

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF FIRE DISTRICT #1**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Tim R. Norton; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Kelly Parks; Commissioner Gwen Welshimer; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Douglas King, Records Manager/Freedom of Information Officer, Division of Information Operations; Mr. Bob Lamkey, Director, Public Safety; Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief; Ms. Melissa Thompson, Records Management, Division of Information and Operations; and Ms. Kristi Vermillion, Deputy County Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

**Chairman Winters** said, "Again, Commissioner Welshimer is not at the meeting today as she is attending a funeral."

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Fire District Meeting August 13, 2008

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioners, you have had an opportunity to review those minutes, what is the will of the Board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the minutes of the Fire District Meeting of August 13, 2008.

Commissioner seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RECOGNITION OF SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1 FOR ACHIEVING RE-ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION OF 6 FIRE OFFICERS FOR EARNING THEIR PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION.**

**Mr. Bob Lamkey**, Director, Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am exceedingly proud to be here before you today to recognize Sedgwick County Fire District #1 for achieving reaccreditation and to recognize six Fire Officers for earning their professional designation. As you know about five years ago the Fire District was first accredited and that is a process that is extremely rigorous. There is a process by which there is a self-assessment and 10 criteria areas with 45 subcategories ranging from governance to finances to the operational functions of the organization so it’s an extremely thorough process and that’s followed by an onsite assessment of the organization to a very, very detailed level by a group of peer evaluators from the Fire service. Each subsequent year the Fire District had to submit an update on the things that they were working on and the efforts to continuously improve and this past year they had to go through the process again of making sure that the ducks were lined up and engaging in, again a very rigorous evaluation. I am pleased to say that they were honored on August 14<sup>th</sup> at an award banquet at the International Fire Chief’s Association Conference for their reaccreditation. This is a reflection of the leadership of the organization and the commitment of the folks that are in it. This is not a requirement for this service; this is something that they chose to do. They chose to hold themselves to a higher level in this process. Today there are only 128 fire organizations worldwide that have achieved this, this level. So with that I would like to show you the plaque that they have and acknowledge the Fire Chief for leading this effort but again this is a significant effort by the men and women of the Fire District to bring this all off, he just gets to stand in the front and take the accolades for all those folks. Chief, do you have the plaque? This is the second plaque and this will hang in a very proud place at our new Fire Station 37 up in Park City and so Chief we will let you say a few words about that process and I would mention too that our Assistant County Manager, Ron Holt, is the newest Commissioner on the Commission for Fire Accreditation International. He represents counties on behalf of the ICMA to that process and he got an opportunity to see the caliber of the organizations that submit themselves to this process and so Chief I will let you say a few words and then...”

**Mr. Gary Curmode**, Fire Chief, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Again it was an honor to be on the podium with the rest of the members of our accreditation team in Denver and also Ron Holt was able to come up and be there in our final pictures that were taken after we received the award so again Mr. Holt thank you very much for being there. To have the support of our Commissioners and our Manager and his staff, and again my immediate boss, Bob Lamkey, for the men and women of our Fire District is tremendous. We had that, the first time we went through the accreditation it took us two years and nine months. This one was an ongoing that we turn in an annual compliance

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report each year. You have to show how much you have complied with, there are strategic recommendations and there are specific recommendations, performance indicators if you will, over that time and I gladly say that we accomplished almost all of them, out of 16 we had 15 of them accomplished. So those are ongoing things we set to help in our strategic plan and our goal setting.

Again, the credit goes to the men and women of our District. We set up 10 categories and were combined with management in our local 2612 personnel and we reviewed each of the categories, checked the tentacle competencies of it, the writing, made sure we were doing what we say we are doing and that is what the team coming in, basically is there to do that. The team leader was from Lynchburg, VA, very qualified Captain and then he had other people from Illinois, Ohio, and Colorado and so again we had a wide spectrum of professionals to review us. Our team Accreditation manager is Bryan Ellis, he is a Captain and the reason he is not here today, he is at home and they had an appointment to landscape his yard today, so in the rain he is there doing it. He said he again apologizes for not being here but he already had that set up about a month ago. Our Assistant Accreditation Manager was Captain Dave Edwards and again Dave is at the National Fire Academy getting additional advance training in our fire house software and data process for the fire service, so we have accurate data which is so critical to this process. So again, thank you for your support and I want to again thank all the men and women of the Sedgwick County Fire District #1 for the team coming together to get this information together to kind of a snapshot in time and we kind of took a month off and now we are starting again. We are meeting on a monthly basis to continue this process to make sure it stays up to date because every 18 months to 24 months they give a new addition that we have to comply with, some higher set performance benchmarks. So again, Commissioners, thank you very much and I will turn it back to Mr. Lamkey.”

**Mr. Lamkey** said, “Commissioners, another element of this process and another part that the CFAI has developed are professional designations for Fire officers. This process is not just about the operational component but it is about demonstrating and continuing to develop the skills that it takes to be a Chief officer in the fire service today and that is a very broad range. Everything from HR issues to Finance issues to operating successfully in the fire ground. Today in this world there are 602 folks that have achieved that designation, 7 of them work for you in Sedgwick County Fire District. A number of them achieved their initial designation or redesignation. The designation is good for three years. The requirement is to demonstrate that element of continuous professional growth and achievement in order to maintain it. With us today we have Division Chiefs, Terry Mauldin, who is achieving his designation for the third time and Division Chief, Doug Williams, who is achieving it for his second time. So guys if you could stand up and say hi. Not with us today are Captain Tavis Leake, who achieved it for the first time and he is at an all day training class today, again part of that process; Captain Dave Edwards, who achieved it for the first time and as Chief mentioned he is at the National Fire Academy this week for advance training. We had two folks who were part of a cadre, the initial cadre of a new designation for the first time this year and that is the designation of Chief Medical Officer and Captain Don Paget who is the EMSS or their Medical Captain and Don is working today, he is teaching a class all day today so he is contributing

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back to the Fire District and Division Chief, Buddy Pressnell, who is on a well earned vacation but they were really two of nine in a beta test and two of 21 to be recognized for this very first time at this conference so again I would suggest to you that this is an organization that does not have to do this, this is not required of these individuals but the values and commitment to this organization from top to bottom, from firefighter to the Chief are such that we are going to examine ourselves, we are going to achieve, we are going hold ourselves accountable, not only to the citizens here but to the benchmarks established by the professional community.

I want to thank today, we've got Firefighter Dave Thompson, who is also our Union President here today and Lieutenant Rich Johnny, who are here to help us recognize this achievement and as you know both of them were involved in an on duty vehicle accident in which their vehicle turned over and I am very thankful that they are here with us today, with the exception of a couple of bumps and bruises. It continues to remind us that the work that these individuals do has its dangers, as careful as we are, sometimes things happen and I think you may have the pictures of that circulating up there some place and thank heavens for seatbelts and I am glad you guys are fine and smiling. So with that Commissioners I would recommend you receive and file this report."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Alright thank you very much Bob. We certainly will receive and file with congratulations. Just a couple of points; one, we do appreciate the work that all of our employees go above and beyond and then my wife and I had been out of town and hadn't been home long and saw on the news this picture of a Squad on its top and thought immediately, what about the folks that were inside and just a few seconds later you both popped up on the screen talking so I thought if they are up talking they hopefully are alright but again another example of why your jobs are not safe jobs. They are jobs that you are put at risk in attempting to serve our constituents and we appreciate that very much and again to the management team, we appreciate the whole organization to be the very best they can be. A lot of times it is easy to sit back and say we do a pretty good job, we think we are pretty good and let it go with that but with these continuous reaccreditations and continuous learning and training we are all better here at Sedgwick County because of that. Commissioner Parks?"

**Commissioner Parks** said, "I would like to commend the officers and staff of the Fire Department, in fact the entire Fire Department but in particular I did want to speak a little bit to the goals. You've set some higher goals then some of the other departments our size and I think that is an important part of leadership that you have done in setting those goals and it goes back and reflects back to what Commissioner Winters said about having one of the better departments around and I won't rehash a lot of this other stuff but setting goals in any organization is good and you have set a high one and you have achieved those and congratulations."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Alright thank you very much."

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**MOTION**

Chairman Winters moved to receive and file with congratulations to all Fire District #1 employees in recognition of this reaccreditation.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**B. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF FIRE DISTRICT #1 RECORDS (DISP 2008-15-62 PS-FIRE) 1952-2004.**

**Ms. Melissa Thompson**, Records Management, Division of Information and Operations, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am presenting today a Records Disposal case for Fire District #1. Two weeks ago you approved a resolution that established a Records Management Policy for the Fire District. This policy allows the Records Management Team to effectively manage this Fire District's records through their life cycle. The disposal you have before you consists of 281 boxes that have all gone through the values process and for administrative, legal, fiscal and historical value. This disposal eliminates the need to store Fire District records off site and there are eight pallets of these records currently stored in the Courthouse Records Center and freeing up this space would allow us to accept records from other County departments for storage. At this time I would ask that you approve the resolution and instruct the Fire Chief and the Records Manager to destroy these records and if you have any questions I would be happy to answer them."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Parks moved to approve the resolution and direct the Fire Chief and the

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Records Manager to destroy the records.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

**C. OTHER**

**Chairman Winters** said, “Again Rich and Dave we are very thankful that you guys survived that accident.”

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

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

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

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

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**DAVID M. UNRUH**, Commissioner,  
First 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:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2008

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