



## District 1 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2022 | 5:30 p.m.  
Bel Aire City Hall  
7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS 67226

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**Board Members in Attendance:** Daniel Bateman, Judah Craig, Amy Cox, Joseph Dozier, Diane Gjerstad, Kendall Hershberger, Jacqueline Kelly, Dr. Stephanie Kuhlmann, Jim Reid, Drake Robinson

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

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### 1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Judah Craig called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. A motion was made by Kendall Hershberger to approve the minutes for the April 18, 2022, District 1 Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting. Daniel Bateman seconded this motion. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 10-0.**

### 3. Public Agenda

- a. No Public Comments

### 4. New Business

- a. Proposed combined CAB Meeting
  - i. Chairman Judah Craig clarified that he had not received any additional contact from District 5 CAB about a combined CAB meeting on Mental Health.
- b. Sedgwick County Budget
  - i. Chief Financial Officer Lindsay Poe Rousseau shared that state law requires the county's budget to be adopted by August. The county started meetings in February and since then have discussed a forecast, hot topics and continues to discuss the budget with the community. The 2023 budget is tentatively scheduled to be approved on Aug. 24, 2022. She also shared how the Budget is broken down by county function.
    1. Commissioner Meitzner shared that approximately 75% of the county's budget is mandated by the state, which includes funding for the jail, emergency communications (911), etc. Approximately 15% of the budget is discretionary.
  - ii. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared the 2023 budget by funding type. The tax portion of the budget comes from a levy and the non-tax funds come from grants and federal and state budgets. She also shared how the budget is broken up by functions in tax funds. Public Safety is the largest piece of the county's budget.
    1. Diane Gjerstad asked what programs/departments are included in Public Safety.
      - a. This was discussed in the next slide.
  - iii. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau broke down the services in tax funds that fell into six categories: General Government, Public Safety, Community Development, Public Works, Public Services and Culture & Recreation. The Sedgwick County Sherriff's Office (SCSO) budget is approximately \$60 million a year. The SCSO is also down approximately 90 positions and the jail is double the normal capacity number.
  - iv. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared statistics from each district that included the Average Household Income, Total Population, square mileage, 2021 assessed property value and the percentage of total Sedgwick County Government assessment. District 3 has the highest square mileage while District 1 has the highest assessed property value.
    1. Jacqueline Kelly asked what generally is the landscape of District 3.

- a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that District 3 is far west and largely rural, farm land.
- 2. Judah Craig asked how COVID-19 grants have affected the budget.
  - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau reviewed the two processes the county has done to distribute CARES and ARPA monies. More ARPA monies were diverted to COVID-19 than originally anticipated. District Court was forced to shut down for a time and now the administrative services of Sedgwick County are moving out to accommodate the courts.
  - b. Commissioner Meitzner shared that the Regional Forensic Science Center does a great deal of the area forensic analysis, so they are needing to ramp up their work also to help with court deadlines.
- 3. Kendall Hershberger commented that the employment issue is not just in the private sector.
  - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that the Department of Corrections' Juvenile Residential Facility (JRF) had to be shut down due to staffing.
- 4. Jaqueline Kelly asked if JRF was a temporary closure.
  - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that as soon as the staffing issue is resolved, JRF will open back up.
- 5. Drake Robinson asked of those that stayed if they are sharing their feedback.
  - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that they are and this is a generational problem that the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) inherited and are now having to navigate and solve.
- 6. Kendal Hershberger asked what the current unemployment rate was
  - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared it's at 3%.
- 7. Kendall Hershberger asked what the unemployment rate was before the pandemic.
  - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau reminded everyone of the Boeing 737 airplane situation and that the employment rate then was between 6-7%. The county has been slow to rebound.
- v. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared the history of the county's budget actions starting in 2008. It took until 2010 for the recession to hit Sedgwick County with the 2011 budget taking most of the hit. Since 2013, the county has hit a flat budget repeatedly. In 2020, a mid-year furlough was implemented due to the pandemic. CARES and SPARK funding from the federal government was received. Budgets for 2021 and 2022 also had flat budgets, with 2022 being the tenth year in a row doing so.
  - 1. Jacqueline Kelly asked if a diversity and inclusion officer was funded.
    - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that a firm was hired to help with the direction of implementation of the D&I program.
    - b. Commissioner Meitzner commented that hiring a firm will help the county to good implementation and results.
- vi. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that the average home value has increased 41% and personal income in Sedgwick County has increased 42% from 2008-2021. She also shared that the price of government has decreased from \$.96 to \$84. This is the price relative to income. If the price for government is too low, communities are dissatisfied with the service. If too high, taxpayers are upset about paying too much. Typically, the balance has been found at the price of government being \$1. Sedgwick County taxpayers' support of state-mandated programs has increased by 20%.
  - 1. Kendall Hershberger asked if anyone has looked into blending Sedgwick County and City of Wichita resources.
    - a. Commissioner Meitzner shared that there are models out there who have. Currently, the City does not have a jail and there are currently discussions

- about merging fire departments. It would be a larger discussion if a total merger were to happen.
2. Joseph Dozier shared that Wyandotte County consolidated its city and county governments and suggested looking at them as a resource.
    - a. Commissioner Meitzner said they were an example and weren't the first to do this. There are additional models around the country.
  3. Diane Gjerstad asked about the talks of 988.
    - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau said federal funds have been set in place to stand up the program, however, long-term funding has not been resolved. It could end up being locally funded.
  4. Jacqueline Kelly asked about funding for the jail and its inmates.
    - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that there is a daily rate and if the jail is housing folks for cities in the county, the municipalities are billed.
  5. Dr. Stephanie Kuhlmann asked if there was a process and funding to evaluate programs.
    - a. Chief Financial Officer Rousseau shared that the adopted 2019 strategic plan discusses evaluating programs, but with the pandemic and staffing shortages, the county is focused on services. Leadership is currently working on developing indicators to get there.
    - b. Commissioner Meitzner shared that as far as to pay, the county has tried to see what peer counties are paying along with private competitors. There are many departments that have state and national standards regarding performance as guides.

## 5. Adjournment

- a. The District 1 Citizen's Advisory Board adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, June 20, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**, at Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS 67226.*