

Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...
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Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 31, 2017

6:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

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, 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

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

July 31, 2017

The Special Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on July 31, 2017 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David M. Unruh, with the following present: Chair Pro-Tem Commissioner Michael B. O'Donnell II; Commissioner David Dennis; Commissioner Richard Ranzau; Commissioner James M. Howell; Mr. Michael Scholes, County Manager; Mr. Thomas Stolz, Interim Deputy County Manager; Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Public Works; Mr. Tim Kaufman, ACM, Public Services; Ms. Lindsay Poe Rousseau, CFO; Ms. Kate Flavin, Public Information Officer; Ms. Heddie Page, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

*Mr. Justin Givens, City Administrator, City of Clearwater
Ms. Pamela Riggs, Director, Clearwater Senior Center
Mr. Gary O'Neal, 4967 N. Hillcrest, Bel Aire
Mr. Jim Burgess, 427 Spring Creek, Derby
Ms. Jeri Myers, Director, Mulvane Senior Center
Ms. Jennie Benitez, Director, Bel Aire Senior Center
Mr. Kevin Arnel, Board of Trustees President, Sedgwick County Zoological Society
Ms. Kim Landers, Director, Haysville Senior Center*

ROLL CALL

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

NEW BUSINESS

A [17-636](#) PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2018 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Presented by: Mike Scholes, County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Open the public hearing, receive public comment, and close the public hearing.

Mr. Mike Scholes, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "This evening is a final hearing, public hearing on the 2018 budget. This is Sedgwick County's recommended operating budget with totals of \$407,276,187. This budget will be supported with a property tax levy of \$137,441,377 which is approximately equivalent to 29.359 mills based on the estimated assessed valuation and subject to technical adjustments. I recommend you open the public hearing, receive comments, and close the hearing once it is over. Thank you very much."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Mr. Manager. Before we ask for first speaker, Commissioners, are there any question or comment that you would like to make before we begin the public hearing? I see no one wishing to speak, so at this point I will open the public hearing, and we have a list of those who have signed up. We'll ask you to step to the podium and give us your name, and then you will have three minutes to make your comments. We try to stay to three minutes, you know, we're not going to be real strict about that, but if you could hold them to three minutes, that would be great. The first person who signed up was Justin Givens."

Mr. Justin Givens, City Administrator, City of Clearwater, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I come today in support of increased funding for the Department of Aging Senior Centers grants. I have with me tonight, Pamela Riggs, who is our senior center director. In this limited time, I think the best approach I have is to read a letter of support that was adopted at the July 25, 2017 meeting by the Clearwater Governing Body.

"Gentlemen, this letter is being written in support of additional funding for the Clearwater Senior Center. It is our understanding that the Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging requested that an additional [\$]73,000 be included in the budget for 2018. That request was however not included in the original submission to you for mill level funding for the Department on Aging. The Governing Body of the City of Clearwater now respectfully requests that those monies be considered and included in the appropriation for the Department of Aging for 2018.

'For more than a decade, the City of Clearwater has had in place, a funding agreement with Sedgwick County Department on Aging and is thankful for the money that it has received during that time. As part of the program, the Clearwater Senior Center has been able to provide services to not only Clearwater residents, but to residents in Viola, Peck and the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County surrounding our community. As part of that agreement, the Center is required to provide and measure specific numbers of events, programs and outcomes.

'During the last six years, the Clearwater Senior Center has operated at a level sufficient to receive additional funding from the county. However, that funding has never materialized. This year we were extremely grateful that the Advisory Council on Aging visited our center and reviewed our operation. We were even more grateful when they made the recommendation for increased funding for our center.

'That funding request, \$17,000, would be extremely useful in the ongoing operations of projects and programs for our senior center and in serving the needs of the residents of Sedgwick County. While the \$17,000 only represents a small fraction of the overall county budget, these funds would help to increase the budget of the Clearwater Community Center by 24 percent. To date, the Clearwater Senior Center has seen 3,377 people participate in 56 baseline, educational and special events programs. For comparison, in all of 2016, 3,951 people participated in 66 similar activities.

'Again, the governing body and citizens of our town are extremely grateful for the past relationship with the county and the Department of Aging but would like to request formally that the funding recommended by the Aging Advisory Council be included in the 2018 Sedgwick County budget.'"

"This letter is signed by Burt Ussery, the Mayor; Laura Papish, Council President; Ron Marsh, Councilmember; Tex Titterington, Councilmember; Paul Clark, Councilmember; and Chris Griffin, Councilmember. I have copies of the letter, if you'd like."

Chairman Unruh said, "Yes, please. If you want to hand them to the clerk, we'll have them for our record. Appreciate your comments. We do have a comment from Commissioner O'Donnell."

Commissioner O'Donnell thanked the Chairman and said, "I just wanted to thank you, Justin, Mr. Givens, for coming out tonight and giving us that message. I appreciated the email that I also received last week, so thank you for everything you do, all my friends down in Clearwater, and thank you for the service that you provide."

Mr. Givens said, "Thank you. I don't know if I stated it at the start, but I'm Justin Givens with the City Administrator for the City of Clearwater."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you. Appreciate that."

Mr. Givens said, "Alright, thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "I don't see anyone else asking to speak. Ms. Riggs, did you want to add or is that your letter?"

Ms. Pamela Riggs, Director, Clearwater Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "That's my letter (inaudible)."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, alright. Well thank you both very much."

Mr. Givens said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Next speaker is Mr. Gary O'Neal."

Mr. Gary O'Neal, 4967 N. Hillcrest, Bel Aire, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here this evening as a citizen and a senior citizen, a proud senior citizen of Bel Aire. I had the fortunate duties to be able to serve on the City Council of Bel Aire and also three terms of Bel Aire back in the late '90's and early 2000's. I also was fortunate enough to serve 3 ½ years as a Sedgwick County Association of Cities (SCAC) as a chairman of that. I know what the senior center means to Bel Aire. We started the senior center. We increased it from a Club Level when I was Mayor, to a Senior Center Level, and I know what the small city's senior centers mean to them. Haysville, Mulvane, and Clearwater, as well as Bel Aire, has worked extremely hard at the behest of not only the citizens, but of the Sedgwick County Department of Aging to increase our services to our seniors.

"Our center has done that, as well as has the other three cities here tonight. We've done just what the Department of Aging asked us to do, to provide more services to our seniors. We have done that, but we haven't seen increased funding. It's my understanding visiting with our Senior Director that she was told by one of the staff people, that they had been approved for increased funding. Now whether that was semantics, maybe it should have said recommended for increased funding rather than approved for it, but it was our belief that we had been approved for additional funding also in the [\$]17,000, \$18,000 range.

"I guess I'm going to ask this evening, Commissioner O'Donnell, who has Haysville and Clearwater in your district. Commissioner Unruh has Bel Aire in his district, and also Commissioner Howell, who has Mulvane in his district to consider seriously the senior, they work so hard, these centers have, to increase the services level. We've been asked to do that, our citizens want these levels, and we do that, but yet there's no funding. So it almost reminds me of mandates that come down from the federal and state government to the county and other cities, where they tell you what you

need to do as a mandate, but they don't provide any funding for you to do that with. So I think that something I'd like to see the Commissioners take up, is to provide the increased funding to these cities.

"Being a retired guy, I must say I didn't show up in a tie tonight. I don't put on a tie just except for when I go to a funeral, so I hope this doesn't seem like a funeral up here tonight. But, I didn't wear a tie tonight. In the paper today, I got the Bel Aire Breeze, and quickly I'm going to read, according to the Bel Aire Breeze, it says 'the 2016 population figures came in on July 1st for Bel Aire and had another impressive year of growth. We added 151 residents in 2015 and added another 226 in 2016, bringing the city's population as of July 1st to 7,661. That's a three percent growth.' According to the paper, it says 'Bel Aire in the last two years has easily added more residents than Valley Center, Park City, and Kechi combined'.

"We are seeing increased services, and our Senior Director is here this evening, and she has all of the information. But with the boomers retiring in great numbers, of which I was the first of the age of the boomers to retire, I take great pride in going to our senior center and having services provided. We have the VA (Veteran's Administration) comes there. We have a lot of people come there, and I take advantage of those opportunities.

"They help us also with signing up for our Medicare programs each year. They've done a great job with that, and I appreciate it very much. I'm not the most computer literate person in the world when I do some of that. But I would just say when you look at the \$407,000,000 budget, and you're talking about \$73,000 split up amongst four cities, according to my calculator, that is .00017936 percent of a percent of your budget. That is not very much money, but it is a lot of money to these four cities and their senior centers.

"Now last thing in closing, I would say, I would ask you to review these things. I hope this isn't a closed issue, and we can get some funding this year for the senior centers in these four cities. I feel sure that there are crafty politicians out here, that come the next election cycle, will probably be looking for increased funding for senior centers in other cities, potentially Derby and other centers as well. So thank you for listening to my comments."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, and I don't see anyone wishing to speak, but Bel Aire has a somewhat of a unique situation where you actually, with your funding from the county, are supporting two senior clubs. Is that correct?"

Mr. O'Neal said, "That is correct, a senior club and a senior center both, yes."

Chairman Unruh said, "But this is all in Bel Aire, it's no longer hooked up with Kechi or Park City?"

Mr. O'Neal said, "No."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Alright, well thanks for that clarification."

Mr. O'Neal said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Appreciate your comments. Our next speaker is Jim Burgess."

Mr. Jim Burgess, 427 Spring Creek, Derby, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here to talk about senior centers in Sedgwick County. By way of disclosure, you need to know that I serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Board of the Derby Senior Center

and on the Sedgwick County Advisory Council on Aging. I am here as a concerned citizen and not in any official capacity. The Sedgwick County Commission established criteria several years ago whereby senior centers in the county should receive additional funding if certain criteria were met and maintained. Four senior centers in Sedgwick County have met and maintained that criteria for funding improvement for several years but have never been upgraded. The reason given has always been that there is no funding available.

"The four senior centers that have met the criteria for increased funding are the Bel Aire Senior Center, who you just heard from, the Clearwater Senior Center, who you just heard from, the Mulvane Senior Center, who you will hear from shortly, and the Haysville Senior Center, who you will hear from shortly. The cost to fund this upgrade is \$73,000. You just heard from the previous gentleman what percentage of the budget that is.

"The supplemental budget request was submitted by the Advisory Council on Aging through the Department of Aging to fund the \$73,000. That request was not included in the final budget submitted in a request for mill levy funds. We are consistently told that no funds are available. This is simply not a true statement. Funds are always available when they are made available by a majority of the Sedgwick County Commissioners. You are the ones that hold the key to the kingdom. You have the right and responsibility to levy those, or allocate those mill levy funds. The \$73,000 represents very little to the overall budget of Sedgwick County. It's approximately the value of one county employee, or one Sheriff's cruiser in its operation for one year, or about the cost of one toilet for Sedgwick County Park that you currently have in your budget.

"The funding is a benefit that would assist 67,000 senior citizens in Sedgwick County over the age of 65 to stay out of nursing homes, to stay out of assisted living homes, to have a place where they can stay active and engaged and stay on the taxpayer rolls. They should be worth the value of one toilet at Sedgwick County Park. I have been in most of the senior centers that are asking for additional funding as well as many others. I can assure you that the citizens of Sedgwick County are getting more than their full value from the funds currently allocated. They could do greatly more with the additional funds.

"For the last several years, funding for senior citizens of Sedgwick County has been dropping while the number of senior citizens has been increased substantially. Note that the aging mill levy has allowed to assess up to one mill. The current level of funding for the aging mill levy is less than ½ of one mill. I strongly urge you to reconsider this need and to fund the \$73,000 for senior centers that serve the growing population of seniors over the age of 65 in Sedgwick County. Remember that you are ones who set the requirements for the funding level. Honor your requirements and fund them. Remember that you have the rights and responsibility to allocate mill levy funds, allocate the \$73,000. You can help meet the needs of 67,000 senior citizens in Sedgwick County if you choose. Fund the [\$]73,000, you can do it, and you know that it's the right thing to do. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, sir. Very well said. We have a comment here from Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I just have, number one, I just want to say thank you for your testimony this evening. I know that Mr. Burgess is

extremely involved in the elderly issues. He's a very strong advocate for our senior centers.

"He's been doing that for as long as I've known him. I was just wondering if you, maybe off the top of your head, I'm going to ask you some questions, and I didn't give you any advance notice that I would ask you any questions, so I don't know if you can do this or not, but how long have you been advocating for more funding? You told me when I talked with you in the past that you've asked for year after year after year..."

Mr. Burgess said, "The information I got from the Department of Aging is at least for six or seven years. Now interestingly enough about six years ago, Derby did get additional funding but it was at the cost of another senior center that lost that funding because Derby is at the maximum level of funding at the present time. But there has been no basically no increase. If you get the history of the funding has been going down, the population has been going up."

Commissioner Howell said, "Right, so I guess in my mind the number of seniors that are using the senior centers is going up, and the cost of the economy is going up as well. I understand it seems, so in a sense it's kind of like you've got, almost like you have less dollars, so to speak, to do the same kind of work..."

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

Commissioner Howell said, "You really have more people and a higher cost, it's just kind of converging lines. That's kind of the way I see it, so, I was looking for my formula sheet. I know there is a formula sheet that the county put out years ago that talks about performance measures. I don't have that in front of me, I tried to look it up, but I'm not able to find it quickly, but I guess I just want to reflect, you know, there's a number of ways of doing this. I think that \$73,000 would be something that I would be interested in talking about, but to the extent that we can't do that, I mean, consumer price index, in other words, inflation, would be another discussion or growth in the economy. We have property tax, assessed valuations did go up this last year. That'd be another way to take a look at this."

Mr. Burgess said, "That would be something obviously that we could do but, you know, at the present time there has been no increase of, I don't have it with me, but I can submit it to you..."

Commissioner Howell said, "Sure."

Mr. Burgess said, "...but the budget has been decreasing for senior citizens overall, not just at senior centers..."

Commissioner Howell said, "Right."

Mr. Burgess said, "...for at least six or seven years."

Commissioner Howell said, "I don't know if I put it here, but I also had a note, I guess, what the senior population's expected to do over the next 20 years, it's from 2010 to 2030."

Mr. Burgess said, "It's proposed for an over 10 percent increase."

Commissioner Howell said, "Right, so it's continuing to go up. I'll continue thinking about this, but thank you for your comments this evening. Again, I know that you

serve on the Derby Senior Center. I want to say thank you for your service there, it's greatly appreciated. Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, sir. I see no one else asking to speak. I think that, just for clarification, when all the citizens have had an opportunity to speak, I might ask Tim Kaufman to just give us an overview of all the funding that is provided in our, for, out of our senior mill levy and all the programs that we have in our senior department, or aging department, I'm sorry. But we'll go ahead with those who signed up. Next is Jeri Myers."

Ms. Jeri Myers, Director, Mulvane Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I have held Senior Center Level 2 for eight years. I have asked funding for eight years to move up. Right now I am at Senior [Center] Level 1. I think the differences were, and I wish I would have thought to bring that, when you're a Senior Center Level 2, that means you have to have 40 speakers attend your senior center and talk about things that are important to senior centers. You have to have a Matter of Balance class. You have to, let's see, what else am I trying to say, that you have to do a caregiving class, okay? So those 40 speakers, now think about a year, that's a long time, that's many people. So for eight years I've tried to move to a Senior Center Level 2, which would give me the \$35,000 instead of the [\$]18,000 which I now receive. The extra funds would give me an opportunity to get new computers, which I badly need.

"Also, I'm located in an old junior high school, so that means that we're in the cafeteria. We've painted it, we've decorated it, we've tried to make it look not like a school cafeteria. The Mulvane Recreation Commission rents my room out, and many people walk through my center. So I have an opportunity to kind of have free advertising. If somebody's having a birthday party and grandma comes, then grandma can see my menus, and grandma can see my calendar which is out there, and I get kind of a little bit of free advertising. But also, since I'm in that old school, I have tables that don't match. If I'm going to put my best foot forward, I would like to have new tables that actually match and make my center look nicer and more welcoming. Plus there's a great need in Mulvane for a vehicle at my center to transport seniors to doctor's offices, grocery stores, hair appointments, and so on. I've already looked into this because Mr. Hixson said I could, and we thought we found one, but it didn't measure up to our standards. It was not a good thing to do.

"Okay, so as you know, Mulvane is located in two counties so I get twice the meetings to go to, Sumner County, Sedgwick County. Sedgwick County transportation decided last year not to transport my Sumner County residents to Wichita.

"So we scurried around, and we've had volunteers who will take people. Wellington is, they had a transportation but by the time they drove from Wellington to Mulvane and then wanted to take somebody to Wichita, that did not work out and the price was exorbitant. So if I had a vehicle that I could hire a driver and have transportation for my seniors, that would be wonderful.

"Also, the next generation, the boomers, which we've all talked about, don't always come to a center on a daily basis. So, they do like to do trips, and they do like to do the extra stuff that we do, so more funding would be getting those boomers to come down to my center. They like the parties that I do, and I do charge people for extra special luaus or beach parties or whatever for the event. But it doesn't always cover the cost of the expense that I have.

"Seniors are our most valuable asset in any community. They are always well-informed, they are the ones that get out and vote. They pay their bills on time,

and they're wonderful people. They have the voice of experience, they are the backbone of our community. You can't have a future without the past. Keeping seniors in their homes and remaining independent is my main goal at the Mulvane Senior Center. With the extra funds, I can make that happen. As one of my participants said, growing old is not for sissies; we need all the help we can get. That's what we provide. Thank you very much. Does anybody have any questions?"

Chairman Unruh said, "Well thank you for your comments. I don't see anyone wishing to speak, but I have a question for you though. Do you receive any funding from Sumner County?"

Ms. Myers said, "I do receive \$3,000..."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay."

Ms. Myers said, "...for the whole year."

Chairman Unruh said, "Alright, so they are participating."

Ms. Myers said, "They do participate, Sumner County is kind of a poor little county."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay. Well I don't see anyone else asking a question, so thank you for your comments."

Ms. Myers said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Our next speaker is Jennie Benitez."

Ms. Jennie Benitez, Director, Bel Aire Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I just wanted to come to just give a little bit of information about our center, and why we have been requesting more funding. This is the third year that the Bel Aire Senior Center has requested an increase in funding through the [Department of] Aging mill levy grant. We are a senior center level one, but we have been working at a senior center level two capacity for five years.

"We currently offer 15 ongoing programs weekly, monthly. We have over 150 members, and that's growing, like Gary mentioned, we are getting new people in every day. It seems like every week I'm signing up a new member or getting calls or phone calls about services. We also offer a variety of educational programs like Jeri mentioned. We have to have at least 40, and I know that we hit that and go past it every year. We do special events, we do trips. The special events and the trips are expensive. I do charge a little bit, but again, it's not enough to usually cover the whole cost.

"We not only serve the residents of Bel Aire, we invite anybody over the age of 55 to our center, so we get people from Kechi, Park City, Valley Center, Newton, Wichita, Colwich, I mean we get, it just depends on the program that they're coming out for. Our current contract for the mill levy funding only requires the availability of a part-time director. Thankfully, the City of Bel Aire was able to find a full-time position for me, splitting my duties between being a part-time Senior Center Director and then I also do admin for the City. But it's becoming very clear that our senior center, if it's going to continue to grow, needs a full-time Senior Center Director that can focus on the senior center and keep it to where the momentum is still going.

"We're gaining momentum every year, and I see great things in the future for the Bel Aire Senior Center. I would love to get a van to make access to things in Wichita a lot easier. I would love to have, eventually, our own community center which would be fantastic, but right now I'm just asking for funding just so we can have somebody that is there and giving it the care that it needs. I've been there for five years, I love what I do, but I've gotten to the point where the funding is not there, and I feel like I can't continue stepping up my game unfortunately. That's about it."

Chairman Unruh said, "Alright, thank you. We hope you get to step-up your game real soon, but a couple of points of clarification. Some of the towns you mentioned that visit your club, Kechi and Colwich, they do not have senior clubs that receive county funding. Isn't that correct?"

Ms. Benitez said, "Correct."

Chairman Unruh said, "So, do they have active clubs that they maintain on their own or..."

Ms. Benitez said, "They do, it's, I know with Kechi, they have a club but very minimum programs. Then they have the ability to use the Kechi City Hall, but as far as funding, they fund everything themselves through their own donations."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thanks for that explanation. One other question, you mentioned having your own senior facility, but the facilities in the city hall are pretty nice."

Ms. Benitez said, "They are, I guess the reason that that came about is I have wanted to get pickle- ball started. It's a really, it's becoming a really popular activity among the active seniors, and with our recreation center and their, I guess their schedule, it wasn't, we weren't able to do it. Then we have our community room, but it's not big enough. So it was just one of those things where I was thinking that if we had our own facility, that I could just do so many things as far as doing physical activities or having a computer lab, you know, out in the future. But that's where I'm looking."

Chairman Unruh said, "Alright, well thank you very much for your comments, appreciate you being here. I see no more questions."

Ms. Benitez said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Next speaker is Mr. Kevin Arnel."

Mr. Kevin Arnel, Board of Trustees President, Sedgwick County Zoological Society, greeted the Commissioners and said, "It sounds like I'm going to break with the theme here just a little bit, but on behalf of the [Sedgwick County] Zoo, I just wanted to address a couple of topics very quickly with you Commissioners. The first thing is I just wanted to say thank you. It's been a great year, we have appreciated your collaboration the last year. You know, it's been a great partnership between the society and the county, and it's one that I believe is really critical to our community. I think that was demonstrated last year as Mr. Mark Reed transitioned and retired, who'd been a wonderful asset for our community and the zoo. But the Commissions participation in selecting the new Executive Director, Dr. Jeff Ettling, who's off to a great start, was very significant to us in that it furthered your assistance in that transition process was really key."

"The society asked me to particularly note that Manager Scholes and Assistant Manager Kaufman's participation in this transition has just been incredible, so we

appreciate the resources there. Of course, we likewise appreciate your consideration of the funding agreement. We're glad to have that worked out and as we're approaching our 50th anniversary here in a couple years, we think that puts us in a great position to be, you know, continuing that partnership and looking down the road. So on the first topic, again, we just wanted to say thanks for your consideration, and we understand you have a tough job balancing the county's checkbook and trying to assess the needs of the community. We appreciate your consideration of the value that the zoo brings to our community as hopefully one of it's real crown jewels.

"The second thing, I just wanted to provide you with a very quick update on a couple of key facts and figures, if you will, about the zoo and our work last year. We had with the opening of the new elephant exhibit, over 710,000 visitors through the doors. Seventy-five thousand folks, school kids, adults that participate in our programs, outreach programs, education programs.

"We have over 800 volunteers this year that we expect to contribute about 34,000 hours of service, 300 employees and even though that sounds like a lot, and it is, those volunteers really help us operate on a lean basis and the board keeps a very close eye on our benchmarking and making sure we're doing the best we can with what we have and being good stewards. The economic impact is estimated on Sedgwick County of about \$43,000,000 so it's a significant quality of life issue as well as a significant economic issue for us here in the county. So I'd just wind up by saying, again, thank you. We look forward to continued collaboration and partnership with you all and appreciate it. Any questions, Mr. Chair?"

Chairman Unruh said, "Well Kevin, thank you very much. Those are great comments, and we also value and appreciate the partnership with the Sedgwick County Zoological Society. You all stuck with us through a time of a lot of discussion about funding agreements, and you all stayed the course.

"We appreciate that, and we're also proud of our new zoo director and look for good things in the future. Of course, you know, there's been a lot of talk about that elephant exhibit, so we like to talk about it also. We're also proud of it, but the zoo is clearly a huge asset for Sedgwick County. We're very pleased that we have a good group of citizens who comprise the zoological society, who helped manage that whole system for us. It's been a great partnership, and we're as proud of them as you said they were of us, so it's a mutual admiration society. Thank you, thank you for your comments. I have a comment from Commissioner Dennis."

Commissioner Dennis thanked the Chairman and said, "Thank you for being here today. I appreciate it very much. We all value the zoo greatly. I know your time was running out, but I think you probably wanted to talk about Zoobilee a little bit, but you ran out of time, so I just wanted to give you a chance to mention that we've got Zoobilee, one of the major fundraisers coming up."

Mr. Arnel said, "It is. Commissioner Dennis noted Zoobilee is coming up September 9th, and it is the big fundraiser for the zoo in this community. We put those proceeds to work every day at the zoo, so thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Was that a set-up?"

Mr. Arnel said, "No, but it worked great. We hope to see you all there, by the way."

Chairman Unruh said, "Great, well we're looking forward to it, but Commissioners, any other comment or question? Kevin, thank you very much."

Mr. Arnel said, "Thank you, sir."

Chairman Unruh said, "Next speaker is Kim Landers."

Ms. Kim Landers, Director, Haysville Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I've served there for the past 11 years as a director, and it is a responsibility that I take very seriously. I do everything in my power to ensure that the programs that we offer are interesting, educational, but most important, fun. Like many social service agencies these days, I'm limited with the number of programs that I am able to offer. This is why I stand before you tonight. I'm asking for additional funding for those cities in Sedgwick County that work tirelessly to make their senior centers their focal point of the community."

"Right now we serve 70 meals on the Meals on Wheels program. Those are 70 meals that we take out into the community. That doesn't include the 20 or 25 that we serve at our center. That is one of the things that we have volunteers that step-up, but people don't realize that these people delivering the meals are volunteers. So, it's the face of the Haysville Senior Center that they see making these deliveries every day. Right now, Haysville is currently classified as a Senior Center number [Level] 2."

"In each of the past three budget years, we have requested to move up to a multipurpose senior center; however, we have not been reclassified at this point. We have met the higher programming needs in each of the three different areas of focus. Our membership has increased 83 percent from 2013 to 2016. We currently have 359 members. These members are from not only Haysville, from Derby, from Mulvane, and from Wichita."

"We have increased the number of activities that we offer to keep seniors engaged and enthusiastic about attending our center. Research has shown that people who have a reason to remain active and participate in activities with their peers live longer. We strive to be a value to our community, and we participate in many citywide activities, such as Trick-or-Treat Street, the citywide garage sale where we threw in a bake sale, stuff like that. We partner with the school district for community service projects. We hold a supply drive every year for the students of USD (Unified School District) 261, and we adopt a family in need every year at Christmas. We attend several programs in Wichita and beyond. We go to a mystery lunch at a new restaurant, a night out at Mosely Street Melodrama, a monthly trip to the movies. We had a recent activity where we took our grandkids to [O.J.] Watson Park for mini-golf and a picnic. Most recently, we rented a bus and we traveled to Oklahoma to visit a town that is being revitalized. We visited their museum, their cathedral, and we had lunch."

"The Haysville Senior Center also coordinates helpful programs for members in our community. We assist seniors with Medicare choices, and this last year we saved our seniors over \$32,000 in their projected prescription costs and their drug plans. We have AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) volunteers who serve the 134 people this past year with their taxes."

"Again, we're asking to be promoted to a multipurpose senior center which would include an additional funding of \$22,000 for the year. This increase would allow our

center to be open longer hours to serve those people who are still working and are unable to attend the programs we offer during the day. An increase would also make funds available for more frequent travel outside of the Haysville community.

"All of these experiences help increase the quality of life that our seniors deserve and that we ourselves hope to enjoy in the golden years. Please give consideration to our request as you make your budget decisions."

Chairman Unruh said, "Alright, thank you. We have a comment from Commissioner O'Donnell."

Commissioner O'Donnell said, "I just wanted to thank you for coming tonight, Ms. Landers. I know that you and your whole team of volunteers do a stupendous job down in Haysville, and..."

Ms. Landers said, "Thank you."

Commissioner O'Donnell said, "...you've had an exponential growth, so..."

Ms. Landers said, "Thank you."

Commissioner O'Donnell said, "...thank you for your work."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you. Any other comment? I see none, so thank you very much for your comments."

Ms. Landers said, "Thank you."

Chairman Unruh said, "Appreciate it. There's no one else who signed up to speak, but is there another citizen who wants to speak at this time but did not sign up on any issue relating to the budget? Okay, I don't see anyone rising to speak, so I'll ask Mr. Kaufman if he would step to the podium. Mr. Kaufman is the Assistant County Manager for Health and Human Services issues, and I just would like to have him explain a little bit what all of our Aging funding goes for and provides."

Mr. Tim Kaufman, Assistant County Manager, Human Services greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd like to, I appreciate the opportunity to kind of give you an overview of the funding for the Division on Aging in the current budget. We've got a recommended budget of \$10.1 million, of that it's split between local funding, \$3,000,000 and grant funding of \$7.1 million, so about 29.45 percent of the funding for the Division on Aging is local funding. The overall funding is divided into five different categories. The senior centers fall into the category of community-based services, which overall is about \$3.8 million or 37 percent of that overall funding. "Within the community-based services budget, we have three different funding programs. We've got community-based services, we've got this at 17 percent. We've got senior centers at about 16 percent, and then community service grants is about 66 percent. That funding goes to a number of different organizations that we, we purchase services from a number of different organizations in the community. An example of those services, this is not an exhaustive list, but it is an extensive list.

"We purchase nutritional, we fund a number of different nutritional programs, Congregate Meals, Meals on Wheels, Roving Pantry, and, so that's an example of one of the things that we do with that additional community services funding. We fund adult daycare services, we fund adult programming services. There is a senior employment program that is funded with these community-based service funds. There's a legal services program for seniors, we provide case-management services

for seniors. We have an Alzheimer's respite program that we fund for seniors. There are medication programs for low-income seniors that are also funded with money that comes out of that community service pot of funding. From a local funding perspective, senior centers at \$630,000 roughly is about 21 percent of the local expenditure, local fund expenditures that we'll make in 2018 for Aging Services."

Chairman Unruh said, "Okay, thank you for that explanation. I think that's helpful but much of our direct activity by the county is geared at providing services for folks that make, help people stay in their homes..."

Mr. Kaufman said, "Absolutely."

Chairman Unruh said, "...and not go to nursing homes and that sort of thing."

Mr. Kaufman said, "That's correct. That's the primary focus of the Division on Aging is to allow individuals to age-in-place, and we do that through a number of different programs and opportunities. We certainly do appreciate all of the partnership that we have with all of the senior centers that we fund. There are 17 different senior centers that we fund. The four that were represented here today, and all the others do a tremendous job for the residents of our community that fit that category."

Chairman Unruh said, "Well we'll all agree with that. They've all, I think, exceeded their requirements for their current level and have met the requirements for the next level. That's why they're here today. I have a comment from Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at the budget book on page 554 which I think outlines the three things you just mentioned a minute ago, community services, senior centers, and community service grants. I'm noticing in the '18 budget, that I'm seeing a reductions of 7.2 percent, a reduction of 2.25 percent for senior centers and a reduction of 4.24 percent for community service grants. Can you explain why those are going down?"

Mr. Kaufman said, "I'm going to make an attempt. I believe that the majority of that reduction is tied to the move for the Division on Aging from their current location to the Ronald Reagan building in 2018. So there have been adjustments made in the budget because that's an expenditure that will go away for the Division on Aging when they move into that program."

Commissioner Howell said, "So just let me clarify, so the move from one facility to the other is going to cost some money and that's being taken out of this budget?"

Mr. Kaufman said, "That is correct. Yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "I guess I'd like to know more about that from the Manager. I'll talk to him about that at some other time, I guess. But, just in the senior center funding alone, which we've heard a lot of people talking about that tonight, but just that one fund alone between the '17 revised and the '18 recommended budget, is a reduction of almost \$15,000."

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

Commissioner Howell said, "They're asking for \$73,000, and so I don't know, how does that \$15,000 need to be absorbed in terms of reduction of funding to which senior center, how does that going to be absorbed?"

Ms. Lindsay Poe Rousseau, CFO/Budget Director, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Just to clarify, in the budget we do have a reduction across the aging tax fund and aging grants related to the move from leased space into that new Ronald Reagan Building. So when that occurs, there will actually be overall savings to the aging budget because they are moving into county-owned space. So, it's not necessarily that the cost would go up related to the move, it's that there is savings that we expect to see in those leases. You are right that that senior center budget was reduced kind of across the board, but the overall, the funding is within that aging mill levy fund, and so we will simply shift budget authority when we have a better idea of where those lease savings actually will occur, we'll shift the budget from there to the senior center cost center to make up that difference."

Commissioner Howell said, "Can you summarize what are those costs associated with the move, I mean, is there a way we maybe consider funding that in a different way perhaps?"

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, "Well, so the savings for the move actually are already included in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) project itself. So you might recall that at the end of last year, you all approved about \$1.9 million for the CIP to move into floors four through six of Ronald Reagan, and so that's where we would expect those costs to come from related to the move. In the 2018 budget, there's an overall reduction because of those lease costs that we don't anticipate to pay anymore because they'll be in that county-owned facility."

Commissioner Howell said, "So there's enough funding with the recommended budget to fund the senior centers themselves to the same level we did last year."

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, "Yes, sir."

Commissioner Howell said, "So it's not a reduction to any senior center?"

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, "Correct."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, that helps. Is it safe, since you're at the podium, is it safe to, could I generate, or could I calculate a mill levy equivalent to these funds and see what that would be? Because the assessed valuation did go up a little bit, so if you just simply follow the same mill levy equivalent, there would be some small increase at least."

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, "Right."

Commissioner Howell said, "Maybe I could look at this in terms of a CPI (Consumer Price Index) growth, you know, for the community. What's the cost, is it, Mr. Burgess made a couple of points, inflation has continued to go up, so I think, money doesn't go as far as it used to. The number of seniors they have goes up, and by the way, relevant to my question earlier, I would like to read one paragraph. This came from a WSU (Wichita State University) study which I think was very interesting.

"This is along the question that I asked earlier, but I think maybe I didn't ask it correctly. WSU Center for Economic Development and Business Research Projects said in 2012, March of 2012 did a study and they commented that there was going to be an 80, according to them, an 88.2 percent increase in the population that's 62 and above between the years of 2010 and 2030. So, 88.2 percent increase in the aging, in that population of 62 and older. So again, so the population is going up, and they're trying to keep people in their homes, keep them active, keep them independent, and the number of people are trying to provide services to, it's clearly going up, I don't

think that anybody's going to argue that it's not, I think that's clear.

"The costs are clearly going up, so something's got to give. I mean, so if you just connected this to a mill levy equivalent, that would certainly be an increase. The CPI would be an increase, but I'm just curious, if you look at these numbers over time, it appears to me that they've not had, and again, I think one of the people testified that they haven't had an increase in a very, very long time. So I'm just curious, are we viewing the aging sector of our budget as a zero-sum-game, and so if other costs go up, then these costs have to come down? Why is it we can't, I'm just curious why we can't seem to find the \$73,000 within that budget or advocate for revenue outside that budget. I mean this is property tax funds, is that correct?"

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, "Right."

Commissioner Howell said, "I'm having trouble with that. Can you please just tell me what you can? I'd sure appreciate your perspective on it."

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, "Well, certainly we have a property tax target we know overall we want 29.359 mills, and so it's not necessarily a zero-sum-game within the aging mill levy fund, it's across all of our eight property tax supported funds that we need to come up with a mill levy rate that would equal that amount."

"With regards of the \$73,000, certainly that's just a priority issue and a policy issue for the Commission to choose within the recommended budget what they would like to fund or what changes they would like to make. So that would be something simply as staff we've made a recommendation to you through the County Manager's recommended budget. Any changes you want to make from there, we can incorporate. For the aging mill levy, we are capped at that 1.0 mill, but other than that, that's the only real parameter that is set there, if that answers your question."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, so let me ask it this way. If you simply use the same mill levy for these various budgets, would there not be some kind of a small increase this year? There would have to be, would there not?"

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, "It would be just because of the assessed value. We know that that levy alone, the 29.359 mills would generate slightly less than 3.3 percent in terms of an increase in revenue."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay. Well, that helps. Alright, you've given me a lot to think about. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Unruh said, "Thank you, Commissioner. I don't see anyone else asking to speak so, Tim, thank you for your comments."

Mr. Kaufman said, "Absolutely."

Chairman Unruh said, "Once again I'll ask if there's anyone else who wants to speak at the public hearing. I see no Commissioner wants to speak, no one rising to speak, so at this point, I will close the public hearing and ask Commissioners if we could have a motion to receive and file."

MOTION

Commissioner Howell moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.