



District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

July 29, 2024 | 7 p.m.
Goddard District Conference Center
315 S. Main, Goddard

Board Members in Attendance: Sharon Ailslieger, Cameron Dawson, Janice Manlove, Kevin McWhorter, David Wright.

County Representatives: Commissioner David Dennis, Tom Stolz, County Manager; Hope Hernandez, Accounting Director; David Floyd, Principal Accountant; Brent Shelton, Deputy CFO

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Call to Order – Chair Kevin McWhorter
 - i. Chair Kevin McWhorter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Chair Kevin McWhorter
 - i. Janice Manlove motioned to approve meeting minutes from May 6, 2024, and Sharon Ailslieger seconded. **The D3 CAB approved the meeting minutes with a vote of 5-0.**

2. PUBLIC AGENDA

- a. The public agenda allows members of the public to address the District 3 Citizens Advisory Board.
 - i. None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2025 Recommended Budget – Tom Stolz
 - i. 2025 overall budget goals.
 1. Emphasize workforce.
 2. Focus on core services that are State directed and focus on public safety.
 3. Cut mill levy and limit amount of valuation.
 4. Review government role in partnerships.
 - ii. 2025 Budget Process.
 1. The County Manager reviewed the budget process and the group involved.
 - iii. State of Operations.
 1. Improved staffing – 90% staff filled.
 2. Inflation costs are still high with some supply chain issues.
 3. \$4.9m shortfall at beginning of budget process.
 - iv. Recommended Adjustments
 1. Employee compensation.
 2. Infrastructure, including \$28.8m for county building improvements.
 3. Cut county mill levy by 1/3 of a mill and Fire District by 2/3 of a mill.
 4. Reduce Culture/Rec by \$1M, including \$250,000 from the Zoo.
 5. Do not fund \$6.3M in department requests.
 6. Cut \$80K from KPTS.
 7. Accept a \$1.1M revenue package from EMS – will cost more for ambulance usage.

- v. 2025 Recommended Budget
 - 1. \$563,444,425 for Sedgwick County; \$30,140,800 for Fire District No. 1, with a total of \$593,585,225.
 - 2. By function – 30% to general government; 39% to public safety; 2% to bond & interest; 7% to public works; 18% to public services; 2% to culture & rec; and 2% to community development.
 - 3. Public hearings are next steps – July 31 at 6:00 p.m. and August 21 at 9:00 a.m., with the budget being adopted that day.
- vi. Janice Manlove asked if the Juvenile Community Based Service Building will be a new facility.
 - 1. Tom shared that they are remodeling a building and building some new. The Commission will be kept up to date and decide how that will look.
- vii. Commissioner Dennis asked staff a few weeks ago about cutting the federal lobbyist.
- viii. Other discussions to study are NACO membership, senior centers, and studying sales tax vs. property tax.
- ix. Commissioners would like to involve other cities with the discussion on a sales tax.
- x. Tom Stolz talked about the \$.01 sales tax voted on in 1985 and switching it to culture & arts.
- xi. Janice Manlove asked if there was a guest tax on INTRUST Bank Arena or other county owned property.
 - 1. Tom Stolz replied there is some, but it all goes to the City of Wichita and Visit Wichita.
- xii. Janice Manlove asked if the Zoo or Exploration Place admission goes to Visit Wichita.
 - 1. Tom Stolz answered that it did not.
- xiii. Sharon Ailslieger asked if we switched from property tax to sales tax, is there a vote on that.
 - 1. Tom Stolz answered it would go to a vote. The county is aiming for that to be on a ballot in 2025 with implementation being in 2027.
- xiv. Commissioner Dennis said almost 30% of sales tax comes from outside Sedgwick County from people that are visiting.
- xv. Kevin McWhorter mentioned Sedgwick County's AAA rating.
- xvi. Tom Stolz said that only 106 counties in the U.S. have that rating.
- xvii. Kevin McWhorter asked what we had in our current reserves.
 - 1. Tom Stolz answered about \$100M in reserves.
- xviii. Kevin McWhorter believes we may have been too conservative because the county has waited too long to build needed facilities that are considerably more expensive today. He also mentioned if making quality of life cuts is being too conservative.
- xix. Tom Stolz said some cuts were symbolic to focus on core services and offer property tax relief.
- xx. David Wright asked if there was money for the MAC (Multi-Agency Center).
 - 1. Tom Stolz said not cash money. The county is providing through Housing First and COMCARE services.
- xxi. David Wright asked if there's hope for this in future budgets.
 - 1. Tom Stolz said yes, but Sedgwick County already provides a lot of social services through 911 and COMCARE.
- xxii. Sharon Ailslieger asked about consolidating City and County government.
 - 1. Tom Stolz answered there is functional consolidation with some services to allow for full merger someday in the future.
- xxiii. Janice Manlove asked if there are efforts to combine city and county parks.
 - 1. Tom Stolz answered that we are close.
- xxiv. Janice Manlove asked if they have done away with LAVTR.
 - 1. Commissioner Dennis said the State keeps money that they shouldn't. The County is funding state functions.
- xxv. Janice Manlove asked how Boeing/Spirit will affect Sedgwick County.

1. Tom mentioned there is other aviation growth. He spoke about Integra and how they will need a workforce; otherwise, it is unclear.
 - xxvi. Kevin McWhorter asked if we're seeing long-term positive outcomes with WSU's Innovation Campus.
 1. Tom Stolz answered that they are seeing positives. They are setting Wichita up for defense work.
 2. Commissioner Dennis said to look at NAIR converting planes for new uses. Also, the Biomed will be downtown.
 - xxviii. Someone asked about funding for the Extension Office.
 1. Tom said it's under Culture & Arts and that they may need to look at other funding sources and maybe re-instate it in 2026.
 - xxiv. Sharon Ailsieger commended the county for cutting quality of life in as painless way as possible.
- b. County Financial Report/Investments – Hope Hernandez and David Floyd
- i. Hope Hernandez reviewed the 2023 Fiscal Year Brochure.
 1. Investment guidelines are included in our County Investments Policy that is reviewed annually.
 2. The number 1 objective of the policy is the safety of the principal.
 3. The number 2 objective is our liquidity.
 4. The number 3 objective is the yield and return on investment.
 - ii. David Floyd reviewed the Quarterly Investment Report.
 1. Idle funds investment pool are the dollars that belong to the county that are not needed to fund our immediate operations.
 2. The composition of the investment portfolio is made up of the diversification by asset types. Most county funds are under the insured cash sweep funds.
 3. Their team meets regularly to ensure investments benefit the taxpayers.
 4. Fifty-two percent of investments are through local banks.
 5. The State Treasurer's office is the overseer and advocate for municipalities and local financial institutions.
 6. David explained the insured cash sweep process.
- c. 2024 Meeting Dates
- i. All members were good with the remaining 2024 meeting dates.

4. BOARD AGENDA

- a. Members of the CAB had an opportunity to ask questions and/or share updates:
 - i. Commissioner Dennis mentioned the public budget hearings dates and times.
 - ii. Commissioner Dennis discussed the updated solar regulations.
 1. Hired a consultant.
 2. August 7 is the last deferral date to take action.
 3. A 138 page document was sent 7/29 from MAPD to Berkeley.
 4. Each commissioner will be briefed before the August 7 vote.
 5. Asked Tom Stolz if it can be put on the website so the public can read it.
 - iii. Janice Manlove asked where the electrical grid runs?
 1. Commissioner Dennis stated you have to hook into the grid in several places – Gordon Evans Plant by Colwich, a plant near Garden Plain, near the old Vulcan plant, and there may be some smaller grids. Also, the Cheney co-op is another option.

5. ADJOURNMENT

a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, September 9, 2024, 7 p.m.**
at SCFD 1 Station 35/EMS Post 7, 1535 S. 199th St. West, Goddard, KS.*