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|  | **District 1 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting**  **Minutes**  Monday, November 20, 2023 | 5:30 p.m.  *Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS* |

**Board Members in Attendance:** Daniel Bateman, Judah Craig, Diane Gjerstad, Steven Burt, Jacqueline Kelly, Jim Reid, Joseph Dozier

**County Representatives:** Sedgwick County Commissioner, Pete Meitzner

1. **Call to Order**
   1. Chair Judah Craig called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
   1. A motion was made by Steven Burt to approve the minutes. Diane Gjerstad seconded this motion. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 4-0.**
3. **Public Agenda**
   1. No Public Comments
4. **New Business**
   1. Commissioner Meitzner began his presentation on the 2024 Legislative Agenda.
      * 1. This process begins in November going through December.
        2. There is a potential for a City of Wichita Chamber, City of Wichita Sedgwick County joint legislative agenda, that way each can have their own items.
      1. Pete Meitzner asked, Steven do you know about this? If you have a problem and you need CDDO attention its maybe a 3 year waiting list?
         1. Steven Burt responds, it’s got to do with Medicaid waitlist. Because Medicaid pays for people with disabilities.
         2. Pete Meitzner responds, I don’t know how lucky we’ll get on getting that support on the state level for this.
      2. Diane Gjerstad asked, which support?
         1. Pete Meitzner responded, on the CDDO, to try and reduce the waiting list.
      3. Pete Meitzner asked, I think there is over $2 billion in state funds surplus?
         1. Diane Gjerstad responded, it is an insanely high amount.
      4. Jim Reid asked, you said you aren’t sure of the impact we can have, does Sedgwick County have lobbyist at the state level that represent the county?
         1. Pete Meitzner responded, Watkins Strategies is the name of our lobbyist. The group also lobbies on behalf of the Wichita Chamber. They are very strategic in trying to get what they think is the most important or critical for us and not blur it with other things.
      5. Jim Reid asked, did that guy’s contract come up for renewal? Did you renew it?
         1. Pete Meitzner responded, what we talked about last week was a federal lobbyist. That was one a couple of Commissioners felt it should be relooked at.
      6. If the state does have a surplus, then the state level could reduce their mill levy which would affect everybody, including business. Rather than going after Sedgwick or Johnson or more school districts.
      7. Daniel Bateman asked, what services are provided by the state for that mill levy?
         1. Pete Meitzner responded, most of all of it goes to education. But there is also local support that goes to education.
         2. Diane Gjerstad responded, 20 mills goes to the school districts. Then 1.5 is the state building and construction fund that supports building and construction of state facilities and university of the 1.5. But the 20 mills has been there since the 90’s and it was done to buy them local property taxes because with the old formula the local property taxes were much higher.
      8. Diane Gjerstad asked, has the County had a conversation with the nine school districts in Sedgwick County about that policy decision? Because if you buy down the 20 mills because it’s got to come from somewhere or it’s a cut to schools.
         1. Pete Meitzner responded, I am not aware that we’ve had that discussion. It’s been more about if they have the surplus and can we use that to shore up.
         2. Jackie Kelly responded, I think you’re right. Derby had this discussion but it almost seemed like “we can lower your mill levy but unless the County and everybody else does, what’s the point?”. It does have that kind of cohesive action with the state being involved and everyone agreeing, it is what people really care about. That way we can get that mill levy reduced.
         3. Pete Meitzner responded, Kansas talks about the three legs. Property tax, income tax and sales tax. That’s were funds stay.
      9. Diane Gjerstad asked, so under COMCARE, is that kind of hinting at Medicaid expansion?
         1. Pete Meitzner responded, yes. Underinsured and uninsured is really the reality that is really challenging.
      10. Diane Gjerstad asked, isn’t there 30 other states that have done this, even the ones surrounding us?
          1. Steven Burt responded, there are experts that can come testify to that.
          2. Jackie Kelly responded, I am curious to see how it all plays out when the federal funding dries up. I think all the states that have done it have done it under the protection of federal money.
          3. Steven Burt responded, right. How do you make is sustainable moving forward because the State of Kansas will be on the hook for a percentage of it in the end.
      11. Daniel Bateman asked, 988 is the mental health hotline correct?
          1. Steven Burt responded, it’s the suicide hotline.
          2. Pete Meitzner responded, that needs to be funded, it is part of the 911 requirement. I assume that will be addressed okay.
      12. Diane Gjerstad asked, I was surprised that you only mentioned workforce?
          1. Pete Meitzner responded, it’s in there, under COMCARE.
      13. Jackie Kelly asked, are they going to remodel the Juvenile Facility, and is that going to address the number of beds issue or address those alternative issues?
          1. Pete Meitzner responded, it’s really got to do with the efficiency of trying to put the campus as it’s between the judicial part/court part and some that just need juvenile services before court cases. There is the challenge with the juvenile being sentence and then where are they are and what are their services.
      14. Judah Craig asked, from our side as your CAB, like you said there are several of these that are emotional that you would like feedback from the community, are there any in particular that you would like us to keep a pulse on?
          1. Pete Meitzner responded, I think if you had something that was real value, like what Steven and Diane were saying, even though it may not be a finished item but its more background for us to consider, I think that would be helpful.
      15. Jim Reid asked, did you speak to your newsletter to the survey that is going out to the public, what is that specific too?
          1. Pete Meitzner responded, Sarah, tell me again?
          2. Sarah Harper responded, it’s the Mental Health Hospital.
          3. Pete Meitzner responded, the County is in charge of building the State Mental Health Hospital. Part of what the committee has said is let’s do some community outreach to see if there is any feedback on where and why.
      16. Jim Reid asked, didn’t the Governor name her own group to do the studies on this?
          1. Pete Meitzner responded, this is the outcome of that group that meets. They felt that this is what should happen considering it is located in Sedgwick County that there should be Sedgwick County citizen’s feedback.
      17. Jim Reid asked, is it going to be built with the idea that it will be expandable?

1. Pete Meitzner responded, that is what I saw recently.

* + 1. Jackie Kelly asked, would any of those beds be promised to County or distributed by State?
       1. Pete Meitzner responded, the beds would be assigned by the State process.
    2. Judah Craig asked, will there be a priority for the region?
       1. Pete Meitzner responded, I would assume because we are the buggiest supplier for the waiting list.
       2. Steven Burt responded, it would prioritized by a queue in that location, unless you build that into the contract.
       3. Judah Craig responded, I think since we are one of the bigger suppliers for it naturally, that’s how it would work.
       4. Daniel Bateman responded, there is also the problem with how to transport. Especially with issues that deal with court issues, it’s expensive to drive people here.
    3. Tex Dozier asked, would there be any interest or possibility to adding the Exploration Place for the license plate addition?
       1. Pete Meitzner responded, the Wichita flag license plate caught a couple of legislator’s eyes that could say yes. I think you have to have minimum of x number of pre-orders to get it.
    4. Judah Craig asked, what kind of impact can be realized from the Zoo, what’s the projection?
       1. Pete Meitzner responded, I don’t know.
       2. Daniel Bateman responded, I think that a state-wide plate that would support all of the science museums would work.
    5. Steven Burt asked, is there a coalition?
       1. Daniel Bateman responded, sure. It depends on which of the museums associations are a part of it. But if they came together that way and do a science education plate that would support the museums, there would be a much broader market.
    6. Tex Dozier asked, is there any reason that the percentage cap at 110% for the 68521 bidding contracts, could be shifted to a higher number instead of not having a capitol?
       1. Pete Meitzner responded, its requires rebidding and rejection of bids but if that’s what they want to straighten out due to inflation costs, I think that is what its based on.
    7. Tex Dozier asked, in that example, where the folks with the most experience coming in their bids where higher, isn’t it because it was above that threshold that made the rebid process?
       1. Pete Meitzner responded, vitally important. By delaying it a year, they stair stepped them right on top of each other because you’ll probably receive better bids because the crews can be moved.
       2. Tex Dozier responded, maybe there could be a call to revisit what these county engineers parameters are besides historic pricing.
    8. Discussion of 2024 dates/topics

1. Sarah Harper responded, we should definitely try and get the Treasurer’s Office for an earlier meeting.
   * 1. Judah Craig asked, is the WUS/KU Bio Center is that at a point where it would be a good for an update?
2. Pete Meitzner responded, let me talk to Andy Schlapp and find out if there is something on the horizon.
   * 1. Judah Craig asked, do you all have any topics that you would specifically like to see?
3. Pete Meitzner responded, you’ve got some good stuff that could be combined. Maybe we could talk about the winter shelter that had a lot of emotion around it or the campus called MAC.
4. Steven Burt responded, the Multi Agency Center, MAC, there are a few RFB’s already.
5. Pete Meitzner responded, I think that would be a spring time update for sure.
   * 1. Daniel Bateman said, I would be interested in a Sheriff/DA marijuana conversation.

1. Tex Dozier responded, i would be interested in the difference between City and County and the linking up of the two. Maybe this could be an opportunity to have the Wichita police and County Sheriff weigh in.

2. Pete Meitzner responded, the DA’s Office could weigh in on that. I do know that there was not any citations for marijuana from the Wichita police only if there was another crime involved it was an add on.

3. Jackie Kelly responded, in Bel Aire many of our citizens did not want to not prosecute marijuana. But being able to have the County hold on to their willingness to charge and that gave us legs to stand on. If the County changes its perspective on this it will make it a lot harder for the smaller cities to not follow.

* + 1. 2024 Dates: we picked topics for January through June.
    2. Jackie Kelly asked, can we add the K-254 Corridor?

1. Sarah Harper responded, yes.
   * 1. Daniel Bateman asked, can that tie in with the expansion of transit outside of Wichita?

1. Sarah Harper responded, yes.

* + 1. Daniel Bateman asked, in regards to the new admin building, is that piece of land up north still of question?

1. Pete Meitzner responded, yes, the County owns that land.

* + 1. Tex Dozier asked, are we doing Jan. 22nd, the fourth Monday because of MLK Day?

1. Sarah Harper responded, yes.

* + 1. As a reminder, for any email correspondence to agenda items, don’t send them to the whole group. Send them to Judah, Commissioner Meitzner or Sarah Harper.

1. **Adjournment**
   1. The District 1 Citizen’s Advisory Board adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be* ***Monday, January 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m.***  *at Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS*