

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF FIRE DISTRICT #1**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 1997**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, Sitting as the Governing Body of Fire District #1, was called to order at 11:01 a.m., Wednesday, September 24, 1997, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Thomas G. Winters, with the following present: Chairman Pro Tem Paul W. Hancock; Commissioner Betsy Gwin; Commissioner Melody C. Miller; Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor; Mr. Gary Curmode, Fire Chief; Mr. David C. Spears, P.E., Director, Bureau of Public Services; Mr. Fred Ervin, Public Affairs Officer; and Ms. Linda M. Leggett, Deputy County Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that all Commissioners were present.

**DONATION**

**A. DONATION OF \$500 TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.**

**Mr. Gary E. Curmode**, Fire Chief, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would recommend that we accept the donation and authorize the Fire Chief to send a letter of appreciation to the donor."

**MOTION**

Commissioner Hancock moved to accept the donation and authorize the Fire Chief to send a letter of appreciation.

Commissioner Schroeder seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 24, 1997**

**VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

**Chairman Winters** said, "Next item."

**NEW BUSINESS**

**B. FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

**1. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN EXTRABOARD/  
FIREFIGHTER INTERVIEW BOARD.**

**Chief Curmode** said, "Commissioners, this is an interview board that we periodically update every two to three years. Our list has basically been deleted. We've completed the written tests and also an agility test. We have the interviews tentatively planned under your approval here today. I would recommend that you adopt the Resolution."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioner Gwin."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Chief Curmode, have we been using an interview board previously? Are you just amending this somewhat?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, there is a Resolution that has been done previously. We haven't done one under my administration so far, but it was done approximately three years ago. Then we deplete the list and take letters over a period of time. People apply and then we go through an applicant process. They take a written test and then an agility, and then go through an interview process. It is a continued process and we need your approval for a Resolution."

**Commissioner Gwin** said, "Okay, thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you. Commissioner Schroeder."

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 24, 1997**

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, "Is the City of Wichita utilizing extra board?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Commissioner, no they don't. We do a joint process of agility testing and written testing. We did that this year and this eliminates duplication and increases efficiency. Then we separate, at that point the applicants have a choice of applying for City, County, or both. They can sign two lists and then they go through two processes as far as interviews. So they do not use an extra process such as we do."

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, "Do they use people through an extra board process at the City or are they all full time firefighters?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "When they hire, they are going to have a class in October. This one will be about 12 or 13 people. Then they are hired into a full time status and they go through approximately 10 to 12 weeks of training."

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, "So are they considered extra board then, the trainees?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "No. They are assigned to a station full time."

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, "So they don't have any extra board personnel then."

**Chief Curmode** said, "No sir."

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, "Thank you."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioners, you've heard this report, what's the will of the Board?"

**MOTION**

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Gwin seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 24, 1997**

**VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

**Chairman Winters** said, "Next item."

**2. TRADE OF QUINT 38 FOR A NEW PUMPER.**

**Chief Curmode** said, "Commissioners, this was brought to you verbally last year for verbal approval to at least pursue this and we did. We found a state, Minnesota or Michigan, Fire Department that was wanting to purchase the used ladder truck. We are again bringing this to your attention and recommend that you adopt the Resolution to allow us to proceed with potential negotiations. I am available for questions."

**Chairman Winters** said, "Commissioner Schroeder."

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, "Just a follow up. We had this conversation, but you are sure that we don't need this kind of equipment any longer?"

**Chief Curmode** said, "Yes, Commissioner. If I may, I might give you some pros and cons of that apparatus. It was bought in 1986 for approximately \$257,000. By the time we would order a new one it would be about 12 years old. When you buy a ladder apparatus purchase, any time you have a hydraulic ladder added to a vehicle it increases your maintenance cost per year about 75%. Right now we have aerial platform 34 in Haysville Station 34, and we also have Quint 38 in the east part of our County. We maintain, in Station 38, we have about a 33 square mile initial response district. But when we go out to rural areas it is basically limited because of turn radius and other capabilities plus the size and weight, we are stuck in a road outside. We are unable to do maneuvering properly for a fire attack and so forth. It takes us a longer time to get up to a structure to lay a supply line up to the fire structure."

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 24, 1997**

“In rural fire fighting it turns into more of a taxi, if you will, to get out there. It is great in suburban areas. What we have done over the past ten years since that purchase, we have tried when we bought an apparatus to buy what we call a deck gun, which is a mounted master stream device which will put out 750 to 1,000 gallons per minute, which is mounted on there, which will protect us in the same type of situation.”

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, “It is mounted on the pumper.”

**Chief Curmode** said, “Yes, it is mounted on the pumper.”

**Commissioner Schroeder** said, “But you don’t have the advantage of the height, but you tell me you don’t really need that in the rural areas.”

**Chief Curmode** said, “Right, we will not need that. We can achieve that with the fire deck gun in that area. The one place where we have the aerial platform stationed is where we have the real concern with a high rise and that is our senior citizen home in Haysville. So we are well taken care of. Some other things that are pluses is that this new engine will not cost the fire district any money. Basically, a trade will be done. Kanopick is the intermediary and if they go through with the purchase, what will happen here is we will get a brand new engine, similar to the two you saw a year and a half ago, engine 32 and engine 36 that we had outside the courthouse. It will be identical to them. It will take about ten months to a year to get in, they will loan us an engine to use that will meet our quality until the new one comes in. Then what happens, that new pumper will decrease our maintenance costs. So again, we try to keep a new pumper like that will be front line, which means it will be first line out for about 15 years and then the next 5 years it is used in reserve status. So you are looking at a pumper that is going to run about \$250,000 dollars. So trading in a 12 year model and getting a brand new one for no cost is a real benefit to the taxpayers and Fire District #1.”

**Chairman Winters** said, “Any other questions or comments? Seeing none, what’s the will of the Board?”

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 24, 1997**

**MOTION**

Commissioner Gwin moved to authorize the Fire District to proceed with trade negotiations.

Commissioner Hancock seconded the Motion.

There was no discussion on the Motion, the vote was called.

**VOTE**

Commissioner Betsy Gwin	Aye
Commissioner Paul Hancock	Aye
Commissioner Melody C. Miller	Aye
Commissioner Mark F. Schroeder	Aye
Chairman Thomas G. Winters	Aye

**Chairman Winters** said, "Thank you Chief. Is there other business to come before the Board sitting as the Fire District? Seeing none, this meeting is adjourned."

**C. OTHER**

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**Regular Meeting, Fire District #1, September 24, 1997**

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS**

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**THOMAS G. WINTERS**, Chairman  
Third District

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**PAUL W. HANCOCK**, Chairman Pro Tem  
Second District

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**BETSY GWIN**, Commissioner  
First District

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**MELODY C. MILLER**, Commissioner  
Fourth District

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**MARK F. SCHROEDER**, Commissioner  
Fifth District

ATTEST:

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**James Alford**, County Clerk

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_, 1997