



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

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Monday, February 3, 2020  
7 p.m.

Goddard School District  
Conference Center

**Board members in attendance:** Sharon Aislieger, Lamont Anderson, Nancy Hinten, Sherry Livingston, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter

**County representatives:** Commissioner David Dennis, Kate Flavin, Kyle Fiedler, Lorien Showalter Aire

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by Chair Lamont Anderson, 7 p.m.
2. **Approval of January Minutes** – Janice Manlove moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Nancy Hinten, passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Introduction of potential new CAB member**

Darby Guinn is a junior at Goddard Eisenhower. She has recently taken an interest in local government, and her StuCo sponsor encouraged her to explore this board.

At the January 2020 meeting, Commissioner Dennis brought the idea of a student representative before the CAB, which was well received. Before Darby can be officially on the CAB, the Board of County Commissioners has to amend the current resolution to add another person to the CAB.

**2. Review of 2021 Budget Calendar and Process – Lorien Showalter Arie, Budget Director**

There are three main focus areas that the commissioners have identified as priorities, which the budget team has been working on allocating funds to. Public Health, Space Needs (remodeling of the Courthouse, potential admin building), and Compensation (will be a generational change).

Sedgwick County has had a flat budget for at least eight years.

Departments work on their budget and determine how they want to use it for staffing, services, equipment, etc. Requests for additional funding are submitted through Decision Packages. Departments are also required to have a strategic plan that aligns with the Sedgwick County strategic plan in order to request funding for the 2021 year.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funding is projected out five years for projects that are identified, which could include buildings, roads, bridges, and other projects that would exceed \$250,000.

The Technology Review Board (TRB) is a new addition from the 2020 budget. The TRB consolidates all technology purchases under IT/ TRB. TRB will determine and plan replacement of technology in the County to ensure there is a regular review of County IT and technology needs.

The budget cycle begins with budget workshops; every year the topics might change, for example, compensation and benefits were topics last year that were included in the 2020 budget.

Key calendar dates:

- June 15 the assessed value information is due from the County Clerk.
- June 17 is the “Drop Dead” day for changes, for requests.
- July 15 is the “Last Up Day” meaning the budget cannot be increased after this day, without putting out a public notice and holding another hearing.
- Public budget hearings will be held July 22 during the regular BoCC meeting, and August 3 during a special evening meeting.

Commissioner Dennis commented on how “formal” budget hearings felt, because all of the commissioners sit at the bench, as if they were in a regular meeting. He hopes that they will find a way to make the hearings a little less formal. He also commented that he does not see a reduction in behavioral health funding as it is a top priority of the commission.

Showalter Arie showed the 800 page budget book and said that she reads it four times a year and learns something new each time.

Hinten asked about property tax assessment reviewing at the state level that she has been hearing about.

There are nine different bills in the Legislature right now regarding property tax. Senate Bill 294 will affect every taxing entity in Kansas. The bill is based on a Utah model which was based on a proposition from California. It will do away with the tax lid, but puts on greater restrictions. When the assessment of a property increases, but the mill levy stays the same, the taxes due still increase. With SB294, taxing entities cannot collect the increase amount without notifying everyone in their district. If Sedgwick County wanted to change the mill levy, they are required to notify citizens, which could cost at least \$150,000. Legislators proposing this bill and citizens who support it might not be thinking about services that will suffer with less revenue from taxes.

Manlove would like to see or take a class to help citizens understand the government budget process.

McWhorter referring to the mill levy comparison in the budget overview was questioning if Sedgwick County has compared its bond debt to other counties around us. He said that Sedgwick County in the past has had the “we don’t buy it unless we can pay cash” mindset. He recommends that with how low interest rates are currently, that the commission look at projects that are needing complete and bonding them out to get them complete to save money in the long run.

There will be a quarterly financial report at the BoCC meeting Wednesday, February 5.

There was a question about KPTS showing re-runs of the Commission Meeting, they do not, but the City of Wichita Channel 7 typically shows a rerun on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm.

## **BOARD AGENDA**

### **Citizens Advisory Board Members**

A Board Member asked about the progress of the jail expansion.

County is getting ready to buy furniture and the project should be complete in the next couple of months.

McWhorter asked if anyone knew about the buildings going up at WSU Innovation Campus, if they were on leased ground, or if they purchased the land from WSU.

Commissioner Dennis said if they are like the LETC, there is a land lease.

Manlove didn't realize that Naftzger Park in Wichita was going to be used as an event space and that a private company was going to profit off of it.

### **Comments from Commissioner Dennis**

Senate Bill 130: Secretary of State has concerns about security and is hesitant to implement it. There has been a House Bill introduced, HB2512 which if passed would require the Secretary of State to implement SB130 in Sedgwick County for the 2020 election. Currently, we allow voters to vote at any polling site for early voting, it would be no different than that for Election Day.

Health Director Adrienne Byrne has relayed that they do not see Coronavirus as a problem in Sedgwick County right now. People are more apt to get the flu, they advised that people who have not got the flu shot should, and wash their hands.

The City of Wichita and Sedgwick County have been interviewing for a new planning director. They narrowed the pool down to two candidates, not sure if they will extend an offer to either.

Sedgwick County has been without an official appraiser for one year. We had an interim for the maximum six months that are allowed, and now the County is paying the State Property and Valuation Division (PVD) to fill that role. The interim appraiser that was appointed did not have the proper certification at the time to be the appraiser; he has since passed the test. The appraiser position is appointed every four years by the Commission, the County has three choices; appoint the current staff member who is now qualified, who will fill the role for the remainder of the term which has one and a half years left, continue to pay PVD to fill the role, or go back out and re-advertise the position and search again.

Spirit AeroSystems has notified the community of its intent to lay off no more than 2,800 employees, which does not include subsequent lay-offs that their suppliers have had to make. This can cause a major ripple effect in Sedgwick County as people will not be spending their disposable income as they had been. The County has reached out to State and Federal government to see what we can do to help. Spirit and Boeing have reached a production agreement, however there is a lot of production already done so production will be slow to come back. Spirit was competing for a Department of Defense contract, but they didn't win it.

There is currently a feasibility study being conducted for the NW Bypass to see if it could be a toll road. Sedgwick County had a five year contract with the State to purchase right of way, which is getting close to ending. The State proposed a match of

\$1 million a year if Sedgwick County would be able to fund their portion to purchase right of way to move the process along more quickly.

Sedgwick County Commissioners will be holding two En Banc meetings with the City of Wichita Council. They are hosting these meetings so that both governing bodies can review information together and discuss issues, plans in one meeting without having to go back and forth with staff. February 21 they will be reviewing two projects; ICT-1, and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition. In March they will discuss the potential fire consolidation and see if there is interest on both sides, as well as the Riverfront Legacy Master Plan. The location has not be set as of yet for either meeting, but they are likely to be held at City Hall.

Manlove wanted to know what happened with the City requesting the County to pay for clearing of land west of the new ballpark.

We are unsure if there is a benefit to the County, or if there is support from the Commission to do so.

EMS is expending \$1 million a year more than projected and not generating enough revenue to cover those expenses. Clearwater wanted Sedgwick County to add a station there, which would add more cost to EMS. The Commission is hoping to see an increase in staffing budget/ table to add positions and decrease overtime.

The fire on the fourth floor of the Courthouse caused an estimated \$400,000 in damage. The County deductible is \$100,000, insurance should cover the rest. The fire was initially thought to be on the third floor, which resulted in a lot of doors being broke on the third floor as firefighters were looking for the fire. Sedgwick County contracted work out immediately to start repairing the damage, luckily it was a three day weekend and most of the County spaces looked as if nothing happened when staff returned on Tuesday. The cause was determined to be an electrical short.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 9, at the Goddard School Conference Center.