

# Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor  
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 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 9:06 a.m. on May 13, 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. Mike Pepoon, Acting County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and Ms. Jill Bailey, Deputy County Clerk.*

### **GUESTS**

*Mr. Leon Seidl, 19210 West Central, Goddard  
Mr. Scott Ochs, President, Sedgwick County Zoological Society  
Mr. Bill Bischoff, Chairman, Exploration Place  
Mr. Patrick Matthews, 801 Brook Lane, Derby  
Mr. Gary Schmidt, Chair, Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition  
Ms. Barbara Hoppins, 447 Putter Lane, Wichita  
Mr. Patrick Goebel, Board of Trustees Member, Exploration Place  
Ms. Liz Workman, 1040 West Riverside Avenue, Wichita  
Mr. John Rosell, Chairman, Wichita Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Susie Santo, CEO, Visit Wichita  
Ms. Susanne Smith, 3034 North Wild Rose Court, Wichita  
Mr. Rigby Carey, 740 Rustin Trail, Wichita  
Mr. Mike Johnson, 453 South Fawnwood, Wichita  
Mr. Milt Dougherty, 8317 East Douglas, Independent School  
Mr. Jason Cox, Vice Chairman, Exploration Place  
Mr. Camden Bull, 12610 East Meadow Court, Wichita  
Ms. Keaty Bull, 12610 East Meadow Court, Wichita  
Mr. Rhyelan Bull, 12610 East Meadow Court, Wichita  
Ms. Shannon Bull, 12610 East Meadow Court, Wichita  
Ms. Maile Drago, 14600 Siefkes Street, Wichita  
Mr. Gabriel Drago, 14600 Siefkes Street, Wichita  
Ms. Phou Vieng, 400 West Central Avenue, Apartment 404, Wichita  
Ms. Laura Roddy, 817 North Whitetail, Wichita  
Ms. Karen Page, President, Kansas Global  
Mr. Mike Pisciotte, 14620 East Sport of Kings Street, Wichita  
Mr. Martin Park, 2218 North Lindborg, Wichita*

### **INVOCATION: Pastor Bruce Freeman, Cross of Glory Lutheran.**

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS**

A      [15-0333](#)      PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK.  
Read by: Chairman Richard Ranzau.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the Proclamation.

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I have the following proclamation to read into the record:*

*PROCLAMATION*

*WHEREAS, public works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizens' everyday lives; and*

*WHEREAS, the support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as streets, highways, bridges, drainage improvements, environmental services, household hazardous waste and noxious weed control; and*

*WHEREAS, the health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and*

*WHEREAS, the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design, and construction, is especially dependent upon the efforts and skill of public works officials; and*

*WHEREAS, the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff public works departments is substantially influenced by the people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Richard Ranzau, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 17-23, 2015 as*

*NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK*

*In Sedgwick County, and I call upon all citizens and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in public works and to recognize the contributions which public works officials make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.*

*"Commissioners, what's the will of the Board?"*

*MOTION*

*Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the proclamation.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

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

*VOTE*

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

Chairman Ranzau said, "We have David Spears here to receive the proclamation."

Mr. David Spears, Director, Public Works, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Since 1960, APWA (American Public Works Association) has sponsored National Public Works Week across North America, and more than 28,000 members in the U.S. and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of the contribution of public works to their daily lives. Planning, building, managing and operating the heart of our local communities.

"There would be no community without the quality of life public works provides. This year's theme, 'Community Begins Here', speaks to the essential nature of public works services in support of every day quality of life. I thank you for the Proclamation. Here is the poster this year."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Dave, and thanks for everything you do. I don't see any comments from Commissioners. Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton said, "I would be remiss without saying, because I've heard it every year, and Dave didn't say it this year, but many times he'll say that infrastructure is the mother's milk of economic development. As we make sure that our roads and bridges and drainage and infrastructure is right in Sedgwick County, it does add to the vitality and mobility of the community, but also adds to the economic value of the community. So thank you, David, for all that you do for us. Appreciate it."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Madam Clerk, Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I would just jump in. I do want to thank David. I know there are a few other folks down at Public Works who do a little heavy lifting, too, and I would be remiss if this Commissioner didn't mention all the folks who are out there with the miles of road and bridge projects we've got scheduled for this year and beyond. If you want to add a few comments, Mr. Director of Public Works."

Mr. Spears said, "They do the heavy lifting, not me. We had a former Commissioner that said it's where the rubber meets the road, and that's literally our guys out in the field."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you. I wanted to get that on the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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

### **CITIZEN INQUIRIES**

**B**

[15-0326](#)

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS REGARDING BUDGET CUTS.

Presented by: Rene Strunk, Executive Director of Project Independence,

Wichita.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I believe this is for Rene Stunk, but I think we've been notified that she is not coming today. So we can skip to Item C."*

C      [15-0327](#)

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE SEDGWICK COUNTY  
APPRAISER'S OFFICE.

Presented by: Leon Seidl, Goddard.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Please give us your name and address for the record."*

*Mr. Leon Seidl, 19210 West Central, Goddard, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd like to first give you a pamphlet of what I'm going to talk about."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay."*

*Mr. Seidl said, "Okay. I've got questions for the County Commission to get from the County Appraiser. They won't give me an original answer. Their answer is I don't know or that's just the way it is. Okay. I've got four questions, and I'll tell you what they are first, and I'll try to go them. I don't know if I have enough time to go through them individually."*

*"Okay, 2014, they went from a 20 year depreciation on outbuildings to a 40 year depreciation. Is this legal? Second question, why are homes and rural taxes for site improvements, but not in the city, is this legal? Site code, which is 693, site improvements, depreciation dollars adds \$14,800 to homes value because it adds sewer, water and electricity. Don't the homes in the city have sewer, water and electricity? I feel this is not a legitimate tax. Number three, why is tax code 477, farm and utility buildings on farm sites, taxes at 25 percent, and if it's residential property it's taxed at 11.5 percent? Number four question, why do they round to the closest dollar, to the closest ten dollars, and to the closed 100 dollars?"*

*"Okay, on question one, depreciation from 20 years to 40 years. Okay, I share [inaudible] percent in 2013. The [inaudible] is 63 by 39. Our appeal, at hearing, hearing [inaudible] answer is at one third. Does it have electricity? Answer one third. Does it have insulation? Answer, no. Does it have water? Answer, no. Does it have shower or toilet? If there's no water, there is no shower or toilet. Okay. Here are the results. The shed was appraised at \$2,390 in 2013. Before the hearing, the shed was appraised at \$14,630 in 2014. After the hearing, the shed was appraised at \$14,400. They dropped it by \$230, appealed again, went to a Sedgwick County Extension building for the hearing. Gave the same evidence as the first hearing. At the hearing, asked the Appraiser, why did they lower it by \$230? He said because the shed wasn't fully cemented. To cement the rest of the shed, which would be 1,674 square feet would be approximately \$6,700, so why did they only lower it by \$230?"*

*"Okay, hearing results for that hearing, no change because property owner gave no*

evidence, no proof. Okay, so I appealed again, went to Topeka for the next hearing, brought same evidence except I told the three judges that I felt like what the County Commissioner did, change depreciation from 20 years to 40 years was illegal. The reason, Kansas has a grandfather law, which means buildings prior to 2015 would be at 20 years and after they announced the 40 years, then they would be at 40 years. Example, you buy a car say in 2010, and there is a warranty of 10 years, 100,000 miles. In 2015, they change the warranty to 5 years, 50,000 miles. Okay, that car sold in 2010 still has the same warranty, the 100,000-mile warranty.

"Okay, the results of the hearing in Topeka. The Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA) from Topeka ordered the Sedgwick County Appraiser to bring the shed back to 2013 value, which was \$2,390, this means to me that they agreed with me on the legality of that. Question two, where would homes in the county had \$14,800 tax but not in the city? This is code 693, site improvements, this tax is for sewer, water and electricity systems only on rural homes and not in the city. My question is, don't they have sewer, water and electricity in the city? To me, this is not a legitimate tax. It's more like a flat tax because it's always \$14,800 every single year, properties taxes change, it goes up it goes down from year to year. This \$14,800 is like, it's on every single year the same amount. Maybe a better explanation, maybe it's a penalty tax for living out in the country in Sedgwick County. I don't know.

"Also, the surrounding counties don't have this tax. Another thing on that tax, if you live next to the city, town, or whatever, especially in Goddard where I'm from, they annexed about 11 or 12 residents outside the city into the city two days ago. They still have that \$14,800 on it. I questioned the Appraisers office about it and they said, well, they didn't know. Okay, do I have time to go into the other questions or not?"

Chairman Ranzau said, "Yes."

Mr. Seidl said, "Okay, buildings on [inaudible] are taxed at 25 percent, but buildings with residential property are taxed at 11.5 percent. According to the State of Kansas Department of Taxation in Topeka, any building with code 477, [inaudible] whether on a farm site or residential site, it will be taxed at 25 percent. If it's called a farm building, then it must be used for farm purposes. I called Topeka the first time and I just asked the question, can you have a 477 farm utility building on a residential site? They said yes. Now later on I asked it wrong, so I called two weeks later, and I said if you've got a 477 farm utility building on a residential site, at what percent will it be taxed? He said 25 percent as a farm utility building, whether they using it or not. He said they called it a farm utility building, so it will be taxed at 25 percent.

"The fourth question, why can they round off to the nearest dollar or nearest \$10 or nearest \$100? I've got examples and I'll show you later on where they. Like on one, it was \$48,372, so they rounded off to \$48,400. And on the appraisal, on the cross evaluation sheet, they rounded up to \$1, which that makes sense, they've always [inaudible] with income taxes, but then they get that number and they [inaudible] and it turned out to be \$167,587, then they round that off at \$157,590 [sic], they go to the next ten dollars, and then they did the same thing on the building. I can see the cents, you know, eliminating two cents, two digits. But when you go to \$10, you're actually adding another process on and you're changing two numbers. You've got \$100, so they can't say they're using it for simplification.

"That's all I've got. I just don't think, my reason I'm here, I don't think they're being fair

*and going by what's the law. They're making their own rules, and I think on the depreciation, I'm almost 100 percent sure I'm right on that."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you for coming today and presenting this material. I know you're not the only one having the problem with the depreciation issue. It's interesting to hear what happened at the vote on your case. So I'm going to ask the Appraiser to get the Commissioners a copy of the order from BOTA entered so we can read that and follow up on that, and I appreciate you coming here. That may help some other people, as well. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Yes. Thank you, I also appreciate you coming here, because this is, there are several issues that you've raised, and some of these are issues, the County Appraiser reports directly to the County Commission. However, he has to operate under state law and the state rules that the property valuation division puts out. Of course, I'm glad you were able to go to the Board of Tax Appeals. A lot of folks are either uncomfortable in doing so and going forward and proceeding down that road and taking the action that you did.*

*"I've also had problems on this change in the depreciation schedule, and I have concerns about it going forward. Having said that, I think there's a problem, and it's a state problem, and it's a problem that's not easily addressed, and I'm going to defend the Appraiser's office in one specific area, and that is, if there is a detached building, it could be a farm utility vehicle, or farm utility shed, if there's tractors in there or other farm equipment. However, if it's being used as basically a detached garage, that would be assessed, the differences you raised in terms of the ratios, you said taxed at 25 percent. That's the assessment ratio on commercial property under the state law. Residential property is assessed at 11.5 percent. Utility property is assessed at 33 percent, and they're all appraised at market value.*

*"The assessment ratio is then applied against the mil levy to actually come up with the specific tax. So, when the Appraiser drives by or takes a look at the satellite picture of the detached building, it's not always obvious, especially if the doors are closed, you know. Is there a second car and a set of jet skis in there and that's a detached garage building, or is there a tractor in there and it's basically a farm utility vehicle? Frankly, I don't want the Appraiser going on to people's private property or looking inside closed doors to try and take a look at it, so that puts the Appraiser in a tough position on that issue.*

*"But, having said, that I agree with you completely in terms of this change on the depreciation schedule from 20 to 40 years and doing it in one year. The Appraiser has been given the challenge, and I repeated it in my conversations with them, to follow a state law and the rules and regulations promulgated by PED (Property Evaluation Division) to the best of its ability. The problems with that, it's a state issue, not a county issue, although the County Appraiser is the one who has to administer it. I'm not aware of anything that came down from PED, the Property Evaluation Division, that would change depreciation schedules. And I'm very disappointed this was all slammed in one year and had a significant impact on folks like yourself, and I want to thank you for coming in and speaking to us today, because there's a lot of folks, for one reason or another, wouldn't or couldn't. If there's problems with the tax appraisal system, this Commission needs to hear it. Our legislators need to hear it, our Governor needs to hear it. So I want to thank you for coming down and speaking to us this morning."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Bill or Mike, can you guys make sure we get a copy of the*

*BOTA ruling on his particular case? Either from Trisha or the Appraiser?"*

*Mr. Pepoon said, "Absolutely."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay, thank you. Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Mr. Seidl, I just wanted to let you know a couple of things I'm aware of and say thank you for being here today. I really think that you raised a really important issue. Before I was in this position as County Commissioner, as a State Legislator, when this change in policy began to be realized, it was last summer. As a legislator, I received a lot of phone calls from people in my district that were very, very upset. This is a step change. It was a policy change that apparently happened within this county."*

*"I did do some work on that. I was told originally that this was something that was basically a policy change by the state PVD that was a statewide policy. I did some investigation and found out that wasn't true. This is a local decision that was made, and so every county does have the ability, apparently, to change the depreciation schedules, and that's exactly what happened here. There are actually a couple of different issues at play on these types of issues. One might be misclassification, as Commissioner Peterjohn just mentioned. Most classification might change it to a different percentage of tax rates."*

*"But that's not really what I think you're here about. You're here primarily because the number of years of depreciation changed due to the step change, and this is a local policy change that happened in Sedgwick County. So with that in mind, we did meet with some legislators earlier. I should say late last year and a little bit this year. And we are working on a legislative solution. We need to have a statewide policy on this issue. This is really a state problem. And I appreciate you coming today to highlight that, and I'm really glad that you were successful in Topeka. I don't know that your ability there would preclude the county from reverting back to what they perceive is the right tax rate for you in future years, and so you may have an ongoing challenge, unfortunately, until the state law is changed."*

*"So, I do appreciate you bringing this to our attention. I would just like to point out this was not a County Commission change, this was not a legislative change, this was a policy change the county made on their own and they have the ability under state law to do so. We need a legislative solution, and I do agree with what you're talking about, and I would like to also point out to the listeners today that our Appraisers office does have some subjective ability to do their job, and as a County Commissioner, we're not really allowed to second guess their subjective nature. They've got to come in and judge the value of the property. And that's really not what we're doing today. What I'm questioning is the policy set by local policy and why this is not a statewide policy."*

*"And then, of course, the step nature of this. It went from a small number of years to a large number of years, which made a huge difference in your value. With that, I appreciate you coming out. I just want to let you know we're going to continue working on this issue, and I hope that legislatively, we see some legislators step up and make this their issue. Thank you very much."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Just a quick follow-up. We've thrown a lot of*



*information out to you. I don't know how clearly we spoke and if there were any questions or thoughts you might have in response to our comments, but if you do, I'd want to give you the opportunity to let us hear what you have to say before I make a motion, Mr. Chairman, to receive and file."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to receive and file.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

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

**VOTE**

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

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

**APPOINTMENTS**

**D**

[15-0329](#)

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARY ELLEN PHILLIPS  
(COMMISSIONER DAVE UNRUH'S REAPPOINTMENT) TO THE  
SEDGWICK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING.  
Presented by: Michael Pepoon, Acting County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the Resolution.

*Mr. Michael Pepoon, Acting County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You have before you today a resolution reappointing Ms. Phillips to the Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging. The resolution is in proper form, and I would recommend you approve the resolution."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt the resolution.*

*Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I was going to ask, can we take (Item ) D and E together, they are the same advisory council?"*

*Mr. Pepoon said, "Certainly, I'll read the other one into the record. We can take them together if you want."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay."*

*Mr. Pepoon said, "The second resolution is reappointing Frances Seidl as Commissioner Unruh's reappointment to the Sedgwick County Council on Aging. This*

*resolution is also in appropriate form and I move you recommend this as well."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to adopt resolutions reappointing Mary Ellen Phillips and Frances Seidl to the Sedgwick County Council on Aging.*

*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>

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next item, please. I'm sorry, are either one of those people here today? Okay. We'll catch up with them later."*

- E**      [15-0330](#)      RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FRANCES SEIDL (COMMISSIONER DAVE UNRUH'S REAPPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING.  
Presented by: Michael Pepoon, Acting County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the Resolution.

ACTION ON ITEM E TAKEN WITH ITEM D.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- F**      [15-0302](#)      AMENDMENT TO FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS AND SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Presented by: Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment to the funding agreement to change the date that notice of termination is to be given pursuant to paragraph 9 of said agreement.

*Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioners, as was announced already, Item F is an amendment to the funding agreement between Sedgwick County and the Sedgwick County Zoological Society. The next two items, Items G and H, are the same as Item F except for the named agencies. Item G is an amendment to the funding agreement between Sedgwick County and Exploration Place Incorporated. And Item H is an amendment to the funding agreement between Sedgwick County, the City of Wichita, and the Greater*

*Wichita Economic Development Coalition, also referred to as GWEDC.*

*"Also, all three items have the same or very similar recommended action. So as such, and I know there are a number of people here who want to speak on one or both, one or two or all three of the items, so I would ask your indulgence to let me address all three of these items together, if you will. The Board of County Commissioners entered into the funding agreement with the Sedgwick County Zoological Society on the 11th day of September 2013, entered into a funding agreement with Exploration Place on the 23rd day of October, 2013, and with GWEDC and the City of Wichita on the 11th day of December, 2013 to provide certain levels of funding for the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Paragraph 9 of the Zoo and Exploration Place agreements states that either party may terminate the agreement by giving written notice to the other party by June 1st of each year with the termination becoming effective January 1st of the following year.*

*"This same notice requirement is included in paragraph 12 of the GWEDC agreement. In order for the county to address the funding of these agencies as a part of county's yearly budget process, which is not completed until early august of each year, the action being recommended today is to change the date for the termination notice from June 1st to September 1st of any year with termination being effective January 1st of the following year. Again, this would allow the funding of these agencies as part of the county's yearly budget process, which starts in February of each year but is not completed, as I mentioned, until around the second week of August.*

*"As such, the recommended action for Items F and G regarding the Sedgwick County Zoo and Exploration Place respectively is approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the funding agreement to change the date that notice of termination to be given pursuant to paragraph 9 of said agreements. The recommended action for Item H regarding the City of Wichita and Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition is approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment to the funding agreement to change the date that notice of termination is given pursuant to paragraph 12 in that agreement. Again, I think you have a number of folks here wanting to speak. So that concludes my introductory remarks. Once you have completed your discussions on this Item, I would recommend that you take the recommended action with respect to each of these items."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Okay. Just a question for Mike. Can we vote on all of these at the same time, or should we do them individually?"*

*Mr. Pepoon said, "I would vote on them individually, unless the Commission intends to make the exact motion for all three items. If you want to nuance any of them, then you probably want to have them separate."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We'll see what the Commission wants to vote. What we'll do is we'll let everybody speak on all three of these items all in one group, and then we'll just proceed to vote on them either individually or collectively then. I do want to say a few things before we get started here. There's been a lot written about this, and I think some people find it's a misunderstanding or not understanding exactly what we're trying to do here. As we stand right now, the Sedgwick County does face a \$10 to 12 million deficit next year. The Commission thought it prudent to notify all of those people who*

*receive County funding, that their funding may change as a result of that. We have about, I believe it's now 17 entities. Is that right, Mr. Manager?*

*Mr. Buchanan said, "Yes."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "About 17 entities total that we're intending to notify. The fact of the matter is about 14 of them can be notified by letters. However, under advice of our legal counsel, we realized three of those organizations have written contracts that require us to do something by June 1st. That's why these three organizations are on the agenda and the others are not. If we don't do something by June 1st, then we lose our ability to be flexible going forward. Now, what we're going to do today is amend those contracts to give us time until September 1st, which I think actually makes more sense, because the fact of the matter is our budget isn't really done until August, so how do we know to tell people whether or not they're going to be cut and if so, how much, or if they're going to stay the same. So even going forward in future years, it's actually going to be a better situation, I believe."*

*"So I'll be supportive of these motions here today. But it's important to point out that this idea was to give everybody notice. No one single organization is being singled out. Everybody is given notice. It just so happens that three organizations have formal written contracts that we have a deadline set by June 3rd that we needed to meet. With that being said, I have a list here of people who want to speak. We're going to give everybody approximately three minutes to speak, and you can speak on all three of these items or one or two, whatever you want, and then when we're done, we'll have Commissioners give their comments and we'll vote. Did you have something else?"*

*Mr. Holt said, "Just that, Commissioner, I think there are a couple of people who arrived late that didn't get on the list."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "When we're done, I'll ask if there is anyone else. Right now, we'll just start going down the order of people who signed up, and we'll start first with Scott Ochs."*

*Mr. Scott Ochs, President, Sedgwick County Zoological Society, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak today and kind of review our 50-year agreement, or 50-year relationship that we have that started with the 'Boo Hoo, We Need a New Zoo' effort from our citizens, and some of those citizens are actually in the audience today. I'd like to tell you on behalf of the [Sedgwick County Zoological] Society we officially and unanimously support the amendment in front of you."*

*"We all know that over the last 50 years the formula has been pretty simple and it's worked pretty well. We raised the money as a private not-for-profit organization to build the exhibits at the zoo. Once those are completed, we turn those assets over to the Sedgwick County."*

*"Your part of the deal over the years has basically been pay the employees that are your employees, which are essentially the zookeepers. We can go back and forth and talk about the money, and we will do that. The one thing we are very concerned about for most is visitor employee safety and also animal welfare of the collection. Obviously the increases in the budget that we talked about basically go to pay for zookeepers."*

*"With that being said, we can talk back and forth all day about the economic impact,*

*the \$43 million that we bring in annually from our visitors, most of those outside of Sedgwick County. But at the end of the day, it comes down to that the zoo costs the owner of a \$100,000 house in Sedgwick County roughly four cents a day, and I think that's an incredible bargain when you look at what it does to our community. We're humbled to have the support of the community here today. That's why we give our time. That's why we volunteer. That's why we give our money out of our own pockets. So with that, again, appreciate the opportunity and look forward to further discussion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. And I apologize if I get anyone's name wrong as I go forward. Bill Bischoff."*

*Mr. Bill Bischoff, Chairman, Exploration Place, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I want you to know that over the years we've been very supportive and thank you for supporting Exploration Place and our partnership. We have strong board support for the amendment to the agreement, and the agreement is very important, having a long-term agreement in terms of our fundraising. Most of our fundraising is focused on developing new exhibits or revising the exhibits that we have. For example, since we just, since we originally signed this agreement, we've had fundraising for our new exhibit, Kansas Kids Connect, which we were very successful with, and I think part of that has to do with the fact that we did have a funding agreement with the county, and we'll be opening that exhibit in September.*

*"We have ongoing fundraising for our new aviation gallery, and we like the agreement, and we'd like to see the agreement continued, because we have, it provides stability for planning for our future and serving our community with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. We've also come to a new situation with the building that now its 15 years old, and it suddenly requires a lot more maintenance than it did before. We've had to repair the concrete on the outside of the land building, and we're now facing new issues, such as HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning), that we didn't have to face in the past 15 years. So we've got new problems arising with the age of the building, and we want to maintain them. It is a county building, and I want to thank you for your time and listening to me today."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much. Next, Gary Schmidt."*

*Mr. Gary Schmidt, Chairman, Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As a banker, I understand the need to review the budget before making decisions about funding going forward, so GWEDC understands the notices and will be glad to work with you on that. Speaking on behalf of over a 100 businesses in the community that provide their own money to support GWEDC, our biggest concern is canceling the private-public partnership of economic development in our community.*

*"Twelve years ago, we started this partnership in order to eliminate duplication of efforts between the county and the city, each who had their own economic development efforts, and I can say that the partnership has streamlined these efforts to create more of a one-stop shop for economic development for businesses in the community, both in the community and outside of the community, and it has provided more efficiency in government and also in business. The private sector puts a million dollars to support GWEDC, while the city and county each contribute \$300,000. It's*

*very, very important that businesses feel like they should contribute and support businesses growing in our community.*

*"But unfortunately too many people look at GWEDC and say, oh, they're the ones that give out incentives. Keep in mind there's only one out of three opportunities that come in front of us are programs that may include local incentives. I want to talk about some of the stuff that we do on a daily basis. And probably one of the most important for the community, and business community, and citizens of our community is the idea of where we go out and talk to over 300 different businesses about ways to expand and how to grow their business in the community. Also brag, a partnership with city, county, GWEDC, REAP (Regional Economic Area Partnership) and WDDC (Wichita Downtown Development Coalition) is one of the biggest efforts we've had in years to have businesses come together in different industrial clusters, sit down and talk about the challenges they have of doing business in our region and how do we resolve those challenges. And I think that's a great exercise and opportunity for us to look at how we make Wichita and the region more business-friendly.*

*"The other issue in the program that we've set up in the last year was the export plan with Kansas Global, and working with over 100 individuals from the region who have come up with a new export plan that I think is very instrumental in providing more jobs and more opportunities in our community. The other thing GWEDC provides is data to businesses, when they think about expanding, they want to know what the opportunities are, what skills in the workforce, what costs available training programs, real estate options, utility costs, regulation, and that's one thing that GWEDC provides to them and not requires them to go to four or five different places.*

*"We also act as a facilitator for these businesses. We had a meeting this week with a company looking to expand in Wichita and providing the opportunity to structure the facility and communication and getting everybody in the room that needs to be in the room to actually hopefully move this project forward. So we're seeing a lot of great opportunities, and I think you're all aware that we're changing our structure, also, and falling under the umbrella of a greater Wichita partnership. Again, that is to provide some efficiencies. So I just want you to think about what GWEDC has done for the community and what we want to continue doing and the million dollars of private sector, the additional jobs we bring, JCB Labs had nine employees that are looking at expanding to over 15,000 square feet and 100 employees in the next year. I think there's great opportunities. We want to continue to partner with you and work moving forward. So thank you for your time."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Next is Patrick Matthews."*

*Mr. Patrick Matthews, 801 Honeybrook Lane, Derby, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I know a lot of people in this room today are here to talk about their support for these county assets, the (Sedgwick County) Zoo, Exploration Place, et cetera. I want to take just a moment to talk about the multiplier effect, the ripple effect that these county assets can have on other aspects of our community.*

*"About 27 years ago, Friends University began a partnership with the Sedgwick County Zoo to create a program that we call Zoo Science. It's an undergraduate major. Students come in and take courses at the university. They also take some courses at the zoo from zoo professionals during their time off. It's a very unique program. Not very many places in the country can do it, and we're very, very proud of the fact that we have such a wonderful program.*

*"That program is about the second or third largest undergraduate major on our campus and it brings more students from out of state than any other program at Friends University. The total amount of money that's generated in terms of tuition and room and board and those kinds of things from those students can total up to about \$2 million a year, and that's not including the money they spend on pizza and going to see movies in Old Town. So it's a very important sort of side effect of the support that the community gets from these kinds of assets, not only the Zoo, but also I have students that do internships at Exploration Place, and again, it's ways of giving these students a chance to be part of a community, learning as part of their education, but also then, they're generating economic activity for Sedgwick County. So it's one of those kind of hidden multipliers, I think, of the money that gets spent, public money that gets spent that gets returned to the community to sometimes hidden ways. I just wanted to provide that offer of support for these programs."*

Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Next I have Barbara Hoppins."

*Ms. Barbara Hoppins, 447 Putter Lane, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I hope to represent the membership of the Sedgwick County Zoo. I have been a Sedgwick County Zoo resident my entire life, and I believe that, two things I'd like to address. First, that the Zoo is a fabulous asset to our community, and second that it is a tremendous investment. I challenge anyone to have the history I do with the Sedgwick County Zoo, and I'd like to share my jar of dirt and my spade as a fourth grader at Peterson Elementary School on the west side of town. I represented Peterson at the groundbreaking of the Zoo in 1969. Thank you."*

*"In high school, I was a high school executive intern with USD 259, a program that they had, and I worked alongside the director and the assistant director at the Sedgwick County Zoo for an entire semester, and I learned a lot. In addition to that, I have been a long-time member. I've been an employee off and on through many years, summer help, nature trail, summer school, a bunch of different aspects of that. I've been a volunteer in many ways, and whenever the Zoo needed a little extra funding, my family, as much as we could contribute, would add to those, such as buying a brick for the North American Prairie, helping fund a little extra for the KOCH Exhibit, with the orangutans and the chimpanzees. Also the hospital, helped contribute to that, and also, most recently, the Elephants of the Zambezi River, also added some funding to that."*

*"My relationship also extends beyond just my generation. My daughter is pursuing a career in the zoo business, as well. So you can see that it keeps extending. The first thing I'd like to mention as far as the Zoo being a fabulous asset, besides the tourism dollars that it brings in, in addition to that, if you come out any day of the week, you see families having a great time. They interact with each other, which is always nice to see. They are happy. They laugh, and sometimes they even learn something. They learn about conservation, and that's important. In addition, for an asset, our Zoo is a worldwide figure in conservation efforts for animals and trying to save species and trying to educate people on the environment in saving and protecting the environment. "On the second point I'd like to make, is that it is a fiscally efficient entity. I have never seen a business as efficient at taking a dollar and stretching it to the limit and making it work so well. The Zoo is tremendous at that."*

Chairman Ranzau said, "Ms. Hoppins, I'm going to have to ask you to wrap up soon. Thank you."

*Ms. Hoppins said, "Okay. As a perspective investor and a taxpayer, I would like to see the county continue their partnership with the Zoo and help out and make sure that it continues, and I hope to see all of you at the reopening of the tropics and also at the opening of the new elephant exhibit. Thank you very much."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Patrick Goebel."*

*Mr. Patrick Goebel, Board of Trustees Member, Exploration Place, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm speaking today to urge you to honor the county's funding agreement with Exploration Place, the Zoo and GWEDC. As an active member of the board of Exploration Place and the development committee, I've seen firsthand how important the current agreement is to the planning and the future success of our mission. I've witnessed this mission being executed at a very high level at Exploration Place throughout educational activities that are inspiring our future leaders, as well as the exciting new and updated exhibits Exploration Place brings to our community. We made this happen through the confidence that the current funding plan instills in our donors and our patrons. Currently our residents, visitors to the area and, most importantly, potential new residents see strong, growing exciting activities happening at both the Zoo and Exploration Place."*

*"This feeds additional activity, inspires many in the community to get more involved through either volunteering or their financial support of these causes. Financial stability has also allowed the board and Exploration Place staff to take steps to insure that our beautiful building, which has now become an icon of our city and river corridor landscape, is there for many generations to come. As a third generation President of our family business, I'm very aware of my role of being a steward for the business. As I enjoy a spring Sunday at the Zoo with my children or spend time with my family learning and playing at Exploration Place, I certainly don't think we want to be that generation that failed in our stewardship of this wonderful place we call home and allow such an important and highly visible quality of life staples of our community to deteriorate. I'd like to thank you very much for your support and thank you for listening to me today. Thanks."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much. Next we have Liz Workman."*

*Ms. Liz Workman, 1040 West Riverside Avenue, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to talk about both the Sedgwick County Zoo and Exploration Place. They are both very important partners and growing partnerships that the Girl Scouts has with those two organizations. Girl Scouts exists as a leadership organization for girls. We exist for our girls to thrive, and what's very important for us is to provide very rich and progressive experiences to those girls in a variety of areas, and most recently, we are increasing our STEM based and very STEM rich experiences."*

*"Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland is a guiding coalition member together with Exploration Place with STEM Pack 2020. And that's all about STEM mentorships from professionals in various fields with Girl Scouts. We are currently in an active dialogue with Exploration Place about growing our partnership in a way that is multi-year. So I'm especially sensitive and very hopeful that you will consider continuing the multi-year funding agreement with Exploration Place as well as with the Zoo. It's important for their planning. It's important for our planning. We are growing girls that have a variety of*



*skills, that are innovative thinkers, that are problem-solving, and we are basically growing tomorrow's workforce, and I know that is very much a part of the mission of these two organizations as well. So we very much appreciate your consideration of continuing those multi-year agreements. Thank you so much."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you."*

*Mr. John Rosell, Chairman, Wichita Chamber of Commerce, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Two points, one to applaud your stewardship and your critical review of county taxpayer dollars. That's a very important role and responsibility that you play. Secondly, I'd like to also encourage you to consider carefully the partnership that Sedgwick County has with these entities that have been described today. Being a solid partner with those entities allows them to be able to plan appropriately, to be able to anticipate the partnership between the county and the GWEDC, the Zoo, and certainly Exploration Place."*

*"So as you go through this process, we just ask you to be mindful of the importance in your own businesses and your own planning to be able to rely on a solid partnership as you move forward. GWEDC, certainly the Chamber [of Commerce] is a strong supporter of economic development in our community. We're a strong supporter of the new Greater Wichita [Economic Development Coalition] partnership. We think, as Gary mentioned, provides a tremendous opportunity for our region, as well, and we strongly support your critical review of taxpayer dollars, but also strongly encourage to you be solid partners as we move forward on all of those fronts. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Susie Santo."*

*Ms. Susie Santo, CEO, Visit Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here today to lend our support to the Sedgwick County Zoo and Exploration Place as they both are important attractions to Wichita and the region and to talk about the important role that both entities play in our tourism efforts. You're here today because of how important these entities are from a quality of life perspective, and we absolutely agree."*

*"But for us, they are more than attractions. They are economic drivers for our community. Currently, approximately a billion dollars, I always love to tell people that, a billion, with a b, a billion dollars are spent each year by visitors, and that would not be possible without attractions such as the Zoo and Exploration Place, that draw visitors from outside of our community into Wichita. Please keep in mind that these visitors usually make more than one stop. They shop at our restaurants. They dine. They shop in our retail establishments and stay in our hotels. The impact of visitor's dollars in our community is great, and it starts with quality amenities like the Zoo and Exploration Place."*

*"Our recent brand survey showed that both of these attractions are top of mind when respondents were asked, what functional attributes best represent Wichita. They help define us. We are so fortunate to have these quality attractions right here in our community, and clearly the Sedgwick County Zoo and Exploration Place have played an important part in bringing visitors and therefore dollars into our community. We want to insure our attractions continue to be healthy, so visitor spending here is not only stable but continues to grow, because visitors will know they can find new and unique*

*experiences for their family's right here in Sedgwick County. On behalf of the Visit Wichita executive committee, our board of directors and our staff, I ask you to look deep into this issue and consider the reach that attractions like these have on our economic health. Tourism needs the Sedgwick County Zoo and Exploration Place. We all do. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Next we have a Susanne Smith."*

*Ms. Susanne Smith, 3034 North Wild Rose Court, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Today I'm here to speak to you as a representative of the Wichita Public Schools where I serve as the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instructional Design. As a leader in the Wichita Public Schools, I fully understand that we are at a time of deep uncertainty about budgets all across the State of Kansas, and I know that you're facing difficult decisions. But I do want to share with you, and I can't stress enough, how valuable our partnerships are with our community agencies, such as the Sedgwick County Zoo and Exploration Place.*

*"We truly value these partnerships for educational outreach experiences that our students are able to enjoy through field trips, school-based programs, and the expertise in the form of teaching specialists who support our teachers and our students in our classrooms. As the socioeconomic status of our students continues to fall further below the poverty level, it's critical to have quality, affordable educational outreach programs, such as the Zoo and Exploration Place who can partner with our local districts to provide opportunities that our students and families would not be able to afford on their own. Today's teachers and the Zoo and Exploration Place as extensions and partners in our classrooms are preparing students for jobs that don't even exist yet. The importance of STEM education in today's workplace is paramount. We appreciate all that these partners do to help us serve our students well.*

*"I urge you, as you're continuing to make your tough decisions, to think carefully about the agreements that you have with these fine organizations and that the word asset has come up several times today. I hope you will vote favorably in favor of continuing these partnerships. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "If I could ask a question or two, please. I was curious, do you have any idea in terms of during this current school year how many Wichita USD 259 students go through either Exploration Place or the Zoo?"*

*Ms. Smith said, "I don't have those numbers off the top of my head, and I did not bring those today. But I do know that we continue to have students go through that. We have a partnership with Exploration Place.*

*"I'm looking at Jan right now. We have a partnership with Exploration Place where, in addition to students coming into Exploration Place, their teaching specialists are going into our classrooms and providing lessons and are actually teaching. They are teaching some of our teachers how to be better teachers of science. So we do continue to support that."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I was trying to get a ballpark idea. Because I'm*

*thinking you have about 50,000 total students in the school district."*

*Ms. Smith said, "We do."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "And I was curious how many had been, as part of the various programs, gone through Exploration Place or the Zoo during our current school year or maybe last year, if those numbers are readily available."*

*Ms. Smith said, "That's probably a piece of data that I should have brought today, and I apologize I did not. I will be happy to get those numbers, if you'd like them."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I'd certainly be interested, thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next we have Rigby Carey."*

*Mr. Rigby Carey, 740 Rustin Trail, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "All I am is a citizen, a lifetime citizen of Wichita. I am a very, very enamored supporter of the Zoo. My experience this last fall was we were able to go to Africa, and I learned so much about the Zoo that it has become a very, very big part of my future endeavors to contribute to our community. I hope you do look real hard at anything that has to do with the Zoo and make sure that that asset is perpetuated. As a businessman, I've been in business in Wichita, Kansas for 37 years. Keeping our integrity and keeping assets like the Zoo are the only way we are going to make Wichita a bigger and better place for all our citizens, and it's extraordinarily important. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Next we have Mike Johnson."*

*Mr. Mike Johnson, 453 South Fawnwood, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm the Executive Director with the Boy Scouts of America and would like to just say a few words on behalf of Exploration Place. Our program serves about 11,000 youth and their families throughout 30 counties. We partner with Exploration Place in a number of ways, and as Patrick said, we were part of that ripple effect, and much like Liz, we're an organization that benefits from and leverages this asset. We have programs that happen there for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and then in the summertime, we have day camp programs that visit Exploration Place, and on the year-round basis, we have merit badge programs which take place at Exploration Place. We would encourage the Commission to not change the funding model, because any change would likely have a negative impact on collaborative organizations like us and inhibit the ability of these great assets to reach out to other families in the community. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Next is Milt Dougherty."*

*Mr. Milt Dougherty, Head of School, Independent School, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As a long-time educator, I have always believed schools to be more efficient financially and more effective educationally by partnering with other groups and agencies that also have education as part of their mission. That belief is what led me to seek out relationships with groups like Exploration Place and the Sedgwick County Zoo soon after I became head of school at the Independent School. Through partnerships with Exploration Place, we've been able to further enhance our STEM*

*activities through projects and programs both on our campus and at their facilities. These hands-on activities spark great interest and engagement with students and it simply does not make sense for schools to spend money to try to replicate these activities. I'm confident there are even more ways for us to work together to benefit our students, and I look forward to continued cooperation with Exploration Place.*

*"Additionally, we work closely with the Sedgwick County Zoo through our Zoo Science partnership. Our students are able to earn science credit while working with professionals at the Zoo. Again, this would be impossible without the Zoo partnering with us. At a recent presentation by our students, the phrase 'once in a lifetime opportunity' was mentioned by one young man as he talked about this class. I want to offer as many kids as possible this kind of experience.*

*"A quick anecdotal story. Earlier this year, we hosted a group of Chinese students on a short-term winter camp. There were nine students, a couple of adults, and they spent two weeks in our school and in our community. They then left Wichita, went to California, southern California, Disneyland, and then they spent time in San Francisco, visited Berkley and Stanford, and then they went back to China. At the end of their trip, they were asked what was the best part of the trip. Unanimously, it was their time in Wichita, Kansas.*

*"I ask that the Commission vote for the amendment to the agreements currently in place. Doing so will help all of us make better educated decisions on how we most efficiently and effectively continue to make Wichita and Sedgwick County a great place to call home. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn has a question."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "If I could, a similar question to what I posed earlier. How many students have you had either during this school year or last year that you might have going through either the Zoo or Exploration Place as part of your educational process at the Independent School?"*

*Mr. Dougherty said, "Well, I can tell you that, let's start with Exploration Place first. We have an after school enrichment program where Exploration Place comes to our school, and we have a number of kids, I don't know the number off the top of my head that would be involved in that. And then we also send kids there. As a matter of fact, if you go to Exploration Place, and I encourage you to do that, the walkway has student art from the Independent School. So we're activity involved in that.*

*"Again, I can't give you numbers. The Zoo Science program is a relatively new program. We have five students that participate in that. They give up their lunch period to go there and spend time working with the Zoo. It's the second year, and we're continuing to look at ways to expand that program and others like that to utilize those great assets."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Let me just ask, what's the total enrollment at the Independent School? And you're K (Kindergarten) through 12?"*

*Mr. Dougherty said, "We are Pre-K through 12."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "And the number of your enrollment?"*

*Mr. Dougherty said, "525."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I was just curious, what's the relationship with these students when they visit Exploration Place and the Zoo? Do they pay for their admission or is this an agreement that the school makes for them, or how does that work?"*

*Mr. Dougherty said, "The after-school program is, again, a partnership with Exploration Place where they come to our place. Those students pay additional fees to do that. We have contracted with Exploration Place to do some staff development for our lower school staff. So yeah, there are some fees that are exchanged, but those would be for the vast, I'm trying to think with all the programs we would do, but those would be parents that are paying for that. And we do pay a little of that when we're partnering for services, but most of those are student fees."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So any idea what the total amount that the school might, does the school pay any money at all, fund the school administration through these organizations at all?"*

*Mr. Dougherty said, "Only when we would coordinate for staff development."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So the students do pay, and I assume you get kind of a deal, as a student of the Independent School, you guys get some kind of special deal for them?"*

*Mr. Dougherty said, "Just the opportunity to work with Exploration Place."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you for coming today. We're very fortunate to have you. Thank you. Next we have Jason Cox."*

*Mr. Jason Cox, Vice Chairman, Exploration Place, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Cox Machine is a three generation family-owned aerospace parts manufacturer, so we have very deep roots in this community, been here for a long time. When Cox Machine wanted to expand during the economic downturn, GWEDC stepped up, and they helped us understand the various programs that were available from the city and county and provided the assistance and the application for those programs, and then in the realization of getting some of those things for us to help our expansion."*

*"I'm also a steward for BREG, the Blueprint for Regional Economic. The process is already beginning to distill some ideas and intangible actions, and those actions will, as I understand, will be distributed throughout GWEDC and the new Greater Wichita Partnership. This process necessarily takes some time to implement and will require long-term attention."*

*"From Exploration Places point of view, the funding agreement provides a solid base"*

*for operational expenses, I think that has been mentioned, and allows us to fundraise for new permanent exhibits. This prevents the museum from stagnating and allows us to excite more young minds about Science, Engineering, Technology and Math. As the father of two young children, that's very important to me.*

*"Exploration Place elevates our city and county's place in this country. Development experts like the Knight Foundation tell us that quality of life is now a huge driver for economic development, especially among millennials, and when they seek of quality of life, this is exactly what they're talking about. We're talking about a top quality, fresh, beautiful, Sedgwick County science and discovery center. So I would ask that you please consider continuing the funding agreements, and thank you for your time."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Next we have I think maybe a family of people who want to speak. We've got Keaty, Rhyelan, Camden and Shannon. Sorry if I got some of those names wrong. The Bull family, if you want to come up all together and spoke, or is everyone wanting to speak or just one? Give us your name and address, please."*

*Mr. Camden Bull, 12610 East Meadow Court, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm going to start this off by asking you all a question. What's the first thing you say whenever a family that's never been to Wichita asks you where they should go first? What are you going to say? Exploration Place, right? After all, it's family-friendly. It has many activities for all ages, camps, exhibits. It's right next to the river. There are several parks within walking distance, and it's right here in downtown.*

*"These are only some of the reasons that you say Exploration Place when that family asks you where you should go first. I personally have done some really cool things there. I've done anything from learning about human anatomy to doing the water cycle. The Exploration Place and the Zoo have both helped me with home schooling, too. It's helped me learn science and math on top of human anatomy, space, biology and history of Kansas. Some of the events that they have had in the past have attracted families from all over the state. Their staff is always outgoing, helpful and knowledgeable, and if we were to lose any of these things affected by this, then it would be like losing part of Wichita. Thank you for listening. Please vote yes to continue the current funding."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Next."*

*Ms. Keaty Bull said, "I'm here to speak on behalf of the Exploration Place on the subject of funding. I'm a home school student, and I have participated in many of Exploration Place's home school science programs. Every time I walk through their doors, I learn something new. It's a really great supplement for my science curriculum. I've learned about everything from friction to the dissection of animals, even figuring out how to extract DNA strands from blood. It's a great hands on way to learn an experiment.*

*"The staff is always helpful and encourages you to learn new things. And to always experiment with household items to make something different and exciting. In other words, to think outside the box.*

*"Having traveling exhibits makes each visit to the Exploration Place new and wonderful. My family and I always enjoy going to each exhibit and discovering new things. We also enjoy watching films in the Dome Theater and playing mini golf on the course outside.*

*When relatives visit, we always go to the the Exploration Place and the Sedgwick County Zoo, two of Wichita's main attractions, which are both touched by the Commissioners' core grants. These places play a large role in making and strengthening our communities. They also make Wichita unique and special when compared with other cities. I love the way they incorporate learning with entertainment and natures beauty. So please vote yes to approve the amendment. Please consider all the families who benefit from these places. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you."*

*Mr. Rhyelan Bull said, "I'm a homeschooler and I'm here to ask that you please do not cut the budget for Exploration Place or the Zoo. I love Exploration Place because I've gotten to do some really cool things, like hold a sheep's brain and cut it open to examine the parts to see how it works. It's one thing to talk and read about a sheep's brain, but to actually hold it in your hands, now that's exciting."*

*"I really enjoy learning about friction and how it makes me able to jump high and run fast. Friction is what helps a bat hit a ball. Exploration Place helps bring science to life. Where else in Wichita can you do cool things like fly an airplane in an airplane simulator or stand in a tornado? And I've also learned about some of the history of Kansas. My family and I also really enjoy the Sedgwick County Zoo. My favorite exhibit is the rainforest. I can't wait to see the changes that they've made to it. I'm excited to see the new elephant exhibit. My family and I really enjoy the lemur habitat. I love the elephant habitat. Thank you for your time."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, and Shannon."*

*Ms. Shannon Bull, 12610 East Meadow Court, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Can you hear me now? Sorry. As a home school mom of six, I really value Exploration Place and the Zoo, because one, they're family-friendly, which means a lot to me. Two, we learn, and it's exciting and fun. With regard to Exploration Place, my children have attended summer camps, home school classes, and visited the different traveling exhibits."*

*"My oldest daughter even volunteered there for one summer camp so her younger siblings would feel more comfortable. They've all benefited in some way with Exploration Place. I love watching their faces light up when they learn something new. And I will never forget the time that I picked them up from Exploration Place from one of their classes. I had a little baby, and we were wheeling him around because I didn't want them to be disruptive, but when he with got back to pick them up, they met me at the door and said, can he please bring home his project. He was so excited about it."*

*"Ms. Laurel told him that he could instead bring home the sheep's brain only if I said yes. He was so excited that he could actually see and touch a brain and to see the parts that connected for him what he had only read about in a book. It wasn't flat anymore. It was real, and he could hold it and see it and identify the parts and know that that part is what controlled this, this controlled that. It was fascinating to him. And that was a blessing to me. So how could I say no in the face of such sheer excitement and delight? So my refrigerator smelled really yucky for a while, but it was worth it,"*

*because it ignited a fire in my children for science. What more can I ask for, but a passion for learning?*

*"And for the Zoo, my family and I really enjoy the Zoo. It's a different atmosphere than any other zoo that I've been to. We love how close you feel to the animals and enjoy the little things, like watching the tiger cubs grow and play. They were so cute. We actually waited in line when we got to see them, their introduction to the Zoo. And we love to watch the hippos and penguins swim and go sit by the gorillas and enjoy just looking at them and having them be on the other side of the glass. And we were saddened by the loss of Cinda the elephant.*

*"We've been excited about the new exhibit and the promise that it's going to be awesome. My personal favorites is the rainforest exhibit. I loved how when you entered the building, you are just automatically immersed in the exhibit itself. I love the bridge that crossed over the little stream, and you can see the stingrays floating underneath and the birds were flying, and the little animals were crawling in and out. I thought that was so fascinating. And I like looking at the bats in the trees and watching their antics.*

*"I'll really excited about the changes that they're making and that has been made, and I really hope that the Zoo is able to continue growing and changing. I've enjoyed all of that and hope that more will follow. I know that growth and change are not easy. It's definitely not cheap. I know, because I buy clothes and food for children who grow. Most are actually taller than I am right now. So having said all of that, I'm nervous, in case you can't tell, I want you to know that as a home school family, we're a single income family, and I think you'll find most home school families are.*

*"So when we talk about raising membership fees and raising prices here and there, you're not merely affecting numbers on a page. You're talking about people and families, children who will lead us into the future, and they will be affected by your decision. I know that you have important decisions to make in front of you, and I hope you take time to consider the people who will be impacted by your decision. Exploration Place and the Sedgwick County Zoo are important places to my family and to this community. As a home school family, we look to these places to help make learning fun and to bring it to life, so I ask that you please vote yes to the amendment and I strongly urge you to not make any changes to the budgets. Thank you so much for your time."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you for being here today. Next we have Gabe and Maile Drago."*

*Ms. Maile Drago, 14600 Siefkes, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "First of all, I'd like to thank you all for your service to our community. I really appreciate that. As a home school mom, I can certainly appreciate cleaning up messes that I've inherited and didn't have anything to do with, so I can relate to some of the positions that you guys might be into.*

*"I am very thankful for tax cuts. I'm very thankful for extra money in our pockets, but I can also really appreciate what the Zoo and Exploration Place bring to our community and enrich our lives. I just wanted to let you all know that these not-for-profit organizations really enrich our education in home schooling as well as the public schools, and we're just here to let you know that we support the amendment today and we do have a Zoo membership, and we frequent Exploration Place and we participated in the activities there, and we're very, very thankful for them. I didn't know if you all*



*know that they have special home school classes and education programs that enrich our community as well. So I just wanted to let you know that we support the amendment today. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you."*

*Mr. Gabriel Drago, 14600 Siefkes, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I like the Exploration Place because you can learn and have fun at the same time. So many activities so that you can never get bored. And I like the Zoo because you can see so many animals that you can never see if we didn't have a zoo. And I hope that you do not cut the budget. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much. Next we have Phou Vieng. I'm sorry if I got that wrong."*

*Ms. Phou Vieng, 400 West Central Avenue, Apartment 404, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a single mother of three children. I believe an education is the key to a successful healthy life and a way to give back to communities. That is why I am a supporter of Exploration Place. You see, Exploration Place gave my children a chance to explore and challenge their young minds. My children explore the learning of flight. They learn the history of airplanes and how weather affects the flight of airplanes, which challenged their minds to ask more questions of how does the airplane fly, and that leads to questions of the functioning of the airplanes. My children explored the human body exhibit, which challenged them to ask questions on how the human body works and how to care for their health.*

*"My children explored the history of Titanic, the history of, okay, children explore the history of Titanic and get to live in the life of the people and to challenge them to ask how would they survive and what would they do. They also explored the building of the robot exhibit, hot air balloons, engineering of aviation and many more exhibits. My point is that without the scholarship and financial aid, my children would not have the opportunity to go to the summer camps. These summer camps help my children with their public school projects. For example, my oldest daughter wanted to enter a robot competition, and she had to build a robot from scratch by using what she learned from Exploration Place. She was able to perform that task and won second place in the competition.*

*"She is now a student at WSU (Wichita State University) and is majoring in aerospace engineering. If it weren't for Exploration Place programs, she would not have had the education she needs to help her decide what she wants to do with her life. Without these kinds of programs, low income parents like me would not be able to help students with their school projects or help educate them about the history and science of life. Please vote for the amendment."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Next, we have Laura Roddy."*

*Ms. Laura Roddy, 817 North Whitetail, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I come to you today as a supporter of Exploration Place. I have three children and I have been taking them there for about nine years. I think there has been tremendous growth I've seen there over the nine years and improved exhibits. I think a lot of that comes from having some stability there. Of course, I'm a supporter of the Zoo, I have a membership there, have taken scout troops and spent the night at both places. They're both fun assets for the county and one of the places that I think that's where*

*we send everyone. When they come to town, we take them there, and I have been able to use reciprocity, and as I've visited science centers in probably seven or eight other cities and Exploration Place, and I would say that ours stacks up pretty well, particularly for a community our size. So thanks."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much. That brings us to the end of the people who signed up. But I want to extend the offer to anyone else who is in the audience who didn't sign up or showed up late, if they want to come forward and speak. Raise your hand if you want to speak. So we've got about three more, I think. Just give us your name and address."*

*Ms. Karen Page, President, Kansas Global, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I just, this is probably out of line here, since this is your show, but I came here to do a task today and lend some support to GWEDC, but wow, these families and the children that came up this morning, I'm really inspired and it's going to be a really great day because of them. I just wanted to tell you that my favorite exhibit at the Zoo is the rainforest, in particular the golden marmosets and the piranha tank, a little segue there.*

*"Kansas Global was contracted to develop, manage and publish the South Central Kansas Regional Export Plan. But we did not do this alone or in a vacuum. Together with five other funding organization, including Sedgwick County, thank you very much, GWEDC funded the initiative last year and participated as a core team leader. Without GWEDC, our region would not have an export plan to help small businesses grow. GWEDC received the original invitation from Brookings Institution out of Washington D.C. Then they contacted Kansas Global to prepare the by invitation only application. Exports were not one of GWEDC's everyday objectives, but it still had the wisdom to commit to export growth, to shore up and diversify our battered economy, and include exports in their organizational strategy. As the largest economic development organization in our region, GWEDC's support, participation and influence was integral to developing the export plan. Brookings shared with me after the recent release of the export plan that our regions' export plan is one of the best in the nation, and our stakeholder group, more than 100 participants from all 10 counties, is the largest and most comprehensive they have seen in the nation. In fact, they've asked me several times, how did South Central Kansas do that, as a learning point so they can share it with other folks.*

*"GWEDC supported the Premier Economic Development Project in our region last year and is committed to planning a key supporting role in the implementation of the export plan. The Economic Development Agency is important to going forward. Exports are part of the overall economic development strategy. Supporting companies is about collaboration and partnership. Local government partnership in helping small companies grow helps our community to be globally competitive. I thank you for your time today, and thank you for the good work you do."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you."*

*Mr. Mike Pisciotte, 14620 East Sport of Kings, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Listening to these people thought I'd offer the opinion that maybe is a little different then some of these folks. I don't visit the Zoo much, my children are grown. I do enjoy the Zoo when I go, I'm not a member. I have vested interest in keeping the Zoo other then as a community member. I do think, well this last time I went to Manhattan, and I went to the Central Park Zoo, and my wife and I both looked at each*

*other and we were very disappointed, and we both said to ourselves that the Sedgwick County Zoo blew this away. I mean, not even a comparison. So, Wichita, at that point in time, was better than New York City. I do think that the Zoo and Exploration Place are both community jewels, neither of which I, I used to be an Exploration Place member, my kids are grown, I have no need to go there currently, but I do think that other people in our community do. Not only the educational aspects there, but it's an excellent place to engage with the rest of the community, so see our neighbors, which is often times not conducive in daily life.*

*"You have the prerogative, I believe, to decide whether you do single-year funding or multi-year funding. That's your discretion. You all ran for your positions. It is a tough decision, you are facing tough budgets. The Zoo, when I was helping Mr. Buchanan doing the budget process, the Zoo was always an easy target, I think. It is a lump sum way to cut the budget. Especially outside the operation vision of the county administration, same with the Exploration Place. However, in doing so, if you have long term visions for this community, especially in terms of economic development, job retention, employee retention, and quality of life is an issue. We need to maintain our quality of life. Don't be penny wise and pound foolish, please. Not to say that the five-year agreement is the way to do it, but if you decide to go year to year, please give these community benefits, these community jewels their due course and due consideration. There are other places to cut budget within your operations. It's hard. It takes a lot of thinking, a lot of processing, a lot of thinking, a lot of gut interaction with people on a face-to-face basis that you deal with on a daily basis. But really I think that I would urge you to look other places for your budget savings than these operations. That said, as a tax supporter, not a beneficiary of these institutions directly, I urge you to spend our tax money in that regard. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you."*

*Mr. Martin Park, 2218 North Lindborg, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I, too, was not originally intending to speak, but in listening to everybody, random thoughts came into my head and I wanted to share some of them with you. Some of my friends perhaps might say I might want to torment you with them. But first random thought. On Facebook today, brilliant communication tool, Commissioner Howell, it's your predecessor's birthday today. Jim Skelton, good friend of mine. Did a great job. I wish him happy birthday.*

*"Second thought is, these conversations have been spirited here, and nobody is falling asleep. But what a great country we live in because in places like North Korea, apparently if you fall asleep and argue with the bosses, you get executed.*

*"A lot of things have been said about what we are going to do with some of these contracts that we have out there, these five-year agreements with the Sedgwick County Zoo, Sedgwick County Zoo, I remind you of that, Exploration Place, and seems to be, when I am listening to everybody, somewhat of a misconception, which I am sure you gentlemen are going to point out that you are not here to cut the budget, you are not here to close them down, you are here to reorganize the way you look at it. And I understand that. I suggest, however, that, please, understand that the most important*

*element for any budgeting process, even yours, even for Bill, an important element of any budgeting process is your ability to bring stability to the system and to give people the opportunity, particularly in capital intensive areas, to look at themselves one year, two year, three, four, five years out. That is critical to vision planning.*

*"I don't know what you are going to do with regards to cutting money to these institution. It probably will happen, but it certainly will be a negotiation. But the important element, which I think is not been mentioned here, is these five-year agreements for these institutions that represent our community, which is where our tax dollars should be going, it is a lifestyle conversation. They need the ability to be able to plan. And I urge you, therefore, to consider everything, but maintain the five-year concept. It is absolutely critical in so many different ways to these entities that are looking for public support, private support, et cetera. I will not go into more detail. It is just five years is critical from my perspective. I thank you for listening to me."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you very much for those random thoughts, we appreciate it. I think that's it. Anyone else want to speak? All right. Very good. At that point we'll have Ron come back up. Ron, I want to clarify, the Zoological Society and Exploration Place have already approved the change. I think GWEDC has as well, the City of Wichita needs to approve it next week."*

*Mr. Holt said, "That's correct. In your agenda packets you had agreements from Exploration Place and Sedgwick County Zoo that had been voted on by the boards and signed. The agreement, GWEDC and the City of Wichita, logistically we couldn't get all the work done on that, but we have full assurance that your vote today approving that would get it on the city council agenda for next week and it would consummate the agreement in line with the other two."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. At this point we will ask for comments or motions from commissioners. Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I would like to thank everyone who came and testified in front of us this morning, and in addition, I would like to thank the folks who I visited with at other times, whether over the internet, with phone calls, or with private meetings, whether they are interested in one organization or another, and I met with board members and citizens interested in the Zoo and Exploration Place, and in GWEDC. I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and comments."*

*"I want to express my appreciation to the board members who volunteer their time to serve on the boards of all three of these organizations. I appreciate the comments from the folks who basically said yes, they realize the amendments that we are looking at today with all three groups, changing the dates from June 1st to September 1st; I appreciate those folks throwing out the support."*

*"We live in a point of time where we have a significant uncertainty, and I would be delinquent if I didn't point out the fact that one of the budgetary challenges we face is carryover from last year's legislature, where what had been a regular and consistent source of county funding was changed, and it's likely to look at, I had a meeting with the Register of Deeds yesterday. We are looking at over the next five years losing \$10 million in revenue that's come into the county. I don't know what's going to happen in Topeka. I talked to folks who are in Topeka, and I don't think they know what exactly*

*is going to happen. I know that there is legislation out there that could affect county revenue streams, and because of that fact, I want to try and get some information onto the record that I haven't seen covered so far and made a request to staff to put together some slides.*

*"And if we could, Kristi, pull up the first slide, because all of the organizations that we have talked about here are funded with property tax dollars. And I wanted to get the information out there in terms of how much one mill generates in property tax dollars. And I would add that the county mill levy is just a shade under 30 mills. About 30, I'm sorry, 29.5 mills. And you can see, if you multiply the 1 mill figure for 2014 or 2015, you can see how much is generated. And I throw that out because the basic county functions all come from, have to be paid for, the largest single revenue source for our fund is the property tax.*

*"Next slide, Kristi. When I give an allocation so that we have got a change in terms of how the funding agreement has changed 2014, 2015, and what's projected for 2016 in terms of the funds. Now, I would want to hasten to add that this data does not include the elephant exhibit expenditure of \$5.3 million, but if you look, you can see that the mill levy equivalent, this is just under 1.3 mills for 2014-2015. And of course we haven't set the mill levy, so that the percentages and the mill equivalent for 2016 can't be put in there. Now, the funding agreement provision for 2016 hasn't changed, but wanted to put that into the record this morning, and because some of the comments about how the funding for the three organizations that we had the contracts with were like less than two percent of the county's tax revenue. If you look at our property taxes, it's a good deal more there with the, and being about 4.4 percent of our mill levy.*

*"Next side please, Kristi. Now the elephant barn, you take that, of course it's a one time expenditure, but it is a change in the historic policy that we have had, with the Zoological Society picking up the cost for new exhibits. This is a very expensive exhibit, \$5.3 million, equivalent to a little over 1.2 mills. Next slide, please. Exploration Place. The funding agreement, we're on track with the current funding agreement, that's not going to change for next year. In terms of the mill equivalent, it's a little over half a mill. But that doesn't include all aspects of county property tax funding for Exploration Place, and I think the next slide covers, okay, that goes on to GWEDC. That's, I am going to change a little bit here, but you can see the percent of the total mill levy, and the mill levy equivalent for \$300,000. That allocation is flat.*

*"I think there's one more slide. There's the one that I wanted to get in terms of Exploration Place, so that we have a full understanding of what the taxpayer commitment is in terms of property tax funds. From now until 2022, we are paying the principle and interest on the bonds that paid for the building. Think of it kind of as a mortgage, like we would on all of our homes if we are homeowners. And we are paying a little over \$1.1 million a year. And that number continues to increase a little bit between now and 2022. In addition to the funding agreement, so if you look at the total*

*amount, both principle and interest, as well as the operating expenditure, you get a better idea in terms of how much the cost we are looking at, and the total mill levy equivalent in terms of property taxes.*

*"I mention this, because I don't know what type of events we may face. We live in challenging times. Obviously, the focus on Topeka I already mentioned, but there may be changes on the horizon. At this point I can't anticipate. But I think it is important for public discussion purposes that we look at this from a property tax point of view. In the past these property tax-funded entities, we've had discussions about, this Commission has had discussions about changing the mill levy. In the past this County Commission has raised the mill levy, also reduced it. That's going to be a big part of our discussion going forward as we do our budget. I want to thank all the folks coming in here to present information to us, because I think it is important to have accurate data in terms of property tax impact. We have to balance this with the other organizations within the county that receive property tax funds, whether it is in public safety, the functions that are involved with the rule of law, so I very much appreciate the boards of these organizations agreeing to let us modify the contract and reduce some of that uncertainty. And I think reduce some of the risk that we are facing in these challenging budget times, and Mr. Chairman, I plan to be supportive of all three of these motions beginning with the Zoo, and would urge that we take each of them up separately at the appropriate time. Thank you."*

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

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a couple questions for a couple of people that spoke, if you don't mind. Scott Ochs, would you be willing to come to the mic(rophone) for just a moment? Thank you. And you are basically representing the administration of the Zoo today, I assume."*

*Mr. Ochs said, "Yes, I am currently board President of the Zoological Society."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay. And I noticed that Mark Reed didn't come to the mic today, which is fine. So I am going to ask you the questions I would have asked him. Let me ask the question, what is the history of our funding agreements? Have we done five-year agreements for how long? How long has this been going on?"*

*Mr. Ochs said, "Bill, I am going to have to look for you. I have been involved with the Zoo for probably 24 years, and during that period of time, it's always been five-year operating agreements. The only time we suspended those, when we mutually agreed that during the economic downturn we would go to a one-year agreement. Bill, correct me if I am wrong, probably 2009 and 2010, we ran without an agreement."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I did notice that funding from Sedgwick County to the Zoo did go down, you were up to \$5.4 million in 2011, and then in 2012 you went down to \$5.1, and then 2013 to \$4.9."*

*Mr. Ochs said, "Correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So that was, you did not have a five-year agreement at this time."*

*Mr. Ochs said, "We did not."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So you signed a five-year agreement in 2013. I would make the point to the audience, I wasn't here then. I assume that the County Commissioner at that time felt, I guess, that the economy was doing better. Is that why they would have come up with an agreement?"*

*Mr. Ochs said, "I think there was a couple things that was in consideration. The other thing was looming, as a lot of the organizations today have pointed out, it's critical for fundraising, for assets, fundraising not only for new exhibits, but also continuing funding to basically prepare your existing assets. To go out to donor ship, it is very critical they look at it and go do we have a five-year agreement is my investment, my gift to the society. The most recent one is roughly through operations, memberships, managing the Zoo, basically \$3 million upgrades to the jungle building."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "So as you get close to the end of the five-year agreement, did you find it, is it trouble at that point to raise funds, because you don't have five-year future."*

*Mr. Ochs said, "We do, and that's why we try to schedule our fundraising for new exhibits within that five-year kind of gap, try to get into the first one or two years so we can assure people that at the end of the day once we build something we have the county employees who can take care of that and manage that facility. Most of them are zookeepers. We do have some ground staff. And, again, as one of the presenters pointed out today, we do rely a lot on seasonal workers, which our society employs, which my two nieces who are in high school, work at the concession stands, but a lot of is volunteer work as well."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "I would make the point then that as you get to the end of your five-year agreement, you don't have a lot of future years to know what's going to happen at that point."*

*Mr. Ochs said, "That's correct, sir."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "And you have operated without an agreement in the past, year to year."*

*Mr. Ochs said, "Yes, we have."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay. That's all the questions for you, right now. I would ask Bill from Exploration Place, would you come to the mic for just a moment? I am sorry, Mr. Bischoff. You represent Exploration Place?"*

*Mr. Bischoff said, "Yes, I do."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "And I noticed that Jan Luth, the Director, did not come to the mic, so I am going to ask you the question. That's why I'm asking you today. Can you tell us the history of our relationship of five-year agreements with Exploration Place, how long has it gone back and have we operated without them?"*

*Mr. Bischoff said, "The current agreement is the first one that we have had with Exploration Place, the county. Before that time I think it was a year to year."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "And the county hasn't really funded the Exploration Place for very long. What year did that start?"*

*Mr. Bischoff said, "I believe about 2006, 2007. I am not quite sure."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "And just to be clear, make sure my numbers are correct, we do pay about \$1.1 million in bond and interest for the Exploration Place each year in addition to the \$2.25 million of annual funding."*

*Mr. Bischoff said, "Yes. That's correct."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "All right, that's all my questions for you. You can have a seat, that's fine. I just want to make a couple points going through some of the stuff that's come out in the news recently. And I just want to make some clarifications. I wanted to say thank you to the audience for coming out today and giving your opinion. I do appreciate that. I want to let the listeners know I did receive a fair amount of emails on this and a number of phone calls, and I've appreciated the respectful attitude of most of the people that have contacted me, and I have had a number of conversations with them, and unfortunately, I haven't had time to respond yet, but I plan to do so still. Anyway, I do want to go through a few, I guess clarifications of things that have been in the news, and things that I think are relevant to our decision today.*

*"Number one, as the Chairman mentioned, we are not singling out any agency. Every one that is funded through property taxes is being treated exactly the same. This is not an indication of what will happen to the funding. There's been no decision or debate or discussion regarding whether there should be a cut. It is conceivable there might be increases, we don't know. The reality is that the County Commission has not gone through the budget process just yet to find out what our funds will be. We do make projections on revenues and expenditures, and we have to make decisions on how to balance the budget. And right now based on what we know, it looks like we have a budget that's not going to perform, our expenditures are greater than our revenue. That can't last that way very long.*

*"If we have a large ending balance, you might be able to operate that way for year or two or a period of time, but we are not in that position, in fact, right now, I would like to point out one of the things reported in the news, they said you have nearly \$60 million in the ending balance. That's a lot of money. And I asked last week at the board meeting, how much money is discretionary, how much money can we actually spend if we wanted to make a decision to spend money. And the answer was about \$20 million. So out of the \$425 million budget, we only have about \$20 million that is really discretionary. If you want to calculate that, that's about a 4.7 percent. So think about your home budget and think about how comfortable you would be with taking on promises for increased funding for things that are in your future. You don't know your future. The things are uncertain, you only have 4.7 percent ending balance. So that is a concern of mine.*

*"Also knowing that our budget actually, without changes, would be a negative budget. We actually have \$10 to \$12 million shortfall. And there are some things in Sedgwick County that are not currently being funded which I think we would all agree are core functions. Things like Sheriff's Deputies in the (Sedgwick County) Jail to supervise inmates. We actually have six fire positions that are not currently funded. I don't, I understand that's a different budget, but nevertheless it points out the fact that we*



*have a difficult economy. And I would point out that unemployment right now in Sedgwick County is 5.1 percent. There are some counties that are worse, but we still have an ongoing challenge with regard to employment, and revenue as a result of that reality is not just flowing, we are really not recovered from the recession, is my point.*

*"As you all know, we lost 30,000 aviation jobs in the recession, and most of those have not come back. Those that did come back are at a lower wage. Again, that shows you that we have pressure. As a previous speaker mentioned, the legislature has made some choices to reduce funds to the county as well. So we are getting, I guess, pressure to find a way to do more with less, like every business has had to do. I guess those are some points that need to be thought about as we make a decision. Someone in a recent news story said that we have checks we can't cash. That's not true. We do not have checks we can't cash. We have a budget, we are going to perform that budget, and anything we commit to will be fine. But that does bring to light that we don't have, we do have a fiscal responsibility to balance the budget going forward.*

*"So we are not going to make commitments to things we can't fund next year or any future year, so there is not a problem with checks that won't cash. We are not in a crisis. We are simply doing our due diligence to weigh in on the priorities, and to figure out a way to make things work. So there is no crisis. It is just the process we have to follow going through a budget cycle. There have been dwindling years of the agreement, we're in the second year, this year there's been no suggestions for changes for 2015 funding. What we are talking about right now is the 2016 fiscal year, and onward. We actually have three years in the agreement for the Zoo left to go. With respect to the Zoo, if you count 2013, the year the agreement was signed, we had about a 10 percent increase in revenue that year, in 2013, actually I take that back, it was, that's not true, we have from 2014 to 2018, we had a 30 percent increase, I should say that way, in the operating revenue to the Zoo, a 30 percent increase, and a five-year window for the last five years where the consumer price index has only gone up 10 percent. So we have a budget that's increasing, which I appreciate, but we have to have revenues to cover those promises. So if you look at where that revenue might come from, I really don't know where it is going to come from. Any budget that has increases 30 percent, I think, needs to be questioned, whether or not this is something we can really sustain, and whether or not we can make those promises. I do want to say that this contract we have with the Zoo and these other two agencies does have a clause in it that says we have the right to change the terms if we need to, and cancelling that agreement is one option that we have. And of course, today, we are not talking about cancelling; we are talking about potentially just changing the date so we can get to the budget cycle and figure out what our priorities are.*

*"And I support that motion, when it's made, I support the idea of changing the date of all three of these agencies, and I would support that motion whenever it's made. I do appreciate the clarity of those that spoke in support of these amendments. I understand that there is no promises whether we are going to leave this funding levels alone or make changes in the future. We have no idea at this time until we get through the budget process.*

*"I will wrap this up, I know you are getting anxious for me to stop talking. I just want to say that, Commissioner Peterjohn did a good job presenting some of the percentages. I want to say my calculations match up with his, 2.6 percent of our property taxes goes to Exploration Place. Divide that with the number of visitors that they have, divided by the subsidy that we provide to them, that's about \$17.20 per visit, if you add in bonded interest and annual funding, \$17.20 per visitor is how much the taxpayers are picking up. And I appreciate what Exploration Place does. It's a great organization. I love the fact that it is a resource in our community, but I want the taxpayers to know, this is something we've committed to.*

*"It is not like we are not funding Exploration Place. We are. I expect we will continue to do so. With respect to the Zoo, if you take the annual funding, not counting the \$5.3 million gift for the elephant barn last December, we have \$11.56 per visitor. That's what is being spent at the zoo. And I take that back. That's the wrong one, I apologize. That's the wrong number. I do have it here, though. Let me get it up here. Excuse me, it's \$10.21 per visitor. And if you add in the gift for 2015, take this back to 2018, what it would go to is a \$2.91 increase. So we go to roughly \$12.90 per visitor. That's at the Zoo.*

*"So we are supporting the Zoo. And I think that's a good decision for the county to continue to support the Zoo. I don't think anybody is advocating we would cut the Zoo to zero or even necessarily reduce our funding. Those are assumptions. We don't know. Until we get through the budget cycle and find out whether we need to make changes or not. The fact is we are supporting the Zoo. We are giving them \$5.6 million this year, and goes up to \$6.9 million in 2018 with the current funding agreement without changes. So we are supporting the Zoo. It is a large portion of what we have available to us, in fact, it is 5.5 percent of the property taxes that we have on the table, 5.5 percent in 2018 is what we would, what we would spend in support of the Zoo. We spend 4.5 percent now, and we would go up to 5.5 percent in 2018. So the idea that we are not supporting the Zoo is not true. All this is today is really the opportunity to get these issues back on the table so when we go through the budget cycle, we have the ability to figure out our priorities, make sure we fund our core functions, and support those things that the most important, the best we possibly can. So with that, I will stop talking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

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

#### **MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve the amended agreement with the Sedgwick County Zoo and authorize the Chairman to sign.*

*Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a couple questions before we vote here, either from Mr. Holt or the County Counselor. These are the, as the motion is presented, the only thing that is changing is the potential date of termination. None of the other elements of the contract have been changed; is that correct?"*

*Mr. Pepoon said, "Only changes that are being made on all three of these agreements is pushing back the date that we give notice to these organizations if the Commission*

*has an intent to terminate the five-year agreement. In all three of these agreements, the date moves from June 1st to September 1st. That's only action that would be taken with this amendment."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay, and then second question, Mr. Holt, does this come in on a recommendation of staff?"*

*Mr. Holt said, "Yes, once we had discussions with the agencies that this allowed the county to get through its budgeting process, all of the agencies were very much willing to make this change, and staff then is supporting it, yes."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Okay. I think all the folks who assembled today, and I know that all these folks have got other things that are important on their agenda to do, so I appreciate you taking the time to come here. Being here this morning, I think is an indication that there was some concern that this would either eliminate the five-year agreement, or change the funding amount, and so I agree with my colleague that this action today will not do that. However, I believe that it indicates or implies that there is going to be a change, otherwise this meeting today would not be necessary. And I believe that's the concern that so many of you understand, and made the effort to be here today for the simple administrative change. And the language, the conversation that we have had from the bench implies that we have a challenge that is requiring some changes, whether it's on a year to year basis or whether it is an actual change in the amount of the funding.*

*"Previously, when we have had issues arise as far as funding and our ability to keep our promises, with a contract, county manager, and oftentimes a Commissioner would visit with the chairpersons, and the staff representative, the board representatives from these agencies, and say, hey, we have got a problem, we are going to have to change it, can we work this out, and we have been able to do that on a partner to partner basis, rather than take what's a little bit more dramatic action of changing the expiration dates, which there is nothing wrong with that. It is just a little bit of a change in the way we do business. We have previously been pretty well arm's length with one another, and saying here's what we have got to do, will you cooperate with us in doing that. We didn't have to make this legal change.*

*"So I think that it is a change, a little bit, in the way we do business. I respect the partnership we have, and the understanding of the board members of these agencies that hey, sometimes the county might have to make a change. And that's essentially what happened back in 2013, when we went and said, hey, we have to make this change. So I appreciate the partnerships, and I understand that we've got to work through the budget, but I also understand that we haven't had a recommended budget yet. So we don't know that this sort of dramatic action was even necessary, in my opinion. After we had a recommended budget, if it required us to make modification of the funding agreements, I think we could have gone and talked to our partners and worked it out the way that Kansans work out problems between one another on a person to person basis.*

*"So we have full support of the agencies, and we have, it appears, clearly full support of the Commission, and so I will be supporting this change in light of the fact, but I think it perhaps is a prelude to another meeting that we may have in the future, in light of the conversation that we've had today. But I will be supportive. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Norton."*

*Commissioner Norton said, "I am not going to be supportive of this today. I may be the odd man out. I think you honor partnerships and agreements and we've spent a lot of time over the years. I happen to go back through other difficult times. This will be my 15th budget that I've worked on, and I went through the budget right after 9-11, I went through the budget right after the 2008 recession started, and we made it through. And we had five-year agreements with the Zoo, we worked with Exploration Place, and many, many other partners. And we always found a way to judiciously and financially, stability-wise, come up with a budget. Management and staff did a good job working with partners. We were very transparent in how we put our budget together, and I see no reason.*

*"First of all, I think this is kicking the can down the road to get us to another place where we do have a conversation about we are going to cut your budget, we are going to go to a one-year agreement, or go to no agreement at all. And I find that distasteful. You know, we took on Exploration Place at a time when it was not running very well. And it needed stability. And today it still needs it. And those, I was in the middle of all those negotiations and thought processes, the time the county put money into [Old] Cowtown, and the art museum, and many other entities that were very Wichita-centric. And we decided with the city government to divide up a little bit, and the county would really stabilize and invest in Exploration Place, and really our funding for Cowtown and the art museum and some other things would move over to the city only. And that created the stability for all those organizations, and the management style that made sure we knew who had ownership.*

*"The Zoo has been a jewel of our community for many, many years. It is a 50-year agreement that we revisited every five years, so five years has been the standard for a long time. And we had a five-year agreement when we had some tough times. We talked about it, and we worked with the Zoological Society and we came out of it. I see no reason, in fact, if anything, if you are going to give your partners adequate time to develop their budget the next year, you don't want to wait later in the year to give them that notice, you want to be earlier in the year. So I am not going to be at all supportive of this amendment today. I understand why it's on the table, what it talks about, waiting after the budget. But I don't think that this budget is much different than any other than I have seen in 15 years. Every budget is tough. Taxpayers don't want to spend any money for anything any time, but they certainly want the services and the quality of life and the good things that make Wichita and Sedgwick County and South Central Kansas a place to live, work, play, and raise a family. So I am not going to be supportive of this today. I may be the odd man out, but that's okay. That's all I have, Mr. Chair."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I will say I believe this is a modest and commonsense amendment to each of these agreements that's agreed upon by all parties. The fact is if we were wanting to make any changes to these three budgets, we won't know until after the deadline. Certainly we could attempt to negotiate in good faith, and if that's fruitful, that's fine. But by making this change, we maintain our fiduciary responsibility. This is a good decision, regardless of, even if we don't change the funding, for future Commissions, it's good to be able to have the option after the budget process is done,*

*as opposed to trying to make a decision and tell people beforehand and it preserves our legal options as we move forward. So I will be fully supportive of this, and I appreciate everyone coming here today. The willingness of all parties to work on this. I have had emails from people, and I have read them all and taken them all into consideration, even though I haven't been able to respond to each of them. I appreciate everybody who participated today. At this point, I don't see any other comments. We do have a motion and a second for Item F, correct?"*

*Ms. Jill Bailey, Deputy County Clerk, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Correct."*

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

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, "Commissioner Peterjohn. We have already had all three items introduced, have we not? Commissioner Peterjohn."*

MOTION

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve the amended agreement for Exploration Place and authorize the Chairman to sign.*

*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>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, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

MOTION

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to approve the amended agreement with the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition and authorize the Chairman to sign.*

*Chairman Ranzau seconded the motion.*

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

VOTE

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "So all three motions passed 4-1. Thank you very much for everybody coming here today. At this point I think we will take a five-minute recess, and allow people from the room to clear and allow people go to the restroom. We will be back in five minutes."*

*The Sedgwick County Commissioner recessed between 11:12 a.m. and 11:20 a.m.*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We are now back from recess. Madam Clerk, call the next item, please."*

**G**      [15-0303](#)

AMENDMENT TO FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS AND EXPLORATION PLACE, INC.

Presented by: Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment to the funding agreement to change the date that notice of termination is to be given pursuant to paragraph 9 of said agreement.

*Action on Item G taken with Item F.*

**H**      [15-0304](#)

AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS, CITY OF WICHITA AND GREATER WICHITA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COALITION.

Presented by: Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment to the agreement to change the date that notice of termination is to be given pursuant to paragraph 12 of said agreement.

*Action on Item H taken with Item F.*

**I**      [15-0334](#)

QUARTERLY INTRUST BANK ARENA REPORT.

Presented by: Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

*Mr. Holt said, "This is the first quarter 2015 Intrust Bank Arena report. I have, because I was getting a little concerned, last year was the end of the first five years, getting a little concerned we might lose the historical perspective for the Arena project, so I have thrown in a couple extra slides. I am not going to spend a lot of time on them, but I do think they make an important complement to the overall report. The plan was developed in summer of 2004. You see there was a three month one percent sales tax. The collections during that time, \$206.5 million, we spent \$191 million on all aspects of the project, buying land, demolition, construction, and it left us with a \$15.5 million operating and maintenance reserve fund. Since we don't have any debt and another*

*piece we will add in a minute, the Arena management takes all of the financial risk for the operations, this operation and maintenance reserve fund can be fully focused on making sure that the Arena is maintained in a proper fashion.*

*"The construction start date was November 19, 2007. Groundbreaking December 4, 2007. And the arena opening was January 9, 2010. We talk about the Arena agreement, SMG agreement, City of Wichita, Arena events parking, Arena sales tax, reserves and upcoming events. As I mentioned, the Arena agreement with SMG, they were hired in 2007 as the building operator to oversee the business and management aspects of the Arena. We were able with that agreement to get a very unique situation for us that the private management of a publicly owned facility, SMG will incur all operating losses during any fiscal year of the contract period. It insulates county taxpayers from having any payments towards operations of the Arena irrespective of what the overall building operations are. We have been fortunate, we haven't had to see that, but over 20, 25-year period of time, it takes all of the uncertainty out of that.*

*"So let's get into the regular reports, ticket sales for the first quarter, you can see that it was a pretty active, a very active first quarter. We ended up with 37 events, 56 performances, \$179,365 in attendance, 165,058 tickets sold. Gross ticket sales were \$4,923,605, average cost for ticket, \$29.83. An indication that we had a mix of family shows, and concerts, when you have more family shows and concerts, the average ticket price is lower. When you have more concerts, the family shows, the average ticket price is much higher. Average attendance per performance, 3,899.*

*"Looking at the first quarter, 2015, over the first quarter of 2014, you see that the attendance, actually we had 18 additional performances in the first quarter this year than first quarter last year. With 53,415 more in attendance, 47,504 more tickets sold, \$2,743,124 more in gross ticket sales. And the average cost for ticket price, \$11.28 more this year than last year. Again, last year in the first quarter, we had a number of family events, fewer concerts.*

*"The community affairs piece of this report, net employee wages and benefits first quarter, \$687,143. Range from 37 to 40 full-time employees over the quarter, and 365 to 374 part-time employees over the quarter. Total number of volunteer community groups volunteering in concession stands, again, some of these groups repeat more than once, 74. Amount paid to these groups, \$158,511 this first quarter. Spending with Sedgwick County, Kansas companies this first quarter, \$874,406. Sales tax paid first quarter of this year, \$487,688.38. Arena presentations, arena tours, 18, with local events and activities total 10.*

*"You see that these next few slides, the first quarter community service projects, most of them, many of them, I mean, have to do with ticket donations, although the Arena does have some volunteer, hands-on volunteer projects they work on as well. So that list continues to expand and get longer each report, it seems. Now looking at the financial summary, first quarter report for the finances, we had net building income, this first quarter, \$491,824. That's after operating income of \$1,547,489. Other operating income of \$344,545, total gross building income, \$1,892,034. The building operating expenses, \$1,400, 210. Again, net building income for the first quarter this year, \$491,824. As you can see, first quarter year over year, the differences in the number of performances remain the same. Differences in the number of events went*

down, but the net direct income was up \$9,701. Net food beverage merchandise up \$255,306. Other net income, \$386,219. A lot of that, again, driven by the mix of events. \$651,226 was the net event income. The other operating income was down by \$22,061 year over year first quarter, and the gross building income was up \$629,165 year over year. The expenses were up \$95,851, year over year, first quarter this year to last. The net building income is significantly up this first quarter year over year, 2015 to 2014, \$533,314.

"City of Wichita Arena event parking, again, that still remains a positive number, and we would hope to keep it that way going forward. Looking at the reserves, the authorized uses, we can repair, major repairs of capital equipment for the Arena, up to \$225,000 annually for the city parking lot on lots A, B, C, and D. Parking operations, and maintenance of St. Francis and second, authorizes uses for the Arena sales tax reserves. O and M reserve as of March 31, 2015, \$12,590,714.79. You can see the revenues for the first quarter, \$6,298.97.

"Expenditures for the first quarter were \$953,000 because, and you see that number for approved capital improvements, you have been seeing a number of about \$250,000 each year. Last fall, working with the Arena management and our contract administration team, we put together a CIP program to begin looking at the life of the various aspects of the Arena components over 20 years and in developing the five-year CIP program just started addressing those in a meaningful, manageable way. So that we not only keep the Arena looking good, and in good repair, but also we are able to be more focused on how we are spending those O and M reserve funds.

"First quarter, this year over last year, that reserve fund is down \$697,615.25. Again, mostly focused on the new CIP developments. Again you see the upcoming events, the dates, and a very full schedule going through the rest of this year into next year. I was remiss in not recognizing A.J. Boleski, the General Manager of the Arena who is here today. That's this first quarter report. Be happy to answer any questions that you might have."

Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some interesting numbers in terms of the report. Obviously didn't see any depreciation here. I raised that question, because it shows up on the line. If we had that included, that would have an impact on the financial side of this equation. Having said that, let me jump to slide 29 where you talked about the capital improvement plan and an anticipated expenditure of \$710,000, which is significantly more this year than we've spent in the past. Could you go into more detail at all, either you or A.J., in terms of what exactly is going to be, what money is going to be spent on and what is needed to be done?"

Mr. Holt said, "Wouldn't you know I didn't bring that list of projects. I don't have that with me. I have that list, I would be happy to send that to you after this meeting, if that will work."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Well, I would like to get it, and certainly for our next report on it, I think that's important, since we are drawing down the reserve funds, and once it goes away, then we had a little discussion earlier today about property tax funded items, and if we get in a situation where we're running deficits in an operational basis, excluding depreciation, you know, cash in, cash out is more cash out than cash in, that would be something to fall back on other county revenues, including as I see



*it, property tax, one that reserve fund is gone. Fortunately it is still there and still significant, but I would be remiss if I didn't say this Commissioner is concerned, I am concerned about the fact that it is being reduced with this report. Thank you."*

*Mr. Holt said, "I might just mention, Commissioner, this idea about depreciation. You know, on the income statement the focus of depreciation has to do with how the taxes are applied to your incomes, and we don't have that concern here. Also depreciation is a useful tool for cash flow. We don't have that issue here. The other side of the equation is that on the balance sheet, depreciation is shown on the county's balance sheet, but also the value of that asset is shown on the county's balance sheet as well. So it is a balancing effect. That's why the CIP program that we have initiated is so important. So that the value of that asset comes down, we are making sure that it's refurbished in a way that makes it functional and useful over the life of the project."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Holt, I am just curious. I am looking at the budget, the 2015 budget that's in front of me as well. Talks about dollars for contractual services, and capital improvements, total budget of \$600,000, last year we spent \$751,586. Then 2015 budget, that was \$600,000. Is that performance in this report somewhere?"*

*Mr. Holt said, "That performance is not directly in this report. It is really on this page relative to the O and M reserves. What we do on the sheet that you are looking at, you will see income there, I think probably around \$590,000, if I recall correctly, those are the naming rights payments that the county receives. All of the major naming rights for the Arena are contractually with the county. However, included in those naming rights are funds that go back to the Arena for signage, sponsorships, advertising, and so you will be able, the operations piece that you see on the report you are looking at has to do with the payments out of those naming rights that we are paying back to the Arena according to those agreements. The contractals you see there are the capital projects that we are talking about."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, so the additional \$151,000 that was spent last year, what is the source of that fund? That money?"*

*Mr. Holt said, "It is from the Arena O and M reserves. Now, any payments to the county that comes out of the Arena goes into that reserve as well. So that reserve has been added to in 2010 with about a million dollars from operations of the Arena. In 2012, and 2013, I think we had about 250 some thousand dollars a year in that. So it is all of the money that's associated with the Arena, stays with the Arena. Whether it's an expenditure, or a revenue."*

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since Mr. Boleski is here, I just want to tell him good job, keep doing it."*

*Mr. Holt said, "Looking forward to it. Things are on track for a good year, I think. Very good year."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Peterjohn moved to receive and file.*

*Commissioner 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>

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Ron. Next item, please."*

**J**      [15-0339](#)

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR  
MEETING ON MAY 7, 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, greeted the Commissioners and said, "At the  
meeting of the Board and Bids May 7th results in two items for your consideration:*

**1. PAINTED PAVEMENT MARKING (R331)-PUBLIC WORKS  
FUNDING—R331 TRAFFIC CNTL-15**

*"Recommendation is to accept the bid from Traffic Control Services, Inc. in the  
amount of \$428,340.00. Item 2:*

**2. COMCARE REMODEL-FACILITIES DEPARTMENT  
FUNDING-PRIMARY INTEG REMODEL**

*"Recommendation is to accept the low bid from Compton Construction in the amount  
of \$116,973.00.*

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Chairman Ranzau: thank you, Commissioners, what is the will  
of the Board? Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you. Can you explain what the COMCARE remodel  
is all about? What facility are we remodeling?"*

*Mr. Thomas said, "It's a repair of some interior space at 1919 North Amidon, Suite 100. They remodeled some of the interior space to convert to patient exam rooms."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Is there administration there right now? What is currently using that space that is being remodeled?"*

*Ms. Marilyn Cook, Director, COMCARE, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Commissioner, that is space that is empty right now. Our intake program was in there previously. This is the space that will be used for the primary care integration project with GraceMed."*

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "We have a motion and second. No, we don't."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Board of Bids and Contracts Regular Meeting on May 7, 2015.*

*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>

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

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

**CONSENT**

**K**      [15-0324](#)      General Bill Check Register for May 6, 2015 - May 12, 2015.

**L**      [15-0325](#)      Payroll Check Register for the May 2, 2015 payroll certification.

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

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

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Unruh moved to approve the Consent Agenda.*

*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>

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Now we are at the legislative issues portion of our agenda. I don't believe we have anything to talk about, Mr. Manager."*

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Then we will move to the 'Other' portion of the agenda. Commissioners, do you have anything for the other portion of the agenda? Commissioner Peterjohn."*

**OTHER**

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be remiss if I didn't mention May 13th is an important day in American history. And on May 13th, 1864, Private William Henry Chrisman of the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry, who died in a Washington, DC hospital for complications related to measles, was the first soldier buried in what became Arlington National Cemetery. And that area that covers 624 acres contains now more than 300,000 graves, so Arlington during that very difficult time, during the civil war, and of course it's the resting place also for two presidents. Everyone who follows 20th century history remembers that John F. Kennedy is buried there. In addition to Kennedy, William Howard Taft is also buried there.*

*"Also on this date in 1607, British colonists founded Jamestown, which became the first permanent English settlement, which is now the United States. In 1846, Congress declared war with Mexico, and that of course is interesting in light of the fact that on this date in 1865 the very last battle of the Civil War was fought at Palmito Ranch in south Texas. So May 13th is an important day in American history, and wanted to get that on the record this morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you. Commissioners, next we have Executive Session. We have no need of Executive Session today. Is there anything else to come before the board, Mr. Manager?"*

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Then we are adjourned."*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.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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