



*Sedgwick County...
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District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes

Monday, June 3, 2019
7 p.m.

Goddard School District
Conference Center

Board members in attendance: Sharon Ailsieger, Lamont Anderson, Nancy Hinten, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order –Lamont Anderson called the meeting to order.

Approval of May Minutes – Nancy Hinten moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Kevin McWhorter and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Overview of the Sheriff's Office – Col. Greg Pollock, Undersheriff

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) has 551 staff currently split between three bureaus: Detention, Law Enforcement, and Administrative. The Detention Bureau has a 1,100 bed detention facility. Law Enforcement includes three divisions: Patrol, Investigations, and Judicial Services. Administrative Bureau is in charge of records, training, and general administration of the department.

More information can be found at <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/sheriff/>

The SCSO is taking a strategic approach to staffing; they are currently about 50 staff short, some current staff is on mandatory overtime. They are looking at incentives for employment, such as pay increases. There is the potential for a new recruit class of 30-40 people.

Janice asked how they are getting such a big recruit class. They have lowered the hiring age to 18, and have targeted candidates within new promotional efforts. There is also a new online

application process where SCSO can track candidates' process. There has also been a push on social media to recruit.

Kevin asked where the group of candidates is coming from; if it is the same pool as other departments in the area. SCSO is competing for the same candidates as other agencies.

Nancy asked of the new recruits, how many will complete the training. Approximately 10% will drop out before the end. Most will only stay with the department or in detention for two or three years, because their goal is to be on patrol.

Col. Pollock also mentioned that because of the recent structured pay increase, new recruits can track where they will be on the pay scale in three years.

Sharon asked about benefits and if they are in line with other departments. SCSO employees have the same benefits as everyone else in the County; it is a competitive benefits package.

Kevin asked if there was a time when staffing wasn't such an issue. Five to 10 years ago, SCSO had several hundred people applying for 10 positions, now there are 20 people applying for 10 positions.

Sharon asked what the reason was for the decline in applicants over the years. Changes in the field and market saturation were attributed to the decline.

Janice asked if there are many families that they are seeing generational law enforcement career paths. There are still a few families with multiple generations in the field, but not as many as there used to be.

This year two new positions were added to look at data, paint a picture of where the county stands, and collaborate to find/ coordinate the resources necessary. The Substance Abuse Coordinator and Mental Health Coordinator are currently planning a drug summit involving youth.

Col. Pollock also identified that methamphetamine is one of the bigger drug problems in our area.

SCSO is working with COMCARE and others mental health and emergency service use. They want to create a paramedical team, and are working with the Office of the Medical Director, Wichita Police Department, and Sedgwick County EMS. Many agencies in the County see the same population who use multiple services frequently. Staff is trying to identify who these people are, in order to try and create a better care plan for them. The jail population is high; many inmates are repeat visitors who might have a mental health diagnosis. Getting inmates the care they need could reduce the recidivism rate in the jail.

This week, there are 11 people from Sedgwick County touring The Center for Health Care Services in Bexar County, TX. One of the purposes of the Center is to keep people out of emergency rooms and jails. More information on this center can be found <https://chcsbc.org/>.

SCSO has a least one mental health call per day.

Lamont asked if deputies are trained to deal with or identify mental illness when working with the public. Deputies have Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) which helps. They are currently trying to evaluate whether they should include the CIT training during their recruit training, or a little further into employment when they are more familiar with the job.

Sharon stated that she is on the CIT council and explained a little more about the training.

Lamont would like to see more partnerships with the department to help deputies identify different disorders and terminology.

Janice asked if deputies patrol in the same areas and if there is information available to them about previous calls/ interaction with certain people or houses. There currently is a log, but it is not readily available to deputies on the road. SCSO wants to get a new system/ software to have the information available at all levels of the department.

Janice asked about SCSO's opinion on gun carry laws. SCSO hasn't had many problems, because people have been able to open carry in the county already.

Lamont asked if the Legislature had made any changes to reciprocity on conceal carry laws if people have them from other states. At this time Col. Pollock is not aware that there has been an approval to transfer conceal carry from other states to Kansas.

Tom talked about how well trained deputies are; they are trained to approach everyone and every situation as if there is a gun involved, for the safety of all parties.

Kevin asked about mental health, he knows that it is discussed, but wondered at the city level where Wichita stood. Commissioner Dennis said that mental health is part of Sedgwick County's wheel house, and the City of Wichita is included in discussions.

Commissioner Dennis mentioned the city-to-city tour of San Antonio organized by the Wichita Chamber of Commerce. He encouraged people to attend, in hopes that they could tour The Center for Health Care Services, which is a national model for dealing with mental health crisis.

Sharon said the problem is often to "treat them, then street them." This is because of high call volume and demand of the facilities. CIT training helps first responders know where to take people/ identify needed resources.

Commissioner Dennis added that Sedgwick County's top request on the legislative agenda was funding for a regional mental health center.

Tom said that officers know where to take people with mental health, the COMCARE's Crisis Center at least offers them short term counseling.

2. Overview of the proposed changes from MAPD – Tom Stolz, County Manager

Tom Stolz brought the proposed changes to the zoning code for Sedgwick County. The proposed changes were put together by the staff at the Metropolitan Area Planning Department (MAPD). He mentioned that this effort was sparked by Commissioner Dennis, who wanted to have more specific language in the zoning codes that pertained to wind and solar renewable energies. While MAPD is conducting the analysis, there will not be any permits issued for these renewable energy projects, until a decision had been made.

Some of the highlights include:

- County will not receive taxes on the turbines for a minimum of 10 years.
- Subdivisions may not want to build near a wind farm, which can deter development in parts of the county.
- There are a lot of unknowns, such as what effect do they have on bird populations/ bald eagles, weather radar, etc.
- If a permit came for renewable energy and a City approved it because it is in their zone of influence, the County can override with a super majority vote.

Tom then reviewed the recommendation and alternative from MAPD:

1. Adopt the proposed amendments to the Unified Zoning Code regarding Renewable Energy Systems.
2. Modify the proposed amendments and adopt as amended.
3. Prohibit Wind Energy Conversion Systems within Sedgwick County.
4. Leave the present language unchanged.

He continued companies identify areas for renewable energy placement by looking at two main things: wind patterns and access to the power grid. He also mentioned that MAPD does their best to make projects work in zoning.

Several concerns were mentioned by the Board:

- Lamont wondered if a turbine on a property would infringe on other people developing their own land.
- Nancy asked if there were environmental impact studies on wind farms, to see how they are affecting the area around them.
- Sharon was wondering if regulations could be more stringent than what are proposed.
- Kevin asked about decommissioning grass air strips, and wanted to know who has the final say FAA or County/ Zoning? He also mentioned that development of a renewable energy source in Sedgwick County might not be as easy because of how urbanized we are.

Janice motioned for option 3: Prohibit Wind Energy Conversion Systems within Sedgwick County, Kevin seconded.

Lamont called for a vote, which resulted in 3-2. Both no votes indicated they are in favor of option 2: Modify the proposed amendments and adopt as amended.

Commissioner Dennis mentioned that if there was tax abatement, on these energy conversion systems, that it didn't just affect those in District 3, but everyone in the county.

BOARD AGENDA

Sharon mentioned that she enjoyed Commissioner Dennis' segment on KPTS.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONER DENNIS

1. District 3 CAB meeting on August 5 interferes with BOCC's public budget hearing. Janice made a motion to move the meeting up one week to July 29, Sharon seconded. Meeting date changed after passed unanimously.
2. Commission is currently spending time on budget development.
3. Encouraged CAB members to sign up for his newsletter. Asked Kate to sign everyone up to receive it.
4. Previous commissioners voted to cap the mill levy, causing many problems with the budget, looking at what all of the departments are requesting, along with raises and other expenses.
5. Northwest Bypass – Sedgwick County, Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), City of Goddard, and City of Maize.

- a. Legislation has been passed that Kansas can now charge tolls on a highway, in which the tolls no longer will have to pay for 100% of the maintenance of the road; there can be other funding sources which subsidize it. However, they do have to do a feasibility study first to see how much money they could collect in tolls.
 - b. Senator Carolynn McGinn has helped locate up to \$50 million in a grant to help fund the project.
 - c. Phase 1 right of way has been purchased.
 - d. The State is going to give \$15 million, Sedgwick County \$500,000 and City of Wichita \$500,000 to purchase the rest of the right of way for Phase 2.
6. There are a few key positions open in the County:
- a. County Appraiser - County spent \$27,000 on national search and still needed to go out and find more candidates.
 - b. EMS Director position has been vacant since last fall.
 - c. WAMPO Director will retire this year.
7. County is working on an offer for property to construct a new fire station in Andale.
8. Mt. Hope EMS was decertified by the State of Kansas so Sedgwick County EMS has picked up their calls.
9. Register of Deeds presented a new program idea to Commissioner Dennis.
- a. Currently a DD214 form for military veterans can be filed with the Register of Deeds, and can only be accessed by next of kin.
 - b. Chicago is issuing a government veterans ID when veterans file their DD214.
 - c. Commissioner Dennis has the Counselor's Office working on a resolution to allow Sedgwick County to begin this process.

ADJOURNMENT

Nancy made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Sharon. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 29 in the Goddard School District Conference Center.