

# Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor  
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, January 21, 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 9:08 a.m. on January 21, 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. William P. Buchanan, County Manager; Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Ms. Diana Mansouri, Safety Coordinator, Risk Management; Mr. Todd Reynolds, Real Property Appraiser, Appraiser's Office; Ms. Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, Interim Director, Health Department; Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor; Mr. Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Tabitha Lehman, Election Commissioner; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and Ms. Angela Lovelace, Deputy County Clerk.*

### **GUESTS**

*Ms. Lisa Odorizzi, 1523 West 4th Street, Haysville  
Ms. Marceline Dover, 915 Davis Drive, Wichita  
Ms. Anne Nelson, Executive Director, Central Plains Health Care Partnership  
Mr. Jon Rosell, Executive Director, Medical Society of Sedgwick County  
Ms. Debra Parks, 8005 North Hoover Road, Valley Center  
Mr. Charles Peaster, 9453 North 135th Street West  
Mr. John Todd, 1559 North Payne, Wichita  
Mr. John Schlegel, Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department*

### **INVOCATION: Pastor Justin Eklund, Pathway Church.**

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **APPOINTMENTS**

- A**      [15-0016](#)      ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM COMMISSIONER DAVE UNRUH FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY TECHNICAL EDUCATION TRAINING AUTHORITY (SCTETA).  
Presented by: Richard Euson, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept the Resignation.

*Mr. Richard Euson, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, you have received this resignation, and it would be appropriate to*

*accept it at this time."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, you have an item before you, any comments?"*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Norton moved to accept the resignation.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn 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>

*Commissioner Norton said, "I would just like to thank Dave for his service to the SCTETA board. He's been on it for several years. Trying to make sure that technical education and our partnerships with WSU (Wichita State University) and NIAR and other entities has been rich and full and has served our community, and I think he's done an admirable job doing that. I just wanted to say thanks to him for his service to that board."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you very much, Commissioner."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I think we would all agree with those sentiments as well. Thank you, Dave. Madam Clerk, next item."*

**Approved**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**B**

[14-1960](#)

ADOPTION OF THE 2015 SAFETY SLOGAN FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY EMPLOYEES: "Sedgwick County...working safely for you!"  
Presented by: Mick McBride, Risk Manager, and Diana Mansouri, Safety Coordinator, Risk Management.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the safety slogan and allow presentation of a framed poster and other safety related items to Todd Reynolds, Sedgwick County Appraiser's Office, winner of the 2015 Safety Slogan Contest.

*Ms. Diana Mansouri, Safety Coordinator, Risk Management, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I appreciate the opportunity this morning to share our organizational commitment to safety. Without the support of top management, safety initiatives are just not successful. I want to sincerely thank you, Commissioners, for*

*your 22 years of support, actually since 1994, for the annual Sedgwick County safety slogan contest, which serves as the county's safety awareness program. Risk Management has emphasized safety in Sedgwick County for many years now. Over time, Sedgwick County has developed a positive safety culture as a result of history, work environment, the workforce, health and safety practices and management leadership.*

*"Employees value a work environment that's free of safety hazards. They value the availability and the use of personal protective equipment, especially in the performance of even the most minute job tasks where the slightest risk of injury or occupational illness may be present. They value creating and maintaining an environment where citizens can rest assured that their safety is the top priority. Bottom line, Commissioners, our culture values the practice of safety, not solely because it is required, but also because it is desired. The safety slogan contest encourages employees to submit a safety slogan for consideration. Once it is adopted, the slogan is promoted throughout Sedgwick County for a full year. This year, we received 165 safety slogans submitted by employees from various departments, from many departments. And we want them to know that we very much appreciate and their support.*

*"We look forward to their continued participation, and we challenge them to encourage fellow employees to participate in next year's contest. Each year, we ask selected county employees to volunteer to serve on a committee responsible for selecting the contest winner. So we have a different selection committee each year. This year, the committee was comprised of 21 employees representing 18 Sedgwick County departments, and we very much appreciate their willingness to make this commitment to safety. The winner receives an award, which includes a basket of safety-related items, a framed copy of the new safety slogan poster, and your recognition. Now it's time for the new poster, Commissioners.*

*"There you have it. The winning safety slogan for 2015 is 'Sedgwick County...working safely for you'. That might look a little familiar. Congratulations to Todd Reynolds for submitting this year's winning slogan. Todd is an employee in the Appraiser's office. The departments featured on this year's poster are Emergency Management, Election Commissioner's office, Department on Aging, County Clerk's office, Sedgwick County Park and, of course, the Appraisers office.*

*"I want to thank Tony Guiliano in Communications, and Lori Westphal in Information Services, and Tyler DeBarea in Risk Management for their participation in the photography and design of this year's poster. They collaborated to produce yet another fine safety slogan poster. This will be distributed throughout Sedgwick County departments, and we will do that this afternoon and tomorrow. At this time, Commissioners, I recommend that you adopt 'Sedgwick County...working safely for you' as the 2015 employee safety slogan and allow me to present the contest award to Todd Reynolds. After adoption, I would like to invite Todd to come up to the podium."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, do we have a motion or comments?"*

#### **MOTION**

*Commissioner Norton moved to adopt the safety slogan and allow presentation of a framed poster and other safety related items to Todd Reynolds, Sedgwick County*

*Appraiser's Office, winner of the 2015 Safety Slogan Contest.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

*Ms. Mansouri said, "Todd, would you please come forward."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "One second."*

*Ms. Mansouri said, "Oh, I'm sorry."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Let us vote now. 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, "Now it's official."*

*Ms. Mansouri said, "Okay. Todd, please come forward. Jumping the gun there."*

*Mr. Todd Reynolds, Real Property Appraiser, Appraiser's Office, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've been with the Sedgwick County Appraiser's office for about 6.5 years. I also happen to be the chair of the Appraiser's office safety committee. I'm responsible for organizing safety training for the staff on a monthly basis, and this information gets tracked and reported to Diana Mansouri in Risk Management who is very diligent in her approach to safety training. She's been very helpful in helping us secure some of the areas of the Appraiser's office to make them safer for our staff.*

*"She's also very proactive in terms of recommending topics for training and directing me to resources that help us develop safety training on a monthly basis. So I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Diana Mansouri for the tremendous job that she does in keeping the Appraiser's office and the rest of the Sedgwick County work force safe. I would also like to recognize our County Appraiser, Mike Borchard, our safety committee members and all of the supervisors in our department, who understand the important of safety and take advantage of the opportunities to discuss safety issues during their staff meetings. They are vital to making everyone in our office aware of safety issues on a regular basis.*

*"As you know, many of our staff members spend just as much time in the field as they do in the office, and some of them are on new construction sites where safety is a must. So it's something that we're cognizant of in every aspect of our responsibilities, but it's not only important to the Appraiser's office, it's important to the entire Sedgwick*

*County operation. The safety slogan that I submitted, 'Sedgwick County...working safely for you!' is just a slight alteration of the slogan of 'Sedgwick County...working for you.' The county slogan re-enforces the fact that Sedgwick County is working for its residents. It's also important to acknowledge the fact that safety is deeply ingrained in every service that we provide. I would like to thank you this morning for the recognition and I would encourage my fellow Sedgwick County employees to continue to work safely for our citizens. Thank you, Commissioners."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you. I very much appreciate you being here and being able to present the award to you this morning. Sedgwick County is a 24/7 operation. It's around the clock, and there's an awful lot of Sedgwick County employees who are working on their own without a direct supervisor who is right with them or even nearby sometimes, so being safe out there is absolutely critical. So I very much appreciate everyone who is here this morning for this, because obviously safety of our 2,000 plus employees is absolutely paramount, and I very much appreciate getting an opportunity to have this discussion and I'm delighted to be able to vote for this slogan. Thank you for submitting it this morning."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Todd, thanks for participating. I like the slogan because it does tie in to our mission statement. My many years in business with Target stores and other retailers, I can tell you that there's kind of a twofold thought to safety, and Mick McBride will back this up. You want to limit your general liability and work comp claims, because that's an economics to your bottom line. And awareness is very important to that, but also there is the human aspect. You want your colleagues, your friends, the people you spend a lot of time with to be safe and healthy and be able to work in the workplace without those things that cause trauma to their lives. So it's kind of a duality of why we want to be safe. It is about the people we work with, but it's also the bottom line and the aspect of saving money in an organization that can be spent in a different manner. Thanks for participating."*

*Mr. Reynolds said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thanks, Todd, very much for your efforts in this. And congratulations, and thank you Diana, as well, for everything you do."*

*Ms. Mansouri said, "Thank you, Commissioners."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Madam Clerk, next item."*

**Adopted**

**C**      [14-1945](#)

AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL PLAINS REGIONAL HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP (CPRHCP), SEDGWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF WICHITA TO PARTNER WITH THE SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UNDER THE PROJECT ACCESS PROGRAM.

Presented by: Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, Interim Director, Health Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the agreement and authorize the

Chairman to sign.

*Ms. Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, Interim Director, Health Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Before you this morning is an agreement with Central Plains Regional Health Care Partnership, Sedgwick County Commission and the City of Wichita to partner with Sedgwick County Health Department under the Project Access program. Project Access is a partnership program that coordinates access to donated medical care for uninsured, low income Sedgwick County residents. Eligible uninsured residents are enrolled for limited periods of time to address immediate medical needs. Once enrolled, they have access to a variety of specialists as well as prescription medication, durable medical equipment, and diabetic supplies.*

*"In 2014, Project Access served 1,481 people. They recruited 37 new physicians to participate in their program, donated hospital cares valued at over \$5,000,700, donated physician care at over \$2,600,000. They provided \$500,000 in purchased and donated medications, as well as purchased \$31,000 in medical equipment for patients with city and county funding. The funding level for Sedgwick County, if approved, will remain at the same level for the previous two years, at \$208,940. If approved, this allocation will be used to fund a portion of numerous positions as well as pay for prescriptions and durable medical equipment.*

*"I ask that you approve this agreement and authorize the Chair to sign. We also have Jon Rosell and Anne Nelson in the audience with us today from the Central Plains Health Care Partnership, and they have brought with them a couple of special guests that would like to say a couple words about utilizing their services."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Adrienne. Before we take comments from the Commissioners, I'd like to open this up to the public for anyone who would like to speak. Please give us your name and address for the record."*

*Ms. Lisa Odorizzi, 1523 West 4th Street, Haysville, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm a contractor for the American Red Cross in an accounts payable position. Without going into great detail, I had an incident happen in my life where I basically had to start all over and move in with my elderly parents and needed some medical care. My doctors suggested Project Access so that I could have the blood work that I need twice a year and medication to get my health back on track. As I mentioned, I'm a contractor. I don't have any insurance at the moment, but Project Access has been a real blessing to me in helping me get the medical care I need until I can get a job with insurance, and I want to thank you for continuing to support Project Access for people like me. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much. Anybody else?"*

*Ms. Marceline Dover, 915 Davis Drive, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a tutor at North High School, and I'm also going to school at Wichita State to become a teacher. And when I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis October of last year, I didn't have any insurance or any way of really paying for the care that I needed, and if you know anything about multiple sclerosis, it's a very expensive disease. You*

*have MRIs, neurology visits, so all of that stuff I really couldn't pay for myself. So I don't know what I would have done without Project Access, and I just wanted to thank you guys for your support and encourage you to continue supporting us in the future so that they can help people like me who need the care if they can't afford their own. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much. Anybody else from the public that would like to speak? If not, Commissioners, do you have any questions for Adrienne? Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I'm ready to make the motion to support. I've been very supportive of Project Access since its very beginning. I think it serves our public very well, and I don't know if Adrienne has the number off the top of her head, but over the lifespan that we've supported Project Access, and I'm sure Anne knows it, it is multi-million dollars worth of care that's been dispensed by physicians and hospitals. It's in the millions."*

*"I'd like to hear that number, because I think it's profound to understand the medical community, the hospitals, the health care industry have stepped up to help take care of the vulnerable, the underserved folks that are maybe at some of the worst points in their life, and Sedgwick County in a small way has been able to help prop up the organization, help out with prescriptions, and be a small part of that, but talk about the number."*

*Ms. Anne Nelson, Executive Director, Central Plains Health Care Partnership, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We're a nonprofit affiliated medical society of Sedgwick County, and we do administer Project Access. We have enrolled 12,340 people in our program from Sedgwick County over the last 15 years, and I'm honored to tell you we've been able to leverage \$170 million in donated medical care provided by physicians and dentists and our local hospital systems, physical therapists and hospice care, a full network of volunteer providers. It's at \$170 million over the last 15 years, as well as \$9.5 million dollars in prescription medications that we've purchased and been able to leverage from donated medications from pharmaceutical companies. Thank you for the question."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well, thank you, Anne. I think that's a phenomenal number, and I applaud the folks that are part of the medical society and the physicians community, the hospital community, all of those folks that have donated. That's a huge number, and it tells how much we care in this community for the underserved, the vulnerable, those that have health problems, and I think, you know, we talk about Kansas being a caring state, and this is one way that that manifests itself. It's the government and private industry and the physicians that help make this happen, and I'm going to be supportive of it. Any time, I'm ready to make the motion, Mr. Chair, when it's appropriate."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. I think we have a few more comments. You may not want to stray too far, Anne, I don't know who the questions will be for. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask a couple questions, because my understanding is, I think this is more for Ms. Nelson, but let me throw it out there. My understanding is the City of Wichita supports this program, too. Is that correct?"*



*Ms. Nelson said, "That is correct. Over the last 15 years, our three vendors have been Sedgwick County, the City of Wichita through its CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) program, and the United Way of the Plains."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "What level is the City of Wichita donating to Project Access?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "We've incurred two funding cuts from the City of Wichita because of reduced CSBG money at the federal level. Our contract two years ago had a cut of \$25,000, and in our current funding contract, they cut an additional \$50,000. So we've lost \$75,000 over the last two years."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "So you're at what level?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "\$175,000 from the city."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Does Project Access get involved in any legislative issues at the statehouse?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "We do not lobby. We speak with legislators at times, but we, and meet with state officials from time to time to share the Project Access story, but we do not receive any state funding."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "You're not funded by the State of Kansas?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "No."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "And you're not a, there's no lobbyist?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "We don't have a registered lobbyist, no."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Or as an organization?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "No."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a specific question, but just want to make a comment indicating my support for this item. I know we don't have the motion just yet, but it seems to me that this is worthy of the support of Sedgwick County in light of the fact that good partners have been working on this now for several years, not only Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita, but the United*

*Way, which indicates community support, and I think the medical society, as they work in this project to get professionals to donate time and the volume of not only time but the amount of money that accumulates to the value of their services indicates a couple things.*

*"One, there is a need in the community. And the other thing is that how important this seems to be not only to the medical profession but also to the rest of our community. This is a way that we can kind of take care of our own business here in our community. We've got people willing to do it, and I think we should continue our partnership. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Chairman. I just wanted to make a, say a couple of things. Does the City of Wichita have the option to use property taxes to increase their funding if they wanted to? Could they increase it to a higher level than they currently do if they wanted to use other sources of funding?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "Well, I'm not an expert on the city budget. That would be a question for the city council, but we have made that request, is there any potential for funding outside of CSBG. We've made that request."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "And just for clarification, our funding that we provide from Sedgwick County is, in fact, funded from properties taxes, is that correct? Do you know? Can we confirm that?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Mr. Manager, could you answer?"*

*Mr. William P. Buchanan, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Property taxes make up a majority share of our revenue, but we have other revenue sources, too, yes."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "And then just for clarity also, the funding that the city uses is essentially pass-through federal funding that they receive and pass on to Project Access."*

*Ms. Nelson said, "That's correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Just a couple of points. I love what Project Access does. I think it's a good program and appreciate the generous hearts of those that do provide surgery and services to the people who definitely need that, and I appreciate what they do. However, it is a principle I have talked about in the past. I mentioned this to you yesterday in my office and to a few others that, generally speaking, I don't think the government should have a role of being charitable."*

*"And what I mean by that is, although we have a compassionate heart for those that have needs, it goes with understanding that when we take someone's tax dollars that we have a responsibility to use them for essential government, and in doing that we have the responsibility to be accountable and be efficient and effective in what we do."*

*I'm a little bit uncomfortable with the arrangement we have right now. Let me ask another question. Do you have any other sources of funding besides those three that we mentioned so far?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "Yes, we do, Commissioner. We have implemented a comprehensive development plan over the last couple of years. Our board is very actively engaged. We have a development committee. We're pursuing foundations. We're doing some significant research to identify new funding sources, develop a major donor list. We have been able to raise some funds to make up for the loss in city funds, and we continue moving forward with that development plan so that we continue to broaden our base of support."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Very good well, I did happen to notice yesterday you received a pretty sizable donation, it made the newspaper yesterday. I didn't know that until last evening, or I would have talked to you about it earlier. Anyway, I guess the point I'm trying to make is that I do like what the program does, but it does make me a little bit uncomfortable knowing that there are people out there that are hurting in our own community and we don't give them a choice on whether they can pay their taxes or not. We take it really without permission, and with that, we have the responsibility to use that money for essential government, so this is a little bit uncomfortable to me to continue this at the level we have been in the past. But anyway, I thank you for what you do and I appreciate the program overall. I just wish there was a way to see more from charity and less from tax dollars. That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Ms. Nelson said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Anne, could you clarify for the record the grant that you just received?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "We received a one-time gift from the Kansas Health Foundation in the amount of \$50,000. We met with them in December and explained our funding situation, and they were very generous and sent us a check two weeks later. We're very grateful for that gift."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Very good. Thank you, Anne. Any other questions or comments from Commissioners? Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I'm ready to make the motion, but I really don't see what we're doing as charity. A lot of this money goes for propping up the organization so that they can have a system that works with the physicians with prescription and pharmaceutical companies with the hospitals to make sure the system works. It's not about directly taking the money that we give and giving it directly to an individual. We're helping the infrastructure that aids the physicians and the hospitals and the pharmaceutical companies and the personal folks, folks that help people with the therapy get through this."*

*"I see Project Access as just the hub of the system, and we're helping prop that up, which is I think a good use of money, and then the charitable donations really come from the physicians, the pharmaceutical companies, the hospitals. In fact, we have hospitals that have missions about charity care and uncompensated care. So I guess I see it just a little bit different, that our money helps the hub of the system so that it*

*functions in our community as opposed to just directly giving money to folks. I see it just a little bit different.*

MOTION

*Commissioner Norton moved to the approve the agreement and authorize Chairman to sign.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We have a motion and a second. Any comments?  
Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the dialogue of all of my colleagues, and I appreciate the comments, in terms of where we are with Project Access in this program and appreciate the folks coming out here. The challenge I run into on an issue like this is how to figure out what the optimal amount is that fits in with our budget, our resources, the program, what their needs, what their spending has been, what their activities are, and also in line with the steps of where our governing body, the City of Wichita, where they're at. And frankly, I'd feel a little more comfortable if we were in step with the, with where the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County would be together on this."*

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve the agreement for \$175,000 and authorize the Chairman to sign.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "So we have a substitute motion that's been seconded. Is that all?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Yes."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "I was going to make comments relative to the primary motion, but I guess they are appropriate now, I probably will not be supportive of the substitute motion. I think that the request is reasonable in light of the services that are provided and the multiplying effect that it has. And has been stated, this money that we give goes towards the structural foundation of the organization rather than just a straight charitable gift. So I understand that logic. I guess that one of the things I'm thinking about, this gives us a local alternative to some of the issues about medical care that this Commission has expressed at various times.*

*"This is our people taking care of our people, and this is a relatively small investment for this government to make in partnership with other governments and with other community organizations. I think it also has to do with what I perceive; it has to do with the moral character of our community. This is a way that for a relatively small*

*investment from Sedgwick County Commission, this can be leveraged to give great support and help to a lot of individuals who have real needs. It helps stay away from federal programs, and I believe that I'm willing to support the full request. That's all I have right now, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I think Commissioner Norton was next."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "It seems to me over the years that the Sedgwick County number has gone, has fluctuated. In fact, it's gone down, too. I remember the city and the county were both at \$250,000 originally, and over the years, we've diminished that. In fact, one year, as I remember, not all of the money was spent, and we got a refund. The Project Access folks, the board, knew that they didn't need all of it to perform their work that year, and we got a little money back. So I think they've been very judicious with the money we've given them. They've made sure that it was over sighted and that it was used for its purposes, and I'm going to be very supportive."*

*"I think that they have proved to me, anyway, that over this many years, that they really keep an eye on how the money is spent, what it's spent for, and that their mission is to take care of people through the charitable giving of the physicians and the hospitals and not create a bigger structure than they absolutely need to. I probably will not be in favor of the substitute motion. I think full funding is adequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "To some of the comments of the previous speaker, to the extent that this is or is not charitable, I think if you look at the many, many good causes in our community that are charitable, I think the thing that makes them charitable is that they are giving and trying to solve problems and meet the needs of people who are disadvantaged and having trouble. There's a common denominator there, and I think this is very much like that in every way. I would classify this as charitable, and I would tell you that one of the comments I have made in the past, and there's a million good things under the sun out there. We want to go out there and look for things to support that have a worthy cause. They are everywhere."*

*"Again, I love Project Access. I love what they do, but this is one of, among many out there, that has a worthy cause and worthy effort. So to the extent that the government would select one among many and support that at an arbitrary level, again, why \$209,000 versus \$250,000 or why \$175,000? I don't really know why we would choose any particular level of support. It seems very difficult to say this is the right level, or very difficult to say this is the one thing we're going to pick out of our community to support with tax dollars."*

*"Again, I want to be sensitive to the homeowners in my district and across Sedgwick County who say that we have trouble paying our taxes. The downside of that is eventually you could lose your home. There are many people on fixed incomes. For those that have enough and can share with others and are interested in charity, there's all kinds of ways to give. Again, United Way of the Plains is one of the primary*

*sources of income to Project Access, and if someone believes it's as good of a program as I believe it's a good program I would encourage people to give money to the United Way of the Plains and direct that money towards Project Access. They would be glad to do, I'm sure.*

*"The reality is there's a way to get money from people to this program. It's a worthy program. But whether or not we as a government entity should, in fact, levy taxes and threaten someone's residence with nonpayment if they can't afford those taxes over a worthy program, to me, is a very difficult position to be in. Unfortunately, the fact that we've selected this one among many, we've selected an arbitrary value to me makes this uncomfortable. There are other ways of getting money in to Project Access. I hope they have great success in the future. I love what they do. But I do have an uncomfortable feeling about continuing the same levels that we have in the past. I think this is an appropriate motion. I will be supporting the substitute motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you. Question if I might. My recollection is, while we have spent as much as \$250,000 a year on Project Access, I think within the last decade, there have been some years where we spent as little as \$150,000. Am I correct in that recollection? Is there anyone here who can answer that?"*

*Ms. Anne Nelson said, "I don't have those details, although I would love to do the research and get that back to you, Commissioner. I've not sure we've under spent at the amount of \$150,000 as Commissioner Norton said, given the fluctuation of pharmaceuticals and costs. They fluctuate quite a bit, so it's a little bit hard to project what we're going to spend in a year. We don't know how many patients we'll get with brain tumors or diabetics."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "My question was a little bit different."*

*Ms. Nelson said, "I apologize."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "If I could try and restate, it I'll try and be a little bit more clear. In the time that Sedgwick County has been helping to fund Project Access, I think there were some years, especially early on, where I think we were spending somewhere in the neighborhood of between somewhere around \$150,000 a year as opposed to, I think the highest we've been was \$250,000, but I think about a decade ago we were closer to about \$150,000 is my recollection, and I'm just trying to find out if I'm correct in that regard or not."*

*Ms. Nelson said, "I do have data back to 2010, and the county contributed \$187,400. That's been the lowest. In 2011, it went up to \$250,000, 2012 it was reduced because of budget issues with the Health Department to \$232,500, was reduced again in 2013 to \$208,940, where it has remained for the last two years."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I was thinking in 2006 or 2007, somewhere in that time frame we were around \$150,000."*

*Ms. Nelson said, "I'd be happy to research that and get back with you. I don't have that data in front of me right now. Thank you."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "That was a point that I wanted to make. I appreciate the information you do have. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, if I could amplify my points a little bit. Commissioner Howell's point concerning the fact that we're talking about property tax money here. While other governmental bodies may be spending from other sources that don't have the property tax, I think that's an important factor in our deliberations today. It's one of the reasons why I made the motion. I want to talk about the government spending aspect of it, because at government, the hard part we have is finding out what is the correct or optimal level to set for that spending, and I hear the word, especially coming out of Washington all the time, well, we're going to invest.*

*"I heard a lot of talk about fairness and equity recently. But investment, okay, you could say we're going to invest in a new bridge, or expanding, we bought a county building recently, or build a jail or something. I would take our, I would argue that that's really not investment. That's just still government spending. If it's an investment, someone is able to really get a rate of return on it that's measurable. That's the way the private sector works. Government really doesn't work that way. We've struggled, and that's one of the reasons why at times I've brought up the issue of depreciation, because that's an area that's basic and required in the private sector, but in government, depreciating assets is something that isn't one of the regular features that comes out there. So we're spending property tax dollars here today.*

*"I think it would be, the reason I wanted to get this at this level, is I would like to continue the dialogue. This is a valuable program, it's a worthwhile program. I struggle with coming up with the right amount, but I think the right amount, if we were at the same level as the City of Wichita at \$175,000, that's why I made that motion, and that's why I'll be supporting it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just so the folks watching by way of television are clear, the number that has been asked of us is broken down into personnel benefits and payroll, prescriptions and medical equipment and computer services to maintain the Project Access database. So it wasn't just an arbitrary number taken from the imagination. There's actual facts behind the number and a specific request by Project Access, and this is, I think, our opportunity to be a good partner and enable that this has been stated repeatedly, a valuable service in our community, enable them to carry out their mission.*

*"I think it's not an inappropriate use of our taxpayer money to help our citizens in this way, and I think it, I really believe that the majority of our citizens would be supportive. So I'm going to support the request, and if it fails, then I will support that we stay equal with the City of Wichita, and I have no idea what's behind their number, but I guess our suggestion is to just go along with that. I won't support the substitute motion. Should it prevail, then I'll support. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I guess I have a different take on it, and I understand that we want to keep property taxes in line and as low as we can. But over the years, all of the studies that I've looked at, all the information I've garnered over the years is that the financial condition that drives people to bankruptcy, the number one issue is an unexpected health event in their life, not that property taxes went up our*

*down \$16. It's these major catastrophic financial things for their family where they don't have insurance and they have a health condition that puts them into bankruptcy and financial dismay.*

*"I have a little different take on it. I think we have an obligation, you're right, to take care of people and understand their financial conditions, but over the years, my understanding is that it's not a little bit of mill levy up or down that puts people into financial ruin. It's many other things, and one of them is a health issue that they don't have the finances for. So I'm willing to move forward on this, but we're going to vote and go one way or another."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I don't see any other questions, so Anne, I have a couple questions for you, if I could."*

*Ms. Nelson said, "Yes, Commissioner."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Now, can people donate individually to you through your website?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "Yes, they can. We have a donate button, very simple. It's PayPal. They can use a credit card. They can send a check."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. What's the website?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "It's [www.cphcp.com](http://www.cphcp.com)."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "And how many physicians in the community are participating?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "We have 630 physicians who donate their care."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "And that's about what percent of the overall?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "60 to 65 percent."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "As you know, I came from the medical community, and I've spoken about this before. I would encourage the 40 percent who aren't participating to at least participate to some degree. One patient a quarter, or something. There's lots of ways you can do that, but every little bit helps. So I would say that. Also, as far as how the money is being spent. When we first started this, correct me if I'm wrong, wasn't Sedgwick County money for medical equipment and prescriptions, and started gradually paying more and more for personnel, or no?"*

*Ms. Nelson said, "No. It started out for the HUB, which is our direct service staff and prescriptions and medical equipment, so it's always been allocated in a similar manner that you have in front of you for this year."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. Thank you. So we have a substitute motion to approve this at the level of \$175,000? Is that correct, Madam Clerk?"*

*Ms. Angela Lovelace, Deputy County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "That's correct, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Call the roll, please."*



VOTE

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

Chairman Ranzau said, "The motion passes three to two. Thank you very much, Adrienne and Anne, for coming. Madam Clerk, next item."

**Approved As Amended**

**D**      [14-1927](#)

AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo).

Presented by: Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, Interim Director, Health Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve NACo's change in dental discount provider from Careington to CAREMARKPC.

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "I'm here this morning to present an amendment in the county's agreement with the National Association of County Officials known as NACo. The change is only with who administers the dental part of their program, so their services are the same that they provide. The program provides discounts on prescriptions, vision care, hearing aids and screening, prepaid lab work, diagnostic imaging, diabetic supplies and dental care.*

*"So the changes, they used to, their provider was Careington, and they're now using Caremark. That is the only change in our agreement with this discount program, is who they use as their dental carrier. So this helps people who are uninsured but can also compliment health insurance and discount flexible spending accounts. So I ask that you approve NACo's change in dental discount provider from Careington to Caremark. I would be happy to answer any questions."*

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Adrienne. Commissioners? Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "Adrienne, is Caremark, do they also have the prescription drug portion of the NACo card?"

Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Yes. When going to Caremark, instead of having two separate cards, they're combining it all into one card."

Commissioner Norton said, "That's all I have, Mr. Chair."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Any other comments or motion?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to approve NACo's change in dental discount provider from Careington to CAREMARPC.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Motion and a second. Adrienne, I have a few questions. We've had some discussion about whether or not we want to participate in NACo in the future, and one of the reasons to continue that's been made is this card, because it's a service to our community. Now, I don't remember who I asked, but I asked somebody if there was an alternative, and I was told no, but I did a little investigating. Careington, as you said, used to have the dental agreement with NACo."*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Yes."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "They have a program called My County Cares, in which we can contract with them directly with a dental card and the prescription card, get exactly the same thing we're getting from NACo, and I have the information here. These are the same except for the yearly rates, which are actually lower. So they sent us some information on that and actually a contract that we could enter into, so I think that we can get exactly the same thing through Careington and avoid the NACo card all together, and it takes away that reasoning for why we have to be in NACo."*

*"So personally, I'm going to make a substitute motion that we not approve this agreement with NACo and instead instruct staff to investigate the program with Careington and take the steps necessary to bring them back to us so we can participate with them. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you. I want to make sure I understood what you were saying. You said that this would actually be less expensive than the NACo program with the information you've got in front of you?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "For the yearly total cost of the combined things, yes, but all the others are exactly the same price, the monthly cost for the dental and things like that."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "And it provides the same level of service?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Same thing. Prescription card is free, just like NACo. So I think before we, I think this will be, I've talked to the guy from Careington, and I think this would be a good way to go."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I'd certainly like to get more information, but I want to proceed if we've got a less expensive program that provides at least the same level of coverage as what we would be part of the existing agreement that we have with NACo."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Well, I've made a motion. Do I have a second?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I'll second it, certainly for discussion purposes."*

#### **SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

*Commissioner Ranzau moved to not approve the agreement with NACo, and alternately instruct staff to investigate the program with Careington and take the steps necessary to bring Careington back to Sedgwick County for participation.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Adrienne, does this card cost Sedgwick County government?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "The card itself, no, it doesn't."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "So the cost savings, Mr. Chairman, you're talking about, is that savings to the individual user? Did you say it doesn't cost anymore? Less cost to the individual user."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Yes, that's correct."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "It would seem that rather than proceed with this right now when perhaps we've got a little less information that we might, and since we are members of NACo for this year that we approve this motion on this change in the provider for now, investigate this and then be ready to implement it as a new program at the beginning of the calendar year. It would seem like that would be a reasonable way to do it rather than change providers for these individuals in the middle of the year, because this would be a new, Mr. Chairman, I suppose this would be a new contract, so all the people who have the card would have to go through that again. Am I right?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "My understanding is the existing people will continue under the current program, and then we could start this new program. There is no reason to start. We're still a member, to wait until the end of the year, we're already a member of NACo right now. Continue as is, and we'll pursue this with Careington as soon as our staff gets working on it and sooner we can get it done and get going."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, all right. I misunderstood. I thought you wanted to not approve this change."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I don't want to approve this change, because there is no need. We'll go ahead and proceed."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "So the motion would be not to approve this change, and your understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that our current users can just go on with their card now even though we don't approve the change and they do it under Sedgwick County; is that right?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Anyone who signed up with Careington before October 25th, 2014, will have their participation honored."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "It shouldn't take but a week or two to get this back on the agenda, and we'll be ready to go."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, and then if we may continue our dialogue here just a minute, the motivation for not continuing with the program right now with NACo is simply because it's with NACo? It doesn't help or hurt the user one way or the other, but just because it's connected with NACo, is that..."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I think this is a better option going forward, period, regardless"*

*of whether we are in NACo. Because we don't have the ties to NACo in the future. If we want to free our ties with NACo and we can without any negative impact to the community."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Thank you. That's all I have."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Norton, I'm not sure who was next. Commissioner Norton, go ahead."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I'm not going to be supportive of the substitute motion. We've had a good representation and a chance to work with NACo for a lot of years. I think it's presumptuous to say we're not going to be in NACo today. If we want to have an agenda item at some point and withdraw from NACo, we'll certainly debate that. But I think today we move forward with the process that we have through NACo. It's good for the citizens. There's been some really good savings to our community over the years we've participated in this program."*

*"I see no reason to derail it right now if we want to get out of NACo and then find an option for a prescription card, I think that makes sense. We're kind of debating two or three things at one time, and only one of them is on the agenda. I don't think our representation in NACo is on the agenda right now, so we need to deal with the one and then worry with the other later. We're already a member of NACo for the whole year, and I think we should honor that, stay with the program that we have that's been good for our citizens with no additional costs and then pursue other avenues if we want to."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well, thank you. I wanted to clarify, Mr. Chairman, on the substitute motion that I seconded. I wanted to get, particularly for the people out there who may have these cards right now, if the substitute motion prevails exactly how the people who currently have these cards, how would they be affected? Would they need to do anything? How would things change for them? Because I agree with Commissioner Norton that we don't want to get into a broader discussion of other issues."*

*"The issue in front of us is this substitute motion for Item D with the change to the dental discount provider from Careington to Caremark PC. So what I want to do is make sure that when we have this discussion it's clear to all five of us up here and to the staff and the public in this room, but also to the folks who may be seeing this or seeing this later, exactly what we're doing, and if they've got a card how things would change for them, Mr. Chairman. I want to try to get that onto the record as part of this discussion and appreciate any comments that you can provide in that regard."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay."*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "If this isn't approved, then we won't be able to offer the discount dental program to our residents. We can continue with the health discount program and the free preparation card but will not be able to educate them and inform them about this dental discount program."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "When will we not, effective when?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Well, currently, we're not informing them of this new plan."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "So you haven't been informing people about this for how long?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Well, it was under, if people are still under the old Careington, then they're part of that. But the, if this is approved, NACo is working with Caremark on providing one card. So if this is approved, then we will get that new card that offers all programs on that one card versus two separate cards."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "But this says anyone who signed up before October 25th, 2014, will be honored. Since that time, have we been informing them of this card?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Not under Caremark. They have changed providers. So this is just through October. So currently, no. From October to currently, they haven't been educated about..."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "You haven't been offering that?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Not the dental part, because they changed providers."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. So there's really, there's no existing user of the dental part that would be affected by us not agreeing with this, except that you couldn't offer it for another two or three weeks until we got something else in place?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "That is correct."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. So Commissioner Peterjohn, I guess to your question, I would say since October 25th, 2014, we haven't been advertising the dental part anyway. So if we don't advertise it for another couple weeks, I don't..."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "See that there's any change."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "And as far as NACo participation, I would recommend we go with this whether we continue with NACo or not. I would just that that's been an issue that's been brought up, I think, you know, if you look at the combination card which has all of them, the cost for a year is actually cheaper than NACo. I think there's good reason, I don't think it will hurt to hold this off if staff can make the presentation in two or three weeks that NACo is better than this."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "We'll be ready in two weeks."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Then we can have that. Did you have anything else to say? Go ahead."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "If you give us the opportunity in the next two weeks, we can thoroughly analyze this program plus the one that you have found plus whatever else is out there."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. So with that, let me withdraw my motion and make another one."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I will withdraw my second."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I'm going to make a motion that we table this and instruct staff to evaluate both the NACo and Careington cards and bring it back to us at a future date when you're ready."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "February 4th is the next meeting."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "February 4th, do you think you could do that by then?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Sure, Adrienne is going to do all the heavy lifting."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "So he's saying, yes, you can."*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I'll throw another second out there, Mr. Chairman."*

#### **SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

*Commissioner moved to table Item D and instruct staff to evaluate both the NACo and Careington cards and bring the information back to the Sedgwick County Commission meeting of February 4, 2015.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I think Commissioner Norton was next."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well, I, as we go through this process, I want to be sure you know, Caremark, when they came here, had to negotiate with all the pharmacies to be part of to honor the prescription card, and that took them quite a bit of time, not only nationally but in our community, and I don't know anything about Careington, what they've done with their prescription part of the card, but they may not have as rich and full of a system in Wichita as Caremark did, because they worked really hard to get a large portion of the pharmaceutical houses and community as part of their system. And I would hate to diminish that by, they haven't done that work in their community yet, and now people that have had a Caremark card that have gotten the discount get a new card that is not honored at the place where they're used to going. So, I think we need to be real cautious with that, because Caremark did a lot of work in our community to make that card as rich and robust as it possibly could be for the people that got it. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that we've got the substitute motion here. Looking at, one of the things I've learned as a County Commissioner, that when we've got multiple providers, we take a look at it. I mean, that's why we go through the bid board process. And I'm glad that if we've got multiple folks who can provide, we look at getting the best value for the residents here in Sedgwick County. And so I'm going to be strongly supportive of this current motion in front of us and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this. Let's see if we can do the best for the citizens here in Sedgwick County."*

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Excuse me. I'll be supportive of the substitute motion. I think it's a good idea for us to defer this, get the information, do some comparison, and then we'll be making a decision with full information and our eyes open. So that will be good. Thank you, sir."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing no other comments, Madam Clerk, call the roll."

VOTE

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

Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item, please."

**Tabled**

**E**      [14-1959](#)

AGREEMENT WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (KDHE) FOR UP TO \$580,000.00 TO PREVENT AND CONTROL DIABETES, HEART DISEASE, OBESITY AND ASSOCIATED RISK FACTORS.

Presented by: Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, Interim Director, Health Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the agreement; authorize the Chair to sign; establish budget authority identified in the Budget Authority Adjustment section; and implement staffing table changes identified in the Personnel Considerations section of this request.

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "So the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is partnering with seven communities in Kansas based on the burden of heart disease, the risk for Type 2 Diabetes and population size. Sedgwick County has a higher rate of diabetes and heart disease than the State of Kansas. This contract provides funding to support implementation of several strategies to address multiple risk factors and chronic diseases. Adults are the focus of these strategies that are divided into two components.*

*"Component one strategies are environmental approaches to promote health, support and reinforce healthful behaviors for lifestyle improvements. Strategies in component two are health system interventions and community clinical linkages that more directly focus on population, experiencing higher risk for these chronic diseases. This is a CDC (Center for Disease Control) prevention funding, so a federal pass through. If approved, a portion of this funding, approximately \$204,000, will be used at three full-time employees. These positions will be used to implement the project, coordinate community collaboration and analyze chronic disease on a local level in our community.*

*"The remaining funds will be used to support subcontracts with community organizations to assist and implement the project strategies. The KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) contract is up for up to \$580,000 to prevent*

*diabetes, heart disease and obesity and associated risk factors. Some of the partners we've done some preliminary planning with are Y.M.C.A., the Medical Society, City of Wichita Parks and Recreation, WSU (Wichita State University), Farm Assist in our community and community clinics.*

*"Now this project is intended to span over a four-year period, depending on the availability of funds. Some of the local interventions that have been discussed were developing a plan for placement for healthier and better choices in vending machines that add some healthier options, in our recreation and sports complexes. Implement joint use agreements for after hours school facilities, such as tennis courts or WSU's track, access accessibility to walking inside of Wichita and identified a potential country wide walking campaign, and expand access to the one certified diabetes prevention program that we do have in Wichita, and that is the YMCA.*

*"We would be conducting usability assessments of electronic health records, improving availability of blood pressure measuring devices, like through loaner programs for people. We would be expanding our community health navigators to create referral systems for undiagnosed individuals with diabetes or hypertension or at risk. It would be assessing community efforts around screening for hypertension and diabetes. So I would ask that you approve this contract with KDHE."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Adrienne. Before we have Commissioner comments, I want to see if anyone from the public would like to speak on this issue."*

*Mr. Jon Rosell, Executive Director, Medical Society of Sedgwick County, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thanks for the opportunity to speak. This grant opportunity is an opportunity for a variety of partners across this community who work on a daily basis with combating the rising incidents of chronic disease in this community. As Adrienne said, our rates of hypertension and diabetes are greater than the State of Kansas. Those problems are not going to go away without a comprehensive, collaborative, community wide process through engagement of lots of different entities to be able to repeat messages and change behaviors over an extended period of time. This opportunity from KDHE through the CDC (Center for Disease Control) is a tremendous opportunity for us to be able to impart on the ground, hands-on, changed behaviors, as well as messaging, to be able to improve the rates of chronic disease in this community.*

*"There is an impact on our community when we have high incidents of hypertension, of diabetes, that result in lives being lost, jobs being lost, a variety of different issues, and I think it's very appropriate for the county to support this endeavor to be able to send a message to not only all of the partners across this community that are working hard, developing this plan as it is coming up out of the ground, but also sending a message across the State of Kansas that Sedgwick County is very concerned about these incidences of chronic disease. We want to be able to take concrete action in partnership with KDHE and the CDC to be able to reverse these trends. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, John. Commissioner Peterjohn has a question for you."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "If I could, one of the concerns I've had about this item was how we're performing overall. Let me ask you a broader question, and I know I'm*



*putting you on the spot a little bit, because you have no idea what question I'm about to ask you. How does Sedgwick County compare to the rest of the country or the State of Kansas, in terms of average lifespan? Does the average Sedgwick County resident, is their average life span about the same as Kansas, about the same as the rest of the country, a little better or a little worse? Do you have any idea or data for us this morning?"*

*Mr. Rosell said, "That's a great question, and I'm not prepared to answer that. I wouldn't want to guess at that, Commissioner, sorry."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I throw it out there, because that's kind of one of the benchmarks that I come from with this. The thing that I've followed over time, as I've gotten older, and I guess this is a good sign, they keep saying that folks born today are going to live longer than any other time in history, and that the average lifespan is actually growing with us today. That's kind of a starting point that I use as a benchmark. Of course, no one who is in this room or can hear my voice right now is going to get out of this life alive, but when we have these discussions, broad based in terms of health care, I just wondered, when it comes to average lifespan, and we've talked sometimes about infant mortality, which is obviously a key, and that's not one of the items here in front of us this morning, but it's one of the key benchmarks in my view, and I was just kind of curious how Sedgwick County, or any subset within Sedgwick County or the State of Kansas compared to the other 49 states, how we compare overall and that's probably a question for another time. But I appreciate you coming down and speaking with us on this this morning."*

*Mr. Rosell said, "If I may, I might just comment that lifespan certainly is a critical factor, and I think that's a very good question. We should get you back some answers to that. I think another related question is disability. And the result of untreated chronic disease that leads to early diagnosis of disability, which puts a person on government program to sustain themselves. If we can delay that and not only increase length of lifespan but also decrease the rate of disability, I think that would be a very positive thing."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I agree."*

*Mr. Rosell said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Anyone else from the public that would like to speak on this issue? Come forward and give us your name and address, please."*

*Ms. Debra Parks, 8005 North Hoover Road, Valley Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Congratulations, Commissioner Ranzau for being chairperson, and welcome to Mr. Howell, and the rest of the staff. My name is Debbie Parks. I live at 8005 North Hoover Road, Valley Center, Kansas, and I would like to speak to this issue, because I am a Type 2 Diabetic. I am insulin dependent and a program that my primary care physician is encouraging is a program of testing my blood at home with an INR unit. I'm not sure with how our insurance works now, since we are on the United Health Care System insurance level, is going to support that machine and getting the supplies and how much of that is going to be out of my own pocket now that our insurance has changed. So, if anything with this program, I might be able to seek out and to help with my diabetes supply costs, I would appreciate you considering that for others like myself. So that would be my comment. I'll stand for any questions."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much. I see no questions. Adrienne, will this have anything to do with providing supplies for patients, or is this kind of a different focus?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "This has a lot to do more with prevention. There is a management piece along there, as well. It's just been preliminary planning, so as far as the exact strategies haven't all been identified yet."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Anyone else from the public like to speak? Seeing none, we'll come back to the bench. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question, and I very much appreciate the e-mail from the Health Department that you sent out with data, because I have been briefed that Sedgwick County was the worst on a variety of various measurements. I believe the three that were mentioned were heart disease, diabetes, and I'm trying to remember. I'm looking at a list that includes six different items. It may have been diabetes, obesity and heart disease or maybe stroke. But I did receive the Health Department information. It covered six areas in terms of obesity, diabetes, stroke, ischemic heart disease, heart disease hospital admission rates, and hypertension. I want to make sure I understand the email. Do you happen to have that email in front of you or with you by any chance?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "I believe I have it with me."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I'll give you a minute here, if you don't mind. It will make it a lot easier. Most of the information that came to us here is either from Medicare Medicaid services or the Kansas Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey of 2013, and it basically talks about how we've got it, basically this is an 11 county program grant with five small counties lumped together, and it lists Sedgwick County. The Health Department information lists compared Sedgwick County to the, I think it's six peer communities, ranking from first to seventh from best to worst. The way I read that, best was seventh and worst was one. Is that's correct?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "That's correct."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay so Sedgwick County was actually, in terms of obesity, even though we're listed here, and there is a little bit of fluctuation, I notice on the trend information for 2013, referring to Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, the note under the trend information is a little bit different from what's on the main chart. There's 31.8 percent versus 30.4. We actually came in, and we were second best. Am I reading that correctly, Adrienne?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Well, this chart primarily was just to show those areas that Sedgwick County ranked higher than the State of Kansas. So we do vary with the other counties chosen, but all the counties and communities chosen were based on having high rates of chronic disease in those areas, but yes, it's showing that we are second for the heart disease."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Obesity we'd be second. Diabetes and hypertension,*

*we'd be third, third best, not worst. We were second worst in ischemic heart disease in Medicare population only, and we were third best in stroke in the Medicare only population; is that correct?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Yes.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. Because we were actually slightly better than the statewide average in the area of stroke, heart disease, hospital admission rates, and also in hypertension, but we were worse than the statewide average heart disease. For my comfort level, I'm a little shaky on ischemic. If someone has COPD, for instance, chronic pulmonary, would that be considered ischemic?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "I'm afraid I don't have that information"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. Well, the information, I mean, when I was initially presented, I was told Sedgwick County was the worst in all seven, and that's why we needed to go through this program. I'm looking at the data, and I kind of conclude we're kind of in the middle of the pack in some areas, we're better than average in some areas, some areas worse than average, and so I have some concerns about this grant based on the backup data that I have here in front of me. And for a four year program, I remember a colleague of mine who is no longer up here on the bench, when we would have programs like this come up, he would say, well, we've got positions that come with this grant. When the money goes away, the positions go away. This grant has three full-time positions with it?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "That is correct. And two of those positions, if we implement this well, will not need to continue after the four-year period. The data analyst to analyze the chronic disease at a local level, we would hope to be able to sustain that on an ongoing basis. But at least two of those three positions would not need to continue after this grant."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well, adding positions, we've got funded for less than, that's one of the risks in terms of taking on any of the grant programs, and that's an issue that I think we need to get discussed, and I appreciate being able to bring it forward for our consideration today. I'm going to, some of the backup information I have here raised some concerns at my end. If you have the backup information that we've got here, I want to bring up, it's a little bit shaky. It's listed here as page 96 here in my backup. But I think it may be listed as page six or page one, and so I hope you've got in front of you the section that's on the top that says 1422 Grantee Strategies and Short-Term Outcomes.*

*"Do you, by any chance, have that there's four different strategies listed on that page, and I want to discuss the first two, if I could, and I don't want to make it hard on you. If you don't have the material right in front of you that I've got. So that's why I'm giving you different page numbers because I've got, there's multiple pages here as part of*

*this 1422. It's the KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) Community Guidance, and it starts out on page three, and I'm over on...they've renumbered it. It goes page 3, 4, 5, and then goes back to page 1, so it makes it a little confusing, Adrienne, and I hope you bear with me here."*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "And you're on the short-term outcomes."*

*Mr. William P. Buchanan said, "Excuse me, are you talking about page 96 in the agenda packet?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Yes. Do you have that, Adrienne?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Yes. Yes, I do."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you. Because I wanted, under item one, it lists here as part of the strategies with this grant that we would be implementing food and beverage guidelines and sodium standards in public institutions, and I wanted more information exactly what we mean by this. For purposes of this grant, what type of ... what's the guideline and do we have some sort of a mandate? Are we going to change how food is served and in what public institutions? What would actually happen with this?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "So this would be one of the, I mentioned the option of healthier option in vending machines. That would be one of the interventions. It wouldn't be a mandate. It would be the community working with the various programs and institutions to educate them on the importance of healthier choices and the risks of higher sodium intake and giving them options to reduce that."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Okay. Well, in terms of options, I mean, I think we've got the best food system in the world. Our AG community does an incredible job of producing it. Of course, folks consuming food wisely, I mean, there's problems there. Let me jump on to item two under strategies here. It says, and I am going to read this, including the area that's kind of in brackets. It says, strengthen healthier food access in sales and retail venues, e.g., grocery stores, supermarkets, chain restaurants and markets and community venues, e.g. food banks who increased availability, more fruits and vegetables and more low sodium options, improved pricing and placement and promotion. Exactly how would that work under this grant?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Well, if this grant were... this contract was approved, in the first three months, the partners would be getting together and identifying strategies and plans to address these components and strategies, so there's not set plans I can share with you, because those haven't been developed yet."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Because the concern I have is this is getting us towards the point of more government mandates on to the private sector. You know, I have no problem talking about folks trying to provide incentives for folks to eat healthier, exercise more, grow stronger, but one of the concerns I have here is, what we're looking at, and these were the strategies."*

*"You go into some of the outcomes that they hope to have. The idea of having an increased consumption of nutritious food and beverages and increased physical activity, I think something we all support. But I have a concern with this grant in terms*

*of actually what it means we're going to do, because I think the marketplace and people exercising economic freedom do a better job of that than, whether it's government mandates or suggestions. Thank you Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a number of questions, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman. Adrienne, I'm just curious, certainly there has been some study, I would assume, on why people are obese or have high blood pressure in Sedgwick County. Is there any information to the motivation of why someone would make choices to be in those categories? Do we have any information on what motivates someone to make those choices?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Well, part of what this, to answer in part that question, part of what this contract addresses is access to venues that maybe someone that has lower income doesn't have access to. For example, the agreement, potential agreement with WSU for people in that neighborhood to access their facilities to be able to exercise that maybe can't afford to pay a monthly fee. So some of it is access, affordability. There's still, even though we think that there's enough education that everybody get it by now, there's still a need for more education, but along with that, is giving them access to make some of those changes."*

*"As we have talked, you can hand someone a flyer, and they can throw it away if they know it, but the importance is to be able to give them tools to then be able to put that into motion. And one of the other, there were several things that we had talked about last week. One of them was working with our local pharmacists in our community so that they are even more engaged with their patients when they're picking out medications and talking to them about medication, they're compliant with medication, taking them as they should, and having loaner programs for blood pressure cuffs, and so behavior change is hard, and that's part of what we're talking about. We say why do people still make the choices that they do, but part of that is access, and that's part of what this contract would help people with."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I didn't get the chance to study the report from the state regarding the seven communities they identified as being higher hypertension and diabetic. So I am not exactly sure what the method of study was. Is this basically based on percentage of population? Is this the number of residents we have in the community that happen to be?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So it's a percentage of our population or the total number."*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "That have these chronic diseases. That were diagnosed because there are a lot of people who are not diagnosed."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "As I am looking at the 15 strategies that are outlined in the handout, primarily, I would summarize them basically as encouraging healthy habits and healthy choices. Primarily information based efforts to try to get someone to make different choices or have different habits. It's primarily information based on what we are trying to do. Letting the public know there's other options out there, trying to get them to make better choices for themselves. Is that true?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "I would say the larger piece, because it is what we are doing within our system with working with the grocery stores and maybe placement and accessibility. Again, working with some of the providers, if they have the electronic medical system, just because you have it doesn't mean everyone knows all the ways to utilize that, and identifying one of the components is working with providers and our clinics with helping them with how to identify people using a chronic medical record that may be at higher risk for diabetes and heart disease and stroke that they are currently falling between the cracks. So it is working with a lot of community members and providers, and prevention of these chronic diseases."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Some of the things you mentioned there, the vending machines and the grocery stores, and things like that, the snack bars at the sports events and things like that. Those are all private businesses that make decisions on what they want to sell, and certainly their goal is to make money. They will make the choices they make to offer those products, because they know what sells. And they know what people want. You know, if I was a business person, you came and asked me to change my offering because we want to encourage a healthy habit, I am not sure I would do that."*

*"Even though you think it is really important, I guess, again, it doesn't change my goals being a business person, trying to be profitable for my business. Ultimately I guess each person makes choices for themselves. Each person is sovereign to make choices on their own personal habits, what they choose to do, what they choose to eat, and what they choose to buy. I guess I am not sure how the strategies can actually impact, you know, we can't change what the business owner chooses to offer, we can't change the way the grocery store puts things on the shelf. I am a little bit not sure exactly how the implementation of these strategies is going to be actually put out. Do we have a plan for performance measures of this program to find out how we are doing each year, or at the end of four years?"*

*Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "There were definitely the expected outcomes and performance measures that once, if this were to be approved, and the planning teams meet, then, and the specific strategies are identified, then those measures will be set up, yes."*

*"And what one of the local interventions, again, would be supporting the one certified diabetes program that we have in town. Prevention program through the YMCA. And right now, it is somewhat cost prohibitive for some people because it is \$300 or \$400, but it is a certified program that has very positive outcomes to what they do. So, one of the possible strategies with this contract would be to supplement or provide, you know, scholarships for people that are at risk for diabetes to be able to participate in this program that provides them support and behavioral change and, you know, ongoing connection for several months. So, again, a lot of it is access, and getting people, excuse me, giving people the tools, you know, putting them in their hands that they can actually use."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I noticed on one of the pages in the handout, page 99, if you want to go by those numbers. At the bottom it says funding is contingent on continued availability of federal funds. I make the point that our federal government*

doesn't have any money right now.

*"This is certainly discretionary spending on their part to support a program like this. And I think about the effectiveness of this program or primarily telling people things I think they already know for the most part. You know, public schools are really good at discussing the food pyramid and recommended, you know, calorie intake, and how much sodium and how much meat and things like that they should eat. A lot of effort into the schools, I am a member of the YMCA, I think they have good products available at the YMCA."*

*"There's things throughout the community I think that provide lots of education information to the community already. I see this as a parallel effort that may not actually have anything new, necessarily, to offer. I guess right now I am a little bit concerned about, you know, federal debt and I am not sure this has a direct impact on the community. I am a little bit concerned about the program as it's been presented today, but I will be continuing to think about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Adrienne, this is through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment?"

Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "Yes."

Commissioner Unruh said, "So this isn't something that we generated here, this came through the state Department of Health and Environment, and they identified the areas and think this might have the greatest impact, and they secured federal funding so that it is not a burden on our local government."

Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "That's correct."

Commissioner Unruh said, "And the purpose of this is for education, and to offer alternatives in areas where we have high incidence of these diseases, hoping we can change behavior."

Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "And working with our businesses, and our system to help that occur as well."

Commissioner Unruh said, "So no one at any level of this is going to be mandated to do anything."

Ms. Byrne-Lutz said, "That is correct."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Gentlemen, we have, Commissioners, we have, I think, a program that's come from our state Department of Health and the acting secretary is supportive of this. It is being funded for the benefit of the citizens in this area. It is not a burden on local property tax. As Ms. Parks has indicated, if there is opportunities to relieve some of the suffering or discomfort and help educate others to avoid that. Commissioners, if it is not a burden on our budget, and we have a policy that should the grant go away, the positions go away, the program stops, it would seem to me that it would be a beneficial thing for us to do for our citizens to approve this, and start this program."

MOTION

*Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.*

*Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I sat on the Healthy Kansas 2020 work group for over a year. I was appointed by Dr. Mosier, who was the secretary of KDHE for at least the first term appointed by Governor Brownback. And one of the things that came out of that, and this was around 150 professionals, elected officials, providers, practitioners, around the state, that came together to try to discuss the future of the health of individuals and population health in Kansas. One of the things that was paramount and obvious, is that you spend allotted dollars on interventions and care, and it is really practical to spend money on prevention. At the end of the day it saves lives, and it certainly saves a lot of economic dollars because intervention and care for somebody with diabetes that has had it for a number of years is very expensive. And if you can get them out of the system, if you can catch it early and prevent it, then that's good use of your dollars.*

*"And I see this grant being just that. I am sure that's why they moved it forward. The Kansas Health Institute does an environmental scan every year of all 105 counties. They are ranked on the health of the counties, and Sedgwick County's health in that environmental scan rating has slipped every year for the last two or three years. And I think it would give you some money. I don't know that us turning it down is going to send it back to Washington D.C. If I had my guess, it would go back to some other counties, and the KDHE purview. I know that hypertension and diabetes is controllable and preventable, but you got to catch it early.*

*"Part of that is educating populations that don't have a family physician that watches them, that doesn't have a medical home, doesn't have the financial wherewithal or insurance to keep them watching those kind of things. The cost to our community economically is huge, if we continue to let health cost be out of control. So prevention is part of that. Certainly if you talk to emergency room doctors and hospitals and physicians, these programs that look at the public health and move the dollars into prevention instead of intervention is such a good practical matter economically for our community. Because many of the folks that show up at emergency rooms have chronic disease. They are being treated at the emergency rooms, which is not where they should be treated. I certainly will be supportive of this today.*

*"I think to do nothing is the wrong thing in our community. Particularly on these issues of diabetes, hypertension, other heart diseases and obesity, and I don't know that if portions of the program Adrienne has articulated today that we don't think should move*



*forward, don't let that move forward. But there are other good programs. Diabetes alone. I also sat on it for three years sat on the committee statewide dealing with the problem of rampant diabetes growth in our state, and if we just concentrate on that alone, we would save millions of dollars on community healthcare costs. I am going to be supportive today. I think we will design the program locally as to what we want and Commissioners can have input on it. But to just say let's not take the money today because we think it is going to save the federal government \$580,000, I think is the wrong attitude to have. That's all I have Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said. "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I am struggling with this issue on several levels, because as a federal taxpayer, the federal government is on the books that is around \$18 trillion, t as in trillion. We have a state budget that, they have got problems, and even though this doesn't directly impact the state budget, what's before us today, they are obviously going to have to do some things to administer this, not only for Sedgwick County, but for the other ten counties that are part of this grant that's going to incur costs."*

*"You know, my concern, frankly, with what I was told, Sedgwick County ranked worst, and actually when I was told that and being briefed on this, the information I have got showed Sedgwick County, we certainly have room for improvement but we are not the worst by far. In some areas we are better than average. My bigger concern is government involvement in healthcare is 1/6th of the entire United States economy. One out of every \$6 is a healthcare dollar. I remember state experts speaking six years ago, talking about at that time government spending on healthcare was about 60 cents out of every healthcare dollar. Of course since then we have had passage for federal changes. The federal government has taken over the health industry and expanded their role significantly. We have had the whole issue in terms of where Medicare and Medicaid are going to go, and the federal government has taken over half a trillion dollars out of Medicare to fund Obamacare, and that's an outrage I think for anybody who is in the Medicare program, or approaching it."*

*"The government involvement in healthcare, unfortunately, I think just raises costs. In front of us today is not a \$580,000 one-year program, it is actually a program that's about a little over \$2.3 million over four years, and that's the way I am viewing it. That's why I am struggling with this issue, Mr. Chairman, because I am not sure exactly. If somebody put \$2.3 million right here on the counter and said okay, Commissioner, with the needs in this community, with the challenges that you face, would this be where we put the money if we had a free choice at it? I don't think so. I think we would be looking at different approach, and I think in terms of healthcare as an issue, we need to get back to where you have got consumers, and producers working together and economic freedom, and less government control, less government mandates, less government restrictions, less government interference and less government bureaucracy, and this grant today I think is a reflection, not going to cause, and we don't proceed with it today, I don't know that it's going to do or benefit anyone who is diabetic or pre-diabetic, who has heart disease or pre-hypertension. The concern I*

*have is that, is this the best way tax dollars should be spent, and I am struggling with it, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Any other comments from Commissioners? We do have a motion and a second, is that correct?"*

*Ms. Angela Lovelace Deputy County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "That's correct."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Sorry, it's been a while. Okay. I will say a few things. Certainly there's money involved here from the federal government, and I talked about that in the past, my position is clear. But my concern is this goes far beyond the money. It's about a program whether or not even has a chance to be effective and a good use of time, money and resources, regardless of where the money comes from. Keep in mind, this is coming from the federal government, and the strategies are required by them. We are required to do a variety of things, to include guidelines, not just for vending machines, but it says cafeterias and public institution, work sites and other key locations. It could be just about anything.*

*"There's propensity for government guidelines to become government mandates at some point in the future, particularly when you are dealing with the federal government. We know in some states like New York, there have been some movements to push, for example, the mandates by the pop you can drink and things like this. It is a growing trend throughout the community, being pushed by a variety of organizations. Some of which the Sedgwick County actually belongs to, which is troubling. But in the end, what we are doing is the federal government; we are working at the behest of the federal government to change behavior. I am not sure that's a function of federal government at all.*

*"And coming from the medical community, when you are talking about these individual health problems, the best way to effect changes of behavior is that the doctor-patient relationship. And this is no substitute for that. I look at these strategies and I say, I don't understand how someone will think this is going to work from a practical matter. You talk about we are going to group together and have strategies and plan. There is a lot of strategies and plans being developed throughout the community that I have been involved in some of them. And a lot of people get together and talk about theoretical things, and the things the government can do, and they are so disconnected from reality.*

*"You know, I have been in one planning meeting that talked about healthy communities. And the speaker there told me, she is from KU (University of Kansas) here in Wichita, said basically the reason I am overweight is not because of my individual choices, but because of society. And we need to think less about the individual and more about the collective. And I, of course, reject that outright. I am overweight because I eat too much and don't exercise enough. Society is not to blame for my problem. And society is not going to solve my problem. Creating guidelines is not going to solve my problem.*

*"Creating a transportation plan that promotes walking isn't going to make me walk. I already have sidewalks I can walk on. So, I am disturbed that we would think this has any chance of being effective. You can talk theory all the time, but when you get down to reality, you can't have collective solutions to individual health problems. These are individual health problems which need to be addressed at an individual level, and the*

*result of individual choices, sometimes good, sometimes bad. It is not the function of government to change my behavior.*

*“Not going to work anyway, unless someone forced me to do it, and that's not going to happen. By any means, this grant program, we set the stage for guidelines and things and planning that is counterproductive, unnecessary, we are going to increase our staffing level by three people. That's the potential of taking three people out of the private sector who could actually be producing something beneficial to our community, and put them into a program that is doomed to failure from the very beginning. So I am not going to be supportive of this motion, in case you haven't figured that out. I think there are much better ways to address this, the best way with the doctor-patient relationship. Some of these methodologies are important to people in the private sector, then they can, they are free to implement those in the private sector. I think better solutions when the plan is funded and generated completely by the private sector, because they will be much more realistic about what you can and cannot get done. So with that, I guess we, Commissioner Peterjohn.”*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been thinking about the dialogue and I appreciate the comments of everybody here. One of the concerns I have for the guidelines and strategies and thinking about it, there is a revolt going on in this country. It's a quiet revolt for the most part although every once in a while it shows up in places like YouTube. And you see high school kids predominantly talking about the mandate, and it includes foods that they are receiving at their school cafeterias. That's one of the concerns, the guidelines become mandates, suggestions become requirements, and I realize we don't have school food directly in front of us today, but when the kids, you know, basically when the federal government plays the tune and they pay an awful lot of the money that comes up in school food programs. I think most of it is carried out in the AG (United States Department of Agriculture) department budget or education. I struggle with this today and that's why I struggle with this grant and I am not going to be supporting it today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”*

*Chairman Ranzau said, “Commissioner Howell.”*

*Commissioner Howell said, “Thank you, I just want to address what I perceive is probably some critical comments after this vote is taken today. I just want to make a clear point, and that is, if we do not do this with our own money, then we shouldn't do it. The perception is it is free money or this is someone else's money. That being the motivator for us to support or do a program to me is not good policy, and I have heard people say, well it's our own money, we should get it back and use it in our own community.*

*“Well, to the extent that it does things that are necessary and good and has an effective role in lowering the tax burden or the personal obligation for people in our own community, there may be some truth to that, I would agree. But this is not free money. This is money that essentially is being printed out of thin air, and borrowed from other countries and an ultimately passed to our grandchildren. So, there is no such thing as free money. Because of that, if this is not something we would do with our own money,*

*and not letting that idea being a motivator for this decision today, I guess I would just say that I would still be opposing this on principle. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman, thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing no other comments, we still have a motion. Madam Clerk, please call the vote."*

VOTE

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Motion fails. Commissioners, I would like to take the next item, and then propose taking a break after that. Hopefully this will be fairly quick. Madam Clerk, next item."*

**Approved**

F [14-1893](#)

SET POST-ANNEXATION HEARING DATE FOR CITY OF DERBY  
ORD. NO. 2006.

Presented by: Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the Notice of Hearing.

*Mr. Robert W. Parnacott, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "State law requires you to hold a hearing five years after unilateral annexation by a city that was required to provide a service plan to the individuals being annexed. That's the situation generally where the individuals are not consenting to the annexation. I have got your map up on the screen to show the annexed area that was annexed by the City of Derby back in 2010. It consists of about 30 lots, 52 acres total.*

*"The lots range from a half acre to 20 acres. It is on 63rd Street on the north side, about a half mile west of Rock Road. The service plan was reviewed, and presented by the city at the time of annexation. I reviewed it. It is pretty consistent with state law requirements. The service plan was, or the elements of the service plan were sent to the various landowners, and we requested any comments that they had on whether services had or had not been provided. Out of about 30 questionnaires we received two responses and only one had an issue about street maintenance concerns. We provided that information to the city. The city also provided us comments to indicate they believe they provided the services.*

*"Today, however, all you are doing is setting a hearing date. We are recommending that you set this hearing date for February 18th, and approve the Notice of the Hearing. If you have any questions, I will be more than happy to answer them."*

MOTION

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Notice of Hearing,*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I just want to make a motion to accept the recommended action, that's why my light was on. Be glad to second that as well. This is in my district. I am looking forward to the hearing."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Any other comments? 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, "At this time we will go in recess for five minutes, if that's okay, we will come back at 11:03 by my watch. Stand in recess."*

*The Board of County Commissioners recessed at 10:57 a.m. and returned at 11:03 a.m*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "All right, thank you. We return now. We are out of the recess, and Madam Clerk, next item, please."*

**G**      [15-0003](#)

RESOLUTION TO RESCIND SEDGWICK COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 51-2014 AND REESTABLISH THE ANIMAL CARE ADVISORY BOARD.

Presented by: William P. Buchanan, County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Take action as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, you have an item before you to rescind the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board and return it to what it was previously. Any comments, questions or motions? First of all, I would like to say, is there anyone from the public who would like to speak on this item? If so, please give us your name and address."*

*Mr. Charles Peaster, 9453 North 135th Street West, Sedgwick, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I was a member of the old Animal Care Advisory Board back in April they dissolved it, made criteria for a new board. To this date that board has never been established. One of the problems they had with it was they made five positions on that board that were mandated to be from different particular positions in this county. One was a veterinarian, one was an animal control officer from another city, one of them was from different places, only two of them were actually individuals. In the past the Animal Control Advisory Board was made up of ten members. Each County Commissioner could appoint two people to that board. At one part of the time*

*we never had a quorum, that's because several Commissioners only had one appointed to it or no members. Several of the Commissioners had two members appointed to the board.*

*"The board made up of six people generally. There should have been ten. I am here today to say that I would like to see it go back to the way it was, ten members, each County Commissioner appointing two members. At the time we had written up bylaws that said if one of the members that was appointed by a County Commissioner didn't attend three meetings and didn't have a good reason for that, that member be replaced from the board, so we would have a quorum. If this board becomes re-established as ten members and I become a member of that board again, part of the things that we will look at is bring in to you bylaws for that committee. The way it's set up currently with five people from different positions that had to do with animal control. I am not sure why staff did that. Previously it could be ten people and they could all be general citizens if they so desired. That's what the County Commissioner from their district wanted. With that I thank you for a chance to speak to you and am willing to answer any questions you have."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Any questions of Mr. Peaster? If not, does anyone else from the public want to speak?"*

*Ms. Parks said, "Like Charlie that just spoke, I was a member of the advisory board, serving as Commissioner Ranzau's appointee. And just so you kind of know who was on the board before with us serving, Commissioner Ranzau's other appointee, Dr. Julie Evans, she is a vet in Valley Center. Commissioner Skelton's appointees are chairperson that served on our board, Charlie Fletcher, and Bob Dix at the time, but I think he was removed, at least he was not attending. Commissioner Unruh had two open spots, and we tried to encourage him to find people but he declined."*

*"Commissioner Peterjohn had Dr. Preston Hickman as one of his appointees, and he was a vet and Charles Peaster was his other appointee. And Commissioner Norton had Hal Presster, who was a pet store owner. He also had an open spot at the time. To kind of go over again what Charles said, to vote on any projects that we wanted to do as a board, we wanted a majority of people present to vote on anything.*

*"Well, with that many open spots if any of one of us were present or could not be present that night, it kind of made it hard for rest of them to actually take their time, to go down there, also the time of the staff person, Shawn, to be there. So we tried to keep each other contacted by phone or email, whether we would come that night so nobody's time would be wasted. One of the things that we were really excited about, we had finally gotten enough of us there to get these bylaws ready to update them, and then the change came about with going from a ten-member board to a seven. Of the five as Charlie said, they needed to be professional people, which I understand. The vets would give good advice to Shawn in the actual staff members of the animal control. But at that point they could not even get the five. And one of the people that was suggested to be on that board, which I agree with, would be a person on animal control from one of the cities in the area.*

*"Well, we tried to explain how hard that might be to get a person when Adrienne and Claudia Blackburn were still there at the time. But if you have an animal control officer that's spent all day at their city job, and then you ask them to come serve on a board down in Wichita, that they don't get paid for, you know, it was hard to find somebody willing to do that. The dynamics of the people that were on the board that we were*

*serving, we may not have all been professional people, but all of us have animals. My husband will attest to how many that we have that he wished we didn't have that many now. And if I bring one more home, or accept one more stray, that I could go live where they live, out in the barnyard, anyway, beside the point.*

*"One of the things that we would like to have done with the support of either the County Commissioners, or the people on staff with Animal Control was to volunteer and plan and man booths at events such as Equifest, which is held at the Kansas Pavilions. It's coming up in February again this year. We also wanted to have a booth and man it at the garden home show, which a lot of which a lot of public people come to from the county, to let them understand and ask questions of what types of issues come up with pets and animals in both the city or the county of Animal Control. And also at Woofstock, which a lot of pet owners come there, maybe new people come to town, they don't understand the rules of the county. So we were willing to support staff of animal control, not replace any of them with our knowledge, that we didn't know exactly everything they did every day."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Ms. Parks."*

*Ms. Parks said, "Yes."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Can you wrap it up?"*

*Ms. Parks said, "Sure. I would be very much in favor of having the ten-member board back. And if the Commissioners that don't have an appointee, or don't have any clues, we have suggestions from both vets and other people that were on the board."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Sorry to interrupt. We typically give five minutes."*

*Ms. Parks said, "That's fine."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Any questions for Ms. Parks? Seeing none, thank you. Anyone else from the community like to speak? All right, very well."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, I apologize for being late to the meeting, the reopening of the meeting, but when mother nature calls, who am I to deny that call? You have before you a resolution that would repeal the Animal Care Advisory Board and replace it with the Animal Control Advisory Board. As previous speakers have stated, it would go from seven members to now ten members and the actions certainly is up to you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Any comments from Commissioners or motions to be made? Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well Mr. Chairman, I was here when we made the change. I think reestablishing the Animal Care Advisory Board and rescinding the resolution from last year, I think would be the right step. This board does serve a significant and a needed function. I think having ten members with Commissioners appointing two each, we'll get past some of the problems. We don't need this board all the time, but when we do need it, we do absolutely. It is one of those things that's sort of like having a levee. It won't flood all the time, but when it does, I think the board is important. The fact that we haven't been able to fulfill a membership and get it going again since we made the change last year, this is a step in the right direction in my*

*opinion."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to rescind resolution 51-2014 and reestablish the Animal Care Advisory Board.*

*Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I supported the change when that occurred. I support the staff's work. I think that this is something that's not the highest priority on my agenda, so I will vote with what I think the majority of the board will do at this time, and support the motion. I did want to say just kind of editorial comment that I'm sure Ms. Parks was not saying I didn't have a clue. I am kidding! Anyway, that's all I have, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "All right, seeing no other comments, Madam Clerk, call the vote, please."*

**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."*

**Adopted**

**H**      [15-0005](#)

**RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 146-2014 AND  
ESTABLISHING FEES AND CHARGES FOR PLANNING AND ZONING  
APPLICATION AND PROCEEDINGS.**

Presented by: William P. Buchanan, County Manager.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Take action as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, the resolution before you would repeal the fee increases back to the levels that they were in 2003. If this resolution is adopted, it will cause two different sets of fees, one for the city and one for the county which was found to be undesirable. If this resolution passes, it would approximately reduce the funds to the MAPC by \$7,500. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest you proceed any way you choose."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Is anyone from the public like to speak on this item? Seeing none, we will go to the Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need to be reminded, Mr. Manager, who all worked on developing the fee schedule as it stands now?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "I asked John Schlegel to answer that question. Please. "*



*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you."*

*Mr. John Schlegel Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "That was done by planning staff."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "And did you have input with, from the building?"*

*Mr. John Schlegel said, "We had taken this to the Wichita Area Builders Association, they have a community development committee, so we took it to them for discussion, and they were not, they are not opposed to the fee increases."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "All right, thank you. I am supportive of the recommendations that came down through the planning commission, and from our staff, in light of the fact that we don't have objection from the people who are involved in the building and construction trades. I realize that the fiscal impact is not totally significant, it does shift some funds back towards the property tax rather than a user's fee, as it works out. So I would be supportive of leaving the fees and charges for planning and zoning to the way we have approved them a couple months ago. I think we had long discussion at that time, and we don't have to rehash all of that. That's all the time I have right now."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "All right. Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Bill, or maybe John knows, when was the last time, prior to this change in fee structure, were the fees altered or changed at the city or the county?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "2003."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "So 11 years have gone by since we had done anything with the fee structure. Okay. It seems to me that we just made corrections that were a natural part of the changes in fees and permits and structure and cost of doing business for the public, didn't seem like at the time that there was a lot of push back from those that were paying the fee structure. And you said, Bill, it was \$7,500 is all the extra that it will garner?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes, approximately."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Yes. That's all I have."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When this issue came up I was originally in the minority. When we were trying to send a message out that Sedgwick County is open for business and raising fees is part of the cost of doing business here. And I had concerns about it at that time so I am certainly going to support the resolution to rescind the resolution that I voted against last year and which was enacted into county law."*

#### **MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to repeal that resolution, and put in place the charges that had been in place prior to that resolution being adopted*

*Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Any other comments from Commissioners? Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was reading some of the information in front of me as you were speaking and I may have missed the point that, can you explain, please, do the fees that were in place before the change happened, did they not cover the cost of government? You made the point that someone said depending on property taxes to back bill the other costs. Can you talk about that a little bit, please?"*

*Mr. Schlegel said, "Fees that are collected when we take in applications cover about, it ranges between 8 and 10 percent, of the department's costs."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay. So the fees, even under the new fee structure, the majority is still being funded by property taxes."*

*Mr. Schlegel said, "That's correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Any other comments? Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One more comment. This action we take has no effect on the city fee schedule?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "No."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "So our efforts at consolidation and making things more efficient and understandable, we are now going to split that up, we'll have two fee schedules, one city, one county, and I just, I guess my point is, is that we are kind of going a little bit, it seems to me, away from a unified and coordinated effort in trying to manage this from the government's responsibility. So that's all I have, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing no other comments, I will make a few comments myself. I was also in the minority last year when this was passed. When I was briefed at the time, I was told that this will hurt the little guy more than the big guy. And I think that's exactly true, as do all taxes, regulations and fees hurt the little guy more than the big guy, I was concerned, you know, still an increase in fees. I think we could reduce our costs. I think that's what we should do, and as we go forward, look to do that in the future. My understanding is the builders said that nobody wanted a fee increase, but they were not going to oppose it. And they may take that position, but that doesn't mean people out there, the little guys out there, who this doesn't affect them personally, it is an across the board 15 percent fee."*

*"It doesn't appear to be, just across the board 15 fee. Some of these things need to be revisited in the future. I am not sure there is a connection between the actual cost to do them or not, but nevertheless, I think the best thing is to, if we want to talk about economic development, then we need to make it less costly to do business here, and as far as the two fee schedules, depending on how this goes, if this passes,*

*I will send an email to City of Wichita and ask them to do the same thing, repeal it. Because the overall revenue was \$25,000. So I think it is worth \$25,000 to implement a fee across the board 15 percent fee. I don't want to hurt the little guy any more than what he's already been hurt. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just throw out I have been told 15 percent. I went out and cranked some of the numbers, and actually as the backup said it was 15 percent, or rounded to the nearest \$5. Some of them were over 15 percent. I realize they hadn't been changed in a while, but we are still struggling as an economy, and anytime the government is putting additional cost on to doing business for everybody, the little guy, the big guy or anybody in between, that was the reason why I voted against it, and that's why I am going to vote for this motion this morning. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Madam Clerk, call the vote, please."*

VOTE

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item, please."*

**Adopted**

I [15-0006](#)

RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NOS. 193-02 AND 74-2014 REGARDING THE SEDGWICK COUNTY STORM DEBRIS DISPOSAL POLICY.

Presented by: William P. Buchanan, County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Take action as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, the item before you would repeal the storm debris disposal policy. That was created out of some work that was done in the solid waste plan in 1997, and the committee put together in 2000 with local government's appointees to come up with this policy. This action today would repeal that storm debris policy. I would recommend you do whatever you want to do."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioners, do we have any comments? Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Bill, what are the ramifications of appealing it. Can you go through what that does, particularly the small cities."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "This was established to help cities in the county to deal with storm debris. We had one use of this in the last 14 years, or 12 years or so, and that was the City of Haysville a couple years ago. We have had a number of storms, but some of them did not meet the criteria. Some of the community's expenditure did not meet our threshold of criteria for them to participate. So this fund was available for those incidences that would occur in the county that we have previously that small*

*cities had a difficult time with storm cleanup and what to do with the debris."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Where does the money come from?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "This comes from the solid waste fee that we establish every June."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Is there a specific set, a dollar amount, set aside for storm debris cleanup?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes. It is \$480,000."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Did we use any of this money in Oaklawn when the tornado went through?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "I don't know that."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well, seems to me, it is a good policy. It helps clean up events that rise to the level of tough for a small city or municipality to clean up, but doesn't qualify for a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) designation. Which a tornado or big event would. Some of the ice storms and everything that we had really have put a burden on citizens, and I think it is a good use of that storm debris fee that we have.*

*"The other part of it is citizens pay that fee, and it comes back to them as they need it to be used. So I am going to oppose this. I think it's a good use of that fee structure that we get from the fee that we incur every year, and that goes up, flexes up and down as we need money to refill. So I am going to be opposed to this today, Mr. Chair. That's all I have."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Just a quick question. I understand when we created this in 2002, only been used once since this time, Mr. Manager?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "And it's only used in events that does not qualify under FEMA."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Can you amplify a little bit on that, sir?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Well, if it doesn't qualify as a FEMA event, local municipality is not going to get reimbursed for disposal of debris. And that's why that provision, this would help. When we have wind storms and ice storms, oftentimes they are not FEMA qualified events, but they still leave a mess for communities."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "They certainly can leave a mess. It is an item we have struggled with. I know we have done some heavy lifting in the past. I know when we had the Oaklawn tornado, our Public Works folks did heavy lifting in that area. But this*

*program, and they certainly also did heavy lifting in terms of debris with the storm in west Wichita later on. But it is one of the reasons why I had some concerns in terms of how we had this policy, and how it was operating."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Manager, we can still, if we deem it necessary and appropriate support the smaller communities with storm clean up and access the same source of funds, we just don't have a policy regarding it."*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. That's all I have."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We have a motion yet?"*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "No."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Would anyone like to make a motion?"*

#### **MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to repeal resolution numbers 193-02 and 74-2014 on the storm debris disposal policy.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I have a comment as well."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Go ahead."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Chairman, I guess, you know, trying to reduce, I guess, amounts of government and regulations and complexity in government and all that, I appreciate the comments from Commissioner Unruh in this discussion, because, again, if the county commission has the opportunity to use this money as needed, and there's solid waste disposal fee money set aside that is available to be used through the Board of County Commissioners see a need for that and make that decision, then I don't see a need for this policy as it sits. I would support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, any more comments from Commissioners? I will just say I am going to support this as well. As has been said, this has only been used one time in 14 years, and the one time has been documented in the past it was used inappropriately. City of Haysville did. You know the intent of this was to reimburse cities for tipping fees. That was clear in the history, and the original resolution. They submitted a claim for over \$73,000 of tipping fees they did not in fact incur, because they dumped it through their open waste site. So, if we have a policy that really has*

*never been used except once in 14 years, and then it was used inappropriately. We subsequently went back and the majority of the Commission, changed the policy to make it okay to do what they did, but it really was an inappropriate claim at the time and not the original intent. I don't think it will have any negative impact on the communities. All of the cities have storm contingencies just like we do, and if you have a policy that's not needed, then it should be rescinded. So I will be supportive. Madam Clerk, call the vote."*

VOTE

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

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item."*

**Adopted**

J [15-0002](#)

UPDATE THE SEDGWICK COUNTY 2015 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM.  
Presented by: William P. Buchanan, County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Take action as deemed appropriate by the Commission.

*Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As you know, we had discussion last fall about our 2015 legislative platform, and as we have said for every year that we've had a platform is that it is a living document, because we don't know what changes might emerge in the legislative process, and we don't know what changes we might want to propose to our platform as the session goes along. And so today, I bring you six proposed changes and four new items to add to the platform. You do have the summary of changes before you that have been proposed, and the corresponding new items that are on the back, and I will briefly go over the items just for clarification. They are in your backup."*

*"And again, the platform as adopted is provided to you. It does not include these proposed changes at this time. D1 is about Eminent Domain, and that would have a change of language. D3, Unilateral Annexation, a change of language. D5, Maintaining Open Government. Proposed change in language. D17, County Sales Tax. This would change items, and we will talk about shuffling of numbers here in just a little bit. That would be a change of language as well. F8, Tax Equity Part 2 would have a change in language. F2, Sedgwick County Health Department, a change of language, and the new items, D14, Driver's Permits for Illegal Aliens, would be new. D15, Zoning and Comprehensive planning would be a new item. D16, Municipal Elections would be a new item. And D24, Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species List, would be a new item."*

*"As you see adding these additional items to the platform would cause some technical changes of some numbering, as we have it currently. And we would take care of those issues after they are approved. And any items after they approved, we would adjust the platform, we would make sure that it is available online in the newest version possible."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Kristi. Before we go to Commissioners I want to ask if there's anyone from the public who would like to speak on this item. Seeing one, please give us your name and address."*

*Mr. John Todd, 1559 North Payne, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have read over the changes that you are suggesting, and I think all of them are good, and as a citizen would recommend that you make these changes. I wanted to make a couple of comments. You know, the founders from the Constitutional Convention discussed the role of government, and it's always been an issue in recent years, we've taken the position that government is the solution for everything, and I want to, there was a former speaker of the house, his name doesn't come to memory, he said all politics is local".*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Tip O'neal."*

*Mr. Todd said, "What I see here happening today is refreshing. I see a change in moving away from the role of government that we have had, that government is the solution for everything, and I have to think about, I didn't bring the quote with me, I am going to go on memory, President Ronald Reagan said 'Government is not the solution, government is the problem.' And for me as a citizen, watching the Commission, the actions today, what I am seeing is refreshing. I think this is what the citizens want, and I compliment local government for taking the position, the initiative, of moving it back to the direction of where we let the wealth producers of the company, the private sector, create the jobs and do those things that they do so naturally for themselves. There's a role of government cartoon that Gary Bravo did in the Indianapolis Star that shows a popular way of governing which shows both parties, actually, taking \$17 trillion, actually \$18 trillion now, down the road and looking at who is going to be paying for these things. So push back on federal money, I think is very appropriate. And I compliment you for that. So if anyone is interested in this, I will be glad to supply a copy. Thank you so much."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Mr. Todd. Anyone else from the public like to speak on this item? Seeing none, we will return to the bench. Any questions, comments or motions from the Commissioners? I think Commissioner Howell was first."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Chairman. I just have a question. Are we going to be discussing these individual items or do this as a solid?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We will do whatever the will of the Board is."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I mean, if we want to do the whole thing at once, or talk about individual ones, or pass the majority and talk about others, that's up to..."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I will sit back and see what happens for a few minutes. Thank you very much."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to suggest, since we have got a whole bunch of items here, and we are at the bench, I mean, if anyone of us has a concern about any one of these items would like to discuss them and vote on them separately, I certainly would be supportive of that. Give everybody an opportunity to discuss them in detail. I have one minor change that I would like to make on one existing item that's listed here as changed, but we have some significant resolution positions here that would be certainly noteworthy, and I think very newsworthy. I would recommend, Mr. Chairman, that we proceed with allowing any Commissioner to raise any concerns that they may have about any additional, each one of these items, whether it is a change or if it is a new item."*

*"I think public discussion here would be very helpful. There is some significant positions that are here, and I know some of us have been discussed on at least one of these items where we have had folks asking us about what direction we would like to take the county policy. That's my suggestion."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. Anyone object to going down through these? We already had public discussion. Let's start the first one, eminent domain. Any comments or changes? Commissioner Norton. I mean Commissioner Unruh, sorry."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. I agree with the first item that we talked about, eminent domain. However, seemed to me there was one facet of the conversation on this in previous discussions, would this prohibit Sedgwick County, should we have to take property for some public purse, not private economic development, which I don't think any of us are for. But if we took a piece of property legitimately, we had to work it out through the courts, took property for a legitimate public purpose and there was a piece left over, and we didn't have any use for, would this legislation prevent us from letting some entrepreneur have that piece of property for development of his business?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I will respond. There is not a specific piece of legislation in mind, but this platform I don't believe would. The intent is to not support taking private land for the express purpose of giving it to another private entity in the name of economic development."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "All right. Well, I am good with that. I just thought if we had a leftover piece, I didn't want a policy like this to keep us from being able to let somebody have it that needed it."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the dialogue on this with Commissioner Unruh, because the terrible U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Kelo case is just an outrage. There have been efforts to address it. State law was modified, but I think Sedgwick County would clearly be, and I plan to support this plan,*



would clearly be in support of protecting the private sector from basically having people take government taking their land, for purposes as odious. This has happened in Kansas. It's been noted in at least one national publication that I am aware of, where the private property was taken from a Kansas taxpayer and given to another Kansas taxpayer because the local government thought they could raise the assessed value of the property because it went from a used car lot to a premium new car lot.

"I won't mention the brand, because I don't want to embarrass them. But that did happen in Kansas. And I think that's why I am going to be supportive of this change this morning. Thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing no other comments, we will move on. Unilateral annexation, any questions or comments or changes? Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. In general and in sympathy with this platform change, however, I wonder if the word 'eliminate,' I know some of us may be in favor of eliminating that. I am not sure that eliminate is where we want to be. That's like total and complete. I am not comfortable with that word, that's my comment on the proposal."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. I will respond. It says we do so eliminate. I am comfortable with this, because we are one of a few states left in the whole country that allows this to happen. And we have examples where this has been abused, particularly in my district. It created a lot of turmoil with landowners, et cetera. But then we have examples. I believe it's Mulvane, which they have been able to successfully annex people with five-acre lots by petition. So you can get it done. Obviously most annexations occur when a developer asks for it, they purchase land, want to develop it and ask it to be annexed. All the other cities and all the other states are able to grow. I don't believe this would hinder them. That's my position. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I agree with you on the substance, if Commissioner Unruh wants to have a separate vote and express his opposition for the record on the language that we have here, I certainly support his ability to vote just on this one item, and if any of us up here wanted to vote against it. But I am also supportive based on your comments, in terms of the language, but I do want to make sure anybody's rights are protected here on the Commission in terms of being able to have input on each of these proposed pieces of legislative platform."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Just to clarify, my intent, as we go through these, and we allow for comments, if a Commissioner wants to make a motion to change one of these, feel free to do so. Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you. I just want to voice my response that I am fully aware of my responsibilities as a Commissioner and I can make a motion. But I appreciate the coaching. I am aware of that, so thank you."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing no motion, we go on to the next one, maintaining an open government. Any questions, concerns, changes? Seeing none, we will move on to county sale tax. Any question, changes? Comments? Oh, wow. We will start with Commissioner Unruh."

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I understand this, this is an amendment to our platform that states that we would have the option, then, to eliminate all property tax for sales tax. This is not saying we want to do that, it is saying we have the option, and that we need expanded authority to levy a sales tax. Am I understanding this correctly?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I believe so. But I think I will allow Commissioner Peterjohn to respond to that, if that would be okay."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent of this is, there's two parts to this, Commissioner Unruh. And I'd never defer to try and coach a person of your wisdom and perspicacity, but I would want to point out under current law."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "He is trying to say I know a lot, thank you."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well stated. There's two issues that we're trying to come up with this language. At the moment Sedgwick County has the 1 cent sales tax, and we are maxed out under state law and cannot exceed that amount. And 73 cents out of every dollar that is collected from the sales tax does not come to Sedgwick County.*

*"Sedgwick County does not spend that. That money is spent by all municipalities. 20 municipalities in Sedgwick County get it based on a formula of their population by each municipality, and interesting and slightly perversely, the higher their mill levy is, the more money they get under the formula. So the intent on this is to try and give us more flexibility so that if the majority of this Commission wanted to go forward and do this, and take this public policy step, we could do so under Kansas law, which currently we cannot. So there's two aspects of this, obviously, trying to give us the flexibility so if we wanted to replace our sales tax, sorry, our property tax with a sales tax and I would mention just for the record, folks in Labette County have a modified and slightly smaller version of this. Voters renewed the sales tax last November by a sizeable margin. But the intent of this language is to give us more fiscal flexibility, and the authority under state law which currently our hands are tied by state law, Commissioner Unruh."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Only thing I don't see in here is that it would have to go to a vote of the people, and that language would, I think, be very important. Although I am really not in favor of moving totally funding the county to a sales tax, but if it ever got to that, it needs to be a vote of the people to move it that way. That's not in this language at all. So I don't support this in general, but I also don't support it because it has no voting language in it to move it to the taxpayer to move everything to a sales tax or a combination thereof."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you. I agree with Commissioner Norton that having a voter requirement is an absolute necessity. But since current state law requires any changes in sales tax to get voter approval, not having that is basically*

*somewhat redundant.*

*"Asking you to basically say we want to have what is already in place and the effort is to try and give us the option of being able to proceed. If the majority of this Commission wanted to add in a sentence that says we would like to have, and this would be all approved by the voters. I don't feel uncomfortable with that addition, but I don't think it is necessary."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I think we all agree that it should be subject to public vote. But if we want to put something in there, we can. If someone wants to make that motion, otherwise we will proceed. I think we are all in agreement and understanding that it will be subject to public vote. Seeing no motion"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Mr. Chairman, I will second if Commissioner Norton wants to make a motion.*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well, my motion is that we do not include this in the whole realm of the thing so I can vote against it as it comes up. So even if we change the language, I am not for moving the sales tax. So if I am going to make a motion, it would be to not include this in the whole legislative platform, and let me vote individually on it."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Well, I don't think we need a motion. We will just do that."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Just exclude it?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We can include that in the final motion. Lets go through here and make any changes, and we will make sure you get the opportunity.*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Just know that's the way I feel."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "So are we going to keep it as is?"*

*Commissioner Norton said, "That's fine."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Just so I understand, the language, Commissioner Norton's comment, this doesn't say we are asking to go to sales tax instead of property tax, it gives us the ability to do that."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "It gives us the option."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Right, okay."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item, tax equity part two. Any comments or changes?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Mr. Chairman, I feel much more comfortable with the last three, if the bracketed areas, excluding minor adjustments, if the brackets were deleted. A little shaky on where those three words popped in."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I think they are in the existing platform."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "They are in our existing platform..."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Do you want to make such a motion?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I will make such a motion, if that's appropriate at this time."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Go ahead."*

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to make a change to tax equity part two, the last three words in the brackets around them, excluding minor adjustment, are deleted.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Motion and second. Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "So the motion as it stands then excludes the ability for technical adjustments after we finally know what the appraisal is and how the mathematics works out in relation to our budget. So we get a pretty close estimate of that each year, but when the final numbers are in, if there is a small technical adjustment, then this would preclude that. Up or down. Is that correct?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I will allow Commissioner Peterjohn to respond."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you Mr. Chair."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well, that would be our request as part of our legislative platform. For the record and for the public here, one of the reasons I voted against the last budget is because we had the provision for technical adjustments and revisions. For people who actually read their property tax bill, the property taxes for Sedgwick County last year went up 1/10th, a little over 1/10th of a mill, which is a little larger than I would call a technical adjustment or revision, but be that as it may, that's what I call a property tax enhancement, or less politically correct, an increase. When we put subjective language, which the three words "excluding minor adjustments" this in place, I think we ought to be doing as an elected body, not only setting a dollar amount for the budget but also a mill levy. Under state law we do the former, but not the latter.*

*"But in terms of this legislative request, basically saying if we need to raise the mill levy, regardless of the amount, and I am not sure what a minor adjustment would be, you would have to get a majority vote from the public. So I would like to delete those three words and recommend that to my colleagues."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I believe we have a motion and a second. Is that correct?"*

*Ms. Angela Lovelace said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "What is the motion? I forgot."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I will be happy to restate it."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Just to remove the last three words."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Delete the last three words, okay."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Yes, on F8. The last three words of F8."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Madam Clerk, call the vote."*

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>No</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 Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Regardless of those three words, that's another one I wanted to have separate because I am not going to vote for it."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Alright, duly noted. Next item is Sedgwick County Health Department. Any questions, comments, changes? Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I am fully engaged in Health Department accreditation. The state has moved forward on it. The public health accreditation board is an independent organization that sets those standards and much like fire departments, forensics departments, maybe other areas of accreditation, police departments, jails, I think accreditation is not a bad thing. It is a national standard that we try to uphold. I don't particularly like that language. Certainly I don't want to relinquish all control of our board of health to some national organization that maybe is creating mandates, but public health accreditation I think is important. It helps us meet quality improvement standard for our health department. Just in general I won't be supportive of this item. Would asked it not be included."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I mean Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I haven't been Chairman in three years, thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I haven't been Chairman in four years."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Not a competition, only an exhibition."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I get you. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I am going to be supportive of the language in F2 on the Health Department side. We need fewer mandates from our federal masters in Washington. And I think the local health department serves an important function, but we need to keep as much control as we can at the local level within this body that's responsive to the public in Sedgwick County, and not so much to avoid entanglements that come out of our friends in Washington. Thank you"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you Mr. Chair. Just a point of clarification, does this amendment to our legislative platform, does it say we oppose accreditation for the Health Department?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Yes."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. Then I cannot support any of it"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I will just comment. I will support this. The Health Department accreditation was originally funded and pushed by the federal government, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It's not about quality, it is about control. We don't need the government establishing standards of our local health department. The local health department was created by the state legislature. If there are quality and standards problems, then that needed to be addressed at the state level. When this was passed, I asked our health director at the time if he had any quality problems at the time. She said no even though this was supposed to improve quality. This is a trojan horse for more federal intervention and control, and that's why I oppose it. We will move on to the next item, driver's permits for illegal aliens. Any questions, comments or changes? This is a new item to be added. Commissioner Unruh"*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "I am not trying to prolong the meeting, honestly Mr. Chairman, thank you. But do we have any authority or responsibility on this, I mean, this doesn't affect Sedgwick County government one way or another, does it? I guess what I am saying, this is kind of an opinion piece here, and I just wonder whether I support it or don't support it, I mean, I just wondered if we ought to include in our legislative agenda just opinion pieces. That's my question."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I would say that this is come to light when Wichita put this in their platform and we are all affected by illegal immigration. When you do things to make it easier for illegal immigration to flourish, you have more of it. And this is really what this is intended to do. It moves things towards amnesty, which I can't support. Didn't work when Reagan did it, it won't work now. And of course all the financial costs that happen as a result of illegal immigration is felt by the local taxpayers. There's plenty of data and evidence to show the billions of dollars it costs taxpayers. I think we need to enforce the current laws and make everyone obey the law and not make it easier for people to violate the law. Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that I encourage the Chairman to add this to the platform. I think there's several ways to solve a problem. City of Wichita, they did vote, I think it was a split vote, barely passed, but they encouraged the legislature to take up this issue and to allow undocumented workers and illegal immigrants to have driver's permits. I think the primary reason for that was the issue of car insurance. Providing they permit that, they would be able to buy automobile insurance. The legislature could solve that problem, they could allow insurance to be purchased without a permit if that's what they want to do."*

*"This is not a requirement to buy insurance. I don't believe that this permit will really encourage anybody to buy insurance. In fact, I would say if someone is driving without insurance, there are two ways to solve that problem. The best way, I believe, would be*

*to enforce the law and get vehicles off the road. A message to the legislature I think needs to be in this platform, because they are getting mixed signals from a different governing body. I like to register our opinion in opposition to what they have already given the legislature. So I believe this is very important. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The rule of law is important under the United States Constitution of this country and under the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and I strongly will be supporting this proposal. I think it is unfortunate that we are providing special privileges that certainly wouldn't exist if any of us were over in any of the other countries where these people who are illegally entering our country would be coming in from. So I will be supportive. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We will go to the next item, zoning comprehensive planning. Any questions or changes? Seeing none, we move to municipal elections. Any questions or changes? Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Had quite a bit of discussion with Commissioner Howell about this issue, and just trying to understand it. I have had contact from both communities in my district, not counting the City of Wichita, who are pretty much opposed to this. I am just uncomfortable imposing my particular perspective on the communities in my district who have clearly said they don't support this. I realize it has to do with voter turnout and I know that it is low in springtime elections."*

*"It is really not anything to brag about in the fall elections, actually. But I guess that's my concern. In spite of all the arguments that might get higher voter turnout, my communities in my district said they don't want this. That's just my comment."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see we have the election commissioner here, and I wonder if she would be willing to stand for a question on this topic item concerning the municipal elections and moving them to the fall. I am very much concerned about the fact that I am going to be supportive of this proposal, but I am very concerned about the fact that there have been times in the primary election, in these local elections, years and the odd-numbered years, there's literally been no election to be held, because there weren't enough candidates. So basically suppose that we had an election. Turnout is so pathetically low, the number of candidates was low, and my question for the election commissioner was, will this make her job, if we moved the spring election from where it is today, to August and November for August primary and November general election in the fall of the odd-numbered years, would this make her job easier, harder or about the same?"*

*Ms. Tabitha Lehman, Election Commissioner, Sedgwick County greeted the Commissioners and said, "You are talking about odd-numbered years at this point?"*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Odd-numbered local years."*

*Ms. Tabitha Lehman said, "I would like to start with the statement you started off with, where you said something about the primaries having low turnout, and there not being enough candidates. Just to clarify and make sure everyone understands, and I think most of you do, in the city and school elections, there are no primaries if enough candidates do not file. We do not hold a primary election unless enough candidates file. In the city elections, it is up to the city to decide how many candidates that is. The state has a state law, but each city can then ordinance out of that and determine. So we have a city primary for Wichita Mayor and Wichita City Council District 5. At this point, that's the only primary election we have this year right now. Of course filing deadlines still little under a week away and everyone is now filing last minute. For us, moving it just from an administration standpoint, from our office, moving to the fall of odd-numbered years would solve a lot of issues we have."*

*"One is, we are currently not compliant with state and federal law with the current election calendar the way it is. We are required by federal and state law to send out UOCAVA, which is our Uniformed and Military and Overseas, Citizens Absentee Voting Act ballots, 45 days prior to any election, and we cannot do that right now. No one in the state can, because our filing deadline is after the deadline to mail ballots out for the primary elections. So we don't know if we have a primary or who those the candidates are. And the deadline to mail the ballots is actually prior to the primary for the general election, so we have not conducted the primary to whittle down the candidates to know who should be on the general election ballot when we are supposed to mail those ballots. So that is a problem for us."*

*"I think the main issue with that one was for many years individuals who were overseas, military or local citizens did not have the right to vote on local issues. This became an issue when the law was changed to say that they have the right to have the same ballot that you and I get. That's when this became an issue. That's the first issue we have. The other is, we have a very short time frame to conduct these elections, as I just explained. We don't even have 45 days between elections. And we have a lot of different municipalities making decisions on how the elections are conducted."*

*"And that does create some issues for us. Moving it to the fall of odd-numbered years for our office, would just mean all the deadlines are the same, we could tell our polling places, and our board that we need to use these dates every year. That really simplifies it from our perspective, not addressing any other concerns. It would simplify it from our perspective on the odd-numbered years."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Tabitha. Any other questions? Comments? Commissioner Howell."*



Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is really not for the election Commissioner; this is really just about the item before us. I would like to hand this out. I added a little bit of language to this for you all to consider. Basically this is trying to address one of the concerns I had. I had a lot of non-partisan elected incumbent folks or people who have elected in the past to contact me regarding some of their concerns.

"One of the concerns they mentioned was they are afraid of being buried on the ballot. We've got a lot of races. In some elections we have President, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress and you get into the other state positions, statewide officials, state representatives and senators, and then we have judges, and basically after the judges is where county commission ended up on ballot, which I am okay with that. They are concerned about basically should they end up in the even year election, that they would be after all of that I just mentioned and they would be the very tail end of the ballot and they are concerned being buried in the ballot. I would just suggest that to the state to explore the idea of reversing the order of the ballot. There is a KSA(Kansas Statutes Annotated 25-611 that orders the ballot.

"I would like to encourage the legislature to consider, basically flipping the ballot over as a way to bring more attention and priority to the smaller races. The city and school elections, should they be on even-year elections. So adding language, basically adding onto the end of what is already before you, says, I will read the paragraph, 'Sedgwick County supports legislation that would move municipal elections to the fall in even or odd-numbered years, and then to encourage voting on local offices. The state should consider reversing the order of the offices on the ballot.' To me, that solves that problem. And then so I would make a motion to make that change first, and then I have some additional comments afterwards."

#### MOTION

Commissioner Howell moved to change municipal elections to the fall in even or odd numbered years and to encourage voting on local offices, the state should consider reversing the order of the offices on the ballot.

Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.

Commissioner Howell said, "I guess we will vote on that at some point. Some of the other arguments that were made, someone commented to me that they don't like the yard clutter, they don't like the door trash. You know, we spent a lot of effort to get the message out to people who vote, and I don't consider that to be unnecessary. I don't consider that to be a burden in our community. I think it is part of our first amendment. So I do want people to have the chance to put yard signs out and put things on doors, and try to talk to people who are running for these offices.

"The level of effort, trying to understand the level of effort for people to get elected in the fall elections versus the spring elections, I don't know why there are so much different, but they are clearly different. Virtually in every race in the fall, there are expense reports that are filed. I looked at City of Derby, City Council members and the

*school board members. I was only able to find one person in the last four years that actually filed an expense report. To me, that was surprising. What that means, then, no one else is raising money or spending money to get the message out. I lived in Derby for 16 years this time. I've lived there before, before 1998, prior to 1998. But in the last 16 years, I have not had one person come to my door to share their ideology with me, or let me ask them questions.*

*"So I am relying on the newspaper to give me single story generally before the election to make my decision. I just think that is not, I would not consider that a high level of effort. So, moving this to the fall, the weather is more conducive, the sun is more in your favor, you can have more opportunity to speak to voters. You have better weather, not so cold outside, people more willing to open the door and talk to the candidate. So, I think that this is a very important point. Secretary Kobach has made a point to try to get voter turnout up. We've all expressed a desire to get voter turnout up. But those are factors, the coldness of the weather, the sunlight, are reasons why this ought to go to the fall. So I am a strong supporter of the idea of moving this to the fall for all those reasons I just mentioned. I encourage my colleagues to support the motion as well."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Madam Clerk can you read the motion."*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "The motion was to make an amendment to D16 to the following new language. Sedgwick County supports legislation that would move municipal elections to the fall in the even or odd numbered year. Converge voting on local offices. The state should consider revering the order of offices on the ballot. And that is my understanding Mr. Chairman, that it would modify the language here and not."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "It wouldn't be the final vote."*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "That would be by understanding. That's correct."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Yes,"*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "Thank you"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "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, "Next item is Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species Act. Do you have any comments, questions, or changes that would like to be proposed? Seeing none, my tally shows that there are three items that have been specifically excluded, would somebody like to make that motion?"*

#### SUBSTITUTION MOTION

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve as amended all the items with the exception of D14, F8 part 2, and F2.*

*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, "So now we are left with three items. Do we have any motion with respect to them? Commissioner Peterjohn."*

**SUBSTITUTION MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve the County Sales Tax, Item D14*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Just one of them?"*

*Commissioner Norton said, "Well I don't have a problem with bundling them. It seems to me, I would be the only declining vote so it doesn't matter."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I don't know. I thought Commissioner Unruh expressed concern about the language in F2."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Let's just take them one at a time"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Alright so we have a motion and second vote on the County Sales Tax item D4 the changes, D14 I am sorry."*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "I am sorry Mr. Chairman. I have Commissioner Peterjohn making the motion but in writing I did not get the second vote."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I am the second."*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "Thank you Commissioner Howell."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Are we good to go now? Okay, call the vote please."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Madam Clerk this is on D14, is that correct?"*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "That is correct."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you."*

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Norton</i>	<i>No</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, "Okay we are down to two items left. Do we have any motions?"*

SUBSTITUTION MOTION

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve F8 part 2, as amended.*

*Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.*

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

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Commissioner Norton</i>	<i>No</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, "So that one passes three to two. We have one left, the Health Department."*

MOTION

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to adopt the F2 line, the Sedgwick County Health Department*

*Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.*

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

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Commissioner Norton</i>	<i>No</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, "Alright, by my count we have addressed each of those items, have we not? Okay. Madam Clerk, next item."*

K [15-0007](#)

SEDGWICK COUNTY MODIFICATION TO 2015 KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (KAC) LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.  
Presented by: William P. Buchanan, County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners you have that information before you. Most of the language you have already dealt with in our platform. There are a couple of issues one is Medicaid expansion nuisance abatement and the energy policy."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "What is the will of the Board? Do we want to go through all these at once or do them all one at a time? Do any of the Commissioners have a preference? My preference would be to vote them all at once, but I support them. But if there's any desire to go through them one at a time, like we just did, we are certainly willing and able to do that. Any comments? Okay. Do we have any motions? Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I would like eliminate the Medicaid Expansion and vote on that separately, if we could."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "We've already dealt with local health departments. That essentially has already been covered with the health department accreditation on the other platform, is that correct? Than Medicaid Expansion would be the only one. I would like to drop that one and vote on the rest of them."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Anyone else? Any motions? What is the will of the Board?"*

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

*Commissioner Peterjohn accept all the items with the exception of the Medicaid Expansion*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

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

VOTE

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "So the only one we have left is Medicaid expansion."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "What item number is that?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "That's K. It's not on there, you will need to look at your*

packet.”

Commissioner Peterjohn said, “It doesn’t have a number. It’s on page 211 in the back.”

Chairman Ranzau said, “Commissioner Peterjohn”

Commissioner Peterjohn said, “Mr. Chairman I am going to make a motion that we adopt the provision. I know the Medicaid expansion; there is a lot of discussion and controversy on it. I would like to have a little bit of dialogue of it. I would say the reason I am supportive of this, Medicaid is a law establish and very expensive program that has clearly been a budget buster at the state level and with the changes coming out and new mandates from Washington, it is getting worse not better. It’s a program that struggles with a great deal of fraud and abuse. It needs major systemic reform at the most basic level. And the proposal before the state governments at this point in time is basically to just do more of the same and I think that is recipe for more waste fraud and abuse. So I think we need to make clear the case. See that added this plank, their platform that they supported Medicaid expansion that we are not in support of the direction KAC is taking their policy and the recommendations that they are taking to the Kansas Legislature this year.”

Chairman Ranzau said, “Okay. Any other comments? Madam Clerk, do we have a motion?”

Ms. Lovelace said, “We have a motion but not a second.”

#### SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to adopt the provision.

Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.

#### VOTE

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

Chairman Ranzau said, “And that completes that part, correct? Mr. Manager the next two items are yours.”

Mr. Buchanan said, “I think that Commissioner Peterjohn wanted to defer those to next meeting.”

Commissioner Unruh said, “So did Commissioner Unruh.”

Chairman Ranzau said, “Okay do we need a motion to do that? Or can we just do that.”

Mr. Euson said, “Yes a motion”

*MOTION*

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to defer Items L and M on today's agenda for the next meeting.*

*Chairman Ranzau 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>

**L**      [14-1946](#)

PROGRAMS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.  
Presented by: William P. Buchanan, County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

*Item deferred until February 4th, 2015 meeting.*

**M**      [14-1947](#)

PRESENTATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE REPORT.  
Presented by: William P. Buchanan, County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

*Item deferred until February 4th, 2015 meeting.*

**N**      [15-0019](#)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR  
MEETING ON JANUARY 16, 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 Boards of Bids and Contracts on January 16 consist of two items for your consideration. Item No. 1:*

*1. Electronic Data Interchange Services for the Division of Health and Human Services.  
Funding- Communications Department*

*"This recommendation is to accept the quote from Trizetto Corporation for an estimated annual cost of \$54,000.00 and establish unit pricing for items 2-4 for 1 year with 4 one year option to renew."*

*2. Legislative Liaison for Sedgwick County- Communications Department*

*Funding- Communications Department*

*"This recommendation is to accept the best proposal from Watkins & Schneider Consulting and establish contract pricing good through January 10th, 2016 with 2 one year options to renew. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have of the recommend approval of both items."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the recommendation of the Boards of Bids and Contracts.*

*Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I will say that in the past, I have not supported the use of our tax dollars for a lobbyist because sometimes lobbyists have lobbied for things such like tax increases, gun control. But I think a couple of years ago, I had met up with Mark Duncan, who was our lobbyist at the time up in Topkea, get some small management legislation through. And that has significantly changed my position on this. I view a lobbyists just like a gun, it's a tool. It can be used for good and it can be used for bad. It's just a used analogy. We have some things we want to do and some things that we want to get done and protect our interest up there and having someone who can be up there to be used on the county's behalf. Tax property rights, individual freedoms, all those type of stuff could be beneficial because there is no way I could have gotten that legislation passed without the help of Mark Duncan. He was very helpful and so I will be supportive this time and since that time I've not expressed any opposition to using taxpayer dollars. It is just really what they are being used for. With those comments, I ask the clerk to call the vote."*

**VOTE**

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

*Mr. Thomas said, "Thank you, Commissioners."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item please."*

**CONSENT**

- O     [14-1954](#)     Notice of Appointments and Resolutions Appointing Commissioners to Various Boards.



- P      [14-1961](#)      Resolution Repealing Resolution 82-11 Allowing District Advisory Boards in Each County Commissioner District.
- Q      [15-0004](#)      Acknowledge several memorial donations to COMCARE Crisis Intervention Services.
- R      [15-0008](#)      Agreement with Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK) for the Community Crisis Center.
- S      [15-0009](#)      Hire an Administrative Manager above the pay range minimum.
- T      [15-0011](#)      Year-end Transfer from the Auto License Fund to the General Fund.
- U      [14-1956](#)      General Bill Check Register for Jan. 14, 2015 - Jan. 20, 2015.
- V      [14-1957](#)      Payroll Check Register for the Jan. 10, 2015 payroll certification.

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Commissioners, you have the Consent Agenda before you, and I would recommend you approve it."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "I would move that we accept the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item O."*

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

*Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Consent Agenda except Item O.*

*Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.*

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

VOTE

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

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Mr. Chairman are we ready for Item O?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Yes we are."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Mr. Chairman I would make a motion to approve the appointment as presented with the exception of the appointment to Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority (SCTETA). I would like to make a few comments or would you like to see a second first?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "So you want to vote on all those and talk about the next one."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Well I could go ahead and say that I would nominate Commissioner Jim Howell on that board. I need to further say that this is not intended to have any disrespect for your authority to appoint or any disrespect to Commissioner Peterjohn who was listed to be the appointee for that board. My thinking in trying to make this exception to what is presented to us is that I think Commissioner Howell brings with him some attributes that are particularly in service to that board. He has worked in the aviation manufacturing so he is familiar with the agency himself and with the specifics of what a lot of training would be. Commissioner Howell has recently served in the State Legislature which the WATC (Wichita Area Technical College), the school and the board is particularly sensitive to what happens in Topeka because a lot of the funding from the college comes from Topeka and so it is thought that many members of the board that Commissioner Howell would be particularly valuable in that respect. He has a record of support for funding of NCAT (National Center for Aviation Training) and WATC and his time in the legislature. Has experience in the military and we are trying to serve along with a military personal.*

*"And then I suppose I felt some type of obligation to do this and now I have spoken to several members on the board, who, once again with no disrespect to Commissioner Peterjohn, but they think that these unique characteristics would make Commissioner Howell a good choice to serve on that board. So my motion is that we support all the nominations as presented with the exception of the Training Authority Board and instead, advance Commissioner Jim Howell."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We have a motion, do we have a second?"*

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to support all the nominations as presented with the exception of the SCTETA board and advance Commissioner Jim Howell to be the appointee for that board.*

*Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am going to make a motion. Needless to say, I disagree with some of the comments that have been brought forth. But I am going to make a substitute motion that we basically adopt all of the appointments with the exception of SCTETA as it is put in our agenda and we can have extended discussion on that issue and just get the other ones out of the way and then have more dialogue.*

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve all appointments except the SCTETA appointment.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay the motion and second to approve them all except for the SCTETA appointment. Is that clear to everybody including the Clerk? Call the vote please."*

VOTE

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

Commissioner Unruh said, "Mr. Chairman, in light of that, do I need to make a motion again to appoint?"

Chairman Ranzau said, "Yes."

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to appoint Commissioner Jim Howell be appointed to the Sedgwick County Technical Education and Training Authority.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I am going to make a substitute motion on my own behalf. And I am going to take a moment to speak on my behalf. As the Chairman pointed out at the beginning of this meeting, this is the first time in four years, we are in transition of sorts and anytime a new Commissioner comes on, and I remember vividly what it was like in 2009. When I was privilege and opportunity to join this Commission and how much there was to pick up and learn and the appointments are certainty an important part of being a Sedgwick County Commissioner and this board is particularly important too. I remember speaking to this very room as a citizen and taxpayer when the issues about the mill levy, that go back to 2006, on this whole area come up. I am going to speak on my behalf just a little bit personally today. Between 1980-1990 I had the honor and privilege of being an engineer. For most of the time, I was also in charge of manufacturing operation on the 3RD shift at the NCR plant that operated 37TH and Rock Road, that is the Net App plant today. In that position as a quality engineer I not only traveled all over this country looking at companies, looking at different models, because NCR at that time was buying printers, computer peripherals all across the board. The Wichita plant at that point was, in many ways, the cash cow for NCR with the many computers they were producing at that time. It gave me the opportunity to not only travel all over this country, but I traveled to Singapore. I spent several weeks in Japan. I went to Malaysia. I have international business experience.

"I certainty do not have the aircraft experience that Commissioner Howell brings to the table, I do have an international business experience that I think would be very helpful and useful going forward. I think Commissioner Howell would do a great job on this board down the line, but I think at this point it would be helpful to have a person who has been on the Commission and isn't under quite the challenge of coming up to speed on all the issues and everything that the county has. Obviously, this is an interesting situation we have ourselves here. But I do think that it is important that we look at this board that has tremendous responsibility for this community and the area of education. The county is deeply involved in. The county is obligated to pay the principle and interest. In our first meeting of this year, we voted on increasing the funding for NCAT (National Center for Aviation Technology) and WATC (Wichita Area Technical College)', which is overseen by this board. But that is just a small part of

*the financial obligation that Sedgwick County has. So I think that it is important that we give Commissioner Howell a little bit more time on coming in on this. And in an appropriate point down the line, I'm sure he will be able to do an excellent job serving on this board. And while I have never been on the legislature, I have spent a lot of time in Topeka and know a lot of the folks who are up there and I think that Commissioner Howell has tremendous assets he can bring into this. I think I also bring some things to the table in terms of State House side too. I appreciate the dialogue today but I would like to go with the provision that's we originally had. I am not sure how we want to handle the votes, Mr. Chairman. We have done it differently in different ways. I would be interested in more dialogue with my colleagues. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "No motion has been made yet."*

*Ms. Lovelace said, "Could the Commissioner making the motion please restate the motion?"*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I would ask him to take back his motion. It has not been seconded."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Oh it has not been seconded. Okay."*

#### **SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

*Chairman Ranzau moved to appoint Commissioner Karl Peterjohn to the SCTETA Board.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I do not think you need to nominate yourself, Commissioner. I am proud to do it. I believe that you are more than capable of filling those shoes and you have been on this commission for six years. And I have the upmost faith and confidence in your ability and I am proud to nominate you and appoint you to the SCTETA Board. Thank you."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chair." I hope my comments did not imply that I lack confidence in Commissioner Peterjohn's ability to serve. I just think two things. One, I think Mr. Howell has the capability to handle the different responsibilities. I will not repeat the qualifications that I think he represents that would make him valuable on the board, with the exception that in speaking with several industry representatives on the board, they have indicated that they think Commissioner Howell would be the best choice from the Commission. And I guess I might add, others in the community have had personal contact with Commissioner Howell to encourage him. That is all I have Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."*

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just felt that I needed to speak up a little bit, and I have. Commissioner Unruh, thank you for your kind comments and Commissioner Norton as well. I have had a number of members of the community ask me to...for the position if you would. Now I have given this a tremendous amount of thought and I have tried to, use an abridge term, I just try to finesse the best answer. I have spent a lot of time thinking about it. It is true I am a huge fan of NCAT. I appreciate what they provide for our community. I think they have a role to bring people to our workforce that are desperately needed. That education is key to our prosperity as a county in the future. So I do appreciate what they do. I have in the State House worked for Senate Bill 155, in fact, I actually added language personally that ended up getting passed by the Legislature and the Governor signed that law that actually allowed for private institutions, private schools, to also access those technical education dollars."

"A year ago, we were able to expand the law a little bit and allow the folks that were not in traditional high schools, to education programs to access some funding from State of Kansas. It has been a tremendous program, Senate Bill 155, I have been a big fan of that as well. I do have great aviation experience. I do think I would really like to serve in this role some point in my future. However, having said all of that, I have a great respect for Commissioner Peterjohn and if I was going to characterize him I would say that he is thoughtful and approachable. He always has reasoning as to what he does, what he doesn't, and why he does it. I trust his leadership in that role. It is true that I am very busy coming up to speed on the County Commission. I have appreciated the fact that he wants to serve. He has been here for six years and hasn't had the opportunity yet to serve on this particular board.

"If some point in the future when he feels like he would like to hand that off to me, I would be very glad to serve in that role. But I guess I would support the substitute motion and support Commissioner Peterjohn and his role. I think he is certainly qualified and he will do a great job. At some point in my future, perhaps I will be able to serve but for now, I support the substitute motion."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Madam Clerk please call the vote."

#### VOTE

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

Chairman Ranzau said, "That concludes the Consent Agenda by my calculation. So now it moves to 'Other', Commissioners. Do you need to announce that? Commissioners this is your opportunity to speak. Commissioner Peterjohn."

#### OTHER

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well thank you. I know the meeting has gone a little long today, but it is a wonderful day for discount rates at the Sedgwick County Zoo for winter Wednesday. It's a great time to, if you want to, get out there and see the facility."

*January 21ST is an important day in American history and I want to mention just a couple of reasons why. Most of the time, the President of the United States is inaugurated on January 20TH, but in 1985, that fell on a Sunday and President Ronald Reagan held off taking the oath of office until January 21ST. And in his second Inaugural Address he made the comment, quoting from 2 Chronicles 7:14, 'My people who are called by my name, humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways and I will hear from heaven and will forgive them their sin and heal their land.' January 21st is also important since the first novel written by an American writer was published in America, The Power of Symphony by William Hill Brown in Boston in 1789. In 1950, Alger Hiss, former high state department official, was convicted of perjury and went off to federal prison concerning allegations that he had been a Soviet spy. But in 1954 a much more positive event offered. The first nuclear powered submarine, USS Nautilus, was launched in Connecticut. So Mr. Chairman just wanted to get onto the record as important events on this day in American History. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Anyone else have anything for Other? Okay. We have no need for an Executive Session today. Mr. Manager, anything else to come before the Commission?"*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "No Sir."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We are adjourned."*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

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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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