

District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

Monday, February 7, 2022 Goddard School Conf. Center

7 p.m. 315 S. Main, Goddard

**Board members:** Pat Gaughan, Kevin McWhorter, Sharon Ailslieger, Ashlyn Riggs, Nancy Hinten, Janice Manlove, David Wright, Luke Sponsel, Cameron Dawson

**County representatives:** Commissioner David Dennis, Tom Stolz, Karen Bailey, Corinthian Kelly

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order

   Chair Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

* Unanimous Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2022
* New CAB Member Cameron Dawson sworn in by Chief Deputy County Clerk Karen Bailey

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

*The public agenda allows members of the public to present issues on the agenda to the Board.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Review of 2022 Budget Calendar and Process – County Manager Tom Stolz

County Manager Tom Stolz presents the 2023 Budget Development Proposal as shares that the staff formally engages the BoCC in earnest on February 17th for a Budget workshop

**Budget Development Guidelines**

1. Develop a budget that is consistent with the economic impact of COVID‐19

-Budget Development Guidelines are the same year-end year out

2. As possible, focus on compensation and deferred needs

- Struggling for Workforce within the County, Hospitals, Nursing Homes

3. Communicate updates on process and options to Commissioners and be responsive to feedback

- Use as an opportunity to discuss mergers, partnerships, collapsing of departments, privatization during budget season looking for efficiencies to check tax burden down on citizens while keeping essential services

- County differs from Municipal/State government in that it is 100% service-oriented/service-driven – balances taxation with service provision

4. Conform to statutory budget deadlines

Key Milestone: BOCC workshop and base budget development

**Base budget target development design option**

* 1. Personnel budget – All existing positions exclude compensation adjustment and anticipated benefit increases for health insurance; include increased retirement rates
  2. Contractual/commodities/equipment – No increase from the previous year. Same budget as 2022.
  3. Transfers out – No increase from the previous year. Same budget as 2022.
  4. Division directors may allocate targets to resolve issues and create solutions

**Key Milestone: Department budget development**

– whenever you want something more or different (ex. Add staff, car, etc.) you have to submit a decision package form

* The manager likes decision packages submitted with an equitable reduction package as well

Key Milestone: County Manager budget reviews w/ electeds and departments

and electeds provide high-level review of budget submission for the upcoming budget year.

Key Milestone: BOCC budget hearings with elected and division directors

nd a TRB presentation

Key Milestone: BOCC budget workshops (optional)

‐June 14: Routine BOCC budget workshops to discuss budget issues, like compensation or benefits

Base budget target development design option

1. Personnel budget – All existing positions, exclude compensation adjustment and

anticipated benefit increases for health insurance; include increased retirement rates

2. Contractual/commodities/equipment – No increase from previous year. Same budget

as 2022.

3. Transfers out – No increase from previous year. Same budget as 2022.

4. Division directors may allocate targets to resolve issues and create solutions

Key Milestone: Finalize Manager’s Recommended Budget

– 98% Budget

o JUNE 15: COUNTY MANAGER’S DROP DEAD DAY FOR CHANGES.

Key Milestone: Manager’s Recommended Budget presented July 13

Key Milestone: “Last Up Day” presented July 13

Key Milestone: Public budget hearings August 4 and August 24

Key Milestone: Budget adoption August 24

Manager Stolz states that the budget priorities this year are similar to last year’s:

* Regarding the workforce, county is vigilant on expenditures/the city of Wichita pays more than the County
* Have to keep an eye on compensation to the City, Butler Co., State of Kansas, and people who hire similar service people to whom we employ
* Manager shared that before Comm. Dennis’s time on BoCC Sedgwick Co. had several years of zero pay raises for employees and we are now seeing the consequences, especially in a 6-7% inflationary market
* Commission’s main challenge this year: #1. How do we retain and attract staff?
* -compensation discussion
* What do we do regarding core services? Do we want to look at privatization opportunities or continue the status quo?
* Cedric Lofton Community Taskforce biggest thing being done in the county right now
* Questions being posed about the 12-year-old camera system, blind spots, no audio, being short-staffed?
* Manager states there will be fallout and the Commission and City will have to react to recommendations from the Taskforce and this will cost money, aside from any potential lawsuit the family files against the City, County, and/or State
* County going to take a hard look at the whole juvenile system from foster care forward
* Manager will come back in 2-3 months and update us on where we are in the process
* Finally received final guidance from federal Treasury a month ago: $50-60 million ARPA dollars yet to designate
* Transportation and infrastructure dollars out there at state and federal level – a designated team looking at grants
* County and the mental health coalition is trying to not only set up a mental health building but an entire process so that people can be taking care of from the moment of crisis to the time of rehabilitation
* Manager Stolz states regarding position openings at the peak of workforce shortages:
  + Sheriff/Detention: had 105 openings – now: 75 openings
  + 911: had 25/26 dispatchers short – now: 18 down
  + EMS: down 22/23 got better for a while – now back down 22/23
  + COMCARE: probably 300 all positions down – now probably a couple hundred down today – gotten a little better with signing bonus and critical pay initiatives implemented – 10% bump in wages
* Regarding Benefits County pays 90+% of premium for health insurance
* 2/3 years ago created three different health plans and Health Savings Plan
* 80% of the time when we ask an employee why they leave SC the answer is pay
* The good news is that the County Budget is AAA+
* If we cut 1 cent food tax we stand to lose $4 million a year
* County Manager thinks that D3 is the fastest growing district in the county
* Administration is moving in May/June from 525 N. Main to rent a temporary facility to free up court space for things like specialty types of courts like Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans
* Chairman Dennis states that it is a good time because of ARPA money, and surplus in the budget at the state level (3 billion dollar excess, highest in KS state history) time is right to get projects we need in Sedgwick Co.
* Need Regional Mental Health Facility approx. 50-beds
* Having discussions with lobbyists about how much does 50-beds cost?
* Staff putting together one-pagers to clarify messaging around the platform
* Kansas Association of Counties next week
* Got enough support to eliminate set locked in Mill Levy at 29.383
* Can use ARPA money to move/rent/renovate and must look at lifecycle costs – ideal to build a new building that will meet our needs for the next 50+ years

**BOARD AGENDA**

*This is an opportunity for the Commissioner and Citizens Advisory Board members*

*to report activities, events, or concerns throughout their neighborhood.*

Chairman Dennis shared that he was re-elected as Chairman, 3rd time serving as Chair of BoCC, as well as re-elected as the Chair of WAMPO Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; Commissioner Lopez elected as Pro-Tem

Comm. Dennis: Hospital call every Monday morning, states things turning around a bit – 16% positivity rate now, down from 20% - 80% of those hospitalized are unvaccinated

Joint meeting with the City of Wichita - En Banc on February 24th to discuss behavioral health and how to move forward. Briefing from Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition

ARPA Funds – $101 million - allocated $25 million, have an idea about another $25 million – leaves around $50 million to spend. Asked community to put in letters of interest to see what the community thought we should spend money on. Received back 114 different ideas all totaling about $106 million, and cannot support all of those ideas

Can use ARPA funds to support big tickets items like:

* Admin Building
* COMCARE Facility
* Like a campus
* Election Office

ARPA money does not come out of the general fund

Admin Building and Move – by June onto Douglass temporarily – have 36 months to commit the money and have a little leeway after spending it

EMS Paramedics: had signing day for paramedics – paid for 9 paramedics to go through one year of schooling. Trying to increase pipeline

Zoo Director Position Open. Working through former director's 25-year master plan. A new entrance, light show before Christmas, new train tracks will be put in soon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be Monday, March 7th, 2022.*