

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

REGULAR MEETING

February 12, 2003

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 10:11 A.M., on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Tim Norton; with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Thomas G. Winters; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Carolyn McGinn; Commissioner Ben Sciortino; Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Greg Thompson, Fire Marshall, Fire District #1; Mr. Rich Euson, County Counselor and Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Mr. Jeff Bridges, City Administrator, City of Andover.

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, December 11, 2002
 Regular Meeting, December 18, 2002

The Clerk reported that Commissioner Gwin was absent at the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2002 and Commissioner McGinn was absent at the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2002.

Chairman Norton said, "We'll have to take those separately. I'd entertain a motion."

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2002.

Commissioner Sciortino seconded the Motion.

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

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VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Abstain
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

MOTION

Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2002.

Chairman Norton seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Abstain
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Abstain
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, "Clerk, call the next item."

NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRE DEPARTMENT.

1. AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF ANDOVER PROVIDING AUTOMATIC AID.

Fire Marshall Greg Thompson, Fire District #1, greeted the Commissioners and said, "What you

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have before you this morning is an agreement. This is an automatic aid agreement with the City of Andover. This is basically a name change. We've entered into an agreement on October the 8th of 1997 with Butler County Fire District #1. Since that time, effective January 1st of this year, the Butler County Fire District detached the land and the area inside the incorporated city limits of Andover and that now has become the Andover fire department and they now contract with Butler County Fire District #1 to provide that protection. So what this is is basically a name change from the previous agreement that we had entered into with Butler County Fire District #1 to Andover.

And basically, a little background on the automatic aid, it's basically a response concept where one fire district automatically response into another fire district. And the difference between the automatic aid and mutual aid is that with mutual aid they're requesting the district must formally ask for assistance. So it's an enhancement in order to get the resources on scene quicker than having to wait for a mutual aid request.

I have with me Jeff Bridges, the city administrator for the City of Andover and be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Sciortino."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Let me understand this. Does this mean that if there's a fire in Andover, we would automatically dispatch our fire truck to service that or to take care of that fire?"

Fire Marshall Thompson said, "That's correct. Andover will respond with their equipment and then we will also respond out of Station 38, which is the closest station to the City of Andover, with one engine. So we'll respond with a piece of equipment to assist them and likewise, if we have a fire in our district over in that area . . . there are certain boundaries and those boundaries are listed within the agreement and the City of Andover comes over and assists us.

In the last two years, we've had responses from the City of Andover. In 2001, Andover came into Sedgwick County Fire District to assist us 4 times and in 2002 they assisted us 7 times. In 2001, we went over and assisted them 8 times and in 2002 we assisted them 15 times. So it's a very good agreement. We're very proud of the agreement and the cooperation that we have with the City of Andover. Our firefighters train on a quarterly basis. We interact with each other very frequently with training. We've done several house burns together on training house burns. We've been over there for their Andover Days, their parades. So they interact very nicely."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay. And then that means that we will no longer have an

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automatic aid agreement with Butler County Fire District #1 then any longer. Is that correct?"

Fire Marshall Thompson said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Sciortino said, "Okay."

Chairman Norton said, "Commissioner Winters."

Commissioner Winters said, "Thank you. Greg, the only question I had and I think it's been answered a bit. The rest of Butler County, excluding this Andover area, how will we now interact with Butler County Fire District?"

Fire Marshall Thompson said, "I think I'm going to let Jeff come up and explain some of that."

Mr. Jeff Bridges, City Administrator, City of Andover, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Butler County Fire District #1 is a 36 square mile boundary, basically Bruno Township and includes the City of Andover. So if you have other relationships with other Butler County Fire Districts, of which there's between 7 to 10 of them, those agreements would not be effected by this change. It's just with Fire District 1, which comprises Bruno Township and the City of Andover.

And as Chief Thompson stated, we have a contract now with the remaining portion of Fire District 1, service with Butler County. So the overall service area hasn't changed. All we've basically done is the county has relinquished management control to the City of Andover, changed the name on the uniforms. They're now City of Andover employees rather than county employees, service the same area, generally the same people and, as a matter of fact, we've hired a new chief from your ranks. Jim Shaver is going to be our new fire chief come April 1. We're very pleased and Bob Pippin, who was a former Sedgwick County firefighter, is our interim chief. So, we've had a great relationship with Sedgwick County and look forward to that continuing."

Commissioner Winters said, "Well, I was going to say, my question was headed in a, and again I think this is a good deal and is going to work, but as we . . . part of this process will be sending a letter of termination of agreement with the chairman of the Butler County County Commissioners and I've not had any conversation with them but I want us to still have a good working relationship with the other districts in Butler County and was just curious as to how this . . . if this would have any affect on if Butler County needs assistance, how would they go about that, how would we go about that. And I guess it's just this letter of termination. I don't want it to send any wrong message. I want to make sure everybody is on the right page and probably everybody but me is."

Mr. Bridges said, "During the transition process from the county fire department to the city fire

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department we developed a transition committee and one of the elements in the transition committee was identifying those mutual aid agreements, or automatic aid agreements that Butler County Fire District 1 enjoyed and those have all been transferred over to the City of Andover. This would not be an unexpected occurrence towards the county. They kind of expected this to happen and whatever relationship you already have with other fire districts shouldn't change. Butler County has no overall fire command structure, so relationships are through individual chiefs through individual districts."

Commissioner Winters said, "So is there a difference then between an automatic aid agreement and a mutual aid agreement if a neighboring county or city requests assistance, then that's mutual aid and then does everybody respond?"

Fire Marshall Thompson said, "Right. The bottom line is basically if it's a mutual aid request from anybody in Butler County, we're going to respond and we're going to assist them with it. The automatic aid agreement is just for a certain boundary area and those boundaries are the same, as they were in the Butler County district agreement, as it is in the Andover agreement."

Commissioner Winters said, "But with mutual aid then it's a phone call away instead on actually the first sound of the alarm."

Fire Marshall Thompson said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Winters said, "All right. Thank you."

Chairman Norton said, "Jeff, will your department be administratively employees and volunteers or is it all employees of the city, all professional."

Mr. Bridges said, "We enjoy an 11 person paid firefighter department supplemented by 13 to 15 volunteers and we look forward to that continuing. Actually, we want to make sure that those volunteers stay active and have the same training and opportunities as the career firefighters. Most of our career firefighters have come from the volunteer ranks and it's a good training ground, it's a good way to get them involved and knowledgeable about the service and move up to a career position."

Chairman Norton said, "Well, I think this is a nice agreement because that dotted line we call the county line doesn't limit us to having good partnerships in an area of your county that is really part of our metro. So it's nice that dotted line doesn't get in the way of these kinds of agreements."

Fire Marshall Thompson said, "It's been a very mutual and great partnership for us as well."

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Commissioner Sciortino said, “So let me just ask one more question kind of related to what Tom was talking about. Butler County is completely happy with what we’re doing terminating the one agreement and switching it over to Andover. Is that correct? There’s no conflict there at all?”

Fire Marshall Thompson said, “No.”

Commissioner Sciortino said, “Okay.”

Chairman Norton said, “I see no other lights flashing, so what is the will of the Board?”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Chairman Norton said, “Clerk, call the next item.”

- 2. LETTER TERMINATING AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT WITH BUTLER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.**

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Fire Marshall Thompson said, “This relates basically to the same item that we were previously discussing as to where we’ll terminate the one agreement and enter into the other, which is basically the name change with Butler County Fire District #1 and Andover Fire.”

MOTION

Commissioner Sciortino moved to approve the letter and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the Motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner David M. Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Thomas Winters	Aye
Commissioner Carolyn McGinn	Aye
Commissioner Ben Sciortino	Aye
Chairman Tim Norton	Aye

Fire Marshall Thompson said, “Thank you, Commissioners. Like to thank you for your support and I’d like to thank Jeff for their continued support and coming over.”

Chairman Norton said, “It’s good to have you here today, Jeff. Are there any other items to come before the Board of County Commissioners sitting as the governing body of Fire District #1? If not I’ll adjourn the meeting.”

B. OTHER

C. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

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

TIM NORTON, Chairman
Second District

THOMAS G. WINTERS, Chair Pro Tem
Third District

DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner
First District

CAROLYN McGUINN, Commissioner
Fourth District

BEN SCIORTINO, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Don Brace, County Clerk

APPROVED:

_____, 2003