

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**July 22, 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, July 22, 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; Ms. Jennifer Magana, Deputy County Counselor; Mr. Jim Weber, Deputy Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Executive Director, COMCARE; Ms. Dorsha Kirksey, Director, Housing; Mr. Chris Chronis, CFO; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing; and, Ms. Katie Asbury, Deputy County Clerk.

### **GUESTS**

Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department  
Ms. Pat Deshler, 7520 Oak Tree Ln., Kechi, Kansas  
Mr. Kent Winter, 7359 N. 215th W., Mt. Hope, Kansas  
Mr. Dennis Gruenbacher, 5901 N. 199th St. W., Colwich, Kansas  
Mr. Hugh Nicks, 742 Surrey, Maize, Kansas  
Ms. Sandy Chapman, 14345 SW 120th, Andover, Kansas  
Mr. Aaron Moeder, 14622 SW 190th, Rose Hill, Kansas  
Mr. Jeff Winter, 6955 N. 247th St. W., Andale, Kansas  
Mr. Rocky Schmied, 5327 E. Elm, Wichita, Kansas  
Mr. John Hays, 9000 E. 69th St. N., Valley Center, Kansas  
Mr. Larry Turner, 7502 Reflection Road Ct., Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Tera Benefiel, 622 S. McPherson Ave., Burrton, Kansas  
Mr. Casey West, 422 NE 8th, Abeline, Kansas  
Mr. Gary Lowe, 451 S. Socora, Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Carolyn Harms, 1040 E. Madapalla Ct., Derby, Kansas  
Ms. Elizabeth Brunscheen, 7001 W. 21st St. N., Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Debbie Parks, 8005 N. Hoover Rd., Valley Center, Kansas  
Ms. Jan Laware, 3620 Woodrow Ave., Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Pattie Stalder, 10360 Lazy Creek Road, Westmoreland  
Mr. Paul Treadwell, 10101 E. 47th St. S., Derby, Kansas  
Mr. Mike Patry, 6101 N. 199th St. W., Colwich, Kansas  
Mr. Anthony Seiler, 13501 W. 85th St. N., Valley Center, Kansas  
Mr. Alexander Crownover, 5617 Denise, Bel Aire, Kansas  
Mr. Ray Peavey, 114 Northwind Dr., Valley Center, Kansas

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Ms. Mary Hill, 142 S. Forestview St., Wichita, Kansas  
Mr. Neil Stillwell, 250 N. Ridgewood, Wichita, Kansas  
Mr. Kevin Holloway, 287 N. Willo-Esque, Wichita, Kansas  
Mr. Charles Peaster, 9453 N. 135th St. W., Sedgwick, Kansas  
Mr. Mike Martin, 5640 S. 103rd St. E., Derby, Kansas  
Ms. Jane Keliher, 7823 E. Dublin, Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Jane Neave, 1234 N. Amidon, Wichita, Kansas  
Chris Kaegi-Stephens, 11220 N. Rock Rd., Valley Center, Kansas  
Ms. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Kansas State Senator, 29th District  
Mr. Benny Boman, 1914 Euclid, Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Tammy Wise, 2107 N. Sunrise Ave., Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Pat Swearingen, 14305 E. Pawnee, Wichita, Kansas  
Ms. Harriet Hickman, 2273 N. Lakeway Ct., Wichita, Kansas  
Mr. Paul Buchanan, 3141 Keywest, Wichita, Kansas

**INVOCATION**

Observed by a moment of silence.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting June 24, 2009  
All Commissioners were present

**Chairman Parks** said, “You’ve all had a chance to review the Minutes. What is the will of the Board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to accept the Minutes as read for the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2009.

Chairman Parks seconded the motion.

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

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**VOTE**

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

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

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

- A. ZON2009-16 – COUNTY ZONE CHANGE FROM RR RURAL RESIDENTIAL (“RR”) TO LC LIMITED COMMERCIAL (“LC”) WITH A PROTECTIVE OVERLAY (“PO”), GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF 183<sup>RD</sup> STREET WEST AND K-42. DISTRICT 3.**

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**Mr. John Schlegel**, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department (MAPD), greeted the Commissioners and said, "In this case, the applicant is requesting a zone change from the current 'RR' rural residential zoning classification to 'LC' limited commercial with a protective overlay. The site, you can see, is located on that northeast corner of K-42 and 183rd Street West. It has on it an old gas station and store building, built back during the 1940s, with an attached two-story residence, and as such, it was built prior to the enactment in 1985 of countywide zoning. The current owner has told staff at the gas station convenience store, operation ceased during the late 1990s and she is proposing to use the site for a flea market, and hence the need for the change in zoning to 'LC.' "She proposes to operate the flea market from Fridays through Sunday, and that she will live on the site in the residential structure. You can see from the zoning map that's up before you now that the entire area is zoned 'RR' currently, and from the aerial photograph you can see it is surrounded by agricultural land uses."

"When this item was heard by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC), at its meeting on June 18, they reviewed the request. There was no one at the meeting to speak in opposition or

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support of the application, and staff has received no phone calls or heard in any way from any of the neighbors regarding this request. The action of the MAPC at that meeting was to approve the request subject to the provisions of protective overlay number 233, and there is a list of 12 conditions that are attached in your Agenda backup. With that, I would be glad to take any questions regarding this application.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “This is not a public hearing for the zoning issue, but is there anybody in the audience that would like to speak to this item? Seeing none, I’ll refer over to Commissioner Peterjohn, whose district this is in.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to adopt the findings of the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission; approve the zone change, subject to the provisions of the protective overlay, and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution.

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, “Thank you, Mr. Schlegel. Next item.”

**NEW BUSINESS**

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**B. SELECTION OF ONE VOTING DELEGATE AND ONE ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE TO THE 2009 ANNUAL NACO CONFERENCE JULY 24-28, 2009 IN DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN.**

**Chairman Parks** said, “We have before us the selection of a voting delegate and an alternate to the NACO (National Association of Counties) Conference. What is the will of the Board? I would like some discussion on this, and brought out for Board comment.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “Mr. Chairman, I think we have only got one person that may be going, and that’s Debbie Donaldson, so I would assume that we would want her as our voting delegate. In the past, when we haven’t had people traveling to those kind of events, I think we let Randall Allen from the KAC (Kansas Association of Counties) be our alternate, but I don’t know if that’s appropriate. I know Randall is going to be there, and Mr. Manager, I don’t think anybody is going but Debbie. Is that correct?”

**Mr. William P. Buchanan**, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I believe the Treasurer is going also.”

**Commissioner Norton** said, “We could ask, I guess then, Ron Estes. I will be there for a limited time, but I am not registered, I’m going as a KAC speaking panelist on a healthcare issue, so I’m really not registered for it, so I don’t think that would make me a voting delegate. I’m showing up for like a four hour period and that’s it.”

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chair. I’m in favor of the election of Debbie Donaldson to be our voting member and the Treasurer, Ron Estes, being our alternate.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Is that a motion?”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “I would make that as a motion.”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to make the selections and authorize the Chairman to sign the

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NACo 2009 Credentials Identification Form.

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

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

**C. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2010 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.**

**Mr. Chris Chronis**, CFO, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you begin the public hearing itself, I thought it would be useful to present just a very brief overview of what the recommended budget is, to remind anybody who wasn't watching last week, where we stand. At this point, as of last week, the County Manager and the administration has recommended a County budget for 2010 of \$381,508,078 and a Fire District budget of \$15,689,935, for a total budget of \$397,198,013. There have been a number of challenges that we faced in trying to assemble that budget. First among those challenges is the economic downturn that we are facing in our community and in the nation. That downturn has caused Sedgwick County's revenues to decrease about \$6.6 million from same time last year, and we are expecting that downturn to continue for at least another year or 18 months. So in building the budget for next year, we have had to consider the fact that we are likely to have at least \$6.5 million less revenue for next year's budget than we had when we prepared this year's budget. That revenue is the equivalent of about 1 1/2 mills of property tax."

**Mr. Chronis** continued, "The second challenge is reductions of funding by the State government, which were executed by the State in order to balance its budget. Those reductions total a little over \$4 million. We have had our funding for aging services reduced by \$227,000; for developmental disability services, they have been reduced by \$1.4 million; for mental health services, the State

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reduction of funding has been a little over \$1 million. We have had a \$35,000 reduction in code enforcement for services that are provided to people who want to get a mortgage in rural areas and are on septic systems. We had a \$300,000 reduction for Corrections. And finally, we had a little bit over a \$1 million reduction in general revenue, what we commonly refer to as the M&E (Machinery and Equipment Tax reimbursement) slider, the funding that the State had agreed to provide to us to offset a portion of the revenue that we lost when the State exempted business equipment from property taxes a couple years ago. So a total of \$4 million of lost revenue because of State actions. That is the equivalent of nearly 1 mill of property tax, in addition to the nearly 1 1/2 mills worth of revenue that we lost because of the economic downturn.

“Now, despite those challenges, the recommended budget has included a recommendation for a 1/2 mill reduction in the County’s property tax rate, and that was done based on the feedback that we had received from the Commissioners, individually, and with consideration of the County’s overall financial condition. In order to do that 1/2 mill reduction, we believe it is important to match a shortfall of revenue, a self-imposed shortfall of revenue, if you will, with a reduction of expenditures. So there have been a series of recommended expenditure cuts incorporated into this budget. The Manager and the administration has proposed to, if I can find my page here, to reduce funding for the Metropolitan Area Planning District and for the flood control services that are provided by the City of Wichita and partially funded by Sedgwick County.

“We have proposed to eliminate the temporary staff that is used by Public Works to mow rights-of-way during the summer months. We have proposed to eliminate a number of positions that have been vacant for an extended period of time. We have proposed to eliminate the funding for a cashing system that we use. We have proposed to reduce the annual contractual funding that we provide, or the annual funding that we provide pursuant to contracts, with the Zoo, Exploration Place, and the Extension Council. We have proposed to reduce physical disabilities programming. We have proposed to reduce the pool of revenue that is available for pay increases for employees from what had been expected to be four percent to a two percent pool for pay adjustments for next year. And finally, we have reduced some of the health benefits that are enjoyed by our employees, in order to reduce the premium cost of those benefits, and the cost increase that those benefits would have required.”

“And finally, and the thing that I think many people are in the room here to discuss today, we have proposed to close the pavilions at the Kansas Coliseum when the Arena opens roughly the end of February, or when the events are completed at those facilities, roughly the end of February next year. If we are to leave those facilities open, we are projecting that they will require an operating subsidy from the County of nearly \$600,000 and we believe that if we want to reduce property taxes by a 1/2 mill, then it’s necessary to make a corresponding amount of expenditure cuts, and in

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making that judgment, we have to set some priorities. As I've said on a number of occasions, these decisions are never about funding, they're about priorities, about whether or not particular services are worth the taxes that people have to pay for those services. We have presented that recommended budget to you. It is your job, finally, to set those priorities and determine and adopt the budget that we will use for 2010. I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have about the recommendation that is before you. If you have no questions, then I would recommend you open the public hearing."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Before we open the public hearing, I want to respond to a couple of things that you said there, Mr. Chronis. We had directed management a little bit different approach on the two percent and what you'd stated there, about the four percent back to the two percent in that, what we were talking about, the \$75,000 and lower getting a two percent and those above, having those frozen. I wanted to say that. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chris, could you comment about how this budget affects the long-time planning horizon, the longer term, and what does it mean for a long-term strategy?"

**Mr. Chronis** said, "I have said in a number of presentations over the past 18 months now, since the downturn began, that we have established a solid level of operating reserves. Since the last downturn in 2001 to 2003, when the County was in a position of having to cut services and lay-off people, we determined that we didn't want to be in that position the next downturn, and so we have spent the last five or six years consciously building up our operating reserves, our 'rainy day funds' if you will, so that we would have a reserve, a pool of funds, that we could rely on in the next downturn to allow us to ride out that downturn without having to make any major shifts of service levels that we provide to our constituents. What I have indicated to you in presentations is that the level of reserves that we have established is sufficient for us to ride out this storm, at least as we are projecting this storm to take place, if we do nothing to change our position, that is, if we continue providing services that we're currently providing, if we continue collecting revenues that we are currently collecting, allowing for the downturns that we've projected, then we have enough reserves to allow us to continue to operate, as we've been operating, for the next four or five years. That's how long we think it is going to take us to recover."

**Mr. Chronis** continued, "What you see on this chart is an estimation of the operating deficits that the County is expected to incur over the next several years. And the top of the chart is zero, if you will, the black line where this first dot appears is zero. Above that line, we have operating surpluses. Below that line, we have operating deficits. You see a series of lines here, and each one of these is a different scenario for the County's budget actions. The blue line, which is kind of hard to see, but runs right here, represents our baseline, if you will, our status quo. If we adopt a budget that continues services as we have them now and continues property taxes as we have them now, that is

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the future that we forecast. We expect that we will incur an operating deficit in 2010 of something on the order of \$5 million. In 2011, we expect it's going to be somewhat worse. The operating deficit will drop down to between \$10 and \$11 million. Then in 2012 and beyond, we expect the recovery to start to take effect, and our operating deficits will shrink. By the end of the planning period, we will be back to where we are running essentially a break-even budget. That's if we do nothing.

“If we were to reduce property taxes by a 1/2 mill, and not make any corresponding changes in expenditures, then you have the pink line. So, as you would expect, you've got the same expenditures and about \$2.1 million in current year revenue, less revenue, so the operating deficit grows each year, from what we are currently forecasting. If you were to do the light blue line, which is a 1 1/2 mill property tax reduction, coupled with a \$2.4 million dollar expenditure reduction, remember 1 1/2 mills of property taxes is about \$6.4 million of revenues, if you couple that with \$2.4 million of expenditure cuts, you get this line here, the light blue line. Again, you have less revenue, and somewhat less expenditures, but a bigger deficit.

“Finally, and that's the scenario that Commissioner Peterjohn had asked us to produce at the meeting last week, finally, if you eliminate 1 1/2 mills of property tax, and make no corresponding adjustments in expenditures, you get this red line, the very bottom one, where you have the largest operating deficits in any of the scenarios. Now, if you match revenue cuts with expenditure cuts, you get the overlapping lines that you see up here at the top. If we take our baseline, doing status quo with status quo taxes, and we reduce revenues by 1/2 mill and we reduce expenditures by a corresponding amount, we end up essentially neutral. If we reduce revenues by 1 1/2 mills, and we reduce expenditures by the full amount of that 1 1/2 mills, \$6.4 million, we end up essentially neutral. Now, these deficits are funded with those reserves that we built up over the past several years. So what you see on this slide is the County's reserve status at the end of each of the next five years under those various scenarios. The zero point, where we run out of reserves, is right in the middle of the chart. You see the positive numbers, indicating that we still have reserves left. You see the negative numbers, indicating that we are in the hole.”

“Under the three scenarios that I've described as neutral, that is we do nothing or we match a revenue cut with an expenditure cut, we have enough reserves, although they decrease over this five year period, we have enough reserves that by the end of the five year period, when we think the recovery will have taken effect, we still are above zero. We still have positive reserves. We haven't run out of money. If we do revenue cuts without corresponding expenditure cuts, beyond what the economy and the State are doing to us, then we draw down those reserves at a faster rate, and depending on which scenario you look at, we run out of reserves before that five year period is over. If we do a 1/2 mill reduction and no expenditure cuts, this chart suggests that we will run out of operating reserves, we will be unable to fund the deficit, in 2013. If we do a 1 1/2 mill revenue

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reduction with \$2.4 million of expenditure cuts, we project that we will run out of operating reserves in 2012. If we do a 1 1/2 mill revenue cut and no expenditure cuts, then we project that we will run out of operating reserves around the end of 2011, two years from now.”

“That’s kind of what we look at when we are trying to put a budget together. What we’re doing here today is adopting a budget for 2010, for a single year, but the actions that we take with that budget have ramifications for the future, and we need to be cognizant of those ramifications as we’re adopting that budget. What is critical, I think, to our community, is that we adopt a budget that is sustainable, that doesn’t cause us to have to take rash actions, either by making harsh service cuts or imposing unexpected tax increases several years from now because our action today has caused us to draw down reserves at more than a sustainable rate.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Mr. Chronis, if I could interrupt you just a little bit here. A lot of those variables and things are nice in there and things, but a lot of this comes back to us to make those decisions...”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “Absolutely.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “...where to do that to not make that chart look like that.”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “Yes.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “And when I talked with you yesterday, if you could, I really want to get on to the public hearing so we can let the people speak here. If you can just briefly touch on the \$300,000, we have a lot of other time that we can discuss this.”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “Okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “If we can get on with about where the \$300,000 for the pavilions, and those other subsequent monies would be coming from, and what we discussed yesterday about taxation and not taxation and reserve and fund balance and cash carryover and all that stuff. If we can get right to that so we can get out of here before sunset.”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “We’ve estimated the operating subsidy for the pavilions next year to be, I believe it’s \$580,000. That is the shortfall between revenue produced by the pavilions and the expenditures necessary to support the pavilions. That revenue in this recommended budget, as has been the case in the past, comes from a transfer from the County’s general fund, which is principally supported by property taxes. Now, what you and I discussed yesterday was the possibility of funding the deficit at the pavilion from the Arena sales tax. In the referendum that the

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voters approved, there was a provision for an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) reserve that consists of remaining Arena sales tax revenues once we open the doors of the new facility, of the new Arena.

“That reserve is intended to be used to cover operating deficits of the Arena, to pay major maintenance of the Arena, and to the extent that we incur them, to cover operating deficits at the Kansas Coliseum complex. That revenue can be used, I think, this is ultimately going to be a Legal decision and then a decision for you to make, but I believe that that revenue can be used to pay for operating deficits at the pavilions. Now, the complication is that we haven’t, in all the discussions that I’ve had with you about what level those reserves are going to be, that reserve is going to be when we open the doors, and how fast we’re going to draw it down, I have never contemplated using that reserve to pay for operating deficits at the Kansas Coliseum complex. It can be done, but doing it will cause us to draw down those reserves faster than I’ve explained to you in previous discussions, and as soon as we run out of those reserves, then we’re in a position of having to use property tax revenue to support the Arena and the Kansas Coliseum complex.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “And there are other revenue sources out there for that besides the sales tax, which is just one of those, like i.e., the cash carryover, the fund balance and other things that could be used to supplement that.”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “Well, there is no cash carryover or fund balance, per se. The Arena tax carries over from year to year and that’s what we’re really talking about. We are not collecting Arena tax now...”

**Chairman Parks** said, “That’s not what I’m talking about.”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “...so that will continue on.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Yeah. We can discuss that at a more opportune time. Commissioner Welshimer.”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “Okay.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “Well, I think most of the people here are interested in the Coliseum site and the pavilions.”

**Mr. Chronis** said, “Sure.”

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**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “And for some time now we’ve been discussing having a request for proposal put out to find a developer that could bring that up to a better standard where it wouldn’t be a loss, it would be a gain. And for some reason, we’ve just never generated that request for proposal, and we do have people waiting on a proposal. It’s my understanding; I’m going to ask the Manager that that’s being written now?”

**Mr. Buchanan** said, “Yes, ma’am. It should be finished this week.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “And so we have one, maybe more, developers that are interested in giving us a proposal and we had the rodeo group here last week, and we have been contacted, I mean, as a Commissioner, and I would imagine the others have been too, by religious groups and so on, who have a use for the Britt Brown. So, I think to shut everything down and stop operation and send away all of the good people who have been bringing economic development into Sedgwick County, they bring people in from all over the United States. I think that was a big mistake. I’m not in favor of that at all. And so, I think we’re hurrying up a little too much in suggesting and putting the public in fear of losing the pavilions when it’s a bad idea in the first place and it was not something that I would support.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “I would like to get on with the public hearing, unless there’s something just real pressing that the other Commissioners would like to do at this point. I hereby open the public hearing for the 2010 budget. We’ve had a sign-up sheet and we have the first person on that sign-up sheet being Pat Deshler. I might say, before we get started here, when you come to the podium, speak into the microphone, stand square behind the podium and state your name, your address, and if you are representing an organization, you can, or if you choose not to do that, just state why you’re here. Pat, go ahead.”

**Ms. Pat Deshler**, 7520 Oak Tree Ln., Kechi, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you very much. I want to give you a real brief history of the group I represent. I am Corresponding Secretary and on the Board of the Wichita Kennel Club. We have been a business entity, if you wish, in Wichita since 1925. We were giving dog shows in the old Forum in 1925. We have participated in the pavilions at the Coliseum since it opened in 1979. That’s 39 years. We’ve had at least one show there for 30 years. We are a licensed and member club of the American Kennel Club (AKC). Some of the figures that I will use, and I have a handout for each of you, are from the American Kennel Club in New York, and their calculations of what an economic impact, a successful series of dog shows does for a community. We, the Wichita Kennel Club, are the host club for the Sunflower Cluster. Names we invite: the Salina Kennel Club, the Hutchinson Kennel Club, the Wichita Dog Training Club, and about ten or eleven other smaller clubs that participate in the Sunflower Cluster. So it doesn’t just impact our club, it impacts a whole community of dog people and dog events.

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“The economic impact, according to the AKC, of a three-day, and we have four-day, dog shows the size that we put on, is \$1,075,000 for the weekend. That’s the money that rolls through the community for motels, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, whatever. And sales tax, by the way, because we do a very large, if you can call it a merchant mall, it’s a vendors’ area in ours, and all of those vendors are handed a sales tax form as they check in with us, and they pay Kansas sales tax from what they sell out there. From your website, I’m quoting now, it is 270 events in a year at the pavilion and 700,000 visitors at the Coliseum complex. That’s a lot of impact for the community if it goes away. I was an early supporter of the interest in the Arena, personally, and I feel betrayed, that if we see the Coliseum pavilions closed. I think many of us expect that they will close, you will close, sell, do other purposes for Britt Brown, but that \$6 million that was spent on renovations for the pavilions, was from that sales tax, that penny we all paid for a few years, and I think we expected that the pavilions would be there.

“Now, I want to compliment the Coliseum staff and the renovations that were done, supervised by the County, they were good renovations. Our exhibitors have been pleased with the changes out there and the improvements. There’s only a couple of down sides, things that you all still need to do. One of the things you still need to attack is the parking situation for motor homes. Weidemann Park is a shambles, it’s a shame. We charge people to park there, and they have no electricity and no plumbing. We charge it because you charge it. Also, when they did the renovations, they removed the shower facilities at the Kansas Coliseum, and that’s a big minus, as far as the people who come in to camp, or to participate. So those are my only two negatives. We’ve had a very pleasant working experience with the management and the staff. If we needed something and asked for it, we got it, if it was within their power. I compliment the staff for the way they’ve handled things.”

“Our tourism impact, we had people from 47 states who came to Wichita last April for our shows. We put on an agility trial, a herding trial, a lure coursing, as well as the conformation events and the obedience events. Wichita Kennel Club and Sunflower Cluster have been nominated for two years out of the last five as one of the top five dog shows in the nation. If you should vote to close the Coliseum pavilions, we already are talking to the Hutchinson [Kansas State] Fairgrounds. We have to have a show site. We have a signed contract to have our show April 8, 9, 10 and 11 of 2010. We also have a signed contract for 2011. If they should close the Coliseum pavilions in February, we’re two months out from our proposed show, and we don’t have a place to have it. So I urge you to do whatever you need to do to keep the pavilions open. My logical thought was perhaps don’t take a 1/2 mill reduction. And my time’s up, I have a handout for all of you. I thank you for the opportunity. Anybody have questions?”

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**Chairman Parks** said, “If you could give that to Communications over here.”

**Ms. Deshler** said, “I will.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “And I would want to tell the rest of the people that are going to be testifying at the podium, that we will let you finish up your sentence after the five minutes, but we need to stay on topic and we need to keep it at five minutes to get out of here on time. Number two, Kent Winter.”

**Mr. Kent Winter**, 7359 N. 215th W., Mt. Hope, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I live and farm full-time in the Andale, Colwich, and Mt. Hope areas. I am also on the Board of Directors for Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Agriculture Association. I previously was a member of the Board of Sedgwick County Extension and also the Andale Farmers Co-Op. On my farm, we raise wheat, milo, corn, soybeans and alfalfa, along with a small sheep operation. The point I would like to make is to speak on behalf of restoring funding for the Sedgwick County Extension Council. We are very, very in need and we rely on the services that they provide to us, especially from a farming standpoint. As an aside, all my children either are, or previously were, in the 4-H program here in Sedgwick County. It is a top-flight program that does a lot of good. Getting back to the ag[riculture] side of things, the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Ag Association has partnered numerous times with the Extension Council with some of their education programs. We are in the process right now of planning and putting together what is called an Ag Profitability Conference to be held this coming December. We also were with them last December on a similar conference. In a nutshell, I consider the ag department of the Sedgwick County Extension to be a conduit, or a pipeline if you will, to get the latest information from K-State Research based in Manhattan down to the County level, down to the local level, down to the farm gate level. It helps us tremendously to make day-to-day management decisions to keep our operations in the black.”

**Mr. Winter** continued, “What sort of management decisions? For example, a big one that comes to mind is fertilizer. It’s become a major expense item on our balance sheets the last few years, always has been, but it’s grown even larger. The type of fertilizer to use, the rate of fertilizer to use, uses a judicial rate of fertilizer that doesn’t cost too much and is also environmentally friendly. What else? Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, we depend on the research and the recommendations to tell us how and when to put that stuff on. Also, variety selections of the different crops, there’s a lot of them out there to choose from, and the research that K-State does in variety trials is of utmost importance to us to make our decisions. Also, in the last ten years, there’s been a lot of research done in the areas of no till or reduced tillage in the farming operations. A lot of us are adopting that to our farming operations for several different reasons; one being the erosion control, another thing being moisture retention in the soil to help the chances of the crops being able to mate.

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“What are some examples of the programs that I have attended there? I’ve been in and out of that building many times, many years, couple dozen times a year. Some of the recent ones I’ve been to this last spring, an estate planning seminar tailored for agriculture producers was held there, very well attended. Also coming up here in a couple of weeks is their annual wheat pre-plant meeting, where they go into detail, they bring specialists in and out of K-State to help us make the decisions for putting up this fall’s wheat crop. Also, there are several other programs that take place down there. In summary, we have a great facility located at 21st and Ridge and a great staff to go with it. To me, it is like a well-oiled machine. It needs fuel, or funding, in the tank to get the job done. We’re depending on this Extension program to keep our operations profitable. I implore you to restore the funding back to the Extension Council for the upcoming year. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Dennis, step to the podium.”

**Mr. Dennis Gruenbacher**, 5901 N. 199th St. W., Colwich, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I have been involved in County politics, I served on the Sedgwick County Zoning Appeals Board for six years, so I’ve been in your hot seat before, so I know you make some very tough decisions. I am Policy Chairman for Sedgwick County Farm Bureau; I’m on the Equus Bed Board, which is the water that’s under the City of Wichita and the County, and several other Boards. But, I was real disappointed in our County Manager taking a 55 percent cut to our Extension office program. From \$187,000 go down to \$87,000, take a \$100,000 cut which is going to affect our ag, our youth, our 4-H, everything. They won’t be able to have the programs that they presently have now. I’d hate to see you do this cut and I would recommend that you keep funding the Extension service. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you, Dennis. Number four, Mr. Nicks.”

**Mr. Hugh Nicks**, 742 Surrey, Maize, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am the Show Coordinator for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. It’s not my full-time job, I’m actually Vice President of Marketing for an organization called Sasnak, we own Carlos O’Kelly’s restaurants. I grew up on a farm outside of Maize, so my roots go pretty darn deep into the ground. This year will mark the 77th anniversary of the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. It was held first at the Forum, then the stockyards, then at Sedgwick County Fairgrounds, which is now a car dealership. Finally, as someone already said, 39 years we’ve been out at the Coliseum. The three major sponsors of the Kansas Junior Livestock Show are Kansas State University, Kansas Livestock Association, and most recently, a new organization in Wichita called the Agri-Business Council, previously it was the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce, but now it is the Agri-Business Council of Wichita.

“We have a show that lasts four days at the Coliseum; there are about 800 to 900 exhibitors that come from virtually every county in the State. They exhibit about 1,500 head of livestock during

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that period of time. We'll have anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000 people out there about every day, including exhibitors, parents, people who help with the show. It's a big show. I don't have anything to hand out to you, in terms of what kind of economic impact that it has on this community, but I can tell you one thing. You drive up the north end of town, you can't get yourself a hotel room, you have to stand in line to eat in the restaurants, I wish they'd come to ours, but nonetheless, the restaurants are full, those pickups burn a lot of fuel, a lot of diesel fuel. I walk around and see everybody that comes to town and they've got shopping bags, in their time off, they're walking around shopping in our stores. Again, I don't know what kind of impact it has, but it's enough that Park City helps us out and funds it a little bit. So we make sure that those people come and enjoy their time here and hopefully they come back and visit Wichita again. I know you've got a tough decision, but I think closing down those pavilions, you got to figure out a way to fund this thing, it is a foolish thing to do, there's too many people that depend on it. You got to figure out a way to do it. I'm glad I'm not sitting in your seat, I know it's got to be tough, but we need those things open for a lot of reasons. Appreciate it."

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

**Mr. Aaron Moeder**, 14622 SW 190th, Rose Hill, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a Board member of the Kansas Quarter Horse Association and also I'm on the Steering Committee for the American Quarter Horse Regional Experience, which involves five states; it's New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado. This started five years ago and our intention was that it would be at the first place it was chosen by the five states for three years. They all voted to have it in Kansas, which surprised me, so I asked them why. And they said, because it's so easy to get to. They like it from 70 to 35, they like the parking."

**Mr. Moeder** continued, "So we approached the Coliseum, and you guys were going to go ahead and remodel it, so we couldn't have it there for three years, so it went to Tulsa. Well now it's back up again for a vote, and we voted to have it in Wichita, so we have a contract for next year and for the year after. And now we're getting this in the news, so we don't know if we've got a place to have the show or not. It's a three day show and usually there will be 500 horses, 800 and some entries, so that should bring you, according to the formula they gave me, roughly \$1,200,000 in the economy for those three days. And I think you need to really consider that as a big loss, we're at a 8.8 unemployment rate. I hope that you really consider it."

"And another thing I like always about it was we had five children and we were always in 4-H and the Junior Livestock Show, that comes from all over the State, and they auction off their animals and that's a good help for us to get our kids to college, because the animals brought good money. So please think about it, and also I'd like to thank you for doing what you did on 79th St. South, I run over that road four times a day, they did a darn good job, but I don't know the name of the company. I don't think it was the one that started with a 'C,' but they did a good job. Thank you."

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

**Mr. Moeder** said, "I think you got emails from several of us, I hope."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Yes."

**Mr. Moeder** said, "Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Many. Sandy Chapman."

**Ms. Sandy Chapman**, 14345 SW 120th, Andover, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I oppose closing the Kansas Coliseum. I have been to the Coliseum since it pretty much opened in 1979, either showing quarter horses, paints, or arabians. The renovation that y'all did that cost \$6 million was a great update. To close it and put that money to waste for the Sedgwick County residents would be a travesty, because that, to me, is a waste of money. I live out at 14345 SW 120th in South Andover. I own a 40 acre horse ranch that I board. I also have a rental house here in Sedgwick County, so I do pay taxes in to this budget."

"The other thing is, and I don't have any of the actual figures, because I'm not associated with actual, I'm not representing anybody but myself and hopefully the other horse enthusiasts. But I do know, and I have shown every year at the Paint Horse Congress, they bring in people from all over the country, and that's going to be a huge impact on the businesses, like some of these other people have said, in gas, and the food, and the hotel, but also, when you bring in horses like that, you're also going to impact people like Tractor Supply, because they are the ones who supply the sawdust for the horses' bedding. It is going to be a huge, major impact if we close the Kansas Coliseum. There was no provision when the downtown Arena even first started being implemented, there was never any provision to have dirt events, like your rodeo, like your dog shows, like your horse shows, so I really hope that you take to heart the passion that, not only myself, but some of these other people have. I do thank you for listening to me, and I was nervous doing this, but thank you so much."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Sandy, if you'd remain there for just a little bit."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "Yes."

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**Chairman Parks** said, "I believe Commissioner Peterjohn has a question."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "Yes, sir."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Yes, and this is also a general comment for other people who are testifying. When you say Kansas Coliseum, are you referring just to the pavilions?"

**Ms. Chapman** said, "The pavilion, yes."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Okay, because..."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "Absolutely."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "...when you say the Kansas Coliseum..."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "I know."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "...I'd very much appreciate because that could include Britt Brown and I wanted to make sure that I fully understood your comments."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "Okay. And that's a very good question. I know at one time, they used to have the circus come in to Britt Brown. I don't think they do that anymore. Which that was kind of neat, because the trains would come in to Newton, and they would walk down 85th Street down to the Coliseum. I mean, by closing the whole facility, you're going to be, I feel like, making a major, major economic impact on this community."

**Chairman Parks** said, "On behalf of the policemen, let me correct you. That train went in to Valley Center."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "Did it? Okay, I'm sorry. Well, I was thinking Newton, but that's close."

**Chairman Parks** said, "I navigated around quite a bit of that stuff."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "Did you? Well, it was a great event."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Yes, it was."

**Ms. Chapman** said, "It was fascinating."

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**Chairman Parks** said, “Yes, and I think that they have been back in there, but I think that there’s a, we don’t need to get into a lot of that...”

**Ms. Chapman** said, “Okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “...now with the public hearing, but we’ve had various reports whether there are going to be dirt events at the downtown Arena or not, so that’s for another discussion day.”

**Ms. Chapman** said, “Okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

**Ms. Chapman** said, “Thank you very much for taking your time to listen to me.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Jeff Winter.”

**Mr. Jeff Winter**, 6955 N. 247th St. W., Andale, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I represent the Board of Directors with Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Agriculture Association. I farm out near the Andale, Mt. Hope area on a primarily crop farm. We grow wheat, and corn, soybeans, milo, and alfalfa. Being a young farmer, I use quite a bit of Extension services, I guess. Anywhere from soil sampling, their yield data they collect on plots, not just around the State, but here locally. You can get results from anywhere across the world, but it doesn’t matter until what you have locally, what it works. As a young producer, I don’t have the most experience, so I rely on the guys at Extension to provide me with some of that, as they see more stuff and have more questions from around the County. I guess, there’s many things that I use the Extension for, that’s just a few of them and I hope you guys can keep the funding going towards that. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Rocky Schmied,”

**Mr. Rocky Schmied**, 5327 E. Elm, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am a parent and I’m also a resident of Sedgwick County for the last 13 years. My wife and I have been very involved in our youth with 4-H, and that’s what I’d like to specifically look at. I do thank you for allowing me to address the issue of the budget, the 2010 budget that’s been proposed. I know there’s a lot of major concerns, and it’s a very hot topic. No one wants their budget cut. No one

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wants to lose money. Many are without jobs and we are all trimming our spending, and we're trying, in unique ways, to address the lack of funds.

"The Extension department is very much what it says. It's a resource place, a place to find ways to extend university level knowledge to our community and to our children. The use of land, equipment, hobbies and skills. You, as Commissioners, are trying to be good stewards, and you're trying to budget properly, and I commend you on that. But you also need to have full, good information on what the budget cut will do to each of the areas that it affects. You have been asking, or should be asking, what areas will benefit the people the best? All the people of Sedgwick County that you've been elected to serve.

"I have five children. My wife, Ruth, and I have the responsibility to educate them. We feel it is vital to teach them life skills. One of the ways that we do that is through the 4-H Extension services. In our culture today, families are being pulled apart. They are being pulled apart at the seams, with so many activities and so many things that are available, but 4-H is one program that the whole family can get involved in, and be a part of, and actually go in the same direction together. These programs reach many different audiences throughout Sedgwick County. From Cheney to Andover, from Valley Center to Mulvane, in addition, there are 4-H programs and clubs operating at McConnell Air Force Base, at a Knights of Columbus Hall, at the Extension Office itself, and at many churches throughout Sedgwick County."

**Mr. Schmied** continued, "There's also a special outreach program to the children of the Wichita Public School system. 4-H empowers youth to become capable, competent, contributing members to our community, with the emphasis in leadership, citizenship, community service and life skills. In areas like nutrition, education, budgeting, gardening, agriculture, sewing, entomology, geology, electricity, rocketry, woodworking, livestock, small animal care, husbandry and genetics, just to name a few of them that our kids have been involved in.

"Through the 4-H program, young people learn by doing. With the proposed budget cuts, I, you, the people of Sedgwick County and the children will lose not only valuable programs and outreaches, but we'll be losing top quality men and women that care for the people that they serve. You want to stimulate? Using a word that's being thrown around quite popularly today, you want to stimulate our County and the people of it? Then help and don't harm, encourage and don't discourage, stimulate and don't stifle. The Extension programs help families use their limited resources to better their lifestyle and to those around them. I thank you for letting me share this one area of concern.

"I pray that you'll make the best decision for the people of Sedgwick County. Let me close with these words, words that I believe that you can gain from, and that you may very well know very well. Words that are essential to every 4-H'er: past, present and future. They're offered through the Sedgwick County Extension office, to the capacity of what will happen with those words is in your

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hands. It is the 4-H motto. 'I pledge my head to clearer thinking, I pledge my heart to greater loyalty, I pledge my hands to larger service, I pledge my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world. Thank you.'

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you. Well practiced, right at five minutes. John Hays. John Hays, thank you."

**Mr. John Hays**, 9000 E. 69th St. N., Valley Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to represent the Heartland Miniature Horse Club, and we have shows every year in May, and we've had them since 1992 at the pavilions. We feel like we've brought in 100s of 1,000s of dollars through that. Also, the last couple of years, the AMHA, the American Miniature Horse Association, has elected to have their central championship shows at the pavilion up there. In 2008 and 2009, those shows probably brought in somewhere around \$20,000 income, just from paying the dues for the shows, let alone, people coming from Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, several different states. I emailed you guys, Monday night, just some ideas and thoughts. I'm going to cover just a couple of those with you."

"Why the expenses have gone up nearly \$360,000 in two years while the revenues have dropped \$210,000, that's kind of an unusual scenario, being a businessman. What would be the cost to maintain these buildings in a mothball state with no revenue coming in? I don't think if you close them, you're going to just say, well, forget it, we're just going to let them sit. There's going to be a cost to that. Then, I echo some of the sentiments that were mentioned earlier. The economic impact of all these events that come in, and the restaurants, the hotels, all those different businesses that have business because of these events, I think that is significantly more impact than what is being talked about here and the cost of overruns of this facility. The other thing is that I just wonder about the marketing side of it. I will tell you the AMHA is very high on this facility here to maybe continue to have the central championship shows here, because they like that facility and like the layouts. I just ask, also, are there other cities around the area that would be willing to purchase this if you decide to close it or not be a part of it? I think it's important that we have the pavilions, whether Sedgwick County owns them or whether someone else owns them, because I think the impact, the economic impact, is significant for this County. I thank you for your time."

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

**Mr. Larry Turner**, 7502 Reflection Road Ct., Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a volunteer at the Sedgwick County Extension. Because of the number of folks here to speak, I'm going to keep my message very short. This morning, I too, bring a concern regarding the impact to the proposed budget allocation will have on our Extension programs. Not the least of which is the

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SHICK program. Senior Health Insurance Counseling of Kansas is a free program offering older Kansans an opportunity to talk with trained community volunteers and to get answers to questions about Medicare, supplemental insurance, long-term care, prescription drug plans and other health insurance issues. Working through the Medicare maze itself can be overwhelming. The role of our volunteer counselors is to help people stay informed on changing conditions in healthcare insurance and to cut through the confusion. Just one example of this confusion is that this year there are 43 private insurance companies selling Medicare drug plans in Kansas.

“So how do you know which one is best for you or your parents when the salesman come calling? These private insurers are for-profit driven and they typically increase premiums or change coverage every year. Seniors are forced to fight a bureaucratic nightmare just to identify and understand plans that are appropriate for them. That’s where the SHICK program steps up. Our volunteer counselors know their stuff. They receive training and support, but this costs money. Their goal is to educate and assist the public to make informed decisions on what’s best for them. To the degree that funding is reduced, this assistance is reduced. We’ve always been team players at Extension and we stand ready to do our part and biting the bullet as necessary. But we want you to understand what you may be cutting and how deep you may be cutting it.”

**Mr. Turner continued**, “If the recommendation of an approximate 55 percent cut in Extension operating budget stands, it will impact our ability to provide Extension services in general and to assist seniors through a healthcare reform movement that is evolving nationally as we speak. Many of the approximately 43,000 seniors in Sedgwick County can use assistance in determining what’s best for them personally regarding the issues I cited earlier. And I believe, that were they here this morning, they would tell you so. Commissioners, I would just say to you, this is not a feel good issue. We do so many good things at Extension and this is one of them. We are working with seniors every day, all day long, as the issues continue to get more complex with their health issues. Our hope is that you will revisit the target area of the recommended cuts and arrive at a rationale that will avoid cutting deeply as a short-term solution only to have long-term consequences. I want to close by thanking you for your past support on behalf of over 300 volunteers that we have at Extension. I wanted to extend that thank you to you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

**Mr. Turner** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Tera Benefiel.”

**Ms. Tera Benefiel**, 622 S. McPherson Ave., Burrton, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thank you for letting me have some of your time. I’m here more on a personal statute; I’m opposed to closing the pavilion. I am co-owner of Prairie Winds Specialty Design and Prairie Winds Ranch. I

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use the pavilion as a vendor and also show horses there. It's convenient; I'm from Burrton, Kansas. When we have the horse shows, EquiFest of Kansas is one of the number one events that I attend. It takes all three buildings. You have to have livestock; you have to keep your livestock somewhere. You have a place for your large trailers, your large semis. I, as a local vendor, generate sales tax for the City. When I try to bring in other people within the registry, it's very hard to find hotels; we can't find a place to eat. It would be very detrimental if we close the pavilion. Again, thank you for your time."

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

**Mr. Casey West**, 422 NE 8th, Abilene, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm not a resident of Sedgwick County. I'm from Abilene, Kansas. I am the current President of the Kansas Paint Horse Association, who holds the World Wide Paint Horse Congress at the Coliseum every October. We've held this show, pretty well since the Coliseum opened. Prior to that, it was held at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. I am not going to bore you with a lot of economic impact numbers. We've had the studies done."

"I assume before you guys make a decision one way or the other, you'll look at the statistics. I do feel like the impact that the events at the Coliseum has on Park City and Sedgwick County far outweigh any deficit that the pavilions have. You know, I wouldn't want to be in your shoes. I wouldn't want to be in Mr. Buchanan's shoes. He's got to make the recommendations. You've got to make the final decision on what we are going to do. The main thing is, I just think you really need to take a closer look, because the impact of closing the facility will far outweigh your deficits and once we get through, you know, this downturn, it could be a year or two from now and it could be five or six years from now, I would hate to see that the place is already closed, have Sedgwick County see that they're missing the boat on these types of deals and then ask the taxpayers to come up with the money to do something different. Thank you for your time."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you, Mr. West. Harriet Hickman."

**Ms. Harriet Hickman**, 2273 N. Lakeway Ct., Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I pass."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Harriet Hickman passes. Paul Buchanan."

**Mr. Paul Buchanan**, 3141 Keywest, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm not here on that item."

**Chairman Parks** said, "You're not here on that item? Paul Buchanan is not here on the public hearing item. Gary Lowe."

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**Mr. Gary Lowe**, 451 S. Socora, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “When the County opened the Coliseum in about 1978, I believe it was hailed as a great arena achievement and a wise investment of the taxpayers’ money. I was one of the first ones to see a John Denver concert in the fall of ‘78. I have been to numerous other events and entertainment since then, including Cirque du Soleil and the Blue Man Group in more recent years. There are many others, of course, too numerous to mention. However, the suggestion that the arena and the pavilions be closed and even torn down due to economic issues is very upsetting to me, since it was hard-earned taxpayers’ money that was invested at that time. The 2004 sales tax vote to build a new downtown Arena was predicated by assurances that at least some of the tax money would be used to make improvements in the Kansas Coliseum, including the pavilions. A newspaper article in last Saturday’s [Wichita] Eagle stated that the County spent \$6 million in taxpayers’ money on improvements, but I really can’t see that much has changed at all. I would like to see an itemization and photos of those improvements.”

**Mr. Lowe** continued, “But now you want to close the facility and possibly tear it down, how is that fiscally responsible to the taxpayers? These are perfectly good structures and facilities. I think that with a little thought and initiative, we can come up with an acceptable plan to utilize these facilities without resorting to such rash decisions as being proposed. Certainly, this would preserve the integrity of the entire County Commission. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Gary, just to reflect on something that you said there. I have said this before and the wording on the ballot, if you want me to send you one, I’ll certainly send you the wording on that ballot. It surprised a lot of us, what the final outcome of that was. I was at some of the meetings in Park City where leaders that were with the Vote Yea Campaign stood up and said we’re going to fix your Britt Brown Arena, if fix it means tear it down, that was the twist that they put on that at that time. I just wanted to say that. Carolyn Harms.”

**Ms. Carolyn Harms**, 1040 E. Madapalla Ct., Derby, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m Chairman of the Sedgwick County Extension Executive Board. I live at 1040 E. Matapalla Ct. in Derby, Kansas. As you are all aware, the Extension service is the educational arm to the people of Sedgwick County, and by statute, we’re required to provide research-based, educational programs in four areas: agriculture, horticulture, family consumer sciences, 4-H youth development and community development. The Executive Board meets every month and we hear from our County Extension agents all the activities that are going on surrounding these programs. I know you’ve already heard from several individuals this morning, and I too, personally, can attest to the value of Extension programs in Sedgwick County. I’ve been a volunteer for almost 20 years, serving not only at the education Extension service, but in the 4-H and youth, and I’ve had three children that have gone through that program. The leadership opportunities and what they’ve been able to do at a

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local, County and State level has absolutely developed their life skills into being very responsible young adults.

“Earlier, Bev Dunning and I, who is your County Extension Director and provides you with updated information on the programs that are provided, we met with you to talk about budget needs. We know that the budget is tight this year at all levels. The Extension Board is funded through all three levels: Federal, State and County. Earlier this year, we were notified that \$11,788 that we received from federal funds through the State for postage will no longer be passed down to the 105 counties in Kansas. Because so many of our educational programs are research-based, we provide pamphlets, educational materials and publications. We have previously received a State allotment of \$8,655 for those publications. As of July 1, we will no longer be receiving funds for those publications. We believe that it is even more critical now, because of the economic situation, with the unemployment rates in this County, that this information is provided to the residents of Sedgwick County.”

“So we have looked at the methods that we deliver this information. You know, we’ve gone to in-house printing; we’re doing more email and looking at other ways that we can cut costs to make sure that we continue to get this information out to the public. Earlier this year, the Board began planning for our 2010 budget needs. We requested a two percent supplemental adjustment to be in the amount of \$21,750 for a small cost of living adjustment for the staff. Because of the \$20,443 shortfall that I’ve already mentioned from Federal and State funds for postage and publications, we will re-evaluate the use of that supplemental fund if it is so granted.

“Your Extension agents have, and continue to, write grant proposals to fund the educational programs. We know the funding has been tight for several years, so they have been very entrepreneurial in looking at other ways to go get funding to support the programs. The Family Nutrition Program and the Expanded Family Nutrition Education Program are both federal grants that provide for local education. The Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas program, that you heard Larry Turner visit about, is provided partially through a Medicare grant. 4-H youth development programs for low income minority children are funded through many small grants. You heard earlier that our 4-H programs have extended into McConnell Air Force Base. We have programs at Park and Griffith Elementary Schools, also.

“Master garden volunteers do fundraising to support educational efforts and they continued to enhance the plantings at the Extension service to support their educational programs. Because of these grants and other fundraising efforts, we’re taking your dollars and stretching them to meet the needs of this community. Because we bring in funding for economic development through these programs and we teach the many volunteers that help support the programs, the investment you make in Extension program goes a long way to meet the needs of this community. Last week, the County Manager recommended a \$100,000 cut to the Extension budget. This cut will drastically

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reduce our ability to go and continue to support and serve the people of this community with the programs that we have. I would ask today that you grant the request, our original budget and that you also grant our two percent supplemental increase. We thank you for the support that you have given us and we pledge to continue to provide research-based educational programs to the people of this community. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “And thank you. Elizabeth Brunscheen, if I’ve not pronounced that right, please correct me.”

**Ms. Elizabeth Brunscheen**, 7001 W. 21st St. N., Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “That’s okay. I am on behalf of the Sedgwick County Extension. I work with the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) and we have been running for 13 years and we are serving like 80 or so counties in Kansas. Our goal is to help the community to make better choices, with a limited budget. So we help those individuals or families that qualify for assistance. We help them to increase their overall diet quality by choosing and preparing nutritious food, including fruits and vegetables. We balance the food with the physical activities and that’s what we do in every class that we do. We help them to budget the income so that they will know how much they are spending in the right way. Also, we bring information of the family services that we have in the community for them to get that assistance. I am here as a bilingual teacher because we have a Hispanic community growing, so we want to reach them too. FNP has made a big, big difference in everybody that we bring the information. In 2008, we have 3,210 individuals that are in poverty and with the economic problems that we have now, we’re going to have more clients to serve. As a person that I, all the time, are teaching and receiving that feedback from the community, it is a program we need to keep running. I will encourage you to help us doing that. Thank you.”

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

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Do you know this lady?”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Yeah.”

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, “I’ll call Debbie, I’ll step in as the Chair while you give your testimony, Debbie.”

**Chairman Parks excused himself from the Board of County Commissioners Meeting at 10:21 a.m.**

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**Ms. Debbie Parks**, 8005 N Hoover Rd., Valley Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “All right. Thank you, Gwen. First of all, I would like to thank, not only the Board, but all the County staff for being good stewards of our taxpayer money. Since he’s gone, I can tell you if it’s hard to be accountable, him asking questions here, I feel for you, because he is very stringent at home also. Anyway, I would like to address the Commission, the County Manager and other staff this morning, reference budget planning and trimming line items to keep the Kansas Coliseum and the Britt Brown open. During these trying economic times, cutting expenses are hard. However, acknowledging the economic times, many individual families must choose to trim their budgets in the recreation area. Attending events at the Kansas Coliseum will not only give many families who cannot afford out of County vacations, but events there scheduled will attract out of County residents to attend and bring money to our County.

“One question I have of this Board is the way events are now being promoted at the Kansas Coliseum with SMG Management, as opposed to how the promotion was done when John Nath was employed there. Mr. Nath worked very hard at attracting many different types of activities, which brought in varied events for all types of different interest groups. Not that any one person did it differently, but I believe John worked really hard at that. I am concerned that the same SMG Management that has been running the promotion for the Kansas Coliseum and Britt Brown will also be the promotional management for the new downtown Arena. I feel there has been a conflict of interest because of that promotion, and please correct me if I’m wrong about that.

“Another question that I would like to ask is, Mr. Chronis explained about expenses and budgets and line items this morning earlier, and I wondered, my second question, do the expenses provided by that budget increase or decrease, include non-operating expenses such as depreciation and any other administrative expenses? My third question is concern of employees at the Coliseum now. When businesses have to decrease expenses in whatever fashion, the employees that are there now, where are they going to go for a job? Will they have a job opening at the new Arena if the Coliseum

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is closed? I appreciate all your time and effort and whatever your Board and Manager's office can do to please keep the Coliseum open. Thank you very much."

**Chairman Parks returned to the Board of County Commissioners Meeting at 10:25 a.m.**

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Jan Laware."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Could I ask a question..."

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

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "...of Debbie. Quick question, same one I asked of the lady earlier."

**Ms. Parks** said, "Yes, sir."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "When you say please keep the Kansas Coliseum open, are you referring to just the pavilions or Britt Brown too?"

**Ms. Parks** said, "Both."

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

**Ms. Parks** said, "I've enjoyed events at both."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Okay, I'll turn it back over to the Chairman."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Okay. At this point, Jan, if we can let somebody that needs to get out of here, and there might be a second one, Chris Kaegi-Stephens. I believe she stepped out and was in the other room for just a little bit, wanted to step up because she had another commitment. Chris Kaegi-Stephens. Well seeing none, go ahead, Jan, if that person is not here. Go ahead."

**Ms. Jan Laware**, 3620 Woodrow Ave., Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am one of those 4-Hers that grew up, started at the Forum and moved on from there. I am a horse owner, have been involved in horses all my life. My daughter is now an adult and has children of her own and she was raised showing horses at the Coliseum. I've also attended things at Britt Brown, including a horse show. I'd like to see it all stay open, but primarily, the pavilion is where I show and what I really support. I appreciate your time and attention. Thank you."

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**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you. Now, Chris Kaegi-Stephens, please approach."

**Ms. Chris Kaegi-Stephens**, 11220 N. Rock Road, Valley Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here on behalf of the pavilion closing that's been proposed and Britt Brown Arena. In my opinion, I think both of them should be kept open. I think that there should be some smart thinking, forward thinking, going on rather than impulse thinking. I tell my writing students all the time, be a proactive writer, not a reactive writer. This is clearly reaction to what the economic situation is that we are living in. You know, I have credentials. I have been a part of the horse world for years, all my life, as I can recall. I am here really representing Kansas Horse Council as the Regional Director for this part of Kansas."

"You know, when I heard about this, my first reaction was oh, my God, shame on you, shame on you for even considering doing this at a time when it is going to be hard enough for people to get by and do the things that need to be done. But with people losing their jobs, we should be looking at ways of increasing the revenue and not shutting things down that are making revenue for us. Do you really want to send this stuff off to the Tulsas? Off to Oklahoma, to Lazy E Arena? Is that the plan, sending it to other states? We should be keeping that money here. These people are coming here because this is a central part of the U.S. They come here because they want to be here. It's easy access. It's set up for horses. There isn't a game plan in place for us going downtown and excuse me, think about this, for oh, I don't know, two seconds. Where are you going to park a six horse trailer downtown? How are you going to move these horses from one place to the other? Think about it, folks. Put some thinking into this. But don't shut this facility down that's being used, being productively used, and with a little bit of marketing savvy, I know that there are people in this city that can help bring this about if you just reach out to them and ask their opinion. What can we do, rather than shutting this down, what can we do as a game plan for making this the best facility, as it was touted to be in '79, the best facility that we can have these kind of shows in?"

"Now, I am not just talking about the pavilions, I am talking about the arena as well. The Lipizanner Stallions, for instance, you can do big events inside that dirt arena that's already existing. Let them have their big concerts downtown. Fine. But keep this facility open and let's try and make it so that it can be a revenue earner and not a burner. Okay? I don't think that it's going to take that much, but you know, you've heard all of it; economic impact, people that pull those big ass trailers around, there's a lot of money that's pushing those babies. And they come here from many states away to participate in events that are held here in Wichita, Kansas. We are proud of that. We have worked long and hard to get those events here. We want to keep them here. Okay? Thank you for your time, I really appreciate it. And to all of you that are here, thank you. Thank you for making this stand."

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**Chairman Parks** said, “Chris, before you get away, I wanted to comment that, I asked about the Lipizanners about a year ago and they are planning on putting dirt on the floor in the new Arena and having the Lipizanners shows there...”

**Ms. Kaegi-Stephens** said, “Okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “...at the new downtown Arena.”

**Ms. Kaegi-Stephens** said, “Okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

**Ms. Kaegi-Stephens** said, “All right. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Cameron Masterson. Cameron Masterson. Seeing Cameron not here, let’s go back, we have a person from Westmoreland, Kansas, before our break, if we can get in Pattie Stalder. Patty Stalder.”

**Ms. Kristi Zukovich**, Director of Communications, said, “She switched.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay. But she left? Okay. Since she was from way out of town, I thought I would give her the opportunity to do that. So, Cameron Masterson is not available. Paul Treadwell. Paul, step to the podium.”

**Mr. Paul Treadwell**, 10101 E. 47th St. S., Derby, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m a Director of American Quarter Horse Association, and also my wife and I own Dandales Western Store. I have seen the budget. I was unbelievably surprised that someone would be so off-centered in their budget request to be talking about closing the pavilions at the Coliseum, when they bring in millions of dollars worth of business, economic activity that is unparalleled in most of the businesses in Wichita. I don’t think it takes a rocket scientist at all to sit down and put the numbers and you’re spending \$580,000 to bring in millions of dollars of imported money to Sedgwick County. That isn’t a good investment, it is. But there’s another part to the issue that’s more than just money. It’s the fiber that we are, who we are in Kansas and in Sedgwick County. We are cowboys and cowgirls at heart. We have been involved in horses so deeply; our grandparents brought their families in covered wagons with horses pulling them. We’ve herded cattle, we’ve plowed our fields, we’ve harvested our grain with horses. And for this community to think about closing facilities that has to do with the horse is ridiculous.

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“The horse is an intricate part of my life and many, many thousands of people in this part of the country. It keeps you centered. We have wars, we have abortions, we have all kinds of crazy things, but us that own horses that we come to at night, it brings us to the center of life. It keeps us from being crazy. And the horse is in the 300 mile radius of Wichita, Kansas, there’s 250,000 horses. Now, those people that have those \$250,000, they’re not doing it particularly for money, they’re doing it for the love of an animal, of a character, of values, of discipline, that brings to this community untold wealth that money cannot explain away. So I sincerely hope that this Commission does not take an integrant part of the horse business away from that heart and soul of people of Sedgwick County. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you for that very moving speech. At this time, I know we have some people in the waiting, but logistically, I would like to take a ten minute break.”

**Ms. Zukovich** said, “Mr. Chairman, Pattie has come in...”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay, from Westmoreland, and you’re wanting to get back to Westmoreland?”

**Ms. Pattie Stalder**, 10360 Lazy Creek Road, Westmoreland, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Well, I can wait if you would like to take a break.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “I think we’re going to take a ten minute break now and just recess right now and return in ten minutes.”

**The Board of County Commissioners recessed at 10:35 a.m. and returned at 10:50 a.m.**

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay, we’re reconvening the public hearing and the next person up is Pattie Stalder. Please state your name and your address.”

**Ms. Stalder** said, “I’m the Administrator for the Kansas Horse Council. Our office is located at 8831 Quail Lane in Manhattan. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Horse Council in regards to keeping, especially the pavilions open, but we’re in favor of having the whole facility maintained open. The Kansas Horse Council is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1992 just to promote the horse industry in Kansas. In 1998, we held our first EquiFest of Kansas here at the Kansas Coliseum, and this February will be our 13th year to have it here. EquiFest of Kansas is a three day horse expo, it’s the largest horse event in the State. In 2005, we did a survey of the people that attended our event and 42 percent of the people that come to Wichita for EquiFest stay at hotels, the other 58 percent stay with friends or family or they’re called ‘day trippers.’ The income that was generated in 2005, from the 17,500 people that we had in attendance, was approximately \$5.3 million. I know that the Paint Horse Congress brings in 500 horses over a five-day period

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every October. Each horse comes with about four or five people attached to it. The dog shows, the boat shows, the livestock shows, bring in immense revenues for this part of the State and for Sedgwick County in particular. I just have to respectfully ask, you know, how the balance of all that money that comes into this area is weighed against the \$580,000 in upkeep for the pavilions? And I am not a financial expert in any way, but it doesn't balance, it doesn't make common sense to me."

**Ms. Stalder** continued, "The Kansas Horse Council and EquiFest of Kansas greatly appreciate the renovations that were made to the facility out there. The money that was spent was well spent. We use all of the space that's available. We have a great rapport with the staff. It's a wonderful place to be. You can always ask for help and somebody will be there to help you, as far as the maintenance people go, the security people. When we are there, we do live radio and TV feeds, so we have constant tourism promotion for this area. Wichita is known for its western heritage as other people have said here this morning. We just believe that EquiFest of Kansas belongs here in Wichita. It's the best place for it. It's good for us and it's good for Wichita. Closing the pavilions, in particular, would be a devastating blow to the Kansas Horse Council because this is our main revenue source. We have a couple thousand members across the State and we provide million dollar liability policies, personal liability policies, for these members. We have given away in the last five or six years over \$40,000 in scholarship funds to young people. All those scholarship funds are raised through the silent auction at EquiFest every year. We lobby in Washington, we lobby with the State Legislators. We provide a lot of services to horse owners across the State. But like I said, our revenue source comes mostly from EquiFest of Kansas. So if we lose this, the horse owners across the State will be impacted. The ripple effect will be huge because we won't be able to provide the services that we do now because we won't be able to afford to.

"I ask you to remember that the plaque that is mounted on the wall at the Kansas Coliseum, when it was built in 1978, says that it was built for agricultural education and cultural benefits for the people of Kansas. Agricultural education and cultural benefits, and that's what EquiFest provides and that's what all these people that are here that are talking today, they come here because that fulfills what that place was built for. And 30 years old or 31, I mean, it's not an ancient building. It's bound to have more life than that. I sincerely request that you find a way to keep the pavilions open, in particular, and the whole facility if possible. But it impacts a lot of peoples' lives. Thank you for having me here today."

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**Chairman Parks** said, "Pattie, we do have a couple comments if you could stay there for a little bit. I had a particular comment that I want to thank you and the Horse Council. I have personal knowledge of what you do and you do a great job."

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "It's something that every horse owner should consider, just if nothing else but for the liability and the signs and things that you provide..."

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "...for safety."

**Ms. Stalder** said, "I Appreciate that."

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

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Yes, Ms. Stalder, a number of events in 2008 were equine related, besides the EquiFest that you've mentioned. Arabians, paint horses and so on, are you affiliated with any of the other shows that are at the Kansas pavilion, besides EquiFest?"

**Ms. Stalder** said, "You mean personally, have I done..."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "No, no, I meant your organization, the Kansas Horse Council."

**Ms. Stalder** said, "We do not have, well a lot of those people are members of the Kansas Horse Council, we do not have a monetary interest in those events."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Okay. Thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "And I would hope that you would work with the Heritage Development Group that we met with last week. Are you already familiar with them?"

**Ms. Stalder** said, "I have had one communication with them so far."

**Chairman Parks** said, "All right. Well, good."

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

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**Chairman Parks** said, "We need to compile that information and get that, and Kansas Horse Council is going to be critical in that process."

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "Okay. Thank you. Next one, we're going to go a little bit out of order again. We are going to have Jane Keliher."

**Ms. Jane Keliher**, 7823 E. Dublin, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a native of Kansas and I'm unemployed. I attend all the flea markets. I have participated as an exhibitor at the flea markets. I might have to start doing that again since I'm unemployed. For a number of years, I lived outside of Kansas and people would always say to me, 'What is there to do in Kansas? Give me a reason that I could say, I need to visit Kansas.' The Coliseum was one thing I could tell them about. There were horse shows, there were flea markets, there were all kinds of venues there. I think it's terribly important for us to keep things in Kansas. This is only 30 some years old but it's already a tradition.

"Why can't we keep more traditions here? The pavilions themselves, not only bring in money, they bring in people that want to know about Kansas. You know, most of the United States only knows we're in the middle. They don't know anything about us, so when we can provide and pull in all these people for horse shows, for "dog shows, for antiques and what happens at the flea market, those people come from all over. There are some vendors there that come from Texas and Oklahoma, monthly, and you're having, the flea market is from September through June. They don't do it in July and August because it's just too hot, but there is revenue there. We pay at the gate to get in, people that want to come pay at the gate. But you know what, that \$2 charge is not very much and in this economy, people can afford that \$2 charge and spend a day, even if they don't buy something, looking at things, visiting with people, getting together, and I didn't know that plaque was on the building, but to me, that is what we are doing by keeping those buildings open out there. You know, it's not very far to go, it doesn't cost that much gas to get there and with this economy, I can't go much further than that. So I want to see the pavilions kept open and I think we can find the money to do that. There are better thinking processes to go through, to figure out why we can't maintain what we already have. Thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you. I'm going to call for Cameron Masterson again real quick to make sure that he wasn't in the other room. Cameron Masterson. Apparently, he got out of order or was in the other room when we called the first time. So I am going to, Mike, thank you for your patience. Step on up to the podium. Mike Patry."

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**Mr. Mike Patry**, 6101 N. 199th St. W., Colwich, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m here representing the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Association in support of Extension. I believe one of our top priorities for the investment of taxpayer dollars should be on educating your citizens in these trying times, anywhere from the youth to homemakers to senior citizens and estate planning, from gardeners to landscapers, to the agricultural side. I think we need to keep spending our money to invest in the knowledge to help our citizens survive. Thank you very much.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “And thank you. Anthony Seiler.”

**Mr. Anthony Seiler**, 13501 W. 85<sup>th</sup> St. N., Valley Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I wanted to first ask if I could invite my good friend, Alexander Crownover, to do a joint presentation with me, would that be alright?”

**Chairman Parks** said, “You have five minutes to talk about the budget, so go ahead.”

**Mr. Seiler** said, “Thank you very much. I’m a 12 year member of the Valley Center 4-H Club. Alex and I have been good friends since we were roommates at a State 4-H event five years ago. Both of us come from families with low incomes that could not have afforded to send us to that event, but because of the funding of the Sedgwick County Extension received, we both were awarded scholarships that helped offset the cost of that conference. Over the course of my 4-H career, County support for Extension has allowed me to attend three national events and serve on two national committees. These experiences have helped me grow into the leader that I am today and have given me the skills that I need to serve as the President of the Kansas 4-H Youth Council this previous year, which is the highest peer-elected board in the State of Kansas.”

**Mr. Alexander Crownover**, 5617 Denise, Bel Aire, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am a 12 year 4-H member and been an Achievers 4-H Club for about eight years now. Anthony was actually the one who convinced me to attend some of the conferences that he has talked about, and eventually run for the State Youth Council. The 4-H program has benefited me in ways I can’t even express. It has given me courage, leadership skills and the skills necessary to face the world. Now, these stories aren’t unique to Anthony and myself. We have both been able to witness our fellow Sedgwick County 4-Hers that have grown and benefited due to the adequate funding of the 4-H Extension.”

**Mr. Seiler** said, “And while 4-H is much more than an agricultural organization, it is at its roots still closely connected to the farm. 4-H is the only organization in Sedgwick County that is dedicated to the training of the future leaders in the agricultural industry. While Sedgwick County is a fairly urban county, agriculture is still the second largest employer. Without the 4-H program, where will youth gain leadership, citizenship and life skills they need to step up and fill the shoes of the current generation of rural leaders?”

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**Mr. Crownover** said, “4-H hasn’t remained agriculturally based either. We’ve begun to expand more in urban areas also. We proudly support our clubs and youth at McConnell Air Force Base and even downtown Park Elementary. I’ll let you know that it’s great to see the positive influence that Anthony and myself have as true role models throughout the County as counselors, spirit enthusiasts and even as good friends, through the roles that we play through the County. Anthony and the other 4-Hers can attest to this, but Sedgwick County truly has one of the best 4-H programs in the State of Kansas. We encourage you to support the restoration of the funding for the Extension Council. Thank you.”

**Mr. Seiler** said, “Thank you for your time.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Commissioner Unruh had a comment, gentlemen.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “I just wanted to ask how old are you fellas?”

**Mr. Seiler** said, “I’m 19.”

**Mr. Crownover** said, “I’m 18 years old.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Okay. I mean, you did a great job. Don’t run for my seat.”

**Mr. Seiler** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay. Alex Crownover, this is, you were on the list, so you were with him, so that was the five minutes you got. Ray Peavey.”

**Mr. Ray Peavey**, 114 Northwind Dr. Valley Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I would like to address you today about the Coliseum and the pavilion. I’m glad the two young men talked before me because they covered some things that I was going to cover on the 4-H because I have been active with youth all of my life. So I am going to bring some things up right quick and try to do it in five minutes. I’m going to try to make it short. Number one, we had the Forum here one time and we had a 4-H building back in the 50’s and the 60’s. That’s too far back for a lot of you people to remember. The Forum went out because there was no parking and cars started coming in

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and being very popular. The 4-H building happened to be located on prime ground that everybody wanted, so the County Commissioners voted to sell it and build us another 4-H building up at 21st and Ridge. Well, the old 4-H building had stock pens, place for horses and everything of that nature. The new one, I don't see any stock pens up there, I don't see anything that you could have any kind of livestock up there. Now it's called an Extension Office, not a 4-H building."

"Now then, I sit out here on I-35 one day with a gentleman who was promoting the Coliseum. He said to me, the first thing, it's very easy to get to; it's still very easy to get to. The next thing he said, it's going to be plain jane. I said it doesn't have to be fancy, does it? He said no. He said there's going to be a pavilion where we'll have horse shows and things like that. I said hey, we finally got what we needed for our 4-H and things like that again. Now it looks to me like you guys are wanting to vote to take it away. I can't understand why you would even want to close the Coliseum at the same time you opened the Arena when you don't know the Arena is going to work. However, I will personally go to things that take place at the Coliseum. I personally will go to the pavilion, which I do many, many times through the year."

"And there is a lot of people like me in Sedgwick County and I want to remind you that you are Sedgwick County people, not Wichita people. You represent Wichita because it's in Sedgwick County. But I want you to remember, there's a lot of people like me that will never see the inside of that Arena. There's a lot of people like me who will go to the pavilion. There's a lot of people who will go to the Coliseum. So I can't see why we're going to get rid of something that we've needed, that we finally got back, and we were without anything for years, something that is so good for Sedgwick County. So I want you to consider me and the other people that live out in Sedgwick County and not in the city limits of Wichita. Of course, the Arena means a lot to the people and the council in Wichita. They want it to succeed. I'm not saying I don't want it to succeed. I'm not saying anything like that. I don't care one way or another. I just can tell you that there's a lot of people like me that will never see the inside."

"However, I will be to the pavilion. I will be in the Coliseum. There's a lot of people, like I'm going to repeat, that will be there. So I think I want you people to give it some consideration to the people who live out in the County, not just Wichita. Give it some consideration what we may want, not just what Wichita wants. You are two different people and I never want to see it changed. I never want to see them come together. I want to see Sedgwick County be one thing, Wichita be another. I thank you for your time. I expressed my views and I hope you give them some consideration. Thank you very much."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Mr. Peavey, before you sit down, are you at liberty to say who that person was that you set out there in that pasture with?"

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**Mr. Peavey** said, "I don't think the gentleman would mind at all. His name was, well, he shouldn't mind. John Hale. He was a County Commissioner."

**Chairman Parks** said, "And his name is on that, one of the bronze plaques out there?"

**Mr. Peavey** said, "I'm not sure if his name is on it or not, but I tell you what, he was the one that was after it."

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

**Mr. Peavey** said, "And I supported him very much because of the simple fact that he was doing something that was going to be much appreciated by me and other people because that is a nice facility. Even though it is very plain jane and not beautiful like the new Arena, I prefer it. I don't need nothing fancy."

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

**Mr. Peavey** said, "Anybody got any questions?"

**Chairman Parks** said, "I don't see any. I don't see anything else. Thank you."

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "We heard that applause from the other rooms, too. Okay. So Kent Ott is not available? Just wanted to make sure and check that Kent Ott has been scratched. Neil Stillwell."

**Mr. Neil Stillwell**, 250 N. Ridgewood, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "First, for those of you who know me, I am a County employee of almost 34 years of service, currently working for the Division of Human Resources. They may be wondering what I am doing here. Let me say that I'm here on a previously approved vacation, not on official business, not as a representative of Human Resources nor any other individual or group. Although I know that many of my concerns may be shared by others, I have not consulted with anyone other than my wife and can only speak for myself. Also, when I first planned this appearance, I had no way of knowing about your Executive Session and I want to make clear that I'm not here to disparage the Manager and I hope nothing I would say would in any way jeopardize his situation. There are those who will say you should be concerned with taxpayers. Well, like other County employees, I too am a taxpayer and am concerned with keeping taxes as low as what would provide quality service. There are others who will say you should be concerned with social services, which might be cut. One of my family members is a consumer of social services, so I'm very aware of the necessity of those

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services. Both taxpayers and social service consumers have people who can and will be addressing these issues. From my concerns, I only have myself to speak up.”

“Two things in the Manager’s proposed 2010 budget are of particular concern to me; changes to the employee health insurance program and the proposed two percent general wage adjustment. As the health insurance, I have been advised that the proposal from PPK (Preferred Plus of Kansas) came in higher than what was budgeted so they had to find ways to cut costs. It’s the way those costs were arrived at that is a concern to me. The cost of name brand formulary prescriptions will be going up from \$20 to \$30 and non-formulary prescriptions will be going up from \$35 to \$50. We’ll be losing the annual eye exam and hospital emergency rooms charges will double from \$100 to \$200. These changes will be in addition to an increase in the bi-weekly premium cost. In my particular case, the change in prescriptions will cost my wife and I \$60 per month.

“As to the eye exam, I was very pleased when they finally agreed to cover this cost and I will be very upset to see that discontinued. Except for those born blind, eyes are standard equipment, not an added extra luxury. It makes no sense not to cover the cost of a periodic exam. They pay for all other body parts, why not eyes? As the cost of eyeglasses, they have never been covered and though they have a durable medical equipment allowance, and I would like to know if eyeglasses aren’t durable medical equipment, then what are they?

“I would like to request the employees be given more options as to how the reductions in cost are to be brought about. Some examples would be limiting flu vaccinations to those considered high risk, increasing the deductible, increasing the co-pay maximum or changing the co-pay maximum from 20 percent to 25 percent. As to the two percent general wage increase, I am frozen above grade and like others who are either frozen above grade or maxed out, I was maxed out prior to being frozen above grade, my pay will actually drop. In my case, by \$856.96 per year, which averages out to \$71.41 per month. It’s really almost more cruel to give someone a raise like you did last year and then take that raise back than it would have been to not have given the raise in the first place. I know that there are ways to either cut the budget or revenues that have not been tapped. Some of them have been suggested previously through channels, others are ones that I would like to suggest new today, some would require State law changes and I know that that is not easy, but unless you put that on your annual wish list, it’s not going to get done.

“One, get the State to pay the full cost of the courts. Right now, the local taxpayers still pay commodities and contractual services. Two, get the State to pick up the cost of the District Attorney’s Office. That’s a State office and there’s no reason they would not be paying that cost. Three, change the way tax foreclosure laws are written so that by the time a property goes to foreclosure, there are only three years of taxes instead of five years of taxes, making it easier for the people to actually pay off the back taxes and avoid us losing money on that sale. Four, cut the

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security department in half and eliminate screening of people coming into the courthouse. That's only a mirage; it doesn't actually provide any real added security."

**Mr. Stillwell** continued, "Five, set up uniform copy cost rules; some departments charge for copies, others don't. Of those that do charge, there's no uniform policy on that. Six, initiate a drive-up window tax. The City of Wichita is currently facing the possibility of smog sanctions and it only makes sense to tax those people who are adding to the pollution. Seven, don't pay unused vacation if a departing employees hasn't passed their probation. Eight, install motion detector light switches in the restrooms. Nine, make use of webcam meetings instead of traveling to meetings. Ten, stop moving offices to rented space. Eleven, charge employees for use of the County gym. And twelve, mandate printing of evaluations on double sided pages."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Your five minutes is up, but I do have a question of you so you won't be charged against that. Can you go back to your paycheck and that, you went through the stuff real fast."

**Mr. Stillwell** said, "That's because I only had five minutes."

**Chairman Parks** said, "I realize that and I appreciate that. But you said something about your paycheck and I would like to ask you to repeat that. Tell me about that. I also would like you to, many of those things that you did have on your list there, we have dealt with, with the State and we agree with that and we have fought with, not fought with the Legislature, we have discussed things with the legislature. We don't like fighting at the State level, but we have adamantly discussed things at the State Legislature about some of those things that you mentioned today. But I would, at the risk of asking an employee and being accused of trying to start a union here, like I suggested, maybe we had SCEBAC (Sedgwick County Employee Benefits Advisory Committee), because I do think some of the best ideas come from the employees. I do appreciate that. If you can tell us about your paycheck and what happened with that, if you care to share about that again?"

**Mr. Stillwell** said, "I would be all the happy to. Thank you."

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

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**Mr. Stillwell** said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Last year, those employees who were at maximum of their, it used to be called range, or those like myself who are frozen above maximum, if your evaluation score merited an increase, you got the increase, but it is not tied, it was not included in your base pay. Therefore, at the end of this year, that goes away. So we’re back to where we were at the end of 2007 on our base pay, so the two percent that we would be seeing as a general wage increase, being less than the three and a fraction percent that I personally received from 2008 to 2009, means I will actually be losing money on a raise. I will be getting less money next year than I am getting this year. Even if I get the full raise, I will be getting less money because they will be taking away the money that I got from 2008 to 2009. I’ll find some way of living. God help me, God will come through for me. I’ll find some way of making a living. But it’s really not fair to give a person a raise one year and then, because, oh woops, you didn’t add that in to the base pay, take that away the next year because your wage pool is less.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay.”

**Mr. Stillwell** said, “Did that...”

**Chairman Parks** said, “I think that answered my question. I don’t see any other questions, so thank you very much. If you would leave a copy of your statement with the Communications so I can have a copy of that, I would like to read that.”

**Mr. Stillwell** said, “I have copies for each of you if you would like.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Oh, okay. Thank you.”

**Mr. Stillwell** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you. Okay, is Ms. Mary Hill..., thank you. Step to the podium, please.”

**Ms. Mary Hill**, 142 S. Forestview St., Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I’m in Karl Peterjohn’s district. I’ve lived all over the City because I’m born, bred and raised here, so to speak.

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I would like to address the proposed half mill levy decrease. Am I correct in the way I stated that? I don't think \$8 is going to help anybody. So if I have a \$200,000 house, I'm going to get \$16. That won't pay my water bill. So if I live in the \$250,000 house, that might get me \$20. It still won't pay my water bill. And why would you want to give back something that you already have in hand? I don't believe you need to provide a decrease in property taxes to help anything. We need to keep that money in the property taxes so that we can keep a budget that is affordable for all of us. If you take it away from me, I'm going to fight with you. If you give it back, I don't want it. Does that make sense?"

**Chairman Parks** said, "That's certainly your opinion."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Okay. One more thing. There was a discussion earlier, I think, by the Treasurer [CFO] who made a statement about using funds from the Arena sales tax to offset expenses for the Coliseum pavilion. Am I correct in that? Okay. We recently did a homeowners' association special assessment, and I've been President of my homeowners' association for more years than I want to remember, but we were told by legal counsel that if the money is raised for a specific project, you cannot use that money for anything but that specific project. So if you have paid for the product that you were buying and you have funds leftover, you must maintain that money in a separate account to take care of maintenance. That's all I have to say. Thank you for your time."

**Chairman Parks** said, "If you will stand by at the podium for just a moment. I have a question from Commissioner Peterjohn."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Yes, sir."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Ms. Hill, you said you're a long time resident on Forestview, I believe?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well, not on Forestview itself, but within the City."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Okay. How long have you lived at that residence?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "At that residence, I've been there since '95."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Since '95?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Yes."

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**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Do you happen to recall what your appraised value on your home today is compared to what it was in 1995?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well, because I fought them last year, its lower. I didn't let them raise my appraised value. I went out and told them, I said, I put my house up for sale and I couldn't sell it for your appraised value so I aint paying your appraised value."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Well that's part of the reason why some folks have been saying they would like to see a reduction in the half mill on the property tax. I wanted make sure you understood that part of the thinking, and I was hoping you could provide a lot of people in your area, and I'm familiar with Forestview, I may have even walked some on the precincts when I was out there. I have been hit with higher appraisals and there's two ways that property taxes can be increased. One is by raising mill levies and the other is through the appraisal process. I was just curious if you could shed any light, in terms of your personal situation, and I very much appreciate the fact that you have been successful in appealing the increased valuation of your property."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well, I have to tell you, I didn't fight it ever before, but last year they made me mad."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "That might be why I'm here today, but I was just wondering if you happen to know the numbers. Thank you very much."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well, I can tell you it's approximately \$243,000."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "And in 1995 it was?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Oh, my. Now you're really taxing my brain. Half that. About half that."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Half that, so..."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Okay. Thank you very much."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Yes."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Okay. Commissioner Welshimer. Just a minute."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Oh, I have a question for you."

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**Chairman Parks** said, "Ma'am."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "When you appealed your taxes, your valuation, and you were successful you say?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Yes."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "How much did you save on your annual tax bill?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well they wanted to raise it the maximum, which was, I think was six percent."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Well there was a certain amount in the bill. Was it \$8, \$18?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Oh no, no, no. It was a whole lot more than that. It was like \$16,000."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Oh. On your tax bill..."

**Ms. Hill** said, "On my tax bill."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "...for your house?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well, on the appraisal value."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "No, I'm talking about how much money did you save in your, from paying, how much money was your tax bill reduced?"

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well, you know, I would have to really go look, Gwen, and if you want to come to Sunday school Sunday, I'll tell you. Sorry. I'm a double ring class. I think you figured that out."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "Oh. Oh, okay."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Okay. I could tell you Sunday, but at the moment, I really can't tell you because I'm in the Goddard School District, you know, we were hit with a heavy bond issue and that's had a big effect on our taxes too."

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

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

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**Chairman Parks** said, "And I guarantee it's not six percent the max because mine was eleven and a quarter last year."

**Ms. Hill** said, "Well..."

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

**Ms. Hill** said, "...I just can't remember."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Kevin Holloway."

**Mr. Kevin Holloway**, 287 N. Willo-Esque, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardener and a past member of the Master Gardener Advisory Board and I'm here today to urge the Commission to reject the Manager's request to trim the Extension budget by a \$100,000 and also to urge them to approve the supplemental budget request made by the Director. I am not going to speak to any specific Extension program. There seems to be folks from most of the departments. We know that there's a number of programs that serve the community and in a myriad of ways. I just want to speak for a moment about wisdom and effectiveness and efficiency.

"These are tough times all over. They're tough times for families; they're tough times for government. Sometimes those are competing and conflicting interests. Obviously, as families, we want to see our taxes lowered. \$18 might not seem like a lot per \$100,000 of appraised valuation, but the government spends \$100,000 here and \$100,000 there, pretty soon is runs into some real money. We can use that money in our home and it will help us. But we're also faced with tough times all over for many individuals in the community and all of us are impacted when there's unemployment and things like that. We are in a position where perhaps we are wanting more services from government than we would normally request. What I would like to suggest to you today is, when it comes to something like Extension, you're getting a lot of bang for the buck. I think the Finance manager [CFO] mentioned earlier, it's not so much a matter of funding as it is a matter of setting priorities."

**Mr. Holloway** continued, "I would suggest to you that there's probably no one program in this County that you get more bang for the buck than you get through Extension. For each and every professional and staff member there, their efforts are leveraged many times over by hundreds of volunteers throughout the programs that put in tens of thousands of hours of service to the program that extends the impact of those that those governmental employees have. Make tens of thousands of individual community contacts per year. It's very cost effective. We leverage the effectiveness of

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our governmental employees many times over. And I just can't think of any one area of government that has more of an impact. There's an old saying that says if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. Our mission at Extension is education and outreach. Give us the money, we can, allow us to teach people to fish for a lifetime and make government as effective as possible. Thank you very much."

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

**Mr. Charles Peaster**, 9453 N. 135th St. W., Sedgwick, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It's mailed out of Sedgwick, I live outside of Bentley. As most of you Commissioners know, I've spoke here before. Today I really wasn't going to speak. I put my name on the list, but I haven't heard yet what I know to be fact. One of the issues is, I guess I'm not supposed to speak."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Charlie, you want to take a break and grab something to drink?"

**Chairman Parks** said, "Yeah, we can have Belinda Ware come up if you want [inaudible]."

**Mr. Peaster** said, "I probably better do that."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Take him a lozenge. I always come prepared for Gwen."

**Mr. Peaster** said, "I'm cutting into my time."

**Commissioner Welshimer** said, "It's clicking."

**Chairman Parks** said, "They're adjusting it."

**Mr. Peaster** said, "You had it in your pocket too long. The paper is stuck to it."

**Chairman Parks** said, "It's kind of warm up here."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "When you sit on a hot seat, that's what you get."

**Mr. Peaster** said, "Thank you. We subsidized AirTran to keep the fares low so people fly in and out of Wichita rather than drive to Kansas City and Oklahoma. There's an O&M (Operations & Maintenance) reserve that won't go in effect until the Arena opens. Some of us know that because we got involved with Sedgwick County about five years ago. At that time, I didn't know we had an Oversight Committee that was being appointed to oversee the building of the Arena. But in the issue that the people voted on, there's a clause in there under 'C' that says there will be a reserve that can be used for the Coliseum complex. That complex includes Weidemann Park, which is in

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poor state of repairs at this time. That goes into effect in January when the Arena is turned over to the County and SMG to manage it. I think part of the problem is staff has a problem with, there's a five-year contract with SMG, some people may know it, some may not, that O&M is to help maintain the Arena or the area once it's in effect.

"The other part of that is, though, that that money can be used, according to the way it was presented to the citizens of Sedgwick County and voted on, to maintain the Coliseum complex. That can't take effect, as I found out yesterday at an Oversight Committee meeting, until the Arena is turned over to the County, once that's done, that money can be used, not only to help with the Arena, but to help with the Coliseum. There's no reason to shut that complex down at all. Now that a lot of people know that, hopefully, I don't think they realize, I'm not sure that there's a lot of the County Commissioners that really want to shut down the complex. It's the staff. I am aware of that, now maybe the rest of the citizens of Sedgwick County are also aware of it. Thank you for your time."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Belinda Ware. Belinda Ware. If your number is 32 or above, if you want to come on into the gallery proper here. If you're in another room, go ahead and do that. We have Belinda Ware that wanted to speak from Wichita Dog Training Club and having not seen her at this time, we will reserve a little time later if she does show up. Mike Martin. Mike Martin."

**Mr. Mike Martin**, 5640 S. 103rd St. E., Derby, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here representing the Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardeners. We are one of the components of the educational services provided by the Extension service to the citizens of Sedgwick County. The proposed budget cut of \$100,000 out of \$181,000 of our operating budget would greatly impact many of our educational programs. I believe that the Sedgwick County Master Gardeners are one of the jewels of this County. Each of us, we're volunteers, receives training that covers 12 to 14 full days of time during the fall, and as a part of that training and our commitment to the program, we agree to give back a minimum of 48 volunteer hours per year to that program. Most of us give a lot more than 48 hours. Another way to look at this is that we have 240 Master Gardeners and I figure that 48 hours per person that they're contributing at least about 12,000 hours of volunteer time to the citizens of this County. I would wager that the monetary value of that is much more than the \$100,000 cut that's being proposed."

**Mr. Martin** continued, "The Master Gardener program began in the United States back in the early 70's as way of augmenting the job that was being done by Extension agents. There was a boom of gardening and horticultural interests in information on the part of the public and agents could not handle all of this, and therefore, came the Master Gardener program. We are all volunteers and we supplement the role that the horticulture agents play in our community. In doing so, we provide a lot of education and outreach to the community and I think what we do is that we empower members of the community to do for themselves, as one of my former speakers said a few minutes

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ago. I would like to take a few moments here just to reiterate some of the things that we do in Sedgwick County, and these are just some of the things.

“In this troubled economy, we’ve provided vegetable gardening seminars to 250 people. We’ve demonstrated raised bed vegetable gardening at the Wichita Garden Show. We have installed a family of four vegetable gardening in our demonstration gardening at 21st and Ridge. In 2001, we started a Plant a Row for the Hungry. Last year, Plant a Row for the Hungry produced 47,800 pounds of fresh produce for the Kansas Food Bank. We promote youth entrepreneurship by sponsoring a lawn mower safety clinic to over 120 youths this last year. We take programs into the schools that supplement their curriculum. We have demonstration plantings at the Extension Center, and these are planted and maintained by Extension Master Gardeners and these show use of low-water plants, disease resistant plants, environmentally adapted species for our region and so on. We operate a hotline and diagnostic service for the public. Our horticultural therapy workshop has reached 80 area professionals in the last three years. We have taught a series of gardening classes that reached 261 people. Our garden tour, with numerous educational components, reached 1,300 visitors this year. If you attended the Sedgwick County Fair this year, you may have seen our installed landscape with labeled plants as part of that area. As you can see, the citizens get a lot of bang for their buck from our program and we are only one of the services provided by Sedgwick County Extension. Whether citizens need food on the table or a serene garden in their own backyard, we’re there for them and we hope that you’ll be there for us. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “And thank you, and thank you for being in the program with the Kansas Food Bank.”

**Mr. Martin** said, “Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “That’s a wonderful asset to an alternative for taxation to be used for the Food Bank and those volunteers stepping up are to be commended. Thank you.”

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

**Chairman Parks** said, “Any other comments? Jane Neave.”

**Ms. Jane Neave**, 1234 N. Amidon, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am a board member of the Wichita Dog Training Club. I do oppose closing the pavilions at the Kansas Coliseum. Basically, a lot of the feelings that I have about the closing have already been stated by other people, so my statement should be relatively brief. But I did want to say that the Wichita Dog Training Club holds three dog agility shows at the Kansas Coliseum every year. One of those is associated with the Sunflower Cluster Dog Show that was mentioned with our first speaker this

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morning. People come from all over the country to attend our shows and, of course, there is the economic impact of those people staying here and shopping here. One of things, also, is that we do not charge the public entrance to our shows. It is something that they can come and spend time doing for free and get an opportunity to bring their children to and have some sort of entertainment in this particular economic climate.

“Many of the people this morning have talked about the economic impact of their event or their organization. And one of the things that I wanted to just reiterate is that the County’s loss from the pavilions is apparently approximately \$600,000 a year. But it appears that just one weekend of an event, the economic impact from that would cover that loss. So I think that one of the things that the County needs to think about is not just how it impacts the County’s budget, this recommendation, but how it impacts the County. I don’t think that there has been the kind of forethought and consideration put into this recommendation, and the economic impact that it will have, that should have been. Finally, my recommendation for what it’s worth, is that the half mill property tax stay in place and that the current County services remain the same. Thank you very much for your time.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Jane, if you’ll stand by a little bit. Commissioner Peterjohn.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Yes. I would like to ask you a question. In 2008, there were listed two Wichita Dog Club agility trials, one in January and one in November, were there any other events at the pavilion buildings last year, besides those two events, that the Wichita Dog Training Club was involved in?”

**Ms. Neave** said, “Yes. We also had one in November.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Was that an agility?”

**Ms. Neave** said, “Yes, that was an agility trial. That was a brand new for us.”

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

**Ms. Neave** said, “And it was only a two day trial. But this coming year, we are having it in association with the Golden Retriever Club and we have turned it into a three day event.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Okay. I was just trying to understand because the only two events, and I wasn’t sure there was one listed here as Yappy Days, and I thought maybe that’s...”

**Ms. Neave** said, “No, we’re not associated with Yappy Days.”

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

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**Ms. Neave** said, "But, no, we had it in November of last year and it was our very first time. We hope to continue that."

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

**Ms. Neave** said, "You're welcome. Thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you. Someone that I usually would have addressed earlier, if I would have known that they were in the audience, we always like to acknowledge our other elected officials, Oletha Faust-Goudeau, a State Senator from the 29th District, would like to speak. Please go to the podium."

**Ms. Oletha Faust-Goudeau**, Kansas State Senator, 29th District, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I was prepared to say good morning, but it is afternoon now, so good afternoon to you, Commissioners, Chairman Parks, County Manager Buchanan. I am Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Senator representing the 29th Senatorial District. I live at 4158 Regents Lane, Wichita, Kansas, and I am here today on behalf of several phone calls I received, emails and personal conversations from constituents in my district and those who live outside of my district in opposition of closing the Kansas Coliseum and the pavilions. I would like to express my personal support with continued operation of the facility. Also, on a personal note, I would hope that the Commission would reconsider your decision on the funding for the Sedgwick County Extension Center, especially in the area of the services that are provided for people, senior citizens. I have visited the Extension Center on several occasions and I do see where those programs are desperately needed and are beneficial to the individuals here in Sedgwick County. I would also like to say I commend you for what you do and I know that you were facing a tough decision here today addressing the budget as we, the Kansas Legislature, just recently dealt with our State budget."

"So I just would, in closing, I would ask you to consider everything that was stated here today. I have, as I was sharing with Commissioner Dave Unruh and Commissioner Gwen Welshimer, that I had recently been travelling with Leadership Kansas in traveling throughout the State of Kansas, I see how important it is to consider rural and urban issues as we dealt with the decisions that we make for the citizens here in the State of Kansas. Again, thank you so much for the time and I will be leaving, but I just wanted to stay and echo and speak in support of the comments that were made here today. Thank you, Commissioners."

**Chairman Parks** said, "If you would stand in for just a few minutes, I know there are a couple of questions. We have this opportunity in an off-legislative time, sitting legislative time, to ask you some questions now."

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**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, "Sure."

**Chairman Parks** said, "When you said your constituents had contacted you about the Kansas Coliseum and pavilions..."

**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, "Correct."

**Chairman Parks** said, "...talking about the Kansas Coliseum, are they meaning Britt Brown Arena?"

**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, "Yes..."

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

**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, "...to keep that facility operating and then, of course, the pavilions you've heard today. That is correct."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Just wanted to clear that up. Commissioner Peterjohn."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Yes. Senator, it's a privilege to be on the other side of the fence since I have testified in front of legislative committees many times in the past, but I was interested, in terms of a couple of your comments, and I'll begin with concerning keeping Britt Brown Arena open, if there was any anything, in terms of specific events that are there now that won't be able to go to the downtown Arena that the people you talked with were concerned about?"

**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, "Well, one of the gentlemen that spoke earlier that said that he probably would not visit or attend any of the events at the downtown Arena, I am concerned about those individuals that live in the rural areas, or maybe senior citizens who may not visit the downtown Arena that might want to visit the Coliseum. I also remember taking my own children to the Kansas Coliseum for the circus and those types of events. I think that some of those were the issues that were expressed to me by the constituents that contacted me."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Second question, switching topics a little bit to the Extension Office, my understanding is the State cut some of their funding to Kansas State and through that to the Extension Office and it went across the State, is there any insight you can provide, in terms of what the Legislature, how they prioritized it and how they reached that decision?"

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**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, “Well, you know a lot of the decisions are being made now, and the Kansas Legislature, we are not officially in session. I know that from some information I have received with our new Governor Mark Parkinson, some of those decisions are still in private conversations right now, but I do know that we are trying to prevent cutting any of the programs from our social service programs that do assist our senior citizens and people with disabilities in that area. So, nothing I can share with you in concrete right now, but I know those decisions are being discussed and I am hopeful that we won’t cut those services and try to keep intact what we do have right now, Commissioner.”

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

**Chairman Parks** said, “Thank you.”

**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, “Thank you so much.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Don’t see any further questions.”

**Ms. Faust-Goudeau** said, “Okay. Alright, thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Alright. Thank you. Little bit of housekeeping, somebody had inquired apparently about the cafeteria. There is a cafeteria in the basement of this building. I just thought I would throw that in at this time. Benny Boman.”

**Mr. Benny Boman**, 1914 Euclid, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, “My thoughts on the closing of the Britt Brown, I know that it’s going to be in competition with the new Arena, but the pavilion, I think most of the events that go into that is more agricultural than the Britt Brown Arena. I don’t think many agricultural events are going to fit in the downtown Arena very well. I might add, too, I came from an agricultural background and I know that it does need a place for 4-H, livestock and so forth for them for their shows and so on. We subsidized, of course like somebody mentioned, the airlines, we also, around the City of Wichita, we subsidize golf courses and everything else; which I don’t see a lot of benefit of. But I think that even though I don’t own a horse or don’t show a dog, but I still believe that the pavilion needs to be kept open, it might save \$3 or \$4 for my wife to spend on the grandkids, but it would be a better benefit to the whole community if we keep the pavilion open.

“Also, I think that if you close down the Britt Brown Arena, there’s going to be some events that’s going to be left out in the cold because of the downtown Arena being too expensive for them to

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show or rather do anything there, so what I'm trying to say is that some of the things that would go into Britt Brown Arena, if its open, would probably wind up going to the pavilion. When we voted on this, they even pointed out how that, and Mr. Norton even told me personally, that they would probably tear down the Britt Brown Arena, but he didn't say anything about closing down the pavilion. The pavilion is, I never imagined that they would close it down. Anyway, I hope that the pavilion could be kept open. Thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Thank you. Mr. Boman, you said you didn't own a horse or a dog, but I believe I have seen you at the largest auto swap meet in about 20 states, haven't I, at the [Wichita] A's [Model A Ford Club] in February out at the pavilions?"

**Mr. Boman** said, "It's possible, yes."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Tammy Wise."

**Ms. Tammy Wise**, 2107 N. Sunrise Ave., Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I really hate public speaking, so bear with me. I am a member of the Hutch Kennel Club, so I do exhibit my dogs at dog shows in this region. I have also been to states on the east coast to show them. I can tell you that the Coliseum pavilions are one of the best places I have ever been in this country to show a dog. Parking is convenient. To give you an idea, perhaps if you were thinking about using the downtown Arena, it would be equated to perhaps you would take ten or twelve toddlers with you and half of your household, where would you rather unload it, the pavilions or the downtown Arena? Its parking is definitely an issue. Traffic, as well, downtown at the Arena is going to be a problem."

**Ms. Wise** continued, "I also go to the flea market every month. There's also swap meets, various shows and events; all of these impact our retail sales. I'm a small business owner and I see some of my sales will increase when the events come to town. These events are recreational for people, there is no cost involved in a lot of them, educational and like I said, they do bring revenue in. These are pretty hard economic times for everyone and I like the idea of having my property tax being reduced. I think it would be great. However, it's not going to be enough to really help me balance my budget. So I think right now, with what I'm hearing here today and how people are really hurting because of some of these cuts, I would really like to see the pavilions stay. I would like to see the Extension services stay and perhaps maybe there could be a few less employee cuts as well. Thank you."

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

**Ms. Pat Swearingen**, 14305 E. Pawnee, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to tell you this makes me nervous, so if I stop and gasp for air, you'll know why. I bought my first

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horse with my very first teaching paycheck 39 years ago, before I owned a refrigerator even. I have been going to and showing at the Coliseum since the early 1980's. The main thing that I wanted to say to you today is that I think the County and the City could realize more profit from the pavilion facilities and the things that go on there if they could somehow find a way to get behind them and let the City and its citizens know about it. I know when I helped with the Wichita Area Quarter Horse shows, I had a really hard time getting anybody to even take note and put it anywhere. When it did show up, it would be some really small something somewhere. We do have three of the very nicest buildings in that pavilion area.

“If you go to cities like Oklahoma City where they have the World Quarter Horse Show or Tulsa where they have many shows that lots of Kansans go to or Fort Worth or Las Vegas where they bid for the Youth World Quarter Horse Show, these cities, everywhere you turn, you see billboards that advertise it, it's on the front of their TV guides. You turn on their radio or the television and it's talking about it. These cities, they bid for the shows, they build new buildings to keep them and they brag about how much money comes in because of it. When you go to the world show and an award is presented, it will be a city commissioner or a mayor or somebody like that giving a lot of awards. I think it would probably behoove the quarter horse people, or whoever is doing a show, to invite you guys to come and present some of our things so you would see just how much everybody loves that facility out there. That's the big thing I wanted to say. I had friends that kept giving me little tidbits to say.

“I wanted to remind you that one horse brings four people, that when the Kansas Quarter Horse Association puts on its show in the fall for charity [Hope in the Heartland], which happens the first weekend in October, they do so giving all of their money to equestrians with disabilities. We have several different places around the State that receive the money and last year it was about \$30,000. Also, a friend of mine who just went to a horse show in Tulsa wrote down some figures. For six days there they spent, this is for two people, \$300 on meals, lodging of \$360 and fuel for \$75. They gave out \$735 dollars to Oklahoma rather than have it stay here. And this is one of the very nicest places to show a horse. Thank you very much.”

**Chairman Parks** “And thank you. We're at the end of the list that I have. Is anybody that did not get signed on the list or anybody that's in another room that didn't get called, please come forward now. I'll give them a few minutes to get from the overflow room, if there's anybody in the overflow room presently. Okay, okay. We've had a lot of testimony here today. I think that not only our constituents, but people from outside, have given us some direction to go here. Anything that any one of the Commissioners would like to say at this point? I planned on breaking about 12:10 for lunch. There are other things on our Agenda today besides this, but if we want to get into a discussion, let's please have that now. Seeing no other discussion, I will say some things that I had

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jotted down. Before, we had directed management to give some different priorities on employment raises, and what not, and those didn't come to us exactly like we had shaken out. We had the people here speak today about the pavilions, the Extension, the other things that are in the budget. Those are variables. Those, I think, should dictate and affect our decisions on the budget, when we talked to the management; we need to make sure that that is a direction that they go.

“To say a few things about Weidemann Park and the Britt Brown Arena and the pavilions, we were promised faithfully from the management that within the last two years, from the podium, that Weidemann Park would be improved. We were promised by management, from the podium, that the showers would be installed in the pavilion area that had been taken out for the horse people. That's just a couple of things that I heard again today here that the people were saying that were needed at that facility to make it a marketable facility.

“I was at an Agri-Business group with, in fact Commissioner Unruh was there also, about a year ago at a biodiesel meeting where we had somebody there from the Agri-Business group and they were saying that aircraft was number one for dollars rolling around in your community and the dollars that stay there. There's another 'A' out there called agriculture, and that stays in your community too and that's number two. I was kind of surprised to hear that, but when you delve into it and look into the numbers, that is definitely there. When we sit down for a meal, like I plan on breaking for here in just a little bit, but when we sit down for a meal, let's consider where that came from and where we'd be without the agricultural community.”

**Chairman Parks** continued, “Also, from the education and recreation standpoint, consider where your sons and daughters and grandkids, where we want them to have their recreation. Do we want to have them at the skateboard park underneath the overpass or do we want them to be at the pavilions and Kansas Coliseum or other areas that Extension has provided for their entertainment, education and recreation. We've heard about the education in all these venues. I guess I'm going to stop at that point because I didn't realize there was another couple of Commissioners that were wanting to speak on this, and it wouldn't be good for me to say what I needed to, to get into this at this time. Commissioner Unruh.”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to express appreciation for everyone who showed up today and expressed their viewpoint. We have not only heard from you now, in person, but probably most of you we've heard by email, so we're getting the message. I appreciate that you've taken the energy and the effort to do that. Through this process, since the Manager's recommended budget, I would want to say that it's up to us to decide what we want to do. The Manager makes the recommendation, I think as much as he can on input that he's received from us, and tries to find some happy medium. And then after we hear that, we have to decide what we want to do. Somehow we have got to figure out between us where we've got three folks, at least, who are kind of singing the same song, so that we can advance this budget. I think, perhaps now

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might be as good a time to tell you what I'm thinking at this point. We do have another open meeting, I think, or a public hearing on the budget, and I'm a person who wants to kind of look at things and I'm willing to change my mind as we go forward.

"But at this point in time, it seems to me like there's been quite a bit of effort to scrub our budget and come up with some reductions that are administrative in ways that we can find savings within the budget that is, near as I can tell, might amount to as much as a quarter a mill, thereabouts. My numbers may not be exactly accurate, but in order to find some ground to move forward, I would be happy, especially in light of some of the testimony we've had today, and in light of some of the emails we've received, I would be happy with achieving a quarter mill reduction and keeping the pavilions in operation and keeping the Extension. And we've had some comment about what we're going to do with our salary pool, I would be willing to accept the Manager's recommendation on a two percent increase for all employees, I know we've had a lot of discussion both ways, and I would suggest, as been talked about yesterday, that perhaps Commissioners want to forgo any salary increase, and I'd be supportive of that. But I do think we ought to reward our employees, I think that we can have a quarter mill reduction, and I think that we can also include the Extension services and the pavilions, and probably, we'll need to have Mr. Miller or somebody work the numbers a little bit, but probably also include what we had considered reducing for Exploration Place and the Zoo, but I'm a little less certain about that. At any rate, that's kind of what, at this point, after this discussion, what I think where I am in my position. And for right now, Mr. Chair, that's all I have."

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

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate getting a chance to hear from all the citizens out there and I'll also look forward to hearing the comments next week. My main point that I wanted to speak, at this juncture, was to direct a question to staff, and specifically to the County Counselor, concerning Britt Brown Arena and where things are, because we had a number of people testify today concerning the Britt Brown Arena. My understanding is that there had been a lawsuit involving the County concerning the Britt Brown Arena and the Americans with Disabilities Act and I was interested in understanding, clearly, exactly what the County can and cannot do based upon the agreement that was made following that lawsuit, which I think was a number of years ago, after the downtown Arena opens."

**Ms. Jennifer Magana**, Deputy County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I will get that information for you after I confirm, I am not aware of anything in the lawsuit that would restrict us going forward with any direction one way or the other. Through the lawsuit and the settlement, the Resolution of that, I am just not aware of anything that would..."

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**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Is there anything that would limit the County's ability to utilize the Britt Brown Arena? Mr. Manager, you look like you're itching to say something."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Mr. Manager, go ahead."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "And I'll..."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Go ahead, Mr. Manager."

**Mr. Buchanan**, County Manager, said, "You received a letter, and I am not so sure that Jennifer Magana was copied that letter, Rich Euson was, from Dave Calvert who brought the original lawsuit forward. Because of the discussion about the Britt Brown Arena, he reminded us in that letter that there were needed improvements to Britt Brown Arena to comply with the Americans for Disability Act. And he rattled his sword indicating if we were going to proceed to keep it open, he expected those repairs to be made to accommodate folks with disabilities. As a matter of fact, that's what the County agreed to some years ago. So we are not restricted about how we can use it. If it remains open, we need to do the necessary repairs to the Britt Brown Arena to accommodate those who have disabilities. Such things as lavatories, the incline seating, handrails, various items."

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, "Do you have a recollection, in terms of what sort of a price tag was attached to that?"

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "It was in excess of several million dollars."

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

**Mr. Buchanan** said, "That's as close as I can get it."

**Chairman Parks** said, "There's also, if I may interject at this point, there's also a case that was held with the State Fairgrounds that I would like a little bit of background on, maybe from our Legal department, along that line. The fairgrounds was also threatened to be sued and they won their Federal District Court in Denver case on that. If the Legislator was here, maybe she could help us on that a little bit, but in any event, that is something that I would certainly want the information as soon as I can get that to know if that is something that is parallel with Britt Brown or if it's something that is a different situation. Seeing no other comments, we can always go up on these things. We can always go down on the budget once we set it. I think it would be prudent for us hearing what we've heard here today to publish the same mill levy budget that we had last year, knowing that we can attack and to go down on the budget and be able to handpick the things from our bench up here to make those decisions, to see what we want to cut out of that to achieve a reduction in the mill levy."

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### MOTION

Chairman Parks moved to authorize the publication of a notice of public hearing regarding the 2010 Sedgwick County budget, the publication shall include a total budget of \$383,446,078 and an Ad Valorem property tax levy \$129,138,058 which is approximately equivalent to 30.377 mills, subject to review and technical adjustments.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

**Chairman Parks** said, "Have a motion and a second, have further discussion. Commissioner Norton."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "I think we need to close the public hearing first, we have not done that, so the motion can stand, obviously, but I think we need to take that action and then we can move forward, and then I do have some other comments."

**Chairman Parks** said, "The public hearing is closed, but you all can remain and watch us [inaudible] these other things."

**Commissioner Norton** said, "Just some comments, and I am okay with moving ahead with that. We talked about that a little bit yesterday as to where we wanted to land on the last up day, and that's just setting a mill levy that we can't surpass, but we can certainly trim down from that, depending on what the decisions are of the Commission. I just wanted to talk about two issues, and that's the pavilions and the Extension Center. Over the years, I've been a huge supporter of the Extension Center and what we do out at Ridge Road and I will continue to be. I will not probably support any reduction in the Extension Center budget. I would urge us to find some way to find that money in the budget, I think it's there. It may mean that we're not going to reduce the mill levy as much, but I have to tell you I've heard from a host of citizens personally, by email and in this room today, and it seems to me that keeping good services and keeping facilities open and keeping employees delivering services, even in these tough economic times, is what more people would like in our community than what a little tax reduction will do for just this one segment of government. When we look at our tax bill, it is school districts and cemetery districts and library districts and municipalities and the State and the feds, and that makes up our tax burden.

"But all these things we talked about for this money is in our community. It's the pavilions, it's the Extension Center, it's Exploration Place, it's the Zoo and it's our own employees that live here. I've heard pretty loud and clear that a huge, any kind of a tax reduction that is going to eliminate facilities, eliminate services that people depend on, particularly in economic times when you think

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about the aged, children, people with disabilities, people with more mental health problems because they are having financial difficulties, the Health Department that's going to deliver a lot more services to the individuals out of work that fall out of healthcare and COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) plans, I think it's just prudent that we are going to have to work hard on this budget, try to get some mill levy reduction, just because, I think, we want to save where we can, but I'm not going to be supportive of eliminating any money from the Extension Center. I certainly am not going to support doing away with the pavilions and their use. I think they serve a huge purpose.

“And the truth is, government has never made money. We don't make it on Lake Afton, Sedgwick County Park, Police, Fire, 911, EMS (Emergency Medical Services), Mental Health Services, that's not governments' role. Our role is to serve the people, and I think I've heard loud and clear that the pavilions serve a big segment of our society. Now, the pavilions aren't for everybody. Not everybody has a horse, likes a dog, whatever. Some people like science, and that's Exploration Place. Some people like Africa and the plains and lions and tigers and bears. They go to the Zoo. Other people like Old Town and they go and eat and drink.”

**Commissioner Norton** continued, “There is a lot of diversity in our community, and I think it's our role to understand our community, all segments of it, and deliver the services that people expect government to do. Now, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be prudent users of the taxpayers' money. But I think I have heard loud and clear that for what little bit of savings that we might get out of some kind of a mill levy reduction at a certain level, it is not worth the unintended consequences that the citizens will suffer in our community. So just a statement to start us off, because we've still got some work to do on the budget. That's all I have.”

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

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the last statement of Commissioner Norton, that we have a lot of work to do with the budget, and as a Commissioner and a new Commissioner, I, who has a background in focusing on tax issues, one of the challenges that exists with property tax is the fact that the appraisal on the one side and the mill levy on the other make for an increase. Commissioner Norton was absolutely correct that you've got a number, we've got the State, the City, County, school districts, and if you are not in the City, the townships, are on everybody's' property tax bills and the County can't bear the whole load alone. I am very, very concerned about the fact that we are looking at a continued look at property tax increase at a time when we've got people who've lost their jobs and who are struggling economically. The idea of even a modest mill levy reduction may not offset completely the appraisal increases that are occurring, not on people who are building new property, because that does need to go on the tax

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rolls, but people who have lived in their homes for a long time, and sometimes now if they've lived there long enough, may have a tax bill that's more expensive and more costly to them on a monthly basis than what their original house payments were. And that's one of the problems that exists out there, because I think people will be unpleasantly surprised when they get their next property tax statements. Most of the folks in Sedgwick County, I believe, will be seeing a significant increase in that tax levy. For a lot of people who are hurting now, it's going to hurt even worse.

"Having said that, I do really appreciate all the citizens who came out to speak and provide their perspective and how they see the County, County spending in general and the area that's of most interest to them, and looking at this process from the inside, I will be continuing to work to try to maximize and squeeze every County nickel to get the biggest bang for the buck. I am disappointed that the motion isn't more strongly focused, because I think we could still do that half mill reduction, and I think it is necessary, probably won't offset other increases that are out there, but it would send a message, and I think it is a message not only for the County government, but within Sedgwick County, but it's a message to the other elected officials, because when we look at the problems of the Extension Office, part of their funding situation is because changes are occurring at other levels of government, and it is impacting them."

"And where do they come to speak out and have the best opportunity to get their message heard? Well it's here at the County level. And I really think it is important that the folks who were here on this, not only have you reached your County Commissioners, in terms of getting the message out, but have you talked to your Legislators? Have you sent a letter to the Governor and any other level of government that is involved in funding those programs? Just a suggestion. Thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "And I do think we will be working towards the half mill, quarter mill, maybe even a mill and a half that we can work down. If we can delve into this budget and get those items down that we have determined that may be unnecessary or some other thing that is out there that has not been on the radar like these other things have, I, too, am for. I set out to start this budget process with the goal of a mill and a half and we will be down on that, I'm sure. I'm sure that this will not pass as stated, but we have to comply with the State law, which brings me to another item. I want to ask Legal if I should make this motion over again outside of the public hearing."

**Ms. Magana** said, "We just need to have the Clerk call Item D, Mr. Chairman..."

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

**Ms. Magana** said, "...and then you can make the motion again..."

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

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**Ms. Magana** said, "...to make it clear for the minutes. Thank you."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Go ahead, call the item."

- D. AUTHORIZE THE PUBLICATION OF THE MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX LEVY TO FUND THE 2010 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET AND SET THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION DATE ON THE 2010 BUDGET FOR AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2009.**

**MOTION**

Chairman Parks moved to authorize the publication of a notice of public hearing regarding the Sedgwick County 2010 budget. That the publication shall include a total budget of \$383,446,078 and an Ad Valorem property tax levy of \$129,138,058, which is approximately equivalent to 30.377 mills subject to the review and technical adjustments.

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

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**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Mr. Chairman, as a matter of procedure, I wanted to ask if we were going to have a presentation by David Miller, we may have already put the vote in front of the presentation, but I really wanted to have that occur, and I don’t know where we stand...”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Well...”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “...from a procedure point of view, because you said you wanted to break for lunch.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Yes. We do need to break for lunch, and I believe it’s the consensus that we looked at right at an hour, but maybe back that off to about 55 minutes to recess and return at 1:15 p.m. We do have a cafeteria in the basement of this building. We are in recess.”

**The Board of County Commissioners recessed for lunch at 12:22 p.m. and returned at 1:24 p.m.**

**Chairman Parks** said, “Back in session. Clerk, call the next item.”

### **E. DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES.**

#### **1. AMENDMENTS (2) TO CONTRACTS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WITH BREAKTHROUGH CLUB OF SEDGWICK COUNTY AND MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS.**

**Ms. Marilyn Cook**, Executive Director, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, “These amendments extend the terms of the grant contracts with the Mental Health Association and Breakthrough Club through December 31 of this year. This extension will allow COMCARE some additional time to evaluate the agreements to determine what adjustments we’re going to need to make based on final numbers that we get from the State in our State contracts because a lot of the services provided through here comes from our State contracts. We are recommending that you approve the amendments and authorize the Chairman to sign them.”

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the amendments and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**2. AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS.**

**Ms. Cook** said, "Commissioners, this is a very longstanding renewal of an agreement that we've had with Johnson County for just a number of years. The money from this agreement partially funds a MSW (Masters of Social Work) position in our outpatient services who works with consumers who are either completely deaf or hard of hearing. We recommend that you approve this agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign."

**Chairman Parks** said, "What's the will of the Board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Welshimer moved to approve the amendments and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

**Chairman Parks** said, "We have a motion and a second, little bit of discussion. Kind of tell us, in a nutshell, what we're talking about with Johnson County."

**Ms. Cook** said, "Well, it goes back, I've been with the County 16 years and it preceded me here. But apparently the State gave Johnson County some money to distribute throughout the State for deaf and hard of hearing services. They had a specialist that specialized in working with deaf and hard of hearing at that point and they just continued to do it. I think Wichita and Johnson County are the only two places in the State that get any portion of this money. So, it's just been

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ongoing.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay. So it’s nothing that we’re getting a service and sharing that with Johnson County or anything?”

**Ms. Cook** said, “No. They get the whole amount of money, they give us partial funding on that to provide those services.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay. Seeing no further discussion, call the vote.”

**VOTE**

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

**Ms. Cook** said, “Thank you.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Mr. Chairman, can I ask a procedural question?”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Yes.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “When we left the budget we had done the general fund but we hadn’t done the Fire District, was the Fire District part of that? Where do we stand on that procedurally?”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Well, I was going to pick that up at the Fire District Agenda.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “There is a Fire District Agenda? Okay. Thank you very much. Sorry.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Okay.”

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- F. REQUEST APPROVAL OF AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH POWER CDC; TO PERFORM ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM. ELIGIBLE NSP ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ESTABLISHING FINANCING MECHANISMS, PURCHASING AND REHABILITATING FORECLOSED UPON HOMES, PURCHASING HOMES AND/OR VACANT PROPERTIES IN ORDER TO REDEVELOP SUCH PROPERTIES FOR SALE TO FINANCIALLY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES, AND DEMOLISHING BLIGHTED STRUCTURES.**

**Ms. Dorsha Kirksey**, Director of Housing, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Last week you approved several items for the NSP program, or the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, two contracts with Community Housing Services and Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services and then an agreement with SCKEDD (South Central Kansas Economic Development District) to administer the grant. This week, as promised, we have a third contract for Power CDC (Community Development Corporation), which is another non-profit organization that will also be engaging in eligible NSP activities. We ask that you would approve this affiliation agreement and authorize the Chair to sign, and I’d be glad to answer any questions you may have.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “What’s the will of the Board?”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the affiliation agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

**Chairman Parks** said, “We have a motion and a second, I do have an item I want to say that I did meet with some of those stakeholders in CDC yesterday and they explained some things to me about this and what they want to do...”

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**Ms. Kirksey** said, “Okay.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “...and there was only one thing that I had a problem with this whole contract and I guess it goes back to defining blight but they assured me that there was going to be no one that was displaced from their house due to a blighted area.”

**Ms. Kirksey** said, “Correct. We will only deal with vacant properties.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Yeah. And the determination of blight, I guess, I’d like to see a definition in future contracts that we have with that, but other than that, I’m going to be supportive.”

**Ms. Kirksey** said, “Okay. Thank you.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “Seeing no further discussion, call the vote.”

**VOTE**

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

**Ms. Kirksey** said, “Thank you.”

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

**G. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS’ REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 16, 2009.**

**Ms. Iris Baker**, Director of Purchasing, greeted the Commissioners and said, “The meeting of July 16 results in three items for consideration. First item;

**1. CONTRACT PRICING FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT – PUBLIC SAFETY & VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS  
FUNDING – VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

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“Recommendation is to accept the proposals from EF Johnson and Motorola and establish contract pricing for five years. Item 2;

**2.           RIP RAP – PUBLIC WORKS**  
**FUNDING – R264 IMPROVE DRAINAGE RIGHT OF WAY 2009**

“Recommendation is to accept the low bids for Item 1 from Cornejo Materials, Inc. in the amount of \$26,220 and for Item 2 from J.L. Unruh, LLC in the amount of \$42,960 and establish contract pricing for one year with two one-year options to renew. Item 3;

**3.           STAGE/RISERS SYSTEM FOR INTRUST BANK ARENA – FACILITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**FUNDING – ARENA SALES TAX**

“Recommendation is to accept the low responsible bid from StageRight Corporation in the amount of \$225,420.04. Be happy to answer any questions and I recommend approval of these items.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “What’s the will of the Board?”

**Commissioner Unruh** said, “Mr. Chairman, just a matter of explanation, I just want to state for the record, I assume everybody might know that, but J.L. Unruh, I have no relationship or connection to that. I’m sure he’s a wonderful person.”

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

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “Iris, could you provide a little extra detail concerning the first item with ‘accept the proposals from both Johnson and Motorola’ because they are a bit different and this is the first one I’ve seen where we’re accepting both companies...”

**Ms. Baker** said, “Multiple.”

**Commissioner Peterjohn** said, “...the way I’m reading it.”

**Ms. Baker** said, “Yes and the rationale for doing it this way are both of these providers, Motorola and EF Johnson, have product that is compatible to our current emergency communications system and are working on digital enhancements for the future. So currently, these are the only two products that are available in the market that meets all of the needs. We are currently going through what’s called a re-banding project, which is part of a federal initiative with Sprint Nextel that is going to affect radios in the entire community, not just Sedgwick County, but in varying

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jurisdictions around the community. In the next few years, we will also be facing an initiative towards digital, which would also affect this contract. So what we're attempting to do is firm up pricing on the various products that will fall under the communications network and then the contracts will allow the jurisdictions to buy off those contracts and to help them plan and determine their needs and budget for the future, and that's why we're asking for five years."

**Ms. Baker** continued, "It's estimated that it will take about five years to get to a fully digital world and it's going to be mandated. Technical staff is here, they can talk to the project if you're interested, but the contracts are intended to create as much flexibility for Sedgwick County and the jurisdictions and any of the users on the 911 trunking system."

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

**Chairman Parks** said, "If those radio items are compatible, I think it's a good deal to look at various companies just to keep them on the sharp pencil side of things when we go to bid. I do have an ethical disclosure on this also. I do own less than a hundred shares of Motorola stock. Other than that, any other questions? Call the vote."

**Ms. Katie Asbury**, Deputy County Clerk, said, "Mr. Chairman, we need a motion and a second."

**Chairman Parks** said, "I thought we had those."

**MOTION**

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

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

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

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

**H. CONSENT AGENDA.**

1. Schedule public hearing for August 12, 2009, for adoption by incorporation by reference of standard code (Wichita-Sedgwick County Unified Zoning Code, July 9, 2009 Edition).
2. Agreement with Employees (2) to provide clinical supervision to achieve licensure as Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW).
3. Amendment to agreement with Youth for Christ for a gang intervention program, "City Works".
4. Housing Department Section 8 Rental Assistance.

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Rent Subsidy</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>Landlord</u>
V09028	\$483	2	Chapel Ridge
V09025	\$560	2	Bridgewater Apartments
V09026	\$455	3	Wert, De Etta

5. The following Section 8 contracts are up for annual recertification:

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V07051	\$263	\$252
V060050	\$328	\$337
V08049	\$329	\$338
V05045	\$215	\$ 63
V07061	\$521	\$535
V8009	\$288	\$277
V07059	\$279	\$261
V08032	\$561	\$551
V05038	\$296	\$299

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V05042	\$281	\$270
V04049	\$263	\$275
V06048	\$291	\$ 47
V72016	\$248	\$237
V06040	\$597	\$675
V020049	\$348	\$337
V08033	\$244	\$233
V08034	\$450	\$450

<b><u>Contract Number</u></b>	<b><u>Old Amount</u></b>	<b><u>New Amount</u></b>
V07063	\$495	\$516
V010126	\$280	\$309
V07048	\$590	\$570
V05036	\$318	\$335
V01023	\$258	\$244
V07057	\$311	\$248
V08036	\$ 63	\$ 59
V020052	\$465	\$528
V08046	\$246	\$281
V08038	\$339	\$417
V08039	\$293	\$324
V08043	\$332	\$312
V07065	\$284	\$266
V01024	\$507	\$508
V04043	\$417	\$406
V07043	\$269	\$275
V010103	\$302	\$307
V08044	\$181	\$178
V07066	\$155	\$169
V07055	\$550	\$550
V08045	\$385	\$433
V05048	\$267	\$262
V020051	\$148	\$168
V010113	\$291	\$280
V08040	\$377	\$348
V020012	\$301	\$256
V09005	\$508	\$442
V08058	\$425	\$222

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V09014	\$404	\$180
V09017	\$596	\$585
V08028	\$276	\$148
V04062	\$ 99	\$213
V08093	\$364	\$489
V08069	\$ 87	\$216
V09021	\$ 82	\$ 0
V05076	\$392	\$392

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Old Amount</u>	<u>New Amount</u>
V09010	\$633	\$658
V08005	\$530	\$329
V07086	\$475	\$475
V07103	\$334	\$459
V07083	\$296	\$421
V09006	\$368	\$113

6. **Payroll Check Register for the week of July 4, 2009.**
7. **General Bill Check Register for the week of July 8, 2009 – July 14, 2009.**
8. **Order dated July 1, 2009 to correct tax roll for a change of assessment.**

**Mr. Buchanan**, County Manager, said, “Commissioners, you have the Consent Agenda before you and I would recommend you approve it.”

**Chairman Parks** said, “What is the will of the Board”

**MOTION**

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

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### VOTE

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

### I. OTHER

**Chairman Parks** said, "Do we have any announcements from any of the Commissioners, if not, I'll just say that today's budget hearing was interesting and we not only have to remember about the items that were discussed here today but we need to be diligent on all other items that the people did not speak to. There will be a second public hearing, and I invite people of any persuasion that want to have an issue or a line item that they are in favor of, to come speak to. Commissioner Unruh."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we're about to adjourn this meeting, but we had an Executive Session scheduled and had a great deal of public interest in that item, a large part due to my activities, but my understanding is we're not doing Executive Session?"

**Chairman Parks** said, "In my Agenda, I see no Executive Session on the Agenda, so..."

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "We had a call for Executive Session in the printed copy for one, so that's why I asked."

**Chairman Parks** said, "I certainly, who called for that?"

**Commissioner Unruh** said, "Well, perhaps the County Counselor's Office could answer the question."

**Ms. Magana** said, "The motion was printed for Executive Session is when any request is made, it is not a part of the regular Agenda."

**Chairman Parks** said, "Okay, well, seeing no further action, no further comment, this meeting is adjourned and I'll open the Fire Meeting for Fire District #1."

### J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KARL PETERJOHN**, Commissioner  
Third District

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kelly B. Arnold**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

August 12, 2009