

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

April 24, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 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; Ms. Susan Erlenwein, Director, Environmental Resources; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Mike Hastings, 993 Denmark, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Michael Kline, 1477 N. Woodrow, Wichita, Ks.
Dr. Ben Huie, 12011 Rolling Hills, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Frank Hosford, 411 S. Keith, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Charles Peaster, 9453 N. 135th St. W., Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Will Darrah, 1101 Forest, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Ellie Skokan, 5825 Memphis, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Felisha Wix, 8820 Westlawn, #1405, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Paul Rhodes, 3740 N. Seneca, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Tammy Smarsh, 2945 Cromwell, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Jason Isaacs, 9211 E. Harry, #1404, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Don Rogers, Stutzman Refuse.
Mr. Bob Weeks, 2451 Regency Lakes Ct., Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Elizabeth Murray, 2017 Green Acres, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Nick Mills, 1823 W. McCormick, Wichita, Ks.
Mr. Gilbert Ballinger, 405 N. Baehr, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Becky Robinson, 2137 E. Quail Hollow, Derby, Ks.
Mr. Max Weddle, 862 Zelta, Wichita, Ks.
Ms. Laura King, 4624 S. Halstead Rd., Hardtner, Ks. 67057
Mr. Fred Frazier, 1405 Dallas, Wichita, Ks.

ROLL CALL

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

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Chairman Winters said, “At this time we’ll call the first item, which will be Susan Erlenwein as our director of Environmental Resources and Susan is going to give us a brief overview of why we are here and what we are discussing this evening, so Susan will you please proceed.”

PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF SEDGWICK COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Ms. Susan Erlenwein, Director, Environmental Resources, greeted the Commissioners and said, “When we entered into the hall you received a copy of an executive summary and I’d like to briefly go through those items with you. The state requires every county to review the solid waste management plan every five years. We’re at the ten year review of our solid waste management plan.

The committee, the Solid Waste Management Committee, has been working on this since last fall in meetings. We’re dealing with issue were in the original plan and making recommendations for you. Those recommendations are listed on this sheet.

1. Conduct a new waste analysis: to learn about changes to the waste stream since the last analysis (conducted in 1997), for the purpose of future planning. Recommended starting on January 1, 2009.

The first recommendation is to conduct a new waste analysis. The last one was performed ten years ago and ten years ago I can’t tell you how much fun it was to go through other people’s trash, to figure out what they’re throwing away. But it’s a very important process to do to determine what is in our trash so that we know are there volumes that are getting tossed away.

For example, ten years ago the waste analysis showed 30% paper products, 19 ½% construction and demolition material, 12 ½% yard waste. All of that shortens the length of the (*Inaudible*) landfill. So the committee has recommended we do this analysis to help those in the recycling industry and the commissioners making decisions on solid waste programs.

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2. Collection of Municipal Solid Waste: Leave the Plan the way it currently is, relative to collection services, i.e., maintain free market collection and encourage cities to look into franchising. (Note that this item was stated incorrectly in the Wichita Eagle).

The second item is collection of municipal solid waste. Currently, we have a free market system here and in Sedgwick County that means that you and I as citizens can look in the phone book and pick our waste hauler and if we don't like it, then we pick another waste hauler. That's the free market. The committee looked at the advantage and disadvantages of waste haul franchising for a community that contracts with a company and at this time they determined to keep the free market system, but encourage citizens to look at franchising. And the reason I worded it that way is because every city, every community is slightly different than another and the programming might develop (*Inaudible*). So that's the recommendation of collection of solid waste.

3. Collection and Waste Minimization Issue: Volume-based trash rates (also known as Pay-As-You-Throw. Propose that there be two sizes of containers, with the first being the current size of container (90 gallons) and the second being the smaller container, being no more than 50 gallons, with a minimum 30% cost differential between the two. Additionally, \$2.50 a bag will be paid for overflow. Implementation starting on June as convenient as possible to the haulers and consumers. Recommended starting on June 1, 2010.

The third item has to do with collection and waste minimization, which puts the responsibility on the producer of the solid waste. What they are looking at is a volume-based trash base and that is charging people for the amount of trash they produce, like a water bill and like your electric bill, it's a utility and so the more trash you produce, the more you will pay and if you have private pay of trash right now instead of volume, and your neighbor has it overflowing and you're paying the same amount, you may think that's not fair and you may think this is a great deal.

So what this does is equalize it and what the committee has recommended is different sized containers, to the larger the container the more that they pay. But they also have an option for . . . there's times of year that we might have family over, holidays, other times where you produce more material that would go into a smaller cart and you would purchase a tag and you could put it on a bag outside and they handle those special occasions.

4. Curbside Recycling: Recommend mandatory subscription, voluntary participation curbside

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recycling (residents must pay, but do not have to participate) that would be implemented in tandem and on the same time schedule as a PAYT solid waste disposal trash service. Recommended starting on June 1, 2010.

The next item on the floor, curbside recycling, we're recommending that we have curbside recycling, mandatory subscription, voluntary participation. What that means is that you would pay for the recycling, but we do not have recycling police go around and find that they find an aluminum can in your trash. Many communities have this destination and so what we're looking at is do we have curbside recycling or not. What this means is serve as many people, map whether the (*Inaudible*) or pay extra for curbside recycling. And this has become part of their trash bill now and you have this as part of your bill and it's a good way to lower the volume that you put on your trash bill. Because of that, the committee recommended that volume-based trash base and curbside recycling go hand in hand so that you can lower the amount of trash, put it in the recycling part and keep lowering the overall collection bill.

5. Bans: Place a ban on grass clippings entering the transfer stations. This is a ban on grass only, not fallen leaves, which was in the original plan. Recommended starting ban on January 1, 2009.

The next one, bans, place a ban on grass clippings going to the transfer stations. When we look at the trash analysis ten years ago, grass clippings were 6% of the weight of the material going into Brooks Landfill and the waste analysis will tell us if the content has changed, if it has changed at all. Grass is very heavy and it takes up a lot of room. It's difficult to manage grass. With mulch mower blades, you don't have to buy a mulching mower, you can buy the blades to go onto the mower. You can compost at home and there are compost facilities around. So there are different options of handling grass material. The original ban also had a different plan that banned fallen leaves. The committee decided not to add that ban.

6. Special Waste: The 2008 Household Hazardous Waste remote collection sites would accept e-waste and that the county will use the data from collection to do further research for a permanent solution. Also recommended that county staff work to find an environmentally responsible method of disposal of e-waste.

Special waste is something the State requires us to look at and that's under 600 (*Inaudible*) in the household hazardous waste. That includes oils, paints, cleaners, car batteries, batteries from your

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cell phones. All of those can be considered hazardous material and we're trying to keep those out of our landfills. That's why we have a household hazardous waste facility and I encourage people to pick up some information on that if they need to.

But one thing that's coming up in the near future is the push to high-definition television in February of 2009 and there's concern about will there be TVs that are dumped out in the ditches, how are people getting rid their TV. (*Inaudible*) somehow that the TVs could fill up in the landfills, they should be paying that much attention. So the electronic waste is something the committee looked at and electronic waste encompasses cell phones, computers, (*Inaudible*), personal devices that people carry around, and where do you draw the line in electronic waste, because it's also refrigerators, and washer and dryer and something that has a small computer that (*Inaudible*). So the committee has recommended that having a collection event for electronics before the February '09 (*Inaudible*).

1. Final Disposal: Leave the disposal option section of the solid waste plan as it is currently stated (utilize transfer stations; include county-owned landfill; explore integration of new technology).

And the last thing that they looked is final disposal of the trash. Currently we have two (*Inaudible*) transfer stations in our community, one north on K-96 and West Street. The other is south of 55th South and Hoover. The committee decided that this system is working well, the land that the (*Inaudible*) is just 40 miles away and they decided to keep that system the way it is. Also the county, in 2004, had the option of a county made landfill in Sedgwick County. They decided to keep that, as well as continue to look at new technology to see what would be the (*Inaudible*).

So that's a synopsis of what the committee has done. Commissioners, I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have and sorry for the (*Inaudible*) at this time."

Chairman Winters said, "That's very fine, Susan. As we begin this meeting, I would also like to acknowledge that we do have some other county officials here, County Manager Bill Buchanan is here in the back, Assistant County Manager Ron Holt is here, County Counselor Rich Euson, our attorney is here in front and of course Susan from Environmental Resources and Jo Oliver from Environmental Resources. So if after this meeting you have questions, you could certainly address any of us or any of those county officials.

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We're here this evening and we appreciate very much your attendance and we're here to listen to anything that you would like to say and like to share with us. We hope that you will comment on the executive summary about solid waste that you received when you entered the building. That is principally what the Board of County Commissioners is going to be directing our attention over the next few weeks. So again, we'll listen to anything you want to say, but if you specifically have comments about that, we would appreciate that.

Each speaker will be limited to five minutes. Bethany has a timer right over here and she will set that for five minutes when everyone begins. Please give your name and address for the record. This meeting is being recorded and there will be a summary of minutes that will be compiled after this meeting. Bethany will probably approach you after you've spoke and ask for you to write your name and address just so we clearly have the correct spelling of your name and your correct address.

Before we begin, commissioners, I would offer any of you, if you have questions or comments before we begin, and also after the public meeting is closed, I will also ask you if you have comments at that time. So commissioners, do any of you have comments before we begin? All right, staff, are there any questions of clarification? I think we're set to go.

As we proceed on, as some of you on this side of the room, if you're going to want to speak, it might be helpful if you'd just work your way over into one of these chairs on this side of the room next to the podium and then after you have given your remarks, if you could proceed over to this side of the room or stay wherever but just so we could try to facilitate the flow. At this time I will open the public meeting as the Board of County Commissioners discusses solid waste issues and plans that we are going to proceed with developing for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. If the first speaker would like to come forward, I see a couple coming from the back there would be fine. If you all would come on down, please remember to give us your name and address and try to limit your remarks to five minutes."

Mr. Michael Hastings, 993 Denmark, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you for having us here. I am the President of Plastics Recycling of Kansas, better known as Pro Kansas Recycling and we operate Pro Kansas Miller Recycling Centers. And several people who work with us are here tonight as well. And I know that a number of people think this is going to be a complicated process that's going to be too difficult to handle and I would submit that curbside recycling is simple once you understand the process. It's like driving to work or whatever. After you get used to it, it's easy enough to do.

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Many people think it's going to be expensive, but as Susan Erlenwein very well explained, the prospect we all said was Pay As You Throw. So I wanted to submit a couple of other things for people to think about. One is the economic development part of recycling. There are a lot of industries that have developed the process of recyclables. Wichita doesn't have any of them, or very few of them, because we don't have very much volume in recycling. But in Pennsylvania and Oregon and Missouri and many other states there are thousands and thousands of people who have jobs because of the recycling industry. There is billions of dollars of tax money going out because of the industry of recycling. It's a lot more economically feasible today than it was five, six, seven years ago when this issue was being discussed, partly because the value of recyclable, the market value of recyclables has doubled and tripled and quadrupled. So if you have the volume, you can measure the activity. It may not be nearly as expected as people think it will be to get done.

I think that's really the main thing. The people focus on the cost, they focus on the difficulty, but I think the economic development, you guys have been working on casinos, you been working on people developing Cessna Aircraft, activities and such to discuss development and this is really an economic development tool and I'd like people to remember that. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you. Next speaker."

Mr. Michael Kline, 1477 N. Woodrow, Wichita, Ks., 67203, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a . . . my paying job is a freelance illustrator and writer. I work for a lot of children's publications for a large group like this think and I think that if you'd like, I do have a sample, if I could give this to you guys if it's all right. And having worked for many years on these types of publications that is usually called either social or scientific and difficult to take to the kids, it could be a very unique perspective. I get a lot of information for different things that are going on across the country, so I sit in my house in Riverside and I work, and I feel a little odd, because there are so many things going on in our physical world and ecology across the country, and I'm sitting here thinking, we don't even really recycle down here and it's really a sad point. I'm almost embarrassed at some point.

I also, in my spare time, I work for, or volunteer for I should say, for a Pro Kansas group, I work the driveway here, once every Saturday, every Saturday morning/ afternoon I have to , what do I want to say, stare down carloads full of people that want to know why recycling has not come full tilt in Wichita. And what really bothers me is that probably I'm guessing maybe 40% or so of the people that come in for recycling that bring in material, I'm guess are over the age of 65. And it's hard for them. And we try to help them immensely.

In March, we were approached by people who wanted (*Inaudible*) given a space there to come in and kind of help give information out about recycling and what we've done in Wichita and what we can do for them. And I thought it was just a very last minute thing that I put together a petition that said, I felt forewarned to see if anybody, you know, see it's coming up as written, (*Inaudible*). I

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started a petition that said ‘we the citizens, registered voters of the City of Wichita, Kansas say to the city to mandate a comprehensive curbside recycling program’. And in a matter of about five days, we had about 500 signatures on this to actually mandate curbside recycling.

And I’d be glad to share this with you, because I would like, if that’s the case I’d like to have copies and I know this is not necessarily standard procedure, but I just would like to see if anyone is really interested and I’ve literally had people pushing themselves, or pushing other people out of the way to sign this. We’ve worked the driveway at the Pro Kansas Miller Recycling Center some of the last things I get and I’m there car for car, is (*Inaudible*).

Several people that had transferred to Wichita from other cities and they are simply amazed that for a city of this family friendliness and it’s well-meaning, that we don’t recycle. Because from everywhere else that anybody comes, it’s a done deal, it’s totally, it’s like walking down the street with (*Inaudible*). Everybody does it.

I would ask that you seriously consider pushing this forward and seeing a way that you can help these people and help our local ecology and economy (*Inaudible*). And that’s all I had to say. Thank you very much for your time. Any questions?”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you Michael. Can we keep this?”

Mr. Kline said, “Sure.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, we’ll keep that. As you see, Susan in the back will get your name and address. Give her anything you want us to have. If you want it back, you probably better just wait and make copies and give it to us, but we would be glad to take copies of that petition and the commissioners would be glad to review that. See Susan right back there in the back.”

Mr. Kline said, “Okay, that will be great. All right, thank you for your time.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you Michael. Next speaker.”

Dr. Ben Huie, 12011 Rolling Hills, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m an environmental scientist here in Wichita. I’m not a newcomer to solid waste issues. I’ve been involved in them for a quarter-century. One or another way I’ve been dealing with this entire affair

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and it's black. I served on the solid waste management committee 14 years ago. We developed proposals to move Wichita/ Sedgwick County into the 20th Century in the solid waste facts. Obviously, our proposals were shelved by the governing bodies time and time again. We're no closer to a solution today than we were 20 years ago.

As I looked at today's agenda, and the Solid Waste Proposals, I'm reminded of the Yogi Barra's comment about déjà vu all over again, or perhaps Ron Regan's 'there you go again'. We see all of the same ideas again and after all this time, we also see all of the same lame excuses explaining why we will do nothing. I was particularly struck by Commissioner Winters' statements that we need more study. Then how many decades do we need to wait, as we plow the same old ground over and over again. It seems that the only things the county commission is interested in recycling are its studies and its excuses. This was 1997 and you're doing a tremendous job.

The time for studies and proposals is long past. It is time for the county to take action, starting immediately with pay-as-you-throw. That will reward those of us who are trying to be a part of the solution. Then we call for a comprehensive way to integrate solid waste management programs. If you need (*Inaudible*) might I suggest you look at how this is handled in a modern metropolis of Newton, Kansas. They seem to have made progress. Why can't we?

A while ago I once asked a question, 'will I see any progress before the next century?' I was told a powerful cynic would have no faith in our leadership. Well it is now that next century and I ask that question again. Will we make any progress this century? I'm not going to hold my breath."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you. Next speaker please. Give your name and address for the record."

Mr. Frank Hosford, 411 S. Keith, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "From what I've heard of your plan, I think it's a very good plan. I think it's like the previous plan, not too many things (*inaudible*). I'm retired, and since I've retired I've doing some research on composting. My grandson told me several years ago, that there was (*Inaudible*) organic waste (*Inaudible*).

Since then I have done a little testing (*Inaudible*) to see if there was (*Inaudible*.) I have been doing some speaking to (*Inaudible*) and I hope to be of a speaker because I studied your environmental study that was done in '97' and according to that about 70% of waste goes to the landfill. Now the last test I did was in 2006, I went around my neighborhood, I collected about 35 bags of weeds that people had set out on the curb for me and I put them in a car, a 2000 Voyager van, that is locally marked and in November I harvested almost a half ton of (*Inaudible*). I did notice that this year, this winter, to see if they survived the year and they did, they survived very well.

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So what I would like to see is more people (*Inaudible*) and get the word out and let people know about composting and I guess your leaves from your yard companies, your garden, paper, locally about 70% of this goes to the landfill.”

Chairman Winters said, “Frank, one question. When you say ‘quorum’ is that what we would commonly think of as earth (*Inaudible*)?”

Mr. Hosford said, “No, this is effecting compost and yard waste (*Inaudible*)”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much. Next speaker, please come forward.”

Mr. Charles Peaster, 9453 N. 135th St. W., Sedgwick, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “I have a question. Part of the question is number four, curb recycling, why can’t it start January 1st 2009? Number three, why can’t that start January 1st, 2009? Number five, will the city go along with composting? I just heard a man tell me that they, he does composting. The city, county code enforcement calls compost bulky waste. Now how are we going to get around that if the code book calls it one thing and people want to compost, that their grass clippings and leaves and they call it bulky waste.

And that’s my question, why don’t we start earlier and what are we going to do about the (*Inaudible*) calling grass clippings one thing (*Inaudible*) that Susan Erlenwein’s recommending that we do it, which is wonderful. Thank you.”

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

Mr. Will Darrah, 1101 Forest, Wichita, Ks. Greeted the Commissioners and said, “In hearing the committee’s recommendation, I’d just like to take a moment and point out to you what important decisions are mad is a, a lot of the recommendations in here are a little bit of shots in the dark in the sense that they haven’t put any targets out and I’d like to encourage you guys, as commissioners, to consider how we can have actual real goals to reduction in waste when you make decisions on this and instead of saying you know, banning or producing (*Inaudible*) physical metric on that so we have that, the previous speaker mentioned, you know, we’re defeating ourselves. If we had physical metrics with which to measure ourselves again, we could save other (*Inaudible*) at the recycling and solid waste business. As it is, without any real hard numbers, even per capita, and whatnot to refer to, it’s hard to say whether we’re doing any (*inaudible*) and I’d just like to encourage you all to consider that when you’re making decisions about these issues.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, Will, thank you very much. Next speaker please.”

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Ms. Ellie Skokan, 5825 Memphis, Bel Aire, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm speaking tonight as a representative of the South Wind Sierra Club. The Southwind group represents around 700 people from the general metropolitan area and we are part of the international Sierra Club. On behalf of the 700-plus members of South Winders I would offer the following comments and suggestions.

First, we support volume-based trash routes. However, we question the logistics of charging for extra bags. While this may seem necessary, it certainly is a proved plan to prevent the misuse of the smaller container options, we wonder how it would be monitored and billed. Susan mentioned buy tags but I'm not sure how you could do that unless you have a franchise collection system keeping track of who buys a tag and how that carrier, that collection card gets paid back or if those extra bags seems to be a very difficult thing to do.

We do support mandatory pay and voluntary participation for curbside recycling and hopefully this will be a first step towards mandatory recycling. We do not support the free market collection of trash and do support franchising of collection. And that would take care of paying for the extra bag. Many cities have those systems in place.

We support the ban on grass clippings and furthermore we support a ban of all yard waste. For those who aren't able to compost, mulching mowers are reasonable options to deal with grass. But dealing with leaves is much more difficult. This should not however be grounds for sending them to the landfill. Provisions for composting of leaves and non-grass yard waste in a community or regional level should be part of this plan.

Provision for pick up of residential bulk waste, not to include grass, should be part of the plan. The provision for disposal of carcasses of animals dying as a result of foreign animal diseases, which is not part of the recommendations that were distributed tonight but is part of the general plan, this provision does not seem to be universally applicable. The current burial requirements would require a water table greater than 20 feet below ground surface, which does not occur in some areas of this county.

Finally, based on the data in the draft plan, there was been little decrease in residential recycling, composting, etcetera since the original plan ten years ago. The original waste analysis done in 1997-98 indicated that approximately 90% by weight of the materials landfilled at that time could have been recycled, composted or diverted by other means. The ban of commercial construction and demolition debris in the solid waste facility since that time would seem to account for most of

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the 20% decrease in municipal solid waste the county has achieved in the last ten years.

It's interesting to note that the county has no specific recycling or diversion goals. This most certainly must be a contributing factor for the lack of participation. The lack of participation would also seem to indicate that the public education of this component of the plan has been effectual. However, probably the greatest reason for the lack of recycling has been the lack of political will to institute the recommendations of the original plan. As has been pointed out, most of the recommended changes in the new draft were part of that original plan several years ago, but they were never implemented.

We find ourselves, ten years later, proposing the same recommendations and hopefully this time they will be implemented. Thank you for considering and I would (*Inaudible*) the care of the Southwind group.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you Ellie. Ellie, can you tell me, these recommendations from South Wind Sierra Club, were these voted on by your board of directors, your conservation group? Where do they come from?”

Ms. Skokan said, “They come as a recommendation from the conservation committee and have been approved by the executives.”

Chairman Winters said, “All right, thank you very much. Next speaker please.”

Ms. Felisha Wix, 8820 Westlawn, #1405, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “My family and I moved here in 1996, we come from a town called (*inaudible*) by southeast Seattle in Washington and I want to tell you that I am extremely appalled that there is no system with solid waste.

Moving from Seattle is like going from night to day. There, it is a mandatory recycling. You have five trash cans, all those items and there is actual a solid waste ban. It may be a quarter (*Inaudible*). When we moved to Wichita, my family was really big on recycling and I kind of adapted to that, when living with them, but just living in Wichita over these past ten or twelve years, they asked us (*inaudible*) and my family has gone from recycle everything, to recycling whatever we can simply doesn't mean we're perfectly happy with that.

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I am not happy with that and as far as what's (*Inaudible*) set the goal idea, for my husband and I, we throw away very little, because I recycle everything. We are actually paying the trash service, my husband, (*Inaudible*) and we live in a townhome so we dump into the dumpster but every weekend, on Saturday, we visit Pro Kansas and we recycle everything and it is not extremely (*Inaudible*). I'm not understanding why it takes so long to implement something. There should be those steps to recycling and it should not be voluntary. You all are going to have to live here six years from now, so it should be a mandatory thing and everyone should have to do it. (*Inaudible*) every decade that goes by and our children and our grandchildren (*Inaudible*) and I'm sure that we don't want to see it (*Inaudible*). Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you very much for your comments. Next speaker."

Mr. Paul Rhodes, 3740 N. Seneca, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "The only thing I'd like to say is that (*Inaudible*). It seems to me that one thing that of trying to keep this issue of private haulers going and get away from some of the problems of trying to figure out how the planning commission can mandate some of these things under franchising for different haulers. That we need to do what the state of Kansas does, and we need to impose a tipping fee that would be used as a (*Inaudible*) like Mike from Pro Kansas said, to try to get some of these industries that could offer jobs to recycling that would be (*Inaudible*) The other thing is I think we really need to look, and I can't remember which commissioner doesn't like the truth, so I'm guessing, but because about the landfill, and there's growing concern in our country about fuel shortages and those kinds of things, and what I see is you have a lot of (*Inaudible*) waste, other kinds of waste that will not be recycled and I really believe there's enough industries here in the Wichita area that need boiler fuel and that we need to look at implementing some kind of a way of or incentive to get some of this organic waste, which is all (*Inaudible*) into some kind of derived fuels.

We were going to spend that money and that we're going to have to get that fuel somewhere and according to older statistics, the Department of Energy has said that basically there's a barrel of oil every one van or truck and I think that's conservative. And it is correct, that 70% of what goes into the landfill is organic. I don't think that that's changed much and that means that we've got 1,200 tons times 70% that could be used in some alternate technologies. I served on for a short period of time on the solid waste planning commission. We did have a subcommittee on alternate technologies and we keep hearing that when this technology arrives, that we're going to use the fact is those technologies are available worldwide. The problem is, large-scale projects are very (*Inaudible*) and if I was sitting where you're sitting, I wouldn't vote for one solution for all, incinerator, gasification or high technology programs, but I think we need to encourage small scale systems and I think we should actually still maintain our status as being (*Inaudible*) a small business and independent business, and yet still move Sedgwick County to where it needs to be. Thank you

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very much.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you for those comments. Next speaker please.”

Ms. Tammy Smarsh, 2945 Cromwell, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “And I am a board member of the Pro Kansas Miller Recycling Center. I also work driveways every Saturday and I’ve been servicing my *(Inaudible)*. We virtually greet every car that comes in our facility and the feedback that I get is pretty consistent to what he said. A lot of people that are coming in to recycle are from out of town. They have visited cities and other places in the country and they’re *(Inaudible)* to recycling for *(Inaudible)* in Wichita and Sedgwick County, and I fully agree.

Nothing has changed in the last few years, since the last recommendations were put out. I think it’s very important that Sedgwick County and the city needs to step it up and stay in focus with what they talk about and trust the media with, and for going green and being responsible for our environment. That’s not happening here. The people that come into our facility during this are voluntarily going out of their way, coming into our facility to drop off their recyclables when it could be very easily handled on a curbside level.

Other than the *(Inaudible)* to check mandatory recycling, it was fabulous, you just put it down, on the corner, they pick it up. There is a truck that comes around and picks it all up and that came under *(Inaudible)* and he didn’t recycle. We were *(Inaudible)* and I think that is something that you really need to think about and consider. We all have kids. There’s been a, this is going to be their world that we’re going to leave trashy. You know, let’s do something with all this. If we can recycle let’s use it properly.

I don’t feel that any progress has been made in the last three years is I felt that the city and the county have kind of succumbed to the political pressures from the independent commercial haulers because they told us they would be out of a job. I would really kind of publicly like to encourage the franchising and it could all end up in one pocket, if it’s done, and the licensed recycling that everybody wants to do. I think that’s very, very, very important for our environment and for our children’s environment. Thank you very much.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you very much. Next speaker please.”

Mr. Jason Isaacs, 9211 E. Harry, #1404, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, “*(Inaudible)* I’m former military, been here, of course a lot of customer service jobs, of retail, and I think you’ve been, as a youth, involved. I drive vans for fellow youth and kids around here, college students, I’ve heard concerns too about the recycle needs, there’s just some interest in the environment, keeping our water park systems here and on the parks and the people, places where

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people (*Inaudible*) a lot. I found a (*Inaudible*) on the final Friday downtown and that (*Inaudible*) and then around here (*Inaudible*) blowing around and not collected very well.

I've had those (*Inaudible*) for about a month working on Sun Prairie Dog Recycling and I . . . also (*Inaudible*) there's not enough verification and notice that there is recycling around here, so I think I would like to make a motion or I think I've heard the motion about it would be interesting or it would be a good move to let the colleges or either the apartment complexes or some of these shelters downtown, maybe some of the inns or places or schools or maybe just with the churches once we know if they're interested in recycling, places where they can drop it off on the curb and pick up, some organizations here that would pick up during (*Inaudible*) people that are looking for jobs (*Inaudible*) city hall, where people commonly coming in and out of the court system for, you know, things they need to be or work release programs, that they make a motion that there is recycling that you can take (*Inaudible*) and as concerned citizens, because as living in the apartment complex that I've walked a lot around town, so I constantly see tour buses and people coming from out of state and other places and I'm certain that they're appalled too. Here in the next I don't know how many years we're looking to get the arena here and I think the (*Inaudible*) it's enough with all the construction that's been going on around here too.

So it doesn't hurt to take the time to take up a little trash along the way or inform people that there is recycling around here and that waste response, waste pick up and management is responsible (*Inaudible*) and Wichita pollutes, but we want to help people to come back and say 'you know I really (*Inaudible*) but it's all pollution solving. People there are really concerned about the environment and I think that's important here for everybody here. People that have lived here for many years and are retired here, you know, they're going to (*Inaudible*) Thank you.'

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you very much for those comments. Next speaker. Yes, please come forward."

Mr. Don Rogers 1155 Lakewind, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm also the general manager for Stutzman Refuse and Recycling. The service is here in town, and (*Inaudible*). I think the program as it's been presented looks a little (*Inaudible*) but I have to support the ban sooner, at the support of the companies or the recycling programs that are currently in place in the county, we see four cities of the total listed in your packet that are currently providing services, Stutzman's currently provides three of those cities. So I would say that (*Inaudible*) at that center as well, as somebody has already presented tonight.

The other area, that's the touchiest subject is that the trash haulers, we would also support that you

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implement and put into the plan franchising. We think it's a program that could work for the county and the city to (*Inaudible*) There are ten cities in central Kansas that we provide curbside recycling programs to. They should be your model. Models are out there. Those individual cities have successful programs going for upwards of ten years. We've had two recycling facilities process materials for over five years in one and currently we operate the Harvey County facility as well, so we're continuing to get materials out of the waste stream.

As a resident of Sedgwick County, and also Wichita, I would like to (*Inaudible*.)

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you very much for those comments. Next speaker please. Is there anyone else in the audience who would like to address the county commissioners on the solid waste issue? Yes, please come forward, give your name and address for the record please."

Mr. Bob Weeks, 2451 Regency Lakes Ct., Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "And I wasn't able to come until now, so I don't know what all these fine people said, but I don't think there's (*Inaudible*) in recycling mandates in Sedgwick County. The reason is this, is that the economist Fredrick Heidel tells us that the price system communicates all the information we need to know about the relative values of things. The price system allows people that don't know each other (*Inaudible*) to activities in the most effective and efficiently possible. The price system is truly a miracle.

If you want to see what happens when the cart system is not allowed to work, usually because the government attempts to manage prices, just look at the former Soviet Union and other planned economies, which as they know didn't work out very well at all. Now the price system can do its work only when free people trade with each other freely, like our system where property rights are respected. The interference by governments to manage prices is going to reap inefficiency that manifests themselves as shortages, waiting line, surpluses and (*Inaudible*). The emergence of these problems leads to call for even more government interventionism to fix the very problems that government caused by interfering with the price system. It can be a never ending cycle.

Now how does all this apply to recycling here in Sedgwick County? Well in some cases, the price system tells us that recycling is a beneficial use of resources. About 75% of automobiles are recycled and used cardboard is often recycled in commercial settings. That's because the prices paid for these recycled items is high enough that in this context, recycling can be profitable. That's the price system at work. It tells us that the best use of (*Inaudible*) is to recycle it and that the same goes for cardboard boxes in the grocery store. But a household setting is different. Households usually have to pay to engage in recycling. The prices that recyclers can get for these recyclers doesn't cover the cost of (*Inaudible*) and household as evidenced by the fact that Wichita household must pay someone to pick up recyclables. That's the price system at work again. Its sober

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assessment is that in the context of households, recycling is a waste of resources and it could be a tremendous waste. Orange County, Florida, that's the town of Orlando, for example, spends roughly \$3,000,000 per year to collect recyclable goods from households but can only sell them for about \$56,000.

And what about running out of landfill space? If landfill space were truly scarce, the prices would tell us so and landfill operator, if it were free market operating, could charge high prices for inspecting trash, but evidently they can't. So the price system tells us sometimes recycling is a good use of resources and sometimes it isn't. Now (*Inaudible*) recycling program, a lot more people have to pay fees, even if they don't actually recycle, the household does, amounts to the government attempting to override the price system. It is attempting to banish the price system to government interventionism. These policies, should Sedgwick County implement them, will cause citizens to suffer the same inefficiencies that ultimate economies have demonstrated, if on a smaller scale. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much for your comments. Next speaker. Is there anyone else in the audience? Yes please come forward."

Ms. Elizabeth Murray 2017 Green Acres, greeted the Commissioners and said, "And I just have a couple of comments. I think that we should be holding the companies also here in Wichita, as well as trying to implement all of these things, responsible for their waste reduction and to have them also to be part of that program to get rid of those (*Inaudible*) that you're expecting us to do. I think the city, I'm not sure what you have in plan at the city offices or whatever but I think they should all be doing it. I noticed as you came in and other (*Inaudible*) so I think we should all be thinking on those guidelines.

I think we should encourage our schools (*Inaudible*) not only should they recycle, but they could also use some of the money to raise things for youth, like the cans. They recycle the cans, but they could use the monies from the cans for a project at the schools and it would help to encourage the kids in schools to also recycle and show them some of those things.

I do think we should (*Inaudible*) and raise public awareness. I don't think they should (*Inaudible*) We need to do more public education, whether it's through the schools or whether it's (*inaudible*) or some other sources that way. I myself, I've lived here 22 years, I've come from the west country and we were recycling and my husband is Terry, and we were recycling at the (*Inaudible*) We absolutely, (*Inaudible*) curb recycling totally, we were recycling absolutely everything and we took our cash from things like trash a week, down to hopefully one to three bags and that was, and we were taking it upon ourselves. We just (*inaudible*) into the bags and recycled absolutely

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everything, glass, plastic, cardboard, paper. We recycled clothing at Goodwill, just absolutely everything. It just, it takes a bit of effort, but we all just need to do it, I think.

I'm not sure that it's possible, maybe just build a recycling center here in the City of Wichita, or in a surrounding area, I don't know (*Inaudible*) a lot of other people for different things, that a company that is willing to come here and build a recycling center, (*Inaudible*) and they take that over a certain time, I mean I don't know, these are just questions that I have.

I also work for a company here in town but we also recycle. I work for Wal-Mart and we are really becoming quite excited about all of this type of thing and we're pushing really hard, within our company, with our employees, this is an employee-driven type of recycling. It's the employees that are wanting it and the changes in the savings that we have made are just, it's (*Inaudible*). So I just, those are my comments."

Chairman Winters said, "Very good. Thank you very much for those comments. Next speaker please."

Someone in the audience asked to speak, after having already spoken.

Chairman Winters said, "Well, we really do not intend for this to become a debate, but I would suggest that all of the commissioners do have e-mails and if you would like to e-mail any of us with further comments, we would be glad to see those e-mails. But our real intention here, I think probably several of us could debate issues back and forth, so I appreciate your efforts, but please use the U.S. Mail or an e-mail to give us any further remarks.

Is there anyone else in the room who would like to speak? Yes, please come forward."

Mr. Nick Mills, 1923 W. McCormick, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm just here to have you review the independent haulers and we don't support franchising because they go out and invest a lot of money in this, you know, to try to help the people out in Wichita and save you money and if you check the prices, a lot of us are half the price of what a lot of the big haulers are. And we just kind of deal the franchising, we won't have any ways to compete with them because they are a lot bigger (*Inaudible*) than we are".

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you for those comments. Is there anyone else who would like to address the county commissioners? We've been here for almost an hour but I want to make sure that everybody in the room has had a chance to speak. I see one more coming to the podium, Mr. Ballinger."

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Mr. Gilbert Ballinger, 405 N. Baehr, Wichita, Ks., greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm against this plan because this plan is going to be too complex. You've taken the simplicity out of getting rid of the trash. It's going to be too costly. Equal problem is (*Inaudible*) the recycling (*Inaudible*) is a person that has a (*Inaudible*) if they want to recycle there are ways to recycle. I don't think anybody should be forced to recycle. That's more or less a decision for some people. There's going to be a slew of problems, going to be banned grass, this grass is going to be bagged and put in out of the way places, behind shopping centers and ditches.

And as far as encouraging franchise and I would think that there's a lot of merit in that. Every time you go to (*Inaudible*) and you'll have to pay high prices. Personally, (*Inaudible*) one carrier. For the price (*Inaudible*) making a living at it, putting food on the table and what little bit of money that we get out of working there stays in the (*Inaudible*.)

I kind of watched this committee, very loose influence from people that in my opinion (*Inaudible*) put it on paper and if it works, fine and dandy, if it don't, as the decision maker you're the ones that kicked into the fire. And I think there's going to be a lot of unhappy campers if you put this in, if you adopt this plan as it's written there's nobody (*Inaudible*) that's changed. There are people there that (*Inaudible*) because there's very few (*Inaudible*) and then you have these people that come up and say something recycle revisions and there a very small (*Inaudible*). And they are going to be unhappy. The more recycling we get the less it's in different containers (*Inaudible*). That's about all I have to say (*Inaudible*)."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you very much for those remarks, Mr. Ballinger. Next speaker."

Ms. Becky Robinson, 2137 E. Quail Hollow, Wichita, Ks. Greeted the Commissioners and said, "*(Inaudible)*"

Chairman Winters said, "Is there anyone else who would like to address the board of County Commissioners? Yes, please come forward. If there's anyone else, please be thinking about that, because we're about ready to draw this to a conclusion. Yes, please give your name and address."

Mr. Max Weddle, 862 S. Zelta Ct., Wichita, Ks. Greeted the Commissioners and said, "I think what you guys needs to do if you implement these (*Inaudible*) by that I mean there will be some alternative ways to throw your trash, particularly banned leaves and grass for that matter. The other thing is that there's (*Inaudible*) the city doesn't control the government and neither does the county commissioners. They're called (*Inaudible*) they are simple (*Inaudible*) and it's going to be very, very difficult for people who have compost piles to remove (*Inaudible*) most people, some of them don't even have dirt , so again, there's some good qualities, that if you impose mandatory solutions on this, you can look around the corner and see what the independent contractor does. Thank you."

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Chairman Winters said, “Thank you for those comments. Is there anyone else? Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to address the board of county commissioners on solid waste before we close the public hearing? Yes ma’am, please come forward.”

Ms. Laura King, 4624 S. Halstead Rd., Halstead, Ks. greeted the Commissioners and said, “*(Inaudible)* but sometimes doing the right thing is what costs money. That doesn’t mean you cut out the small haulers. *(Inaudible)*”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you very much for your comments. Yes sir, please come forward.”

Mr. Fred Frazier, 1405 Dallas, Wichita, Ks. greeted the Commissioners and said, “Some of the changes have been made since ten years ago, because I’ve been recycling here since then. I have a I guess comment about the franchising. I haven’t liked the franchising ideas at all, I’m not, opposed to it, but in my neighborhood I live among local senior citizens and we kind of go together and share the expense and I’m wondering in your franchising that you’re requiring people to pay for this mandatory recycling, what that’ll do to them kind of people because we do, we try to find some way to cut down our expenses. We’re all trying hard and I would hate to see us have to pay enough in recycling. We go to the, they mentioned by name. I don’t know what their names are, but we go to the one on 29th and West Street and, that’s the only way I know them by name. Well, we take trash, recycled items to the places, and I, I guess what I’m saying too is that the small, we quit using the out-of-state trash haulers, because you kept raising your prices on them. Regarding the billing we were going to change and we were wanting to know what we were going to pay and reduce the price. Now that wasn’t good enough, and if I was sort of apposed to out-of-state trash hauling I think if you want to franchise trash haulers, let’s make it Kansas trash haulers and not California. That’s my personal opinion. I don’t know why we can’t *(Inaudible)*.”

About the grass, because I’ve been composting for about five years and I still can’t get rid of all except by recycling, but it sounds like you’ve got a good idea. But I have a comment about these people going around mowing everything. They’re hauling grass away by the truckload and I assume they’re putting it in the dump. I don’t know why, if you’re going to get your licenses through Topeka, mowing yards and so forth, they quit hauling that stuff to the dump *(Inaudible)*. I don’t know why they can’t be put it in their own yard, as far as I’m concerned. That they ought to tell people that they’re mowing their grass or mowing yards and stuff, to do their own composting or something. Because I don’t think that I should be carrying other people’s expenses, that’s the bottom line, I pay enough of my own. Thank you.”

Chairman Winters said, “Thank you for those comments. Is there anyone else here this evening

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that would like to address the board of county commissioners regarding solid waste? Anyone else who has not spoken? Going once, anyone else? We're all done. All right, we're going to close the public hearing comments at this meeting. I am going to ask the board of county commissioners if any of them have any comments they would like to make. We are not going to take any formal action this evening. I think we will have one motion that will be to receive and file all the remarks that have been given this evening. Before I ask the commissioners for comments, I would like to acknowledge that the Chair of the Solid Waste Management Committee, Nicki Soice is here and there are a number of Solid Waste Management Committee members in the room this evening, and on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, we want to acknowledge all of your work. We know that you've spent much time dealing with this issue and publicly, from all of us, again we say thank you for your work.

Commissioners, before we take a motion to receive and file, does anyone have comments?"

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I'd just like to thank all of you for being here. There's a lot to think about. I know from you, a lot to think about. You've brought ideas and concerns, which I hadn't thought about and you know, very professional so I think that (*Inaudible*). One thing that I fear myself is that our environment is changing and I think we need to do some type of action, whatever that might be. I think we need to consider all the things that you've told us, and probably many more in here. We'll need to look at what the outcome would be and who would be harmed and who would not.

This is working in other communities and this has been for many years and we, I think it's a patriotic thing to do to finally come to some conclusion about how we're going to cooperate and do our part."

Commissioner Parks said, "I would like to thank my appointee to the board for being here tonight also. And over the years, about ten years ago, we were out on a Valley Center lot with Jeff St. Clair and I don't know how many tons actually we recycled, but you did a lot of that on volunteers, one Saturday morning every month and man, we put away a lot of things.

Somebody said that industries in Sedgwick County haven't had any good recycling. Well, I'll guarantee you, Jeff's company did, he had Truss Company up there and he had a (*Inaudible*) recycling plant and he stuck with it and was very eco-friendly. I just wanted to throw that in.

I want, if I could, get the hands of people from Park City and Bel Aire who are here? I know they have a few from Bel Aire and Park City. Okay. They have plans in effect right now and I know, as people came to the podium tonight, some of them addressed us City of Wichita, and during the conversation, about half of the people said, use the term 'City of Wichita'. When we're talking about mandatory franchising, if we as a county commission set out to do the mandatory franchising,

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the City of Wichita has about 72% of customers and that's conservative, and the cities, all the other cities in the county can opt out of that. Now somebody here from the City of Wichita, no I mean the city government of Wichita? Very well, we have a few people here tonight and if I say anything that's absolutely wrong, please correct me now or after the meeting or wherever.

The City of Wichita could, of course, put this on their plate. All the other cities in the county could put this on their agenda and do this and I'm not passing the buck but we're looking at, if all the cities other than Park City and Bel Aire can opt out of these things, we're looking at putting this mandatory recycling on 8% of our farmers out there and I think that a lot of the farmers are already doing recycling. I live in the county. I do recycling myself, Stutzman does come by and pick mine up. They do charge me extra, but you know now I'm looking at 3.49 a gallon gas and I used to go down to the, faithfully go down to the Pro Kan recycling center and I see some of my friends from down there that I don't see as often anymore because Stutzman is picking up my recycled curbside. And in effect, a lot of this will go back on the people that are already recycling and have some of those things.

I recently identified an area on my property, I still have a little area where I can pick up my grasses, so the family can go out and enjoy the area in my yard that doesn't have grass clipping in it. And so I've identified an area to set up a compost pile and I'm also going to see about these Red Wigglers that this gentleman was talking about. Over my time in participating in recycling, you know people say well there's other issues and so hard to recycle. You know, about a week ago I just started keeping the paperwork. Now this is something you can't do at Dillons. That's not available at Dillons, but Stutzman will pick up this and others could also. If you have space problems, you certainly can learn to do this. I took some of this paper board to a meeting one time and . . . I'll put that back together after a bit here, but see, you can do this but it takes you a little time.

I went to the American Legion about ten years ago and was talking about what Jeff and our group was doing at Valley Center and was talking how we could do this recycling in voluntarily and one of the ladies at the meeting, when I started showing this, I had cherry wood box at the time, it was a little bigger. I kept pulling out stuff and I had a tableful when I was done, and she said you're just going to want to make us think all the time, aren't you. We're retired and we don't want to think, so I think you need a little different twist on this. Nobody has really addressed this and come to the podium and said this. We're going to have to have an attitude.

You know, as we say on the farm, 'the horse that don't have the want to, isn't going to' and so we have to have an attitude changed on this. Look what we've done with the kids and smoking, you know, in the schools, what we do to educate those kids about that also, that the bottom line is here, and I'm dressed this way tonight, I came in my used shirt, my used jeans. We're going to have to reuse, not only recycle but reuse and you're going to have to, but some of the lifestyles may change over the time. And some of the people may not like that, but I think our changing world is going to

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mandate that we change attitudes and we change some lifestyles and I don't know how we do that, and I don't know how we mandate that, but I'm sure there will be other things that will be said by the other commissioners that I haven't touched on.

One of the things that I really think is a problem is e-waste. We've studied that. The county is shipping that out to a company from Indiana, doing that job and I think we could do better there too, but I really think we need to look at the e-waste because I think it's going to be a major problem in a few months when the television comes out. Thank you."

Chairman Winters said, "Thank you commissioner. Did you want to make a comment?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "Well first of all, I just wanted to thank you all for being out here this evening also. I think, there's no, I will not rehearse my way through the solid waste plans that were given to us. You've all done a good job of verbalizing different aspects of that. And I guess that's not surprising in light of the fact that it seems that the solid waste provides a topic for perpetual discussion. And it evokes, if not passionate attitudes, at least emotional attitude. Some of you are, I realize, very strongly, feel very strongly about some of the comments that you've made and I appreciate that.

I think I counted about twenty individuals who spoke this evening and I would like to tell you that we can add one to that list, Margaret Miller sent us all an e-mail and you will all know who Margaret is and I will tell you that in her e-mail she was very straightforward in her comments, so we got the message.

But I am confident and I'm trusting that if we go forth, we will provide a plan that is both progressive and satisfactory for the citizens of Sedgwick County and once again I appreciate your participation this evening."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I don't have a lot of add, other than thank you for coming out tonight. It's obvious to me, if we had to poll the group, that there is on one end of the spectrum there's people that believe in recycling, and then are passionate about it and on the other end of the spectrum there's people that say let the free-market take the stand, I want my choice and don't tell me what to do.

As I go out into the public, I continue to write articles that if you look at in the Haysville/ Derby area, you know that I wrote a series of articles for four weeks on the issues that we're talking about, bans and recycling and franchising and pay-as-you-throw. I understand all of those issues pretty well and I understand the latest technologies. You know, Commissioner Unruh and I have went to Tulsa to look at their plant that was waste to energy. They had it open for 20 years. They closed it down. Couldn't take more, they were selling their energy to a company that was down on the Arkansas River, Arkansas River there and they closed it down, couldn't make it work anymore. It

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just, the price of doing it didn't work out, so we looked at all of that.

You know, when I became a commissioner I didn't know the words gasification, carolosis, any of that and we know it all now. I think there's a place for that technology at some point. If you look at a big waste stream, it still hasn't been proven that it all works right. You right, in a smaller context maybe it does. I even quit looking at that. I continue to read as many articles that I can to try to understand it. This is going to be a tough issue, but you know this is one of those issues like the smoking ban. Everybody ready for a smoking ban in Wichita? Okay, we're in agreement, right? We agree to disagree. You know, the truth is, I've talked to people that have never smoked in their life and are they going to put up with a smoking ban? No. Why? They believe in free choice, don't tell me what to do, government is in too much of my life already. That is one of the complexities of this whole issue that we have.

We're going to continue to work on it. I applaud the people on the private side who've tried to put together recycling programs. That's important to our community. On the other hand, I understand free enterprise and free market and trying to earn a living as a small business and as a large business. I can guarantee you that the five people up here are dedicated to try to come up with the best solution for our community and I know it's a long time coming. Then I understand. I understand the challenge that we have to look at this seriously.

One of the things that confounds me is that as we move forward on some of these, it costs money to senior citizens, people on fixed incomes, people below poverty level if we don't franchise it. And I'm afraid if we try to franchise it, the City of Wichita will opt out and then we'll be mandating it to part of the county and a few small cities, which also have the ability to opt out. I know that because as mayor of Haysville I tried to move that franchising forward and almost got lynched because people wanted their choice. They didn't want me to tell them who their trash hauler was going to be.

So it's going to be a very complicated issue. We're going to sweat bullets over it, trying to figure it out, but I am hopeful that at least parts of this will move forward, we'll take action on, it will be part of our recommendation to go forward to KDHE and at least we'll make 50% plus one happy, because I don't believe we're going to make everybody happy. Thanks for coming tonight, I appreciate it."

Chairman Winters said, "All right, thank you very much commissioners. I also would like to add my thanks to you all being here. You all had very rightful and good comments, gave us your opinion, which we appreciate very much. And a matter of clarification, I have had a number of people ask me 'Tom, why did you want to do a new study?' The study I referred to in the Eagle was the very first recommendation that came from the Solid Waste Planning Committee, which is to conduct a waste analysis and that takes a year's worth of time. It does not mean that I think that we

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should not move forward until that analysis has been completed, but it's been ten years since we've studied what's in our waste stream.

We've gone from Subtitle D landfill to a transfer system since that time. I believe it's important, I share that view that the Solid Waste Planning Committee has that we should print up a waste analysis to know exactly what our waste stream is composed of now.

Commissioners, if there are no other comments, I would entertain a motion that we receive and file all the comments that were given this evening."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file.

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, "That motion carries. Commissioners, that brings us to the conclusion. Commissioners, do you have any other comments? Seeing none, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you all for attending."

B. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chairman
Third District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chair Pro Tem
First District

Special Meeting, April 24, 2008

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

KELLY PARKS
Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2008