



Sedgwick County...  
working for you

---

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD, DISTRICT 5 – MEETING MINUTES

---

Friday, June 2, 2023, 4:00PM

2937 E Oaklawn Dr., Wichita

**Board Members in attendance:** David Sowden (Chair), John Nicholas, (Vice-Chair), Liz Loera (Secretary), Amanda Amerine, Brad Smith, Olivia Hayse, Christopher Wyant, Andrew Le, Denise Meirowsky, and Bryan Porter

**Absent:** Joseph Elmore

**County Representative:** Commissioner Jim Howell

**Speaker:** Representative Bill Rhiley, Kansas House District 80

**Attendees:** Faith Martin and one other member of the public (no sign-in) attended

---

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. **Chair David Sowden called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM**
2. **Invocation** – Moment of silence
3. **Flag Salute** – All members stood for the pledge of allegiance.
4. **Roll Call – Determine Quorum**
  - a. David Sowden, John Nicholas, Liz Loera, Amanda Amerine, Brad Smith, Olivia Hayse, Christopher Wyant, Andrew Le, Denise Meirowsky, Bryan Porter
  - b. Quorum was present
5. **Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2023**
  - a. Motion to approve by Christopher Wyant
  - b. Seconded by Brad Smith
  - c. Approved 10-0
6. **Public Agenda**
  - a. Faith Martin
    - i. Women’s Bill of Rights:
      1. Asking County to mirror Wichita’s statement indicating it will not be enforced in County buildings/jail
      2. Curious about cost to citizens and what the Sheriff and DA will be doing
    - ii. CAB 5 speaker:
      1. Why was this particular representative chosen?
      2. Expressed concern about voting record
    - iii. Recent report on affordable housing crisis:
      1. Sedgwick County has most evictions in the state
      2. Evictions affect mental health and bog down the Court
      3. Does Commission has anything in the works to address?
    - iv. Shared information regarding:
      1. Racial Profiling Board and meetings
        - a. Workshop on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
        - b. Chief Sullivan coming to Board in August or September to discuss Jensen Hughes report
      2. License reinstatement help

## 7. New business

### a. State Representative Bill Rhiley: State and Local Issues

- i. Representative Rhiley introduction
  1. From Wellington, Sumner County
  2. 5<sup>th</sup> year serving as a state legislator
  3. Background is in education; does not serve on tax committees
- ii. Tax issues
  1. LAVTR (Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction)
    - a. Has not been paid to local governments since 2003
    - b. Chair David Sowden: Now that state has a surplus, will it fund LAVTR?
      - i. Representative Rhiley: surplus this year does not guarantee surplus in the future; unsure what it will look like next year
  2. Food tax
    - a. Removing local sales tax impacts local governments
    - b. Difficult to define what is “food” in statute
  3. SCR 1611
    - a. Would cap property tax at 4% increase per year
    - b. Did not go anywhere this year, but may come up next year as constitutional amendment
  4. RNR: Representative Rhiley voted against due to concerns about cost of distributing notices and lack of community input on budget processes
  5. Questions on tax issues
    - a. Olivia Hayse: Why isn’t LAVTR being funded and why is no one advocating for it at the state level?
      - i. Representative Rhiley: lobbyists are advocating; need someone to put forth a bill or leadership to be influenced by lobby
      - ii. Olivia Hayse: This would help everyone, baffling that it has not been done
      - iii. Commissioner Howell: LAVTR funding would be equivalent to about one mill of County property tax; believes that County is expected to provide certain functions but does not have the revenue to do so
  6. Representative Rhiley distributed information on Nebraska’s model of eliminating all property, income, inheritance, corporate, and sales tax and levying Consumption Tax on services and new goods

### b. LAVTR Subcommittee

- i. Commissioner Howell: It is helpful for BoCC to hear opinions publicly/in person rather than via email
- ii. Motion to form subcommittee by Olivia Hayse
- iii. Seconded by Chair David Sowden
- iv. Approved 10-0
- v. Olivia Hayse will serve as Subcommittee Chair; Vice-Chair John Nicholas will serve as Spokesperson
- vi. Subcommittee meetings are subject to Kansas Open Meetings Act and Kansas Open Records Act

### c. Commissioner Howell Report

- i. Commission, staff, and lobbyists have all worked to combat lack of funding from the state
- ii. Commissioner Howell has one-hour tax talk presentation that he can give to any group
- iii. County is developing budget, has held public budget meetings

1. Meetings are recorded but several are not online yet
2. Commissioner Howell is advocating for meetings to be livestreamed online to encourage conversation
- iv. Commissioner Howell shared a map/list of CAB members to show representation throughout County
- v. Traffic signals
  1. County currently working on issue at 167<sup>th</sup> St W and 24<sup>th</sup> St; not in District 5, but similar situation may arise at 79<sup>th</sup> and Greenwich
    - a. Proposed solution involves traffic light suspended on cables over intersection; light remains off until activated by approaching traffic; signs warn of cross traffic
    - b. Cost is \$100,000
    - c. Commissioner Howell expressed concern that this solution is costly and ineffective
  2. Motion by Vice-Chair John Nicholas: The District 5 Citizens Advisory Board opposes installing the new technology at 167<sup>th</sup> St W and 24<sup>th</sup> St. The technology is not advised by the National Highway Safety Administration and has been removed from other locations after not having success in solving the problem.
  3. Seconded by Bryan Porter
  4. Christopher Wyant agrees but suggests adding evidence
  5. Approved 10-0
  6. Vice-Chair John Nicholas volunteered to collect data, write motion, and present at BoCC meeting
- vi. Other topics Commissioner Howell is working on
  1. Fire District pay
  2. Resolution on administrative separations

**d. Roundtable Discussion with Board and Commissioner Howell**

- i. Solid Waste
  1. Solid waste plan and fees presented to Commission last week
  2. Concerns about tire roundup: average of 75 tires/vehicle; businesses may be abusing; tires still sitting in community for long periods of time; cost of disposal is increasing
  3. Hazardous household waste, holiday tree programs, etc. also funded by solid waste fee
  4. Commissioner Howell: option for County to transition to a year-round program for bulky furniture, refrigerators, tree limbs, etc.
  5. Faith Martin: consider bringing to City of Wichita's sustainability board
  6. Olivia Hayse: a year round program would be efficient, but could be expensive to build; could contract with local businesses
  7. Christopher Wyant: median would provide a better measure of tire drop-offs than average; could set a rule that cuts off at median/charges beyond median
- ii. AMR/Wichita & Wesley Ambulance Contract
  1. Commissioner Howell has formally requested a public open meeting on the topic
  2. Around 1985, County made an agreement with cities to have exclusive EMS service (Mulvane is exception)
  3. Potential deal between Wichita and Wesley to allow AMR (Wesley's service) to handle nonemergency transport
  4. Andrew Le: Is there a benefit to the user between AMR/County EMS?
    - a. Potential difference in cost; need more information
  5. Potential breach of contract; Commissioner Howell believes that County should sue

6. Olivia Hayse: need to know how this impacts people before forming opinion

**e. July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting**

- i. Chair David Sowden has already heard from three members who cannot attend, asks that others who cannot to let him know soon
- ii. Olivia Hayse: requests a short, business-only meeting

**f. Meeting adjourned by Chair David Sowden at 5:50 PM.**

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Review of future subject matter – determine priority and interests.

- ICT-1 Follow Up
- County fines versus State Allowance Resolutions
- Driver’s License Suspensions etc.
- SGCO Emergency Management
- SGCO HR
- LAVTR – Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Status
- Blake Carpenter – Bill Presentation
- K15 Corridor
- SGCO EMS

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be Friday, July 7, 2023 4:00pm*

**DOCUMENTS:**

CAB 5 05/5/2023 Minutes

County Upcoming Events (Tentative):

- Staff meeting: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- BoCC meeting: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Staff meeting: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- BoCC meeting: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Staff meeting: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- BoCC meeting: June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

County Closed:

- Juneteenth – Monday, June 19, 2023
- Independence Day – Monday, July 4, 2023
- Labor Day – Monday, September 4, 2023
- Veterans’ Day – Friday, November 11, 202 (Observed)
- Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 23, 2023 – Friday, November 24, 2023
- Christmas – Monday, December 25, 2023

Commissioner Howell Events:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month – Bullet Points @ Range 54 (5725 E Kellogg Dr S., Wichita) 4p-5:30p
- Last Friday of each Month – Cuppa Jo with Jim @ Calvary Baptist Church Gymnasium (1636 E. Patriot, Derby – enter through the glass doors on the East side of the Building) 7a-9a.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each Month - June 20, 7a – 9a – Coffee with the Commish; The Grill, 222 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Mulvane