

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**March 25, 2009**

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 25, 2009, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Kelly Parks, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Gwen Welshimer; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Karl Peterjohn; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; Mr. Mark Masterson, Director, Department of Corrections; Ms. Deborah Donaldson, Division Director, Human Services; Mr. Michael Borchard, CAE, Sedgwick County Appraiser; Mr. Bill Meek, Register of Deeds; Mr. Robert Lamkey, Director of Public Safety; Ms. Bev Dunning, County Extension Director; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Mr. Chris Chronis, CFO; Ms. Sara Jantz, Investment Officer, Finance; Ms. Pam Kelly, Internal Auditor, Finance; Ms. Ginger Radley, Accounting Manager, Finance; Mr. Troy Bruun, Deputy CFO; Ms. Anne Smarsh, Accounting Director; Mr. Marty Hughes, Revenue Manager, Accounting Department; Mr. Tom Pletcher, Clinical Director, COMCARE; Mr. Kent Koehler, Project Leader, IT Development; Mr. Roderick Harris, Director, Health Department's Center for Health Equity; Mr. Pete Giroux, Principal Analyst, Budget; Dr. Timothy P. Rohrig, Director, Forensic Science Center; and, Ms. Katie Asbury, Deputy County Clerk.

#### **GUESTS**

Mr. Joseph Onijala, Community Relations Coordinator, Spirit AeroSystems  
Mr. Peter Gustaf, President, Wichita Area Technical College

#### **INVOCATION**

Led by Reverend Jeff Gannon of Chapel Hill First United Methodist Church, Wichita.

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

#### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

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**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioners, you’ve all had a chance to read the minutes of the regular meeting of March 4th. Do I hear a motion to amend or pass that?”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Chairman Parks** said, “Next item.”

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

#### **A. PROCLAMATION FOR COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK.**

**Ms. Kristi Zukovich**, Director of Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’ll read this in for the record.

### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, access to affordable health care is a growing concern; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 45,825 Sedgwick County residents are uninsured, including many who work or have recently been laid off; and

**WHEREAS**, this problem does not affect only the uninsured individuals, but our entire community;  
and

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**WHEREAS**, health access is focused on finding a “medical home” for all residents; a “medical home” is the source of medical care chosen by the patient. This is where health care services are provided. Medical homes are accessible and long-term; and

**WHEREAS**, a medical home results in better health for citizens, a reduction in use of emergency rooms for non-critical care, and significant savings to individuals and the community; and

**WHEREAS**, a healthy community is a more vibrant community.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Kelly Parks, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, does proclaim March 22 – 28, 2009 as

### **“Cover the Uninsured Week”**

in Sedgwick County and encourages all citizens to take advantage of the assistance provided by the Health Access project. Information can be found through the Health Department’s Web site at [www.Sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.Sedgwickcounty.org) and through the United Way’s 211 system.

“And it’s dated March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Proclamation.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Ms. Zukovich** said, “And Commissioners, we have Rod Harris here this morning from our Sedgwick County Health Department to accept the Proclamation.”

**Mr. Rod Harris**, Sedgwick County Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said,

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“Good morning, Commissioners. As facilitator of the Health Access project, I’m pleased to accept your proclamation for ‘Cover the Uninsured Week 2009.’ I would also like to thank Commissioner Norton for your extensive leadership with educating and mobilizing our Health Access stakeholders over the years. As stated in the proclamation, the lack of healthcare coverage continues to be a problem nationally and locally. It is estimated that for individuals under age 65 in Sedgwick County, there are 45,800 Sedgwick County residents without healthcare coverage. Nonetheless, we are fortunate to have the Health Access project here to strive towards eliminating barriers to access for these residents, and others residents, who may in fact be under-insured.

“Just like last year, Health Access project is now using ‘Cover the Uninsured Week’ as its opportunity to launch a new initiative that comes from our Health Access project working group efforts. In ‘Cover the Uninsured Week 2008,’ we released our Health Access education kits, we provided presentations and booths throughout the community to share these kits with our target audiences; and in 2009, we plan to build on those efforts by launching our Community Health Navigator project. This project will entail a diverse array of volunteers, approximately 30 volunteers, going throughout the community to help their fellow residents navigate our local healthcare system, find affordable medical homes, and learn appropriate ways to utilize the emergency room, as well as their primary care physicians.

“Ultimately, our aim is to: One, connect individuals to medical homes, but also to help them avoid unnecessary ER usage and eliminate unnecessary healthcare debt. Our 30 navigators will plan to reach 1,500 residents throughout the next year. And I want to first say thank you again for your proclamation for ‘Cover the Uninsured Week 2009’ and on behalf of the Health Access project, this Center for Health Equity, and our working group members, I would like to thank you for your continual support of our access issues and our efforts to address access issues here in Sedgwick County. So, I’ll answer any questions you may have about the Community Health Navigator program.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you for telling us about your goals and your service to this Committee. I do know that Commissioner Norton has been a leader in this avenue and I will turn the meeting over to him at this time.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well thank you, Rod. Thank you, Chairman. I have worked on this, you know when we became the Board of Health several years ago and had to look at the Health Department and what its goals were and what it could do to affect the community. We

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embarked on a new realm of public health and what we could do for our community, knowing that not everybody was in a well position, based on health coverage, their ability to navigate the system, just the coordination and the capacity of the system we have to provide medical coverage in our community. And we held an assembly, we later held a smaller assembly to look at health access only and we've embarked on that with work groups that have worked on coverage and coordination and navigation, and now we've boiled it down to work groups that are working on nine subject matters, and I'd like to articulate those to the public, just so they know what we're working on, because we've got groups that are working all the time, we have a steering committee that meets once a month and goes over each one of these nine tenets, that we think our important in our community.

"The first is to enhance the publicity and the usage of '211' as kind of a one-stop. The United Way 211 System is a first call if you don't have a medical home, if you need a doctor, if you need some information to navigate the system. That was already in our community. Highly used and we've connected with them. They report to us how they've marketed what they're doing, and that's a great linkage. We've got a group led by Jon Rosell, of the Medical Society on Community Health Coverage Plan, and that would be a medical home plan. We've gotten some grants from some organizations to help us get deep into our community and understand what the need is, and what kind of coverage plans are out there nationally that maybe we could model in our community, to get people off the uninsured rolls.

"The next one is to build a relationship with the KHPA, that's the Kansas Health Policy Authority. And they are the over-arching group at the state level that are working on this issue, and we want to be sure that we're linked with them, that we don't go down a path that will be in controversy to them, but we'll work with them. So we've worked on that.

"We're working on developing a 24/7 nurse call line. We've had those in our community before, and for many reasons they've fallen away, but they are a good resource of information for people that don't have insurance.

"We're working on an outreach group, which is to market what we're doing, not only for 'Cover the Uninsured Week,' but every day to give people information about how they can make themselves healthier, how they can take care of their children and their seniors, but that outreach is very important.

"We're working on a shared information health system, and nationally that's a big issue. In fact, some of the stimulus money has been earmarked for those kinds of things. Because, believe it or not, as technologically advanced as we are in so many industries, the medical community is not linked. I mean, you can go to different doctors, different health centers, different emergency

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rooms, different hospitals, and your health records, unless you've gone there before, are not available to them. You have to retell them your story about your meds, your past history, and we're looking to link everybody together to have a very safe HIPAA-compliant shared health system, information system, where people can get all of your records. You can carry it with you.

"We're working on extending clinic hours of access. You know, the good news, when we embarked on this Health Access project, we had one federally qualified health center, Community Health Center. Now we have three. GraceMed has been able to get their qualification. Center for Health and Wellness has gotten theirs. And my hope is that we'll end up, before we finish this, with five federally qualified health centers in our community. Very important to delivering good healthcare to those that may not access it through their line of work.

"The next thing we're working on is research data on ER usage. Our ERs are writing off a lot of uncompensated care, that's not always the best care for people. We're trying to understand what that looks like, who those people are, what access they have to other ways of gaining medical attention. And we can only do that through some open records that we're starting to understand and to analyze that.

"And then finally, we're working on a transportation plan. Do we have the right metropolitan transportation system to get people that don't drive or have problems navigating, to community health centers, to medical appointments? So those are the nine things we're working on. I think we've made great progress for our community. I think it is the role of public health, not to deliver medical care, but to engage the community in the conversation of how we make our community a well community that has less chronic disease, and I think we've embarked on that, Mr. Chair, and I'm really proud of our Health Department. Rod, and Claudia Blackburn, our Health Department Director, have done an amazing job helping us navigate this very complicated issue in our country. And unfortunately, with a little bit of the economic downturn, this issue isn't getting less pervasive, it's getting more pervasive, and I'm glad that we took steps four and five years ago to be at the point were at today.

"I can't imagine how tough it could be on some of our constituents and some of our neighbors if we didn't have the capacity of three federally qualified centers and only had one right now. So, that's a little bit of an update. I will say, too, that when we were in Washington, I went to seven sub-committees or workshops that had to do with healthcare and delivering healthcare in a community. And I'm on the National Association of County's Health Steering Committee, and

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I'm trying to bring back as much information to our communities that I can from all the other communities that are working on this around the nation. So, thanks for giving me a little time to articulate that, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Parks** said, "And I do appreciate that and I do appreciate your local, state and national work on this item. Commissioner Welshimer."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Thank you for reading off this proclamation today. I also work with the health system, mainly with the low income providers of health services. I serve on the Board for Healthy Options for Plainview, which has become Healthy Options for Kansas Citizens. They are beginning to deliver dental services, along with, to sort of supplement GraceMed and Hunter Health and those services, and it doesn't seem to be that we can ever have enough."

**Mr. Harris** said, "You're right."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "There is no lacking of patients and customers, so to speak, so I think as a community, we all need to do everything we can to keep those systems going, those offerings, because without them we'd be in a much worse situation than we are today. Thank you."

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

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

**Ms. Zukovich** said, "I'll read this next Proclamation in for the record."

## **B. PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE KANSAS AVIATION INDUSTRY.**

### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Sedgwick County, Wichita is proud to be the 'Air Capitol of the World,' providing products being used by the President, Vice President, our United States' military, and private

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businesses throughout the nation and world; and

**WHEREAS**, Kansas aviation companies serve as the corporate aviation provider for our President and U.S. Department of Defense, helping them carry out the work of the American people and helping ensure security by providing the best made aircraft in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Kansas aviation companies also support the private sector by affording them the ability to conduct business in a timely manner and often from locations that are not served by major airports; and

**WHEREAS**, aviation manufacturers are seeing the impacts of the economic downturn and the cancellation of orders by private companies due to the comments of ‘excessive abuse of private jets,’ which in turn means layoffs for citizens. This is resulting in a significant negative impact to our local and state economies; and

**WHEREAS**, Sedgwick County, along with the private sector, and organized groups listed below, is concerned with the troubling negative attitude of the executive and legislative branches of our government. This attitude will bring economic harm, not only to our companies, but other industries in our community, as well as jobs for our citizens and our long-term viability; and

**WHEREAS**, the aviation industry contributes more than \$150 billion to the United States economy annually and employs more than 1.2 million people, and the strength of the aviation industry helps to ensure the strength of our national economy and our national defense; and

**WHEREAS**, through his homeland security efforts, President Obama has pledged to work with state and local governments and the private sector to listen to local concerns and to reach out to the private sector to leverage its expertise and assets to protect our homeland security.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Kelly Parks, Chairman, and the entire Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners does hereby proclaim our support of the aviation industry. We urge President Obama and all members of Congress, to recognize that our national defense and national economy depends on the aviation industry and consider the strength, quality, and value of our American-made products in support of our U.S. military men and women and our private businesses. This is a message for all federal officials in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., from the hardworking citizens of the ‘Air Capitol’ in Sedgwick County, Kansas, to strengthen

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and not weaken our crucial aviation industry.

“And it’s supported by the Wichita Area Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Wichita Independent Business Association, the Wichita Area Association of Realtors, and it is dated March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you for reading that, Kristi. This is something we’ve been carefully crafting for a couple of months. Wanted to make sure that it was what we intended to say. I urge everybody that is out there to read this; hopefully it will get good press coverage and I’d like to see the whole thing on our website.

“One of the things that I ask Karl Peterjohn to carry this to some of the other organizations, and we do have community support in this. It is a vitally important that we support our aircraft industry in Wichita and Sedgwick County. Commissioner Peterjohn, would you like to say a few words about it?”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you, Chairman Parks. I’d like to point out a couple of salient factors, particularly for folks who either will find out about this resolution because of this broadcast and this meeting today, I mean, I think we’d like to have other groups from this community join in and sign onto it. We want to leave it open in that sense, but we do want to get this off to Washington, and very soon, to let them know where this community stands on this very important issue.

“And I would point out today, how crucial it is with just one piece of data that came out this morning from the federal government, the durable goods orders for the data came out earlier this morning, and it showed a 3.4% increase overall, which was unexpected and positive news for the economy on the high side. The bad news in there, which is, I think going to be a problem for our community, is the aviation component of that figure showed a 28.9% decline, and I think it is important for the people in Washington to know that when the people in Wichita not only provide aviation for, and aviation products, for the very top levels of the military and for the federal government, from Air Force One on down.

“That that also reflects in what’s going on in the private sector, and the companies that we have here, with the employing the numbers we used in the resolution, the number of people and the amount of export value that provides in terms of money that comes into this community, from goods that are built and produced here, is absolutely crucial as we go through these economic times. And I sure hope that the durable goods order data is a one month fluke on the aviation component, because if it is not a fluke, this community is going to be in for a world of hurting.

“That we are just seeing the front tip of an iceberg at the moment, and I am going to keep my fingers crossed and try and keep a cheerful countenance that the Commerce Department just had

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a glitch this month and hopefully that that data can be repaired, but we need to let the folks in Washington, D.C., know that the manufacturing industry in this community is crucial, not only for Wichita and Sedgwick County, and not only for the state of Kansas, but it is crucial for the entire country, and steps that are taken in Washington that can harm this industry are really, we need to make them aware that this community is unified in terms of sending a strong message to Washington, in terms of keeping an eye out. We want to strengthen the ‘Air Capital’ in our area and not get dragged down because of what happens in other parts of the country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “We’re taking an extra day or so before we mail this, is that correct?”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “I’m open to it.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Certainly can.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well, I’m glad for that. I would like to see if I can’t get some of the unions to join us in this effort. So, I’ll get busy on that this afternoon.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you.”

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

**Chairman Parks** said, “I think we can probably hold that off for a couple days and by consensus building put that on there for that decision today and include that in our Proclamation that any of the groups that want to get on board may do so. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “I move we adopt the Proclamation and urge other constituencies in the community, both business and private, to join us in this resolution that we will send to our national partners.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “That covers it.”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the Proclamation.

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Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Ms. Zukovich** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Next item.”

### **DONATIONS**

#### **C. DONATION OF \$10,000 BY SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS FOR SUPPORT OF THE 2009 GOVERNOR’S CONFERENCE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE TO BE EXPENDED BY THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.**

**Mr. Mark Masterson**, Director, Department of Corrections, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here this morning to request that you accept the special purpose donation of \$10,000 from Spirit AeroSystems to help support the 10th annual Governor’s Conference on Juvenile Justice that will be held here in Wichita, June 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. My department has been working with the Juvenile Justice Authority to plan an outstanding event for our community. We expect over 600 people will attend from across the state and region.

“This will be the first time the event has been held outside of Topeka, and we’re happy to host it here. The donation will assist with fees for national level keynote speakers, provide scholarships, and to sponsor a reception for conferees hosted by Spirit. Mr. Joseph Onijala, Community Relations Coordinator from Spirit, is here this morning would like to address the Commission if that’s okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “That’s great. Joseph, would you like step to the podium, please?”

**Mr. Joseph Onijala**, Community Relations Coordinator from Spirit, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On behalf of the 10,500 Spirit AeroSystem employees in Wichita, we are pleased to partner with Sedgwick County Department of Corrections to host the 2009

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Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice. Spirit believes that building strong shareholder value requires more than making a profit. It requires making a contribution. This is the cornerstone of being the responsible corporate citizen in today's world, and it is essential to what we do at Spirit AeroSystems. We believe that investments in youth, produces some of the greatest returns for our communities. Thank you for allowing Spirit the opportunity to partner with you to increase the capacity to care for youth in our community. Again, thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you, Joseph, and I want to thank you for not only this program, but the other areas that you work with in the community. And we do have a comment from Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, we just had a proclamation saying that we support aviation, and this is just an example of how aviation gives back and supports our community at so many different levels, from the United Way to their Spirit funds, to all the other things that they do. Joseph, we're just glad that you're here, and that we hope that Spirit stays strong, as we do all the aviation industry, because you are good corporate citizens for many, many years. So we appreciate that. Thanks for coming today."

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "And I might comment one more thing with Mark, this is one of the continuing education credits for those attorneys and law enforcement that can go out there and attend this. This is one of the things that we're glad to have in Wichita, and have had to travel in the past to Topeka for."

**Mr. Onijala** said, "It is."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you for your efforts in getting it to Wichita. Any further comments?"

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "Okay."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Have we accepted the donation yet?"

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to accept the donation.

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Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Mr. Masterson** said, “Thank you very much.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you, Mark.”

### **D. CASH DONATION OF \$2,500.00 TO SEDGWICK COUNTY LINK FOR LIFE RUN.**

**Ms. Deborah Donaldson**, Division of Human Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here to ask your acceptance of donations for the Sedgwick County Link for Life Run, which focuses on suicide prevention. The three donations are \$1,000 from Preferred Health Systems, \$500 from the Mental Health Association of Sedgwick County, and \$1,000 from the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas, and these particular brochures have been distributed throughout the community. You know, letting people know this is happening on April 18th. Let me bring these up and you can take a look.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Whether you’re a runner or have a child or have a close association with the topic, I would welcome everybody to go out to the zoo, have a fun day after the run. There are a lot of awards that are given out. In fact, we had some left over last year, so if you come out and participate, the chances of getting a medal or a trophy or a neck award will be pretty high.”

**Ms. Donaldson** said, “Absolutely, and if you open that up, you will notice right in the front you are going to see our own Chairman Parks, he’s the one with the orange hat on. We appreciate your participation last year. Just to let you know, the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force does not receive funding from any entity, but does this as their main fundraiser, and so what do we do with those funds? And actually, we get a lot done. We bring in a suicide expert every year. We have done training with primary care physicians, with school personnel; we do a bookmark kind of distribution, which talks about signs to watch for, for suicide, and what to do

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about that. And we distribute 40,000 of those every year. A lot of us stand at Quik Trips; and I've done that, I stand at Quik Trips and hand those out and talk to people, and I am amazed the number of people that come back and say we've had this experience in our family, and they talk with you about it, they ask for extras for friends, family, people they work with. So it's quite an experience.

"We also, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, we have a Survivor to Suicide Day, and that's for people who have experienced that in their family to come together to talk, heal, share information and support each other. And we also do the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Campaign in the schools, which helps schoolmates know what to do, the different students. We actually recognized a student who, because of some text messages, became aware of a potential suicide, and talked, did what they said, went to an adult, and they did get there in time. But just barely. I mean, he literally saved a life.

"And so those are the critical things that happen. Not only do we have awareness through this day, but the funds that are raised are used the rest of the year for these types of activities. I do appreciate your support. You've been great support for this, and I think it really makes a difference to our community that you're there, and letting people know that, you know, you care about this. So anyway, I would be glad to answer any questions, and ask for your acceptance of the donations and authorize the Chairman to sign."

**Chairman Parks** said, "I do have a question. Before we do that, let's go ahead and get the motion and second before the discussion."

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to accept the donation.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye

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Chairman Parks Aye

**Chairman Parks** said, “I did have a question. Do you have commissioned, and have in writing, all of the Commissioners’ promises to participate in this?”

[Laughter]

**Ms. Donaldson** said, “I have good participation, and I’m excited about it, and it’s a great day. And, you know, people it’s just wonderful to see that many people out there. Last year, we had over a thousand runners, and by the time we added family members, I mean, we filled the zoo and people were having a wonderful time, and doing it for a great cause. And you guys have been wonderful because I know it’s what it’s like being out there at 7:15 on a Saturday morning and thank you so much for that. But those 5k runners, they are heavy duty; they start at 7:45.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “And aside from the starter whistles, there other things the Commissioners can do, so if you want to run and participate in it, that’s great. If you don’t, if you just want to help us organize, especially those kids races, that’s really a fun event. So, I anticipate the Commissioners’ participation in this. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I would like to thank Preferred Health, the Mental Health Association, the Substance Abuse Center for their donation, first of all, I think that's critical in helping us start the event. We hope we raise some money for the Link for Life. You know, suicide is kind of that silent thing that we don't talk about in our nation, and it's been on the rise, and, you know, in these tough economic times, that whole scenario changes a little bit. "There's more pressure on families because of economic crisis, financial things, it leads to more domestic violence, family problems, and depression, and that leads obviously to those things that lead to suicide. There's much pressure on youth today and we worry about that. There's been evidence that there's increased nationally on suicides in the under 18 group, and I worry about the pressure on seniors that have seen their 401(k)s shrink, that their services are being delivered to them and their healthcare costs that are so rising, puts extreme pressure on our senior citizens, that their only decision is maybe suicide.

“And then finally, one of my big concerns is the influx of military men and women that are coming back to our nation that have problems with stress, traumatic stress syndrome that leads to thoughts of suicide. And I think we are going to have more pressure on the things that we do for mental health. I think it’s good news that the Mental Health Parity Act was passed, so that there is going to be some strength in mental health kinds of services in our nation, but it is paramount that our community continue to know about suicide, understand it, see the warning signs, and that we promote that it’s okay to talk about it, that it is not something that you should

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be embarrassed about in your family, but if you see warning signs in your family or a neighbor or a friend or someone in the community, that there is an access, there is places to go to get help. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, obviously. And we want to make sure that the Link for Life is celebrated as a way to get that information out to people about this very sad part of our nation. So thank you, Deb, for continuing to be an advocate and promoting it with such fervor. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioner Peterjohn.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deb, you answered one of the questions I had for you when you said we had over 1,000 runners participate in this event last year, and I hastened to add there were a couple members of my family who were part of that number. But on a more serious note, could you talk for just a second in terms of how many people we have in terms of as a suicide problem here in Sedgwick County and how the trends have gone in the last couple of years?”

**Ms. Donaldson** said, “We tend to average between 50 and 60 suicides a year. We actually have more suicides in our community than homicides, which is an ongoing concern. The trend that we have been seeing, with the economic conditions and with the other things that are going on that Commissioner Norton mentioned, we don't know where it's going to go, but actually we've done a lot of focus on youth and the elderly and we actually were seeing those numbers go down.

“But the trend we are very concerned about, we were seeing a lot of folks who are more middle-aged, and you wouldn't think would be at high risk, and we are seeing more and more suicides in that particular group. And with the economic conditions, we're concerned about all of them, and I don't know if that trend will continue or what will happen, but we have been very concerned about that.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said “Debbie, thank you very much for taking the time to clarify that, because I think giving some raw numbers in terms of the dimension of the problem, I think is help for everyone out there, and I think for citizens who are struggling, to let them know they are not alone and there are resources out there that can be helpful. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the private co-sponsors who are joining in here, who are on the program. Great bunch of local businesses who are helping. Thank you.”

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to add my comment also, Deb. First of all, like the others, want to express appreciation and thanks to Preferred Health Systems and

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to Mental Health Association and to the Substance Abuse Center for their willingness to help make this successful, and to you and to your staff and just, I don't know how many volunteers that you have?"

**Ms. Donaldson** said, "Many."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Do you know the number?"

**Ms. Donaldson** said, "I think the number is close to 200. Last time I heard, I think I heard 166, but a lot of volunteers come Saturday morning to make this happen. And a lot of them are behind the scenes. You know, they are setting things up, at 6:00 in the morning, setting up the registration, registering people, holding signs so people know where to go when they are running. We have one person who comes as a pink rabbit so the kids will know who to chase when they are running, keeps them going in the right direction. I mean..."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "That is not a job I will do."

**Ms. Donaldson** said, "...but, yeah, tremendous number of volunteers to make this happen. And then they come out year after year to make this happen."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "You know, I think the volunteers are all eager and excited to be part of this and helpful, not only because it is truly a great, fun event, and it is a family event, and anybody that wants to get up and enjoy the Sedgwick County Zoo and which most of the time, a very good Saturday morning. People are eager to do that. But besides all the fun and the entertainment value of it, is the fact that this does help publicize a serious issue in our state, in our County, and in the publicity of it, it has the ability to reduce the stigma that's associated with suicide, and that's probably a major problem in trying to solve this, is that they end up being ashamed or embarrassed by thoughts of suicide or by someone in the family that has had that.

"So I think we are doing a great thing, just simply by publicizing it, helping reduce the stigma and trying to overcome an alarming statistic that says we have over six suicides in the state of Kansas every week. And according to information here, and that's an alarming number. So put the event all together and it serves very useful purpose for our citizens. It is a lot of fun and thank you for your leadership. That's all I have Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you. And to elaborate a little bit on Commissioner Peterjohn's co-sponsors. Tell me if I am wrong, but Starbucks and LaMar's provides donuts and coffee, and then Papa John's with the pizza a little bit later on?"

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**Ms. Donaldson** said, “Absolutely, yes.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay.”

**Ms. Donaldson** said, “They donate all of that for the runners. So.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “We certainly appreciate the co-sponsors on that, too. Thank you.”

**Ms. Donaldson** said, “Thank you very much.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “So thank you, Debbie, and we are ready for the next item. Thanks.”

**PRESENTATIONS**

**E. WICHITA AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE UPDATE**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Pete Gustaf**, CEO, Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority, President, Wichita Area Technical College, greeted the Commissioners and said, “It is a pleasure for me to be here today. I want to talk a little bit today on a topic about your board that is appointed by the Sedgwick County Commissioners, and a little bit about what they do. You have a past board member, Commissioner Norton, and a current board member, Commissioner Unruh, who have served us with great honor and distinction and I appreciate your support and so forth.

“There are a number of committees that make up the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority (SCTETA). If you go to, let me see here. This is the committees, the finance committee, and who the members are, program curriculum committee, facilities and operations committee, the transition committee, and the executive committee. Off to the right, you can see what each one of those committees is responsible for.

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“These committees meet sometimes three or four times a month, and we really appreciate the time and effort that each one of these committee members and board members put into reviewing what we do. This board was set up as a business-driven board to ensure that the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) and the Technical College are operated with the maximum amount of governance and the maximum amount of business input. I am going to talk a little bit about some of the things that each one of those committees are working on, and I will leave some time at the end for some questions if you have any specific questions.

“The curriculum committee is one of our most important committees, as is all of them, but this is a critical committee right now, because we’re developing a whole packet of programs. Two years ago, when the Sedgwick County Commission asked the KTTI (Kansas Technical Training Initiative) Board to help with the governance of the Technical College, there was only three manufacturing programs that were being offered in a community that has over 40,000 aviation manufacturing jobs. Currently, since that time in the past two years, we have developed 18 new aviation manufacturing programs.

“We are currently incubating over 20 other programs from locations throughout the community. This includes about 5,800 clock hours of time that our research and development people have put in, with over 50 subject matter experts from different companies throughout our community that assist in developing this highly technical, advanced curriculum that we’re working on.

“Also, we leverage our partners every day for equipment. We get equipment donations every day and material donations every day, way too many to list, but when we have go to our board retreat in June, that we are going to go to at the Sedgwick County Zoo this year, we will be discussing all of those donations, and where we are at, and planning for the next year. If you turn to the next page, or turn to the page in your packet, you have a page that has three different categories on it. I’m just going to highlight a couple in this presentation.

“Where we are today. Today we currently have 682 students in aviation and manufacturing programs. These students, this comes from having zero a couple years ago. So currently we have our teaching almost half of the number of students that will fill up the National Center for Aviation Training, so we are 50% there already. And we have the equipment currently in place to teach those current programs. However, this equipment is very expensive and it wears out. We have current equipment that will allow us to teach now into the future, but is not where we want to be as far as world class is concerned and that’s why we continue to work with our state partners, our federal partners, and our aviation companies in order to ensure that we have state-of-the-art equipment, because the goal that we had when we started the National Center for

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Aviation was to be world class, to have people come in regionally and nationally to take training at this center.

“Next year, we have a number of programs that you see on that column that will be starting, most of them in August, and you can see off to the right the funds that are needed. We have the majority of the funds already through grant funds. You can see the number of grants that we have secured so far for each one of those programs. We work really hard to try and ensure that we have outside grant funding for any program that we can, and we have been fortunate so far for next year to have a vast majority of those resources already secured. There is in your packet another section for the following year and those programs are under development and we are continually evaluating and developing those programs.

“Regarding the facilities committee, this will give you an idea of the number of facilities we have today at the technical college. You can see there are eight facilities there. They are scattered throughout the community. Our goal is to, a lot of these facilities, by the way, are 100 plus years old. We hope to significantly downsize our footprint in order to have two years from now, about four facilities. Facilities committee, Chairman Unruh is on, spends a lot of time and effort working on this. We have two aviation facilities, one east and one west. One is at Mid-Continent, the other one is at Pawnee and Rock. Each one of those houses aviation maintenance and avionics students.

“That gives you kind of an idea of where we’re headed facilities wise. In addition, the facilities committee oversees for the technical college, the governance part of the construction of NCAT for reviewing and working on the progress for the National Center for Aviation Training. Also they’ve been involved in a number of remodels. We inherited some facilities that were significantly in disrepair. We have invested whatever resource we can find - paint, lights and equipment – in order to make sure that each program is in a great facility, the students and faculty have a good learning environment in order to which to learn in.

“Last board meeting, we’ve been working on this for a few months, one of the other things that we want to do is become more self-sufficient, more entrepreneurial, and this is an example of one program and company that we are partnering with. One of our aviation companies introduced us to this company; it’s a small design company in Indiana. It’s called Oxygen Education, they do innovative macro-media flash design work for online programs for a number of large companies. We are fortunate to be able to craft a mutually beneficial partnership that

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will allow us to provide remote learning opportunities for businesses and students, and also for us to generate entrepreneurial revenue and not state support type revenue. These are the things we are trying to do to become as entrepreneurial as possible, so we can pay our own way as they say. At the bottom is a link that you can go to that will show you a sample of some of this training. This is the most state-of-the-art online training we've ever seen and it was referred to us by one of our aviation partners.

"The finance committee meets two or three times a month. During these times, we are continually reviewing our financial positions; it changes on a daily basis in some cases. As you know, we get resources from the state for state aid and also for equipment in aviation infrastructure through the grant that we have from the state. The finance committee has spent a considerable amount of time trying to develop a process, and put processes in place, that will ensure that we have great finances. We took over a school that was in kind of rough shape and we're pleased to report that we are in solid financial shape right now.

"Obviously any lip in the road that happens in the future, we will have to deal with when that time comes. Also, they perform the audit function at our last board meeting. For those of you that were there, we did get our initial audit report that we will report back to the Board on after we review it with our finance people. We're also since January been working on the budget process for 2010. We are also in faculty negotiations. The budget process is an ongoing process that will come to culmination on June 8th at our retreat where the board will approve the budget.

"We do a lot of work with the state. We have two main resources from the state, namely the Block Grant. We're working to try to minimize the impact of the economic situation on the Technical College Block Grant, so far we are maintaining somewhere around a seven or eight percent cut, but any final decisions that are made by the legislature, we will incorporate in the next year's budget. Currently, the state NCAP Grant has \$2.5 million in it, in both the House and the Senate bill. We requested \$5 million. As you recall, it was part of the South Central Kansas Legislative Agenda, as it was last year. This is the same amount we had in last year at this time. And then we will go to Omnibus and see if we can leverage the rest.

"This is an important time for us financially, because this next year we have a lot of transition things to do, because of the moving out to the Gateway building, we'll have to do a lot of moving things. Also, we have grant opportunities. There will be some announcements in the future of some successful grants that we've received. It's a little early for me now to announce it, not only some grants from the government, but some foundation donations from some companies in Kansas.

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“Our transition committee, one of the problems that we encountered when we started working at the technical college was there was not an adequate reporting system. We were faced with not being able to gather real-time data, so we had to make financial decisions based on obsolete data, so the board decided to go ahead and implement an enterprise resource software system, similar to what the County has, SAP, ours is called Banner. We’ve been working on that, the whole college is working on that right now, we expect to go live for students April 13<sup>th</sup> and total go live July 1<sup>st</sup>. You can see the timing of this system, this is a large undertaking, is the same time as we plan on moving the Gateway building, so we’ll have that all ready to go when we move out there.

“Also, the transition committee works on plan and scheduling of moving to the National Center for Aviation Training, in other words, they do everything from okaying where everybody is going, to how we are going to get out there and so forth. There’s been a number of transitions that we have done, and the transition committee does an outstanding job making sure that we stay on track with that.

“The final thing the transition committee is working on is rebranding, and rebranding also creates some interesting debate, and we’ve had our share regarding that, and hopefully that will come to a conclusion sometime in either this month or next month. A couple other things that happened on campus, there’s things that happen every day on campus, in regard to students and events, but I wanted to highlight a couple of events that have happened.

“We had over 360 Boy Scouts at our Southside center, and 149 Scout leaders, who spent all day there getting their couple of merit badges. You can see a couple of photos there of the Boy Scouts having the opportunity to do some hands-on, real type of technical work. Also, we had an event called ‘Learn to Earn.’ This was an event that we had for folks that have been transitioning away from their current employer, laid-off or so forth. We had over 90 prospective students that had the opportunity to visit with each one of our department staff who put together outstanding displays of their programs, and their wares and it was a huge success, and we were very pleased with the number of people who came out and I think they were excited about the opportunities that we had for them.

“We’re real proud of how far we’ve come. I want to thank the Board, especially, for all their work. And also to thank the County Commission for their support. Their longtime support with this effort as we move to the Wichita, ‘Air Capitol of the World’ with our beautiful, new tech. center. So with that, I would like to thank you, and if you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you Pete. Just to touch on something that we’ve spoke about before the meeting today, WATC does still have a GED (General Equivalency Diploma) program for those people who are listening. I did talk with one of my constituents that was laid-

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off at the Greyhound Park, and subsequently been laid-off at her job now and in getting some of these; she needs a high school diploma, so kind of touch on that if you will.”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have the second largest adult literacy program in the state of Kansas. We currently will graduate somewhere around 500 GED graduates this year. The graduation’s in May. We also do English as a second language (ESL) training. We do adult literacy training to move people up the ladder. Those people that do complete their GED get a \$500 scholarship to enter into a career and technical program at the college. We’ve kept it together, we’re about half of what we used to serve, is what we serve today.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “You bet. Commissioner Welshimer.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well I had my second visit at WATC yesterday. The magnitude of the growth out there is just incredible. I don’t think there’s any way I’m going to see it in four days or even five days. There’s so much to see, so many buildings, so many curriculums that have beautiful labs, beautiful classrooms. I’m very impressed with that. “I think you’re doing a wonderful job. I think the one thing that impressed me the most was in the past we’ve been worried, some of the people out in the communities have been worried about, how we might be training people from outside the state and not our own, and so on, and then sending them on to jobs. But it’s obvious that that’s going to be a tool that’s going to bring companies into this area, and populations into this area.

“It’s not only a good training facility, but it’s an excellent economic development tool. I just want to thank you for all you’ve done. I was very impressed with the staff, the people who head up your different departments. Quality people. I would, you know, enjoy myself, taking classes from them. It’s just great. Thank you very much.”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “Thank you, Commissioner.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioner Unruh.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to make a comment, Pete, and express gratitude for your leadership since you’ve taken presidency of the college a couple of years ago or so now. The situation two years ago, as compared to what we have before us now, is to say it’s dramatically different is an understatement. There’s been huge metamorphosis in the character and quality of what’s gone on at WATC. I appreciate your leadership.

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“You made a comment that the facilities in some cases were in significant disrepair, I think is the word used, and that’s an understatement, actually. What’s happened through our facilities planning has been really quite dramatic at reducing the footprint of the number of buildings we have, I think, will help us do a better job in managing the costs of operating the college but also improve our productivity and improve the desirability for folks going to the college, so that’s a significant improvement.

“You talked about the progress in programs, also been very significant and we’re looking forward to the enhancement that the Oxygen arrangement will bring to us. I was concerned about that agreement to some degree. But I think it will attract students to our college and kind of give them a sample of what they can get if they come in for lab work at the new Center for Aviation Training, so I believe that will also be positive for us.

“We’ve made great steps, I think, in budgeting and finance internally and we’ve got a much improved professional faculty, which is directly to the benefit of our students and our plant facilities I’ve said are really improving. Lot of changes have happened.

“In all this, I think, works towards achieving our goals in terms of our overall strategy, which is having a business driven technical education, having a National Center for Aviation Training that is attractive, desirable, that will be full of students and full of programs when we’re ready to open it. You’ve done a good job. Your comment about the rebranding, you were careful in your choice of words. You didn’t talk about the bloodletting and fist fights we got into but...”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “No, I didn’t.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “...that will be, it will all be settled soon and looking forward as we finally roll that out. Anyway, thanks for the report. A good report and I appreciate the progress that’s been made.”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Appreciate your support and help.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioner Peterjohn.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Pete, if I could get a couple of questions to clarify for me a little bit in terms of the size. You mentioned 682 students in aviation and manufacturing programs and then you mentioned an additional, I believe, 500 students for GED and adult education.”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “Yes.”

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**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Are any of those, some of those, GED and adult education students ending up in the aviation manufacturing program after they get past it, and is there any double counting and can you give me an idea in terms of your total enrollment, if you include everything, including maybe the nursing programs that Commissioner Unruh said they got some firsthand practical experience after the Board Meeting? Is that what happened, Commissioner Unruh?”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Nurses were not called, didn’t get that bad.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, I’m sorry for the digression, but I do have a serious question buried in the banter.”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “Sure. The adult basic education program, the adult literacy program, is a totally separate program. It is not counted within any of the numbers as far as enrollment in the school is concerned. The adult literacy program is primarily a federally funded program. The vast majority of the money, I think, last year we received about \$300,000 from the feds to fund that program and about \$40,000 from the state. That’s a completely different program. In regard to students that get their GED and come to the aviation, or any one of our programs, we’re really working hard to try and insert those students to come and that’s the reason for the \$500 scholarship. There are some, not as many as we would like, that transition from that program into the school, but there’s about 20%, we think is about what the number is.

“In regard to total enrollment, in 2008, we served over 4,500 students. This year, I think we’re going to be somewhere around, we’ll probably end up, around 7,000; 6,500 to 7,000 students this year. Last year, we were the 12<sup>th</sup> fastest growing two-year college in the United States. This year we’ll be the fastest growing two-year college in the U.S.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Well, then let me follow it up with a question, because obviously the state funding that you mentioned, if you’re looking at a seven to eight percent cut in your block grants and if you go from that NCAT resources category, listed from \$5 million down to \$2.5 million, how dependent last year were you on state funding? What percentage of your total funding was coming from the state?”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “Actually, there was a law that was passed a number of years ago that the state was supposed to fund technical education, it’s called the 8515 Law; 85% coming from the state, 15% from tuition. Currently, in our last budget year, about 20% of our resources came from the state. If these cuts hold, in regard to technical education, we’re a little different, were in a block grant formula that they’ll lower the block grant down, which is our state aid. It’s a 7 percent flat cut for everybody in technical education. That’s where it’s at now and that was the Governor’s recommendation. What we do is become more entrepreneurial and we hire part-time people

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instead of full-time people to teach programs. We get by longer with equipment that we should probably have replaced awhile ago. You just make adjustments for the situation. We slow down a little bit or you try to go get somebody else to help you.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Well then let me ask you, kind of following up on that, trying to find someone else. There’s been a lot of talk about stimulus money out of Washington for re-training. Obviously, with the increase in enrollment, you’re going to see more enrollment from people who are going through a retraining process after people have been laid-off. Can you kind of walk me through if you think there’s going to be more funding coming in to WATC from as part of what’s been passed in Washington recently?”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “We think there’s going to be more funding specifically for specific training in specific areas. In regards to the stimulus package that was passed, in the amount that’s going to the state, we aren’t really sure yet about what that’s going to make up. We’ve heard that some of the resources that will come in will be for deferred maintenance; which really doesn’t have an impact on us because we don’t own very many buildings. Our buildings, the ones that need maintenance, we are trying to get rid of. We think there’s going to be significant resources for us in program specific areas. In other words, if we start a fiber optics program or advanced coatings program, there’s going to be resources available for us to purchase equipment, we think. As far as the state is concerned, we’re still waiting for that to kind of shake out. We were about in the same position last year, and during Omnibus it kind of all came together. Whether that will happen again, I don’t know, but we’re going to try.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you, Pete.”

**Mr. Gustaf** said, “You’re welcome.”

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well, thanks for being here today, Pete. It’s amazing progress that’s been made since the early days of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune when, you know, we started working on WATC and technical training, and I know I was involved in those early days and now Commissioner Unruh has moved over to the board. It is amazing as to where this is coming and what a great juncture in our community it’s needed.

“You know, the downturn, the economics of conditions, of not only the nation but our community, is going to push a lot of people into re-training. But we have the capacity and the ability to take care of that now, where five years ago we were in dire straits. In fact, we were close to closing down and not having any technical college in our community at all. Today, to hear 6,500 to 7,000 students is pretty encouraging. As I remember, we were down below 1,500

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not too long ago. Does that really serve our community well? Probably not. We all know that continuing education increases job skills, job training, technical education is powerful in communities around our nation and now we're at the forefront of being one of the largest providers in growing providers in the nation. Certainly, the Aviation Center, when it's built, is going to be, I hate to overuse that word, world class. But it is going to be. There's a vision being carried out and it's going to serve our community for many years.

"It's interesting to pass a resolution that says we support aviation. That's a piece of paper that sounds really good. But when you invest in an aviation training center that will carry aviation for the next 30 or 40 years in the capacities they need for training and technical education; that is really supporting aviation. It's not words on a piece of paper. It is really saying that we are investing in an economic driver in our community, that's very important.

"I wanted to talk a little bit about South Side Center and that's kind of micro. People need to get by and see the South Side Center. If you haven't been to that center on 47th Street, in the last three or four months, you haven't been to the South Side Center. It's an incredible new facility. It has been upscaled and upgraded where anybody and everybody will feel good about the education they are getting there. Not only is the facility much nicer and better than it has ever been, but there is a whole new feeling among faculty and staff there, that has not been there for many, many years. I taught out there, been out to that center many, many times. I applaud you for what has been done there because it is a jewel of the south side now. I am very proud of it.

"To talk a little bit about ABE, which is Adult Basic Education, that has been a problematic issue in our state for many years. It is underfunded at the state level. There's a formula, there's federal money that flows down and the state has not realized that full funding because they don't put the match in there. So, you know, the idea that we're getting around 300,000 from the feds and 40,000 from the state truthfully, we could get much more than that if the state would change the formula and take serious adult basic education and training, and that hasn't been done. We have struggled with that. I put together a committee through Visioneering to work on that. It was frustrating because, Commissioner Peterjohn, you're right, there are plenty of people that need that education to transition into more training to be productive in the job systems here in our community and the capacity is just not there.

"Now it doesn't all house in WATC. The Indochinese Center delivers a little, Goodwill delivers a little, Can Sell delivers a little, but they don't get public funding. Indochinese Center a little bit, but they rely on some fees and some other ways and they struggle. There is a huge meeting later this week, and there's going to be several things we talk about, that will be one of them. I'm meeting with Keith Lawing from the Workforce Center later to talk about that issue because

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he's worried about it. I mean, he's trying to re-train and train people, and they don't come to re-training with adequate enough skills to get the re-training into avionics or some other industry.

"There's some conversations still that need to be had in our community about educating our citizenry and creating the capacity and the ease for them to do that. I applaud you Pete for what you've done. Continue to come back and give us updates. It's going to be exciting to see the Gateway building open and to jettison off some of the old, tired facilities that people have had to go to that are just cobbled together. They've served us well, but it's time to move on. I appreciate the facilities committee for working so hard to make that happen. That has been an albatross around our neck for at least the five years I have been involved. Thank you for coming today, we appreciate it."

**Mr. Gustaf** said, "Thank you Commissioner."

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

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

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

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

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**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you, Pete.”

### **F. PRESENTATION OF SEDGWICK COUNTY APPRAISER’S ANNUAL REPORT OF REAL PROPERTY VALUE TRENDS IN SEDGWICK COUNTY**

#### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Mike Borchard**, CAE, Sedgwick County Appraiser, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We have finalized our 2009 appraised values and as we prepare to mail them out, I want to report to you the results of some trend analysis and new construction activity. I will tell you up front that real estate activity in 2008 was different than it has been. Sedgwick County is a growth community. As you can see from this chart, the parcels in Sedgwick County increased to 218,501 that were appraised in 2009. Parcel counts generally increase about one percent per year.

“Primary duties of the Appraiser's Office, as far as real estate operations: physically inspect each property once every six years as a primary responsibility. We need to review and validate all building permit properties and we need to review all recent properties that have had a sale on them. These processes will ensure that the property characteristic data remains stable over time. The last thing is the equalization. We are required to update our appraisals each year to assure that all properties are valued at fair market value, and our valuation date is January 1. You can see from this chart that sales activity during 2008 was down significantly; 12,569 sales, all classes of property, was down over 16%.

“Another primary responsibility of the appraisers’ office is to set the classification rate for properties. Actually, the rates are set out in the Constitution, but we are required to set the right classification on each of the properties based on their use. Residential classification is 11.5% of market value. Commercial, industrial property is 25% of its fair market value. Vacant land is 12% of its fair market value and agricultural use is 30% of its use value.

“Residential property represents about 55% of the total of assessed value in Sedgwick County. This is the building permit activity since 2002. Again, it’s different than it has been historically. We were down to 1,687 permits for new residences. That number was down 36% from last year. Historically, interest rates remain very low. Although we have seen the median sale price continue to climb, for 2008 the median sale price was \$127,750 dollars, up about 5.5% from the prior year.

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“This next chart is a little complicated. I’ll try to walk you through it. The y-axis shows our appraised value to sale price ratio, there’s a reference line at 95%, which is generally where we want our appraisals to be in line with the market. There are three vertical lines there that represent January 1. Starting in the first segment there, you can see our ratios for the year started off right around 94, 95. Through the middle of the year, they fell off significantly to around 91. Then when we did the annual reappraisal in January, they went back up to close to 94.

“So you can see this cycle of appreciation and reappraisal appreciation values reappraisal over the last three years. The last segment of the graph shows 2008. You can see that it started off just about 95%, showed some appreciation through half the year, but then the second half of the year we lost that appreciation rate. This is just for residential property.

“This chart shows a home price index for Wichita, for Kansas, and the United States. You can see that United States appreciation rate over the last five years was extremely faster than it was in Kansas or Wichita. And that the U.S. has actually gone to depreciation and Kansas and Wichita has maintained either growth or stable. As far as commercial property, it represents about 30% of the total assessed value in the County. Commercial property transactions were also down significantly, down about 11% from 2007. As we compared the 2008 prices to the 2008 appraisals, generally those ratios were between 85 and 95% of fair market value.

“The building permit activity was also down in commercial properties, down 22% from last year. There’s 1,838 permits. The results of those permits were that, as far as retail property, we added about 826,000 square feet. As far as office property, 176,000 square feet. Industrial property, 885,000, and 497 apartment units. We’ll say that much of this retail was actually started in 2007 and was finalized in the year 2008. There’s still 458,874 acres of agricultural land in Sedgwick County which makes up about 70% of the land in Sedgwick County. Again, it’s valued at its use value.

“The Department of Revenue sets the use values for the entire state each year. As far as this year, ag land values saw some modest decreases. So as a result of our analysis, and appraisals, I said the 2008 was different. The valuation summary is different. As far as 2009, January 1, our residential parcels, 13% will see an increase in value. 15% will see a decrease in value, and 72% will see no change in value. As far as commercial parcels, five percent will see an increase in value, four percent a decrease in value, and 91% no change in value. As far as agricultural

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parcels, 13% will see an increase in value, 64% a decrease in value, and 23% no change in value.

“So we’ll be mailing 218,501 value notices out and we’ll start that mailing this Friday. It is our plan to begin informal hearings on April 14<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for property owners to appeal is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Much of this information, as far as appraised values and sales, will be available on our website starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. That website is [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org) and it will explain if you go to the Appraiser’s Office, it will explain the appeals process. It will show real property values and real property sales. We also have walk-ins available at the courthouse or at any of our convenience centers. So that concludes my report. If you have any questions, I ask you to receive and file this report.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “I do have one question, back on the median sales price, you say that’s up 5.5%, that’s for residential, is that correct?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Correct.

**Chairman Parks** said, “So even though the sales numbers may be down, our price is still inflating or going up in value?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Well the median sale price went up. Based on our ratio studies, there indicated a very slight trend for the year, less than two percent.

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay. Thank you. Commissioner Welshimer.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “The increase that you have here for residential, commercial and ag, with residential and commercial, is that increase in value on existing properties or is that additions and remodeling and that type of thing?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “That’s existing properties.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Existing properties?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Yes.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “So we do have some residences that sold 13% more in 09?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Which...”

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**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Residential parcels. Increase in value, 13%. Decrease in value, 15.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Oh, that’s the percentage of parcels that went down or went up.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Yeah. 13% went up in value.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Right.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Yeah.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Not 13% increase, but 13% of the properties went up in value.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “And it’s not adding add-ons or remodels or anything like that? Okay. Well, that is somewhat encouraging for the market. That we at least have 13%.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Yes. There was at least, not a significant number of properties that declined in value.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “But then the decrease, that’s probably going to even things out, so we’re not going to have an overall five percent increase in valuation as we have had for all of our budget years in the past, many years.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “It’s still a little early to say, but it’s doubtful.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Okay. Okay. Alright, thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, ‘I’d kind of like to follow up on that. I will acknowledge the others that wanted to speak. That does not include the new construction, though, is that correct?’

**Mr. Borchard** said, “That’s correct.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to make sure I got that. Commissioner Peterjohn.”

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**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike, I was interested in following up in a little bit, following up on Commissioner Welshimer's comments. In terms of the breakdown, you have given a classification on the various types of property, whether it's ag, residential, or industrial, commercial. Could you give us a ballpark idea, because you did mention utility property and I know that's state assessed. But that leads to my ultimate question and I think maybe the \$64,000 question for at least the Commissioners up here, is in terms of what we are looking at as an aggregate amount of assessed value and how the number that we're going to have to work with this year is different from the number the other four Commissioners got to work with last year?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Well, it's too early to say. The state is going to report the utility values later on in the year. We're still in the process of doing our personal property valuations. We'll notify personal properties of their value in the middle of May. Really, all this stuff doesn't come together until the first part of June. We're really not going to know for a while yet.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Okay. Well let me follow up then with details. This chart that you showed us, that had the house price index, Wichita M.S.A. and it looked like it showed, I'm kind of, maybe my eyeballs are not calibrated right. It showed for Wichita, Kansas and the United States the three figures, the house price index, Wichita, M.S.A and it looks to me like there was a decrease here in the third quarter and it bounced back up in the 4th quarter. Can you tell us, with the data that you're aware of for January and February this year, and obviously that's not going to take effect until the rest of the numbers come in for all of 2009 and will become the basis for the January 1, 2010 numbers next year. What sort of trends are you seeing with that number? Does that jump back up a blip or was that part of a trend, or is that started to head back down, or leveled out?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Well certainly the first two months of 2009 showed a decrease in the volume of sales, significant decrease in the volume of sales, again. We have looked at our ratios using the first two months of 2009 and there is no indication of any appreciation the first two months of the year.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Is that just for residential or all properties, all sales?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Just residential.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Just residential?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Yeah.”

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**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “The other question I’d like to ask you then, do you expect that drop-off trend in terms of sales activities for all classes, looked like we reached a high point in 2006 with 15,767 and last year it dropped down to 12,569, what sort of trend are we looking at if the first couple months continue or is that number likely to be about the same this year as last year or is that likely to continue to decrease?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “It really depends on what happens this summer, but if the first two months are any indication, that number will continue to decline.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “That would be a major concern for our community. In terms of your, you showed a chart for residential ratios, is your similar chart if you had a ratio study for the commercial and ag property, would you have a similar percentage and be within those state mandated percentages for those charts too?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Yes, we would. Obviously there’s a lot more variation in commercial type properties. It’s not as homogenous and easy to track with ratios, so we tend to look at confidence intervals over those time periods. Based on those confidence intervals, yes, the ratios would fall in those same parameters.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Mike, thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioner Unruh.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mike, I think one of the practical things that a lot of our citizens might want to understand from this, that even though the housing starts are much lower, and the number of sales are much lower, that does not necessarily translate into lower sales price of individual properties.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “That’s correct.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “So, you know folks like me, just picking up the newspaper and reading it, I might think, well housing starts are down and number sales are down, therefore the value of my property has got to be less because the mortgage is depressed, but it doesn’t work that way. In the case here, the median price is actually five percent higher, is that correct?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “That’s correct.”

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**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Alright, well, I guess I’m just wanting to re-state what you’ve told us because I think that a lot of folks connect the dots here and think, well, my valuation is going to be less and that’s just not necessarily so. However, overall, with 13% seeing a reduction and 12% seeing an increase, overall, the current appraisals are going to average out to be pretty well flat.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “That’s right. That’s correct.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Alright. Thank you, I appreciate that.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Well first of all, I’d like to thank Mike. He stopped by the Southwest Neighborhood Association meeting last night that I’m involved with and I go to quite often and gave a presentation on the appraisal system and what his office does and I really appreciate that. We had around 30 to 35 citizens from that area there last night. They had good provocative questions, but I think he did a very balanced and creditable job, kind of teaching the citizens kind of how appraisals are done and how it affects their property values.

“Three things I think are important to talk about. First of all, the housing market is so affected by the national credit market right now. You know, there has been foreclosures, property values have plummeted on the east coast and west coast, which has caused an upside down effect in market values in those areas and it has affected the credit market because there’s so many foreclosures. I think that is critical, even locally. Our banks are still solid; our mortgage investors are good here. But overall, the national credit crisis has really even affected our local ability to give money out for buying homes.

“Secondly, property values are important to people because in many cases that’s the largest investment that people will have. They may not have a huge stock portfolio or other property that will appreciate, but their home value, the money they put into their home over the years, is their number one investment. So property values staying up and staying stable is important. Now, I’ve had people say, well, we want that property value to go down so our taxes will go down.

“The truth is, the appraised value and the Appraiser’s Office is charged with finding fair market, equitable values that are created by a legislation that charges them with that. The tax burden really comes from local jurisdictions setting the mill levy. Those are two different issues and we

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have to continue to talk about that because the appraiser is charged with only making sure that property values are fair and equitable through a system that is defined by the state and run by his office and tax burden comes from the mill levy applied to that platform.

“That is a whole different conversation. I’m glad that we’ve got Mike and all his professionals that, many of them are highly accredited, to do our appraisal system here to make sure our property values are fair and equitable. And that they analyze what has happened to our market compared to the state and the nation, so that our values stay reasonable, and I think they’ve done a pretty good job this year. I’m anxious like Commissioner Peterjohn is, to see what it looks like when it’s all wrapped together later. Because it does eventually affect what we do in trying to set revenues to run the County. That doesn’t have anything to do with what Mike is going to do in his job, but it does affect us later because that is the platform we use to figure out part of our funding stream for the County.

“We have to remember that property taxes are only about 1/4 of our budget out of \$386 million; it’s only about \$125 million. So we want to be sure the formula is run properly, that we stay within our ratios, that property values stay reasonable to what they should compared to the rest of the state, and I applaud Mike for working hard at doing that. Appreciate it. That’s all I have, Mr. Chair.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion.

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you, Mike.”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Thank you. I just want to thank my staff real briefly for the hard work they’ve put in this year. It was a difficult year for us, with the new CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) system and everything, but they worked hard and appreciate them and they deserve a lot of credit.”

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**Chairman Parks** said, “And we look for those being mailed out on the 27<sup>th</sup>? ”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Correct.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “So we should be ready for either deluge of phone calls, either pro or con on the 28<sup>th</sup> from the citizens to the Commission then?”

**Mr. Borchard** said, “Or April 1<sup>st</sup>. ”

**Chairman Parks** said, “April 1<sup>st</sup>, okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Let’s call the vote.”

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Chairman Parks** said, “Let’s let the room clear a little bit more. Okay, next item.”

### **G. PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (GFOA) AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING TO SEDGWICK COUNTY FOR 2007 POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT.**

**Mr. Chris Chronis**, Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We pride ourselves in this government on producing high quality financial reports so that our fiscal activity is transparent to anybody that is interested in it. But the problem with that is that we’re working with a very complex finance system. And so those reports are pretty arcane. “It requires a high degree of technical knowledge to be able to accurately understand what you’re looking at in some of those reports. In an interest of making our financial information more readily available to citizens, who may not have that degree of technical knowledge, we decided a little over a year ago to try and put together an abbreviated financial report that could be read and understood by anybody in the community who was interested in knowing what Sedgwick County was up to and what its finances looked like, but who didn’t have a masters degree in public accounting. And so, with that in mind, we assigned several people in our

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Accounting Department the task of putting together what we referred to as a popular financial report. The effort was initiated, as I said, with the objective of making our financial information more readily accessible to our citizens.

“We didn’t start out with the idea that we were going to do a report and try and get an award. But that is one of the fortunate by-products of this exercise. I’m here today to announce that Sedgwick County has been presented with the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association, the GFOA, which is the professional association for those of us in public finance. That award is provided to a select few governments in the country who have designed their popular annual financial reports to be readily accessible and easily understandable to the general public and other interested parties, but who don’t have a background in public finance.

“That report was produced just about a year ago, and as you can see, it’s a very abbreviated document. It provides the highlights of County finances and County financial activity. It provides some statistics on performance by County services. How much of various services we delivered. It provides information on the tax levy by Sedgwick County and by the other governments in Sedgwick County. You know from discussions that we’ve had previously that Sedgwick County’s government property taxes represent about 25% of the total tax bill that the typical homeowner sees. In this document, that homeowner can see who all the other governments are that are levying taxes and how much tax they levy in Sedgwick County also.

“It’s a very useful report. It’s something that we have provided to community organizations as we have done presentations around the community during the past year. I believe some of you have done the same. We have provided it to various educational institutions that have requested it, to senior centers and organizations like that, and its available on the display case in your office as it is in ours, for anybody that wants it. It’s also available on the County’s website.

“This report was put together by a group of three people in accounting. Two of them are in the room today. We have Sara Jantz, who is the County’s Investment Officer and Pam Kelly, who is the County’s Internal Auditor; and both of whom are shrinking down into their seats hoping I’m not going to call them up here, but they lose. As of right now, I’m calling them up here. They were assisted by a third person who is not able to be with us today but who, informally at least, was the leader of the pack, and that’s Brandi Baily, who is a Senior Accountant in the Finance Division in the Accounting Department. So with the two of them who are here, I would like to make this presentation of a certificate to them. This is just the certificate. There will be a plaque coming and we thought it was going to be here by today, but it hasn’t arrived in the mail yet.

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But trust me, it's in the mail, it's on the way. Sara and Pam, I am very pleased to present this to you. I'm very happy that you earned this award for Sedgwick County.

“Before I turn the podium over to you, I want to tell the Commissioners, that with this award Sedgwick County becomes the 161<sup>st</sup> local government in the country to receive this award. It’s an award that has been in existence for several years now, but as evidenced by that number, has not been earned by very many governments. Sedgwick County is the first government in the state of Kansas to receive this award. We’re very pleased that we received it in the very first year that we attempted to receive it; which is evidence of the high quality of work that was done by these ladies and by Brandi. So with that, Sara, Pam, would you like to say a few words?”

**Ms. Sara Jantz**, Investment Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you Commissioners. As Chris did say, Brandi Baily couldn’t be with us today, but she was a very important part of this team. We would just like to thank Chris for putting together this opportunity on our own, with our own input and we hope the Sedgwick County citizens really do enjoy this report and it’s easy for them to read.”

**Ms. Pam Kelly**, Internal Auditor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “And a special thanks to Tony Giuliano in Communications for his creativity and his ability to take finance information and make it look this attractive. We are currently working on our 2008 PAFR (Public Comprehensive Annual Financial Report), as we call it, and it will be completed next month.”

**Ms. Jantz** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you, Sara and Pam. I wanted to say that I did take some of those pamphlets to a Lion’s Club meeting when I gave a speech here a while back. That was one of the most popular ones. There wasn’t any left when I got up to leave and usually we have extras that we can bring back in to stock. But that was a very popular publication and it’s very well put together. So thank you for that and all your work.”

**Ms. Jantz** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “I have a couple other comments before you get away from the podium there. Commissioner Peterjohn.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you, Chairman. I wanted to, maybe Chris was a little bit too modest to point out, but when you’re the first in the state of Kansas to receive the award, there are 104 other counties out there that could have been eligible too. If they extended it to municipalities, there are approximately 625 municipalities. Congratulations and job well done.

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Like Commissioner Parks, I've also had the opportunity to use this at a public presentation and it was very well received when I used it too. Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I'm not going to talk so much about the end product as the process to get there. Two things that really wash over me is that number one, empowerment works. When you empower good people to do things, they rise to the occasion. The second thing, is the bench strength that we have deep in our organization. It doesn't always have to be the top level person that comes up with great ideas and great products.

"I really believe that that's what is so powerful about Sedgwick County's organization, is that you have got a host of employees that will rise to the occasion, deliver great products, because they enjoy what they do and it's obvious that you enjoyed the task, the empowerment, the ability to work in a team and deliver something very quality to the citizens and our community. That they can use; that they can really interpret and understand government. Because it is, even those of us that are in it every day, find it a struggle to interpret every number and every piece of literature that we look at and you've delivered that to the constituents that we represent and I appreciate that. Thanks for the hard work and the final product is pretty amazing. Appreciate it."

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you. Just want to add my congratulations. It's a great piece of work, very helpful to us. Like the others, I have used it in presentations before. What it's done, it's made me look a lot smarter than I really am. That's what I think proves the value of your work. Great job. Really appreciate it."

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

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "Mr. Chronis, if you'll step back to the podium a minute. I wanted to say also, just in general for your department, publicly thanking them for putting up with when I do my random selections for picking out the checks and asking where the original document is and having them fax that over to me for the purchases that are made and what not. They have been very good about coming up and with courtesy and dispatch and really getting those things to me via email. I wanted to thank your staff for that."

**Mr. Chronis** said, "Thank you. They're the best in the business."

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**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Chairman Parks** said, “Next item.”

**H. PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (GFOA) CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING TO SEDGWICK COUNTY FOR 2007 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT.**

**Mr. Chronis** said, “Now we turn to that arcane report that I mentioned earlier. This document, which you’re well familiar with; it is the County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report containing the full County financial statements, notes to those financial statements, management discussion and analysis of those statements and perhaps most importantly, the auditor’s report saying that the auditor has completed the audit of the County’s finances and has determined that these financial reports accurately and completely report the County’s financial condition as of the end of the year.

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“The award that we are announcing today is the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This presentation is one that those of you who have been on the Commission for a while have heard a number of times. Sedgwick County is receiving this award today for the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This award has been in existence for a little over 30 years.

“There are some 30,000, I believe it is, local governments that are eligible to receive this award throughout the nation. About 10% of those governments actually receive it. And of those, only five have received it more years in succession than Sedgwick County. That, I think more than anything, attests to the long history that Sedgwick County has of providing good and accurate financial information in a very transparent fashion to its citizens and the people who loan us money.

“This report was put together largely through the efforts of Troy Bruun, our Deputy CFO and Anne Smarsh, our Accounting Director, and so I would like to ask them to come up here to receive the award and I would ask Anne to make a few remarks and to introduce the other people in the Accounting Department who played a key role in assisting her in putting the report together. Anne, thank you very much. Troy, thank you very much.”

**Ms. Anne Smarsh**, Accounting Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you. I would like to introduce the people on our team, the people who could be here today and this year, you guys, you have to come up so you can be on camera, everybody can see who you are. Besides Troy, while they’re walking up, I would also like you to know that this year, Chris set a record, he actually prepared four paragraphs in the transmittal letter. So he’s improving.

“Troy did two work papers and that’s a record for him. Sara Jantz, our Cash and Investment Manager, Pam Kelly, our Internal Auditor, used to be Accountant, now she’s gone on to tell stories. Ginger Radley, our Accounting Manager who also manages our debt programs, Marty Hughes, our Revenue Manager, back there in the back, he’s learning.

“Okay, we have an extraordinary team of good accounting professionals. Each of them is a professional and a leader in his or her own right. But you put these guys together and they are dynamic and committed and they want to serve the citizens. And we have fun at it, we enjoy it, we love the work we do. This plaque is, I guess, a tangible recognition of the work that we do. It’s great to serve the citizens of Sedgwick County and we appreciate being here today. Thank you very much.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Any comments? Commissioner Welshimer.”

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**Commissioner Welshimer** said, Well, I just want to thank all of you and if you weren't taking care of our budget as well as you do, we would be in a lot of trouble. I am very proud of you. Very proud. Thank you."

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Thank you."

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

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Thank you all."

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Well, thanks for the great work. Congratulations, and I would say this report is not the one I take with me when I make a speech. But we do appreciate the work you do and the recognition you have gotten and Mr. Chairman, I think we ought to celebrate them by applauding."

[Applause]

**Chairman Parks** said, "Now that the voice unit's meter has gone over the top for our technical staff and the T.V. back there, I will turn this over to Commissioner Peterjohn."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "I just had to pass along that right after I was elected last year, I had a long overdue vacation and the one County document I took with me on that vacation was your report, so thank you very much."

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Thank you."

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

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Were you having trouble sleeping at the time?"

[Laughter]

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "I slept like a baby."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I was going to say. About five minutes of that report and you sleep really well. Well, in all sincerity, we know that we have great staff in our financial division. They work hard to give us the right numbers, the right information we need. You

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know, governments are powered by revenue and numbers and you have to have them reported properly and in a manner that we can use as we make the decisions we have to make. It's nice to know that we can open up a document, look at information and know that we're getting credible, high level information that helps us make the decision we are making.

"And it is nice for me to hear that you're having fun doing it. I don't know that I have fun with numbers, but I'm glad that somebody else does, because it is so important in driving our organization to the highest level. I also like the idea, as I talked about, that people are empowered in this organization to do a good job and to enjoy it and to affect the organization with their fingers out at all levels. So thank you for your hard work; 27 years in a row transcends most of you that have been in process.

"So to keep that going is paramount in our organization because 27 years is a long time to continue to deliver, to take the baton from the last group and continue to drive forward. It would be easy to fall off that turnip wagon at any time, but you just keep doing it every year. I'm looking forward; I hope I'm around when you become number one. Not just in the top five, but number one in number of awards you have gotten over the years. Thank you very much. That's all I had, Mr. Chair."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Congratulations."

**Ms. Smarsh** said, "Thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you. At this point, we've been at this now for almost two hours. I think we're going to take about a seven minute break. We are going to be in recess."

**Ms. Evelyn Good**, Deputy County Clerk, said, "Chairman Parks, we need to motion and second."

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

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Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Chairman Parks** said, “At this point, we’re going to take about a seven minute recess and be back here at 11:06.”

**RECESS: 10:59 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.**

**Chairman Parks** said, “I call the meeting back to order. Next item.”

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **I. TRANSFER AND USE OF EXCESS MONEYS FROM THE REGISTER OF DEEDS TECHNOLOGY FUND PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 28-115A.**

**Mr. Bill Meek**, Register of Deeds, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Chairman and Commissioners, in accordance with K.S.A. 28-115A, I have determined that the balance in the Register of Deeds Technology Fund at the end of 2008 calendar year is greater than \$50,000 dollars. And that \$750,000 dollars is not needed in my office for technological purposes. K.S.A. 28-115 thereby provides that the Board, with the authority to transfer those funds from the Register of Deeds Technology Fund to the County Fund to be used by other County offices for equipment and/or technology service relating to land or property recorded and maintained by the County. You will have before you today a Resolution and my recommendation is for you to approve the Resolution and assign it and I will stand for any questions. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “You have heard the report and had a chance to review the documents that support this. Do I hear a motion to accept?”

### **MOTION**

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Commissioner Peterjohn moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

**Chairman Parks** said, “Any further action there is? Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “I just want to compliment Bill. I know over the years you have really analyzed that account and made sure that you have provided adequately for the Register of Deeds Office because you have spent a lot of time and effort trying to upgrade the technology embedded in your office. This just happens to be a year where you have kind of done most of things you want to do and maybe other years where you will have to invest that money back into your office, but now it’s available to the County in general and I appreciate that.”

**Mr. Meek** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “I know that we’re having a rather long meeting today, but I wanted you to just touch on the amount of sales that are down and how that might be affecting your office and your revenue, if you would.”

**Mr. Meek** said, “Deed sales are a small portion of the documents that are filed in the Register of Deeds Office. Mortgages and affidavits and things of that nature are a large part too. We are probably seeing this year a three to four percent reduction over last year. But last year we were showing about a 15% reduction over the year before. So it’s kind of flattening out. What we expect is going to happen is that once the interest rates get low enough and people start refinancing, we are going to see an influx of that refinancing. Not like what we saw in 2002, but I expect it to be significant. It won’t be as bad as it was or as much as it was in 2002. As far as overall revenue, we should probably take in probably a \$1 million, maybe a \$1.5 million less this year than we have in the past. We normally average right around \$10-11 million dollars a year. I would say it would be between \$8 or 9.5 million dollars revenue that we will receive this year.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Well, thank you for giving that information to have that out for the public and we’ll certainly hear more detailed from you at budget time I’m sure.”

**Mr. Meek** said, “Yes, you will.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioner Peterjohn.”

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**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Yes, I want to second the Chairman's comments, but I have a two part question for you, Bill. You touched upon refinancings and that would certainly play a role with interest rates at the moment being at very low levels. If there's any possibility of that increase, but I have also heard news reports not only talking about refinancing, but also foreclosures and if you could touch upon either of those two areas in a little bit more detail, I would appreciate it.”

**Mr. Meek** said, “Well, the refinancing remains to be seen of what the market's going to do and what people are going to do. In 2002, the refinancing was coming in and they were getting \$25 and \$50,000 dollars in additional monies for other projects and things. I don't think we're going to see that this year. Foreclosures, we don't see the foreclosure until the final deed is filed. So we don't see what happens up front. We don't see who is foreclosing on whom. But I can tell you, from what I have talked to the title companies that foreclosures are up significantly. I mean, there's a significant amount of foreclosures going on, but we don't see the final document until the deed is actually transferred and we can't determine from that deed whether it was a foreclosure or not.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you.”

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you. Bill, I appreciate your careful management of your funds and your technology fund and that you can provide this excess, but this doesn't come directly to the general fund, is it restricted to certain uses?”

**Mr. Meek** said, “Yes, it's restricted under K.S.A. 28-115A. It allows the County Commissioners to use that money for land-related divisions that they have control of, like G.I.S., the County Clerk, and it can be used for technology or technological services, which could be technology people and things of that nature.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you. That's all I have.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “We've had the motion and the second and discussion. Any other discussion? Can we call the vote?”

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye

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Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

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

**Chairman Parks** said, Thank you Bill. Next item."

### **J. AMEND THE 2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCT EXTERNAL STORAGE BUILDING, JUVENILE COMPLEX.**

#### **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Pete Giroux**, Budget Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This morning I have a C.I.P. amendment for your consideration. This request is from Corrections and it's for an external storage building adjacent to the Juvenile Detention Facility. This external storage building was included in the original plans for the facility, but was not included when the project was bid, due to cost concerns. There were some provisions for the building that were made to include conduits and they left the blank space within that concrete.

"Corrections has, lets back up a slide, has twice attempted to get the basic concrete work done and flat work accomplished without success. It's now pursuing this turnkey facility as an alternative. The facility is needed to support the larger and expanded campus and will be used for lawn tractors, snow blowers, furniture, spare bunks and a lot of the related parts for the facilities. In this interim period, Corrections has rented one of the P.O.D. storage units and they've also stored some equipment inside the detention facility.

"Estimated cost is \$40,039 dollars. Corrections originally proposed to fund this with funds in their equipment reserve, but finance is recommending that we fund it with available funds from our 2007 bond issue within the juvenile complex that's being used for the court and D.A. facilities. Since it's already been purchased, it's a better choice. We will do an offset in the equipment recertificate. C.I.P. committee and staff recommend approval of the C.I.P. amendment. If you have any questions, Mark Coronado is available."

**Chairman Parks** said, "We've had a chance to listen to Pete's report and review our backup material on this. Is there a motion to approve?"

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the amendment.

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Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

**Chairman Parks** said, “Any other discussion? Commissioner Welshimer.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “I might have to ask this of Chris. Why are we using bond money instead of regular funds?”

**Mr. Giroux** said, “I’ll let...”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “There’s interest on bond money and this is \$40,000 dollars, so there must be a good reason.”

**Mr. Giroux** said, “We financed the primary facility with bond proceeds that were sold in late 2006, I believe it was. 2007. And we have some of those bond proceeds remaining. If we don’t use them for an eligible project, then they will go to debt service and pay off the debt. But they can be used for this project. It is a part of the complex and it is an eligible expense, so that’s what we have chosen to do.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “I see. Okay. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Commissioner Peterjohn.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Chris or Pete, I’m curious, how much more is left over from that 2007 bond proceeds in terms of its \$40,000 we’d be taking out?”

**Mr. Giroux** said, “A few hundred thousand. Not very much. And I’ll have to get you the precise number. I don’t recall.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Okay. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Any other discussion on this matter? Seeing none, call the vote.”

**VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh

Aye

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Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Chairman Parks** said, “Next item.”

### **K. AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH DR. SCOTT KIPPER TO PROVIDE FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES.**

**Dr. Tim Rohrig**, Director, Regional Forensic Science Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Before you this morning, you have an employment agreement with Dr. Scott Kipper to function as one of our third forensic pathologists. The pathology division of the Regional Forensic Science Center is responsible for the investigation of death which includes the determination of cause and manner of death in cases of sudden, traumatic, unexplained or other types of deaths that come under the jurisdiction of the District Coroner.

“To fulfill these duties, we have authorized three full-time pathologist positions and Dr. Kipper will fill that third position. We have selected this young man. He’s a very highly qualified physician, lot of good training and he’s expected to assume his duties, if you approve this agreement, on or about August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2009. I recommend that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign. If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to address them.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “We have been briefed by the doctor on this and have some backup. Commissioner Norton.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Dr. Rohrig, tell us just a little bit about the history of the pathologist because we’ve been a little under personnel there for a little while and kind of talk about that history and what this will do to our capacity.”

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**Dr. Rohrig** said, “Well, forensic pathologists are a very uniquely trained physician. They go through four years of medical school, five years of training in general pathology and then another year of forensic pathology before they’re eligible to practice. So recruiting these individuals is quite tough. We’ve been looking for this third forensic pathologist for about a year. We have actively recruited and found Dr. Kipper.

“Dr. Kipper is a Midwesterner, he wants to come back to this locale to help us. The accreditation guidelines that we operate under indicate that a forensic pathologist should do about 250, up to 300 autopsies per year. We will run about 800 autopsies per year currently. So with three people, that will give us enough capacity to handle our current load and the projected increase in cases that would come to us through Sedgwick County.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “In prior to this, we just hired a second pathologist not long ago, and prior to that we were cobbling together with part-time folks that traveled here from various places around the country.”

**Dr. Rohrig** said, “Yes, sir. That’s correct. We had several per diem or part-time contract pathologists from the state of Oregon, Colorado, Oklahoma, and it’s not the most efficient way to handle it, so by having a third full-timer that is located here in Wichita, we should have enhanced efficiencies and actually provide a higher quality product.

**Commissioner Norton** said, “This will be optimum efficiency. It also makes it easier to maintain our accreditation that we have as far as forensics, is that correct too?”

**Dr. Rohrig** said, “That is correct, sir.”

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

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Do we have any more discussion?”

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement.

Chairman Parks seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

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Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Dr. Rohrig** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Next item.”

**L. SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING WORKSHEET AND ALLOCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$406,652.85.**

**Mr. Bob Lamkey**, Director, Public Safety, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m one of your representatives on the South Central Regional Homeland Security Council. With me today is Kent Koehler, who also represents you. He sits on the communications subcommittee. One of the significant challenges, both nationally and in the state of Kansas, for responders is interoperable communications. We saw that in 9/11 and we saw that in Greensburg.

“One of the significant efforts that the region is undertaking, with the benefit of a public safety interoperable communications grant that came from the feds through the state to our region, is to enhance interoperable communications in our region so that as we respond together, and all of you have been in law enforcement or experienced a disaster, or watched a disaster understand that it’s not one community. It’s lots of community resources that come together. Being able to communicate is a central part of that process.

“This is \$406,000 dollars to us is a portion of a \$2.1 million grant that the region received and is executing as part of a plan that they have. That plan includes the deployment of some mobile translators, for lack of a better word, because we have counties that use UHF, counties that use VHF and a couple of them, like us, that use 800 mega hertz system. Running down the core of our region is the Department of Transportation digital 800 mega hertz system and so that is part of the backbone which some of this communication will be used both here and other counties to create interoperable communication opportunities. There’s a couple of, I guess the unofficial term are moto-bridges in McPherson County and Marion County, because they’re not connected to that backbone to provide a bridge for a regional responses in those areas.

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“What these funds allow us to do is, some of it specifically designated to put P-25, which is the federal standard compliant 800 mega hertz radios or consolettes in the local dispatch centers. For us, we will update some software, but for Valley Center, Derby, and Haysville, they’ll receive some commitments, so they can connect to the state system. And then another \$378,000 dollars is available to us. Again, we don’t get the dollars, we can buy off of an authorized equipment list for software or radios to enhance communications here, again P-25 compliant.

“A couple of things are happening in our community that this timing is pretty good for us. As you know, we’re undergoing a re-banding project with Nextel. A number of the communities will be affected by that. There are about 3,800 radios that are going to have to be re-banded. Of that 3,800, 1,500 are Sedgwick County government radios. The rest are City of Wichita, small communities. So these dollars could be used to upgrade those radios to be dual digital/analog compliant. We also know we have some of our smaller communities that have an insufficient number of communication devices for their operations and we also know that there are radios that are not part of Nextel that we’re going to have to convert as a consequence of our future move from analog to digital, so there are lots of needs out there.

“Mr. Koehler will be the project officer. What will happen, procedurally, I will take the leadership initiative to gather everybody together to understand what the needs are of Sedgwick County. I’m talking about Sedgwick County not Sedgwick County government. Then we will allocate the resources appropriately. Any radios that come in as a part of this process will come to us. We will be the conduit for that process.

“We will have agreements with those that are receiving that will transfer ownership so that they will now be responsible for those for audit purposes. We’re acting as the conduit and leadership team for making sure that these funds are appropriately dispersed to meet the intent of the grant that is to promote interoperable communications and it’s done in a manner which brings the stakeholders together. So with that, I would ask you to accept the allocation on behalf of Sedgwick County governments as a whole, and authorize the Chair to sign the communications grant planning work sheet, which will make Koehler the bellybutton for this process. We’ll be happy to answer any questions you might have.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay. Thank you. I have met with Mr. Lamkey on this and I am very familiar with the committee. In fact, I sat on the very first committee of this in my other job. So, in any event, I think it’s a good project and entertain a motion.”

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### **MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to accept the allocation.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Mr. Lamkey** said, "Thank you, Commissioners."

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

### **M. AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING CENTER FOR COMCARE TO PROVIDE AFTER HOURS MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY SERVICES.**

**Mr. Tom Pletcher**, Clinical Director, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is the renewal of a long-standing contract with South Central Mental Health Counseling Center, the mental health center for Butler County. It regards their after-hours crisis service delivery. Under this agreement, we take their crisis calls or see Butler County residents who present themselves at our office, outside of their center's normal business hours. Calls can be about available resources, receiving psychological support, or even crisis assessment. Butler County receives a summary of the contacts each workday so that they can follow up with their clients who have either called or been seen in person. The rates are charged, we have arranged with this, do more than cover any costs that we have in the delivery of these services.

"On average, we take approximately 45 calls on this line a month and see face-to-face one or two people who come here to meet with a clinician. An example of the type of call that we might get recently involved a call from a Butler County resident who was feeling suicidal because of a family situation that was being experienced. The caller had a plan to jump out of the window of her apartment, at the time of the phone call itself. Our therapist was able to speak

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to the caller, while at the same time the other staff were able to contact Butler County 911. The crisis staff stayed on the line with the person until emergency assistance arrived at that person's location. We could then contact the on-call Butler County staff, who could immediately provide that on-scene support there and follow-up with that person later on. I would happily answer any questions that you might have, but would recommend that you approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement.

Chairman Parks seconded the motion.

**Chairman Parks** said, "You answered all my questions about the cost and the cost analysis on that, so that's great. Call the vote."

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

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

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

### **N. QUARTERLY COUNTY EXTENSION REPORT**

**Ms. Bev Dunning**, County Extension Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I appreciate the opportunity to report to you each quarter. I have not done that before, so this is something new and I just thought that you would learn more about your County Extension Service. We are the research-based education arm for Sedgwick County. I plan, as I do this, to share with you stories, so that you can remember little bits of what we do, I think, from time to time. These stories make a difference in the lives of Sedgwick County families."

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“Many of you are familiar with our youth development programs, known as the 4-H Club work, I think you’ve heard of that. Today I want to share just one part of 4-H Club work with you, of that great program that we do with you through this County. For five years now, we have partnered with the United States Department of Defense through a grant program to do 4-H Club work on McConnell Air Force Base. In times past, you have known of 4-H Club work as being rural you thought. Then we have moved into the cities and we serve a great number of youth within the city, and now we’re working with 4-H with McConnell.

“McConnell has two centers, the School Age Center and the Youth Center and we’re helping them to understand the eight critical elements that we teach with 4-H Positive Youth Development. Those eight areas that we emphasize are a positive relationship with a caring adult, because we have volunteer leaders that work with those children. We have a safe environment, and that’s both emotional and physical, when the 4-H youth work are involved there. An opportunity for mastery, and you’ve heard of 4-H Club projects, I’m sure, all kinds of projects that they do.

“They have an opportunity to value and practice service because 4-H Club works in community service projects for our community. They have an opportunity for self-determination. They can select their own 4-H projects that they wish to take, there’s nothing required, they pick and choose what they want to do. And it’s an inclusive environment for everyone that’s involved. And then to be an active participant in the future, many times these youth start in 4-H Club work and then go on to that in their vocation after college years. And then it’s an engagement in learning. So those are the areas that we work in.

“We think about project work, but it’s not the project that we’re necessarily involved in. Our real project is developing youth, and we do that through the projects that they use. McConnell School Age Center is for children K-5, kindergarten through fifth grade. They have six 4-H Clubs, reaching 65 children, and for two days each week, they work totally with the 4-H curriculum. They have a summer program planned for this summer that they plan to reach 90 children, and that will be five days a week from 7 am to 6 pm, and it will be total 4-H curriculum again, talk and work there. They will exhibit their projects at the Sedgwick County Fair. When the project first started, we brought the McConnell youth out to the fair at Cheney, so that they could see project work in action. The last years they’ve exhibited their projects there, and each year, their exhibits have doubled what they’ve been bringing out. So they’ve become an integral part of the total 4-H program.

“The McConnell Youth Center reaches middle school age children, so they’re just a little older and they have 60 children that do their 4-H project work and they do it a little different. They work on a nine weeks rotation, you might say, or nine weeks schedule. So they’ll work on one

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project for nine weeks and then move to another project for the next nine weeks. We have four to five clubs organized with that group.

“The children gain a great deal of self-determination and mastery by giving project talks and demonstrations about their projects; that teaches them to speak in public and I have given you a large flyer from McConnell, that took place just this last Friday at McConnell Air Force Base; where they were able, and you could see the things listed there. The project talks, demonstrations and illustrated talks and public speaking and musical and dance performances and readings and skits. So they learned some self-determination in doing that. This was their second annual 4-H days.

“We have county 4-H days and they can participate in that too, but they’ve decided they’d like to have their own on base, and so we’ve done that. The advantage of having a 4-H experience on base is very helpful with military families. You know, there are many times transferred from one base to another. That can be very hard on children when they have to leave friends and start something new and different. But this provides a great deal of continuity to children’s lives and they can pick up where they’ve left off when they moved. In Kansas we’re fortunate to be one of the three that work with the bases.

“There’s a program like this in Leavenworth, with the facility there. There’s one at Fort Riley and there’s one here at McConnell. We want to thank you for your support of our programs and for the 4-H youth agents who provide that knowledge for life. I think it really changes the quality of life for the military families and would be glad to answer any questions that you might have about this program.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Well, I certainly appreciate all your work and your staff work they do with the youth and this is an important part of our community program.”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Right.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Sometimes we think of 4-H as just being farm kids, but...”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “It’s not.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “...that was certainly dispelled by your testimony here today. I think one of the things that I can go back on is the public speaking. I hired a police officer one time

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that had been in 4-H and he said he could have never got to the point to public speak if he wouldn't..."

**Ms. Dunning** said, "Have been a part of that. We hear from that from teachers and college professors too."

**Chairman Parks** said, "I'm looking forward, also, to some of your other programs. I know you have a tractor safety I believe coming up here before long. That's important to the community. Also, farmers' market is not too far away."

**Ms. Dunning** said, "Starts April 1. First Saturday in April."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Even though you think about growing season, there are a lot more things there than just fruits and vegetables at the farmers' market, so I would encourage everybody to get out to that also. I'm going to have a personal testimony here. I brought in a weed, not any cannabis or anything, but one of the weeds from my farm that was to be identified, that was attacking some of the other hay crop we had and your staff was most helpful in that..."

**Ms. Dunning** said, "Very good."

**Chairman Parks** said, "...in getting connections to K-State on that."

**Ms. Dunning** said, "Appreciate that."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Really appreciate your help. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Well, we have a unique community. You know, we're of a metropolitan community, but we have a large rural and farm component that goes with it, so kind of where metro meets rural. Your extension agency all of a sudden has more than just an agricultural bent to it, that you are servicing people that live on the near side of a metropolitan area. If you look at the statement of what we do, it's agriculture and natural resources, lawn and garden, expanded food and nutrition education programs, family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development. That's a pretty wide spectrum of things that we always thought of were delivered to rural families and farm communities, but now some of those things are very pertinent to families that live in metropolitan areas too."

**Ms. Dunning** said, "Right."

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**Commissioner Norton** said, “We’ve had a longstanding relationship with the Extension Center. There is a lot of research that goes on at the John Pair Center with extension, but there’s also other kinds of services that are delivered through the extension office that supplement and compliment what we do at the County. Because we deliver a lot of services for individuals and the aging population and other populations, young families and so does the extension agency and that it’s a great supplement to what we already do.”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Thank you.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Continue to do the good work, Bev.”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Thanks.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “You know, we’ve been supportive over a lot of years and it’s nice to have you here kind of reporting and telling the story of the extension office here in our community.”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Very good.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

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

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well I have to give credit when I look at this to some of my own skills...”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Good.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “...because they came from just these programs.”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Good.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “And I still have some memorabilia from those days and some blue ribbons.”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Good. Good.”

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**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “It was really a highlight of my growing up...”  
**Ms. Dunning** said, “Good.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “...so I think 4-H is a wonderful thing.”

**Ms. Dunning** said, “Thank you.”

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

**Chairman Parks** said, “Seeing no other comments, do we have a motion to receive and file her report?”

### **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 Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Ms. Dunning** said, “I just have one more comment. The little flyer I gave you, I wanted to share that with you because we have our new phone number on there. Thanks to you all we have a new phone system which gives us the new phone number and it’s wonderful. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Next item.”

**Regular Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**O. PUBLIC WORKS**

**1. APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE NAVY RESERVE FOR  
THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM ON 55<sup>TH</sup>  
STREET SOUTH FROM ROCK ROAD TO OLIVER. DISTRICT 5.**

**Mr. David Spears**, Director of Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, “This is an agreement with the Navy Reserve for the Adopt a Highway Program. They will be responsible for picking up litter along 55<sup>th</sup> Street South between Rock Road and Oliver. I recommend you approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the application.

Chairman Parks seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Chairman Parks** said, “And I would like to thank the Navy Reserve for doing this. It helps, not only our Public Works, but makes our community look better. Thank you. Next item.”

**Regular Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

2. **APPROVAL OF AN ESTIMATE FROM SOUTHERN STAR CENTRAL GAS PIPELINE FOR RELOCATION OF GAS PIPELINES ON SEDGWICK COUNTY PROJECT 817- V, W, X; ROAD WIDENING PROJECT ON MERIDIAN BETWEEN 47<sup>TH</sup> ST. SOUTH AND 71<sup>ST</sup> ST. SOUTH. CIP# R-281. DISTRICT 2.**

**Mr. Spears** said, “Item O-2 is an estimate from Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline for relocation of gas pipelines for the road improvement project on Meridian, between the Wichita city limits and 71<sup>st</sup> Street South, designated as R-281 in the Capital Improvement Program. Sedgwick County will only be responsible for the portion of line located in the private easement at an estimated cost of \$14,082.19. I recommend that you approve the estimate.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the estimate.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Mr. Spears** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Next item.”

**P. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING**

**Regular Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**ON MARCH 19, 2009**

**1. ON-CALL REMODELING SERVICES – FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
FUNDING – FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director of Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Meeting of March 19<sup>th</sup> results in four items for consideration. First item, on call remodeling services for Facilities Department; recommendation is to accept the proposal from Van Asdale Construction and execute contract pricing for two years with two one-year options to renew.

**2. FULL SIZE EXTENDED CAB ½ TON PICKUP TRUCKS – FLEET  
MANAGEMENT  
FUNDING – FLEET MANAGEMENT**

“Item two, full size extended cab half ton pickup trucks for Fleet Management. Recommendation is to accept the low bid meeting specifications from Rusty Eck Ford in the amount of \$135,692 dollars.

**3. FILENET MAINTENANCE RENEWAL – DISTRICT COURT  
FUNDING – COURT TRUSTEE IV-D AND COURT TECHNOLOGY**

“Item 3, FileNet maintenance renewal for the District Court. Recommendation is to accept the quote from International Business Machines incorporated, which is I.B.M., in the amount of \$43,826.48.

**4. LONG DISTANCE SERVICE – ALL DEPARTMENTS  
FUNDING – ALL DEPARTMENTS**

“Item four, long distance service for all county departments and that recommendation is to accept the proposal from AT&T at a rate of .0373 per minute and establish contract pricing for three years with two one-year options to renew. Be happy to answer any questions and I recommend approval of these items.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “On item number two, for the pickups, was there a consideration or something with Shawnee Mission Ford that they didn’t include in the spec?”

**Ms. Baker** said, “We issued an addendum in that bid. In that addendum, we went from a two wheel to a four wheel drive and Shawnee mission did not acknowledge the addendum and bid two wheel drive. So that’s not an equal compare to the other bids.”

## **Regular Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Chairman Parks** said, “Exactly.”

**Ms. Baker** said, “Nor does it meet the specifications.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Sure. Thank you. I was certainly pleased to see that we had local dealers bidding on that too. Any other comments about the Bid Board?”

### **MOTION**

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

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

**Ms. Baker** said, “Thank you.”

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Q. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Contract extension with the City of Wichita for COMCARE to provide drug testing services.
2. Sponsorship of the Las Artes de Mexico exhibit, Wichita Art Museum.
3. Healthy Options for Kansas Communities (HOP) Donation.
4. Consideration of an agreement between Cowley County Community College Training Program and Sedgwick County EMS.

**Regular Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

5. Consideration of an agreement between Hutchinson Community College Training Program and Sedgwick County EMS.
6. Settlement of an Automobile Liability Claim.
7. Agreement with Research Information Services, LLC providing on-line access to Sedgwick County's electronic data.
8. One (1) Temporary Construction Easement for Sedgwick County Project 795-N, O, P, Q; Recondition of 199<sup>th</sup> St. West between 21<sup>st</sup> St. North & US-54. CIP# R-267. District 3.
9. One (1) Easement for Right of Way for Sedgwick County Project 600-11-2775; Bridge replacement at 23700 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street North. CIP# B-368. District 3.
10. One (1) Easement for Right of Way for Sedgwick County Project 823-X-1870; Bridge replacement on Hydraulic between 63<sup>rd</sup> St. South & 71<sup>st</sup> St. South. CIP# B-442. District 2.
11. General Bill Check Register for the week of March 11, 2009 – March 17, 2009.
12. Payroll Check Register for the week of February 28, 2009.
13. Order dated March 11, 2009 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.
14. Order dated March 18, 2009 to correct tax roll for a change of assessment.
14. Plat – Puckett Estates Addition

**Chairman Parks** said, “Mr. Manager is there anything we need to know about the Consent Agenda?”

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, greeted the Commissioners and said, “You have the Consent Agenda before you and I recommend you approve it.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. I had a couple questions and they were answered by staff.”

**MOTION**

## **Regular Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Chairman Parks moved to approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.

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

### **VOTE**

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Parks	Aye

### **R. OTHER**

**Chairman Parks** said, “We’re at the point of the meeting where we have other comments from other Commissioners. Do we see anything on the ‘other,’ I know that the hour is getting long? Don’t see...we have one ‘other.’ Commissioner Peterjohn.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Mr. Chairman, I think it’s important to pass along a notification, especially for folks in the southwest part of Sedgwick County and specifically inside the city limits of Viola, they’re celebrating an anniversary here very shortly. They’re having their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the city. They’re inviting folks to join in that celebration and I mention it because I think these milestones are very important as we go forward.

“I would also like to mention a second item, if I may, about the fact that valuation notices on the property valuations were mentioned earlier. They will be in the mail on the 27<sup>th</sup> and coming out the beginning of April. This is the one area where the Appraiser’s Office, we talked about what we had seen, but there’s a tremendous amount of information that property owners can get from the appraiser in terms of comparable properties and in terms of valuations in their neighborhood and this is available through the Appraiser’s Office.

“There will be a bit of a challenge in the sense that if people wait too long, the Appraiser’s Office is moving later on this year. But at the moment, they are located here in the courthouse. That information is available for all taxpayers during business hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

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**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. We did have a couple of visitors earlier from Friends University, but they had to leave. I would ask that any college professors or high school teachers that might want to have their students come in to visit, if they want them acknowledged, we can certainly do that early in the meeting. Seeing no other business, this meeting is adjourned.”

**S. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**SEDWICK COUNTY, KANSAS**

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**KELLY PARKS**, Chairman  
Fourth District

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

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

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**KARL PETERJOHN**, Commissioner  
Third District

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**GWEN WELSHIMER**, Commissioner  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

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**Kelly B. Arnold**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

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\_\_\_\_\_, 2009