

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

REGULAR MEETING

September 21, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 10:06 a.m., on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Ben Sciortino; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Lucy Burtnett; Fire Chief Gary Curmode, Fire District #1; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, August 31, 2005

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of August 31, 2005.

Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioners, you've had the opportunity to review the Minutes of the August 31st meeting. Are there any additions or corrections?"

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 31, 2005.

Commissioner Burtnett seconded the motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Next item please."

AWARD

A. GRANT AWARD FROM FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION'S FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM, TO BE USED FOR PORTABLE STANDBY POWER GENERATORS, RELATED EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION.

Fire Chief Gary Curmode, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In April of this year, I came before you to ask for permission to apply for a firefighters' safety grant from Sedgwick County Fire District 1 and today I'm very happy to share with you that we've been awarded it, subject to your approval.

This would be installing eight standby power generators for our stations. We had three stations go out during the ice storm in January and we had three different pieces of apparatus freeze up that we weren't able to respond with, so this will really help us in the future.

And basically, the total cost of the project is \$218,936. FEMA will fund 80% of this, which is \$175,149 and the Fire District will fund 20%, or \$43,787. We'll work closely with Facilities, if you approve this, to insure the generators will be compatible with the station relocation project and I'm available for any questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Chief. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Chief, we all know that during the ice storm, generators became a very large factor for a number of small communities, particularly in trying to keep their infrastructure going. Are these . . . will these be fixed generators at fire stations, or will there be any method to move them around, or what kind of generators are we going to put to work here?"

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Chief Curmode said, “Commissioner, basically, they are portable generators that will be permanently affixed, but just have to be unbolted to move them to a new fire station location. So again, they’re going to be very portable. They will fit right into the current stations. As we start the fire station relocation program, we’ll put them at our permanent stations that will not be moved first and then put generators at the other ones. As the new stations are built, they’ll be able to be unplugged and unbolted, moved real easily to the next station location and permanently fastened at that point.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, well that sounds good and quite obvious. My question was kind of going toward would there be any way that if a certain part of the county or small community was having difficulty and a generator was not in use at a particular station, that station had full power, is there any way to move those around during an emergency or are they too permanently fixed to consider that?”

Chief Curmode said, “They are portable and we probably could do that. We’d have to make sure that, first of all, we’d probably work with Public Works to see if we could move it with some of their equipment and then make sure the electrical outlets are compatible to move that temporarily over there.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, I would just ask you to ask your folks that are doing the installation process if they would at least consider that possibility of whether, in an emergency, they could be unbolted and moved to where they’re actually needed, as opposed to just I know, ones like we have here at the courthouse complex for the jail are monstrous pieces of equipment and you would not be able to readily move them, but I would think one the size to power a fire station, if that fire station was fully up and powered with electric power from the utility, might be something just to move to a small community to put on their water pumps or whatever might be needed.”

Chief Curmode said, “Excellent idea, commissioner, and we’ll look into it immediately.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you very much.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioner Norton.”

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Commissioner Norton said, "Well I think Commissioner Winters brings up a really good point. I know, back in '99, with the tornado, the first call I made was to Vulcan Chemical to borrow a generator so that we'd have at least one piece of power, other than the city building, in an emergency shelter. So, in times of disasters, you find yourselves without power and you can't communicate, you can't take care of people and those portable generators are almost a lifeline and certainly they found that out in Katrina, where they didn't have near enough of those in some critical areas to get some power, some communications up and running and emergency generators was the answer and having them portable and very quick to move around, so I think that's a great idea. That's all I had."

Chairman Unruh said, "Very good. Are there any other comments, commissioners? What's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Burtnett moved to accept the grant award.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Burtnett	Aye
Commissioner Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Chief Curmode, thank you. That brings us to the end of the agenda for the fire district and now would be a good time, if there are other items commissioners would like to call to our attention, now would be the time. Commissioner Burtnett."

B. OTHER

Commissioner Burtnett said, "We do have . . . today is the last day of summer, in case anybody forgot, so tomorrow starts fall and this Saturday will be the fall festival in Valley Center and Sedgwick County will have a booth and we will have a change to sign up for prizes, like we did at the River Festival, so I encourage anyone to come out and visit us there this Saturday."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Are you going to be in the parade?"

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Commissioner Burtnett said, "I'm going to be in the parade and I will be at the booth."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Are they serving food?"

Commissioner Burtnett said, "I will probably not be serving food, but we will have food available."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, it is fall and with fall comes chili. This weekend is the Old Town Chili Cook Off and it's sponsored by the Wichita Wagonmasters this year. Some of the other sponsors have fallen away, and the Wagonmasters, who have always been involved with that particular event will be helping with it. In fact, I think tonight I'm going to help put together tasting kits. So they're ramping up for that, so if the weather has a little snap in it and you'd like to enjoy a good time in Old Town with the Chili Festival, then that's going on this weekend. I don't have all the particulars, but I'm sure you can call Wichita Festivals and they'll have some of the information too."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Well, in keeping with food, I was remiss last week, but I'll share it this week. Two weeks ago, a buddy of mine from Derby and I peddled over to Haysville and we went to the Masonic Lodge and they have a breakfast once a month, I believe or once every . . ."

Commissioner Norton said, "Maybe every two weeks."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Every two weeks . . . anyway, tremendous food and I almost had to go from Haysville over to Clearwater and back just to digest some of it on the way back, but good fellowship. I saw a couple of city council people there, Mr. Mayor . . . Mr. Ex-mayor, you probably showed up a little later than when I got there, but it was a lot of fellowship, a lot of fun and there's just these little kind of mini-fun things to do all around our community, if we just look for them, and it makes for a neat hour, hour and a half on a Saturday morning, go someplace different. But those omelets they were making were to die for, with the salsa on top of it and they pulled the gals in the . . . what do they call the girls in the . . .?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Eastern Star."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Eastern Star girls were serving the coffee and the orange juice and it was kind of neat, so I enjoyed myself."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, and that particular facility was totally destroyed by the tornado and they built back and they're stronger than ever, and better membership and it's right in the heart of the Old Town District of Haysville."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, very good. Well, I’ll just mention that I was privileged to attend the dedication of the Eastborough Park last Sunday afternoon. Mayor Rosenberg and his staff put together a really nice celebration. It’s a beautiful park and I think anybody that wants to go over there and enjoy it, the park is open but it was a good celebration and very well attended by citizens of Eastborough.

Last night, we had the community meeting for the K-254 Corridor Coalition and well attended by Sedgwick County citizens. Tonight, that corridor coalition has a community meeting in Benton, Kansas so they’ll get to see the progress we made in the planning, well attended, appreciate the citizens’ input.

And lastly, I would . . . last time this year I’ll get to remind you about the Komen Race For the Cure this Saturday morning, starts at 8:00 at Towne East Square. They’ve got competitive 5-K race and a non-competitive 5-K race and a family walk, and a kid’s walk and a lot of activity. So, if you’d like to avail yourself of that opportunity in the morning of Saturday, it all goes for a good cause. The money stays right here in Kansas for breast cancer research.

Commissioners, if there anything else? Seeing nothing, I will adjourn the meeting of the Fire District.”

C. ADJOURNMENT

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There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

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

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
First District

BEN SCIORTINO, Chair Pro Tem
Fifth District

TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

LUCY BURTNETT, Commissioner
Fourth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2005