

# Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor  
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 6, 2015

6:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

BOCC Meeting Room

### **GOVERNING BODY OF FIRE DISTRICT #1**

*Pursuant to Resolution #131-2010, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on August 11, 2010, members of the public are allowed to address the County Commission for a period of time limited to not more than five minutes.*

*Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Sedgwick County, should contact the office of Roberta Berry, Sedgwick County Interim ADA Coordinator, 510 N. Main, Suite 306, Wichita, Kansas 67203*

*Phone: (316) 660-7058, TDD: Kansas Relay at 711 or 800-766-3777*

*Email: [rberry@sedgwick.gov](mailto:rberry@sedgwick.gov), as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Please include the name, location, date and time of the service or program, your contact information and the type of aid, service, or policy modification needed.*

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

*The Special Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:01 a.m. on August 6, 2015, in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Richard Ranzau, with the following present: Chair Pro Tem Commissioner Karl Peterjohn; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner James M. Howell; Mr. Ron Holt, Acting County Manager; Mr. Mike Pepoon, Acting County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and Ms. Erika Rice, Deputy County Clerk.*

### GUESTS

*Mr. Dave Thompson, President, International Association of Fire Fighters  
Ms. Sybil Strum, 326 North Walnut, Wichita  
Mr. Dustin Goetz, 11029 South 247th Street West*

### ROLL CALL

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

### NEW BUSINESS

#### [15-0520](#)

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2016 FIRE DISTRICT 1 BUDGET.

Presented by: Ron Holt, Acting County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Open the public hearing, receive public comment and close the public hearing.

*Mr. Ron Holt, Acting County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This is the second of two public hearings on the Fire District No. 1 budget. The budget, this is a budget of \$18,155,963.00, which includes a property tax levy of \$15,246,367.00. The property tax levy is equivalent to an estimated property tax rate expressed in mills of approximately 18.367 mills. The mill levy is based on the estimated assessed valuation and subject to review technical adjustments. I would suggest you open the public hearing."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "At this time we will open the public hearing for the 2016 Fire District No. 1 budget. And we have three people signed up to speak. First we have Dave Thompson. And I'll remind everybody you have three minutes to speak and please give us your name and address for the record."*

*Mr. Dave Thompson, President, International Association of Fire Fighters, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm going to be the first to say good evening, Commissioners. It's a first. I come before you this evening to say thank you for looking out for the Fire District. We've looked at the budget over and over again. We've met with Lindsay Poe-Rousseau, we've met with Chris Chronis, we're actively in negotiations right now, and nothing has changed, 2015 into 2016's budget. Our FTE's (Full Time Employees) have stayed the same. Our outlook has stayed the same. Our planning practices have stayed the same from a public perspective.*

*"There's been some things, there's been some talk behind the scenes, Chairman Ranzau in the last meeting, alluded when he opened up the Fire District board, that Fire District had its own set of problems. And I would ask, what are those? I've got a group of members standing behind me that they would like an answer to that too, because we don't know. I've been in an executive mission for 17 of my 18 years, and I must say this is the most different labor management cooperative that I've ever seen. The dynamic has changed, and the communication is a lot less. We're here to be problem solvers; we're here to offer solutions. For the record, we met with each one of you a month ago today, and Chairman Ranzau you extended an olive branch to us and said if your members are willing to come and meet with us and offer solutions, dialog, talk about the future, we are open to that. And we said absolutely yes. It's a month later and we haven't heard anything. We were talking about a budget, how there's been some talk of changing the way we deploy. And we're [inaudible] about that. So we're definitely willing to talk and willing to offer solutions.*

*"A lot has changed on what I've been planning to say over the last week. And a lot in part to working with Lindsay and Chris, and their hard work. That's my time, right? Or is that someone's...?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "No, no it's not."*

*Mr. Thompson said, "That's not, okay. One of the things that we talked about was the summary of collections within the Fire District and how that works, and one of those things had to do with taxation versus where we're coming from versus where we are going in the future. Some of those are tied up with industrial revenue bonds that are within the municipalities that we serve, also they're tied up within structure remodels, building remodels, and things like that. So, one of the things that we're geared towards, or we're looking towards is finding solutions in to those avenues and sitting down with you guys and talking about that.*

*"Trying to make sure I get my notes correct make sure I don't talk about things that changed. One of the things that we included in that email were three solutions that Chairman Ranzau requested of us from that dialogue that we had with you guys, and those solutions were for future funding into how we deployed within the district and saved the taxpayers money, and saved the district money as well as making ends meet. One of those was restructuring how are administrative staff works, we've got 131 FTE's within the current Fire District now, with 139 sited, so 8 of them are un-funded. And we deployed 44 exempt staff to 131 was kind of our plan. Another one of those was looking at how we could resource, so...with that, I hear my time is up. I'll stand for any questions."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I see no questions, I thank you for coming this evening."*

*Mr. Thompson said, "Thanks."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next we have Sybil Strum."*

*Ms. Sybil Strum, 326 North Walnut, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I think the Fire Department needs some more money. How would you like to go in a burning building and save lives. I'm one of the people that the Fire Department has helped. My house was on fire, and I need the Fire Department. Unfortunately we didn't have a hydrant on [inaudible], so the Fire Department had to use the old well. It caused a little bit of chaos, but without the Fire Department we can't be saved. I've constantly supported the Fire Department on my [inaudible], and I urge you guys to understand it's a very dangerous job going to risk your life everyday to help people during fires, car wrecks, drownings, and I am all for the Fire Department. I am a little bit upset that you took Fire Station No. 4 away in my neighborhood. I remind you it was the other County Commissioners. Now they are on Meridian. It was kind of sad because in my neighborhood we are family people that are in the district, like at the Masonic Home. And they asked why did this happen, why did you relocate the Fire Department way down on Pawnee and Meridian. I'd like to ask that question, if any of you were there at the time."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Ms. Strum, for coming here today for your comments. Just a point of clarification, that particular fire station is a city fire station, not a Sedgwick County, so..."*

*Mr. Strum said, "Okay, thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next we have Dustin Goetz, sorry if I got that..."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Goetz."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Goetz."*

*Mr. Dustin Goetz, 11029 South 247th Street West, Viola, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today I'm just here, I'm here as a concerned taxpayer, but also I'm a member of the Fire District. I was reading through budget, I was looking at the strategic goals, the first two listed, and these aren't word-for-word, was to maintain a well-trained workforce, that adheres to safety procedures, the second one was to respond rapidly and accurately to all types of emergencies. My questions tonight are, how long can the district continue to run deficit, because we have been in a deficit for several years now. And my next, my other question is, how, or what is the fire boards goals for maintaining a Fire District with those strategic goals in mind? That's basically all I have."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much, Dustin, for coming here this evening. Commissioners, are there any questions or...now I know there's several other firemen here, but I don't have anyone else signed up. Does anyone else want to speak, with respect to the Fire District budget in this hearing? All right, thank you all very much for coming here today. At this time I'm going to close the public hearing regarding 2016 Fire District budget. Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I just want to make it clear that generally our opportunity at these public hearings is to listen, take notes, understand, and not to respond on particular items. This is the public's chance to voice their opinions, their attitudes, their thoughts on the budget. And although there is a dialogue to be had, I don't know that we can have a full vetting of that dialogue tonight. But I would urge us to continue to have that with our partners and first responders that work so hard to make our public safe. But, Dustin, just because you didn't get an answer tonight doesn't mean that we don't want to answer the question, this is just our time to take notes, listen, understand, with all the public that's going to be here tonight."*

**MOTION**

*Chairman Ranzau moved to receive and file.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*There was no discussion on the motion, the vote was called.*

**VOTE**

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Howell</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Mr. Manager, anything else to come before the Fire District?"*

*Mr. Holt said, "No, sir."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing none, we will adjourn."*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
*RICHARD RANZAU, Chairman*  
*Fourth District*

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*KARL PETERJOHN, Chair Pro Tem*  
*Third District*

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*DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner*  
*First District*

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*TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner*  
*Second District*

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*JAMES M. HOWELL, Commissioner*  
*Fifth District*

ATTEST:

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*Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk*

APPROVED:

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