



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting  
Minutes

Monday, July 26, 2021

Goddard School District 7 p.m.

**Board members:** Sharon Ailsieger, Sherry Livingston, Kevin McWhorter, Janet Frederico, Carl Losey, Janice Manlove, Pat Gaughan, Ashlyn Riggs, Luke Sponsel

**County representatives:** Commissioner David Dennis, Tom Stolz, Susan Erlenwein, Corinthian Kelly

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order

Chair Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Introduction of new Student Representative to D3 CAB Ashlyn Riggs

Welcome of guest in attendance, Councilmen Bryan Frye, City of Wichita District 5

Commissioner Dennis shares one of the things he Councilmen Bryan Frye, City of Wichita District 5 is working on together is how to stop the flooding that happened during the Halloween Flood. Councilmen Bryan Frye shares that one of the best solutions involves some Detention Ponds along the Dry Creek up north, with some federal funding Sedg. Co. might be able to get 75% of it taken care of, a real opportunity that if done, could potentially free up about 500 acres out of floodplain which is developable property. Looking at a City – County partnership between Public Works Departments

2. Approval of Minutes – May 3, & June 7, 2021 – Both sets of minutes were approved. 1  
Abstention: Janice Manlove

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Review of 2022 Budget Calendar and Process - Tom Stolz, County Manager  
Tom Stolz gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on Sedgwick County Recommendation Budget 2022. Mr. Stolz describes in great detail the Budget and gives an overview of the process:

Overall Budget Goals

- Balanced Budget with no tax rate increase
- Emphasis on organizational recovery from pandemic year

- Continued allocation of resources to meet the needs of the community related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Priority given to employee compensation strategy

State of Operations

- Pandemic Recovery
  - Reopening County facilities – back to normal
  - Employee care
    - Focus on Employee Care: Environment, Ability to grow in a job, How supervisors treat employees, etc.

Question: COMCARE clinician position, is it a degreed position? Is it something that WSU?

Tom S.: Yes - it is a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree. Question: Can the county do

student loan payoffs? Tom S.: We are looking at all that know, signing bonuses, longevity pay grow your own programs

Budget Process

- Continued focus on lean government
- Get back to the Strategic Plan and General Government operations
- Employee Reclassification and Compensation Plan –
  - This Commission allowed for a total 360 degree employee compensation analysis of positions- committed 7.5 million to employee compensation for upcoming year – every position (2,800-3,000 full and part- time employees) was looked at
  - Reclassified about 1,600 people that will see increase in pay at start of the new year
  - 3% increase in employee health care, anticipated 5%
  - Emergency Management: will add inventory software and Logistics Officer to Emergency Management as a lesson learned from pandemic

Recommended Budget

- No tax increase/limit expenditures
- No planned service level reduction – if we can get positions filled no plan to cut back on services
- Get back to a comprehensive 5-year strategy to address employee compensation
- 2022 Recommended Budget
 

• Sedgwick County	<b>\$462,548,517</b>
• Fire District 1	<b>\$21,095,559</b>
• Total	<b>\$483,644,076</b>
- 2022 Expenditures by Function
 

• General Government (GG)	<b>\$140,031,213</b>
• Bond and Interest (B&I)	<b>\$14,739,732</b>
• Public Safety (PSafe)	<b>\$188,121,960</b>
• Public Works (PW)	<b>\$33,006,361</b>
• Public Services (PServ)	<b>\$82,904,600</b>

- Culture & Recreation (C&R) **\$12,698,977**
- Community Development (CD) **\$12,141,233**
- Property Tax rates are estimated to be 29.359 mills for Sedgwick County and 17.889 mills for Fire District 1.
- Next Steps – Budget Process
  - Budget online at [sedgwickcounty.org](http://sedgwickcounty.org)
  - Online Public Forum  
July 14 at 3 p.m. through August 24 at 5 p.m.
  - First Public Hearing – August 5 at 6 p.m.
  - Second Public Hearing – August 25 at 9 a.m.
  - Budget Adoption – August 25 at 9 a.m.

Questions:

Kevin McWhorter asked a Bond and Interest Question. Kevin M. stated WSU just refinanced 67 million in tax-free bonds at 2% for 25 years. Does this commission have a better understanding of how to utilize getting infrastructure improvements done now and paid for with really cheap interest, instead of waiting to create cash and paying for it as you go at higher prices because of commodity prices and labor prices going up so dramatically? Tom Stolz: Yes this commission does. Commissioner Dennis states right now if you don't use bonding or some type of burrowing periodically you use lose the ability to do it in the future. Right now the total amount Sedg. Co. can bond is well in excess of 100 million because of the county's triple AAA rating.

Commissioner Dennis shares regarding Public Safety – Out of space at courthouse discussion about Admin Building, building a building has to be done because of the courthouse backlog and out of space to conduct business. A new admin building would be \$40-50 million, and it's no way to write a check for that today, so will have to bond things. Previous commission wanted to pay for bridges and roads with cash. Cheapest time to borrow money is now. Question: Do you refinance bonds? Commissioner Dennis: Yes we do - the county finance department work very closely with our bond advisors and if we see he ability to refi old bonds that are higher interest rates we are doing that.

Pat G. asked concerning budget, who came in a made a great staff presentation to Management and wanted a lot more money than they got and the county just couldn't afford it? Tom Stoltz: The Sheriff - we have to negotiate as best we can the Appraiser also came with a list and we try as best we can to meet in the middle. Have to live within our means.

Tom S. shared the Commission did what they could to try to help by 6-8 weeks by automatically giving all Detention Deputies a bump from \$15.90/hr. to \$18.90/hr. which helped stabilize the ship

Pat G. - Is COMCARE actually a county department? Tom Stolz: Yes - it is a county department that is a function out of the state of Kansas. The county is basically a subsidiary of

the state of Kansas in government – the county serves as a conduit of the state of Kansas (i.e. mental health, public, health, etc. while cities have a lot of autonomy and Home Rule powers.

Kevin M. states the state of Kansas is going to end up with the highest General Fund balance in 40 years. How can the state use ending year balance surplus to help us?

Are there any department budgets that you can only fund at a certain level that are not doing more with less, they are just doing less? Tom Stolz: Not yet but close, if staffed at appropriate levels we are poised to run efficiently.

Tom Stolz shared we have to look at core services – what is state mandated and state-drive or not; Organizationally we have to take a look out what's not optional and what is and we either have to cut services or raise taxes, everything not state driven we need to take a hard look at. Constantly probing for things to consolidate ways to do things smarter, MAPD, merge to do business better and save money

Question: Is ICT1 is a joint city county venture? Tom Stolz: Yes 50/50 more or less Fire provides vehicle, police provide a body, COMCARE provides a body, and EMS provides a body. Pie chart shifting very slowly, incrementally, from public safety to public services COMCARE, healthcare, humanities,

Question: Is that the 100 million from the federal government - Do you have ARPA guidelines? Tom S. No but we are getting there, the guidelines will become more focused every week - the beauty of ARPA is we have 2 ½ years to manage money instead of 6 months with CARES Part goes to support and pivot the courts (Commissioner Dennis wants a Veteran's Court for example)

What percent of land in Sedg. Co. does not pay property tax? Do know exact percentage What is your collection percentage? Extremely high – 98-99%

### **Can we find out what percentage of land is not taxed in Sedg. Co.?**

Question regarding EMS. - Tom Stolz: We are going back to the previous model EMS leadership model.

#### **2. Land-Fill and Unsecured Loads Presentation – Susan Erlenwein, Environmental Resources Director**

Susan Erlenwein gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on Solid Waste Issues Roadside Litter. Describes in great detail and gives an overview of the:

#### **Citizen Complaints**

- Litter along K-42 - Complaints contributed this to transfer trucks going to Plum Thicket Landfill in Harper County
- Litter along K-96 - Complaints contributed this to CDR North C&D Landfill operations
- Litter along Meridian North Interchange - Complaints contributed this to unsecured loads going to Brooks C&D Landfill

#### **Municipal Solid Waste Collection**

16 businesses were licensed to haul non-hazardous waste in Sedgwick County in 2020.

## Sedgwick County Solid Waste Facility Regulations

### ARTICLE IX. - MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION REGULATIONS

Sec. 24-303. - Landscaping.

### ARTICLE X. - CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION LANDFILLS AND PROCESSING FACILITIES

Sec. 24-404. - Operations.

#### Specific Wastes

- Special Cleanup Program – comes out of the approx. \$7-8 solid waste disposal fee
- County pays for the disposal of illegal dumping for Townships.
- 2,076,520 pounds since 2002
- 53,020 pounds in 2020

#### Unsecured Loads - Safety is an Issue

##### AAA Accident Study 2011-2014

- Road Debris caused
- More than 200,000 crashes
- Approximately 39,000 injuries
- More than 500 deaths
- 37% of those deaths were caused by swerving to avoid debris

#### Unsecured Load Penalties

- Butler County: Double the normal disposal rate
- Harvey County: Double the normal disposal rate
- Douglas County, Nebraska (Omaha): additional \$10.50

#### Next Steps Address unsecured loads?

- Educate the public
- More research on other communities
- Work with solid waste disposal facilities and Legal to investigate ways to implement penalties on unsecured loads
- Define unsecured load
- Penalty amount
- Other considerations

Why do we still have the old courthouse across – why not tear it down and build your new admin building there?

Answer Susan E.: was told the people who donated that land to the county, said if you ever tear it down the property goes back to the family

Commissioner Dennis states the agenda for the Staff meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>:

- Staff Report on Redistricting which happens every 10 years from the County Counselors Office
- COVID and ARPA Funding

Commissioner Dennis shares Sedg. Co. has already received 50.1 million dollars for get the other 50 before the end of the year

- En Banc with City of Wichita who got 74 million dollars, Derby got 50 million in funding should take a look at having better discussions between all of the different groups that received ARPA funding so we can capitalize on how we are spending the money so we are not duplicating effort and make sure all dollars are going in right direction.

Commissioner Dennis: May have a few en bancs there is over \$200 million coming into Sedg. Co. alone.

Commissioner Dennis states regarding Redistricting, there are 5 districts are imbalanced right now around 500,000 people in Sedg. Co. so each district should have around 100,000 people – District 3 has around 113,000 people some districts have around 96,000 people

Advisory Board: Pat G. shared that the Health Dept. is accredited by the Kansas state Department of Health usually and Sedgwick Co. health dept. is currently not accredited by the State Department of Health. Sedg. Co. received a provisional accreditation last year and this year that accreditation was not granted to his knowledge. Sates it would behoove Sedg Co to be state accredited

**Commission Dennis restated the agenda item and homework for next CAB Meeting was recommendations for Northeast Sedgwick County Park that as carried over from the meeting in July.**

**All encumbered – Feedback and ideas for what to do with the park (Old landfill: around 600 acres) is the homework.**

Update from NextEra want to put solar project in about 5 square miles half in Colwich up by Gordon Evans Plant and half in Garden Plain near Buffalo Flats – having problem finding 5 square miles

Motion to adjourn voted for unanimously.  
Meeting Adjourned at 9:17pm

*No Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be held in August. The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021.*