



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

Monday, July 27, 2020
7 p.m.

Goddard School District
Conference Center

Board members in attendance: Sharon Aislieger, Lamont Anderson, Nancy Hinten, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter, Glen Shafer

County representatives: Commissioner David Dennis, Kate Flavin, Tom Stolz, Aneesa Redd

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by Chair Lamont Anderson, 7 p.m.
2. **Approval of June Minutes** – No minutes available to approve.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2021 Recommended Budget Presentation – County Manager Tom Stolz

County Manager Tom Stolz prefaces the meeting by stating that the goal of every budget is to balance the budget and have no tax increase.

The 2021 Budget is unique because the COVID-19 pandemic began during the budget process. For this year there are two goals which include reviewing positions and services that continue to be impacted by the economic crisis and also to allocate the resources to combat this virus, which is anticipated to last for the next 6-12 months.

The budget process begins in November of the year before. Department and Division heads will meet to discuss challenges and goals for the upcoming year.

In December, no one had any idea that the novel coronavirus was going to make it to the United States. At the Commission retreat in February there was no discussion of it, there were still mixed signals at the Federal level about the virus surfacing in the United States. Fast forward to March after the NBA shutdown, the coronavirus became real and that it was highly unusual. Businesses started to close and the shutdown order went into place. Meanwhile the County has been working on the 2021 Budget during the pandemic.

The County Manager states that his first time seeing the 2021 Budget was at the May BoCC hearing. Tom Stolz also states that the BoCC and managers knew the 2021 Budget was going to have to be extra lean because of the state of the economy and the unknown of COVID-19. The 2021 Budget was put out in the middle of June and the County is currently in the middle of discussing matters regarding the 2021 Budget.

In regards to the state of operations, Tom Stolz states that we are still in full pandemic mode today as we were in March and April. The overall goal for Sedgwick County has always been to have a lean budget, but this year is different because the County is looking to go past a lean budget. Realistically for the 2022 Budget, the County will have to cut some services.

Tom Stolz states that if Sedgwick County had to cut services, what could the County cut for the least amount of harm towards people? Those are the kind of discussions that the County is currently having. In the best case of scenario the County is counting to review positions both inside of our own government and with the City of Wichita to see if we are able to combine resources so we can continue to provide a same level of service at a reduced cost.

With the 2021 Budget there was a series of recommended adjustments which fell under three categories relating to COVID, an external force, and cost of doing business.

The County adjusted two full-time positions for the integrated ICT-1 Care Team. In August of 2018 in a joint partnership with the City of Wichita the County stood up a paramedic component, a law enforcement component, and a mental health component together in the same vehicle on the street responding to mental health emergencies.

There were five full-time employees (FTEs) added to the District Attorney's office - this would be considered an external force decision that was made and four FTE judicial service deputy positions were added as well. The Supreme Court of Kansas dictated to the district courts that they were going to change how they handled court

processes throughout the day and now cases are assigned to judges from cradle to grave. Both the DA's and Sheriff's office needed additional staff.

Funding for medical services in the Sheriff's office is what Stolz considers to be the cost of doing business. The County must provide medical attention to inmates when they are being held at the Sedgwick County Jail.

Out-of-county inmate housing for jails is considered to be another cost of doing business. At times the jail is not large enough to hold all prisoners, so it is tradition that we send inmates to different counties for temporary jail housing until those inmates make it through the court system.

Next is funding for recurring equipment for the Sheriff's office. Cameras are demanded by the public, especially during this time with what we are going through in our country. Stolz states anything that helps the sheriff to better manage his staff he is in support of.

Medical supplies and medication for EMS also falls under the cost of doing business category as the prices of supplies go up each year.

One FTE for a Chief Toxicologist position is needed after the former Chief Toxicologist has retired.

One FTE Epidemiologist is needed for the Health Department as we continue to work through COVID-19.

The State and Federal Government are changing the protocol for CDL licensing. Sedgwick County has one of two options which include to outsource this position or to create an FTE for CDL licensing. Tom Stolz states that it was cost effective for the County to have their own CDL. This position will also be shared with the City of Wichita.

For the 2021 Budget there were no tax increases and there was also no service level reduction which came with some sacrifices, one being no pay raises for Sedgwick County employees.

Tom Stolz concluded the discussion of the 2021 Budget by stating that the County is currently in the middle of having public hearings and stands for any questions that the board may have.

Nancy Hinton asked Tom Stolz "In the highlighted section of the Budget book on pg. 4 if this information is still current?" Tom Stolz answered that the information is current. Ms. Hinton followed up by asking if "can none of the CARES funding be

applied towards staffing?” Tom Stolz answered by stating the County used CARES funding on what they could use it for and that leadership is looking to speak with the commission about using CARES funding for first responder staff.

Sharon Ailsieger has two questions the first being “how has the County salaries gotten so far behind? Has there not been cost of living increases?” Tom Stolz answered by giving the history of the budget priorities and states that essentially it depends on who is on the BoCC and what they value. The second question is “in the jail when they were down in staff, will this issue be solved?” Stolz answered by stating a year ago commission met with the Sheriff and they created a step-up plan for the sheriff employees to boost employee morale. This plan worked and the Sheriff no longer has an employee deficit.

Pat Gaughan asked “3.5 % raises would’ve cost taxpayers \$4 million dollars – what makes you think 2022 will be better? Is it too late legally to increase taxes for 2021?” Tom Stolz answered by stating for the remainder of 2020 the County figured they could save in a little over \$1 million dollars. For the 2021 Budget year, if you’re asking what it would cost to roll out a 2.5% plus 1.5 targeted it will still end up costing \$2 million dollars. The Commission gave Sedgwick County permission to spend down its fund balance. Stolz also states that it is too late for 2021 to have tax increase, and for 2022 Tom Stolz hopes for the next four months the world keeps its eyes on vaccines and by January 2021 there is a vaccine for COVID-19. Tom Stolz also states that our budget is not going to recover until aircraft starts to fly again.

Glen Shafer asked “under the community development Wichita State item – the \$3.7 million for the merit scholar program is that a flat rate?” Tom Stolz states that Wichita State gets about \$8 million dollars and they can spend that money on whatever they want and in return we get interns, research, and development studies from the policy institute. Glen Shafer follows up by stating if we are offering a scholarship to Wichita State students “it’s not too much to ask that they stay and work in the County.”

Sharon Aislieger states she did not know Sedgwick County gives money to Wichita State.

Nancy Hinten asked how the Workforce Alliance ties together with Sedgwick County - if there are federal funds that dictates the recipient of a merit scholarship has to stay in Wichita for a certain period of time. Tom Stolz states that there is a lot of federal funds flowing into jobs, but the vast majority is trying to pivot unemployed workers reestablished into a new profession.

Glen Shafer asked about claw back on contracts with the airline industry and if there is a central location for Sedgwick County residents to view and if the County is

looking into this or will organizations get a get out of jail free card, because of COVID-19. Tom Stolz answered this question by stating that the contracts typically last five years and on the fifth year of the contract is when the County would want to start looking to make decisions. Ultimately it is the BoCC decision if they want to give organizations time to figure out their financial situation or take other action.

Board Agenda

1. Citizen Advisory Board

Mr. Gaughan's first question is regarding facial masks, he asked Commissioner Dennis why he does not wear facial masks in the televised BoCC meetings. Commissioner Dennis answers by stating that each of the Commissioners have Plexiglas around them, therefore there is no need to wear a mask.

Mr. Gaughan's second question is asking Commissioner Dennis if he knows anyone who has had COVID-19 and why he thinks it is a good idea to vote against medical and professional advice regarding COVID-19. Commissioner Dennis gives a brief timeline of the Sedgwick County Board of Health and the current situation that we are in at this time. Commissioner Dennis also states that the Board of Health implemented Dr. Minns orders, but made revisions of the board saw fit.

Mr. Gaughan then goes on to gives his thoughts on a friend of his who is ill and the current hospital position and how he disagrees with the current way things are being handled.

Commissioner Dennis assures Pat Gaughan that he is not on the hospital weekly call and the numbers in his report do not match what with Mr. Gaughan was saying.

Sharon Aislieger states that she was at Wesley Medical Center recently for a surgery and she was in the recovery room for four hours because there weren't any rooms available.

Lamont Anderson states that Sedgwick County and City of Wichita are doing a great job working through and providing guidance through this pandemic.

Nancy Hinten asked if the grant application process has been implemented. Commissioner Dennis stated that the CARES review team has been working on processing applications.

2. Commissioner Dennis

Commissioner Dennis states that the groundbreaking for Fire District 1's Andale Station has been postponed due to the weather.

Commissioner Dennis mentions the new Diversity and Inclusion position has been approved amongst the commission. This position will help the County in all aspects to make sure that the County is doing everything right.

A big concern of Commissioner Dennis's is to make sure that EMS and firefighters are receiving a pay raise, "we cannot afford to lose any of these employees."

Sharon Aislieger asked if it would be possible to add a sales tax for at least three years to help out with pay raises for employees.

Commissioner Dennis states that Sedgwick County citizens would have to vote on a tax increase and that they could not just implement a tax increase.

Lamont Anderson thanks everyone for their time and all the discussions and interactions that they have on the District 3 advisory board.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 14, at the Goddard School Conference Center.