

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

January 10, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:00 A.M., on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh, with the following present: Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner Kelly Parks; Commissioner Gwen Welshimer; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor; Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor; Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Iris Baker, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and, Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Ted Knopp, Attorney, Rural Water District #1.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Mr. Ashok Aurora of the Hindu Community.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Unruh said, "I think I'll take this minute to officially welcome Commissioner Welshimer and Commissioner Parks to the bench. Appreciate your willingness to serve the citizens of Sedgwick County in this position. We look forward to a good term with you so thank you for your willingness to serve. Madam Clerk, please call the next item."

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, December 13, 2006

The Clerk reported that all Commissioners were present at the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2006.

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Chairman Unruh said, “Commissioners, you’ve had the opportunity to review the Minutes of December 13th. Are there any additions or corrections?”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2006.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Abstain
Commissioner Welshimer	Abstain
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Next item please.”

AWARDS

A. SEDGWICK COUNTY TECHNICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING AUTHORITY.

1. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS.

- **DR. BILL BISCHOFF**
- **BRIAN BULATAO**
- **CONNIE DIETZ**
- **WILLIS HECK**
- **TOM RITCHIE**

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Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Today is an exciting day for us. We’re celebrating some great success and looking forward to the future, but the first item to celebrate what I think has been enormous success with the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority.

If you recall, we stood that body up in 2004, August of 2004, and we asked them to accomplish three things. The goals, the outcomes were pretty succinct but pretty difficult. The first was to advance and promote a world-class technical education facility and delivery system for Sedgwick County. The second was to provide the leadership to establish a one-stop solution for customized technical training for employers. And the third was to become a repository for demand labor data to drive decisions around technical education needs and programming.

Through their efforts we accomplished, I think, those three things. Last summer, the one-stop concept was created for business seeking help from the public workforce was launched, it was created. It was known as the Workforce Solution and in February we will have a director, a full-time director in place for that.

Sedgwick County Workforce Development plays a critical role as a partner for workforce solutions, addressing the needs of employers relative to customized training for the incumbent workers. So that’s a one-stop place for businesses up and running, as we had envisioned. No small task, since there’s so many groups involved and so many agendas and turfs that were involved.

Additionally, we had last spring the Board of County Commissioners elected to provide the bond financing to build a \$40,000,000 technical education campus. And the new governance and leadership model to manage the operations of the campus and delivery of programs was advanced late this past year and again, that’s launched and up and running.

And finally, this whole idea of becoming a repository for demand labor data, again we put together a labor study for IT workers in this community and the authority became the repository for that and that’s only the first of many that we are about to do, so that we have a comprehensive understanding of what business needs are in the community.

At this point, we’d like to take time to thank those people who made those accomplishments occurs who are here. There are six people who are going off the board and the first is our good friend from Wichita State University, Dr Bill Bischoff. Thank you very much. Brian Bulatao, and again thank you for your service and appreciate your hard work. Thank you very much. Willis Heck, Willis served as a representative from REAP and was of great value. Willis, thank you so much. Tom Ritchie, again thank you Tom so much for helping.

Connie Dietz could not be here or is not here, or chose not to be here but we thank her for her

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service. And finally, least but . . . no, last but not least Commissioner Dave Unruh.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Bill, could we ask if any of those want to make a comment?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “Sure.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Does anybody want to say anything?”

Mr. Buchanan said, “If Dr. Bishop wants to say anything, you must remind he this is not a class, so we don’t need a 15 minute speech.”

Chairman Unruh said, “Well Bill, I just want to make a comment that in serving with these citizens that put a lot of time in during this tenure, they served with energy and imagination and intelligence and with passion and this, I believe really was for the benefit of the entire community and so I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve with you and for the service you gave to Sedgwick County, so thank you all very much.”

2. RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS.

PRIVATE

- **DAN DYMARKOWSKI – HAWKER BEEHCRAFT**
- **RAY FREDERICK – FREDERICK’S PLUMBING**
- **CINDY HOOVER – ENGENIO**
- **DEREK MCLUCKEY – BOEING**
- **KEVIN POLIAN – BOMBARDIER**
- **KIM SHANK – WICHITA CLINIC**
- **JEFF TURNER – SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS**
- **JIM WALTERS – CESSNA AIRCRAFT**
- **LYNDON WELLS- INTRUST**

PUBLIC

- **PAUL GRAY – CITY OF WICHITA**
- **TIM NORTON – SEDGWICK COUNTY**

Mr. Buchanan said, “Commissioners, the other portion of this agenda item is to recognize new

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members of the authority and they are listed on your agenda: Dan Dymarkowski, Ray Frederick. Ray is here. Ray, would you wave. Cindy Hoover, Cindy I don't believe is here, Derek McLuckey, Kevin Polian, Kim Shank, Jeff Turner, Jim Walters and Lyndie Wells. Paul Gray for the City of Wichita will serve as will Commissioner Tim Norton and so that's the composition of the new members. If it please the commission, I would recommend that you receive and file."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. We have a request to speak here from Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I really want to go back to the last group. I have such great admiration for that group that took on the early work of trying to figure out what the technical authority looked like, where we were going with WATC, how to be regional, how to get partners involved, how to answer to county but also how to answer to business and answer to Board of Regents. And I often say that was the time when we were taking a lot of eggs from a lot of people and breaking them to make an omelet and the messy time during all of this was when all the eggs were getting broken and that's when this group worked so hard to make sure we stayed focused on the goal and I'm really tickled that I get to come in and help make the final omelet, after all the eggs are broken, but I have great admiration for all of those individuals that served and worked so hard during times there was a lot of acrimony, there was a lot of confusion, there was a lot of hidden agendas and they waded through it and stayed on course and made sure that we got to where we are today and I really appreciate that, I really do. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you commissioner, and I'd just make a comment that this is a very strong board and so going forward we not only expect they're going to do a great job, but we expect that they will do a great job, if you get the difference, so we're looking forward to that."

Commissioners, any other comments? Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Well, I just have one question. Looks like a very impressive board. I'm just wondering if you get a lot of support from the unions who have played a big role in this and I wonder are they included in this type of management at all, or in some other way, or are they going to be added to the board at some time?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioner Welshimer, we concentrated on making sure the aviation industry was heavily involved in this first phase. We have talked to the union folks. They have been served on subcommittee, they served on a working committee with us, they are at our bi-weekly meetings on the Jabara Campus. We're using their expertise and advice in other ways, so we have made an effort, I believe, to include them in the process."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "All right, thank you."

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Chairman Unruh said, "Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "I just wanted to ask Mr. Buchanan what is the length of term of the ones that were appointed here?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "They have staggered terms and I think the longest is three years and can be reappointed for another three-year term, so the initial group has some are one year, some are two years and some are three years."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay commissioners, are there any other comments?"

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES- DEPARTMENT ON AGING

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B. DEPARTMENT ON AGING'S AWARD FOR COMPLETION OF THE SELF-ASSESSMENT PHASE OF THE KANSAS CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE (FORMERLY THE KANSAS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE) AWARD PROGRAM.

Ms. Annette Graham, Director, Department on Aging, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Kansas Award for Excellence Foundation, now known as the Kansas Center for Performance Excellence, was founded in 1995 as the Kansas Affiliate of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program. The purpose of this organization's recognition program is to provide assistance to organizations that are seeking to understand and achieve performance excellence. The Kansas Center for Performance Excellence recognizes organizations at four levels. Applicants at all levels, including the self-assessment, receive a detailed feedback report identifying the organization's strengths and opportunities for improvement. By addressing the opportunities for improvement, organizations become more efficient and more productive.

The Sedgwick County Department on Aging began the self-assessment process in December 2004, and met the deadline for the April 22, 2005 deadline to apply for this. This was an effort that we as an organization . . . and it involved the entire staff of the department. On May 7, 2006 the Department on Aging received its comprehensive feedback report from the Kansas Award for Excellence, and received the Self-Assessment Recognition Award on December 5, 2006 at their annual award's banquet. I wanted to recognize Sonya Rickerson, who was the lead for our HR's Department pursuing this and she really pushed us and made us work very hard to do this. I would also like to thank the Sedgwick County commissioners and the county manager for the environment of excellence that you have established here at Sedgwick County that really enables us as a department then to pursue this kind of thing. But that environment of excellence that we work in and that expectation for continued excellence really enables us as a department to pursue this, so I wanted to bring this award and show that to you today. We are very proud of it and very proud to represent you as Sedgwick County when we receive this and we will be proceeding with the next step in this process to take that feedback and move on and pursue the next level of this."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, thank you Annette. We're very proud of your department and the effort that you put in to make this possible. Anytime you take the effort to look inside, make yourself better, well it's a good thing to do and we're proud of what you've accomplished.

Was this self-assessment just for Sedgwick County department or was it for the Area Agency on Aging?"

Ms. Graham said, "It was for us as an entire organization, so it did include both the Sedgwick County Department on Aging and the Area Agency on Aging component."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Okay, so our neighboring counties get to enjoy the recognition also. All right, we have a comment from Commissioner Winters.”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, thank you Mr. Chairman. Annette, my question and you may have addressed this, was this self-assessment part of what is connected with the Kansas Department of Aging in Topeka, through the aging department or is this something that you all struck out on your own path with?”

Ms. Graham said, “This was something we did on our own and not part of Kansas Department on Aging. In fact, we’re the first and only at this point in time Area Agency on Aging, or Department on Aging across the State of Kansas that has pursued this and received this award.”

Commissioner Winters said, “All right, very good. I feel like I don’t know very much about it, but if you go through this process, I’m sure you’ve learned a great deal about your operation and our tri-county area operation and ways, hopefully, to improvement and plus on the good things you’re doing, so again, good job. Thank you”

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you. Any other comment, commissioners? Do we have a motion to recognize this achievement and receive and file the report?”

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Annette, thank you. Madam Clerk, call the next item please.”

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PUBLIC HEARING

C. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR ATTACHMENT OF LANDS TO RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS, AND FOR RELEASE OF LAND FROM RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 5, BUTLER COUNTY, KANSAS.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor, County Counselor's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've got a map up on the screen for you and I'll spend a few minutes going over the map so we can get acclimated to it. I'll use my cursor. The subject parcels that are the matter of this hearing today are these three red boxes right here. We've got 254 Highway or 61st Street North running this way and then of course this is right on 127th Street East, so we're looking at the northwest corner of 127th Street East and 61st Street North.

The green shaded areas is the current boundaries of Rural Water District #5 of Butler that extends into Sedgwick County. This other tan shaded area is the service area for the Rural Water District #1 of Sedgwick County. The subject parcels were previously in Rural Water District #5. The next detail I would like to note are these pipelines, the Conoco and I believe . . . I can't read the writing on this one, I'll have to look, but we have two significant pipelines that kind of cut this property off from service by Rural Water District #5.

Down here you can see a blue line. That's large service line of Rural Water District #5. The yellow lines are smaller lines, but again those are part of . . . so you can see, just from the features of the map, that these parcels cannot be adequately served by Rural Water District #5, or economically serviced I suppose and that is really the subject of this hearing.

The statutes provide that when you had a petition presented to you, a petition was filed in this case on December 11th, that you have to set a date for public hearing within 30 days, so we're within 30 days of the filing of the petition. You had set that hearing date earlier in December. We have to send notice to the rural water districts involved of the date and time of hearing.

We send it to the chief engineer of the Division of Water Resources and because, as you can also see from the map, these black lines represents city limits of Bel Aire, Kechi and up here this is

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Wichita city limits, a little island that they have up there. If it's within three miles, we have to notify those cities and their planning commissions as well, and then they would be entitled to come to the hearing and provide you some testimony as to whether their growth plans approach this area or whether they would be in a position possibly to serve this area instead of the rural water districts.

However, based on our comprehensive plan, this is outside any of the growth areas of any of the cities involved, so we appear to conclude at this point that this is appropriate for a rural water district to serve and it's clear that #5 has released the lands by their actions that are included in your packet. They've filed a statement by their board of directors that they've consented to the release and we have a consent from Rural Water District #1's board of directors that agrees they would like to attach the lands to their district and finally we have consents from the landowners, all three of the landowners involved are consenting to the attachment.

So at that point, unless you have some additional questions, I would suggest you open the public hearing, see if there's anybody from the audience that wants to make any comments or provide any testimony. Then you can close the public hearing and we can talk about what findings you need to make."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Bob. Commissioners, are there any questions of Mr. Parnacott at this time? If not, I will open the public hearing and ask if there is anyone that wants to make a comment or testimony at this time. Please state your name and address."

Mr. Ted Knopp, Attorney, Rural Water District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Rural Water District #1 is one of the . . . is the first rural water district established in Sedgwick County. It's been serving northeast Sedgwick County since 1960, with quality treated water for rural residents.

As you can see from the maps, most of the territory in northeast Sedgwick County is within either a city limits or one of another rural water district. The governing statutes that govern the rural water districts provide that we cannot provide service to anybody that is not inside the territory of the rural water district and everybody . . . every user within that territory becomes a member of the district, entitled to vote and entitled subscribe, should we have the water capacity to serve.

Those determinations have been made but until this land is removed from Butler #1 [sic] and added to Sedgwick County #1, we do not have the ability to provide them water service and this action we're asking consent to, the landowners is asking is to allow them to get water service from Rural

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Water District #1. We received wonderful cooperation from Rural Water District #5 and would ask that this petition be approved and I'm available for any questions."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Any questions, commissioners? All right, thank you. Is there anyone else that wants to speak to this? I don't see anyone moving, so at this time I will close the public hearing and commissioners, if you have any questions, now is the time. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bob, in looking at our backup material, the findings that we need to make then are ones that . . . find that the required noticed has been given, and the required notice has been given?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "Yes it has and we also published notice as required by the statute regarding the three-mile fringe areas of cities."

Commissioner Winters said, "And then to make a finding that all the statements in the petition are true?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "Yes, and if you'd like, I can go through those statements and petitions just to cover them, so you can hear what those are."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well I think we have those but in your estimation, all of those statements in that petition are true. Correct?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "Yes, I believe you have enough evidence in the record now to support a finding that all those statements made are true."

Commissioner Winters said, "And then finally we just need to approve the petition, or do we really need to do that?"

Mr. Parnacott said, "Well, you make your findings today. We'll prepare an order that will state your findings and that will be on next week's consent agenda for formal approval and then we'll send that to the rural water district."

Commissioner Winters said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. Commissioners, are there any other questions about this item?"

MOTION

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Commissioner Winters moved that the commission make the finding that the required notice has been given and that all the statements in the petition are true.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Bob. Next item please."

NEW BUSINESS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A REDUCED FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2006-2007 FLU SEASON VACCINATIONS PROVIDED BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Ms. Claudia Blackburn, Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you this morning is a resolution to reduce the fee for flu vaccine for the remainder of the 2006-2007 flu season, which generally extends through April.

The current price is \$30 for people over the age of . . . nine and over and \$15 for children under the age of nine. The reason for this request is because we have a surplus of flu vaccine. We have about 2,800 doses and that is not typical at this time of year. We may have 1,000 left, but not 3,000. And we have had a decrease in demand for flu vaccine this year. We typically give under 1,000 doses after January 1, unless we've had some kind of vaccine shortage, which has delayed the flu vaccine season.

So you may ask why we have extra flu vaccine. We order 17,000 doses, based on how many we gave last flu season and last flu season we gave 17,000 by December 31st, so we thought we would

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have the same kind of situation this year. This year we've given around 11,000. Fortunately for us, we were able to sell 3,000 to surrounding local health departments who have not received their flu vaccine, but that still leaves us with about 3,000.

So what we're asking is to reduce our fees from \$30 to \$15 for the nine and over age group and from \$15 to \$7.50 for the under nine age group. And we are going to do a survey at the end of the flu season to see how many doses are being given by the major providers in the community and we'll do that every year so that we can get a sense of whether or not there are more doses being given by the private sector which is why we have decreased demand, or you know, how to better project how much we need in the future.

So our goal is to get vaccine into people and we believe that reducing the prices, coupled with an increase in communication about our program will help us with that, and so at this time I ask you to adopt the resolution and authorize the Chair to sign."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you Claudia. Well, I think that it seems a pretty logical thing to do. Let's get the vaccines out there in whatever way it takes, so I'm going to be supportive of this. We do have a comment from Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Well, I'm going to be supportive of this resolution and reducing this fee. Just a quick question and maybe we need to continue some publicity here. I think I for one sometimes think that if we get into January, it's too late to get a flu shot. Can you comment, Claudia, about the timeframe? Is it too late? Is it still something that people should seriously consider doing, if they've not already done that?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "It is not too late. We have very little flu activity right now in the area and if you get a flu shot it takes about two weeks to become effective, so even if there's a lot of flu activity, if you're not exposed, you still have that window to develop immunity. So we encourage people to get a flu shot during flu season. It is not too late. Now is a good time to do it."

Commissioner Winters said, "When does that flu season really kind of run out, in the spring? I know there is no fixed date, but what is the flu season generally?"

Ms. Blackburn said, "The flu season usually peaks at February and March and it can run through April, so we . . . usually the end of April is when we consider it to be over."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right. Well, I know we've got an event tomorrow for county employees, over at the old historic courthouse, so we'd certainly encourage all county employees to obtain a flu shot and I plan on being there, because I have not had mine yet."

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Ms. Blackburn said, "Very good, very good. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Have you caught the flu yet?"

Commissioner Winters said, "No, I have not had the flu yet but I'm going to get my flu shot tomorrow."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, good for you. All right commissioners, are there any other questions or comments for Claudia? What is the will of the board?"

MOTION

Chairman Norton moved to adopt the Resolution.

Commissioner Winters seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Claudia. Madam Clerk, call the next item."

CONSENT AGENDA

E. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Agreement with National Screening Bureau providing on-line access to**

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Sedgwick County's electronic data.

- 2. Order dated January 2, 2007 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.**
- 3. General Bills Check Register(s) for the week of January 3 – 9, 2007.**

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the consent agenda before you and I'd recommend you approve it."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, I forgot to remind you that there is only 355 more days until the sales tax goes away."

Chairman Unruh said, "That's good. Three hundred and how many?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "Three hundred and fifty five."

Chairman Unruh said, "Three fifty-five and we are counting. Thank you, Mr. Manager. Madam Clerk, call the next item please."

SELECTIONS

- F. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN THROUGH JANUARY 9, 2008.**

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Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you Madam Clerk. This is a time we're going to select our Chairman for the next year. Presently, we have a temporary chairman and so we'll see if we can correct that. And first here was Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Thank you. I'd like to nominate Tim Norton as our chairman for this next year."

MOTION

Commissioner Welshimer moved to nominate Tim Norton as County Commission Chairman for 2007-2008.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Norton said, "I would like to make a comment before we go any further. Based on the year I'm going to have, as chairman of the County Commissioner Association in the state and with the health care project that I'm getting ready to take on with Charlene Stevens and Claudia Blackburn. Also, the work that I'm going to be doing on homelessness and the new appointments at the technical education board, which are all major issues, I just don't know that this is a good year for me to be chair.

I'm very honored that Commissioner Welshimer and Commissioner Parks see me as somebody that can step up and do that, but I would like to withdraw my name, just because I've got plenty of places to show leadership that don't have to do with the Chair and those are important issues that I think need to be advanced in our community and I don't want to water down my commitments to those things, nor my commitments to the state County Commissioners Association by trying to serve two masters. So, I would prevail on my colleagues to maybe withdraw their motion or to take my name out of nomination if they would."

Commissioner Parks said, "I'll withdraw my second on that."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "I'll withdraw my motion and congratulate you on your appointment with the County Commission Association. Thank you."

Commissioner Norton said, "Thank you."

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Chairman Unruh said, “Thank you, Commissioner Norton. That was very gracious. Commissioner Winters”

Commissioner Winters said, “Well, thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Just a quick comment and then I would place a person’s name in nomination. I would also like to say that Tim Norton has done a commendable job as a county commissioner and we have chosen Tim in the past to be chairman of this organization and he has done that and he knows how to do that and was an excellent chairman when we selected Tim earlier to do that.

When I looked at all of the events he’s got on his plate, I think he is going to be very busy and I certainly want to assure them that he has my support on those efforts that he’s working on.”

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to nominate David M. Unruh as County Commission Chairman for 2007-2008.

Commissioner Parks seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Well, thank you commissioners. I appreciate that. And before I call the next item, let me just make a couple of comments. That we have two other commissioners, on my left and on my right, who have served as chairman before and I know they have the experience and the wisdom to provide a lot of leadership in this coming year and I will welcome their council and assistance, as we go forward.

I also know that our two new commissioners, Commissioner Welshimer and Commissioner Parks, have indicated quite clearly that they’re here to get involved and make a difference and they want to make their presence know early, so I look forward to that involvement also.

But as we go forward, it seems to me that we have to make our focus on those things that are

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directly in front of us, that we don't have to be looking for a long term vision, in light of the fact of what's already on our plate. In the area of economic development and workforce development, with the Jabara Training Center, it's something of a high priority that we need to concentrate on. In the area of public safety, the expansion to the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility is important, along with the alternatives to incarceration, and in the area of public safety, we have our new public safety building coming on line, our new emphasis on emergency management, so we have lots to do there.

In the area of human services, that's our ongoing responsibility to those vulnerable populations, along with as Commissioner Norton mentioned, an emphasis on our health department and new emphasis on access. So those are things that we need to focus on during this coming year and not the least of which is the Sedgwick County Arena in downtown Wichita and the challenge that it brings to us.

So we have lots to do and great challenges and I think all of us are committed to making the decisions and getting through this agenda within the revenues produced by our current mill levy. So we have got sufficient challenge but I would thank you for the opportunity to serve as chair and I think that we will have an active and a good year.

And now Madam Clerk, would you please call the next item."

G. SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN PRO TEM THROUGH JANUARY 9, 2008.

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, commissioners, now is the time to select a pro tem."

MOTION

Chairman Unruh moved to elect Thomas G. Winters as Chair Pro Tem for the County Commission 2007-2008 year.

Commissioner Welshimer seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Winters	Aye
Commissioner Parks	Aye
Commissioner Welshimer	Aye
Chairman Unruh	Aye

Chairman Unruh said, “Well Commissioner Winters . . .”

Commissioner Winters said, “Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and I will certainly be of assistance to you, Mr. Chairman, in any way I can.”

Chairman Unruh said, “All right, thank you very much. All right, we are at the point on our agenda that says ‘other’ so commissioners, if there’s anything that you’d like to mention or bring up, now is the appropriate time. And Commissioner Parks.”

H. OTHER

Commissioner Parks said, “Thank you, Chairman Unruh. One of my most important things that I wanted to do from the bench today was assure my constituents and thank them that I’m hitting the ground running here and it’s not overwhelming but it’s a lot of hard work but I’ve been used to that in other positions that I’ve been in.

I did want to say that I have already addressed some of the issues that were around in the campaign. One of them was the arena and some of the options there and I’m meeting with some staff on that later on. One of the things that my constituents are wanting to be . . . make sure that we’re held to are the vote, and I obtained a copy of that, the actual ballot vote from Bill Gale at the Election Commission and I’m going to be going over those items, especially subsection B, that deals with the Kansas Coliseum, make sure that we have all the promises being kept for the Kansas Coliseum.

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Some of the other things, with a meeting with Finance, in reference to some taxation issues and apparently we're going to have about a 5% increase in the valuation and hopefully some of those projects that have been bestowed upon us by the former county commissions to the tune of about \$12,000,000 preliminarily, where we're going to have to see where we can either make some cuts or make some adjustments in those.

Another issue that's going to come up and the legislature is frantically dealing with that also is the gaming issue, working with other staff members on that to try to get some wording on a vote for a gaming bill that would dovetail in with the state, when that comes up.

Some of the things that are going on in my district also I want to just say real quickly. We have a multi-cultural parade Saturday the 13th at noon. That will start from McAdams Park and go east on 17th to Hillside, and north on Hillside to 21st. That's always a good parade and a fun time for the people in the 4th District.

Also, on Sunday there's a flea market at the Kansas Coliseum Pavilion. If you've never been to that, that's an interesting venue out there. There is everything from antiques to toys to leftover Christmas stuff, so it draws quite a crowd and I would say if you haven't been to that event, please attend that. That's all I have, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Parks. Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Just one quick note. The K-96 corridor study is having their annual meeting this Friday out at Mount Hope and the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition is going to participate in that, with the K-96 folks, and there will be a ribbon cutting for a new little industrial park in Mount Hope, so some activity along that K-96 corridor that we've been involved with for the last couple of years, so just a note of interest."

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

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My focus of course is the . . . to try to prevent us from having a property tax increase for the 2008 budget. And in order to do that, as Commissioner Parks has mentioned, we've got to find \$12,000,000 to either reduce in expenditures or bring in new revenue. That's going to be my main focus and I plan to work hard on that. I'm also very interested in working on getting the arena and the Jabara Training Center going to where everyone understands it and is happy with the progress.

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As far as my district is concerned, on Fridays I'm going to be at the Mulvane Senior Center in the mornings and the Derby City Building in the afternoons. On hopefully this Friday the weather will permit. It doesn't sound too good and that's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you."

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

Commissioner Norton said, "Two things, to dovetail in with Commissioner Parks, on Monday the Martin Luther King Celebration will be at the Hughes' Metroplex and I have to tell you, if you've never been to that event, it is a wonderful time for folks of all ethnicities and racial backgrounds to come together and understand a man that had a powerful impact on our world in the '60s, as he led his people to some different thought processes and changed our thought processes in the United States.

Martin Luther King celebration is a wonderful time for people to come together and for me, being a child of the south, there's some of the greatest gospel music right here in Wichita, Kansas at the Martin Luther King celebration. So if you're someone who likes good spiritual gospel music, you might want to stop by and attend that. It's a wonderful celebration of life and differences and diversity and I would encourage that.

And then I couldn't pass this up to talk about Titanic. It starts, there's a special launch on the 12th as a preview, but on the 13th it's open to the public. There's going to be wonderful events going on tied to Titanic, but this is the artifact display. These are the actual items that were dug off of the bottom of the North Atlantic two miles deep several years ago, and this is a part of American history. I mean, this is 1912 I think is when the Titanic went down and this is a once in a lifetime chance to see a really piece of Americana history that is, you know, wedged into our lexicon, it's wedged into our thought process. I mean, we understand the phrase 'It went down like the Titanic' and 'it's just the tip of the iceberg' and so many of those things, those phrases came from the Titanic. I would urge people to come. It's going to cost just a little extra for members, because it is a huge traveling exhibit, but it's going to be well worth the while.

On the night of the 26th, if you're interested, you can also come, have a meal, buy a person and your meal will be dedicated to the person you buy. So if you buy an individual that's in steerage. Now I don't know what that is, maybe it's a piece of cornbread and gruel, but there will be first class, second class and a captain's table and all of them have different price ranges, but it should be very interesting. You get a character when you come in, a person that was actually on the Titanic, follow them through, have the meal and at the end of the night you'll find out if that person lived or died. You know, it's a major piece of our American history and I would urge people to come, as we try to make sure Exploration Place is that very, very exciting center of our downtown development, that I've urged people to support it, come by, bring your kids and be part of it.

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And I'm going to tip our hand about some things down the road. As a board member, I just found out that we will be the first venue in the United States to have the Leonardo DaVinci exhibit from Italy. It showcased part of it in Chicago, but the full thing is coming to Exploration Place and this should be a worldwide exposure for Exploration Place, not just the local because it's not going to be anywhere else in the whole United States. So from Minnesota to Texas, from Denver to Saint Louis, we're hoping we draw people to the center of our town. Is that enough excitement for one day?"

Chairman Unruh said, "That's plenty if excitement, yeah. Thank you, commissioner. Let's see, Commissioner Welshimer."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Yes, Mr. Chairman I don't know if this needs to be in the form of a motion. I could do that. I would like for the county manager to research for us the idea of putting the gaming issue on the ballot for either an advisory vote or a binding vote, as what it would cost and what our choices are in formulating that question."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, thank you. I don't know that has to be in the form of a motion, if the manager has taken note of that."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Could he do that, not next week but two weeks from today?"

Chairman Unruh said, "Can you accomplish that, Mr. Manager?"

Mr. Buchanan said, "I sure can . . . maybe."

Mr. Euson said, "Well, as long as you think you have sufficient direction from the commission."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Well commissioners, Commissioner Welshimer, I understood that you wanted some alternatives in the cost, whether it is binding or advisory."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Yes."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Okay, I think that gives me sufficient latitude to figure it out."

Commissioner Welshimer said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right, and the motion not necessary for this."

Mr. Buchanan said, "No, I'll be happy to report."

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Chairman Unruh said, "All right, anything else commissioner? Okay, Commissioner Parks."

Commissioner Parks said, "If I may add something to that, revise our statutes or somebody may be able to help us with some wording on what we could do to dovetail that in with the state, provided that they have something on gaming when that comes up too. And I did want to find the possibility that we could get some alternative wording on that. Thank you."

Mr. Buchanan said, "It's pretty clear that this issue is a state issue, that we have no control over this issue, and so it would have to be in conjunction with what the state does."

Commissioner Parks said, "Some of the counties that have already done that have taken the attitude that when the state does pass something, that they might have a one-up or a hit the ground running advantage to that too, so if you could research that and bring that back to us."

Mr. Buchanan said, "Be happy to. There's been no political indication that that's accurate. Wyandotte County has been waiting ten years."

Commissioner Parks said, "Okay. One of the other issues or announcements that I wanted to make was that I'll be in my Valley Center office from 9 to noon on Friday also. I'm going to maintain that, as they have in the past."

Chairman Unruh said, "All right. Anything else, Commissioner Parks? Commissioner Norton?"

Commissioner Norton said, "Well, kind of dovetailing in on the gaming issue, I think it's prudent. You know, we dealt with this months ago, or maybe even longer and we had information then, but some of that has gotten cold, things have changed. We need to make sure we understand, do our due diligence of what it's going to cost and all that, so I'm in favor of that."

The other part of it is I think we need to make sure, as the legislature ramps up that Andy Schlapp gives us really good information on what people are thinking up there, because that may help guide us on what our thought process is going to be. He's kind of got his ear to the ground. Hopefully we'll go up some and get to visit. Commissioner Welshimer has still got contacts in the legislature, having been there for a lot of years. We've worked pretty hard with the legislators, so I think it's going to be real important that we understand the landscape and the background of what's happening in Topeka, to really guide us on what we need to do here on our due diligence. I think there's certainly both end of the spectrum. There's people that wouldn't ever want us to vote on it,

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don't have anything to do with it. There's many other constituents that I talk to that say at least give us the chance to vote, put it on the ballot, let us weigh in on this. But I think we need to know all the pieces of the puzzle before we do this and I'm glad we're going to take a little time, let the manager get us that information.

But I'd like to make sure we kind of get some feedback from Topeka on what Andy is seeing up there and what they're talking about. Because if they're really, you know, just going to kill it totally again this year, we may be wasting our time to try to do it this year. Maybe next year is a better time, but I guess we'll learn that from all of this, so good. That's all I have."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well, the only thing that I would want to bring up is to dovetail on the talk about the Martin Luther King holiday. On Sunday, January the 14th the Kansas African American Museum will host a annual celebration at the Orpheum and that . . . what did I say, 4:00 and so it is another event and celebration of that recognition.

And lastly, I notice Mark Reed is here, the director of the Sedgwick County Zoo, and welcome Mark. I'm not going to ask you to speak, because if you start talking about the zoo we'll be here another hour. He's passionate about his responsibility but the zoo is still going on. Kristi mentioned it early in the meeting so encourage you all to take advantage of our winter hours and our winter pricing. And our penguin exhibit is on track and in budget. Very good, all right, we'll look forward to that later this year.

Well commissioners, is there anything else to come before the commission at this time? If not, the meeting is adjourned."

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
First District

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TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Commissioner
Third District

KELLY PARKS, Commissioner
Fourth District

GWEN WELSHIMER, Commissioner,
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2007