

# Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor  
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

9:00 AM

BOCC Meeting Room

### **Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners**

*Pursuant to Resolution #007-2016, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on January 20, 2016, members of the public are allowed to address the County Commission for a period of time limited to not more than five minutes or such time limits as may become necessary.*

*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 Crissy Magee, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator, 510 N. Main, Suite 306, Wichita, Kansas 67203. Phone: 316-660-7056, TDD: Kansas Relay at 711 or 800-766-3777*

*Email: [Crissy.Magee@sedgwick.gov](mailto:Crissy.Magee@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**

### *MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS*

#### *REGULAR MEETING*

*January 11, 2017*

*The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:04 a.m. on January 11, 2017 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman James M. Howell, with the following present: Chair Pro-Tem Commissioner Richard Ranzau; Commissioner David Unruh; Commissioner Michael O'Donnell II; Commissioner David Dennis; Mr. Michael Scholes, County Manager; Mr. Thomas Golden, Deputy County Manager; Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Mr. Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing Department; Ms. Kate Flavin, Public Information Officer; Ms. Heddie Page, Deputy County Clerk.*

#### *GUESTS*

*Mr. Lonny Wright, 1721 South Lulu Street, Wichita  
Ms. Sybil Strum, 326 North Walnut Street, Wichita*

### **INVOCATION: Pastor Curtis Baker, RiverWalk Church of Christ.**

### **FLAG SALUTE**

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PUBLIC AGENDA**

*Chairman Howell said, "Alright. I think I do have at least one signed up to speak, unless, see if anybody else besides that, I would like to ask Lonny Wright. Come on up and share with us this morning."*

*Mr. Lonny Wright, 1721 South Lulu Street, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I would like to take this opportunity to comment on your chairmanship, Mr. Howell. But I caution just because I was nice to Mr. Peterjohn last week and to Commissioner Ranzau, when he finished his chairmanship, doesn't necessarily mean that's a pattern, but I recognize how you have reached out, to me that has been a theme of what I have seen during this past year, you know, see you at neighborhood associations, organizations, I see you more than any other elected official and I appreciate that. I liked it last month when you were at the Sedgwick County Association of cities. Derby Mayor Randy White recognized you as the most*

consistent, you know, attendee.

*"Probably I most appreciate the public agenda, you continued Commissioner Ranzau been chairman, calling for public comment on action and you expanded that to where now there is no prior notice to be able speak, and I'm taking advantage of that. We don't have to go in advance, so that is another case of, you know, reaching out that I appreciate.*

*"We had our roaming Commission meetings, you know, during elections we always have people say you have your meetings during the day, I can't be there. In my mind even though we do, we never get such good attendance. But the Commission supported your initiative and having, you know, our Commission at different locations. I'm not disappointed in the response, but I liked it that it showed the county, you know, is also a collection of the cities.*

*"I think your probably biggest achievement is Fire Training Center and negotiation with the Law Enforcement Training Center. You brought up, why aren't we sharing with fire training facility and you won on that. I have seen you at your happiest. I'm talking about those dunk tanks, they are a person, sit in the middle of a metal cages, full of water, people throw at a targets and you go under. I saw how much the county appreciates the employees, you know, at the county employee appreciation day, there at the [Intrust Bank] Arena. We had over 35 booths of people offering things to employees and they giving things and stuff. I enjoyed that. It was a cold and windy day, Manager Scholes got up there to get dunked and he did. But I was saving my money for you, lightning came, they called it off by the time I got back, you had already been dunked and gone.*

*"But then the city had their employee recognition day and there was Mayor Longwell. Boy, you have a good arm. I got to admit, I think you were the first one to dunk him, and I think you dunked him three times, you're a happy man. So, I appreciate the service you have given us this past year and reaching out. Thank you."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Well, Lonny, I just want to say thank you for those comments. They refer to you as the, you're the most informed citizen because you are seemingly everywhere, you're almost omnipresent, being able to go to every meeting that seems like is going on. So, having you say nice things about me is tremendous. I just want to say for being kind this morning, I don't feel like I deserve kindness from you necessarily, because we do disagree on something's once and awhile. But the fact that you are very kind and reminisce with me on some of the highlights of this last year, is tremendous. So thank you for taking the time to share that with me this morning."*

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

*Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Thank you, Lonny. He did mention a few things. The dunk tanks, I kind of, forgot about that. That was a fun day, it was really cold out there, but we did it anyway. Never the less, is there anybody else in the audience that would like to speak this morning during the public agenda? Alright. Madam Clerk, next item, please."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Thank you, very much. I do have one who has come in little bit late, but I would like to recognize, going back to Public Agenda for just a moment. Sybil Strum is here that would like to speak to the Commission for just a couple of minutes. So I would like to invite her to speak real quickly. We will go ahead and go forward with the next item after she is done."*

*Ms. Sybil Strum, 326 North Walnut Street, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You*

wanted to get an update on my issue, I purchased the house from Laverne Becker, May 26, 1992. I paid the house May 26, 1994, I have been paying the property tax every since and I did not receive the deed. Also, I went to the Register of Deed lady and she stated that the deed was not there. Then I went to Security Title and they said the deed wasn't there. I want to know where is that deed?

"As a registered voter, I am outraged that the deeds not here. It seems like I have explained to each and every one of you and the City Council members that it's not right that me, Sybil Strum, has not got my deed. I cannot get house insurance, I can't, I have been upset with the issue because I am not a squatter, I paid for the house, the house was just awful, awful when I got it. There was no floors, the plumbing was outdated, copper pipes, the roofing was terrible, it was a nightmare house, the windows were broken. I want to know, where that deed and why am I not receiving it when I paid the house off. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Sybil. Thank you for your comments. Alright. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

### **NEW BUSINESS, part I**

**A      [16-852](#)      PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD.  
Presented by: Chairman Jim Howell.**

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Present the award.

#### **VISUAL PRESENTATION**

Chairman Howell said, "Folks, I'd just like to take this opportunity as outgoing chairman, I want to spend a few minutes with this, I know, this is a, one of the things, we don't do enough celebration in our community about the great things around us. I want to take the time to do that this morning and I, this is a great opportunity because since 1988 the county has allowed the Chairman, the County Commission to highlight something in the community that they felt is especially important. Today, I want to take the time to honor Youth Horizons and specifically Ernest Alexander. The award is for Youth Horizons, but I have to talk about Ernest first because Ernest really is what is the passion behind what Youth Horizons is all about.

"So with that I'm just going to take a moment to read a little something about Ernest, but before I do that I just want to share how this is going to work. Again, this has happened since 1988, so this is like the 28th year, if I counted that correctly, we've had this award and we will have a video here in just a minute and then I will make a presentation to Ernest for Youth Horizons. So before I get started, I want to say we have a number of people from the audience this morning or with us from Youth Horizons, I will introduce them in just a few minutes as well and Ernest you will have the chance to speak and others if you have anything you want to say or add to what we do this morning. I appreciate your comments if you want to say something, you will have a chance to do that as well.

"Let me just mention about Ernest real quickly. I want to just share some of his history, because I think it's really important to know about his background and so this came off of the Youth Horizons website. So let me tell what it says. Ernest Alexander was born in Selma, Alabama. He grew up in the racially-charged South during the 1950's and 1960's, where he faced discrimination and segregation daily. He and his six siblings were raised by his mom, a single parent who worked hard to lovingly provide for her kids. As a boy, Ernest was inspired by a gospel singer named Mahalia

*Jackson. He prayed and promised God that if he were given a voice like hers, he would use it for God's glory. From the fifth grade through high school, Ernest studied voice and worked with the Hart College Music Conservatory at the University of Hartford.*

*"During high school, Ernest received many awards, including being named the representative from Connecticut for a national competition called "American Youth Performs." As a result, he was able to perform at Carnegie Hall.*

*"Ernest came to Kansas to attend college, first at Butler County Community College and later at Friends University. At Friends (University), he traveled with the Singing Quakers and toured much of the United States. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance and has traveled with the Continental Orchestra throughout the United States and the Caribbean.*

*"Ernest committed his life to Christ when he was 12 years old. Since that time, he has sought to walk in obedience to the Lord in all that he does. He has lived a life committed to evangelism, and the Lord has used Ernest to bring many people to know Him as Lord and Savior.*

*"As a response to a call on his life, he was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1975. Presently, he is actively involved in his local church, River Community Church, S.B.C.*

*"Ernest has devoted his life to serving the Lord and reaching out to troubled and at-risk youth, at-risk children. He is currently the President of Youth Horizons. Through the years, Ernest has mentored many young people himself, serving as a father figure in many cases. In addition, he has taken several boys into his personal home when they had nowhere else to turn. He has even adopted two of those. Many of the kids with whom he has worked are now adults with families who are following Ernest's example and are reaching out to mentor other young people.*

*"In addition to his work at Youth Horizons and with young people in the community, Ernest continues to travel extensively throughout the country and overseas, performing concerts at churches, schools, and civic functions. Through his music and words, Ernest shares the love of Christ as well as his burden for young people.*

*"Let me just say on a personal note, I was able to attend the Christmas concert this last, this last December and he has a tremendous voice, he has a strong, strong voice, he's a very talented singer, but more importantly he has a passion for children, a passion for our youth and he stands out in this community as one who really cares. Youth Horizons is making a tremendous difference in our community helping literally hundreds of kids with their situations at home.*

*"As you know, I've had a burden for the Judge Riddel Boys Ranch over the years, which is really why I am here today. If it wasn't for JRBR (Judge Riddel Boys Ranch) I wouldn't be a County Commissioner, I would not be Chairman, today to consider what's going on in our community with youth. Fatherlessness is an enormous problem in our community and Ernest, I think has taken this on as his passion and his ministry. Through Youth Horizons has made a tremendous difference. I will talk more about the specific programs with Youth Horizons in just a few minutes, but before I do that I would like to share a video.*

*"Well, thank you for allowing me share that video and I hope you appreciate the message of that video. Yet, once again, we have a tremendous social issue going on in our community with homelessness and especially fatherless children. I want to say thank you to Ernest for making a difference on that.*

*"I want to just talk about Youth Horizons more specifically for just a few minutes. When I was just a young, young person probably in my early 20's, I remember visiting a place called the Dandelion out on East Douglas [Street]. This was a building at 1601 East Douglas and today that building is still there, the name on the building has changed to Youth Horizons. Back in the day, this was a coffee house for young people, an outreach ministry to the homeless and a place for Christian concerts and movies. I remember going to the Dandelion and watching movies late at night, as a place to hangout. "It was called the Christian Community Services in the 1986, this ministry was taken over by Jeff Wenzel and Ernest Alexander. Three years later, Ernest and Jeff changed the name to Youth Horizons, I think that was in 1989, if I have that date right. The ministry has, focus has changed for providing mentors, has changed to providing mentors for at-risk children in the community.*

*"Throughout the years, the work of Youth Horizons has grown. Ernest and Jeff recognized there was a need for a group home where boys who were unable to be raised at home could live. In April 1996 a building called the Martin House opened and full-time residential care was added to Youth Horizons' programs.*

*"In 2005, a relationship was developed with the Christian Association of Youth Mentoring (CAYM). Youth Horizons was one of the founding members of this association that is committed to training and developing Christian mentoring programs across the United States. A generous gift was given to Youth Horizons in 2006 to purchase property on the outskirts of town and begin developing a new group home called Kinloch Price Boys Ranch.*

*"Youth Horizons has experienced tremendous growth in its relationship to the community, local churches, kids and families. About that [Kinloch Price] Boys Ranch, this is a residential program that provides care for boys with severe individual and family challenges. In cases where living at home or in a foster home has been unsuccessful. I missed a page here we go, I apologize for that. Youth Horizons is equipped to help those boys. Located on the outskirts of Wichita on North Woodlawn, the ranch serves boys ages eight (8), I'm sorry, ages 10-18. They have four family-style group homes, fully operational, and have the capacity to care for 28 boys.*

*"They strive to make living at Kinloch Price Boys Ranch like living in a normal, healthy home. They apply behavioral principles to teach life skills. They help youth build appropriate relationships and develop self-discipline. Each boy is taught the skills needed to succeed as an adult member of the community.*

*"What about the mentoring program, which is the other half of what Youth Horizons does. Youth Horizons' mentoring program helps youth grow to be confident, hopeful citizens. They match children from age five (5) to 14 (at startup) with a positive Christian role model. Mentors commit to spend two or three hours a week with a child for at least one year. Mentoring, they have a fun time with kids do all kinds things, life skill-building, sports, acting, money management, sometimes spiritual development and a school-based program, which is a new thing, I believe, they do mentoring in schools. Actually, a couple of schools that they do this in right now, Woodman Elementary, Brooks Middle School, and in Newton a school called Slate Creek Elementary.*

*"So that's, kind of, a little bit about Youth Horizons and they are certainly making a difference. I would like to recognize a few of the folks from Youth Horizons that are in attendance this morning. Of course, Ernest Alexander he is sitting right here in front of me, he is a rock star not literally cause he sings a different kind of music, gospel music, but I think of him as a rock star, in the fact that he is a one of the best people I know and he deserves our appreciation. His staff is with him this morning, Tim is*

*here, I know, we had a Christmas party for the kids at a church in Derby. There was a hundreds of kids that came that are being mentored by different people in the Youth Horizons program. There was a lot of fun and games, carnival type games, they all got Christmas presents and I don't know how they got it all done. It was tremendous effort and the kids were having a wonderful time.*

*"I was able to volunteer there and see what was going on, it was just a tremendous experience, I think Tim was involved in that and of course, Jared. Jared is a good friend of mine, I've known him for many, many years, I think, he was a troublemaker when he was little, but giving him some reason, I think he knows these kids better than most everyone else because got, kind of, like them in some ways. But Jared is a great individual. Deena, I know Deena, she's a tremendous individual as well and they also brought Hayley, Jake, Pam and Amy. Thank you for all you do for Youth Horizons and for this community and then there is Glenn Davis who is a represents Heart of Kansas Southern Baptist Association is with us this morning as well. I want to say thank you all of you for attending here, but most importantly for how you have made a difference in this community through Youth Horizons. It is one of those things we have not recognized as a community, but we need too. I just want to say I appreciate you.*

*"Ernest, if you would want to come up here for just a minute. I want to hand you this plaque, it's a small memento, just a little bit, just a little recognition that you deserve. I want to thank you for that. Would you stand up with me?"*

*Mr. Alexander, President, Youth Horizons said, "Sure."*

*Chairman Howell said, "For a picture, here we go. Alright. I would like to invite you to say anything, if you would like to say something this morning."*

*Mr. Ernest Alexander thanked the chairman and said, "I'm just amazed that you would give us this much attention and time and I have nothing but gratitude to express. Graduating in '79 from Friends University, running around the world, living in nice hotels, eating in great restaurants and making good money. I still found myself unfulfilled and started praying about some way to use the resources I was generating to do something that had eternal weight to it. Then God started providing kids, they just came like flies from different places, different times, with different needs and it was easy to spend the money. Eventually there were more children than I had money to help.*

*"So we started to make appeals to this community and here we are almost 40 years later. I am just amazed at how this community has responded and stood with us all of these years. Anytime we asked for help, people have responded really well. In 2015, we decided to build two more houses and we needed to raise \$2 million for that, plus our \$1,200,000 budget. So by the end of last year, actually the spring of 2016, we were successful in raising \$3,200,000 and we were able to pay all of our obligations and have our operating budget. This year's budget is about \$1,700,000 and presently in the bank there is about one million, what is it \$1,300 or 400, 000. All of that from people in this community and across the country who have a heart for kids.*

*"I'm convinced that Americas natural resources are youth and while they don't vote, they don't pay taxes, they don't tithe in churches, they are not the America of the future, they are the America today and the sooner we reach them the brighter our future looks. So, I just say thank you, when we decided to go up to Woodlawn, this committee stood with us. Some of you were here and you remember, there were substantial opposition. People were saying things like, we don't want your kind in our neighborhood. What they were talking about is they didn't want people like me. That's*

*really what they were saying, but you stood with me and I hope we've made you proud. I'm so grateful for your help and this is just my chance to publicly say thank you to all of you. Especially you, much obliged."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Love you, buddy."*

*Mr. Alexander said, "Love you."*

*Chairman Howell said, "I want Youth Horizons staff to all stand. I want to give you also a hand of applause, please. You all deserve it very much. Let me hand this to you and I'm going to head back to the bench. Once again, God bless you and thank you for all you do."*

*Mr. Alexander said, "Much obliged."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "At this point I will make a motion that we will receive and file all these comments and I want to say thank you, congratulations to Ernest Alexander, Youth Horizons. Ernest probably doesn't remember, he's met a lot of people, but first met and heard Ernest way back in the early 80's when I was involved in Teens for Christ, in high school. So, he has certainly impacted a lot of lives in this community. I appreciate everything that you've done and will continue to do in all those paths and everything. Thank you very much."*

#### MOTION

*Commissioner Ranzau moved to receive and file.*

*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 O'Donnell II</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Dennis</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Howell</i>	<i>Aye</i>

#### Received and Filed

## B [17-138](#)

### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 5, 2017.

Presented by: Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

*Mr. Joe Thomas, Director of Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We presenting to you two items for your recommendations that resulted of the meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts of January 5th:*

1. 2017 AMBULANCES - FLEET MANAGEMENT  
FUNDING - FLEET MANAGEMENT & EMS

*On the recommendation to accept the best proposal from AEV-American Emergency*



*Vehicles & ARV-American Response Vehicles in the amount of \$395,810.00 and establish contract pricing for one (1) year.*

**2. SMALL SEDANS - FLEET MANAGEMENT  
FUNDING - SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS**

*On the recommendation to accept the low bid from Rusty Eck Ford, Inc. in the amount of \$86,317.00 and also establish contract pricing for one (1) year.*

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

*Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Commissioner, any questions or comments?"*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Ranzau moved to approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.*

*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 O'Donnell II</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Dennis</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Howell</i>	<i>Aye</i>

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

*Chairman Howell said, "Thank you so much. Next item, please."*

**Approved**

**CONSENT**

*Mr. Mike Scholes, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I recommend you approve Consent Agenda item Charlie (C) through Echo (E) and I withdrawal Foxtrot (F)."*

**MOTION**

*Commissioner Ranzau moved to adopt the consent agenda, with the withdrawal of items F.*

*Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion.*

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

**VOTE**

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner O'Donnell II</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Dennis</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Commissioner Ranzau                      Aye  
Chairman Howell                          Aye

Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Madam Clerk, next item, please."  
**Approved As Amended**

- C     [17-126](#)                      Agreement with Child Advocacy Center and Sedgwick County.  
   **Approved on the Consent Agenda**
- D     [17-130](#)                      Approval of Community Programs' Delegate Agency 2017 Funding  
   Agreements.  
   **Approved on the Consent Agenda**
- E     [17-134](#)                      General Bill Check Register for January 4, 2017 to January 10, 2017.  
   **Approved on the Consent Agenda**
- F     17-135                      Payroll Check Register for the January 7, 2017 payroll certification.  
   **Withdrawn**

**NEW BUSINESS, part II**

- G     [17-102](#)                      SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
   COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN THROUGH  
   JANUARY 10, 2018.  
   Presented by: Chairman Jim Howell.
- RECOMMENDED ACTION: List slate of nominees, and vote on each  
in the order listed.
- Chairman Howell said, "Well, Commissioners, let me just preface this as we get  
started into this a little bit, couple of things. Number one, it has been a tremendous  
honor to be Chairman of this organization for one year. I have enjoyed it and I have  
felt we have done a great job this year, collectively as a board. It's a pleasure to be  
the Chairman of Sedgwick County. I stammer over my words once and a while, I  
stutter here, and I don't say the right thing, the right way, I forget to follow the agenda  
sometimes, but it has been a tremendous experience and I will value this for the rest  
of my life. So, I want to thank you for allowing me to be Chairman for the last year.*
- "The way we are going to do this, as we have in the past, is we would accept  
nominations for Chair then, of course, after this agenda item we will do the same  
thing for the pro tem position.*
- "We will accept nominations, then we will vote by name rather than by saying yes or  
no, yea or nay. So, Commissioners I will accept nominations at this time.  
Commissioner Ranzau."*
- Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, "Mr. Chairman, I would like to  
nominate my colleague, Commissioner Dave Unruh to be the next Chairman of the  
Sedgwick County Commission."*

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved to nominate Commissioner Unruh as the Chairman for the year 2017.

Chairman Howell said, "This does not require a second, okay. Are there any other nominations? Alright, I would want to say, I support Commissioner Unruh, I think he will do a great job, he's done it, I think, four times in the past and he's demonstrated tremendous ability as a statesmen and as a leader here in the Commission for the numbers of time from the past. I would be glad to support you today as well. So, any other nominations, seeing none, Madam Clerk, we are going to do this by, again, Commissioners you're going to just name the person you want to vote for this morning, there is only one, I expect it to be pretty easy to do. Madam Clerk, please call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Commissioner Unruh
Commissioner O'Donnell II	Commissioner Unruh
Commissioner Dennis	Commissioner Unruh
Commissioner Ranzau	Commissioner Unruh
Chairman Howell	Commissioner Unruh

Chairman Howell said, "Congratulations, Commissioner Unruh. Commissioner Unruh has something you want to say."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said "Well, thank you Mr. Chairman, I just want to say, I first of all want to express appreciation to both Commissioner Howell and Commissioner Ranzau for their leadership during this last year and for the accomplishments that we've made, I think they are significant. It's been a, as you mentioned, I think a good year for us. You know, Sedgwick County is a great place to live and grow your family and work and because of that I'm really pleased, once again to have the opportunity to serve as Chair.

"My focus as the Chairman will be that we continue our collaboration in the community, strengthen partnerships and work together in all the while be transparent and open in our activities. So, I believe we can continue the momentum that we've established and I look forward to serve as your Chairman."

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner Unruh, thank you for your comments. I will finish out this meeting to this morning. I just want to take chance to shake your hand and give you a gavel. There you go. I'm sure I'm going to learn a lot listening to you for the next year as well, because you have done this a number of times, you did a great job and I always learn from you, you can do a great job again, I'm sure. So..."

Commissioner Unruh said, "Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "What a pleasure to have you as our next Chairman. Alright. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

H [17-103](#)

SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS CHAIR PRO TEM THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2018.  
Presented by: Chairman Jim Howell.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: List slate of nominees and vote on each in the order listed.

*Chairman Howell said, "Well, Commissioners once again we are going to follow the same process and I just wanted to say, I would like to nominate Commissioner Michael O'Donnell, to be Pro-Tem. A number of things about him that I think it makes him especially a good candidate for this year is, that it would be his history.*

*"He has served on Wichita City Council, he has most recently been a State Senator for the last four years, he has served in a number of leadership positions, he was Chairman of the Senate Health Committee, as well as the Senate Post Audit Committee and the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation, which is about, right at 50 legislators at the local area. He has chaired meetings every week during the legislative session, as well as conducted community forum over the last year and organized some events during the session up in Topeka. So a tremendous leadership he has demonstrated and I believe he is ready to do this as well. He also been vice chairman of local government and election as well as KanCare oversight committee in Topeka. So he has a great amount of experience in leadership and tremendous experience with Wichita and the state, I think he would be the perfect Pro-Tem going forward. So, with that I would like to nominate Michael O'Donnell and Commissioners is there any other nominations or any other comments? Alright. Seeing none, Madam Clerk, please call the vote."*

MOTION

*Chairman Howell moved to nominate Commissioner O'Donnell as Chair Pro-Tem for the year 2017.*

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Commissioner O'Donnell</i>
<i>Commissioner O'Donnell II</i>	<i>Commissioner O'Donnell</i>
<i>Commissioner Dennis</i>	<i>Commissioner O'Donnell</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Commissioner O'Donnell</i>
<i>Chairman Howell</i>	<i>Commissioner O'Donnell</i>

*Chairman Howell said, "Congratulations. Alright. Any Commissioners have any other comments? Before we move on to the next item, here in just a moment. Commissioner Ranzau."*

*Commissioner Ranzau said, "Chairman, before we proceed I would like to take a few moments to recognize your service as our Chairman over the last year. It is customary for us to provide the Chairman a plaque every year for his service and I want to point out some of the great accomplishments of this Commission has achieved under your leadership over the last year.*

*"There is a long list and I could go on and on, but I'm going to hit some of the highlights. Of course, the Law Enforcement Training Center, there's the Fire Training Center, the Tag Office, the Reagan building, the Community Crisis Center, the Judge Riddel Boys and Girls Alternative Program. The Zoo has experienced record profits, record revenue over the last year. You have also as Lonny Wright mentioned earlier made an effort to reach out to the citizens of this community, we've had evening meetings, we've had newsletter initiative that's begun under you leadership, you've also made it a point to meet regularly with the Wichita City Council, which has been very helpful and beneficial allowing us to work together, very closely on some*

*important issues like the Law Enforcement Training Center, the fire, the Reagan building things like this.*

*"So, I have to say that to my knowledge the accomplishment of this Commission achieved this year really are unprecedented as far of number of long standing projects and cooperation that we've had with some of our colleagues and community members this year has just been tremendous. I appreciate all the work, the effort, the leadership, you have given to us over this last year, congratulate you on all the successes."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Thank you so much. Alright. Thank you. Those are very kind words, but I'd be remiss if I didn't to make the point it takes five (5) or it at least takes three (3) to do anything here. No Commissioner has any power in and of themselves. So, I do think this has been a fantastic year, but I think the stars lined up before I showed up. I had the privilege of being the Chairman while these things came to fruition. We had a number of successes and things to be very proud of here in Sedgwick County, lots of good news, but I don't credit myself necessarily with any of that.*

*"It is good to be a part of a team that move those issues forward. I appreciate the nice comments this morning, I will cherish this forever, again this has been a tremendous experience, I don't know if I will ever have the chance to be Chairman ever again, but this has been one of the highlights of my life up to this point. I just want to say thank you to my colleagues for allowing me to Chairman this last, this last year. Alright. Thank you so much for the plaque. Madam Clerk, next item, please."*

## **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

*Chairman Howell said, "As you all know the legislature is back in session and there are things moving forward. So..."*

*Mr. Jon VonAchen, Assistant County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "That is correct, Mr. Chairman. They opened up Monday with a flurry. Before I start in on what has been done in the past couple of days at the legislative level, I would like to thank you as the outgoing Chairman for giving me the opportunity to come up and speak each week that the legislature is in session. So that we, myself and the Commission can inform the public as to the issues that the Commission wants to weigh in on and what we have been doing on their behalf.*

*"To that end, one of the things on our platform we passed in December, was an item regarding special election for potential replacement for Congressman Pompeo. As you all are aware, he is going to the confirmation process to be the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) Director. It is possible he may be confirmed before President-elect takes office and if he is, then he will likely resign shortly after the President takes office. So, the House Election Committee yesterday considered House Bill 2017, I would say twenty seventeen, but it's the year 2017, so it is kind of confusing, but that Bill went through the election committee with no amendments.*

*"We had asked for an amendment regarding canvassing, we will continue to work on that, so that their maybe some timing issues regarding, first of all having time to canvas and second of all one of the things we raised was the possibility of another special election occurring at the same time. We raised that as a hypothetical, we now know there is going to be one. The Goddard School Board is asking for a bond special election to occur April 25th, if the coincide we would like the opportunity to be able to canvas both at the same time.*

*"Otherwise, it will be additional cost to the taxpayers in the Goddard School District, because we would have to conduct simultaneous, but separate elections. Even to the point potentially of having two voting machines at a polling location. One to vote for our new representative and one to vote on the school bond issue. So, hopefully we can get that fixed on the House or Senate floor somewhere in between.*

*"If, but there isn't a lot of time to get this done though because if it is the Congressman's intent to resign after confirmation and when the President-elect takes office that leaves us two Kansas register publications. One of which is tomorrow, which I don't think we will get done. The other would be next Thursday. So, short period of time, but I am glad the Legislature did take this up and they are fast tracking it.*

*"Regarding the remaining bills out there, I have disseminated to the various county departments what is out there, there are a lot of early law enforcement bills dealing with civil forfeiture, which is on our platform.*

*"So if anyone is interested, I would encourage them to go to the Kansas Legislature website and they're right up there at the beginning of the Senate and House Bills. There are post audit has put identical bills on the Senate and House side regarding those issues as well as the Bill introduced by Gail Finney. So, with that I will take any questions from the Commission."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Thank you, Mr. VonAchen, for the presentation. Commissioners, are there any questions or comments? Alright, I don't think we have anything unless, I just want to say thank you again, I know this is the time of year you get extremely busy. I want to say, I appreciate you giving us a lot of your time and being so thorough and keeping us apprised of what is going on in Topeka. So, I really appreciate you very, very much and we already got report yesterday of some of the things going on in the first day of session, I guess second day of session. Today would be the third day technically, I believe, so it's a lot going on there and appreciate your tracking all that."*

*Mr. VonAchen said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Next item, please."*

## **OTHER**

*Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Commissioners, is there any comments for other this morning? Commissioner Dennis."*

*Commissioner Dennis, thanked the Chairman and said, "First of all let me let everyone know that I was a business major in college and I wasn't a history major. So, you may see a little different discussion coming out. But first of all I want to congratulate our new Chairman Unruh and our new Vice Chairman O'Donnell. I want to thank our current Chairman Howell and Chairman Pro-Tem Ranzau for the service to our county for the past year.*

*"When I had the Oath of Office on Sunday, I thanked all the people that helped me get to this position on the bench, but the people I need to thank today are really those that made this transition possible and as smooth as possible. First, of all was past representative [Karl] Peterjohn.*

*"The transition was very smooth and I appreciated Karl Peterjohn and what he did to make the transition smooth. Besides the past Commissioner, Lisa [Carr] and Carol [Cole] in our front office are outstanding. I don't know how many of you get to interact*

*with them, but they have just made my move in to this new office outstanding. Also, the County Manager's office and the County Manager and everyone involved in his office has been super.*

*"I want to get out and meet with the folks in the Sheriff's office, the D.A. (District Attorney) office, Clerk, Elections, Zoo, Healthcare, Fire, EMS (Emergency Medical Services), Treasurer, Register of Deeds, MAPD (Metropolitan Area Planning Department), IO (Information Office), Public Works, all the other organizations that support the citizens in Sedgwick County.*

*"It's our job up here on the bench to make sure they can do their job and that is what I intend to do. I need to learn what they are doing so that I can do the best job I can to support them, but I deeply appreciate all of the people that are involved in Sedgwick County, that are working for the citizens in Sedgwick County and I hope to work along side by side with them to make sure that we can support our citizens. Thank you very much."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner Dennis, thank you for your comments. It's good to have you on the bench, appreciate the kind words regarding our leadership this last year, as well as Commissioner Peterjohn. I would just like to say, it has been refreshing to see you and Commissioner Peterjohn getting along so well and actually working together as the transition happened. It is unheard of in politics to see that, but you both have done a tremendous job. I just want to commend both of you for doing that. Commissioner O'Donnell."*

*Commissioner O'Donnell, thanked the Chairman and said, "Well, I am very excited about this new endeavor, of course, we've talked about this on Sunday. So, I hate to repeat myself, but I just appreciate the vote of confidence for me as a new guy coming on the bench to put me in as the Pro-Tem. I hope that looking at my track record, both at the City of Wichita and in particular at the State of Kansas and building relationships.*

*"As I look at the Board of County Commissioners, I think that we do need to have good relationships, one with another. I've been long term friends with Commissioner Unruh and his lovely wife Karen, who is in the audience today for many, many years. Since, I've known them since I was in college and then of course serving with you Chairman Howell up in Topeka. Strength in our relationship and I consider you Leah to be very good friends. Commissioner Ranzau and I have been friends since after, probably around the time I got elected to the City Council and working on his re-election campaign. Obviously, I haven't known Commissioner Dennis as long, but he and Janet are wonderful people and I look forward to becoming friends with your family as well, because I do think having good relationships one with another is going to be pivotal going forward.*

*"There has been too much division, I think on the board for the last couple of years. You all are wonderful people and I look forward to supporting you and I appreciate the difference of opinion on different issues. I think government works best when there is an opposing view and having a little bit of division is good, but always with respect is the way we need to handle that. Because looking at our community going forward we don't need to have the separation between in particular our biggest city with roughly 80 percent of the people of Sedgwick County, we need to have the best relationship as possible and also with our state and federal delegation. It's extremely critical going forward, I am very optimistic to see what is going to be happening out of Washington, D.C. over the next year.*

*"Hopefully we will have a lot of good things for aviation to reverse some of the*

*damaging effects the current Presidential administrations has had on aviation in particular. Our community needs some relief on that, but I am just very, very honored to be Vice Chair and learning a lot from Commissioner Unruh over the next year. So, thank you all."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner O'Donnell, thank you for your comments and good reminder of relationships and how important they are to move our county forward. I completely agree with your comments this morning. I want to say thank you and thank you for the kind comments about each of the Commissioners this morning on the bench. It is refreshing to have, have you here and thank you for your comments this morning. Alright. Well, Commissioners is there anything else before we adjourn? I am looking at the agenda here, we are down to Executive Session, which we don't have and we don't have a Fire District meeting this morning. So, I think we are ready to end this meeting, but before I do, Mr. Manager, anything else?"*

*Mr. Mike Scholes, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Nothing else."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Counselor Yost."*

*Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "No."*

*Chairman Howell said, "Commissioners, anything else before we adjourn? Now is your last chance. Alright. I am going to use this gavel one time. I have never used it before. I'm going to dent the thing one time, just because I can. I want to make sure I use it one time as Chairman. So, with that we are adjourned. Thank you, everyone."*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

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DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman  
First District

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MICHAEL B. O'DONNELL II, Chair Pro Tem  
Second District

---

DAVID T. DENNIS, Commissioner  
Third District

---

RICHARD RANZAU, Commissioner



*Fourth District*

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*JAMES M. HOWELL, Commissioner  
Fifth District*

*ATTEST:*

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*Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk*

*APPROVED: February 1, 2017*