



## District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025 | 7 p.m.  
Sedgwick County Zoo  
315 S. Main, Goddard

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**Board Members in Attendance:** Cameron Dawson, Patrick Gaughan, Connor Glenn, Mike Hill, Jaime Kissinger, Jeff Longwell, Kevin McWhorter, Michael Mitchell, Johanna Pfaff

**County Representatives:** Commissioner Stephanie Wise, SCZ President & CEO Scott Newland

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### **1. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Call to Order – Chair Jeff Longwell
  - i. Chair Jeff Longwell called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
  - ii. Commissioner Wise is going to continue to be a resource for us, but she doesn't want to participate in our decision making process.

### **2. PUBLIC AGENDA**

- a. The public agenda allows members of the public to address the District 3 Citizens Advisory Board.
  - i. No comments.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. 2025 CAB Strategic Planning – Chair Jeff Longwell
  - i. Haven't received any suggestions or emails regarding the new strategic plan. So I'm entertaining a motion to extend the Strategic planning meeting to next meeting. A motion was made by Patrick Gaughan and seconded by Michael Mitchell. The motion passed **9-0**.
  - ii. The next meeting will be held in a different location across the parking lot instead of the regular room.
- b. Sedgwick County Zoo – SCZ President & CEO Scott Newland
  1. SCZ President & CEO Scott Newland gave an overview of the Sedgwick County Zoo and took CAB members on a tour.

### **4. BOARD AGENDA**

- a. Commissioner Wise held discussion on the following topics:
  - i. Did the ground breaking for the construction of the South Central Regional Mental Health Hospital.
    1. Patrick Gaughan asked about the number of beds in the mental health hospital
      - a. Commissioner Wise said 104 beds
    2. Patrick Gaughan asked about the reduction in mill levy rate and what it would amount to in dollars. Is reducing one mill levy worthwhile when taxes have risen almost 9% and it might affect the county's budget and ability to provide services.
      - a. Commissioner Wise said it is a flat number of \$1.00 in property taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. This change will not affect the county's ability to provide services.
  - ii. Commissioner Wise attended the unveiling of Children's Mercy.
  - iii. Big strides in the construction of the Bio-Med campus. This is going to be advantageous for mental health concerns in the surrounding regions.

- iv. Sedgwick County administration is looking into moving to the Envision building. Might use the city of Wichita chambers for meetings.
- v. Legislative agenda – We pushed for four major items. Two might pass this year; the others might be pushed to next year.
  - a. Asked for a freeze on the tax formula. Currently, if we reduce our mill levy we lose on a portion of the sales tax. We're asking them to look into fixing that formula.
  - b. Elections – There will be three per year, Primary, General and one in the spring time.
  - c. The Cremains bill was supposed to go through relatively easily but it didn't pass this session.
  - d. There are losses (\$700,000 – \$800,000) at the treasurer's office due to fees stagnation. It didn't get focus this session but we're hoping to get some attention on it going forward.
- vi. The Interim Director of the State Property Valuation Division gave a presentation on what their duties are in relationship to the county appraiser and what our duties are as the county appointed appraiser. They didn't clarify who has directive over the county appraiser while we believe PVD is responsible for Appraisers. This is hard for accountability, answering questions for our taxpayers and constituents and making any changes to the appraiser's process. Recommend watching the meeting

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and CAB Members toured the Sedgwick County Zoo after.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 7 p.m.**,  
at USD 265 District Office, 201 S. Main, Goddard, KS.*