

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**March 12, 2008**

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, March 12, 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; Ms. Jo Templin, Director, Human Resources; Mr. Gary H. Jarchow, Deputy Trustee, Court Trustee's Office; Mr. Rick G. Williams, Fire Division Chief, Fire District #1; Mr. James R. Woods, Major, Sheriff's Department; Mr. Richard Vogt, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Operations; Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Director, Human Services; Ms. Joell Dunham, Supervisor of Horticulture, Sedgwick County Zoo; Colonel Robert Hinshaw, Undersheriff, Sheriff's Department; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Ms. Chris Morales, Systems Integration Coordinator, Department of Corrections; Ms. Charlene Stevens, Assistant County Manager; Ms. Diane Gage, Director, Emergency Communication; Mr. Jim Weber, P.E., Deputy Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

### **GUESTS**

Mr. Kevin Fish, ARK of Sedgwick County, representative of ACT.

Luke McCrew, Consumer, CDDO Services.

Ms. Janet Miller, taskforce member, Taskforce to End Chronic Homelessness.

Mr. Jack Focht, taskforce member, Taskforce to End Chronic Homelessness.

Ms. Mary K. Vaughn, City of Wichita.

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Mr. Brad Snapp.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

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**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting, February 27, 2008

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2008.

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioners, you've had a chance to review those minutes. What's the will of the board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2008.

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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, "Next item."

**PROCLAMATION**

**A. PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 2008 AS "MENTAL RETARDATION AWARENESS MONTH."**

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioners, we have a proclamation for your consideration."

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**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, ACT of South Central Kansas (Advocates in Communities Team) along with numerous agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities, is making a concerted effort in 2008 to bring awareness of the needs and abilities of individuals with mental retardation in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, mental retardation is a condition that affects more than 12,000 Sedgwick County children, adults and their families, many of whom wait on long lists for needed services and support; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness and education enhance a community's understanding of issues affecting people with mental retardation; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of March has been designated National Mental Retardation Awareness Month and thousands of social service agencies serving millions across our nation will be undertaking public awareness initiatives.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Tom Winters, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March, 2008 as

**'Mental Retardation Awareness Month'**

In Sedgwick County and call upon all Sedgwick County citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental retardation and the need where it is appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental retardation to live full, productive lives within our community.

Dated March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Commissioners, that is the proclamation. What is the will of the Board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Parks moved to adopt the Proclamation.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

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### VOTE

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

**Chairman Winters** said, “And here with us today is Kevin Fish and I believe someone else, so Kevin if you would introduce yourself and your partner, please make a few comments.”

**Mr. Kevin Fish**, The ARK of Sedgwick County, Representative with ACT, greeted the Commissioners and said, “And here with me today is Luke McCrew, one of our self-advocates. Many time ACT has come and shared with you some of the challenges and stuff that we face through the agencies in our community, but today I wanted to bring one of our success stories with us.

When Luke’s family moved to our community about ten years ago, they came from Minnesota where there were no services, there weren’t support, there weren’t opportunities like he found here in Sedgwick County. Through the support of the CDDO, he has been able to find great success in the community. He has his own job. He’s been married for four years, owns a home in our community for the last three years and he will tell you that it is greatly due to the fact that they’ve had such wonderful supports right here in our community. So we wanted to say thank you and he wanted to come today and tell you thank you himself.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. Welcome.”

**Mr. Luke McCrew**, Consumer, CDDO Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you once again. I’m from Montana, Kevin, from Thompson Falls. There’s nothing like that up here from where I’m from but it’s a good place for helping handicapped people, but thank you once again.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Well Luke, thank you very much for coming and thank you for being a part of our community. We’re glad to have you here. It’s Montana’s loss . . . Minnesota. Where . . .?”

**Mr. McCrew** said, “It was Montana, Thompson Falls, right on the border of the Montana. There’s nothing like that up there.”

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**Chairman Winters** said, “Well, very good. We’re very pleased to have you come to our commission meeting today and we’re very pleased to take part in this public acknowledgement and awareness of this special week, all across the nation. And Kevin, thank you for all that you do and that the ARK does. Commissioner Unruh and I had the pleasure of meeting with you just a few weeks ago to learn more about your organization. We very much appreciate that. You’ve got many fine programs in operation and we appreciated the opportunity to learn more about you, so thank you both. Commissioner Welshimer, you have a comment?”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well I just want to thank you both. The community needs the work you do and benefits from the work you do and thanks for the work you do.”

**Mr. Fish** said, “Thank you so much.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. Commissioners, we have one more proclamation that’s not on the agenda, concerning the Boeing tanker project.”

**MOTION**

Chairman Winters moved to consider an off agenda item.

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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, “Commissioners, you’ll remember at last week’s meeting we did take a position and ask staff to draft a proclamation regarding the tanker deal and we’ve done that and I’d like to read that proclamation for your consideration.

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**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the aviation industry is important to our community, our region, Kansas and the United States: and

**WHEREAS**, our Kansas aviation companies can grow through research and use of new technology, increasing orders from commercial airlines and private buyers, and the reward of defense contracts to replace our aging military fleet; and

**WHEREAS**, when our aviation companies grow, the impact is significant in Sedgwick County, in Kansas and in the United States- through jobs for our citizens, the creation of additional supplier companies and the substantial financial contributions to our economies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boeing Company participated in the bid process to replace 170 KC-135 air refueling tankers, which are critical military assets, essential to our nation's global reach and power projection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boeing proposal would have provided 3,800 jobs in Kansas, 44,000 jobs in the United States and \$145 million in direct benefit to our state, however the United States Air Force instead awarded the \$35 billion contract to Northrup Grumman/ European Aero Dynamics Defense and Space Team, which means our U.S. military tankers will be manufactured in Europe; and

**WHEREAS**, this decision outsources an essential military asset to Europe and forces the United States to be dependent upon Europe for our national defense; and

**WHEREAS**, our Sedgwick County community celebrates a rich history of building aircraft in support of our military and is extremely disappointed that American military tankers will not be built in American companies, with American workers; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage a fair and equitable procurement process, which clearly defines the criteria, establishes a consistent selection process and creates a level playing field, by removing unfair advantages, including subsidies.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Thomas G. Winters, Chairman, and the

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esteemed members of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners are supportive of our Kansas Congressional delegation and join with the leadership in other communities in the United States in asking the United States Air Force and Congress to carefully review this process and consider the strength, quality and value of the Boeing Company proposal in support of our U.S. military men and women.

Commissioners, that is the proclamation that has been prepared. What is the will of the board?"

### MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the proclamation.

Commissioner Welshimer 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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioners, we will be forwarding this proclamation to several groups of people, and we have also asked other counties if they will participate with us in some kind of demonstration or acknowledgement that we believe that this has not been a properly perceived contract.

And also, in listening to Lou Dobbs Show just a few evenings ago, did see Congressman Todd Tiahrt on that television show and Congressman Tiahrt indicated that he does have a website up where folks can sign an electronic petition. The second day the petition was up, Lou Dobbs on his television show did give the address and immediately after going off the air, the website got so many hits that it crashed so there are a lot of people addressing these sites. But Senator Patty Murray from Washington State and Congressman Todd Tiahrt from Kansas have established this site. If people would like to go to that site to sign that piece, you can find it by Googling the name Todd Tiahrt or you can go to [www.house.gov/tiahrt](http://www.house.gov/tiahrt) and scroll down to 'How Do You Feel About the Tanker Decision'.

So I would encourage people to do that. We will forward this proclamation and I think we will at least be making some comments for those who are listening. Commissioner Norton."

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**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well it’s interesting today we’re going to let the bids for the first phase of a national aviation tech center and we’ve taken some, I think, bold action in our community to make sure aviation stays strong and it becomes an economic . . . even more of an economic driver in our community. And I think I said this last week, this action by the Air Force procurement area flies in the face of everything we’re trying to do in Wichita, Kansas for our community to create jobs and economic stability and make sure that we stay as whole as we possibly can and I’m certainly supportive of the resolution.

It’s interesting to me, in the paper today, that now the competition is saying ‘well, it’s going to be 48,000 jobs’ and it’s almost like well, we’ve got to now tell a different story, because it was only going to be about 18,000 and now it’s gone up 30,000 American jobs because they’ve gotten some pressure. And I have a real problem with that ‘let’s play it in the media’. What’s right is right and American jobs are very important to us right now and certainly in this community they’re very important, so strong stand. I’m glad we’re doing this. I noticed the city is taking some action too, along with the State of Kansas and our congressional delegation. And whether it will make a difference or not, I’m glad that we’re taking this kind of a proactive stance.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “All right, thank you very much. Any other comments? Seeing none, Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

### **RETIREMENTS**

#### **B. PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT CLOCKS**

- **Gary H. Jarchow, Deputy Trustee’s Office, will retire April 1, 2008 after 38 years of service.**
- **Rick G. Williams, Fire Division Chief, Fire District #1, will retire April 1, 2008 after 32 years of service.**
- **James R. Woods, Sheriff Major, Sheriff’s Office, will retire April 1, 2008 after 31 years of service.**

**Ms. Jo Templin**, Director, Division of Human Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This agenda item allows us to recognize the contributions in public service of any of our three long

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term county employees and we would also like to thank all the many family, friends and co-workers who are here today to support and celebrate with these retirees.

The first retiree is Gary Jarchow, who is the Deputy Trustee with the Court Trustee's Office. Gary will retire April 1<sup>st</sup>, after 38 years of service."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Gary, we wanted to present you with this certificate of appreciation, acknowledging your time here with the county and then also this clock that we give upon retirement. After 38 years, institutional knowledge goes away and we appreciate all of the value that you have brought to the many people in Sedgwick County that you've served over the years and I'm sure that if we counted that number, it would be significant.

But thank you very much for your work. We appreciate all that you've done. We wish you the very best in your retirement and if you would like to make a comment, we'd certainly give you that opportunity."

**Mr. Gary Jarchow**, Deputy Trustee, Court Trustee's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd just like to thank everybody, all of my fellow employees especially over the years and everybody I've worked with in the courthouse. I've worked with most of you, and especially the county commission, because they've supported me all along and on behalf of the Court Trustee's Office I'd like to thank you too.

I'm looking forward to doing a little more work in Sumner County, not quite ready to hang it up yet and I will always have fond memories of working for Sedgwick County. Thank you."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Before Gary gets away, stand back up there, you know Gary also served us in the military during his last few years and went to Iraq and we're very proud of him for doing that. I mean, you kind of served a dual role serving the citizens of Sedgwick County. We appreciate that. I'm glad to have you back safely."

**Mr. Jarchow** said, "Thank you and that's one of the best decisions that I've ever made is to do that, so thank you very much."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "How is the family? Good?"

**Mr. Jarchow** said, "Very well."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "And Ben's where now?"

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**Mr. Jarchow** said, "Pardon me?"

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Where is Ben?"

**Mr. Jarchow** said, "Ben's down in Texas. He's teaching middle school down in Texas. I have four sons, one of them is a middle school principal, one of them teaches, a daughter that teaches in Florida, a son that teaches in Texas, one in college and one is still in high school, and I'm really proud of my family. They're not here, but they're going to be here for my party on Friday."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Wish them well."

**Ms. Templin** said, "Our second retiree is Rick G. Williams, who is a fire division chief, Fire District #1. Rick will retire April 1<sup>st</sup> after 32 years of service."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Rick, if you'd come on forward please. Again, we have this certificate that we'd like to present to you, acknowledging the time you spent with Sedgwick County and also we have this retirement clock.

You know, all of the jobs that employees of Sedgwick County do are extremely important, serving our citizens and our communities. Those of you that are involved in public safety, in both the fire service and law enforcement, I think have a special regard in the community. You risk a lot every day and have the potential for huge risks.

We are extremely proud of the fire district in Sedgwick County. Our commissioners support it as much as we possibly can, but it's employees such as yourself that really make it work. So on behalf of the commissioners, congratulations on your retirement. Please accept this clock as a token of our appreciation and if you would like to make a comment, we would certainly welcome that."

**Division Chief Rick G. Williams**, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It seems like yesterday I was an 18 year old kid, starting out a career in the fire service and standing here today is a 50 year old man with an AARP card in my pocket and . . . but in between that time, it's been a great career. I'd do it all over again. I'm going to miss a lot of the employees, a lot of friends I've made along the way. And last but not least, it's been my privilege to serve the citizens of Sedgwick County."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Rick, don't run away yet. You know, I had a chance to go to the firefighters annual dance and dinner, and you're not retiring because of that, are you? Because I

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saw you dance that night and it was sad.”

**Division Chief Williams** said, “There’s no future in that.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. So you’re going to have a second career, but it’s not going to be in show business and dancing?”

**Division Chief Williams** said, “No, nothing like that.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “That’s good. Okay.”

**Division Chief Williams** said, “No, it’s a good time to move on. I’m taking a job in the private sector here locally.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well good luck to you.”

**Division Chief Williams** said, “Thank you, thank you all very much.”

**Ms. Templin** said, “Our third retiree is James Woods, who is a Major in the Sheriff’s Office. Major Woods will retire April 1, after 31 years of service.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Jim, you have been a fixture with Sedgwick County for 31 years and I would again make the same comments to you and all of those who provide public safety. You have challenging jobs. You have jobs that often ask you to risk a lot and we are appreciative of that. As the board of county commissioners, we give you this clock, which is just a token, but we want every one of you to know that the citizens of this community appreciate it every time you put the uniform on and we hope that you have a successful retirement career, whatever that may be but thank you very much for the years of service that you have given.

I think Kelly Parks would also like to make a couple of comments. Kelly is very close to the law enforcement community, so Kelly, go right ahead.”

**Commissioner Parks** said, “Jim, I’d like to congratulate you on your retirement and I would like to say that first hand I had a lot of interaction with Jim on not only police-type things, but

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administrative things and you work hard on projects and that's one thing that I always . . . I knew that if Jim was working on a project that it would get done and it would be right. And so whether you are going into the private sector, or continuing in some kind of public sector, the people that you will serve will be great and take a little time off and just relax. Thanks."

**Major James Woods**, Sheriff's Department, said, "Thank you very much."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Jim, we do have a certificate for you. We have a clock, which we hope will be a reminder of the good parts of your employment at Sedgwick County. And if you'd like to make a comment, we would appreciate it."

**Major Woods** said, "Thank you very much. I can't believe I've spent my whole adult life with this job. I started the day after my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and that's not including the volunteer work in the cadets that I had previously from that. I can't imagine ever working any place else or any other law enforcement agency other than the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office, as far as I'm concerned, is the best in the state, and I'm just proud to have worked beside so many dedicated, professional people as you have working for the citizens and for the commissioners in our county. Thank you very much."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well Jim, we're very proud of you too. And I'm not going to tell any stories on you, because I don't think I can tell them in public. So you know, I added it up though, and these three gentlemen, 101 years of experience. I think we need to give them another round of applause. That's incredible service."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Well I don't know exactly what those last comments were, but these three individuals, that's a lot of years of experience and we are going to miss it and that's probably what you said when I was . . ."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "One hundred and one years."

**Chairman Winters** said, "One hundred and one years, well we're very proud of all of you. All right, Madam Clerk, I think we're ready for item number C. And maybe we'll wait just a moment, while the room clears out. All right, Madam Clerk, let's call the next item please."

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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**C. PRESENTATION OF TASKFORCE TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS (TECH) PLAN.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Jack Focht**, Chairman, TECH (Taskforce the End Chronic Homelessness) greeted the Commissioners and said, "I want to begin the presentation where you usually end it, and that's giving thanks to a number of people who make it possible for me to be here today to make this presentation, Janet Miller and I are going to split it up. I couldn't believe, 19 months ago, when several people came and asked me to chair this taskforce, that it would be this long and this arduous a process.

But it has been and I want to give thank to a variety of folks who have gone through it with us. First of all, the taskforce members, who have endured over 30 meetings, starting at 7 a.m. in the morning and going until 8:30. Their names are all listed in the report that you had and some of them are here today.

I want to thank Sedgwick County for a variety of things, beginning with two of your managers, Buchanan and Holt, and the assistance they've given to us. Debbie Donaldson, who wasn't a member of our taskforce, but turned out to be a great input as we learned about things and particularly want to thank the four people that helped us so much . . . well, three really, Rachael Moody, Deanna Carrithers and Jenny Gluszek. They're great people. You're very lucky to have those kinds of employees. I'd have them in my law office in a minute, because they are passionate, they are devoted. They go above and beyond the call of duty and they embraced, I think, what we were doing and went far beyond what they had to do. United Way, Pat Hanrahan was a member but the United Way provided us facilities and staff to help us, particularly Beth Oaks and Gloria Summers and other members of their staff, so that was a great help. The public, gathered together in little groups, advocate groups who held our feet to the fire, who attended our meetings, who let us know when they thought we were off base, patted us on the back when they thought we were doing the right thing, everything from Inner-Faith Ministries to ACK, you can name a bunch of groups that went along.

My law firm, for letting me take 19 months and a great deal of time that wasn't billable. You don't get a bill for it and I don't get any credit for it, but they get credit for letting me do it and encouraging me to do it.

Harry Truman, Winston Churchill and Mahatma Ghandi all take credit for the phase that 'civilization is judged by how it treats its weakest members'. Well I don't care who takes credit for it, we are here today to talk about some of our weakest and most vulnerable members. You

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received the report of the plan to end chronic homelessness, but I want you to take a look at that front sheet, because as I look at it, I don't see my face there but I recognize that perhaps it could be.

Let me tell you a little story, and Tim Norton can verify this because he turned out to be . . . I don't know if he'd call it the beneficiary, but the result of the story, we were at a public input meeting at Century II a couple or three weeks ago and Tim and I were talking to a homeless man and a woman came up with a pushcart full of bags of things and she walked up and said 'Jack, you don't remember me' and I looked at her and I thought 'I know the face, where do I remember her?' and then her name popped into my mind and I said 'yes I do, so-and-so, I remember you' but I was still saying where do I remember her from? I know her name now, but where do I remember? And as we visited, it became obvious that our recollection goes back a long way. We went to high school together. She was married to a law student when I was in law school and became the mother of a lawyer that I know and is the ex-wife. And as we visited with her 'what are you doing here', 'well, I've been homeless' you know, and then she proceeded to tell us about her story and I left her with Tim and Tim had to hear it over and over again I think. Because she was one of those people who had suffered from one of the disabilities that will cause people to be homeless and become weak and vulnerable and so that was a wonderful opportunity.

The next night I was at the Lord's Diner with a number of your staff and others as we were talking to homeless people down there and another woman came up and said, and this is a phrase I hate because they're generally right, 'Jack, you don't remember me'. But I looked at her and I thought 'I know your face and I can't put anything with it' and she said 'we go to church together' and I said 'really, what are you doing over here?' 'Well, I'm homeless'. And that's what's going on in communities all over the country. People that are your friends, your relatives, people that you've been acquainted with become homeless.

I love this cover, because it has got a variety of people on here. People become homeless for all kinds of reasons and all kinds of ways and the taskforce was only given a small segment to deal with. So I want to make it clear, as I begin the report, that we're only dealing with a small segment of the homeless population and the others should not be ignored and that we must go forward, be over and beyond the plan that we're presenting to you today.

The plan starts with, and if I can figure out how to handle this . . . get this thing out here, the plan starts with kind of a background on when we started and what we did for the first twelve, thirteen months and that was spend a lot of time analyzing this community, saying what's out there, what are the problems that are out there, where are we missing and what are the gaps in the community

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and once we got those gaps identified in September of 2007 we presented to you and to the city commission our initial report, which had to do with the gaps and then we went to work on, okay what are the strategies then that we can come up with to recommend to the governing bodies to attack those gaps. And December 23<sup>rd</sup> we adopted the plan that we're here to talk to you about.

We then decided we needed to take this out to the public. We're not perfect. We don't know everything there is to know. The public needs to give us whatever input they can about what we have suggested and so you will see on the slide that we did it a variety of ways. We used on-line surveys. By the way, this plan has been on your Sedgwick County website for some period of time.

We got e-mail comments. We went to Century II and that was an interesting evening. People were free to come in and put little post-its up on various parts of the plan with comments on them or they talked to us and Bill and Tim and all your staff and a whole bunch of taskforce members were there to visit with the people to hear about them.

We went over to the Lord's Diner and talked to the folks over there and that was interesting. The public library, the United Way Open Door Shelter had surveys for the people. We were trying . . . I went out and talked to the eight-group, Janet and I went and talked to the Wichita Association of Realtors. We talked to everybody that would listen to us about what the plan was and give us feedback and we tried to get everything that we could together and then we brought it back on February 19<sup>th</sup>, looked at and reviewed the public comments and adopted the plan as our last, I hope, last official action. I think we will close it down.

The charge was to develop a plan to end chronic homelessness in Sedgwick County. That is a term that I didn't know anything about when I started this. In fact, I didn't know anything about homelessness except I'd go down to our church when it was our turn, when it was the winter overflow, and serve dinner to the folks and come back the next morning and fix breakfast, but that was the extent of my knowledge about homelessness and I didn't realize that there was a definition of chronic homelessness, which is 'an unaccompanied person', and that cuts out right off the bat a whole bunch of people that are families, and families are homeless too in this community and every community around the country, an unaccompanied individual who has been homeless for at least one year or has had four episodes of homelessness in the past three years', disabilities is what you're talking about, drug addition, you're talking about alcoholism, you're talking about physical disability or you're often talking about some kind of mental problems that make those folks disabled.

The plan outlines the history of chronic homelessness in Sedgwick County. We went around and tried to gather what are the best practices, we read, we looked on-line. Some of us went down to Atlanta for example and visited their . . . and we went on our own. You didn't pay for it. We went on our own and visited their program down there. We talked to people, all over, to try to determine what are the best practices. We had Phil Magamo come in here from the president's inner-agency

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Council on Homelessness.

We've listed ten identified gaps in services and then we came out in the plan and recommended five strategies and we estimated the cost for implementing those strategies. The first strategy, the one that's important . . . by the way, there was an editorial I saw in the morning paper this morning, my friend Janet is a person who talks to the press because I'm a little too straight forward sometimes. I would never make a politician.

The first thing we identify is a one-stop resource and referral center. One of the things we discovered and that you know is that folks don't have any place to go who are chronically homeless, those people who hang out at the library or those people that are under bridges or those people who are wandering down the street panhandling. They don't have any place to go. They don't have any place to be, is what we've called it, don't have any place to take a shower, they don't have any place to talk to people about housing assistance, unless you know how to go through the system and the person that has a disability doesn't know how to operate within the system very well and the disability and the moving around keeps them from being able to do a lot of things.

You know, you often hear from folks who don't know a darn thing about this Hope thing, 'if they just got a job, they'd be all right'. Well, these folks aren't the kind that you would just haul right into your office and give a job right away. You might give them a job if Christian charity was in your soul and you didn't care about whether or not they were able to show up to work the next day, because they don't have any transportation to get there and you couldn't fill out the necessary personnel forms, because they couldn't give you an address and they probably don't have the necessary identification to get by the I and I process. All of that is going to be missing.

We thought that there ought to be a place within this referral and resource center for us to provide some services, and in Sedgwick County has talked with us about co-locating some services from COMCARE within this resource and referral center. These folks have terrible physical problems, some of them, and they don't have any insurance.

They don't have any physician that they call on. It was interesting when we asked the people from Via Christi to address the taskforce to find out that they were spending \$2,000,000 in their emergency rooms at Via Christi for people who just come in there because they've got a sore throat or a cold and they don't have anywhere else to go. That's why the Mother Mary Ann Clinic got started out at St. Joe hospital, but you realize how far out Mother Mary Ann Clinic is and if you're homeless and don't have any transportation, that's tough to get there, so we need some place where

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we can get people together.

We need to have some place where they can talk to their peers sometimes, people who have been homeless and sometimes escaped that particular cycle. Gypsy Claar was a member of our taskforce. Gypsy has been homeless a whole bunch of her life and wonderful person to get to know and the male that we had that was on our taskforce, who unfortunately had to leave us because he got a job and he couldn't be there at 7:00 in the morning. But I learned more about folks in this community from those folks, I picked Gypsy up and would take her to the meetings and I'd get an opportunity to talk to her and Gypsy was concerned about what happens to the single woman who is out there, trying to make it in the homeless society, where there's nothing but predators waiting up for her, waiting to introduce her to either drug problems or terrible kinds of things that can happen to them and they need somebody to talk to that can be there.

All of these folks, not all of them, but a great many of these people are eligible for government benefits, SSI you know, but they don't know how to do it. They don't stay in one place long enough for somebody to make a call and talk to them. Sedgwick County is moving forward with trying to get some people trained under a SOAR program, because I think directly we went through this and discovered what the problems were and how we could move about meeting them. But those are things that can take place in that one-stop resource and referral center.

The focus there needs to be, what our second strategy will be, which I'll talk about in a moment, and that is getting people into permanent supportive housing. Get them where they have 'my room', 'my apartment', my place where I can go at the end of the day, even if I'm just hanging out at the referral center until I get myself something else. They've got some place to go home to and we want to talk about that in a moment.

The Open Door, Methodist Open Door runs the facility at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Market, which is a fine facility right now, only take 50 people though. Folks stand around outside, as you drive by, some of them are standing there because they're smoking, but most of them are standing because there isn't room for them inside and they are limited to 50 people in there. They don't have the shower capacity to take 50 showers, nor do they have the lockers. Where do you put your stuff that you carry around when you don't have a home to go to at the end of the day? You need at least a locker to put it in, and that could be available.

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So we said we need, in our resource and referral center, we need it larger, at least 150 people. Now those aren't always going to be chronic homeless. Those are going to be the homeless that come wandering into the city and don't know where else to go. You need to know a place that can be the spot that you move away from, where you can become identified with what services may be available in the county and the location needs to be somewhere where they can get to it, you know, and that's not going to be an easy job in the community, that's not going to be my job to locate it, but you either got to have it where it's centrally located or where you have transportation where people can get to it.

The second strategy then was the housing first or permanent supportive housing. This is a real change for this community and for many communities, because what we have traditionally done with homeless people is put them in shelters and try to get them ready, try to get them ready for when they could live on their own, in an apartment or in a room. And the studies around the country say that doesn't work. Let's try to just put them in their place first and then deal with their services. And it made so much sense after you thought about it, that if you didn't have to worry about where you were going to sleep tonight, a lot of pressure was off of you, if you knew that you could go home to your own room or apartment.

Now we said 'that's got to be . . . just have a couple of things in there'. One is you've got to agree to do two things under this strategy. One is if you've got any income, like SSI, you've got to spend 30% of that on your housing, so that it isn't all free. The second thing is that you have to agree to meet with a caseworker at least once a week. We're not going to force people to stop drinking or to stop taking drugs or to take their meds when they need them, but we can encourage them to do so, once we meet with them weekly. You get a caseworker who becomes your friend, somebody you can depend on, and that's a great shift in this community.

Pat Hanrahan sent an e-mail and Janet sent an e-mail about an article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on March the sixth and I'll just show it to you and I'll make it available to anyone who wants it called Housing Study Looks at Housing First. . . Homeless Study Looks at Housing First'. And it talks about the fact that this is going on all over the country and it's a value to a community. Here's why it's a value. The statistics indicate that the chronically homeless use a large proportion of the services in a particular community, your jail services, your police services, your emergency room services, all those sort of things. You spend a lot of time and money on these people. You just do. Your sheriff could tell you that. This kind of a program . . . well, this kind of

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a program is what cleaned up Times Square in New York City. They had a housing first, they took those people and put them in their own apartments and within two years they had great success there and we think that will work here and we're recommending that.

We figure out, at this point, based on the point in time count that we're required by HUD to take once a year, that we would require 64 scattered sites or apartments for this strategy. You heard what I said, scattered sites, this is not an attempt to recommend or build a Hooterville, where you have everybody gathered together and they just all live there and everybody knows that's a homeless shelter. You figure out and when we went down and talked to the Association of Realtors, after they understand it and I say 'Hey, I think you're all entrepreneurs. If you could have a deal where somebody said 'if you'll rent an apartment to one of our people, we'll guarantee the rent is paid and secondly, we'll guarantee that we repair any damage that's done to your apartment'.

I said, I think you'd be a fool not to take that and it was pretty apparent, as we talked to them afterwards, that after they get over some of the things that we were scared we were going to recommend to you, like there's going to be a tax hike or there's going to be a trust fund set up where you put a dollar from every deed that's . . . after they got over that, people came up and gave us their cards afterwards saying we want to participate, we want to help, we want to do what we can. By the way, I need to acknowledge that there are in the audience a number of people here from various groups who have shown interest throughout the year, as we have gone through this, but that's what we're recommending, long-term housing with supportive services, so that you work with them right where they are.

Now is the third strategy, we're not trying to put the emergency . . . or the shelters out of business right away. You heard right away? I don't think any of them would mind going out of business, if we could put people in supportive housing long-term, any one of them from the Union Rescue Mission to Inner-Faith Ministries would be glad to have that bed clear, but that's not going to happen right off the bat. In addition to that, they're full right now. They're full right now. We have, as you know, overflow problems when the weather is bad in this community, when it's cold and now when it's hot, as it was last summer and we think that we will continue to need temporary emergency housing options. We're going to need, according to the facts and figures that we have, 25 to 50 additional shelter beds all year around.

Now those kinds of beds ought to be just used when other shelters are at capacity, when Inner-Faith can't take any more, when Union Rescue Mission can't take any more. These other options should be available. We're adding emergency housing options as a temporary solution, because we can't just, overnight, have everything happen here, but as we move into and gradually put people in permanent housing of their own, we can relieve the strain on the others. So those are the three strategies I'm going to talk to you about. Be available for any questions after I get through, but I want to have Janet Miller, who I have to give particular credit to for driving the subcommittees that met and when I said that we met 32 times as a committee, we met two, three or four times more than that as small subcommittees dealing with the particular portions of this report and trying to get

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the facts and figures and it's hard to get them, but she drove us and I want to give her credit and she also served as our PR arm since I am so blunt, so thank you."

### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Ms. Janet Miller**, Member, Taskforce to End Chronic Homelessness, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you Jack. Continuing on here, the slide that's in front of you recommends a sustainable funding plan for this plan. Currently, funding of programs and services for the homeless in our community in the county is provided largely by the faith community, by non-profits and the United Way and the federal government, with the later, the federal funding, being distributed through the city and through the county. The local budgets of the city and the county, you might be surprised to know presently do not provide funding for programs and services specifically for the homeless.

Strategy four recommends additional new funding from a mix of sources shown here to implement the plan. The good news is, at least one faith community has expressed very strong interest in initiating a community-wide capital campaign to raise a significant portion of the capital funding that will be needed. The next step in the process is to find the associated operating dollars that will be needed, and significant efforts have been made by the taskforce and others, staff, to keep these operating costs reasonable and of a manageable size for our community and we'll come to that in a moment.

Strategy five recommends establishing a small oversight group of citizens that will take on the roles and responsibilities shown here. This oversight group will ensure that what you, the county and the city ask the taskforce to do create a plan to end chronic homelessness, actually gets implemented and doesn't become another notebook on a shelf. Formation of this group within the next 30 days will be critical to keeping the plan moving forward and to capitalize on this momentum that we have built over the past year.

The question that always comes and has been on probably everyone's mind is this, what does this plan cost? And this chart shows the estimated costs, both one-time capital costs and annual operating costs and you'll notice on the far left-hand side the five strategies which Jack and I have just discussed with you.

The second column there is start-up capital needed and there are estimates shown there, for strategy one capital costs and those are estimates and there is a wide range there, but as you know, plans start out broad and then as you get further into the planning process those details can be firmed up. You will see in your packets additional breakout information that shows you the detail of where these numbers have come from.

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You will see then in the third column the total annual operating costs, again estimates there of what the total costs will be for all five strategies, 1.3 million dollars. The fourth column there shows you what is presently being spent on each of those strategies as near as we can estimate. That is current funding in the community provided by the mix of sources earlier mentioned including state, federal, non-profit, United Way, the private funding.

The last column there is an important one and that is the additional annual funding that will be needed to implement this plan. That's the balance between column three, minus column four, gives you column five. And so in the lower right-hand corner, that additional \$993,400 is the estimate for the annual additional operating costs that will be needed, a reasonable number for both a county and a community of our size.

That said, to point out to you again, the capital costs, we have one faith community who has expressed interest in being . . . taking the lead role on raising those dollars and that is a very significant milestone that we're very pleased to have heard.

The additional \$1,000,000, or nearly, the \$993, 000 is what we're going to be looking for over the next few weeks and months and these are, as you know, these are the hardest dollars to find. As private and corporate contributors more often prefer to fund capital and start-up costs. The same is true with foundation and grant funding. We can find those kind of dollars for capital costs and for start-up program costs, but the annual operating dollars are the most difficult to find, and this is where the taskforce and others believe that the local budgets of the county and the city can begin to play a role where they haven't before.

In conclusion, on behalf of the members of the taskforce, we do, as Jack said earlier, thank you for your foresight and the action that assigned us this important task of developing a plan to end chronic homelessness in our community in Sedgwick County.

We have now, over the past 18 months, done the due diligence that you asked of us and we have developed a plan and we've based it on national best practices, which you'll see in the plan some statistics that have addressed very specific needs that you will see outlined in the plan, those needs being identified right here in our own community in Sedgwick County. The plan outlines and supports with this national data how smart investment, both private and public in a housing first strategy that Jack just described to you can actually reduce in the long run the public costs associated with chronic homelessness and can end chronic homelessness for some of the most fragile and the downtrodden in our community.

As a taskforce and on behalf of all the advocates that are here today, who work for the homeless, and most importantly on behalf of the homeless who likely are not here today, we are their voice

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and we are asking you as a commission to authorize the endorsement of this plan as submitted and we ask you to authorize the county manager to work with the city manager to establish and appoint the oversight committee that can help ensure that your vision of this plan to end chronic homelessness move forward and be brought to fruition. We would be glad to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you very much, Janet and Jack. And just let me begin by doing the thank you on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and I’m sure others will want to say something. But we appreciate the leadership, Jack, that you and Janet have both provided to this team and we want to thank all of the taskforce members and we know that there were others that were not directly on the taskforce but were very involved in the process and we want to thank all of those folks. This has really been a community-type study of a problem and I think we’ve put together a good group, and Commissioner Norton, on behalf of the Commissioners we want to thank you for representing our board on this taskforce. Commissioners, with that we would open this up to any questions that any commissioner may have for Jack or Janet and their presentation. Are there comments? Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well first of all I’m going to be supportive. I’m just glad I don’t have to make it to 7:00 meetings for another 18 months every Wednesday. That drug on a little bit, but I have to tell you, over the years that I’ve watched this there’s been plenty of studies, plenty of dialogue and the one thing that I’m excited about is I think they’ve put together a program that can be done, that can be launched, that can be paid for and it can make a difference, and I think that’s pretty much so much different than all the other studies and information that’s hit the table, so I’m going to be very supportive.

I may ask though, and Janet you may have the answers to this, not Jack, if you’d like to come back up. On the housing, permanent housing, there is going to be some reimbursement, if there’s some funding that flows through the individual. Some of that could be offset. There is a price tag, but that may not be the true price tag to the local government, if there is federal and state funding that flows into the individual to pay for that. Is that correct?”

**Ms. Miller** said, “Yes. By the nature of the definition of someone being chronically homeless, many if not most will eventually qualify for federal assistance and then, as Jack alluded to, up to 30% of that could be allocated toward rent and utilities and in some cases that would be enough to pay rent. In some cases it might be enough to pay partial rent. So yes, while subsidies might start out at 100%, studies have shown, and we would anticipate that some number of those dollars would be offset by the individual. And in some cases, folks are, once they’re able to have a safe place to

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sleep and to begin to reassemble their lives, there are folks who are able to begin working again and can offset costs in that way as well, so we have attempted to, through the taskforce work, to obtain reasonable estimates, for at the beginning what are probably going to be 100% subsidies, but recognizing that some of those dollars could at some point would be offset by benefits coming into the individual.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “The more they’re connected to a case worker and get a Social Security number, get stabilized, can find out what they’re eligible for and are in housing. It’s hard to get federal subsidies for housing if you’re not being housed, so all of that has to come into play. Is that correct?”

**Ms. Miller** said, “Absolutely.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. Talk a little bit about governance and what the \$60,000 is for. Is that for infrastructure, an executive director, staffing for the oversight committee? What is that \$60,000 for?”

**Ms. Miller** said, “The plan recommends that the oversight committee have a staff person which would be housed in the Division of Human Services at Sedgwick County. That there be a staff person housed there who would help implement and oversee the implementation of this plan. That one person take responsibility, with the input and advice and assistance of a citizen group to bird dog if you will this plan. One of the discoveries that we made, in looking at past plans, it’s not that there haven’t been past plans, one of the discoveries we made as a taskforce is that there is so much work to be done, at the county and city level that if there is not a person and a group that is tasked with specifically working on a project or an initiative over time, the work doesn’t get done. And all of us understand that, from a personal standpoint too.

What gets counted and watched gets accounted for and done and so this oversight group, the money allocated there would pay for a staff person who would work on implementing this and subsequent plans and would also provide support materials for that committee. For example, there would be some related expenses to office supplies and meeting costs and that sort of thing, but a very minimal budget they’re allotted for those kinds of expenses.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. I see that Debbie Donaldson is here. Deb, would you kind of come forward. Deb sat on the sideline for a lot of meetings, but her organization, Human Services, COMCARE has been attached to this for a long time and the idea that we don’t give any services to the homeless is not right, because we do attach to them with mental health and disabilities and a lot of our other service, but they’re kind of ancillary. This brings it all into defined areas. Would that be correct?”

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**Ms. Deborah Donaldson**, Director, Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Yes, I mean, it will pull everything together and coordinate the efforts throughout the homeless community is the ultimate goal, so we’re all working together and we’re getting the best benefit for what’s being spent.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. And we have collocated with Open Door before. Is that called Center City? Is that what that was? Would you explain that a little bit.”

**Ms. Donaldson** said, “Well we collocated with United Methodist Open Door previously and that was very beneficial for both organizations and particularly for the people served, because so many have some kind of mental health issue and that way they could be immediately served and referred. Unfortunately, the only reason that this is no longer the case is because of the building problem and it necessitated moving out at different times and ended up in different locations and so I think this is a very positive move and will be helpful for the population being served.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “And collocation worked just fine for the time we were doing it. In fact, it maximized services, is that correct?”

**Ms. Donaldson** said, “Absolutely.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. Thanks Deb, I appreciate it. I also see Mary Kay Vaughn is here from the city and I’m going to ask her to come forward too, because as we talk about all these pieces, one of the biggest pieces is housing and that’s your expertise. That’s what you do. You think about it every day. Talk a little bit about the housing first model and where you think this could go in our community.”

**Ms. Mary Kay Vaughn**, Wichita Housing Department, City of Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Well I think you’ve heard from the presenters that the notion that a person can be stabilized more easily when they have a place to go at night that’s safe, that’s secure. We all believe in that. That’s why we do what we do, Wichita Housing Department. Unfortunately, we experience a lot more need than we have resources to fill. We have waiting lists and I’m sure that’s also the case with the Sedgwick County Housing Department.

And so what we try to do in participating in the process of creating this plan is identify what would be reasonable costs, based on the reasonable costs that we operate under, and a reasonable number and then the fact that we have experience with landlords and we know what they look for, what they like to see and certainly regular income is one of those things and so we felt like we could build up on the model that we have in terms of like the Section 8 program with this one and create safe,

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affordable housing for people who are in need and then surround them with the services that will help them be successful.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “But housing first is a great first step in stabilizing this population.”

**Ms. Vaughn** said, “It absolutely is, yes.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay, thank you. That’s all I have right now, Mr. Chairman.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you. Commissioner Welshimer.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well, I think you answered most of my question. It seems to me that the implementation of the plan is going to take as much work as putting the plan together. And so what I was seeing then is that you have this committee and I would imagine that there’s someone from the city and someone from the county in the committee.”

**Mr. Focht** said, “Well I think that’s going to be up to the people that pick the committee. We do make recommendation though, for example that you take somebody off the taskforce and that you take some homeless person and put them on the committee and then that’s kind of up to the folks that pick them. But let me say that the first thing I would think that you would consider is how passionate are they about seeing that this goes forward and that you don’t just put foot draggers on there.

I was amazed when I looked at some of the former city programs. There was one that they hired a consultant, spent a lot of money, took it to a workshop, told staff to present a plan, and nothing ever happened. The reason nothing ever happened is you didn’t have an oversight committee and you didn’t have anyone pushing that plan and there were other things that took greater priorities and the manager’s mind at that time. I’ve got his notes as a matter of fact, and it just didn’t happen and eight years have passed and we’ve had several people die that didn’t have to because of that.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “So the . . . well, you’re going to have to do fund raising and organizing and finding sites. Are you planning to build a new building for this, or . . .?”

**Mr. Focht** said, “I will tell you, the bishop of the Methodist church was one of the members of the taskforce and he has said they strongly endorse the program and he’s going to be out trying to raise

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the money for Open Door to probably relocate. Those kind of costs I think the faith community will meet.

I was amazed when I went over to, though, to the Wichita Community Foundation and said, 'figure out where you might be a part of this' and I said I understand you like to do bricks and mortar, and they said 'no, we like to do operational costs'. So I would say part of the business of this committee will be, part of it will be to identify and nudge fundraisers. The United Way has already indicated great willingness to open their pocketbooks a little more. I had a well known funding raising woman in this community come up to me and say 'Jack, we want to be a part of that', we'd like to have the Downing whatever it is thing to aid the homeless. Just somebody has got to drive the engine. It will go if you've got somebody doing it and that's this committee and that staff person."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "The people who are not chronically homeless who end up on the street, either was a surprise to themselves let's say, where would they find shelter? Or is there such a thing for them right now?"

**Mr. Focht** said, "There are shelters but there's not enough. One of the jobs of this committee that we've recommended is that they look forward and see how we cure some of these other problems. You know, there are women, or men even I suppose, who get kicked out of their house because of abusive situations. It was interesting when I talked to Jack P. DeVore about Value Place to discover about a large percentage of his occupancy is somebody that's been forced to move out of the marital home because of a variety of situations.

So there are all kinds of needs and there are . . . the faith community has done wonderful things. They need to be included within this planning, you know. We are just beginning here. This is a beginning, not an end. Okay."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "It certainly is. Thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Anything else, commissioner? Thank you. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "The \$60,000, I know it's, in the grand scheme of things, not a lot of money for a budget but it's an additional, added thing that has come up and it would be an annual operating cost. I'm pleased to hear that the foundation might be interested in helping out on some of that and maybe some of that governance would . . . might be able to go to that foundation or

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something. But do you have any idea of how that might be split out between Sedgwick County, City of Wichita, other entities?"

**Ms. Miller** said, "The taskforce decided that it would make the . . . we would estimate what the costs are going to be, and what we heard were likely sources of fundings. And then we'll leave it to the city manager and the county manager to work with the elected bodies to negotiate who might pay for what portions of the remaining annual operating and other costs."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Okay. And I have heard that in this and other times that the role of the county and the county doesn't have any line item per se for this, but I would say to the committee and the citizens in general out there that you know you hear stories and some of them are valid, some of them are not about the guy that was arrested for stealing a hotdog that was homeless and Sheriff Steed got that person in his jail for a while, so COMCARE, the health department, the housing department, there are other departments that have, I think interacted, maybe not directly, but we have quite a bit of interaction with them."

**Ms. Miller** said, "Yes, I would like to clarify that the county in particular does a fantastic job of allocating the federal dollars that come into this community and the county for mental health care, for homeless services and for all the support programs. There are, in the plan, there is an appendix that will show you the federal funding that comes in and flows through the city and the county. There's also some state funding that comes in. And so the comment that I made earlier was actually referring to local budgets. They're not being funded from local budgets, city and county, for homeless programs but there is funding, certainly, that comes in that the county does a fantastic job, that you do, allocating those funds into . . . or to continue on with the question that Commissioner Welshimer asked about are there other services for other segments of the homeless population."

There's also an appendix that will show you that the non-profits and faith community put over \$6,000,000 into serving all homeless populations in this community and part of that, upwards of \$2,000,000 of that comes through the United Way, so there is a lot of funding and there are a lot of good programs. And the taskforce, I think when we set out, we were probably, some of us thinking that there was duplication of services and that we could eliminate that duplication and find dollars to reallocate for other purposes.

And what we found was that both the county and the city and the United Way and all the non-profits, they collaborate beyond our wildest dreams on making sure that the dollars come in do not duplicate services. There is a specific process, the application process for those federal dollars, called a continuum of care application. And when we say application, it's not a three-page application, it's several notebooks full of an application and it requires that communities coordinate their homeless services so that there is not unnecessary duplication of services in this community.

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And we were pleasantly surprised on the one hand to find out that there was not duplication and that the funds . . . but then the flip-side of it is that meant that new funding needed to be found and we have tried to find places where that might come from and then through this next early stages of implementation we'll be calling potential partners to the table to say 'of this total peanut, what part of it will you take?' and what part of it should we take, and try to move through that toward implementation."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "And I would like to thank all the volunteers for their service here and I think there are a few faith-based organizations and churches that haven't been involved so far that will still step up when the final documents are received here, maybe starting today, so I think some of those organizations, I'm looking forward to them standing up to the plate on this also. Thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you, commissioner. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you Mr. Chair. I just want to add my voice to the folks who have expressed appreciation for the hard work, after 19 months and 32 meetings, by a large group of people. It's a, I think, an outstanding example once again of how city and county and community folks can work together to address a problem that I think we are in universal agreement that we would like to see something happen that helps alleviate, if not completely eliminate this issue in our community.

And I appreciate, Janet, your most recent comment about Sedgwick County's involvement. I was wanting to make a point that our current budget documentation indicates that we at least administer about 1.7 million dollars to deal with homelessness through COMCARE and that's focused primarily on folks with mental health and substance abuse issues, but does work to provide some transitional housing for them. So I assume that means that we're looking at a slightly different defined population than those that we're already dealing with. You said that there was not duplication of effort, so just a point that I wanted to make.

I am not going to have any problem being very supportive of the item before us to adopt this draft and to ask the manager to support an oversight committee. I agree that I don't think that this can be successful going forward without someone with focused oversight.

One question that I did want to ask and Jack, maybe you would be the one to answer this, but I'm sure that your committee has considered the possibility that should we be very successful and have

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a model operation that we may become a real attraction, a regional attraction for homeless people and have you considered what the implications of that might be?"

**Mr. Focht** said, "Well I won't perhaps be a blunt with you as I was with the last realtor that asked that, which was 'that's an urban myth' that there are these places around the country that are already doing it and the facts do not show that people flow to the program. I will tell you that people flow to Wichita and Sedgwick County from other counties surrounding here because they don't do a thing for them. You know, they send, for sister counties and I'm not going to name them now, but we discovered who they were, they will send people to Wichita. You want something to eat you go over there, we're not providing that and that's sad but that will happen. But we have not seen, throughout the country, that kind of lemming-like flow to places. Actually, I've always scratched my head, thinking if you're going to be homeless and live under a bridge, why wouldn't you live under a bridge where it's warm? Why don't you go to Miami or Phoenix or something? And we have, Mary Kay went down and visited the Phoenix program.

People don't do that. They're here because they . . . many of them, because they have some tie to the community. Well one of the things that people get sent back here from the corrections system, back here and sent to the release center down here. They get sent here because they have some sort of tie to the community, they have family here or they were sentenced from here and this is the only place to go.

This oversight committee will have a lot of work to do, but I think they can be the driving force and I think, in answer to one of your other questions, I would think if I were on that committee I would say 'let's get United Way and the foundations that have money to come sit down and the city and the government and see if we can't figure out how we can split up the cost of this'. You know, who's willing to take what part of the pie. That's just a discussion that needs to be had and your county manager is excellent at bringing the people together. And he's not going to take the whole ball for you, I can tell you that, even though we might recommend it, but it's going to be a negotiation process and it will be part of the budgeting process I think of the governmental units, but it can happen."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Well, I appreciate that and I do recall the comments you made on your earlier presentation a couple of months ago, that worked very hard at defining the problem and defining some options that we can go forward with, the issue is how do we get it funded and I guess that would be significant next step that we make in seeing that proposal."

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**Mr. Focht** said, “Your next step is to say ‘yes, manager, go start to work on this committee’.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Well, I think we’re ready to do that, so Mr. Chair, that’s all I have.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. I believe the manager would like to make a couple of comments. I would ask him, Mr. Buchanan, if you would help us, direct us in the next step. Our agenda item calls for us to receive and file this report. I think I could certainly support authorizing some kind of endorsement of this plan, but as Jack mentioned, there still is negotiations to be done, who’s going to do what and the finances have not been decided. So I would take your suggestion or at least like to have it on what our next step would be.”

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, said, “Commission, Chairman Winters and Commissioners, I think it would be appropriate to endorse the plan. We have internally begun to think about these five strategies, about what role Sedgwick County might play. Certainly, one of the easier tasks for us is this idea of collocation. We did it before for the resource center. There’s no reason, with a larger resource center, that we shouldn’t, or couldn’t be in that place and pay our appropriate share of the rent, because we’re paying that now. That just is a pretty easy one almost to check off and just get it done.

There needs to be, as Commissioner Parks pointed out, there needs to be some oversight, some staff work that needs to be done for the oversight committee and I think by readjusting how we think about our staff, we may be able to . . . we’re thinking about how we may be able to do that and I do not have a proposal for you yet, but that may be an approach that we can do relatively painlessly.

The other item is the Housing First and that’s a big chunk of money and I don’t have a plan yet about how to proceed, but I think there’s ways in which we may want to talk to others, certainly the City of Wichita, certainly our own housing group to try to determine first, what the appropriate level might be, and who might administer it. It would be silly to have a bifurcated program, or a split program so we want to think carefully about how that might be done.

And of course the overflow shelter, we continue to be involved in that and again, thinking about how that system might be managed. Once the resource center is up and running, to manage the overflow shelter or shelters is really . . . utilization is really a management problem, how to move people to the appropriate places. So with the overflow shelter . . . I mean, with the resource center up and running, that may be an easier task, once that occurs.

So we’ve been thinking about it. I don’t have a solution yet. It will be part of our budget . . . a part of this will be a part of our budget discussions in the next couple of months and I suspect a couple of these items will be before you in the next 30, 45 days, along with our budget discussions.”

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**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, so if we would then consider a motion to authorize the endorsement of this plan, there still will need to be check off points as we proceed and develop the final funding mechanism, partnership agreements and all of that kind of thing.”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “The only thing that we would be involved in with this implementation of the plan that requires expenditure of dollars, we would be back to you for approval of that, yes.”

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

**Commissioner Parks** said, “I don’t feel comfortable with anything other than ‘receive and file’ at this time. I think, as the chair said, financial has not been finalized. I think that the people that have presented this today have said that some of the faith-based organizations, foundations, some of the percentages haven’t been ironed out enough yet. So it’s not that I’m against the program but I think that there’s just some other things that staff, management and the committee needs to iron out before I would be comfortable with anything further than ‘receive and file’.”

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you Mr. Chair. In our backup material, some of the instruction we have says that ‘the plans presented at this meeting for the commission to publicly endorse and empower the county manager, work with city manager to appoint an overview committee as soon as possible, a formal funding request is not being made at this time.’ And in light of that and in light of the hard work and the very rational endorsement . . . or suggestions that are made, I’m going to be supportive of endorsing the plan and asking the manager to proceed with that recommendation.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. Commissioner Welshimer.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well I think, isn’t the action ‘receive and file’?”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Yes, but we’ve got two, kind of two recommendations, because that paragraph, sentence that Commissioner Unruh just read was not to receive and file and it’s in the backup material.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “I think that what Commissioner Parks has talked about might be

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in the implementation of the plan and I think the plan itself is ready for us to approve, so I would say that we should adopt the plan.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Well the request I think is between whether we would use the words ‘publicly endorse the plan’ or ‘receive and file’ is what I . . .”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “I don’t have a problem publicly endorsing the plan.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you. That’s what Commissioner Unruh also said. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well, I’m ready to make a motion, if there’s not more discussion and we can have discussion after I make the motion.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Certainly.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to endorse the plan and instruct the county manager to work on budgetary recommendations and help develop the oversight, governance structure with other partners.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Unruh     | Aye |
| Commissioner Norton    | Aye |
| Commissioner Parks     | No  |
| Commissioner Welshimer | Aye |

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Chairman Winters

Aye

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you again, all of you who have worked on this project for the 18 months and I think you’ve done very good work and now you’ve handed it to at least one other partner and we’ll start to work. Thank you all. Madam Clerk, call the next item.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Can we take a five minute break?”

**Chairman Winters** said, “I think we’re going to take a five minute break. We’ve had a request. We’re in recess for five minutes.”

**The County Commission was recessed at 10:30 a.m. and returned from recess at 10:38 a.m.**

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, I’ll call back to order the meeting of the board of county commissioners meeting of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Madam Clerk, would you call the next item.”

### **D. PRESENTATION OF DIVISION OF INFORMATION AND OPERATIONS ANNUAL E-GOVERNMENT REPORT.**

#### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Richard Vogt**, Chief Information Officer, Division of Information and Operations, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here today to review briefly with you the highlights from the 2007 e-Government annual report which accompanied the agenda item.

I want to direct your attention to the presentation and particularly that first bullet point and spend a little time on that first bullet point and move pretty quickly through the rest of the report. A couple of things about that first point, 3,000,000 visitors to the Sedgwick County website last year, 2007. First of all that’s not hits. Hits, you hear the term hits and that’s kind of a more general term. Any time somebody touches a page, views a page or sees a page, that’s a hit. We had 60,000,000 hits last year. This represents visitor sessions. These are actual times when people sat down at their computer and transacted business with the county, so 3,000,000 people did that last year.

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The second thing I wanted to point out is just imagine if we didn't have the website. Even if just one in twenty of those people decided to hop in their cars and come downtown, that's another 150,000 trips, 150,000 people trying to find parking, 150,000 people coming through the front door, all the additional security and the clerical and the staff that would be required to meet those people's needs that didn't happen because we had the website. And if half of those people, half of those three million say 'well, I'm not going to jump in my car, I'm going to call somebody' you know that's another 1.5 million phone calls to the county.

And we do, based on what our call center, what kind of business our call center can do when it's at its very busiest, a conservative estimate would be that's another 100 people would be required to answer the phones, just to answer those 1.5 million phone calls. And that still leaves another 1.5 million who probably would have given up and been frustrated. So I'm belaboring the point a little bit but sometimes the technology, the numbers get so big that it doesn't really sink in. You can imagine the kinds of visitation, the kind of traffic we would have in this building, in the downtown area if we didn't have the website. It would look totally different down here.

You can see the other people, we meet the needs of everybody out there. There isn't anybody who doesn't find something on our website, even around the country, around the world. Had a call, had a hardware problem several months ago on one of servers. Got a call from a fellow in Texas. He said, when are you going to be back up and running, I need that information. He runs his business off of information in . . . GIS information and he wanted that back up and running. So all around the world, people are coming and looking at our website.

When do people come? People come mostly on Tuesday. They don't visit us on Saturdays, so if you want to avoid the rush on the website at least, avoid Tuesdays at 10 a.m. But even then, we have . . . typically, we can handle that kind of traffic. We have once or twice during the year, where you have those peak traffics that gives us a little problem, but we were up 99.3% of the time during 2007 and so again, it's an opportunity for people to come home after they've been working, get something to eat, put their feet up a little bit, give the kids a bath, and then 10, 11, 12, whatever works for them, get on our website and transact that business. We conform to what they need, and not the other way around. As you can see, the busiest day was August the 7<sup>th</sup>, Election Day last year.

The places people go most, well the place that people go the very most is our home page and it's a very valuable source of information. But in addition, after the home page, these are the six places that people went the most. You can see that these are things that everybody does. It impacts everybody and that's why they go and they get very valuable information off of these sites.

What do they do? Well, there's everyday items, talked about how to get things done, the courts, tags, taxes, permits, household hazardous waste, animal control, just about everything, those kind of

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everyday things that when people want to work with the county, that information is out there; there is also seasonal information; just like the flu season, vaccination information was out there during the flu season; digital TV conversion, there's information out there now; that wasn't out there last year, but now it's getting hot, it's getting important, there's information there for that; bad weather seasons, notifications, alerts are out there; county fairs and festivals, that information, there during the summer for that; fresh news; the Amber Alerts and I could go on and on about the seasonal information that's out there. Community improvement information out there about the arena. I'm not sure what this little antidote means but . . . well, we didn't have any on our public comment section on the 2008 budget, we had zero comments. But on the arena, since 2005, we've had 135 comments. So kind of tells you, our website can kind of help you see where people are interested, what they want to talk about.

We have the National Center for Aviation Training, information is out there for that, to help, access the Taskforce to End Homeless, the information is out there. Anything that's new and we're working on, people can come to our website and get more information.

Also I want to highlight, just briefly, the Ready to Respond. We haven't talked about that for a while. You know, you get that sense of people getting a little lackadaisical about emergencies, not in Greensburg of course, but when it doesn't happen to you, you tend to forget about it. But we have a Ready to Respond information right on the home site and we want . . . talk to everybody who is listening that we want you to go out there, if you haven't checked that out, it's an important piece of information. It will help you prepare for an emergency, if we have tornadoes, the ice storms and all those things, so I encourage everybody if they haven't read that and familiarize themselves with Ready to Respond. I encourage them to do that.

Advisory boards, we have information about ten different advisory boards out there. HRE Partners, 51 partners now, continue to grow every year, last year we added eight more partners, this year, so far, at least three, haven't seen the latest numbers. Health and wellness, information about that, health access, uninsured information out there as well. I'm just touching the surface. There is so much more information out there that I'm not describing but it is a valuable resource no matter what information you need, you're going to find it on [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org). We had some increases, like I said, we always . . . things continue to increase, visits up 10%, tax payments, I want to highlight that, up 48%, values up 62%.

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I'll tell you a story, Jeff Piper, our webmaster, was up late on December 20<sup>th</sup>, the last night to make tax payments in 2007. And like maybe you heard the phrase 'we didn't build the church for Easter Sunday and maybe that's true with our website. We didn't build it for that particular moment, and we had such heavy traffic on December 20<sup>th</sup> that we had some problems. Well Jeff actually got on the line with one of our taxpayers who was having difficulty using our system and he made sure, he actually took the credit card information and made sure that that person's taxes were paid before midnight. So that's the kind of thing that we really appreciate about our web team, Jeff and Rich Nuss, Greg Faber, other people in the IT department. Take the opportunity also to for Kristi and Amanda, they work hard, Kristi's entire team works hard on that, and the departments, everybody is a contributor. It's not just five or six people who make a website a success. Everybody, every department has somebody that we go to, somebody that's going to make a difference and make sure that information on the website is the best that it can be.

Just a couple of comments that people have made, 'you have a great website, the design is attractive, the information is easy to find and complete, I wish other counties in the state would do as well, good job'. And we have partnerships, it's a good time to highlight the fact that we do have partnerships in addition to the 51 partners that we have in e-Partners, we also have 71 I think the number is local law enforcement agencies who can tie into our on-line warrant system. And the . . . can't remember what the other one was, but I can get back to that.

But we do have partnerships with a number of local agencies, state, we feed the state and the federal government GIS information, the new LIDAR of the flights that you approved a couple of weeks ago, those have started. Those flights are coming, they'll add greatly to our GIS base, and partnering with the city and other organizations on that.

Other comments, there's excellent website design, Sedgwick County Local Emergency Planning Committee won the Region 7 website award in 2007. This is associated with the Adjutant General and the state system. Emergency Management's website is a wealth of information with regard to emergency planning and the local committee was acknowledged for having a really good website and that was partly coordinated by IT and certainly Emergency Management.

Why, finally, why would you want to come? Why would you want to use our website. It's open 24/7, you can save gas, it's important now, save postal, quicker turnaround, all departments at one location, new initiatives, arena, national center for aviation training, all the things that are going on right now, that information is up to date and more in depth. You can get some information in the newspaper and the media. They do a good job, but if you really want in depth information come to the website. You can see a lot more about these initiatives that are going on.

So, [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org) on the internet services page, off of that, there's a department list,

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you can find the annual report and other statistics. You can also, off the home page, you can give us feedback, comments, suggestions. There's a newsletter, kind of an e-news letter that over 2,600 people have subscribed to and anybody can sign up for that and then you get information and news and bulletins, press releases, things like that. HRE Partners I mentioned already, SCZ.org, the zoo, we did at the first, I don't know if you saw that, but we did ten memberships back in 2000 or 2001 and last year we did over 5,000 memberships on-line, so that's in coordination with the zoo. And of course the district court, DC18.org, people can get information on dockets, when things are happening.

So again, appreciate all the good effort that Kristi's team and the IT people and all of our liaisons in the various departments. Truly, it's a world-class site. Again, this year we're the top ten nationally in websites for counties our size and national recognition that it's doing a really good job, it's doing its mission, it's meeting the needs of our citizens. Open for any questions."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you. We do have. Commissioner Welshimer."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "You were mentioning which departments got the most hits and appraisal was up 62%. Is the Appraiser getting more hits than any other department?"

**Mr. Vogt** said, "The highest one would be probably the tax and property page. What we've done is blend those two together, where you pay your property taxes also blended in with just information. You can look up your own address, you can look up comparables and things. So it's hard to say if it's simply blended the operation of two departments together, it's hard to say it's just appraiser but yeah, it's a significant part."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "But it's in that arena."

**Mr. Vogt** said, "Yes it is."

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

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Well thank you Mr. Chair. Well Richard, good report and that's a great success story, isn't it, in how this has grown and how you and your folks have been able to keep up with the growth to make this work and work well and make it even convenience enough for guys like me that aren't real good with a computer, so I really appreciate your work from a consumer point of view, and then also appreciate it as a county commission, because it's a great

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service to our citizens and probably one of the measures that indicate to me how valuable it is, is the fact that 26,000 people it says paid on-line tax payments to the tune of \$29,000,000. That's a major business operation.

So anyway, I know our treasurer and others have analyzed that and our Chief Financial Officer to find out that that's an economic way to do business because there are costs associated with credit card transactions, but at any rate, I just wanted to make a comment of how pleased I am with the work that's being done both as a consumer and as a commissioner, so good work. Thank you."

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

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "As you know, occasionally I try to think outside the box and maybe in a future staff meeting we can discuss how we might be able to make some money off this thing. I don't know if we're . . . not certainly to charge the people or anything, but to help support this top ten website, official soft drinks or something on there. I don't know if that's possible or ethical or whatever, but let's talk about that in the future."

**Mr. Vogt** said, "Okay. We are looking at something called 'value added' GIS right now, and value added IT, and Commissioner Welshimer has encouraged us to look at that and I think it's a great opportunity to say 'here is the basis', this is what we want to make sure everybody has access too, but are there valued added things that we can present and we're working on that right now, but I look forward to that discussion."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Okay."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "What's next? Five years from now, when you come here, what are you going to be telling us?"

**Mr. Vogt** said, "Well hopefully maybe a month from now, we might be able to tell you a little bit more about 'e-recording', Register of Deeds Bill Meek has been very active in the technology, as of all of our elected officials and the tax system, but he has really pushed hard to get e-recording going and I think that's the next big thing, e-recording. You know, you can . . . everybody who has bought a house or has done anything with documents that you want to file with the Register of

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Deeds Office, you know those papers show up on his counter, you know, they're sometimes stacked this high. Well his goal and our goal is to do that all electronically. So a piece of paper never has to be printed, doesn't have to be signed, it can be signed digitally, can be signed electronically, use tokens, use secure PKI, all the important ways to secure things and it will move, electronically, from the title company or the bank office into the Register of Deeds system never having to print a piece of paper. So that's the next big thing we're working on that we've been working on for about 15 months and real excited about what the Register of Deeds is doing in that area.

I think there's opportunity for customization. People come in and say 'I own six different properties, when I pop open that page I want to see those six properties' and so be able to customize, give our citizens the opportunity to customize their own website. That's in the near future as well, working on that, so there's a couple of things."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "That's all I had."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you. Richard, thank you very much, good report. One of the things, when you were talking about all of the usage of real work, besides making us more productive, it makes citizens more productive and increased productivity is one of the things that helps this economy go from the beginning, so thank you for this report. It's very good. Commissioners, do we have a motion to receive and file this report?"

### MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to receive and file.

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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you again, Richard. Next item."

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**E. PROPOSED PRAIRIE GRASS BURN ON SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO PROPERTY; AND AUTHORIZATION TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE ZOO BOULEVARD, AND WINDMILL ROAD, IF NEEDED, DURING THE BURN.**

**Mr. Joell Dunham**, Supervisor of Horticulture, Sedgwick County Zoo, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In teamwork with the Sedgwick County Fire Department, we'd like to conduct a conservative prairie burn out in front of the zoo. We're just looking for your permission, if the smoke happens to get too thick, that we can shut down one or both of the roads if needed. We've done this several times. We've never had to shut down the roads before, but just as a precautionary, we'd like to take that . . . get your opinion on that."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right. And Joell, what dates are you proposing that this take place?"

**Ms. Dunham** said, "We don't exactly have any specific dates. It will be based upon weather. We'll only conduct the burn though on a Saturday or Sunday morning, any time between now and May 1<sup>st</sup>."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, very good. Well that is a very busy intersection at Windmill Road and Zoo, so Saturday or Sunday is a good plan. Commissioners, do we have a motion to take this recommended action?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the prairie grass burn, closure of Zoo Boulevard, and closure of Windmill Road, if needed.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

**Chairman Winters** said, "We have a motion and a second to approve the prairie grass burn and closure of Zoo Boulevard or Windmill Road if needed. Any other discussion?"

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Could I ask one question?"

**Chairman Winters** said, "Yes you can."

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**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “If this would be during a time that the zoo is closed?”

**Ms. Dunham** said, “It is not usually during the time that the zoo is closed, but a lot of times we do try to take into consideration the wind direction. If we burn out in front, which would be on the east side, very seldom does the wind blow from the east to the west, so hopefully the smoke will go directions besides into the zoo.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Okay. Well I’m concerned too about traffic. If the zoo is closed, you don’t have people trying to get in and out. Okay, thank you.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Well I think they’ve done this several times in the past and I know there have been years when you have cancelled and not done that at all.”

**Ms. Dunham** said, “Right, we try to take everything into consideration, weather, wind, visitation, what kind of day it’s going to be and things like that, so we hope to eliminate any inconvenience as much as possible.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. We have a motion. Is there any other questions? Seeing none, call the vote.”

**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you, Joell. Next item.”

**F. REPEAL OF CHARTER RESOLUTION 52 AND ADOPTION OF A NEW CHARTER RESOLUTION.**

**Colonel Robert Hinshaw**, Undersherrif, Sheriff Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “In regards to the agenda item, we started working on this in 2006, with two prime motivations. Number one, the performance based pay system that we were one of the first pilots, so that all of our personnel would be using the same disciplinary system, the same evaluation system and be subjected to the same rules, if you will, in regards to allocating those performance-based pay raises.

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This required a change in Charter Resolution 52, because currently all civilian and clerical people, clerical and secretarial people are exempted by state statute, so that was our prime motivators. The end result of this is that many of our secretarial and clerical personnel will be removed from under county personnel policies and placed under civil service policies. This should also result in clarifying the grievance process for all of our personnel and our supervisors only having to be familiar, as well as our personnel, with one system of discipline and personnel policies. I would ask that you approve this and I'm available for any questions that you may have. Thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you Colonel Hinshaw. Are there questions or comments? Mr. Buchanan, I would ask, and Mr. Euson I guess, that both of you have reviewed this and feel that this is a process that we're ready to go forward with?"

**Mr. Richard Euson and Mr. Buchanan** both said, "Yes, sir."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Okay, very good. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well this does standardize it for both sides of the equation, but there's not going to be that profound a difference. A lot of personnel policies are very similar between the county and the Sheriff's Office so it's not going to be a huge difference in how we manage. It just codifies it a little bit. Is that correct?"

**Colonel Hinshaw** said, "That's correct, it just makes it more clear for all personnel."

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

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, any questions? If not, what's the will of the board?"

### MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to repeal Charter Resolution 52 and adopt the new charter Resolution.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

### VOTE

Commissioner Unruh

Aye

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|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Norton    | Aye |
| Commissioner Parks     | Aye |
| Commissioner Welshimer | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you Colonel. Next item.”

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**G. APPLICATION FOR AID-TO-LOCAL GRANTS FROM THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.**

**Ms. Claudia Blackburn**, Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The agenda item before you is the health department’s annual application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for Aid to Local Grants.

The application covers many of the awards of the grants awarded to the health department and state fiscal year 2008 our award from the state health department was 1.5 million, which was a 5.5 increase over the previous year.

These funds support a number of programs, including our public health infrastructure administration, chronic disease risk reduction, family planning prenatal, Healthy Babies, immunizations, sexually transmitted disease programs, HIV/ AIDS counseling, so it’s a huge part of our funding.

This year we’ve requested 1.8 million, which is a 21% increase. We’ll see how successful we are with our request. Grants from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and other sources make up about 57% of the health department budget. And this grant alone is about 15% of our total budget, so without this funding many of our programs would probably not exist or would be drastically reduced.

There is both a hard and soft or in-kind match required for this grant and meeting the match will not require an increase in local dollars. In addition, the state formula block grant includes a maintenance of effort stipulation that requires that local funding for Sedgwick County Health Department not be decreased from calendar year 2008 to 2009. We don’t anticipate that there will be a problem with that.

There are 30 positions that are either funded in part or totally with this grant funding and of course they work in all of the programs that I mentioned. I would like to just highlight a few programs and changes that are taking place. Recently, our Healthy Babies and maternal and infant health staff

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attended a domestic violence training that was sponsored by HURSA, a federal funder and they learned new ways of identifying women that are involved in domestic violence situations. We know that nationally over 50% of patients that are in the Healthy Start initiatives are exposed to violence in their homes and that we can do a better job of identifying and working with women and more of an empowering kind of approach. And so they learned a lot and will be sharing that with all of the programs and community partners as well.

Also we'll be moving to a centering pregnancy model in our prenatal and Healthy Babies program, and we'll take patients who are due about the same time and put them into groups and they will have their visits at the same and put them into groups and they will have their visits at the same time and they will be educated in a group session and they'll do a lot of that education themselves, facilitated by a practitioner or nurse or social workers who has the right information. This will be sort of an empowering thing for the women and will also help to develop that social support for them, hopefully even after they deliver. And we know from national studies that this centering pregnancy model helps to reduce emergency room visits that are unnecessary because women understand their aches and pains a little bit better and they know what's normal and what's not during pregnancy.

And then lastly, you may have seen the paper this morning, on the front page was an article about STDs and teenagers and that 25% of teen girls are infected with at least one STD and the most prevalent one is Human Papilloma Virus. In the last year, we did start providing Human Papilloma Virus vaccine to girls who are nine to twenty-six years of age and we know that with this vaccine we can prevent the majority of Human Papilloma Virus infections, some of which go on to cause Cervical Cancer. So I just wanted to let you know that we are moving forward with many of our programs, making improvements and this grant funding really helps us to do that. So I am happy to answer any questions and I recommend that you approve this application and authorize the Chair to sign any documents."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you Claudia. That study that you referenced on the front page of today's paper, that was a national study and I'm sure we probably fit in the norms, but it was not something that was just surveyed here locally, but it was a nationwide project."

**Ms. Blackburn** said, "Right, right."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioner Welshimer."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "You said that you're giving nine year olds . . .?"

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**Ms. Blackburn** said, "It can be given as early nine. The recommended time to start is 11 to 12, that's the very best time, 11 to 12. That is really what we promote, but it can be given as early as age nine."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "We don't have nine year olds that are . . . ?"

**Ms. Blackburn** said, "Sexually active, unfortunately we do, not a lot but . . ."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right. Any other questions, commissioners? Seeing none, what's the will of the Board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Grant Application and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including the Grant Award Agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as the Application; and approve establishment of budget authority at the time the Grant Award documents are executed.

Commissioner Unruh 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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you Claudia. Next item."

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### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

#### H. APPLICATION TO THE KANSAS JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY (JJA) FOR SFY09 FUNDING.

##### POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Ms. Chris Morales, Systems Integration Coordinator, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This morning, I am here to present for your approval our state fiscal year 2009 grant application to the Juvenile Justice Authority. Beginning in 1998 is when Sedgwick County began receiving this state funding for prevention, intervention and graduated sanctions programming. In order to continue to receive this funding, we do need to submit a grant application to the state by March 17<sup>th</sup>. This year we anticipate a little bit different process and this would be the first of a two-step process for submitting our funding request.

The first step is what you have before you, the grant application that is based on an estimated award and that is in the amount of \$4,107,787. This does represent a one and a half percent decrease in graduated sanctions funding and that decrease is due to a technical adjustment in the funding formula that the state is currently using.

The good news is that in step two the governor's recommended budget does include additional funding for juvenile justice and graduated sanctions in state fiscal year '09. If passed, Sedgwick County would receive \$650,000 in additional funds for graduated sanctions, so we will come back to you in April with an alternate grant application that would encompass this funding.

But today we're asking for your approval on the application that includes continuation funding for five prevention programs, two intervention programs, three graduated sanctions programs, as well as administrative structure funding.

And the first slide here shows how our funding is split out. In the Truancy Prevention Program the recommendation is for two components, one being with the District Attorney's Office for truancy diversion services and the other with Unified School District 259 or Wichita Public Schools for their attendance conference component in elementary schools.

As you know, we do an annual review of programs and this year Team Justice looked at that connection to services component which we currently have in our truancy program and really felt

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that the utilization of this program is far less than we had anticipated. So their recommendation to you is to discontinue this component in state fiscal year 2009, moving the funding which is 309,000 to our core program Juvenile Case Management to help with their personnel shortfall, which is estimated to be in excess of 300,000. So they felt that the funding would best be utilized in that manner.

Another program we have in prevention is Family Group Conferencing and it is administered by the District Attorney's Office and they do have a conference facilitation component that is provided currently by Episcopal Social Services, but for state fiscal year '09 they are currently out to bid for that program so a service provider is yet to be determined.

Functional Family Therapy is a prevention program provided by Family Consultation Service which is a division of Youthville and Kansas Children's Service League provides our Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center case management program as well as parent training.

The two intervention programs we have are the Diversion, Immediate Intervention program with the DA's Office and Kansas Legal Services provides detention advocacy service.

Our graduated sanctions programs, these are the three core or state mandated programs that we have: Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center, Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program and Juvenile Case Management.

And finally, this application includes funding for administrative structure. This provides administrative oversight within the Department of Corrections for contract monitoring, grant development, technical assistance to our programs, as well as our annual contract with Wichita State University for professional evaluation services.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, your Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board, or Team Justice approved these programs and the funding levels for inclusion in our application and we are asking that you also approve the recommendations and authorize the Chairman to sign."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you very much Chris. Commissioners, are there questions or comments? Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Chris, go back to the first slide. The truancy prevention program, that's changed from what it was. Is that correct?"

**Ms. Morales** said, "Yes, it currently includes a component called 'connection to services', which is our middle school component. Originally, we envisioned that that program would impact 1,500 middle school students and over the course of three years it's been decreasing each year and in that

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annual review Team Justice really felt that because of the low utilization of the program that they would recommend shifting that funding.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. That’s administered by the School District 259 but do they subcontract that to someone?”

**Ms. Morales** said, “They subcontract with Communities in Schools.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay, and what were the numbers that didn’t quite meet our expectations?”

**Ms. Morales** said, “They started out with estimate that they would serve 1,500 and the next year we decreased that to 1,000 and it was not met and this year we decreased that to 750 and at this point we’re not sure, because we’re only half way through the year, whether that will be met or not.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. We’ve had partnerships with prevention money and juvenile justice money with CIS through the school district for a long time. There are other programs they administer have done just fine. Do you have any thoughts on why they aren’t reaching the target population in this particular group?”

**Ms. Morales** said, “Team Justice was very clear in their discussions with them, and they had numerous meetings with USD 259 separately, Communities in Schools separately and then together to discuss issues and we’re very clear that it wasn’t anything based on their performance. They are doing a fine job. Just the number of kids that we thought would fit our target population, the numbers were just not there.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Okay. And re-describe how we’re going to allocate that money differently than we have before because we know truancy, keeping kids in school is an important issue for the continuum of keeping young people out of the juvenile justice system. How are we going to reposition that money? One more time, I know you’ve already told us, but one more time.”

**Ms. Morales** said, “The money will be repositioned. We will use what we currently have a prevention proviso which will allow us to move prevention dollars to intervention and graduated sanctions. Our juvenile case management program is the program that has the greatest shortfall in personnel, in excess of \$300,000 so we would be utilizing the proviso, moving prevention money to juvenile case management.”

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

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right. Thank you very much Chris, good job explaining that. Any other questions, commissioners? Well I think we need to have a motion to take this grant.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the JJA funding Application subject to technical budget adjustments and authorize the Chairman to sign all necessary documents, including the Grant Award Agreement containing substantially the same terms and conditions as the Application and approve establishment of budget at the time the Grant Award documents are executed.

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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you, Chris. Next item.”

**I. RESOLUTION RECLASSIFYING 29<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH BETWEEN 119<sup>TH</sup> STREET WEST AND 135<sup>TH</sup> STREET WEST FROM THE UNION TOWNSHIP ROAD SYSTEM TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY HIGHWAY SYSTEM.**

**Mr. James E. Weber**, P.E., County Engineer, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, “In Item I we’re requesting your approval of a resolution reclassifying 29<sup>th</sup> Street North between 119<sup>th</sup> Street and 135<sup>th</sup> Street West from the Union Township Road System to the Sedgwick County Highway System.

As you probably recall from your discussion of the zoning case on the southwest corner of the intersection at 119<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Street North two weeks ago, we are planning to construct a new cold mix asphalt on the west half mile of this section and overlay an existing cold mix on the east half

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mile of this section of the road this year. While not a requirement, we do generally take over cold mix roads as we are better equipped to maintain them than the townships. I recommend that you adopt the resolution.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you Jim. Commissioners, are there questions of Jim? If not, is there a motion to adopt the resolution?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Unruh 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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you Jim. Next item.”

**J. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS’ REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 11, 2008.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The meeting of March 11<sup>th</sup> results in six items for consideration today.

**1) NATIONAL CENTER FOR AVIATION TRAINING/ GATEWAY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING- FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
FUNDING: JABARA CAMPUS**

First item is the National Center for Aviation Training, the Gateway Administration Building and site work for Facilities Department. Recommendation is to accept the low bid of National

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Contractors, including alternates two and five for a total cost of \$7,429,300.

**2) CRACK SEALANT MATERIAL- PUBLIC WORKS  
FUNDING: NORTH YARD/ EAST YARD/ ANDALE YARD/ CLONMEL YARD**

Second item is crack sealant material for Public Works. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Maxwell Products for 33.9 cents a pound for an initial purchase of \$16,129.62 and execute a one-year contract.

**3) 2008 COLD MIX RECYCLING- PUBLIC WORKS  
FUNDING: R-175 PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR 2008**

Item three, 2008 cold mix recycling for Public Works. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Brown and Brown Incorporated in the amount of \$792,625.

**4) MOTOROLA 800 MHZ REBANDING PROJECT- EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
FUNDING: SPRINT/ NEXTEL AGREEMENT**

Item four, Motorola 800 MHz rebanding project for Emergency Communications. Recommendation is to accept the quote from Motorola Communications in the amount of \$189,606.

**5) STANDARD ROLL TOILET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS- VARIOUS  
DEPARTMENTS  
FUNDING: VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

Item five, standard toilet paper and paper towels for various county departments. Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Southwest Paper, establish contract pricing and execute a one-year contract with two additional one-year options to renew.

**6) SECURITY GUARD SERVICES FOR COMCARE SITES AND TAG OFFICE-  
COMCARE AND TREASURER'S OFFICE  
FUNDING: COMCARE AND TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Item six, security services for COMCARE sites and tag offices for COMCARE and the Treasurer's Office. Recommendation is to accept the low proposal from Securitas Security Services to establish pricing and execute a contract for three years, with two one-year options to renew at the stated rates.

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And for the record, there was an item, computer hardware for Enterprise Resource Planning that was differed from this meeting.

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

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. I’ve got just a couple of quick questions and maybe Charlene could help me with that. On the bid for the National Center of Aviation Training for the gateway program, this is only part of this process. In fact, it’s the smaller part, in relationship to our overall budget, this number of this . . . the low bid had been recommended, selected, we’re still within our budget target parameters.”

**Ms. Charlene Stevens**, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Certainly. This is for the first piece of the National Center for Aviation Training and it is 7.4 million dollars. The total project budget that you approved some months ago was \$54,000,000 for this project, so we are well within our budget for this even including the two alternates. The architect’s estimate for this phase was about 7,397,000, so we’re within 30,000 of that, even with the two alternates. And I want to assure you that we also looked at those two alternates understanding what they would cost in the second phase of this, because what is an alternate in this phase will now be a standard in the next phase, so we costed that out to make sure that still is going to fit within our estimates for the second phase and I believe it will, as well as our architect, Shaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey, so we will be within the 54,000,000 on the next phase.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, very good. Then the only other question I had and I don’t know that I need an answer today, but there were some of the major subcontractors were listed, but there wasn’t any listing of the subcontractor on the site development work and I wondered if there was going to be a subcontractor involved in, since that is a large piece of this part of the project?”

**Ms. Stevens** said, “I don’t believe there is. I could verify that.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “If you could just check that and let me know later if there is a subcontractor on that part of the project.”

**Ms. Stevens** said, “Certainly.”

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**Chairman Winters** said, "All right. Commissioner Parks."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "On the rebanding, does that include all agencies in Sedgwick County, including smaller cities also?"

**Ms. Diane Gage**, Director, Emergency Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, "That includes anyone that would operate on our 800 MHz system. There are state, federal, local, city/ county agencies."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "And so we're not charging those cities any extra for that then?"

**Ms. Gage** said, "In fact, we're not actually paying for this. Sprint/ Nextel is paying for this, for the planning phase of that reband."

**Commissioner Parks** said, "That was going to be my next question. Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Any other?"

**Commissioner Parks** said, "That's it."

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "I want to go back to the National Center for Aviation Training, for that item, first of all it appears like we had very tight bidding from several companies, so that generally works to our benefit so I'm pleased with that and they look like they're all good companies, that we're familiar with most of them and National, the one recommended, has worked with us before."

**Ms. Stevens** said, "National is currently a contractor for Sedgwick County on the Juvenile Court and a D.A. building and we've been very satisfied with their work and very happy with them. And I also wanted to take this opportunity, I was just talking to Kent Cox of Shaefer, Johnson, Cox and Frey regarding Chairman Winters' question on the subcontractors. There are subcontractors on the site work. He will get that information, I will forward that on to you, but he estimated that there are maybe eight or nine contractors on the site work too."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Okay. Another question, on the bid that we have, the contractor that we've chosen was low on the base bid and low when we included the alternate."

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**Ms. Stevens** said, “Yes, they were low on the base bid, as well as including two alternates, they were the low bidder.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “All right. One variance that I noticed was in days to completion and we have analyzed that, because this is a little bit longer than some of the others, but that does not create a problem for us as far as our proposed date of open . . . it gets us done by the fall of '09 so we're ready for the fall semester? Is that kind of the thinking?”

**Ms. Stevens** said, “Yes, we looked at the days of completion and analyzed that. What is more critical is the days of completion for the site work, because the site work, days of completion and the planning estimate there is important to us because that is for the second phase. And what is in the site work for this is the site work for this building but as well as putting in the pad and such for the second phase. And so . . . and we anticipate bidding that second phase in August and starting that construction in late September and this will meet those time constraints.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Okay, well very good. It all looks like a good competitive process and it worked well for our project. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make a couple of comments about the groundbreaking ceremony. Is now the appropriate time?”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Yes, it would be.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Well I just wanted to say that as we go forward with this, it's scheduled to have the groundbreaking for this project after this action to select a contractor is done, on Monday. And I am not going to be able to be there for that groundbreaking ceremony and it distresses me greatly. I really want to be there in light of the fact that been involved with technical training, workforce development for quite some time, so just wanted to first of all express my excitement about this particular action we're going to take on the Bid Board today to approve the contract and my excitement about the groundbreaking ceremony and my congratulations to everyone who has worked very diligently and hard not only in house to get through the bid process so that we could get this done in a timely way, but also to all our partners in the community that are making this particular facility a reality, which includes our congressional delegation to our federal government, our state legislative partners, City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Wichita Area Technical College and also our aviation companies here in south central Kansas. This is not a minor thing that we're embarking on and appears we will approve today. This is a major component of the economic vitality of south central Kansas.

And you know, part of the mission of Sedgwick County is that we want to provide for current and

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future needs of Sedgwick County citizens and that includes economic vitality, so I think we're doing what is definitely within the responsibility of our commissioners. But I know that Sedgwick County government has been involved in this workforce development issue and technical training for some time. Chairman Winters was involved with WATC back when it was still part of USD 259 and the K-12 system, and I became involved during the transition period. And as we begin the development of the initial structure and then since that time Commissioner Norton has been involved very much in the development that has really started to show some tangible aspect of our involvement in technical education and training. So, I'm very pleased to be supportive of this. Once again, I'm disappointed. I won't be there on Monday, but I just wanted to express my congratulations and excitement as to what we're doing going forward. So with those comments, Mr. Chairman, that's all I have."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, I'm certainly supportive of moving forward. Just a couple of comments. You know, as we think about this big initiative that we've put forward, we've always talked about as it starts to gain leverage and we build this institution that there's going to be other partners and we've just got an announcement that Rockwell Collins is going to put \$150,000 into it. Now they're, you know, located I think in Omaha and have workers around the country, but they see the need in avionics and some of the things that they do to invest in this world-class technical training initiative that we have going here.

And I think there's going to be other partners that see the validity of developing this, not only for Wichita and Sedgwick County and south central Kansas and Kansas, but nationwide because of our combination with NIAR and the aviation companies here. And that's more good news, because we said all along that we wanted to backstop the building of the facility, but that we hoped that we would gain partnerships that would come in and help fulfill the mission and I think we'll see more and more of these groups engage, as they see this building coming out of the ground. So great first step, I'm going to be support of the contract today and look forward to building the big phase, when it comes before us. That's all I have."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you. And I would mentioned, Commissioner Unruh alluded to it, we did have ten good bids, so I think we've done an excellent job of getting a good price on this part of the project."

**Ms. Stevens** said, "I would also add that they were local contractors as well. And then I would want to say too, Mr. Unruh mentioned the opening in the fall of 2009, it is actually 2010 that we are

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scheduled to open, not the fall of 2009, but spring of 2010.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Okay, does that count . . . excuse me, may I? Is that the right time, 400 days?”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “We have said for a long time that it would be the spring of 2010. There’s those on the authority that keep insisting that it’s going to happen sooner than that, but they’re not accurate.”

**Ms. Stevens** said, “This building may be ready, this building will be ready before 2010 and there is a possibility that WATC could move their administrative functions to the campus prior to the rest, but the manufacturing aviation center and the classes, that is the second phase, and that is set for spring of 2010.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “All right, well thank you for that clarification. And I have also repeated the 2010 timeline, but I just looked at the number of days and thought ‘wow, we’re going to get in’ so I understand. Thank you.”

**Ms. Stevens** said, “For this phase, for this building.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. Are there other questions or comments? Did you have something, commissioner?”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “No, no. She answered it.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, very good. Is there a motion to approve the recommendation of the Board of Bids and Contracts?”

### **MOTION**

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

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

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**VOTE**

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

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you Iris and thank the rest of you who are here for this agenda item. Next item.”

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**K. CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. MAPD Case Number VAC2008-00001 – Sedgwick County request to vacate a portion of a platted setback; generally located west of 231<sup>st</sup> Street West, north of 55<sup>th</sup> Street South; on the north side of South Lakeview Drive between the two West Lakewood Drives. District #3.**
- 2. Lease Agreement with S & B Real Estate Investments, LLC, for space used by the Sedgwick County Purchasing Department at 604 North Main Street, Suite F, Wichita, Kansas.**
- 3. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of March 5 - 11, 2008.**

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Chairman Winters seconded the motion.

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

### VOTE

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

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioners, that concludes our regular agenda. We do need to have an executive session, but before we go into executive session does anybody have any other business and I just have two quick things.

### **L. OTHER**

One, we did talk about the groundbreaking for the National Center for Aviation Training. That will take place next Monday at 2:00 on the site at Jabara Airport. And then I also wanted to acknowledge that today KPTS has begun the close captioning on our television screens for the hearing impaired and that closed captioning will also be available on our e-video on our website, so something to keep in mind. Commissioner Welshimer."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well, yesterday in staff meeting we talked about the property tax issue and the possibility of a mill levy adjustment to offset the increase in increased valuation. I had some tables done, I'll pass those down so you each know what I'm talking about. I'd like to address this issue of increasing property values and the threat that this economic event is causing our property taxpayers.

Owners of existing real estate absolutely dread the idea of their property being worth more, because their annual property tax bills will increase right along with it, and they don't see an end to it and they're right. If we look at the historical data which I just passed out to you, from '97 to '06 existing properties have seen an average increase in valuation of 4% a year, and over this time the county has collected an average of \$3,318,319 more each year from existing real estate. That's not including personal property or new construction.

So the need for revenue of course is great and it includes . . . that need includes rising costs for materials and supplies and healthcare cost increases and payroll and increases for employees and a major cause too of our need for more revenue is the legislature's removal of portions of our tax base every year by expanding exemptions for business inventory, machinery and equipment and

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agriculture products. And the legislature mandates that we pay for larger and larger jail populations and other obligations, with the ability they have given us to increase property taxes through our home rule and that seems to be the only method that we have, other than if we put a sales tax on the ballot.

In 2012, we'll have over \$12,000,000 from the legislative machinery and equipment exemption and that's three and a half times the average increase for existing properties, and twice that amount if new construction is put back in the formula.

We're building the new Jabara campus and may not avoid building a \$70,000,000 addition to the jail. Well these are things that we determined that we must do, but the future is sure to be a higher debt load for the county than any time in history. So we have a 3.683 billion in appraised valuation.

That's off the tax rolls and this includes real estate incentives, government buildings, schools, non-profits and religious, church owned properties. And those of us who do not have the luxury of property tax exemptions are stuck with the bill for those who do.

So if exemptions are economically advantageous, it's apparently not enough today to keep us from falling behind. These are all things that cause us to worry about and be grateful for the increase in valuation so that we have more revenue coming in, but historically if the county needs a new building we build it. If an organization needs financial assistance we come to that organization's aid. If an economic incentive is asked for, the county obliges. But one request the county has not granted is the citizens' request for a no property tax increase on existing real estate and this is my concern and I think it should be an issue that's put right into the budget, that we consider when we start budget talks.

By 2012 we'll have this one big \$12,000,000 exemption staring up at us and since we're about to begin working on the budget for '09, I think that we should consider this year rolling the mill levy back on existing properties while we can and give the taxpayers a year of relief. Now I'm saying we can. Our finance department might say something different and I'd like to suggest that our finance manager, director provide us with information to review at our next meeting, information on if we roll the mill levy back to compensate for the 3% increase in '07 valuation, we need to know how much revenue would we avoid collecting, what the level of difficulty to impose and implement this rollback would be and where we can offset or cut in order to balance the 2009 budget.

So I would like to see that type of an issue in the budget talks every year. If we could roll it back one year, it would at least let the public know that we have some consideration for what they've

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gone through over this number of years and that we do have concern for their frustrations. So I would hope that you would agree with me to have this information brought to us at the next meeting. And then if we discuss that information and decide that it is not a horribly complicated situation and something we can deal with, then we would have it in the budget talks for this next year and the future.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “All right, thank you. Commissioner Unruh, you had your light on. Did you want to talk in response to her remarks, or were you on another subject?”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Well, I was on a happy subject, but . . . or something not as complicated, I guess I should say. I would respond to say that I appreciate Commissioner Welshimer’s comments and I have been, each year that I’ve gone through the budget process, I felt that we have considered many options, including what to do with mill levy adjustments as we’ve considered our budget priorities. And as we go through this process, we’ve recently initiated called ‘budget live’ we can see what mill levy adjustments up, down will do to different programs and how the mill levy is affected by advancing programs or deferring programs. So I appreciate your comments and I think that’s what we will be doing and we need to put a special emphasis on it to have something definite next week, in advance of the budget, that I’d have to see what that means. But I don’t know how to get there, but as far as your general comment, I don’t have any problem with considering that as we go through the process.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you. Before you go on your other subject then, let’s talk about this for a second. I would agree. I think we need to have this discussion and I think it would be a good discussion. If it’s acceptable to you, a plan might be that we begin this discussion at a staff meeting next week with the intension of bringing back an agenda item to this board on Wednesday morning at some point in time. But instead of trying to shoot for next week, let’s give ourselves a couple of weeks to have this discussion, to really see what kind of target points we want to hit.

You know, after yesterday’s staff meeting I went back and dug through some of my files too and we were talking about increases in property values and how that affects the mill levy. Last August, during our budget time, we asked staff to provide us information about the increased values based on what had happened in 2007 and in 2007 the total increase in valuations, the change in tax revenue from increased valuations was \$7,000,000. And of that, 50% of it came from new houses, new buildings, new construction, 34% of it came from changes in use of the property and only 1 . . . and I say only 1, but \$1,000,000 of it, which is still a significant number came from increased values of properties.

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So I was really kind of surprised in that. I thought the number would have been bigger than that. So you know, if you're . . . if I'm hearing what you're saying, we need to be talking . . . if we can talk about what kind of revenues we're talking about that are the result of increased values."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well one million is the figure I'm interested in."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Right. I'm ready to talk about that, so I think we can have a good discussion. Because I would rather talk about that than see the legislature try to arbitrarily change the constitution to change the way we value property, because we value property so things are fair and equally taxed, so as values rise, values rise and if you start putting artificial lids on that then is when I think you begin to get in some real difficulty. So I'll be glad to have that discussion. Commissioner Parks, you have your light on. Is it about this subject?"

**Commissioner Parks** said, "Yes, and basically a lot of the things have already been said but I would be interested in pursuing this line of discussion also."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, very good. Back to you, Commissioner Unruh, with your happy subject."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Before we get off of that, let me weigh in and then we'll go through the happy subjects because I've got some happy subjects."

Actually, I'm never happy about property taxes, but I am happy that we had the discussion. We had it yesterday, we're having it today. Interesting enough, I was in the Southwest Village Neighborhood Association last night and I didn't go to speak but they asked me to speak and the first thing I talked about was property valuations and how it equates to taxes and the good news was that several of the people in that group said 'hey, I'm good with my property valuations this year, they didn't go up' so there are people out there that are part of that group that didn't go up and some of them had marginal increases. We know that some had larger than that and I've heard from them.

Twenty-five percent of the properties in Sedgwick County went down, didn't grow at all and even marginally went down, so it is a debate that we need to keep having. I agree with Commissioner Winters, the property valuation context needs to be put to the side and it really needs to be a mill levy discussion. We don't want to start playing around with artificially changing property

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valuation, because they are what they are. It's a state process that keeps it fair and equitable for property values around the state and if you play with that to get a different property tax load, I think you're playing with fire. So I think Commissioner Welshimer is right. Looking at the mill levy adjustment, if we can pull it off, is the right way to go.

Now I have to tell you, every year I've been here we've had that conversation. We've maybe not had it in the public context that everybody wants to hear that we're going to move the mill levy down, but I think everybody is taking it serious as to what the mill levy looks like, where that money goes, what it's used for, can we move the mill levy the other way. In the years that have been most concerning to everybody are the years that demand transfers or revenue sharing for the state chinked down another 20% until it finally went away and that's about, I think in today's dollars, 10 or 11 million dollars. Commissioner Welshimer talked about \$12,000,000 hit in a couple of years because of equipment and machinery exemptions. That's all real money that diminishes the programs we already have in our community, not to mention increases in ability to pay insurance, the ability to have personnel, just the cost of doing business, inflation, so it becomes a real balancing act. I think this is a year where we are hearing a little bit of property tax concern and if we can make it happen, that's good news.

The difficulty is that if next year is a little different, you know, you go back up a little bit and then you kind of lose the validity of going down, so you have to really balance out what it looks like and what those decisions are.

One of the things I've been an advocate for is doing the process we call 'financial live' where we can take all the numbers, the budget numbers, what it costs, put it on this program that's been developed by David Miller and Troy Bruun and change the numbers, change the mill levy, change the different items in the budget and it will tell you all the things that are plus or minus over a five-year period that keeps us whole as a county, keeps the mill levy rate at a certain level and funds what we think we need to do and I'm ready to certainly do that process.

Now I think it would be hard to do that process at a county commission meeting, but certainly at a staff meeting. We've done it before and just like last year when we started pretty early on budget talks and what it looked like, I'm not afraid of delving into the 'financial live' just with the idea of what is the implications to the mill levy at certain levels of funding in our county, because that is always stimulating. I think it brings the commissioners together in a mindset of how do we best

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serve the public on both sides, plenty of services and the least amount of pain. That's both sides of the equation and I think it's healthy to do that. So that's my comment on that subject."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Okay, well let's stick on it for just a second. Mr. Manager, you had a comment?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Commissioner Welshimer, if it would be okay with you, could we bring this information back not next week but the following meeting at the staff meeting?"

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "As long as it gets pretty well tied to the budget talks."

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "That will give us a little more time to be more accurate."

**Chairman Winters** said, "So you suggest that we not do it at this budget . . . this staff meeting next Tuesday, but at the following? Is that what you're saying?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "Yes, and that would be the same week as . . . I think that's April 1<sup>st</sup> and that would be when we talk about solid waste also."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Okay. All right, well I think you can be assured we're going to have this discussion."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Thank you very much."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, now we're back to happy stuff. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the calendar of hearing that information in light of the fact that I'm not going to be here next staff meeting and I want to be present and involved in that conversation.

But my only comment was that last Saturday I got to speak to a group of high school kids, they were called community ambassadors that was sponsored by Sunflower Bank and they're in some sort of scholarship program but these were really an outstanding group of young people. They were high school seniors and it's one of those opportunities where you can kind of step back and say there's really a lot of great kids out there in our community, who make good grades, who are engaged, who want to know what's on, who have some sensitivity to our local government and I was encouraged by that. We had a good time and just wanted to share that with you all this morning that a lot of good kids in our community. And that's all I have."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you. Commissioner Norton."

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**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well, the first one doesn’t sound like actually it’s very happy. I wanted to promote ‘Death By Chocolate’ and anything kind of use death doesn’t sound good. Death By Chocolate is a fundraising event at Exploration Place. It is April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to 10. It’s a great event and I would encourage people that might want to support Exploration Place and be a part of that to stop by Exploration Place or give me a call and I’d be glad to help you out buy a ticket and participate in that event.

The second thing at Exploration Place is that starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June the ‘Bodies, the Human Experience’ will be coming to Exploration Place. It’s an international exhibit that has to do with anatomy and how the human body works and I’m sure there will be probably a little controversy in it, but I think for promoting science and education and the medical aspects of the human condition, I think it’s going to be extremely good for our community and you can go on Exploration’s webpage and preregister for tickets and time slots to see that exhibit and I would urge folks to do that.

Transition to another issue I’m working on, Insure The Uninsured is coming up in April. We’ll fully participate through our health department and our health access initiative that we’re working on. It is a nationwide week or month of trying to figure out how do we take care of those in our communities that do not have insurance or are very uninsured [sic] and put such a strain on our quality of life and our economies and we’ll be fully participating in that and I’ll give you more information as it comes up.

And then finally, I’m pretty close to bringing some recommendation about adult basic education and GED testing, GED prep and ESOL to the commission for us to talk about. As you know, some of that was embedded in WATC when we kind of inherited that and I’ve worked to jettison that away from maybe Sedgwick County and the Authority in some manner and to build a consortium of groups that deliver that to our community. It is important for our community to have high literacy, high remedial programs and adult programs and we’re trying to figure out how to do that best with the least amount of money and the most amount of service and I’ll be bringing that plan to you probably in the next month, and I just wanted to give you kind of a heads up. And that’s all I have.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Thank you. Commissioner Parks.”

**Commissioner Parks** said, “Well I had something that wasn’t on the happy schedule but something that I can certainly tell my constituents that have called in, that we are working on the problem of the trees that were trimmed along the county roads. I’ve been working with staff on that, maybe even to get them some better equipment to do that. The method of doing that doesn’t necessarily

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cut the limbs, it whacks them and tears them and it's not sightly, but in most cases it will grow back. The Public Works does this so they can get down in the ditches and be able to mow the ditches and whatnot and we're working with them to have a better solution than some of the recent complaints that I've heard on that. Thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, just one last thing from me. I did, last Saturday, attend the Sedgwick County Association of Cities meeting out at Maize in the brand new city hall. They've just been in there a week or so and had a good meeting with the organization that represents the cities in Sedgwick County.

We do need to have an executive session. Commissioner Norton, do you have that motion?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to recess into Executive Session for 20 minutes to consider consultation with legal counsel on matters privileged in the attorney/client relationship relating to pending claims and litigation potential litigation and legal advice and that the Board of County Commissioners return to this room from Executive Session no sooner than 12:15 p.m.

Commissioner Unruh 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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, "We are in recess for 20 minutes."

**The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners recessed into Executive Session as 11:54 a.m. and returned at 12:25 p.m.**

**Chairman Winters** said, "We're back in session. This is the March 12<sup>th</sup> Board of County Commissioners and I'll call the meeting back to order. Let the record show that there was no binding action taken in executive session today. We do have other business. Mr. Euson."

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**Mr. Euson** said, "Thank you. Commissioners, while in Executive Session we discussed an automobile accident involving Dennis and Andrew Edelman and just for the record I would say that the county is self-insured for automobile liability and so the reason for this request.

This case is set for trial and we are asking that you approve a settlement for both of these plaintiffs in the amount of \$30,000."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right, that total amount is \$30,000."

**Mr. Euson** said, "Yes sir."

**Chairman Winters** said, "All right. Commissioners, you have other questions or comments?"

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "This is in full settlement and closes out anything else?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "Yes sir, it does."

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to take the recommended action as recommended by the County Counselor.

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 | Aye |
| Chairman Winters       | Aye |

**Chairman Winters** said, "Anything else, Mr. Euson?"

**Mr. Euson** said, "No sir."

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**Chairman Winters** said, “Mr. Manager, anything?”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “No sir.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “This meeting is adjourned.”

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DAVID M. UNRUH**, Commissioner  
First District

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KELLY PARKS**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

\_\_\_\_\_  
**GWEN WELSHIMER**, Commissioner,  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

**Regular Meeting, March 12, 2008**

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

APPROVED:

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