

# Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor  
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2015

9:30 AM

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**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 Special Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on October 15, 2015 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Richard Ranzau, with the following present: Chair Pro-Tem Commissioner Karl Peterjohn; Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Tim R. Norton; Commissioner James M. Howell; Mr. Ron Holt, Acting County Manager; Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor; Ms. Kristi Zukovich, Director, Communications; and Ms. Erika Rice, Deputy County Clerk.*

#### **GUESTS**

*Mr. Bob Layton, City Manager, City of Wichita*

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A      [15-0701](#)      DISCUSSION OF METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING DIRECTOR POSITION.**

Presented by: Ron Holt, Acting County Manager.

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Just for some background, the Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department (MAPD) is hired by a combination of the Board of County Commissioners and the City Manager. The City Manager is here, today, to give us some background on what's going on and we will have a discussion in regards to this. Bob, would you like to?"*

*Mr. Bob Layton, City Manager, City of Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "As you know, we have been going through a process to appoint a successor to John Schlegel, who was our Planning Director for a number of years and did an admirable job. I have provided you with a summary of the process that we have been through, both for you and for the public to understand what we have done to this point. In late April, we advertised the opening and received about 40 candidates who expressed interest in the position. We did an extensive review of those applications and came down to four finalists. The four finalists are listed on this sheet; Dana Schoening from the City of Duncan, Oklahoma; Paula Dennison from the City of Stillwater, Oklahoma; Scott Knebel from our own Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC); and Dale Miller, also from MAPC.*

*"We went through a series of interviews. We, standing as a body, had interviews with*

*the four finalists and we also put together a Community Stakeholder Panel and a staff team, to interview the candidates. Based on that information and the information that we received from the interviews, I just want to share with you my perceptions and I have a recommendation. Again, as Chairman Ranzau mentioned, this is a joint appointment and I will leave it up to you all to deliberate, as well. I want to go through the candidates real briefly, as far as my perceptions, and how I got to my current position on the finalists. Again, this is based on my perceptions as well as what I have heard from the panel members from the Community Stakeholders and Department Director panel.*

*"First of all, in terms of Dana Schoening, Dana had a good background. As I compared his background and the information that he provided during the interview process, as well as the feedback that we received, I think he's maybe a little less comprehensive in his understanding of the issues facing Wichita and Sedgwick County and maybe didn't have quite the background necessary to deal with the complexity of the issues that we are all facing.*

*"Paula Dennison, I thought, had a little stronger background. She was a little more active in Current Planning than Advanced Planning, but has had experience in both. As I listened to her and the comments from the other panels, I felt that maybe her management and communication style didn't quite fit what we are looking for in this position, especially following someone like John Schlegel and someone who is going to have to work really closely with the business community, the development community and build a coalition, as well as building coalition and partnership between the City Council and the County Commission.*

*"So, that left the two internal candidates, Scott Knebel and Dale Miller. Scott Knebel was the next one that was interviewed. He has experience in both current and Advanced Planning, which I think could be very helpful to us. He knows the Wichita issues and the issues that are facing us for the future. I think, in terms of my review of Scott and what I heard during the interview process, I am a little concerned about his ability to develop the partnerships that are necessary for us to go forward. We are at a key time when we need to develop a new model for planning between the City and the County. I am not sure that Scott has the ability, today, to pull all of the parties together in a way that will allow us to move forward in the new model.*

*"Dale, like Scott, has extensive background in planning; both current and Advanced Planning. I think that his background, today, in Current Planning, is very beneficial to us, because I think that is the major area of emphasis for the City and the County. We are working hard to develop what I think we would both say is a business friendly atmosphere and environment and his experience in Current Planning, today, will allow us to move forward with the new business model. The fact that he has Advanced Planning experience will help, also, as we put that concept together for joint City and County department for the future so that Advanced Planning has a proper form and function inside this department that both the City and County need, which I think we would agree, are different in that area of Advanced Planning. Dale also has strong support from Department Directors and staff members and is, I believe, well respected by elected officials. I think he has everything necessary, in terms of background experience and skill set, in order to move us forward, in a positive way as we develop a new Planning Department.*

*"With that, my recommendation is that we go forward with Dale Miller and offer Dale the position. Again, I am only one piece of this process. With that, Mr. Chairman, I will turn*

*it back over to you for the Commissioners to maybe talk about your thoughts about the process, as well as the candidates."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Thank you, Bob. Commissioners, were there any questions or comments that you might have? Commissioner Unruh."*

*Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Manager Layton's recap of our process and the various impressions that we got from the finalist candidates. I agree with the Manager's evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, as we understood them through that process. I think that it is important to note that our community stakeholders panel and our City and County Department Director panel came to the same conclusion that was expressed by Manager Layton. I am in accord with the conclusion that the Manager came to and it's my opinion that Mr. Miller would be a great Director for the Metropolitan Area Planning Department and I would also support a motion or a movement to go ahead and ask him to take that position."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Commissioner Peterjohn."*

*Commissioner Peterjohn said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to express my appreciation to Manager Layton, because he and the City folks have been very, very helpful in this entire process. It's an entirely unique process that is different from the other types of personnel situations that I have been in. Both the City, through the Manager and the Manager's Office, as well as the five Commissioners. So, this makes this a first time for me, in terms of this process. I wanted to also thank the Community Stakeholders Panel and the City and County Department Director Panel Members. Debra Miller Stevens is on the MAPC; John McKay has been on the Quad County Planning Forum, also the Board of Zoning Appeals. I see that Mr. Wes Galyon is here, in the room on this, who is on this panel with the Wichita Area Builders Association; Phil Meyer with Baughman and Company; Chris Bohm with Ruggles & Bohm, P.A.; Mark Hutton with Hutton Construction and Jack Brown with the Kansas University School of Medicine, Wichita.*

*"I also want to thank my fellow elected colleagues as well as my staff colleagues who were a part of the City and County Department Director Panel. Kelly Arnold, the County Clerk; our CFO (Chief Financial Officer), Chris Chronis; our HR (Human Resources) Director, Eileen McNichol; Tom Stolz of MABCD (Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department); Scot Rigby, Assistant City Manager, City of Wichita; City of Wichita HR Director, Chris Bezruki; Fire Chief Ron Blackwell; and former County employee and current Director of Law for the City of Wichita, Jennifer Magana. I want to also thank the four candidates who were mentioned, too, because to come in and jump in and go through this very strenuous process, multiple interviews, I was impressed by the candidate's strengths and this was a challenging decision.*

*"I agree with the City Manager, in terms of where we are, that Dale Miller is the strongest candidate that we have going forward. However we need to handle this process, that's where I am at in this process. Thank you."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Mr. Manager, we have a say in hiring this person, but technically this person is a City of Wichita employee, so the City Manager would then take care of that whole process. Is that correct?"*

*Mr. Ron Holt, Acting County Manager, said "That is correct, it's a joint hiring decision, but the employee becomes a member of the City of Wichita staff."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "I see no other lights on and I am personally supportive of this and I appreciate Bob's willingness to be here and go over the history of it, he did a very good job of giving us a summary of what happened and I think that Dale Miller would be an excellent candidate for this and serve very well. Commissioner Howell."*

*Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that I have not known Dale Miller very long, but I think that he did extremely well showing a tremendous skill set. I felt very comfortable with him being the Director of MAPD. I think that he will do a very good job. The other three candidates I think also interviewed very well, I just think that they didn't have the full package that I was looking for. I think that Dale Miller has everything that I would look for in a Planning Director. I will tell you that he had some unique comments that he made. I like his can-do attitude. He talked about how we get to yes. That really stood out to me and he said that a number of time and I really liked that perspective. I also do like the process that we followed. Again, I just want to commend Mr. Layton and my colleagues, I think the process that we followed was very well done. Some of the process that we followed in hiring a County Counselor and County Manager and potentially a Public Works Director, in the future, I think this is a process that is not defined by the books on how we have to do this, but I think we defined the process by practice, that is very well done. I think that we are very thorough. To come down to the one person that really stands out, I think it was a great process to follow to get to this point and I feel very comfortable supporting Dale Miller in this position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

#### MOTION

*Chairman Ranzau moved to accept the City Manager's recommendation to hire Dale Miller as the Metropolitan Area Planning Department Director and authorize the City Manager to take the appropriate steps to complete the hiring process.*

*Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.*

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

#### VOTE

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

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Mr. Manager or Bob, is there anything else that we need to do for this?"*

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

*Mr. Bob Layton, said "No."*

*Chairman Ranzau said, "Seeing none, we are adjourned."*

**Approved**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned  
at 9:43 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:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk*

*APPROVED:*