



## District 2 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024 | 6 p.m.  
Haysville Community Library  
210 Hays Ave.  
Haysville, KS 67060

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**Board Members in Attendance:** Martha Pint, Tony Martinez, Jessica Atherton, Ashlie Brockleman, Spencer Dean Jr., Jeff Hersh, Gage Hunt, Nicole Rivera, Cheryl Hill

**County Representatives:** Commissioner Sarah Lopez, Tom Stolz, County Manager

1. **Call to Order:**
  - a. Martha Pint called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**
  - a. Board members identified themselves by saying, "Here."
3. **Approval of Minutes from 8/13/2024:**
  - a. Gage Hunt made a motion to approve the Aug. 13 meeting minutes. Spencer Dean seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.
4. **Public Agenda:**
  - a. No public comment at this point.
5. **New Business:**
  - a. **2025 Budget Overview, presented by Tom Stolz**
    1. The goals of this year's budget:
      - a. Focus on core services
      - b. Cut the mill levy
      - c. Staffing and compensation improvements, especially Public Safety
    2. The budget process begins at the end of each year and continues the next spring and summer with budget workshops and public hearings.
    3. The Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2025 Budgets for Sedgwick County Government at \$563,444,425, with an estimated property tax rate of 28.659 mills, and for Sedgwick County Fire District 1 at \$30,140,800, with an estimated property tax rate of 17.000 mills.
    4. Together, the budgets total \$593,585,225. They include:
      - a. \$16.7 million increase in employee compensation
      - b. 26 additional full-time employees, many in Public Safety
      - c. \$760 thousand for a drainage project
      - d. \$19 million for roads and bridges
      - e. Increased funding for three senior centers (Oaklawn, Clearwater and Haysville)
      - f. Restored funding for one additional year of KPTS-TV contract to broadcast BoCC meetings
      - g. Reduced County mill levy by approximately 1/3 of a mill and Fire District 1 mill levy by more than 2/3 of a mill
      - h. Did not capture all assessed property valuation growth
      - i. \$28.8 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for County Facilities projects, including:
        - New Juvenile Community-Based Service Building
        - First phase of HVAC replacement in the jail complex
    5. Gage Hunt asked if Sedgwick County is seeing more property taxes come in. Tom Stolz said yes, the economy is growing.

6. Tony Martinez asked what was the county manager's biggest source of stress? Tom Stolz said he worries about 9-1-1 Dispatch and the stress on those workers. He said the public is different now and doesn't tolerate mistakes, even though being a 9-1-1 call taker or dispatcher is difficult and demanding work. Tom Stolz said he doesn't worry anymore about the Sheriff's Office. Because of pay raises the last couple of years, staffing is now good.
7. Gage Hunt said the City of Wichita has alleviated \$3 million of \$5 million in debt – does that put pressure on Sedgwick County? Tom Stolz said no, but the city and county could work better by consolidating some redundant services, like the fire departments.

**b. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items**

1. Stephanie Birmingham reminded CAB members that the Oct. 8 meeting will start early, at 5:30 p.m., at Simply Hygiene, 5440 N. Mill Heights Dr., Park City, where members will take a tour and help sort and pack donated items. Up to 25 people can attend, so members should RSVP, especially if they plan to bring a spouse or child with them.
2. Stephanie Birmingham discussed zoning case, ZON2024-00042, to see if Commissioner Lopez and CAB members want to hold a hearing at the Oct. 8 meeting. All agreed they would wait to see if MAPD thinks it will be controversial, with opponents speaking out.
3. When asked about topics for the remaining meetings in 2024, Commissioner Lopez suggested we take November off because it's already busy with the General Election and Thanksgiving. Members agreed.
4. With this mind, the last meetings of 2024 are:
  - Oct. 8 – Simply Hygiene volunteer opportunity
  - Dec. 10 - TBD

**c. Commissioner Update/Other Announcements**

1. Commissioner Lopez said budget hearings kept the BoCC busy in August. She's proud that they again lowered the mill levy and established the County's lowest mill levy in 27 years.
2. Gage Hunt asked about the investigation into the death of a firefighter in Haysville. Commissioner Lopez said the fireman worked for the Wichita Fire Department so the City of Wichita is looking into it.
3. Gage Hunt asked for an update on the Brookhollow fire investigation. Commissioner Lopez said the third party audit is ongoing.
4. Tony Martinez asked how Commissioner Lopez stands on the debate among Sedgwick County municipalities whether to try to lower property taxes by putting a sales tax up for a public vote. He said cities are concerned a sales tax might not bring in enough revenue for cities to fund needed programs and services. Commissioner Lopez said Chairman Baty is pushing a half-cent sales tax, and she is still weighing the pros and cons.
5. Gage Hunt asked what the commissioner thinks about proposed parking fees in Wichita. Commissioner Lopez said she is not in favor of the City of Wichita's plan, and Sedgwick County is distancing itself from COW decisions. The Wichita City Council is facing a \$40 million shortfall from poor budget decisions in the past. Sedgwick County, on the other hand, is fiscally sound and has a Triple-A credit rating.
6. Jessica Atherton asked who is responsible for mowing and maintaining Broadway between 79<sup>th</sup> St. South and Grand Avenue (71<sup>st</sup> St. South)? Tony Martinez said that is KDOT's responsibility.

**6. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.