

Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...
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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

9:00 AM

BOCC Meeting Room

Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners

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 Robbie 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:Robbie.Berry@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 Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:07 a.m. on December 2, 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 James M. Howell; Mr. Michael (Mike) Scholes, County Manager; Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, Director, Public Health Department; Ms. Eileen McNichol, Director, Human Resources; Mr. Gregory Harlan, Fire Division Chief, Fire District No. 1; Mr. Justin Waggoner, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, COMCARE; Mr. Thomas Stolz, Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department; Ms. Linda Kizzire, County Treasurer; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and Ms. Erika Rice, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

*Mr. Andrew B. Crane, Guiding Paws, Wichita
Mr. Phil Richardson, KPTS*

INVOCATION: Pastor Daniel Syrcle, First Salem Church.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

- A** [15-0778](#) REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSIT.
Presented by: Andrew B. Crane, Wichita.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

Chairman Ranzau said, "If Andrew Crane is here, he can go to the podium and please give us your name and address for the record."

Mr. Andrew Crane, Guiding Paws, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am here to talk to you about the Wichita [City] Transit. I know that the City Council passed yesterday the new transit routes and everything. I am a big part of that, and I just wanted to let you guys know that, and also you guys need to come together and rock Wichita and rock Sedgwick County. We need a good bus system in town for the

blind and the disabled in this town, and we all need to come together and make this happen for Wichita. Thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Andrew. You've given us some material here. We appreciate it. I think the Commissioner has a question for you. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Yes. Thank you for coming down today. I was interested, and I appreciate the fact that you gave us some material to read and look at. A lot of the material talked about guide dogs. Could you talk a little bit about dogs? I don't know, in terms of the number of percentage of the folks who have visual impairments who are relying on guide Sedgwick County or the City of Wichita. If you have any information on, that I'd be interested."

Mr. Crane said, "Yes. I run a nonprofit organization called Guiding Paws, and it's to educate people about blind people with guide dogs and what blind people can do. And I am a blind individual that has a guide dog, and I would like to travel and have excellent transportation, and that is including the Wichita [City] Transit and including getting Amtrak to come in and including a lot of other transportation in that. And I do different presentations across Kansas and Wichita here and telling people about what blind people can do."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you very much. Chairman, I'll make a motion we receive and file."

MOTION

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

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, "Thank you again, Andrew, for being here today."

Mr. Crane said, "Thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item, please."

Received and Filed

APPOINTMENTS

- B** [15-0771](#) APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF CHARLIE STEVENS (COMMISSIONER KARL PETERJOHN'S APPOINTMENT) FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION.
Presented by: Eric Yost, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept the Resignation.

Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item B is simply our acceptance of Mr. Stevens' resignation from the Public Building Commission. He is Commissioner Peterjohn's appointment, and he desires to step down, and it looks like the paperwork is in order and I would urge acceptance of his resignation."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I'm going to make that motion that we accept Mr. Stevens' resignation. Before we do that, I'd like to make a brief comment, thanking Mr. Stevens for his service. He was my initial appointment at the Public Building Commission and served for a number of years as a volunteer appointee on that Board. We all have an appointment on it. I very much appreciate Mr. Stevens' work and the others serving in that position. So I'll make that motion, Mr. Chairman."

MOTION

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Charlie Stevens.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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, "Next item, please."

Approved

C [15-0783](#)

APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF DUSTIN NOE (COMMISSIONER JIM HOWELL'S RECOMMENDATION) FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP AS THE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE.
Presented by: Eric Yost, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the Resignation.

Mr. Yost said, "Item C is the resignation of Mr. Noe from his position as Rockford Township trustee. He is Commissioner Howell's appointment and I urge acceptance of the resignation at this time."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I just wanted to commend Dustin Noe for his service. He has served with honor. He's a very, very busy young man that is going to school and has a very aggressive work school, and unfortunately, just a little bit of conflict there, so he needs to pay attention to other parts of his life that are more important than this right now. I would be making a motion here to

approve the resignation of David Noe. I am also looking for someone to serve. If anyone is interested, let me know. Job, a lot of spot and roads to maintain and other issues that come before them. It's a tough job and not a lot of folks actually out there that are in that township. I am looking for folks. I would like to put that plug out there."

MOTION

Commissioner Howell moved to accept the resignation.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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, "Next item, please."

Approved

NEW BUSINESS

D

[15-0797](#)

SEDGWICK COUNTY 2016 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM.

Presented by: Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communication and Community Initiatives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Take action as deemed appropriate by the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here this morning with our draft 2016 Legislative Platform for your review and comment and proposal. As you know, the process is that we begin in August and we consider the previous legislative session, we talk with departments about the initiatives and the issues that will be important to them as we m the next legislative session, we several conversations with you at staff meetings about what type of items that we want to include and this year, the proposal before you includes your recommendations that we split the platform a little bit differently than we have in the past. We do have a section that is key legislative initiatives, which we have identified as five specific issues that either were carry-over from the previous session that we want to continue working on or things that have specific issues that we want to address in this session.

"Just for the record, I will call the titles of those, and again, all of this information is available in our backup, but it is reducing the cost in Regulatory Burden of Public Works projects, Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species List, Unilateral Annexation, Appearance Bond Revocation Process and Juvenile Detention Centers. We do have another section which is our position statement, which provides kind of a philosophy, if you will, for Legislators to understand what we believe about specific topics and those topics include transportation, the register of deeds, public safety issues, general government issues, taxes and health and human services and it provides a guide for us if there are specific legislative initiatives that are brought up in

this session, we know where the Commission as a whole has had consensus.

"This draft before you, again we have had several reviews and we've had several versions, what we know about today is that whatever you approve today can change tomorrow. We do consider this to be an ongoing document; it is a living and changing document. We will be prepared to address any issues that come up during the session. We will bring those back to you for review, but this is a place for us to agree to, today, and then to move forward for the session.

"As you know, we do have our legislative liaisons, Scott Schneider and Jason Watkins, and Scott is here today, as well. But they will be our eyes and ears and feet on the ground in Topeka, to have the conversations with our delegation and others, and they will be communicating with us as to specific issues that might be appropriate for us to be engaged in. We also have staff in the County Counselor's office who have been very instrumental in helping us in the past, and that has been Bob Parnacott and now will transition to John VonAchen, so we are, again, very appreciative of the County Counselor's staff in assisting us with issues.

"I bring this to you today for your approval and continued conversation over the next several months. I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Kristi. Commissioners, are there any questions? What's the will of the Board? Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Before we have a motion, I'm sure somebody will make it. I just want to go on the record that I will support this today, but there is some language in a few of the items that I don't agree with. As we move forward and try to present a Legislative Platform as a majority of the Commission, we need to bring something forward for Scott to move forward at the Topeka level. I also believe that this year the state legislature has many, many huge issues that they're going to need to deal with and many of the things that we're concerned with in our policy and position statements may never see the light of day. I will be supportive to try to maintain progress and moving this forward, but there is some language in some of the items that I really don't agree with, and I have voiced that as we've gone through the process. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I just want to comment as a former legislator, about the value of this document. I would say that the legislators are not going to read this, I think we know that. I think we have a new strategy this year. We're going to give them a small card which has our priorities on it, which is more effective. We can give it to them repeatedly throughout the session and remind them of our priorities. I think that's a really smart strategy.

"With respect to the details of this Legislative Platform, it's really more for our lobbyists. When things come up, they have the chance to know what our position is on those issues as they come up during the session. Sometimes things come up really rapidly and they don't have time to call back and get an opinion of the County Commission. This is more of a guideline more for our lobbyists than anybody. I know we deliver a copy to legislators, and I know they are inundated with information, information, and they're not going to read it. They'll be grateful to get it, but they're not going to read it, and that's okay. This is really a statement of our positions on a lot of

issues so that our lobbyists can be most effective with these issues come Topeka.

"I want to make sure we have that understanding as we do this today. Thank you very much."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "I have some concerns and objections to some of the language and some of the positions that are included. I'll look forward to the document that we will provide as our issue statements as we have a smaller document that was referenced here and see how that's worded, but at this point, I have enough objection that I will not be supporting our Legislative Platform."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. Any other comments? Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn thanked the Chairman and said, "I think we've reached a point that I'll make a motion that we adopt this platform. Obviously it's a work by this group body, so we can take out certain items that some of us may feel more strongly about than others, and I appreciate the comments from my colleagues on the bench regardless of where they come down in terms of voting on this."

"I think this is a useful document, and I would add that even if the legislators don't read it, our lobbyists, there's a lot of things that pop up in Topeka, especially around 3:00 a.m., at the end of the session, and I think that having a roadmap for our folks who are advocating and obviously for some of the items we've got names attached, and there are some Commissioner names here on it. There are department heads who have some names who are on it, and so obviously they're going to be very close and know more details on this, but it becomes a communication tool between the lobbyists and the county and also as a way of, gee, what do you guys down in Sedgwick County think about this issue that's popped up at 3:00 a.m., and so even though we don't expect that every legislator will read every word of it, we've got a good overview, and I think it's an important document for advocacy in terms of where Sedgwick County is coming from for the 2016 Legislative Session, so I will be supporting it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "I want to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on this, if there is anyone from the public who would like to comment on this item. Seeing none, Kristi, thank you very much for all of your work on this. I do think this is a step forward to help focus our efforts and try to be effective in the Legislature. Do we have a motion yet?"

Ms. Erika Rice, Deputy County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Yes, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "And a second?"

Ms. Rice said, "Yes, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay, we have a motion and a second. Madam Clerk, call the vote."

MOTION

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve the 2016 Legislative Platform.

Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	No
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Chairman Ranzau	Aye

Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item, please."

Approved

E 1

CONTRACT WITH SEDGWICK COUNTY AND KANSAS PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES INC. (KPTS) FOR 2016. Presented by: Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications and Community Initiatives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I bring to you this morning our annual contract for KPTS. This provides for the opportunity for us to have live broadcasts of our weekly County Commission meeting on KPTS. This has been a very long-standing relationship with our public television partners. They are very flexible in accommodating to us in our schedule on those occasions when we do have a longer than normal meeting, and they are willing to allow us to have live broadcasts so the public can see your action, the work of government, the important work of how their tax dollars are spent.

"I think this is a continued opportunity for us to share and be transparent. This is an opportunity for you to share the good work of all of the employees of Sedgwick County and serving this community. There are no changes to the contract from what we've had in the past. This, again, only provides for the Wednesday morning opportunity for live coverage. There has been discussions; Commissioner Howell, you have discussed the possibility of us adding other meetings or replacing meetings, and we are happy to continue to explore those options in 2016. It will give us some opportunities to film, and we can figure out where the best venue and how we'll use that, but I think this provides that consistency as well for the community to know, at least for the most part, Wednesday mornings are where you can find the Sedgwick County Commission meeting. I'm happy to answer any questions.

"We do have our folks here who are from channel 8. Phil Richardson is here. He's our contact and has long been from KPTS. But if you have any other questions, otherwise I recommend you approve."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Kristi. Before I forget, I'll ask if anyone from the public would like to speak on this issue. Seeing none, Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I do have a few questions. I've seen the contract that we pay, what, is it \$480 per hour of broadcast?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "We do have an hourly rate, yes, of \$480. There is a split of the broadcast time and then the closed captioning. The closed captioning is separate, because that is provided through a separate entity, through KPTS. Yes, it is the two hour is our weekly minimum. If it goes beyond that time, then we pay a quarterly rate."

Commissioner Howell said, "And I'm reading the details. It looks like it is \$75 per hour for closed captioning and a two-hour minimum; is that correct, for everything?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "Yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "Do you know how much money we budget for this each year? I should have looked that up. I apologize. I couldn't help myself."

Ms. Zukovich said, "You know, I did not look it up this year. I usually have the here's what's it's been the last few years. It is somewhere around \$50,000 a year that we spend, and it really does vary depending on the agendas that we have and the length of time that the meetings run. When we have a number of agenda items that have more public hearings or have extended public hearings, then the meetings will run longer, and therefore, we will spend more, but it has ranged anywhere from about \$50,000. We've had a high year a couple years ago, over \$76,000."

Commissioner Howell said, "I would just like to make a couple of other comments. One of my frustrations with this, the schedule doesn't actually show the Commission meeting. So someone who looks at their schedule may not realize the meeting is actually going to happen. They see children's programming, which is fine, but you've got to be willing to go and actually look at the channel to find out that the actual meeting is happening. So to me, that's not ideal. I know that's something maybe beyond the control of the people that are dealing with this contract, but it's still just something I would like to see fixed somehow, and so that's an issue I'd like to just raise for discussion."

"Also, can you tell me, we also have a rebroadcast that happens on channel 7, the local government channel, at least the City of Wichita? Can you talk about that a little bit?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "Sure. We do have rebroadcast with the City of Wichita. As you know, the reason why we're on channel 8 is because for most people in the county, and that's county wide, it is a public access. It's not something they need to get through cable. It is something they could get over the air if they wanted. There are, in each city, some of the cities have a channel 7. We have found that there are four that have a broadcast channel 7. It is Wichita, Derby, Bel Aire and Park City. And so we do rebroadcast on Wichita channel 7 on Wednesday evenings and on Saturday mornings."

"We have in the past broadcast with Derby. That is something that we have revisited with them. They've changed some technology but are verifying that they are going to continue that practice with us. In the past, the other two stations were not equipped in that method, but we have reached out to them as well to find out if that is something they could do for us as well."

Commissioner Howell said, "I don't know how many folks actually watch the over the air broadcast channel 8 KPTS, but I get comments from western Kansas, which is

interesting to me. They watch the show sometimes out in western Kansas, which is great. But who is not getting the show is the folks in Derby and Haysville.

"My district goes into those areas, and I guess I'm concerned of the fact that a lot of folks may not be able to see the show live on channel 8 during the daytime when they're at work, and the rebroadcast is I think four times per week on the other channel?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "Wednesdays and Saturdays, yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "So there are a few other times that people might have a chance to see the meeting. I'm just thinking about the number of people who are missing because they're not able to see the show live. We might also say this is available on [www.]youtube[.com] and on our website for anybody who has an internet connection can go and watch the meetings after the fact, as well."

Ms. Zukovich said, "Absolutely."

Commissioner Howell said, "Is it also broadcast live on the website? Do you know?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "It is broadcasted live on our website. People can get streaming video live through our [www.]SedgwickCounty.org. They can go online later and watch it on demand either through [www.]youtube[.com] or our website, and actually it is programmed on the website for the later demand where you can click by the specific item. So you don't have to watch the entire Commission meeting if you're only interested in one item. You can click on that one specific item, and it takes you directly to that place."

Commissioner Howell said, "Does the Wichita City Council, are they broadcast on any over the air type of broadcasts for people who don't have an internet connection or cable channel can see it?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "It's my understanding they broadcast on their channel 7."

Commissioner Howell said, "So a moment ago you made a comment that if someone doesn't have a cable subscription, they wouldn't be able to get the meetings if it's not on channel 8. But the City of Wichita doesn't actually have any paid-for type service to see the meetings?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "Right. They have their channel 7."

Commissioner Howell said, "Have they had any problems or complaints? How long have they been doing that? Any history there?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "I don't have any idea what their setup has been."

Commissioner Howell said, "Do you know whether or not we've ever paid to be on channel 7? Is that a free service to us or do we actually have to pay for that?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "For our rebroadcast?"

Commissioner Howell said, "For us to be on channel 7 for any of the places in the county that we're on channel 7. Are we paying for that service?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "No. It has simply been an agreement arrangement for them as they are able to do that for us."

Commissioner Howell said, "I'm reading the contract here. It looks like on item 12, the severability clause, it's very short. If we decide to change our mind on this contract, we can change our direction at any time? Is that what that says? I'm trying to read the details of that. The County Counselor can answer that question."

Mr. Yost said, "Commissioner Howell, I think what that says is that if we had a dispute and some court decided that there was some clause or provision that was unenforceable, the rest of the contract was still valid."

Commissioner Howell said, "Is there anything in this contract that gives us a chance to walk away from this if we have a desire to do so sometime during the year?"

Mr. Yost said, "Not during the year."

Ms. Zukovich said, "There is an item 13 for termination. Either party may terminate for any reason with 30 days notice."

Commissioner Howell said, "I will just state also, since we're talking about this, it is a desire of mine to see some evening meetings and remote meetings. I hope we can do that, down the road. There are some logistical problems with that right now. I've asked our staff to look at ways to resolve those logistical barriers and hopefully we can, maybe, do that down the road. I think that's a good thing for us to get out into the district and let people see us in the evenings when they're off work and actually talk to a Commissioner and that type of thing. This contract would not be able to help us in that case."

"The way it reads right now, this is really for Wednesdays at 9 o'clock. Anything outside of that would not be supported by KPTS?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "At this time, yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "I understand the contract, and I'm willing to make a motion to accept the contract. I think there are some ideal things that are not really addressed at this time, but maybe things we can work on down the road. I'd like to make a motion to accept the contract."

MOTION

Commissioner Howell moved to approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Norton, I mean Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "I just want to express our appreciation for KPTS and this partnership that's been long-standing and has proved beneficial, I think, to both the County Commission, to help get our message out; and to the citizens of Sedgwick County who tune in and keep track of our activities. I

believe that KPTS has truly been a partner in trying to help us do this in a favorable way for both of us. I appreciate that."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn thanked the Chairman and said, "I agree with Commissioner Unruh. I was interested, and I think we've got some folks from channel 8 here with us. I don't know if they'd like to provide any comment for the record, because I am interested in the point that Commissioner Howell raised in terms of the possibility of remote or evening meetings, if we did that on an occasion in the future and if there are technical issues brought up and discussed, and if there is technology out there and if that could be something handled relatively easily."

Mr. Phil Richardson, KPTS, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I do Major Gifts Development at the station and Dave McClintock over here, he's the Director of Operations, so he's the technical guy, and I'm just the more nontechnical. But, to answer your question about the evening meetings, we do not possess a remote truck like we did back in the old days when we a remote truck to broadcast the signal from a remote location. So that's kind of the main hang up, if you will, on that situation. The other hang up is PBS does not allow us to disrupt their programming, only on occasion. It's a very, very limited amount of time on our main channel 8.1. So that's the main thing with PBS, is we can only interrupt that program in a very, very limited amount of time throughout the year. So there is a possibility that we might be able to broadcast evening meetings on a supplement channel that we have. We have 2 our channels, 8.2, 8.3. So our explore channel, 8.2, it's feasible we could investigate broadcasting evening meetings.

"Again, I can have Dave come up here and explain the kind of technicality issues that might pose. As far as having the channel space to do it, I believe on 8.2 it is possible. Now, whether we could get the signal from that remote location and whatever the terminology is, I'll have Dave come up and speak to that. As far as the channel, having the channel space on 8.2, that's possible. We could investigate that."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "So it might be more of a taped delay, is what you're saying, if you can't disrupt the evening program. Apparently it hasn't been a problem on Wednesday morning programming."

Mr. Richardson said, "Right. It could be recorded at the remote location and then played back at a different time."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell said, "Mr. Chairman, just a quick question for this gentleman. By the way, I also want to show appreciation to KPTS. I know I've watched the broadcast and I do record them, most weeks, and I go back and watch the meetings.

"The production is very good, and I thank you for providing that service. It's been a good thing for our community. 8.2 and 8.3, those are over the air but not available on cable; is that correct?"

Mr. Richardson said, "They are available on cable depending on the tier that you would

have of cable. 670 and 671 would be those channels on Cox cable.”

Commissioner Howell said, "Do you know about U-verse?"

Mr. Richardson said, "It's not on U-verse."

Commissioner Howell said, "About half have Cox and half have U-verse, I think. As far as the rebroadcast, would that be able to be closed captioned through the service you have now? You said yes."

Mr. Richardson said, "Yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "That is a detail important to our County Clerk, because they do verbatim minutes for these meetings, and I feel sorry for them, quite frankly, because I talk too long, all of the time. It gives them a baseline for them to start with. They download the closed captioning and correct them and I appreciate what they do, so thanks to our County Clerk for the great work that they do as well. Closed captioning is very important to them so they can have a baseline for their minutes. I don't have any other questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Mr. Richardson said, "Thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Kristi, I just want to clarify, I thought you said section 13 allows for either party to terminate."

Mr. Yost said, "Mr. Chairman, there's two 13's."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Oh, I see. Okay."

Mr. Yost said, "It's just kind of a typo."

Chairman Ranzau said, "This should really be 14 then. Okay, got it. That had me confused."

Ms. Zukovich said, "The next page."

Chairman Ranzau said, "We don't have a motion yet, do we?"

Ms. Zukovich said, "Yes, we do."

Chairman Ranzau said, "We do? Oh, that's right, and a second. All right. Madam Clerk, call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Chairman Ranzau	Aye

Ms. Zukovich said, "Thank you, Commissioners."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Kristi, thank you for being here. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Approved

F [15-0725](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY UNIFIED BUILDING AND TRADE CODE BY MOVING MECHANICAL PROVISIONS LOCATED IN THE ARTICLE FOR THE BUILDING CODE INTO THE ARTICLE FOR THE MECHANICAL CODE. ALSO, THIS RESOLUTION AMENDS THE PLUMBING CODE TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR TRACER WIRES CONTAINED WITHIN SEC. 604.9 OF THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE, 2012 EDITION.

Presented by: Thomas Stolz, Director, Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Mr. Thomas Stolz, Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here this morning to discuss three relatively minor code modifications concerning the joint City of Wichita, Sedgwick County Unified Building and Trade Code. Two of the changes I will be discussing are relatively minor clean up issues within the current code while a third issue represents a small deregulation of a prior requirement regarding local plumbing code.

"The first cleanup issue pertains to referencing a mechanical code within the unified code document itself. The joint code as it exists today has five chapters: Chapter 1, Administration; Chapter 2, Building Code; Chapter 3, Plumbing Code; Chapter 4, Electrical Code; And Chapter 5, Mechanical Code.

"There are currently references regarding mechanical code work in both Chapter 2 and Chapter 5 within the code. This has been confusing for staff and for contractors, and staff has worked with Wichita Sedgwick County Mechanical Advisory Board to migrate all mechanical code language from Chapter 2 into Chapter 5 so it is contained in a single chapter. It makes it easier to read, one point of reference.

"The second cleanup issue deals with plumbing and mechanical contractor license renewal. Just to give you the history prior to the city-county merger, code departments, the City of Wichita required annual renewal of licenses and certificates for plumbing and mechanical contractors while Sedgwick County required relicensing every two years. At the request of customers and in an effort to build consistency of practice within the merger, the code was changed to reflect the two-year renewal strategy employed by the county. During the original change, however, there were some sections of the code that continued to reflect the one-year renewal language, and today's resolution will fix those mistakes.

"Finally, the third issue in today's resolution pertains to a portion of the unified plumbing code in regard to what are known as tracer wire requirements. As a background, when laying underground utility material, which is comprised of plastic or PVC (polyvinyl chloride), it is often required to add what is referred to as a tracer wire next to or on top of the utility line. This tracer wire assists future renovation contractors in finding the existing line prior to performing repairs. Historically, the Uniform Plumbing Code has contained regulation which mandated the use of tracer wires

between water meters and the connections to houses or commercial structures, which is fed by the waterline.

“Recently, the City of Wichita water utility has determined it does not want outside contractors or customers accessing their meter cans or putting this type of wiring into the easement surrounding their meter cans. Upon this revelation, the Wichita/Sedgwick County Plumbing Advisory Board voted to request deregulation of this portion of the code and no longer require tracer wires for this application. I think they had too many reasons for making that recommendation. Number one is the waterlines are generally straight line installations between the meter can and the home or business, unless a contractor can determine the line location without the tracer wire. Secondly, it prevents the consumer from having to pay the expense of putting a tracer wire access box, which is what they have to do in case they can't get in the water meter can any longer, and nor will they have to continue paying for the actual tracer wire installation.

“It should be noted that this is not a prohibition. If home or business owners still desire tracer wires for their city waterline, they can put them in as long as they do not encroach upon the city water meter can. The difference is that MABCD (Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department) will no longer regulate this issue nor will it check for it on its inspections. The staff requests today to accept and pass this resolution, and I would be glad to answer any questions.”

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

Chairman Ranzau said, "Are there any comments or questions? Bob, you did a great job. Is there anyone from the public who would like to speak?"

Mr. Lonnie Wright, 1721 South Lulu, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I want to express appreciation for trying to consolidate these rules as the government code has spread out. They've made it more consolidated like our private code.

“For 100 years, our tradespeople have seen what works and doesn't work. We've had a separate code body that we've used. We've had a third party enforcing the code that somebody else used, and we have even another third party that would control or provided the exams. We didn't want government control or influence. The only thing we wanted from government, and I'm talking nationally, is uniform enforcement of the rules, that is, the inspectors would inspect. They thought they knew better than the tradespeople, and so they came out with a national code. They sued to stop our national building code, and they went into the trades to do their codes. They didn't get an electric code, and we still have that going on, you know, in our plumbing and mechanical.

“The thing is, the inspector learned if they divided their code books up, instead of just one book, into three or four, then they made more money. So this has made a complication if we go with the international codes, which the mechanical code is under.

You've got to have so many different code books. So this was work that they did to consolidate things, and it's a good answer for the mechanical people. So recognize the work they did to do this. Thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Lonnie. Seeing no one else who wants to comment, Madam Clerk, call the vote."

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, "Next item, please."

Approved

G [15-0780](#)

**AMENDMENT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)
FOR MAIN TAG OFFICE .**

Presented by: Steve Claassen, Facilities, Fleet and Park Director.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the amendment to the 2015
Capital Improvement Program.

VISUAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Steve Claassen, Director, Facilities, Fleet and Parks, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here this morning requesting your approval of the CIP amendment for a new Main Tag Office for the Treasurer's Office. Just a bit of history for that project or that facility, it was 1988 that the building was first moved into. It was a leased facility, initially. A year later it was purchased, and we've operated there for 27 years.

"The current overgrown building is 6,778 square feet, and I'll agree it's much too small, and there are far too few parking spaces. Over the last 10 years, the previous Treasurer and the current Treasurer, Linda Kizzire, have advocated for a facility that better met the County's needs. I think Linda is thrilled to be the Treasurer to push this through. This year, you asked us to pursue a solution to this Tag Office need through an RFP (Request for Proposal) process that defined our needs and asked the private sector to help with their creativity and providing a solution for us, and that process worked and enables us to bring a CIP amendment to you today.

"It was June 16th that we received 15 proposals and responses, actually 15 responses, only three proposals. We used our selection committee to evaluate and discern the merits of those proposals. That was made up of Linda Kizzire and Randy Bargdill from the Treasurer's Office. Myself and Tania Cole from Facilities. Rick Durham helped us from Finance, and Kim Evans was involved in Purchasing.

"And after a lengthy and detailed negotiation with Dome Properties, LLC, whose proposal provided the best and overall highest to the county, we're pleased to bring you their project proposal. Subject to your approval of this CIP amendment, which you'll be asked later in the meeting through the Board of Bids and Contracts to approve that contract with Dome Properties, LLC.

"Now, that we have that firm contract that includes all required build to suit elements that meets our needs, we must provide for the funding authority necessary. The recommended action before you now is to approve an amendment to the 2015 CIP with a new project entitled new Main Tag Office in the amount of \$2,318,000. That number is the sum of the negotiated contract with Dome Properties, LLC in the amount of \$1,000,645 and \$673,000 of owner's items. The owner's items are made up of architectural and engineering fees, furniture, fixtures and equipment, signage, networking, and moving expenses in a contingency allowance.

"The CIP amendment would use a cash transfer from the general fund to pay for the project. Some of the features of the project include full renovation inside and out of a 20,540 square foot building. The facility efficient interior with new air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems and have great access to loading docks and delivery doors. There will be 139 onsite parking stalls providing adequate parking for customers and employees. It is a single tenant building located on the southwest corner of Meridian and Douglas, which has close proximity to Kellogg, which should provide most county residents with really good access to the facility. It is a fully customized renovation plan that meets the specific needs of the Tag Office, and we expect the construction to take about 120 days.

"Commissioners, we've talked with you a long time about this need over the years. I believe you're familiar with most of this, because we've briefed you several times on the course that we followed with this process.

Sedgwick County Treasurer, Linda Kizzire, is with us, and Randy Bargdill is here as well. She has been closely involved in this process all the way through. Dare I say pushing? She and I will be happy to answer any of your questions, and we recommend approval of this amendment."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Is there anyone from the public that would like to speak on this issue? Seeing none, Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I was just curious. How long have we been trying to solve this Murdock Tag Office problem? I don't want to call it a problem, but it's been a long time, if I'd like to ask question, or Linda."

Mr. Claassen said, "It probably goes back before my time."

Commissioner Howell said, "Treasurer Kizzire."

Ms. Linda Kizzire, County Treasurer, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I know Jan Kennedy was Treasurer when this initial project began, and then I worked for Ron Estes. So, in 2006, we started the process again. Now Ron is the State Treasurer, and I've been working on it since I've been Treasurer, and I'm just very thankful that you're considering this amendment. It's been going on probably, I'm going to guess, since probably 2000. Tim, you've been here the longest."

Commissioner Norton said, "We were talking about it my very first day as a County Commissioner 15 years ago."

Ms. Kizzire said, "Okay. I knew it had been a long time."

Commissioner Howell said, "I've heard someone say 17 years. Maybe that's the right, I

don't know, but at least 15 years. So, I guess this is a huge milestone in my mind, been trying to do this for a very long time. It's been one of those things that's been hard to make a decision on, and so I think one thing the RFP process has done, the request for proposal process has done, it's driven us towards seeing everything that's on the table that we can possibly consider, and it drives us to the requirement to make a decision.

"I think that's one thing that's changed this versus what maybe has happened over the last 15 to 17 years. I would say. I wanted to reflect on the 271 Building for just a moment, because there was a plan a year ago to put this Tag Office in the 271 Building, but I personally had a lot of concerns about the parking especially. One of the problems with the Murdock office is lack of parking. How many parking spaces do you have over at the Murdock office right now?"

Ms. Kizzire said, "Thirty-two."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thirty-two spaces, and so a lot of the customers and employees, where do they park if they don't have spaces?"

Ms. Kizzire said, "Staff has to park on the street. They start at Water Street, run past KSN and then down Ninth, to Ninth Street, and they walk to the office from there."

Commissioner Howell said, "So, it's really not adequate parking and so that's one of the problems, and we're trying to solve that with an adequate office for our customers going to the 271 Building. Just adding up the number of people who are assigned to work in that building plus the number of expected customers at a peak level, it was obvious to me that there wasn't going to be adequate parking at the 271 Building which was a major concern, and I think the 271 Building to purchase that a year ago, not because of the Tag Office. That was an afterthought, I believe. I think the main purpose was to provide space for MABCD and MAPD (Metropolitan Area Planning Department), which is obviously going to do that now, but the Tag Office was put into that, I think, as a way to fill up the extra space. It wasn't really because of the Tag Office that the decision was made that I understand, in my opinion.

"Maybe I'm wrong about that. This is a better decision, because this is all ground floor, no elevators required, right? You have a basement, if you need to, to use that for other storage or whatever, in this building and I understand that this building is going to have bathrooms in the main floor, that's part of, or one of the changes that's going to be made during the renovations, I guess."

Ms. Kizzire said, "We are going to have a break room on the main floor."

Commissioner Howell said, "So this has some tremendous advantages, all main level, and it's going to be plenty of space and plenty of parking, and it's not very far from your current location, really. So this is a win-win. And the cost of this is actually going to be, in my opinion less, because if you look at the renovation cost of the 271 Building, the original budget was about a \$1million per floor, and you were going to take about two floors of that, plus bond and interest, plus purchase price. You add all of that up and it's well in excess of what we're doing today. So this is in my opinion a win for the taxpayers as well.

"Better services, great location, and we're repurposing a building that needs something to make that part of the neighborhood, make it a good thing for our community as well.

I'm happy about this decision. Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion we would approve the amendment to the 2015 Capital Improvement Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

MOTION

Commissioner Howell moved to approve the 2015 Capital Improvement Program budget amendment.

Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "You beat me to the second, but I'd like to make comments, because your predecessor, Treasurer Kizzire, Ron Estes, this was one of the issues he brought up to me. Every time I spoke with a group of people who were in the central part of the city, they would talk about the Main Tag Office and the challenges there. There were features beyond just going into a bigger building that has adequate parking, but I do plan to be supportive on this.

"Having a facility that's on basically the intersection of two major arterial streets in Wichita I think is a real positive. It will help that area, and I think it's going to be a big, big plus once we get it fully up and operating, and I think it will be much better situation for the Treasurer's Office employees, too. But, I think this is long overdue, support this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "Congratulations, Linda."

Ms. Kizzire said, "Thank you, Dave."

Commissioner Unruh said, "We're going to get this done finally. I just wanted to highlight the point that you've worked with the Kansas Highway Patrol."

Ms. Kizzire said, "I have."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Do you want to tell us about that?"

Ms. Kizzire said, "The Kansas Highway Patrol initially was going to do all their VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) inspections at their new location at Highway 254 and Rock Road. I am very pleased to say they're going to move, with the main Tag Office, to 2525 West Douglas upon approval of the contract from you, and I would appreciate you welcoming them for the continued good working relationship that we have. If we don't allow them to go to the main office, everyone will have to drive the other location, which is a very long drive for some, especially if you're in Cheney, Mt. Hope, Clearwater, Haysville, it's a very long drive. I think it's beneficial for not only us but for them to be able to provide a better service for the customers."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Primarily, it's beneficial to our user, to our customers. I appreciate your working that out with the Highway Patrol to make that a good cooperation between all."

Ms. Kizzire said, "Thank you, Dave."

Commissioner Unruh said, "A good cooperation between all of us. That is all that I have, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Linda, I want to say congratulations and thank you for your patience."

Ms. Kizzire said, "Thank you, Richard."

Chairman Ranzau said, "I know we've been trying to get this done for a while and for a variety of reasons in the past, this project has been prevented from moving forward, something that has been needed for, you say, at least 15 years and for a variety of reasons has been stopped. We started this in May. So here we are four and a half months down the road, getting it done. I think this is a tremendous service for our community."

Ms. Kizzire said, "Thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "I want to thank staff, Steve and everything you did. I know this process was a little new, and so there was a learning curve, but I think it is helpful us to us in the future to use this process. This is an example of just seeing the needs and focusing on our core functions and getting things done. I'm sure you'll enjoy it. By the way, we're going to pay cash for it, right?"

Ms. Kizzire said, "Oh, I don't know."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Yes, we are."

Ms. Kizzire said, "Oh, okay."

Chairman Ranzau said, "I know you've been wanting to for years set aside the excess that you have left over. We haven't been able to get that done, but in the end it adds up to the same thing; we'll pay cash, so we'll appreciate that."

Ms. Kizzire said, "Thank you."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Chairman Ranzau	Aye

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you Linda and Steve. Next item, please."

Approved

H [15-0794](#)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2015.

Presented by: Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the recommendations of the Board

of Bids and Contracts.

Mr. Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts of November 19th results in two items we would like to present to you this morning:

1. BUILDING FOR MAIN TAG OFFICE

"Recommendation is to accept the negotiated proposal from Dome Properties, LLC in the amount of \$1,645,000

2. BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS

"Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Wildcat Construction Company, Inc. & Subsidiaries in the amount of \$994,471.04.

"I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have, and I recommend approval of both items."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, what is the will of the Board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to adopt the Board of Bids and Contracts' recommendations.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

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, "Next item, please."

Approved

CONSENT

- I [15-0796](#) One (1) Right of Way Easement for Sedgwick County Project 785-U-1500; Miscellaneous Drainage Project on 279th Street West between MacArthur & 47th Street South. CIP# R-264-30. District 3.
- J [15-0793](#) Request for additional budget authority in the 2015 Risk Management Fund Budget.
- K [15-0775](#) Revise Sedgwick County Personnel Policies.
- L [15-0798](#) Notice of Renewal of Agreement for Legislative Liaison Services.

- M** [15-0772](#) Affiliation agreement renewal between Wesley Medical Center, the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, and the Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education for a Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) Residency Program at COMCARE.
- N** [15-0774](#) Four vendor contracts to provide home care and TeleHealth services for the Sedgwick County In-Home Program (SCIP).
- O** [15-0803](#) General Bill Check Register for November 18, 2015 - November 24, 2015.
- P** [15-0804](#) General Bill Check Register for November 25, 2015 - December 1, 2015.
- Q** **15-0805** Payroll Check Register for the November 14, 2015 payroll certification.

Mr. Mike Scholes, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I recommend approval of Consent Agenda Items I through Q."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, what's the bill of the board? Commissioner Howell."

MOTION

Commissioner Howell moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item K. Items A-J and L-Q.

Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.

Chairman Ranzau said, "I would like to offer the opportunity for anyone from the public to speak on this issue. Seeing none, Madam Clerk, please call the vote."

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, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I just wanted to talk specifically about one item that's in this revision of Sedgwick County personnel policies, and that has to do with the travel and business meeting expense policy resolution amending the policies with respect to the car allowances.

"I wanted to just, tell the public that this is, it was an accusation in the Wichita Eagle this morning that we're trying to not be transparent. I don't think that's true. I want to just address that.

"First of all, there was an article that came out earlier, that came out, I believe, November 30th, written by Daniel Salazar, and we discussed this on the phone. In fact, I sent him a copy of the Manager's recommended policy at that time. So he had full access to that, and he wrote a very good story, frankly. It's a great story. Good job, Daniel. I notice there's no public comments on it. I checked this morning right before the meeting. There's still zero comments from the public regarding this issue. It was a very, very well written story. It talks about the details about why this is important. I would ask our Manager, if you don't mind, Manager Scholes, do you know who has written, who has determined our car allowance policy in the past? Do you know who set the policy in the past?"

Mr. Scholes said "I don't think there was a policy in the past. Ron?"

Chairman Ranzau said, "We might ask Ron to come to the podium and address that issue."

Mr. Scholes said "I don't think there was a policy in the past. I think this actually provides a policy."

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said "No, there was no written policy or guidelines. This item came up, like, in June of 2014 on the agenda, it was fully discussed and at that time the Commission tabled action and asked the Manager's office to develop a policy or guidelines, and of course, with all that was going on, the budget, in the middle of the 2015 budget at that time, and right after that, Bill announced his retirement, so there were a lot of things happening.

"This then came up on the to-do list when I was working as Acting County Manager. I worked with the County Counselor's Office, worked with the Finance Office, and we put together the change in the policy and then the corresponding guidelines, to help lead this through the budgeting process under of course, the budgeting process is always under direction of the Manager with the final approval being the Commission's."

Commissioner Howell said, "So if I can summarize this then, the policy wasn't written in black and white so much, but it was still managed by the Manager?"

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct, for the most part, and of course, there were no guidelines for doing that. The biggest difference in the policy, that I can see, is it outlines some folks that specifically would be eligible for the allowance where in the past at least a few of them had been excluded from receiving a car allowance. It wasn't optional for them at that time."

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Howell said, "There's three officials I'm thinking of. Now, just to be clear, the County Manager gets a car allowance. I think that is very reasonable because you've got to manage the county. You've got to go all over the place. There's lots of places to go and visit different buildings throughout the county and all kinds of events. I think it's very reasonable that the Manager would have a car allowance.

"The District Attorney has an allowance, I believe, and that's been that way for a long time; is that correct?"

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Howell said, "There has been no change to that."

Mr. Holt said, "Right."

Commissioner Howell said, "And I think that seems reasonable. He's an elected official and goes all over the county doing his work. It also relieves an administrative burden for him. Think about this. You know, he could pull out a logbook and write down exactly where he's going and all of that, but that's an administrative burden for him, and he's a busy man. I would respect him as an elected official enough to simply say, if he's running around the county doing 165 miles a week, then he would be eligible for the full allowance. That's the equivalent to what this worth, 165 miles a week doing county business."

"And also I noticed that there is, one of the people actually named in this current policy that I think is interesting is the Election Commissioner, because under the state statute it states specifically they are allowed a car allowance and for whatever reason haven't been able to get that in the past. I find that very curious as to how the county ended up in a position not to give a car allowance when the statute dictated we had to do so. I talked to the Election Commissioner and she goes all over the state talking to election folks, plus she has to manage setting up poll sites and coordinating places for the elections to happen."

"Let me talk about our County Register of Deeds for just a minute. In 2014, I was a legislator in Topeka. I saw the Register of Deeds, Bill Meek, in Topeka every day of the session. Maybe towards the end of the session he wasn't there, because maybe there was no reason for him to be there at that time. But during the 2014 session he was through, I'm going to say, at least 50 days out of the session."

"Of those 50 days, I asked our Register of Deeds, did you have a car policy. The answer was no and he could have turned in mileage but he chose not to do so. He accepted the cost of that, he was doing county business, advocating for the county and making about 50 trips to Topeka. I think it would be very reasonable in my opinion for him to get a car allowance."

"There is one take-away in this policy as it's written currently. That is, under the current policy, even with a car allowance, someone who travels more than 100 miles would be able to expense any mileage over 100 miles on a single trip, and that is now being taken away with this change. So that has been a twist in this thing that has been used by some Commissioners in the past that will no longer be available. Is that correct, manager?"

Mr. Holt said, "I'm trying to recall. When you brought that up, I remember we had long discussions about it, and it seems to me we left that in there, but it would be at the option of the person using the mileage, whether or not they would use that."

Commissioner Howell said, "There is, on the last block of the changes in policy there, it shows that that clause has been struck through. My interpretation of that is there is no longer an option of someone with a car allowance to make a claim of mileage over 100 miles on a trip, which to me is fine, but it is a takeaway. Some Commissioners have used that in the past."

"I'm going to also say that there is no requirement for someone to take a car

allowance. This is simply optional. Some of the folks I've talked to don't take the car allowance or don't intend to take the car allowance, or maybe they'll take part of it because they can justify some of the mileage and they would like to make it easy on themselves again, do what seems reasonable to them.

"Again, I made a comment in the article that Daniel Salazar wrote in the Wichita Eagle that these are elected folks. We're not talking about a huge amount of money. These folks, if you ask them, I think they can justify the reasons why they need it or would use a car allowance. I would like to, I guess, give them some trust. I believe it's reasonable to have the Manager manage this policy and it seems reasonable the elected officials would be treated equally and fairly. I might also say that the County Sheriff has been given a vehicle in lieu of a car allowance; is that correct?"

Mr. Holt said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Howell said, "So he actually has a whole, has a car that he uses every day, which is very reasonable. Again, I would never question his need for a vehicle. He does a tremendous amount of work for the county and goes all over the county doing his job. I think it's very reasonable that he has a vehicle to do that. And so I think the policy is simply codifying what's already been going on, and I think we're removing a twist in this policy that has been rarely used but is not really necessary, and that's the 100-mile clause, and then finally, I think, treating the elected official's equivalent and trusting them to determine how much of this allowance they would use, I think this is reasonable.

"I would like to make a motion that we would adopt Item K, and I would also not refer to this as a perk, I think that is a slam. It's not accurate. I think this is, it's not the words I would use. I think that the reason the policy exists is because there is legitimate county business that's being used in these to receive these allowances. I am thinking about Commissioner Peterjohn specifically, his district is enormous. About 50 percent of Sedgwick County is in his district. He's got, I think, nine cities he communicates with and visits regularly. I have no doubt he puts on the 165 miles a week doing county business.

"I've said plenty. Mr. Chairman, I make a motion we would adopt Item K as well."

MOTION

Commissioner Howell moved to adopt Item K.

Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.

Commissioner Peterjohn thanked the Chairman and said, "I jump in just to clarify. Although my district is big, not quite 50 percent of the square miles in Sedgwick County are in my district. It was pretty darn close to that. After that 2010 census, my district shrank a little bit and portions of my district at that time went to Commissioner Norton and to Commissioner Ranzau. So, I'm a little bit less than half, but I would say I do have a dozen of the 27 Townships in the county that are in my district. You're correct on the number of cities.

"Having all of that ground to cover, it's certainly important, but for the officials we're talking about here, they're countywide officials. They have the whole county. I know that all, and all elected officials, in fact, all county employees, I'm going to go from

memory here, which occasionally gets me into trouble, but we've had the county checkbook online, and the records for how our expense accounts and all of that information for every county employee, elected or nonelected, is ultimately available for the public or anyone else with an interest in trying to see what, how money gets spent, whether it's for expenses or salaries or how county spending in general goes. So, I think there's a significant amount of transparency, and I think there's accountability, and I think for the elected officials we all have to speak to our constituents while we're in office. And of course, obviously most, we get the most intense communications, obviously, when elections roll around. So I do plan to be supportive on this.

"I appreciate Commissioner Howell's opportunity to pull this off the consent agenda so that we could have a discussion on it, because I know every elected official in this county, from having talked with them, they've got a variety of requirements to get around the county, and some folks have had the opportunity to, whether they have a vehicle or they have the ability for reimbursement or not, and some haven't, and I think this levels the playing field, and there will be full public accountability here.

"I think the effort was to provide a fair situation for all elected officials going forward, so I do plan to be supportive and I appreciate the clarification in terms of what's being cut back as part of this policy, too, but that's a detail that I haven't seen covered yet, so maybe it will after today's meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Commissioner. I will note that this particular Item has 15 personnel policies listed in it, and it's routine that we put revisions to personnel policies in the Consent Agenda. We've done that every year since I've been here. That being said, we do have a motion and a second. Madam Clerk, call the vote."

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, "Next item, please. Well, I guess we are at Public Agenda, which we don't have anyone signed up for and Legislative Issues, I don't believe that we have anything. So, we will, oh yes we do have a need for a Fire District No. 1 meeting.

The Board of County Commissioners recessed into the Board of County Commissioners functioning as the governing body of Fire District No. 1 at 10:15 a.m. and returned at 10:17 a.m.

OTHER

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, do you have anything? Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well, yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. December 2nd is an important day in American history, and I'd be remiss if I didn't point out the fact that on December 2nd, 1823, James Monroe began the process of outlining what became the Monroe Doctrine, which was important in the 19th and early 20th centuries opposing European interference in the western hemisphere.

"In 1763, a few decades earlier, it's interesting, Newport, Rhode Island, the first Jewish synagogue was established in America. In 1942, at the University of Chicago, they gave the first demonstration of a controlled nuclear chain reaction.

"In 1980, Congress created the 6 million-acre Denali National Park that used to be called Mount McKinley and has been changed recently to Denali, located in central Alaska. It's very impressive if you ever get a chance to see it.

"So I just wanted to point out that December 2nd was an important day in American history and put that on the record. Thank you.

VISUAL PRESENTATION

"Oh, and one other item. I'd like to give a positive shout-out. Folks should, and I don't know if we can get this quite close enough. Enclosed with property tax bills that go out is a detailed breakdown is involved through the County Treasurer in collecting all the property taxes in the county, most of it gets spent by other local governmental bodies, and there's a detailed breakdown here.

"It's broken down if your specific area, regardless of which city, or if you're not in an incorporated area, the township you're located in as well as obviously schools and the county wide and any other special taxing districts that are out there. I think this is important for citizens to take a look at, especially those who have escrow and end up paying through their mortgage their property taxes.

"I think this is an important new feature and I want to comment all the folks here at Sedgwick County that worked to get this included with the property tax bills that went out recently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Commissioner. I've got a few things I want to talk about today.

"A couple of weeks ago, Commissioner Peterjohn provided some information to the public and a warning to the public and prefaced that by saying what he was going to say was not politically correct, and I'm going to give the same warning that what I am about to say, on a couple issues, may not be politically correct for some of the progressives in our community. So you may want to turn the television off or volume down. What I'm going to talk about today will include the truth and some facts, and that may be particularly offensive to some members of the Wichita Eagle editorial board and others.

"First, I want to talk now, just say a few comments, about the recall effort that happened recently and the District Attorney has issued a judgment on. I want to say that the response I received from the public was unbelievably and overwhelmingly positive, and I want them to know that I appreciate that, I've got their backs, and I know they have mine. I understand that there are many hard working tax-paying citizens out there that don't believe some should get welfare benefits. I understand and will continue to fight for you all and know you're not racist bigots for taking that position, as some would pontificate and say.

"Unfortunately, there are people on the left who do things based on emotion and with a lack of facts and information. And that brings me really to my main point here. You

know, a lot of the things that were talked about in the recall effort had to do with public health and some of the decisions that we've made here in the Commission this last year. Some of the things that I've supported, as well. Even the Eagle said that some of the decisions we made were boneheaded.

"Unfortunately, this whole initiative and many other things that are being said in the media are factually incorrect despite our efforts here at the County to get the information out on numerous times. There continues to be false and misleading information. I am going to try, one more time, to address some of these issues. I know for some it's just not going to matter. For those on the left there are just completely committed to their ideology of a big government, creating a nanny state and spending other people's money, the facts aren't going to matter. But I think it's important for myself and the Commission as a whole to try and get the truth out there and the facts out there for the general public who may find themselves being misled by what they're hearing in the media.

"First of all, one of the central allegations, with respect to the recall, was that we had cut WIC (Women, Infants and Children) benefits, and we said this numerous times; there were absolutely zero cuts to any WIC benefits. None of our actions will have any effect on who gets WIC benefits, nor how much. In fact, we didn't really cut anything out of WIC. We simply made a decision to spend less on administrative costs than what we were authorized to spend. It was purely about administrative costs.

"Our assigned caseload has gone down 38 percent since, I believe, 2010. So we said we are going to control our administrative costs. We still increased the amount we're going to spend on administrative costs from \$1.8 million to \$1.9 million. So it wasn't a cut at all. It was actually just a modest increase of \$100,000, and we decided not to spend more than what we were authorized. We decided to not spend more than what was necessary. Basic common sense approach. No matter how many times I'm going to say this, I'm sure it won't get through to some people, because they won't care. The facts need to get out there. We increased the amount of spending on our administrative costs by \$100,000. It will have no effect on WIC benefits whatsoever.

"Now, I sent an e-mail to the editorial board asking them for specifics and reasons why they thought specific actions that we took were so-called boneheaded or things they didn't like. And they just sent me back links to their opinion page. I have continued to ask them, give me specific actions and reasons why they think they were bad decisions. They've yet to provide those specifics, because I think the facts will reveal that their opinions aren't based on facts. You can, everyone is entitled to their opinion, but I think at some point we need to grow up and move from opinion to knowledge and from knowledge to truth. But you've got to make an effort to find out what the facts are and be honest about it. Some people don't want to do that.

"And so along that same line, I'm going to talk about a couple things that have come up here recently. There's been a recent article about STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) rates climbing in Kansas. There was an article about this and an article about a rise in STD rates here locally. This goes along the same line of false, misleading and deceptive information that is being put out by various members of the media. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but I think there is a clear attempt here to create a narrative that is false and intentionally to deceive the public. So let's talk about this.

First of all, the original article was talked about the sexually transmitted disease rates

climbing in Kansas and the nation for the last four years. All right. Fair enough. It came out in a report from the CDC (Center for Disease Control). Okay. So write an article about. It that's good. But it's important to remember this has been going on for four years. I think the data was up to 2014, but a nationwide trend. So the article talked about that at the beginning, and at the end, it talked about some of the things that some of our people at the Sedgwick County Health Department did, and it actually talked about symptoms and treatment.

"For example, it said, and the causes. It said nationally, gay and bisexual men are more at risk, for example, to syphilis, and that's one of the things that's gone up nationally. So has HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). And it says that disease investigators have seen an uptick in people who have anonymous sex, which complicates investigators' ability to track the disease. It says people have been finding sex partners online through applications, meet a person and have sex without even knowing each other's name and obviously having unprotected sex, so now they think that may be causing an uptick in some of these diseases. That's fine. That makes sense. Very good.

"But in the middle of this then, it goes off on this tangent about public health funding, and supposedly some, quote, 'health experts' think that it could be from a vote of public health funding and goes on to talk about how the Kansas Health Institute, which we know is not a credible organization, but nevertheless, they give the example of the community improvement plan which was cut out of Sedgwick County for next year. And it's a compilation of data and how bad, you know, this is bad, and even though the expert said he hasn't studied specific effects of public funding cuts on STD rates, it could still be a problem.

"So we went off on this tangent, but failed to include that none of the cuts we made next year had anything to do with communicable diseases. We have people that do that. We didn't make any cuts in that area, and that was intentional. But they want to say, think about this. They're trying to give the impression, and I'll get to the editorial as well. Actually, let me just go on to this because the editorial talks about the same, talks about this article and they did include that the health officials point to the anonymous sexual encounters as a trend that makes it difficult and leads to an increase in syphilis and HIV, which is happening here locally. But then it goes on, but according to some health experts, at least part of the blame goes to the erosion of public health issue here at Sedgwick County.

"For example, the \$540,000 of cuts that we made in next year's budget, and it talks about the community health assessment, immunizations, cancer screenings, and infant mortality programs. None of which, first of all, have anything to do with sexually transmitted diseases.

"For a second, I'll think about this. We're talking about national trends over the last four years, up to 2014 and you're trying to connect it to reductions in spending that haven't even occurred yet. They don't go into effect until January. You're trying to give the impression that they are somehow connected. That is absolutely absurd. I can already see the narrative that is going to be happening over this next year. It's easy for the editorial board to sit up there on in their ivory tower and pontificate about all of these decisions that we've made, but if you don't make an effort to get facts and information you are going to write silly things like this that make you look completely incompetent. This is not good for our community, it's absurd.

"Now, if all you are interested in is your leftist ideology, then I guess served its purpose, but think about it, you're trying to give the impression that spending cuts that haven't gone into effect could be linked to STD increases that's happened in the past. Public health funding does not cause syphilis or HIV. Actions by individuals cause you to get syphilis or HIV. If you have sex with an anonymous person unprotected, you're going to get syphilis or HIV. If you are going to participate in certain sexual acts, you will be at increased risks, period. That's what causes it. Not the proposed funding cuts in programs that aren't related to it and are going to happen in the future.

"If you really want to talk about cause and effect, why don't you look at some of the efforts going on throughout this country to promote all sorts of sexual behavior as being normal, acceptable and moral? When you encourage and promote via the media and television, whatever, immoral behavior, you are going to get more of that behavior. And you are going to get more unintended consequences. You are going to get some of those negative effects. So if you want to avoid some of these things that you don't participate in that behavior.

"Instead of trying to put the blame on things that haven't taken effect, put the blame on the taxpayer. Let's address the real problem. Are you really interested in addressing the problem and individual behaviors, or you just want to cover that up? If you want to have a serious dialogue, let's have a serious dialogue. That means you are going to have to put your leftist ideology aside to be willing to accept the facts, the figures and the truth.

"With that I think I have said enough. I think it's important for the public to understand, and I hear this from a lot of people, so I know you understand it, but going forward, there is going to be continued series of attacks upon this Commission for all the good decisions that we make. And you are not going to be told the truth on everything, and we are working with the Manager on communications to see what we can do to get the truth out and the facts out better, but we can't write the articles, we can't, we don't control the media. Some do a good job, some clearly don't. Some have an agenda more than others. But it is important and we have a job to work on behalf of the citizens of Sedgwick County and we will continue to do so, but we also have to do a better job of getting the facts out there so you know the truth of what's going on, regardless of the forces that work against us and attempt to lie and deceive the public. This is very important. So I'm committed to that fight for as long as I am in here. No one is going to intimidate me and make me back down, because this is important work, and we will continue to get it done. Anything else from the Commissioners? Mr. Manager, is there anything else to come before the Commission?"

Mr. Scholes said "No, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing none, this meeting is adjourned. Thanks everybody."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
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ATTEST:

Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk

APPROVED: