're at every event where the JROTC is involved in and you are certainly an attribute to this program and to the community, so thank you very much."

**Colonel Hester** said, "Thank you, sir. I enjoy getting up and going to work every morning."

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well I firsthand had the experience with ROTC person in a cadet

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program in the police department when I was at Valley Center and I can tell you that the leadership that they provide and the responsibilities that they take on are taken very seriously and youth are our future and we need to really commend these young men and women for their work and I hope you have a continued long success with this program, because it is working.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Thank you. Well Colonel Hester and Corps Commander Levy, we appreciate your involvement and effort. We’re proud of what you do and we’re very proud to make this proclamation. Thank you.

Madam Clerk, next item.”

**2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 2007 AS PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH.**

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

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, premature birth, defined as birth prior to 37 weeks, is the leading cause of newborn death and the biggest threat to the health of babies in our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, every year more than half a million babies are born premature and, between 1994 and 2004, the rate of premature births in Kansas increased by more than 20%; and

**WHEREAS**, the average first-year medical costs, including both inpatient and outpatient care, is over \$41,000 per premature baby, almost 15 times the cost of care for a term infant; and

**WHEREAS**, premature babies experience substantially greater life-long health problems as well as cognitive problems that can have a profound impact on life skills and school performance; and

**WHEREAS**, March of Dimes, in their national effort to prevent prematurity and associated birth defects and infant deaths, has proclaimed November as Prematurity Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with the Healthy Babies Program and March of Dimes, the City of Wichita will be illuminating the columnar lights at Central and McLean in pink and blue during the month of November as a reminder for all of us to join the fight to decrease the number of babies born too early.

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

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**'Prematurity Awareness Month;**

in Sedgwick County and encourage the community to become educated about the role they can play in ensuring we have Healthy Mommies and Healthy Babies.

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Proclamation.

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, "And Susan Wilson is here from the Health Department with the Healthy Babies program to accept the proclamation."

**Ms. Susan Wilson**, Project Manager, Healthy Babies Program, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you commissioners, and first I'd like to introduce Michelle Steinhower. She's with me. She's the Healthy Babies Community Events and Grant Coordinator and we also have Jill Bosley. She's the director of the Wichita Office for the Greater Kansas Chapter of March of Dimes, a very close partner of ours.

Thank you for declaring November as Prematurity Awareness Month. March of Dimes launched the Prematurity Awareness Campaign in January of 2003. In their diligent efforts to reduce the incidents of premature births, they have increased funding for vital research into the causes and

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treatments of preterm labor. They have developed support programs for pregnant moms and families of premature infants in the neonatal intensive care units and they have raised prematurity awareness among the general public.

As a March of Dimes community partner, the Healthy Babies Home Visitation program works just as diligently to improve birth outcomes among high risk moms in our community. A mother's medical problems and lifestyle choices prior to and during pregnancy influence her birth outcomes.

Babies who are born premature, which is prior to 37 weeks gestation or low birth weight, which is a baby weighing less than five and a half pounds at birth are more likely to die before their first birthday and African American babies are more likely than any other race to die from complications related to their prematurity and low birth rates.

Reducing risks for high-risk pregnancies is beneficial for the physical and emotional health of the community and it also makes good fiscal sense in terms of lost dollars and time from work. In 2005, prematurity costs in the United States were at least 26.2 billion dollars. Of that total, 65% was for medical care, 22% for lost household and labor market productivity, 7% for maternal delivery, 4% for special education services and 2% for early intervention services. Between 1994 and 2004, the rate of premature births in Kansas increased by more than 20% and a low-birth-weight rate increased more than 12%. The average first-year medical costs were about 15 times greater for preterm infants than for those infants born at term.

We urge all county residents and businesses to take a moment to think about how they can help decrease the number of babies that are born prematurely in our community. And the best way to do that is to understand the risk factors and the signs and symptoms of preterm labor and to make sure that you and your friends, your family and your coworkers understand that choices made before and during pregnancy affect the health of both mom and baby.

In addition to the Healthy Mommies, Health Babies ads currently running on the sides of city buses and the informational slick that was sent to over 200,000 households in May, you may get more information about how to prevent premature births by visiting [www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com) or the health departments Healthy Babies page at [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org). Thank you for your continued support of the March of Dimes and the Healthy Babies program, as we work to ensure healthy mommy, healthy babies and healthy families in our community."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you Susan and thank you for that information and advice on how we need to be attentive to this problem. It does have a personal impact, community impact and the numbers you gave make it a serious financial impact, which will get our attention also. But thank you and your colleagues for their effort in trying to promote healthy babies."

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Ms. Wilson said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Madam Clerk, next item please."

### PRESENTATION

#### **B. PRESENTATION REGARDING VISIONEERING WICHITA.**

Mr. Harvey Sorensen, Co-Chair, Visioneering Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I want to thank all of you in the county for your continued support of Visioneering Wichita and for the opportunity to be here this morning. Sedgwick County was one of the early supporters of our efforts, beginning in 2004. Commissioner Winters agreed to co-chair Visioneering Wichita, along with myself and the mayor of the city. And from that effort we developed a strategic plan that has 158 strategies for improvement of our region and we have emphasized regionalism and we've emphasized attracting and retaining young people in Wichita.

Our plan includes six areas of activity: economic development, education, quality of life, infrastructure, government and private sector leadership. Those strategies have been adopted by our 450 vision partners and I believe each of you has been provided with a report. This is more than the typical copy of the plan that you received many times, because in addition to the plan, you will see in the back the individual strategies and which of our Vision partners have adopted these and if you go through there you'll see that Sedgwick County and its various divisions and organizations has adopted seventy of our strategies and you currently have 68 of your people actively involved in Visioneering.

Sedgwick County has been one of the true leaders of Visioneering. The early adoption of the program and the Sedgwick County Health Department was one of the first to adopt our strategic plan as part of its strategic planning and we've been very, very appreciative of the support that we have received from the county, not only financially, but also from your personnel and the community.

After we developed our plan, we began the creation of strategic alliances to implement key programs as part of Visioneering. Today we have 14 alliances emphasizing various aspects of our strategic plan. Our program is designed to achieve measurable outcomes and annually we will provide to the community, and we do provide to the community a statistical statement of the results of our performance, so that you will know that we are . . . what we are doing, what we're doing

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right, what we're not succeeding at so that we can continue our emphasis on our program.

Of these 14 alliances, I'm pleased to say that Commissioner Norton chairs the Literate Community Alliance, but in addition to our 14 alliances, we have hosted . . . co-hosted with REAP, Regional Economic Area Partners, two economic summits in which we have looked at the regional impact of key economic development issues for our region. We have participated in two city-to-city visits and I'm pleased to say the members of the commission have joined us, most recently when we went to Jacksonville Commissioner Unruh and Commissioner Norton were along for the . . . and Commissioner Winters, I believe . . . were you? No, okay.

In addition then to these programs, we've also had conducted two surveys. We conducted a survey on racial attitudes in Sedgwick County and in our MSA. And the results of that survey have been distributed to the community and are being used to impact the activities of our Vision partners and Visioneering.

And then, as part of our Racial Harmony Alliance, we have cosponsored last evening a town meeting where young people in our community could talk about race relations and Commissioner Norton was present and appreciate your attendance and participation.

The other survey that we performed was one on community identity and we learned a lot about ourselves and what we think about ourselves and as a result of that survey, we are implementing programs. Most recent of which is the [uploadwichita.com](http://uploadwichita.com) webpage in which people can talk about the good things that are going on in Wichita and Sedgwick County and our greater reason and why people should be happy to live in one of the finest communities in the country.

I'm as proud of the fact that we have 450 vision partners as I am of many of the other activities that we've done. Our Vision partners are businesses, organizations, churches and individuals who have subscribed to specific strategies and are working to implement those strategies and we coordinate, cooperate, communicate with our Vision partners so that we can be aware of what's going on and report to the community our progress.

So we're . . . Visioneering is making great strides. We started in 2004. We've had great support from the county and from the city and from our community. I think we've had a really positive impact and the board of county commissioners deserves great thanks from us for your support. I'll be glad to entertain any questions."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well thank you for this report, Harvey, and I just want to thank you and

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Commissioner Winters and the mayor of the City of Wichita for their leadership in moving this forward. And we also have to recognize Susie Alstrand for the great amount of time and effort that she's invested in this. More than anyone else, she has skin in the game to make sure that this goes forward and so we appreciate her, the long hours that she's invested but this has proven to be, I think, very successful in bringing the community together, the whole south central Kansas and our whole MSA and so we're proud of that success.

It seems like one of the important small pieces of this though is this uploadwichita where we have people who want to come on and talk about the good things in our area. I think one of the surveys we did indicated that we all think that this is a good place to live but we're not so sure that anybody else thinks it's a good place to live. And so we have to start talking about how and why we like this, so good things are happening. It's been successful. A lot of folks are involved and appreciate your leadership. I have more comments. Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you very much. You know, we could go through each one of these alliances and spend a few minutes talking about each one of them. I'm not going to do that. I just would like to highlight two that I think we are certainly involved in in a big way and one is the Literacy Community Strategic Alliance that Commissioner Norton is helping lead. This is I think very important to us in Sedgwick County as we move forward. And the other one is the Unified Legislative Agenda, which I think has really given our whole region an opportunity to pull together in the same direction, which I think has been helpful to our legislators in Topeka, that are working for our region and it really has let us all get on the same page on a number of issues. So just brief comments about two of the strategic alliances.

Harvey, I would like to thank you personally from all of us for all of the private sector leadership you have shown in this and your stick-to-it-ness, of sticking out for the long haul. We appreciate your leadership. And again Susie and Diane Longfellow, who has done yeoman's work on all of the things that Harvey, you think us, and Susie implements with the help of Diane. We appreciate all of your work very much, so thank you for coming today and giving us this update."

**Mr. Sorensen** said, "Thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you commissioner. And I like this word 'stick-to-it-ness'. You're very tenacious Harvey. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, as we continue to check off things that Visioneering brought forth in our community, that's important but we have to realize this is a 20-year look at what our community is going to be for our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren and we're setting the course. Of all the strategic plans and all of that that we've put together, probably

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the most gratifying thing I think it's done is brought collaboration to our community. It's engaged thousands of people. There's been many town hall meetings. There's been a lot of discussion and dialogue about what we want to look like as a community and I think that's powerful.

When you can not let it be a few people making all the decisions, but a whole broad base of individuals in our community engaging and understanding that we want to dream and create the best future for our community we possibly can. And I think that's what Visioneering has done is that collaborative effort that anybody and everybody in the community that has an idea or the ability to volunteer and help out can be engaged in this process on a strategic planning committee, on a workgroup, on one of the alliances or just as a volunteer and I think that's pretty powerful for our community. So hats off to the leadership, but hats off to a lot of individuals in our community that have stepped up and taken little pieces of this to make the future the best and brightest it can be for Wichita, Kansas, Sedgwick County and the region. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you commissioner. Well Harvey, I think you can see that we're very supportive and gratified by the success that's been made and I think all those strategic alliances that have been identified are important to our whole MSA, and so we thank you for your leadership."

**Mr. Sorensen** said, "Well, thank you for your support. There's been about 16,000 people involved in Visioneering and I may be the guy that stands up in front of the meeting, but I'm not the one that's doing the work. The work is being done by the community and by the citizens and the organizations who are participating and they're the ones that deserve the thanks.

Many of you have been involved in various aspects of Visioneering, to varying degrees and this is probably not the best forum for me to spend long periods of time with you, so I would be glad to make myself available and Susie and anybody else involved in Visioneering, to sit down with any of the commissioners on an individual basis, spend more time with them to help you understand what we're doing. Thank you for having us this morning."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Harvey. Thank you Susie. Madam Clerk, please call the next item."

### **CITIZEN INQUIRY**

#### **C. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE WORLD WAR II HISTORY CENTER.**

**Mr. Allen R. Cooley**, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you commissioners for this opportunity to address you publicly today. My name is Allen Cooley and I'm the founder and

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president of the World War II History Center Foundation. We are a non-profit, 501-C3 organization established in 2006 to build and operate a regional-level museum and research library dedicated to the World War II era.

At this time, there are only four museum in the entire country that feature exhibits and information about all the major theaters of conflict, as well as all the branches of the military and the home front. These museums are located in the eastern half of the United States. This fact is significant because World War II was the largest armed conflict in human history, involving more countries and killing more people than any other war before or since. World War II has changed every country involved, especially the United States and its aftereffects continue to affect the world we live in today. However, this conflict, despite its massive impact on not only this country but the entire world, is usually relegated to just a few exhibits in most museums and worse, barely a chapter in most high school history books.

The World War II History Center seeks to remedy this gapping hole in our history education by providing not only an institution of exhibits and displays, but also an institution of knowledge and learning. Much more can be learned from World War II than battles and weapons. The generation that fought it serves as the finest example of what it is to be an American, an ideal that seems to be losing favor or importance in today's society. The study of how we as a nation conducted ourselves during this conflict can teach today's youth about patriotism, honor, duty, courage and sacrifice. The other primary reason for our wish to build this center is the overriding concern that the veterans of this conflict are leaving us at a rate of over 1,000 per day. The veterans of World War II, who literally saved the freedom of not only the United States, but the entire world, are in the closing years of their lives, afraid that they will be forgotten. Without facilities such as the World War II History Center, this may very well happen.

The potential for this center has partially been illustrated by one of the services that we already offer at our current location in El Dorado. We offer unique research service through our website that attempts to connect families with the stories of sacrifices made by their loved ones that served during the war. Since November of 2005, we have handled over 350 research requests, primarily seeking information on what someone's father, uncle or grandfather did during the war. Two hundred and seventy-five of these requests have come in the last year alone.

The point is that there's a strong personal connection to the subject matter that the World War II

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History Center highlights. I often give presentations to civic organizations and veterans' groups about the center and every time I do I ask the question 'How many people here know someone who either served in the military during World War II or directly supported the war effort at home?' Every single time, almost every person in the room, whether it's a group of 20 or 200 people, will raise their hand. This statistic illustrates the connection that the general public has with the war and the history center's purpose.

The National Pacific War Museum, located in Fredricksburg, Texas, a town the size of Augusta, Kansas but over an hour away from any major city, receives 70,000 visitors per year. The National D-Day Museum in New Orleans received 1.1 million visitors in the first five years of its operation. These statistics show that there is a need for and an interest in these institutions, so much so that the National D-Day Museum is currently on a \$300,000,000 funding raising campaign to triple its size and become a national World War II museum.

Our total project fundraising goal is quite comparable and even small compared to other projects in this area. Exploration Place cost \$62,000,000 to build and the Keeper of the Plains improvement project cost 20,000,000. Our funding raising goal of \$20,000,000 not only pays for the property, facility construction and infrastructure costs, it also sets aside over \$10,000,000 for an endowment meant to run the facility and pay its staff in perpetuity, thus negating the need for large scale fundraising on a regular basis or a guaranteed number of visitors to maintain the budget.

I am here today to ask for the support of Sedgwick County, both its governing body and its citizens. Our primary goal at this time is to secure property for the center. We are also in need of funds, not only to help purchase property and facilities, but to build a treasure chest of credibility. It is much easier to contribute to a campaign that looks like it will succeed than to a campaign that does not.

The important thing to remember is that we intend to open this facility with dozens of World War II veterans there to help us cut the ribbon on opening day and obviously time is not on our side. If anyone watching or listening to the broadcast of this meeting would like to help, please contact the World War II History Center at 316-322-8753 or you can learn more about our project and current services available at [www.wwiihistorycenter.org](http://www.wwiihistorycenter.org).

I would like to close with a final statement. It is the responsibility and duty of ours generally to remember and learn from the sacrifices of our World War II generation, for at no other time in the history of this country have our citizens united for the common good of not only our own nation, but the nations of free people across the world. Thank you commissioners, for your time and attention."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you for your presentation. We have a couple of comments and questions. Commissioner Welshimer."

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**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well I appreciate you doing this. I think this is a perfect place to have a World War II museum. Many of us came here as a result of World War II. I know I did. My parents came here when World War II started and Wichita is just built on the people that came here as a result of that. And I think it's wonderful that you're doing that. It couldn't be a more perfect place for it and I certainly hope that it can be successful. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well I would just like to say that I met with Allen and I think he has a great plan. I did want to say that I have a special interest and I did make a donation and I'll ask him to repeat that address here in a little bit, so the people out in TV-land can get their pencils out and write this down. But my dad, E.W. Pat Parks served as bombardier in Army Air Corps. I had an uncle killed in France. Had another uncle that was severely wounded and had life-long maladies from that. Just wanted to tell Allen that I think he's doing a great job, great generation that served our country, keep the tyrants from coming on our soil. And would just like to make sure that everybody got the chance to give and I'm going to ask Allen to do that at the end of this."

But last year, the Museum of World Treasures had a traveling display and some things, and that was really interesting. I went to that twice and spent a lot of time. And if you've never really delved into World War II, it's something that you need to go back and revisit and see how important that was to the United States of America. Allen, if you'll give that address again, it would be appreciative."

**Mr. Cooley** said, "The website address is [www.wiihistorycenter.org](http://www.wiihistorycenter.org) and if you do a search on Google, just type in World War II History Center, we come up number one on Google and Yahoo."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Okay, for those World War II veterans out there who may not even have a computer, can you give us a P.O. box or an address where they might be able to send a donation."

**Mr. Cooley** said, "Our phone number again is 316-322-8753. Our mailing address is World War II History Center at P.O. Box 564, Towanda, Kansas, 67144 and our location in El Dorado is on the fourth floor of the Commerce Bank Building at Central and Main in downtown El Dorado."

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

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

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**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well I don’t think you could have picked a more appropriate time to come before us and to get it kind of on television is a few days before Veterans’ Day, which is the eleventh day . . . the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month coming up this Sunday. I think the commission, it sounds like it’s going to be very supportive of your endeavor to move forward. We didn’t have time to prepare any kind of resolution or endorsement, but I think at some point as you move along, I think you should bring something to us and let us consider that, because this is an important part of our American history and as we look for those things that preserve that, and ways to bring people to Wichita and the surrounding area, to enjoy our community and to preserve history, I think that you have a very admirable program going and I wish you Godspeed in putting it together.

You’ve got an uphill climb, but as I talk to you, I think you’ve got the determination, the grit, and the support, and an admirable reason to do what you’re doing, so I appreciate that. Thanks for coming today.”

**Mr. Cooley** said, “Thank you sir.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, thank you. Well appreciate the effort that you’re involved in. I think it’s both appropriate and important. Appreciate your passion for it and thanks for being here to make this presentation today.

Commissioners, do we have a motion to receive and file?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file Mr. Cooley’s presentation.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioners, I neglected to ask for a motion to receive and file the presentation regarding Visioneering Wichita. I don’t know if that’s absolutely important, but I would like to have that on record, so can we have a motion to . . .”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file the presentation in Visioneering Wichita.

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, “Now we’re ready for Item D I think.”

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- D. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE CITY OF DERBY HAS PROVIDED SERVICES AS SET OUT IN THE SERVICE PLAN PREPARED FOR ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 1763.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

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**Mr. Robert W. Parnacott**, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is one of our post annexation hearings that we have five years after an annexation by a city that had to prepare a service plan in connection with the annexation. I've got a map up on the screen that shows you, we have the City of Derby that annexed that area that's kind of in the center of the screen, I'll move my cursor over to right there, about five years ago. It is sandwiched between Bel Arbor Addition and then High Park. You also might notice this Derby City area down here. This is island annexation that you considered and approved several months earlier this year.

So we're here to determine if the city has provided the services as set out in the service plan. We sent notices out to all the landowners involved. In this case it was a fairly small annexation area, so we're talking about three different notices that got sent out. One was returned as undeliverable. We tried our best to find an address. We couldn't. We did get one response back from one of the other landowners who had a question about some sewer extension costs that we can talk a little bit about in a minute maybe. That wasn't directly involved with the annexation service plan or our purpose here today, but we did get that call and reported that to Derby for follow up.

As you can see, it's actually three parcels that were involved, two single-family residences on a two and four-acre parcel and then the larger eighteen and a half acre tract is currently in ag use but it's intended to be used as a church at some later date.

We have a service plan in your backup, on page 17. In the service plan, the city indicated they would provide the following services, they were going to annex a portion of 79<sup>th</sup> Street South, a portion that was fronting on the Bel Arbor Addition. They were going to take over the maintenance of that stretch of 79<sup>th</sup> Street South. They also indicated they would provide sewer and water if petitioned. At the time, the two residences had on-site wastewater systems and were either getting well water or Rural Water District #3 services. If they ever wanted city services, they would petition for it. To our knowledge, there's been no petitions filed for either water or sewer services.

Finally, in the service plan they indicated that they would provide the standard city services of police, fire, EMS, code enforcement, parks and those kinds of things. In a conversation with a commissioner earlier this week, he asked about hydrants. The service plan did not specify they were going to put in hydrants. State law does not require them to put in hydrants. However, with the island annexation that you approved earlier they're going to be extending the water line along 79<sup>th</sup> Street South. That's going to enable the city to put in hydrants when appropriate, and also it will help cut the costs of sewer extension and water extension to those properties that were annexed.

We have Kathy Sexton here from the city to answer any questions. This will be a public hearing, so

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at this point unless you have any other questions for me, I'd recommend we open the public hearing, receive any comment and then close the public hearing and make an appropriate finding."

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well I think we probably need to open the public hearing so I can get my comments in there."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "You don't have anything specifically for Mr. Parnacott?"

**Commissioner Parks** said, "I don't believe so."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right. Any other commissioners have a question for Mr. Parnacott? If not, then I will open the public hearing and ask if there are any citizens who want to make a comment regarding this decision about the annexation? Any individuals that want to speak? All right, I don't see anyone moving towards the podium that wants to speak. Perhaps the city manager from Derby, I don't know if you would like to make a comment at this time? Okay, thank you. If there's no one who is wishing to speak, then at this time . . . well, Commissioner Parks, did you want to say something in this portion of the meeting?"

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Yes, I just wanted to say that I think just in general some of the service plans are pretty bare-bones for some of the cities and I will be scrutinizing all of these coming in, having some first hand knowledge and information from some of these past . . . for all cities, not just the City of Derby but for all cities and I will be asking each city, every time, if they've provided fire hydrants because I think if they're going to annex areas, even if the people don't want their household water, I think that's one of the things that being in the city is. You should have a city-sponsored, at-large water line for fire hydrants and that's just one of my little quirks I guess if you'd call it, but I think if they're going to do that, they need to be prepared to provide services, so I know that the service plan probably has been met, and nobody is here to speak against it. Hopefully in the future, Derby and the other cities will see where I'm coming from on that. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "I had a different map. I'm sorry, I haven't located it, there was one road that we were concerned about that the city is going to take that responsibility. That's just the main thing I want to check on, that included in this before we take action."

**Mr. Parnacott** said, "Well, that's not really included in this but it's certainly a pertinent question. We have our Department of Public Works, who is working under our current state law, with all the cities in terms of annexing the right-of-way that the city may not have annexed at the time of earlier

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annexation. You may be referring to the stretch of Mackintosh on the west side? I've seen that map as well. Again, we are working with the City of Derby. The City of Derby is pursuing or progressing along those paths and will annex that, I understand, at some point in the future."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Okay, that's the plan? Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you commissioner. Any other comment in the public hearing? I see no one else wishing to speak. At this time, I will close the public hearing and then ask commissioners if there's any other comment or questions that they'd like to make."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to find that the city has extended services as provided for in the Service Plan.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**E. MAPD CASE NUMBER DR2005-08 – ARENA NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN. DISTRICT #4.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. John Schlegel**, Director, MAPD, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Just a brief history on this plan and how it got started. You'll recall that back in the spring of 2004 this board endorsed

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the 15,000-seat downtown arena. And in the fall of 2004, the voters of Sedgwick County in a referendum vote approved the 1% sales tax to fund the construction of that project.

Following that vote, there was a great deal of discussion in Wichita City Hall regarding the need to start preparing the city for the expected redevelopment of the area around the new arena, both because of the arena itself as a catalyst development project, and other redevelopment projects that would be expected to occur in the vicinity of the arena.

That led to direction to the Metropolitan Area Planning Department to prepare and send out a request for proposals and then in the summer of 2005 that led to the city hiring Gould Evans Associates to assist it in the preparation of this plan.

We've gone through quite an extensive planning process. I won't go through all the details of that, I think the important thing for you to note is that the county was an important partner in preparation of this plan. You had a member on the 19-member plan steering committee. That steering committee was primarily composed of property owners and business owners who had a stake in this plan for redevelopment in the downtown. And then that group was supported by a 13-member technical plan support team that was composed of city and county staff members.

We've listed out here all the various ways in which we invited public participation in the preparation of this plan. I won't go through all that in detail, but we feel that we've got quite a bit of very useful public input in putting this plan together.

The plan area is outlined in the red dashed line that's shown on the aerial photo in front of you now, extended from Douglas on the north, including the properties on the north side of Douglas that face that street, extending south to Kellogg, extending from the central rail corridor on the east, over to Main Street on the west. And that graph also shows some of the major redevelopment drivers in that particular . . . in that and surrounding that neighborhood, including the arena, Waterwalk, Century II, Kellogg freeway on the south and Old Town off to the northeast of the plan area.

The vision that this plan presents for this portion of downtown is that it become . . . that the city help guide it toward becoming a vibrant urban neighborhood where people want to live, work and visit, building on the fact that it is such a central location to so many of the existing and proposed assets of downtown, as we were trying to depict on the previous graphic.

Guiding principles that the steering committee set for itself in putting the plan together is that the plan should build on existing linkages and assets within the downtown, that it would be the type of plan that would encourage private investment to create a unique urban place. The plan acknowledges the fact that within this plan area there are several distinct districts, as I'll show you in a moment. The plan calls for the city to manage parking and enhance mobility within not just

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this portion of downtown, but throughout downtown and it calls on the city to commit to implementing the recommendations of the plan in order to maximize the return on public investment that's been made in the downtown, not just in the forum of the arena, but also other projects that the city has underway downtown.

As I mentioned, the plan recognizes that there are several distinct districts within this plan area. You can see the arena site in yellow on that graphic, and just south of that is the Commerce Street Arts District shown in blue, to the west of that the Broadway District, south of Waterman and north of Kellogg. Just to the north of that and to the west of the arena site, the district called the English/Williams Street District and then of course along Douglas Street the Douglas Street Corridor.

Major . . . a set of recommendations within the plan have to do with improving parking and mobility downtown, not just in regards to the needs of the arena, but of other facilities and users downtown. And in that regard, there's several recommendations, first of all to improve vehicular circulation and convenience within downtown Wichita. The plan calls for angled parking along Douglas from Main Street over to Washington. It also calls for the gradual conversion of many of the two-way streets to one-way [sic] in order to make it more convenience to find their way around downtown. The one exclusion to that recommendation is that Market Street south remain one-way northbound as it is today and that these conversions will be done as needed to support redevelopment projects in the downtown. Then also that the streets, as they are improved by the city over time, should be designed by the function that they play within the downtown area.

A second parking and mobility recommendation is that the city implement a downtown parking master plan. The city was very fortunate to have the county support it in this way by commissioning the Walker Parking Study. That study recommends that the city take management responsibility for downtown parking and mobility and that additional parking be provided through agreements with private sector partners as properties are redeveloped. That major events use remote parking when necessary and appropriate and that the city take a more active role in letting people know where they can and cannot park downtown, that one of the shortcomings in our current parking situation is people just not knowing where the parking choices are. And as you know, there is a joint city/ county committee that's currently discussing specific actions that need to be taken by each jurisdiction in order to implement that draft plan.

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A third parking and mobility recommendation is that the city better utilize its transit assets, both to move people from parking to destinations within the downtown and also from place to place once they've parked and go to one place, that they have opportunities to use transit to get to other places downtown without having to go back to their car. And then finally that the city create easy to recognize and interesting pathways throughout downtown in order to encourage more walking downtown.

The plan also offers up a design framework for this portion of downtown. It contains design standards that address how streetscapes should be designed by the city and private development, offers design guidelines and site layout and incorporation of open space in the redevelopment projects and the design of buildings. It suggests a standard of 5 to 10% of redevelopment areas be dedicated to open space and it recommends a zoning overlay to implement the design standards. That would be at the council's directions at some time in the future.

So in summary, what this plan offers up is the creation of an urban neighborhood that's central to many existing and proposed assets of the downtown. It advocates adjusting the plan over time as market conditions in the downtown change. It promotes the idea of high-quality urban development and most assuredly is not meant to be what historically has been called an urban renewal type plan, with massive clearing of blocks and reconstruction with public money.

In terms of implementation, it calls for the city to make strategic public investments to support the private investment that's expected to occur and this would be in the form of street improvements around a redevelopment project and in providing for any necessary public parking in conjunction with those private projects. The city has already identified in its latest CIP some \$62,000,000 for improvements for streets and parking. The plan advocates that the city offer up a number of properties that it owns in this plan area as catalysts for redevelopment and it identifies tax increment financing districts as a potential major funding source for those public improvements.

Before we get into questions, this plan was heard at a public hearing back in March by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and at that time they voted to recommend approval of the plan that we presented to them at that time. There was one member of the public, member of the steering committee that spoke in favor of the plan at that public hearing. No one spoke in opposition. Since that March public hearing in front of the planning commission, we have made some modifications to the plan and you need to be aware of that, because these were modifications that were requested specifically regarding the angled parking on Douglas and the conversion of the one-way streets to two-way that were requested by the city council in discussions that we had with them after the March planning commission hearing.

And that would affect your vote today because our recommendation is you adopt what we're presenting today which is the modified version of the plan incorporating those things that the city

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council had requested and that's the plan that the city council adopted yesterday at their city council meeting.

Just one last note is that while this is a City of Wichita neighborhood plan, we are requesting adoption of the resolution by this board as well, so that it becomes an element of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan, and with that I'll be glad to take any questions."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right thank you John. We do have some questions. First, Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. Well John, I think you answered my first just question of clarification, and that is the reason this is on our agenda and it has to do with becoming part of our entire countywide comprehensive plan. That is correct?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "That is correct."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "And then going back to the planning commission, I guess I got a little lost there. The planning commission has reviewed all of this, with the exception of some of the amendments?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Correct. We've made two modifications since they reviewed it. It's the same plan, but the two modifications were first of all that the plan now recommends the angled parking along Douglas and also the phased conversion of one-way streets to two-way streets, except for Market."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "So on all of the other topics of this plan, as it was before the planning commission. The planning commission voted for approval of this redevelopment plan?"

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

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Thank you. That's all I have right now."

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well, like many issues, this has some pluses, quite a few pluses, and some down sides to it also and I think John has answered some of my questions during I had of this. About six months ago, there was an editorial in the Eagle about this project and I'm just wondering, is it replacing a project that's out there or had been done, the development project and now this is a redevelopment of that?"

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**Mr. Schlegel** said, “No, let me clarify something that I think many people don’t understand, that this is meant to be a plan for how the city responds to the private sector’s proposals to redevelop property in the downtown in general, but more specifically around the arena. The expectation is that the arena . . . well, in and of itself, is a major catalyst for redevelopment in this part of downtown. But it’s going to generate . . . what’s expected and what we’re seeing already is it’s going to generate other private redevelopment projects.

We’re not planning for those private redevelopment projects. We’re . . . the plan is meant to provide a guide for the city to respond to what the private sector puts forth, to give them some guidelines and some standards for appropriate responses to what the private sector puts out there.”

**Commissioner Parks** said, “Another question I had was the potential funding sources and you made it clear that they’re planning a TIF in this area and that’s one of those things that, when I look at any project, I look at what’s best for all the taxpayers in general in the county and I think some of these . . . do we have any numbers? We’re talking about \$115,000,000 if I have this correct, total with 75,000,000 for parking and 35,000,000 for street improvements.”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “Well let me clarify something on that. We were trying to identify in here as far as costs it’s up to \$32,000,000 in street improvements and up to \$75,000,000 potentially in parking improvements. Now we don’t know that we’re going to need to . . . that the city would need to spend that kind of money on improvements, but what we’re trying to do is prepare the city that it could be up to these types of amounts that would be needed in order to support the private redevelopment efforts, in terms of street improvements and parking improvements.

And the \$75,000,000 for parking is only if the city were to say ‘oh, we’ll take on all the responsibility for providing parking’ which they have not done in the past and I wouldn’t expect them to do that in the future either. I think it’s noteworthy that they’ve identified about \$62,000,000 in their CIP for that purpose. So I don’t think that the city really intends to be the sole provider of parking in the downtown. And what we’ll have to wait to see is what comes out of these private redevelopment proposals that the private sector will put forward. We just don’t know yet specifically what’s going to be proposed for those projects.

We’re trying to get the city prepared. They’re trying to get themselves prepared for what is to come, once the arena is up and running and private redevelopment moves forward. TIFs were identified as one of the potential funding sources for those street improvements and parking improvements. This is a tool that the city has used before but it’s not the only source of funding. There are other methods by which the city could do this, but right now we don’t know exactly . . .

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or the city doesn't know exactly how they would fund any given public improvement that would be needed to support a private redevelopment effort.

We do know that the . . . the city does know that it's going to have to do some street improvements in support of the first redevelopment project, which is the arena and there's already a staff group that's . . . a county/ city staff group that's working together to try to figure out exactly what street improvements are needed around the arena to support that project. And you know part of what we're doing with that whole effort is to identify how . . . what the costs of those improvements will be and then how will they be funded and that's the way we'll probably proceed with each and every redevelopment project that comes forward in this part of downtown."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "We really don't know, at this point, what impact that would have or equivalency to mill levy that we would be looking at for a TIF."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "No, and that's a function of not knowing specifically what projects are going to be proposed for the downtown."

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

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well I don't know, I'm not hearing what I'd like to hear. I always hear these same four words every time we talk about what we're going to do surrounding the arena and those four words are 'try to figure out' and we just keep trying to figure out. I think we still have the cart before the horse and it sounds to me like the arena is going to create the need for another tax increase, probably with the city. TIF is going to throw more taxes over on the other taxpayers if the downtown area is not paying their taxes in order to help them develop. \$75,000,000 for parking and I don't think we even know what that \$75,000,000 would buy, do we? I know parking along Douglas, that's a drop in the bucket compared to what we need. We're gathering research and research and this data collection just continues, and continues and continues but I'm not seeing solutions, I'm just hearing 'try to figure out'. I think what we came to the conclusion with this study . . . we have this study and then we have the parking study, and don't both of these tell us that we're totally dependent on private property owner cooperation and private investment, but have we got any contracts, have we got any promises, have we got any organization among the

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private sector? We're moving right along with this and we just don't have that in place, unless I'm missing that. Can you tell me that I'm not seeing the forest for the trees?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Well, a couple of comments, I think would be appropriate. First of all, it is a 20-year plan. We did some market analysis as part of this, trying to project out what the market might dictate would occur in that 20-year timeframe within this part of downtown, so we had a projection on the number of residential units, the amount of retail space, the amount of office space that could be expected in a city like this given this type . . . the arena as a catalyst for redevelopment.

And what you're doing is spreading . . . we're trying to get the city prepared to be able to respond to what the private sector is going to bring forward. We don't know and many of the people in the private sector don't know specifically what they will do. They'll have to respond to the market. It would be just an outrageous guess on our part to try to figure out what every property owner downtown is going to be doing over the next 20 years. All we can do is put in place the mechanisms for the city to be able to respond appropriately to the proposals that the private sector comes forward.

We do anticipate two ways in which the city could appropriately respond to those proposals would be by improving streets around a redevelopment project, many of those streets have been in place for many years, the sidewalks need improvement. The streets will have to be repaved or reconditioned in some way. Some as they are being converted from one-way to two-way will have to be . . . they'll have to be some improvements made to accommodate those changes.

And parking is the other one and the city already has some experience in working with the redevelopment of properties downtown where in order to provide for some additional public parking, which we recognize we're going to need over and above the parking that's going to be needed just for that project, it's appropriate for the city to participate as a partner in providing some of that parking.

When we say 'up to \$75,000,000' we're trying to put out that . . . for the city, to prepared yourself to perhaps have to deal with parking and that would be in a situation where the downtown just booms, goes block . . . just goes bonkers with new development and that would be a really high-class problem for the city to have to deal with, but it needs to get itself prepared to do that. I don't know exactly what the pace of redevelopment will be in downtown over the next twenty years. We've been advised by people that do this sort of thing for a living on a regular basis to expect this sort of thing to happen, because it's happened in other downtowns throughout the country, and

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especially when you have a catalyst development like a new arena come into the downtown.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well you’re going to bring all those cars from up around Britt Brown in 2009 down to Historic Old Town and so I’m just wondering what our first event there is going to provide for us. I mean, we don’t any of us seem to know.”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “Well, that’s being worked on right now. There are specific things that needs to be done to address that concern, and that’s being worked on right now.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “I’d just like to see numbers, I’d like to see ‘well, we have this many more parking areas dedicated’ and so on and so on and this business owners is going to provide his lot and so on. We don’t know who is going to provide a lot and I’d just like to see something more concrete and dependable. Sorry, but I hope that it all works out well. It needs to and I just don’t want to leave stones unturned that we should turn. Thank you.”

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

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

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, “John, is this available for public viewing on a website somewhere?”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “Yes, it’s on our website. If they go to either the Sedgwick County or City of Wichita websites and they click on planning, under the . . . there’s an advanced plans page on our website and they’ll find it there.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay, the complete document is there?”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “Correct.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. Is the steering committee still a working group?”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “No, at this point they finished their work just prior to when we presented to the planning commission in March.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. Do you think, is there any kind of implementation group that will be put together, advisory group? Do you anticipate that?”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “We were anticipating that, because this was meant to be a guidance document

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for the City of Wichita and although that's not a bad idea, maybe that's something that we could suggest to the city, that they may want to continue to work with that group, to guide the implementation of this plan."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well I just think that it probably makes sense to have a group that can continue to constantly look at this, plan, refine it, make suggestions, start to advocate for certain projects moving forward to the city council. I just know this is a pretty complicated document. I've read it three or four times in other incarnations and I have to go over it and over it and over it to be sure that I remember what is included in here because it's a lot of information. And I just think as you start interpreting that and putting it into fruition, into implementation, that maybe having a group of similar folks appointed would be a good idea.

Now obviously that's just a suggestion to the City of Wichita because it's their plan but if we're going to adopt it as part of the comprehensive plan I think I'd like to have a couple of appointees on a committee that's constantly looking at it, as opposed to just giving it up and saying, 'Okay, we endorsed it, our hands are washed clean of it'. We still have a lot of skin in the game to make sure the arena functions properly, parking and mobility is good and what happens around the arena is what we envisioned when we took the risk several years ago to bring this issue up again and let people vote on it and I think people demand that from us, to keep watching that so that what the outcome finally is in five, ten, fifteen, twenty years or whatever is really what we anticipated when people voted for this particular item.

Talk a little bit about the Commerce Park District, because of all the places that I think maybe needs a little more government influence is that. I don't know that private industry or market is going to take care of that. Art districts that I know of in most communities have artists trying to do their art, but the infrastructure, the landscaping, the streets, the wayfaring to get there almost becomes a city, county, government or other entity kind of project, as opposed to private industry is going to come in there and do something."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Well actually the feedback we get from property owners and artists that inhabit that particular district is that they want appropriate public support but they really don't want heavy-handed involvement by the city in that. They like the district the way it's evolving. It's a very eclectic mix of artists and studios and galleries, mixed in with older warehousing type of businesses and they're getting along pretty well the way things are and the message that they seem to be telling us is let's let this thing evolve. There are things that they would like to see happen there, in terms of more public spaces and I think this probably goes to what you're talking about, that the city

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could play a role in creating some more public space within that district than what you have now.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well, one of my concerns is the cobblestone walks down in there, the sidewalks, the lighting, the seating for people, that all is really more public than it is maybe private and we don’t have any of that down in there that is going to suffice for the kinds of crowds we’re going to be having downtown on event nights and event days that might want to frequent that area. I just think it’s something we need to think about embedded in this and it kind of talks about this a little bit, but I just don’t know that the private sector is going to take that over. I mean, I think they’re going to build nice studios down there for what they want. I’m not sure the surrounding area will develop without some kind of more strategic plan, just a thought.

Talk a little about corridor improvements, because one of the main things in this I believe is like the William/ English Corridor, it becomes a corridor between Century II and the new arena and it just seems like we kind of talked about that but we didn’t go into enough detail and I think that’s critical when we selected that site out of all the other sites we kept saying there’s going to be this corridor of English, from Century II to the new arena, yet I don’t see enough information in here about that.”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “Well, the plan does provide standards for how English and other streets within this plan area should be improved, provides for a cross-section for English, showing how the sidewalk should be made wider and more attractive for people that walk on that street. We would expect that the city is looking at the property that they own on the block where the Allis Hotel used to be located. That is one of the properties that the plan recommends be utilized by the city as a catalyst property for redevelopment.

And there’s some expectation that the city will put that out for proposals in the near future and I think, if that’s done, that would drive the need then for making improvements along English, along the lines that . . . the design guidelines that are suggested by this plan.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “The other thing I believe is critical before private industry gets in there, that there has to be an infrastructure that creates the image of safety and lighting, it has to do with lighting, sidewalks that you don’t trip on, that are wide enough, that have seating and I didn’t see a lot of that in here. I saw kind of plans, landscape plans for street improvements but there almost has to be a comprehensive plan. When we think we may put 15,000 people into a downtown area, one of the things I continue to hear from the public is ‘Is it going to be safe, is there going to be good lighting, are the sidewalks going to be adequate if we’re going to have to walk?’ and you know, can we walk three and four and five abreast as opposed to single-file. I don’t see that embedded in this.”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “In terms of doing it all at one time, no. It’s something that would be done in

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phases over time.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay, I’ll accept that answer I guess. Talk about signing, because I think signing downtown, with mobility and ingress/ egress and finding parking lots and being directed to those amenities that are developing down there is going to be critical and I didn’t see a real intense signing piece in here either.”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “No, it’s not . . . it doesn’t provide the kind of detail that I think you’re looking for. It’s meant to set out the standards and the guidelines for the city to follow up then with specific designs for specific streets and for a signage programs that will get people to the parking, where they need to be for the arena or for Century II or for wherever they’re going.

This is not the . . . this plan was not meant to provide for that level of detail. It’s more establishing the framework for the city to move forward with responding to redevelopment efforts. There’s a whole lot more work that the city has got to do to implement this plan.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. Talk about overlay. Do you anticipate that there will be overlays laid over parts of this like the art district or the Broadway corridor that will dictate what it’s got to look like, what the buildings will need to look like? I particularly like the Douglas Street landscape, streetscape, which should have certain kind of architecture that fits in, blends in? I know we’ve had that debate with the hotel that was going on Douglas. Is there going to be some kind of overlays? Are you going to advocate for that?”

**Mr. Schlegel** said, “Well the plan advocates for the creation of a type of overlay that the city has for Old Town, which sets some basic design parameters for new construction. So far, in the discussions we’ve had with the council, I don’t think they have an appetite right now for the creation of those overlays, and it may be that over time, that . . . and this would probably be driven more by the private sector in wanting to protect their investments within this area, asking for those types of overlays to be put in place. But right now, I don’t think the city council wants that to happen.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “It just seems to me, in some areas, it’s easier to strengthen what you can do with an overlay and soften it up than it is ever to try to tell somebody they can’t do something after they’ve started and you don’t have an overlay. It’s a little harder to do that after somebody has proposed something. It just seems like we would go the other way.

Finally, on parking, talk a little bit about that, because we’ve had our workgroup going, we’re very serious about it as the county trying to give our input on what parking should look like downtown.

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It looks like the suggestion is that the county will really be kind of out of the parking business and mobility business, but I think the public looks to us right now for leadership in making sure that that's taken care of for the arena. Now much past that there's a dialogue for the whole downtown, but I think the public still attaches parking to arena right now. Talk about some of the things we've done in the workgroup and that SMG is at the table because they have a dog in the fight too."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Well, you've said it very well. We do have an active workgroup that is trying to address both the parking, specific parking needs for the arena as an event center and as a redevelopment project. But that discussion will also then expand, I'm certain, with the city's participation in those discussions to how to address parking throughout the downtown. And that's one of the things that this plan, I think, has shown is that while it's a plan for this specific part of downtown, there really are issues that are larger and need to be addressed throughout the downtown area.

And I think this work that we're doing in this joint city/ county planning for the arena parking is kind of a model for how this is . . . the city is going to have to work in the future with other redevelopment projects. This is what we hope, what the city hopes will be the first of many redevelopment projects in downtown and it's going to have to . . . and they're recognizing that the city has to partner with those redevelopment projects, the people that move those projects forward to solve parking problems like we're trying to do with the arena parking situation. All these problems are solvable if somebody sits down and thinks them through and comes up with a plan of action.

What we can't do, in developing a plan like this, which is meant to be a framework for moving forward, is have a specific plan for everything that everybody's going to do. It was never meant to be that kind of plan. It was meant to set the stage for the city to be able to actively partner with a variety of different future partners, like the county on the arena and other private property owners and developers for other future redevelopment projects."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "That's all I have, Mr. Chairman."

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, "John, if this body doesn't pass this, it just doesn't go into the comprehensive plan and the City of Wichita still has \$62,000,000 in for the CIP for the parking. Is that correct?"

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**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Correct."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Okay. And I just had a question about the parking on Douglas. We're not talking about the back in angled parking, are we?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "No, this would be . . . what they're talking about right now is front in angled parking."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well, at one time I know they were talking about the back in angled parking."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Yeah, that idea has been kicked around but I don't think that's the plan that they're moving forward with."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "The dissenting vote at the City of Wichita, what were the . . .?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "There were two nay votes yesterday at the city council meeting. The one councilmember wanted to defer any action on it for another two weeks and wanted more information on the TIF district that the city is talking about creating for this portion of downtown and another councilmember supported him on that."

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

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well I need a level of confidence here. Let's consider opening day for the arena. Let's consider 15,000 seats full. Okay, to what percentage of confidence are we going to have on that date, by that time? Let's forget twenty years. By that time, what level of confidence do we have? Are we going to be confident of say 75% of the parking available? The rest of them will find it in outer areas or whatever. And as far as this redevelopment plan is concerned about what percentage of improvements around the arena can we expect, one to 100%? Can you give me some idea?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Well again, this plan was not meant to address that specific concern. There is an effort underway which will, I think when we're done, address that concern but if the expectation is that this plan is going to address things to that level of detail, then your . . . I think you're seeing this plan wrong. It was never intended to be that specific about where somebody was going to park on opening day of the arena. There's an effort underway now to try to get that answer and I have confidence that the group that's working on it is going to come up with something good and I'll let

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the two commissioners that are participants in that group address that but that group is working really well together. They've come up with some really good idea. There's still work to be done on that, so I don't know how much we want to get into that in detail today, but this plan can't be all things to all people, in addressing every detail about how this area is going to redevelop over the next 20 years. That would be such a bold project, I don't think we could accomplish that because we're not . . . We're not that good at seeing what's going to happen over 20 years."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "So this plan is more for the city than it is for us."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Correct."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "And we don't have that great of an investment in it or a need for it."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Well, you have the . . ."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well it seems to be right in the area where we have our . . . interest."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "I think your interest in this is in terms of what you're identifying is how will the city resolve the parking issues that people seem to be concerned about for the arena."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well, there's parking, there's safety in walking, as Commissioner Norton mentioned, and I'm just . . . I just have not yet heard what it is we can expect on opening day and how we relate to it. I mean, is there something in here that you think might reasonably be available to us then."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "I think what this plan calls for is the city to actively address those kinds of concerns so that in support of the public's investment in the arena and in Century II and Water Walk, in support of what's already been done in Old Town, I think the city has a history of being responsive. I think if you look at what they've done in Old Town, what they've been doing along the river corridor, I think that they have been trying to respond to . . . and support those types of public investments. And I think it's reasonable to expect, based on past performance, that they would do the same with the arena."

Now is there a specific plan that I can hold up and show you that 'yes, on opening day that every

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thing that you're concerned about will be addressed', I can't. I don't think . . . that's not what this plan is about."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "I don't need everything addressed, I just want to know what I can expect, I mean what level of ex . . . that's okay, thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay. Before I call on another commissioner, Mr. Manager, do you have a comment?"

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, said, "To address Commissioner Welshimer's concerns, I think it's appropriate Mr. Chairman and commissioners to indicate that we have sat with SMG. What SMG does in downtown arenas similar to this is to contract with parking lots. A big percentage of the ticket sales, all will be done by computers and when you're signing up for tickets you will sign up for a parking lot. They enter contracts with public and private parking lots and we would expect that to happen. SMG doesn't think that's going to be problem. On opening day, for 15,000 seat events, we know that shuttling will be necessary. We know that Jay Banasiak from the city has been at the meeting. He provided the shuttle service for 30,000 people to the Rolling Stones at Wichita State University campus that ran very smoothly. We have expectation that we can shuttle people from several parking lots across the river or in close, or maybe the 2,000 spaces that we have between the city and the county in these garages.

So commissioner, I think, although all the detail . . . all the 'i's have not been dotted and all the 't's have not been crossed, there's an expectation that the private sector, SMG, will retain those lots and provide parking. We know that the city is willing to allow their lots to be used for these events and we know that shuttling services are in the process of being planned."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you. Well I want to make a comment, but Commissioner Winters. . . you want to go, you want me to go? You go."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well I would like to just add here, I think we're talking about two different things. We're talking about the parking initiative that goes along with the folks who have a high level of dissatisfaction with the downtown arena and parking is a big part of that. Well I think we do have the right people at the table talking about parking and by that I mean the city manager and the county manager, both. I mean, highest level staff members, along with elected officials from each of our jurisdictions, along with our planners and then with the Metropolitan Transit Authority and SMG. So we've got the right players at the table. Do we have the final solution? No, but we and that group are working on a parking strategy.

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What we're talking about today is a planning document. It reminds me of going back to the early '90s, when we first initiated a comprehensive plan for the county and there were a lot of people that were very concerned and upset about us making a comprehensive plan for the entire county. Now as that plan outlined where we thought it would be best for heavy industrial to be, it didn't mean somebody was going to run out and build an industrial plant there tomorrow or that the city was going to do that or the county was going to do that.

So what this group has put together is a guidance document, a planning tool as developers begin to look at what they want to do in this area and what the city then wants them to do, so I mean if we're looking for that specific plan, just as we were when we looked at the comprehensive plan, it's not going to be in there. Now a planning document is just that, it's a guidance document just as our comprehensive plan is a guidance document. If something comes along that's outside the scope of what we see or what we believe needs to happen, we're able to change the comprehensive plan. We're able to work outside of those boundaries.

So you know, I guess I can see folks wanting to vote no on certain parts of the arena project, based on their dislike for the arena and based on the issues they see with parking. I would hope we could all come together on this document, because this is just the standards and guidelines of how the city is going to move forward and if something doesn't work they can change it, we can change it and we can move on but I think they've put together an excellent document. Now do I agree with every single part of it? No I don't. I think there are some things that I don't know that I would go for, but again it's a guidance document, it's not a final plan and so I would hope we could come together. I'm going to be supportive of including it in our overall, countywide comprehensive plan."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you commissioner. Mr. Parks, before I call on you, I've been biting my tongue here. I want to say first of all, I think that if we were to have 70,000 people downtown tomorrow, we would figure out a way for parking and transportation. If we were to have another large event, 30,000 or 15,000 people in the heart of downtown, we'd figure it out and we would get it done and we'd provide for it. I mean, we're not a whole bunch of stupid people here. I mean, we can figure it out. We figured it out before, we'll figure it out again.

Other communities host large events, not ongoing, and they figure out how to handle the parking. A little town of Hutchinson, Kansas holds a Senior Open and Golf Tournament. They have I don't know how many hundred thousand people go through there and the City of Hutchinson did not say 'We can't figure it out, we don't know what to do, we're not going to do it'. They figured it out. We will figure it out. I am absolutely 100% certain that, when we open our arena, there will be a parking plan and it will be sufficient and it will probably require some tweaking and some modification as we go forward, but we're committed to make it work. And we have got people working on it now and it is going to work, it's going to be good and if we have to make a change in

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the meantime, we're going to make it.

And that's just one part of this particular plan that you're presenting to us today, John and I'm not going to have any problem being supportive of this. I'm happy that the city has asked us to weigh in and be a conceptual partner with them and that's what the plan before us is. It is not a specific plan and it will change as we go along. There's a certain amount of fluidity to it. I do not think that it's a situation where, as some folks have said, we're building a spaceship in mid-flight. It's more definite than that.

We've got some ideas and concepts that we want to move forward on and I like the phraseology that was used 'the city would make strategic investment as they thought it was appropriate' but this is not an entrepreneurial plan. They're not going to go out and take control of the whole area and invest, try to make money on investments and build around that, so it requires us some patients to let the investment by the private sector happen in the area and the city will respond to that with the guidance of the plan that's before us right now. So I think it's the right way to approach it. There's one piece in there that, you know, we're paying attention to and that's the development of TIF districts. We're particularly sensitive to that right now because we know how it affects our government but it is a tool in the toolbox. It doesn't inherently imply that we're going to be favorable to every TIF district proposal, so we still have some ways to respond.

So I really think it's a good plan. I'm glad that we've been asked to be approving of it as part of the comprehensive plan and I'm ready to go forward with it. Some of the detail, specifically parking, I'm very optimistic that on that particular issue we're going to have a great plan and our citizens are going to be happy with it. With all that said, let me call on Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well I'll try to be brief on this. I have every confidence that the parking is going to proceed and the \$62,000,000 that the City of Wichita has in the CIP for that, whether this goes through or not. I'm just concerned about the implied consent if you will of the TIF in the document and the chipping away of the total tax base and that's all I'll say."

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well I understand that you're saying this is a guidance document, that it's not specific, and yet the recommended action for it is 'to adopt the Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan as an amendment to the Wichita/ Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan'. That sounds pretty definite to me. And so I still, you know, have concerns that aren't met."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, any other comment, question, observation?"

### MOTION

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Commissioner Winters moved to adopt the Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan as an amendment to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan, and adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you. We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion?"

**Mr. Richard Euson**, County Counselor, said, "Mr. Chairman, does that motion include the modifications made by the City of Wichita on November 6<sup>th</sup>?"

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well I meant it to intend to . . . my motion was to approve the document as it was brought before us, which my understanding is that the one that's been through the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission with the two, I believe, amendments that the City of Wichita has added to that."

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "And the resolution specifically addresses that in the last 'whereas'."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you for that clarification. Any other question or discussion? Hearing none, Madam Clerk call the vote."

**VOTE**

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

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Mr. Chairman, the 3-2 vote, then that motion would fail because it would require a two-thirds super majority, since the modifications were made to the planning commission recommendation. It requires a two-thirds to override the original recommendation by the planning commission."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right. So that's essentially as if we took no action, because we didn't defeat it either. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Correct."

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**Chairman Unruh** said, "So in order to then advance this, what is the process that needs to occur? I mean, . . . does it have to start all over? Yes, Commissioner Winters."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Can we ask that this be re-sent to the Metropolitan Planning Commission for their reconsideration?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "That would be an option that you have."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Of those two amendments?"

**Mr. Schlegel** said, "Correct."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Can we do that subsequent to the vote we just took? Commissioner Winters, I am open to the motion."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well I'm just trying to think how I want to craft my motion because I think I would like the Metropolitan Planning Commission to reconsider it and then come back with a recommendation to us, including those two, and I'm just trying to think whether I want to include that motion to include more of the comprehensive plan, because it seems to me like we have somehow gotten tangled up with what a comprehensive plan is about and what a planning document for implementation of specific projects is.

And so I would like for the planning commission to come back with something that would reinforce our commitments to comprehensive plans, or maybe we need to cancel our entire comprehensive plan about how we think about countywide zoning issues and all of the things that the plan really speaks to. But maybe that's just asking for more than we really need at this time."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Well, I would suggest that we don't need to review the entire concept of the comprehensive plan, so I would prefer that you didn't put that in a motion."

**Commissioner Winters** said, "Well I won't put that in my motion, but I'm having difficulty of determining what our opposition is to planning."

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Winters moved to that the commission ask the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission to reexamine this document in light of the two amendments that the City of Wichita has made and make a new recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

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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	No
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Okay, Mr. Schlegel, with that motion you have the direction you need to proceed. All right, very good. Thank you for the presentation and your forbearance. Madam Clerk, next item please.”

**NEW BUSINESS**

- F. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF THE HAWKER BEACHCRAFT CORPORATION WICHITA AND SALINA, KANSAS FACILITIES AS A SINGLE SUBZONE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE NUMBER 161 INCLUDING AN APPROVAL FOR A REQUEST FOR MANUFACTURING AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZING THE FTZ 161 ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE REQUIRED APPLICATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE BOARD.**

**Mr. Sherdeill H. Breathett, Sr.**, Economic Developer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We were granted the Foreign Trade Zone in 1988 and as a result of that we established a general purpose zone for warehousing and subsequently to that, we have now had an addition through a bond remodification brought on another warehousing location with United Warehouse and then we have two sub-zones, which are special purchase . . . special purpose zones that is a part of 161 Foreign Trade Zones, so as Sedgwick County as the grantee for this zone, we’re excited that we

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have done a number of marketing initiatives to inform other companies and corporations of the benefits and the cost-savings benefits as being a part of the foreign trade zones. As a result of those initiatives, we have been in conversation with Raytheon Corporation, who is now Hawker Beechcraft, and they have at this time submitted an application for Hawker Beechcraft to become a single sub-zone site for their manufacturing location here in Wichita, as well as their location in Salina, Kansas.

As a leader in business and special mission in trainer aircraft, designing, marketing and supported aviation products and services for businesses, governments and individuals worldwide, I refer to them as HBC, currently maintains 25 to 35% of the world market for these customized aircrafts, exporting approximately 50% of its production. Recent inroads by foreign based manufacturers or competition have caused HBC to seek ways to minimize its cost of doing business and maintaining manufacturing operations within the United States.

Participation in the foreign trade zone program would allow HBC to minimize U.S. duties on imported electronic and other purchased components used in the production of the aircraft of the U.S. market service of the same supplies as its foreign-based competition and it would eliminate U.S. duty on imported components used exported components used in exporting aircraft, consolidated fees associated with the processing a required import documentation and improve its logistics flow to minimize its in-transit time between suppliers and HBC.

These savings attributable to participation in the Foreign Trade Zone program, in conjunction with other cost savings measures being considered and implemented at HBC will allow the company to continue to maintain its competitive edge in the global marketplace and sustain its current level of employment and investment in the United States. It would be our desire and recommendation to approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of transmittal and with me in attendance this morning is Kathleen Murphy who is a representative for the Hawker Beechcraft, along with Kent Barnes who is an employees with Hawker Beechcraft who would be willing to respond to any questions that you might have as well.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Thank you Sherdeill. Commissioners, are there any questions or comments of either Sherdeill or the Hawker Beechcraft representatives? I don’t seeing anyone requesting to speak.”

### **MOTION**

Chairman Unruh moved to approve the Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign the Letter of Transmittal.

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Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Thank you, appreciate your being here at the ready. Madame Clerk, next item please.”

**G. SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT WITH PAPA JOHNS PIZZA FOR ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT THE KANSAS COLISEUM.**

**Mr. Dave Rush**, Interim Director, Kansas Coliseum, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is a renewal with Papa John’s for their signage lease space up there at the Coliseum and also the rights to be a third-party concessionaire serving the pizza up there. I’d be happy to answer any questions.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, thank you Dave. Commissioners, is there any questions about this agreement? Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “This is just a renewal of an agreement that we’ve had with them for years.”

**Mr. Rush** said, “Yes, we’ve had this agreement with them of six or eight years or more.”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

**Chairman Unruh** said, "We have a motion and a second. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "The length of the contract, is that going to get into any kind of situation with SMG or . . ."

**Mr. Rush** said, "No commissioner, this is for a two-year which will take us up within months of the new arena opening. And at that time, SMG would be doing whatever they want to do down there."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Okay, thank you. That's it."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you. Any other comment or question? We have a motion and a second before us. Madam Clerk, call the vote please."

**VOTE**

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

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

**H. REORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY COUNSELOR'S OFFICE.**

**OVERHEAD PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Richard Euson**, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, before you is a current organizational structure of the county counselor's office. The county

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counselor's office consists of eight attorney positions and six support staff positions and of those six, part of those are devoted to the function of supporting the county court clerk. This comes to you in order for us to replace capacity that we have lost due to the untimely death of Ed Randals. And the primary goal is to replace that capacity. There's also a secondary goal to establish a sole deputy position in the office and to promote one support staff position.

We thought that we might go ahead and ask that we do this all at once and you will see that from what's existing now, the proposal is to make it into the configuration that is before you on the screen now and we will fill, if you approve this, we will of course fill that chief attorney position as soon as we possibly can.

This has the affect of making three promotions within the department and it does so at a slight savings in 2008 to the personnel budget of the county counselor's office and that information is contained on page 206 of your backup. So this is recommended by Human Resources and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Thank you Rich. Commissioners, do you have any questions or comments to Mr. Euson about the reorganization of the county counselor's office? Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "I've studied this and went over this with Rich at detail and applaud him in his in fact savings of doing the reorganization."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Parks moved to approve the Reorganization.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

**Chairman Unruh** said, "We have a motion and a second to approve the reorganization. Any further discussion or comment? I think that means that you've done a good job of briefing us, Mr. Euson, so Madam Clerk, call the vote."

**VOTE**

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye

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Chairman Unruh

Aye

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

**DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- COMCARE**

**I. AMENDMENT #1 TO GRANT WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF UNINSURED AND INVOLUNTARILY ADMITTED CLIENTS TO VIA CHRISTI HOSPITAL.**

**Ms. Marilyn Cook**, Director, Comprehensive Community Care, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's a mouthful for her to say that. Actually, late last year, Via Christi gave SRS 60-day written notice that they would no longer accept involuntary uninsured patients at their inpatient facility at the Good Shepard campus here in Wichita.

After quite a bit of discussion, over a very short period of time, an agreement was reached between SRS and Via Christi for SRS to pay for involuntary, uninsured patients who stay at Via Christi, when the state hospital, Osawatomie State Hospital and Larned State Hospital facilities were full, which had been happening very frequently up to that point over last summer. So we entered this agreement with them and then this summer, the agreement was also reached to have SRS pay Via Christi for patients, these patients who started off on a voluntary status at Via Christi and then changed to an involuntary status, if it were determined that they need only a couple of days to stabilize, rather than midway through their hospitalization ship them off to one of the state hospitals.

While the agreement is between SRS and Via Christi, the state couldn't put a contract together in a timely way when all of this was unfolding and there were serious consequences to the number of individuals who would have been sent to the state hospital had something not been resolved. So SRS added funds to our agreement with them, our big contract which we call our participating mental health agreement contract. This amendment puts up to \$200,000 more money into our contract with them to pay for these involuntary patients that are treated at Via Christi and it also pay, as you can see, a fee for the folks that come into the emergency room, are determined to be

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involuntary uninsured patients and it pays an assessment fee to the emergency room. So this is not COMCARE money. It's money that's coming from the state to Via Christi. We review the data each month, after we get clean bills, and then pay from that. We recommend that you approve the amendment and I would be happy to address any questions you might have on it."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you Marilyn. The amount of funds that they're adding to our contract, obviously you think that that will be sufficient to keep us from any financial liability."

**Ms. Cook** said, "Yes, it's more than sufficient and in fact, our agreement with them is that we will not pay Via Christi anything until that money is in our account. We are not going to put any county funds in this and as a result of that, there's been a delay of the billing even from the stays from July, since we've not had the money in there. So yes, we do not jeopardize our county funds at all with this."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay. Well it seems like a tangled up problem."

**Ms. Cook** said, "Very much."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "This is a way at least to address the needs of those individuals and put the financial responsibility where it belongs."

**Ms. Cook** said, "Absolutely."

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Amendment 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

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Commissioner Welshimer           Aye  
Chairman Unruh                    Aye

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

**DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- DEPARTMENT ON AGING**

**J. FISCAL YEAR 2008 AMERICANS ACT TITLE III B VENDOR AGREEMENTS.**

- **ADVANTAGE HOME CARE INC.**
- **AFFORD-A-CARE, INC.**
- **ALL SAINT'S HOMECARE, INC.**
- **ASSOCIATED HOME CARE**
- **COMMUNITY CARE CONNECTION**
- **HOME HEALTHCARE CONNECTION**
- **MT. HOPE HOME HEALTH CARE**
- **PROACTIVE HOME CARE, INC.**
- **PROGRESSIVE HOME HEALTH**
- **RIGHT AT HOME**
- **SAINT RAPHAEL HOME CARE, INC.**
- **SENIOR SERVICES, INC.**

**Ms. Monica Cissell**, Program Manager, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today I have twelve 2008 Older Americans Act Title 3-B vendor contracts for these providers to provide in-home services.

The Older Americans Act 3-B in-home services are provided by area home health agencies for residents of Sedgwick, Harvey and Butler Counties who are 60 years of age and older that are in need of attendant care, homemaker services and respite care. These services allow these older adults to remain in their home and in their environment of choice.

These contracts are fee-for-service contracts and the providers are paid based on set rates by the Kansas Department on Aging. Approximately 70 older adults are served under these contracts. I would be glad to answer any questions if you have any."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Yes we do have. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Is this a full list of all the contracts or are there more to come before

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us later?”

**Ms. Cissell** said, “I am understanding that this is the full list.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “This is the full list, okay. In the past, we’ve had some that dribbled in later that we had to deal with.”

**Ms. Cissell** said, “I believe for these in-home service agreements, these are all the contracts.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay.”

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**K. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS’ REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 1, 2007.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The meeting of November 1<sup>st</sup> results in eight items for consideration today.”

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- 1) CHANGE ORDER #4 FOR JUVENILE COURT AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY REMODEL- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
FUNDING: FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

The first item, change order number four for juvenile court and District Attorney remodel for Facilities Projects. Recommendation is to accept the change order and modify the contract with National Contractors in the amount of \$153,426.

- 2) CHANGE ORDER #5 ADDITION OF CLASSROOM SPACE FOR JUVENILE COURT AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY REMODEL- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
FUNDING: FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Item two, change order number five, the addition of classroom space for juvenile court and District Attorney remodel for Facilities Department. Recommendation is to accept the change order and modify the contract with National Contractors in the amount of \$239,822, subject to available funding and that request is item two of the consent agenda today.

- 3) FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM CLEAN AND FLUSH FOR ADULT DETENTION FACILITY- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
FUNDING: RENOVATE SPRINKLER SYSTEM- ADULT DETENTION**

Item three, fire sprinkler system clean and flush for the adult detention facility for Facilities Department. Recommendation is to accept the proposal from Whitewater Fire Sprinkler in the amount of \$367,131 to evaluate and clean the system, to establish unit pricing for piping and give staff authority to replace any pipe needed during the course of the project.

- 4) COUNTRACTING SERVICES FOR SAP BW ETL- ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING  
FUNDING: POST SAP IMPLEMENTATION**

Item four, contracting services for SAP BW ETL for Enterprise Resource Planning Department. Recommendation is to accept the proposal of Eifer IT, LLC and establish hourly contract pricing for an estimated cost of \$100,800.

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**5) E-RECORDING SOFTWARE- REGISTER OF DEEDS  
FUNDING: E-RECORDING PROJECT**

Item five, e-recording software for the Register of Deeds. Recommendation is to accept the quote from Computer Information Concepts and execute a contract for an initial purchase of \$9,940 which includes first-year maintenance and support and establish two years maintenance cost of \$16,000 for a total three-year cost of \$25,940.

**6) COLOR COPIER- COMCARE  
FUNDING: COMCARE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT**

Item six, the color copier for COMCARE and the item was presented as sole-source to bid board. Bid board's recommendation is to bid the item to see if the bid process nets more vendors for a different result.

**7) STORAGE TEK V960 REPLACEMENT DISK- DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS  
FUNDING: DIVISION OF INFORMATION & OPERATIONS**

Item seven, Storage Tek V960 replacement disk for the Division of Information and Operations. Recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Open Technologies, option two, and execute a contract for initial purchase of \$75,365.40 and establish a total three-year cost of \$101,746.20.

**8) ENVIRONMENTAL METAL ANALYZER- FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER  
FUNDING: JAG 07 UPGRADE TECHNOLOGY**

And item eight, environmental metal analyzer for Forensic Science Center and the recommendation is to accept the low bid from Thermo Fisher Niton Analyzers in the amount of \$29,995.

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Thank you Iris. We do have a question. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “I do have some questions.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts items 3 through 8, so there could be discussion on items 1 and 2 separately.

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Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, we have a motion and a second and on that motion is there any discussion. I would have one question on item three, Iris. We sent that request to ten vendors and not too many responded and a couple didn't have bids. Can you tell me . . . we're still comfortable with that bid?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "Yes we are and this vendor, as it turns out, did the original installation back in the 80s. In checking with the vendors, the biggest issue with this project was the time that was going to be required, the resources to be on-site to handle the project."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, but we think that's a reasonable bid in light of all the circumstances."

**Ms. Baker** said, "We do."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right, thank you. Is there any other question or comment, commissioners? We have a motion to approve items three through eight on the bid board. Madam Clerk, call the vote."

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Now we're open for discussion on items one and two. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well I'd just like to have a little more dialogue. These are both change orders for our juvenile court and district remodel and the classroom space at the juvenile court. The classroom is a change order and it's an addition to be able to provide a classroom, but I think at those dollar amounts we should have more discussion and maybe have Steve come up and give us a little overview of where the money is being spent and what the rationale was for these

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change orders, since it is a pretty good amount of money and it is a change order as opposed to new information.”

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

**Mr. Steve Claassen**, Facilities Director, Facilities Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Change order number four is . . . I’ve briefed you on this but I understand that this is something we need to explain a bit more in detail, is a compilation of 15 items that’s really driven primarily by security issues that have been identified in the juvenile court and the juvenile district attorney’s portion of the building that is currently being constructed.

There was the realization that the way the building would be operated and processed, there’s a need for additional cameras that would permit some of the district attorney’s assistant and clerical staff to remotely people that are in the public areas and permit them access into the buildings, issues with judges identifying the need to restrict people in the court from moving through, into the restricted portions of the building, so hardware changes were made in those areas.

In the District Attorney’s areas there was a portion of the building three years ago, when this building was programmed and designed, that was designed for future space and in that three years since there’s been additional need for that space and so that previously identified future space is now going to be developed, and so that is a portion of what this change order includes.

We had several door changes. As I said, the design for this building was done three years ago, and so there’s a lot of water that’s been under the bridge that is now identified and this is a refinement of that. So that’s change order number four.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Before we get off of that one, let’s resolve this one. You’ve taken this to the District Attorney’s Office and their staff and to the administrative judge, Judge Burgess and really understand that this is what they would like in that facility? They’ve had some pretty poor facilities for quite a few years. This gets them to a new, upgraded facility that meets all their needs for security and safety and use-ability.”

**Mr. Claassen** said, “That’s exactly right. Our staff has spent a lot of time with both Judge Burgess and Nola Foulston and they feel very passionately that these items that have been identified on this list are necessary and it’s our feeling that this is the appropriate time to get that done. Now we have the contractor on site, it will be more economical to do those things today than to try to re-view these things years from now and try to get them improved at some later time.”

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**Commissioner Norton** said, "That's all I have on Item 1."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, we have more comment. We planned for the future and the future is upon us. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Well speaking about that, on future projects, i.e. a courtroom in the jail or things like we've discussed like that, I think it's imperative with RFPs that we get an architect that has significant experience in corrections get on board those people early, like the judges and the other people that will be using the facility. That's a comment that I have. Thanks."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "All right. I don't see any more requests to speak on this. Do you want to go ahead and talk about change order number five?"

**Mr. Claassen** said, "I can talk about change order number five. I think I'm going to invite Bob Lamkey to talk about change number five. He's spoken with you about this particular change order before and probably can identify that better."

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

**Mr. Bob Lamkey**, Director, Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, "If you'll recall, earlier in the year we all took a field trip down to the juvenile residential facility. One of the values and services that we provide for those juveniles that are in our custody and care is continuity of education. We do that at the boy's ranch in a classroom. We do that in the juvenile detention facility in a classroom, but as you observed, we have been providing educational services for a relatively small number, eight to twelve folks in our custody that are unable to be served in the school district. Most of the folks in the juvenile residential facility get on a bus and they go to their local schools, but there's a segment of the population, because of the nature of their infractions, are unable to do that. And we were serving that group in a commons area which was subject to folks moving back and forth and not creating a particularly good classroom environment. That became an issue for the school district in looking at how the service was provided and really should be an issue for us in creating that classroom environment and that space for kids to learn.

So as we looked at this process, we felt it important that we do provide that classroom to provide that space and that's what this particular change order is about. We looked at where we could do this and there was an opportunity to connect to an area that's going to be part of the District

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Attorney's space to add a classroom, to use a common corridor that has access to a preexisting bathrooms in that process, and so that's what this was really to do. This change order is to provide that classroom so we can provide the same level of education to the group of kids that have to stay with us in the juvenile residential facility, as we provide to those that are in the detention facility and at the boy's ranch."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Bob, are we mandated by the state or anyone to provide that opportunity for incarcerated juveniles?"

**Mr. Lamkey** said, "Rich, I think you were going to . . ."

**Mr. Euson** said, "I would be glad to try to answer that. The school district is required to educate those who are enrolled and we are required to house those whom we house and so there's really no specific requirement, but in order for the school district to fulfill its responsibilities, it needs to be an appropriate space and so by implication I guess there is probably some duty upon us to provide appropriate space and work with the school district to determine what that is, whether it's a cafeteria or classroom."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "So it's really implied. There's 'a' and 'b' and 'a' plus 'b' equals 'c'. Okay, so we're not mandated by law but the school is and we're mandated to incarcerate those folks, so for the two twains to meet, you have to provide space. Is that correct?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "That's the way I have analyzed it anyway, yes."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Okay. Well, we just have discussions about change orders and you know, I don't know any of us like it when you have change orders, but I think there needs to be a dialogue and a discussion and an understanding of why sometimes change orders are appropriate and why we have to do it, even though with the best planning in our facilities that sometimes in the process some things change and we have to make decisions of whether it's appropriate or not. Pretty high ticket items, I wanted to be sure we had some dialogue as a commission. That's all I've got, Mr. Chairman."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, well I think it should be pointed out that the cumulative total for all the change orders is still less than 5% of the project. Is that correct, Iris?"

**Ms. Baker** said, "Yes, I believe you're correct."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "And on a complicated project like that, although we don't look forward to change orders, that is really pretty good performance. Commissioners, are there any other comments or questions on items number one and two of the Board of Bids and Contracts? What's

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the will of the board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve items one and two of the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**L. CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. MAPD Case Number CUP2006-46 (Associated with ZON2006-45)- Extension of time to complete platting requirement for a zone change from “SF-20” Single-family Residential to “LC” Limited Commercial; generally located on the northwest corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Street North and 159<sup>th</sup> Street East. District #1.**
- 2. Amendment the 2007 Capital Improvement Program to increase funding for the Construction Juvenile Residential Facility Classroom Project.**
- 3. Establish budget authority for the purchase of three sand spreader units for recently upgraded tandem axle dump trucks.**

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- 4. Cereal Malt Beverage License for Quick Trip West, Store #392.**
- 5. Order dated October 31, 2007 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 6. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of October 31 – November 6, 2007.**

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it and remind you that there are only 54 more days until the sales tax goes away.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Unruh** said, “Commissioners, we’re at the end of the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and before I adjourn this meeting and go to the Fire District meeting, is there anything else you would like to bring before the commission? Commissioner Parks.”

**M. OTHER**

## Regular Meeting, November 7, 2007

**Commissioner Parks** said, "I've had quite a few contacts from people in a subdivision near Valley Center about flood control and I just wanted to tell them that we are working on the problem and dealing with some pipelines and there were some new boundaries drawn there and we're finding whose property it is the City of Valley Center's and whose responsibility is the Wichita/ Valley Center Flood Control, so just wanted them to publicly know that we're working with the Engineering Department and Flood Control."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Last evening I was at Exploration Place for a dialogue with about 50 youth on race and race reconciliation and what it means to them and what their interpretation of race is and it was stimulating to hear young people engaged in a dialogue and it was also stimulating to see them respond to this race exhibit that we have and what their thoughts were about how that figures in to society today and how it affects their lives, so I would urge people to stop by Exploration Place and enlighten yourself a little bit about how race is figured into the fabric of our community and our history in the United States, from not only its scientific perspective, but a social and economic perspective. It's pretty empowering."

And then finally, Sunday is Veterans' Day. I think a lot of celebrations are on Saturday. I would urge people to honor our veterans, men and women that have served our country valiantly for many generations and since we are at war now, that memorial, that thought process, that celebration goes for the young men and women that are in harm's way every day protecting our freedom, so 11<sup>th</sup> day, 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, Veterans' Day. That's all I have."

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well the property tax bills are being mailed out I believe this week and I just wanted to mention that there was no mill levy increase but that increased for increased valuation is on those bills that did have an increase in valuation. But there's a new state tax change for the Homestead and many of the taxpayers that didn't qualify for the Homestead, which would be about \$700 in reduction in their property taxes, will now qualify because Social Security is not going to be considered in that. You don't have to add that to your income when you try to qualify for the Homestead tax rebate."

**Chairman Unruh** said, "Okay, thank you very much. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "I just wanted to echo the sentiments, since we're not going to have another meeting between now and then for Veterans' Day and to honor the veterans. Also, I did receive a few calls last week about the TV and I'm sure that our staff is working on that. The KPTS and Cox and what's going on there and some more information on if the people that are on antenna

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are going to be able to continue to receive live KPTS coverage of our meetings.”

**Chairman Unruh** said, “All right, thank you commissioner. I don’t see anyone else asking to speak, so at this time I will adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.”

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

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

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**DAVID M. UNRUH**, Chairman  
First District

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**TIM R. NORTON**, Commissioner  
Second District

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**THOMAS G. WINTERS**, Commissioner  
Third District

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**KELLY PARKS**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

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**GWEN WELSHIMER**, Commissioner,  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Don Brace**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2007