

Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...
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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 9, 2018

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

The Special Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 6:01 p.m. on August 9, 2018 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman David T. Dennis, with the following present: Chair Pro-Tem Commissioner David M. Unruh; Commissioner Michael B. O'Donnell II; Commissioner Richard Ranzau; Commissioner James M. Howell; Mr. Michael Scholes, County Manager; Mr. Thomas Stolz, Deputy County Manager; Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Assistant County Manager of Public Works, Facilities Maintenance, Project Services and County Engineer; Ms. Kate Flavin, Public Information Officer; Ms. Lynda Baker, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

*Mr. Bret Albers, President, Sedgwick County Fair Association
Mr. Andy Riggs, Executive Board Member, Sedgwick County Fair Association
Ms. Jette Mortensen, Meals on Wheels driver
Mr. Steen Mortensen, Meals on Wheels driver
Ms. Reitha Stevens, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Laurel Alkire, Executive Director, Senior Services
Ms. Jane Mosteller, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Donna Fisher, Tax-Aide, AARP
Mr. Stan Allen, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Phillis Allen, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Judith Eguino, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Linda Matthews, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Eline Kinder, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Odean Moore, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Lixia Wang, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Diane Pope, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Gary Heath, Member, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Cherise Langenberg, Director, Linwood Senior Center
Ms. Jeri Myers, Director, Mulvane Senior Center
Ms. Dana Walden, Assistant City Administrator, City of Park City
Ms. Nancy Anderson, Member, Valley Center Senior Center
Ms. Lawrence Macionski, Member, Mulvane Senior Center
Ms. Andree Sisco, Director, Oaklawn Senior Center
Ms. Kim Landers, Director, Haysville Senior Center
Mr. Richard Brown, Member, Linwood Senior Center*

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Dennis said, "Next item, please."

NEW BUSINESS

A [18-535](#) PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2019 SEDGWICK COUNTY BUDGET.

Presented by: Mike Scholes, County Manager.

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

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Manager Scholes."

Mr. Mike Scholes, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Alright, good evening. This evening is the final public hearing on the 2019 budget. Sedgwick County's recommended operating budget totals \$419,042,893. This budget will be supported with a property tax levy of \$142,756,344, 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 and receive comments, and close public hearing once it's over."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. At this time, I'd like to open the public hearing for Sedgwick County's budget for 2019. We will be receiving public comment. We have 23 people signed up currently. All but two are signed up to speak about senior centers, so in the interest of the two individuals that aren't talking about senior centers tonight, I'd like to start with those two first. So, number 16 is Bret Albers. If you would go to the podium, state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Mr. Bret Albers, President, Sedgwick County Fair Association, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Every year we operate the Sedgwick County Fair out in Cheney, Kansas in the month of July. We have great attendance to this event, and we offer something for everybody in the family to do. We have facilities and buildings on these grounds, and we have one building in particular that was built in the 1950's. We refer to it as building number two. It's fallen into a state of disrepair. We've done all we can to keep it together, and at this point, we feel like something needs to be done with it, either rehab(ilitation) or replacement. Our personal opinion is it needs to be replaced. So we submitted a request to the [Sedgwick] County [Board of County] Commission to ask for some assistance to help us repair that building and get it back into a safe manner. So myself and Andy Riggs, who's on our Executive Board, are here tonight to kind of give you some background on this, answer any questions you might have, and kind of explain the situation. We've been working with some staff, we've had several people look at it.

"The roof trusses are sagging in to the point that the ridge cap is separating from the rooflines. The walls are deteriorating the wood, it's a wood structure. It's already deteriorating to the point where it's a once you start, where do you stop type thing. What we would like to do is replace it with a steel building of similar size. Due to the fact that we're a largely volunteer-based operation, we do get county money every year, a small amount of county money, and we stretch that as far as we can with a lot of volunteers. We can do parts of this project ourselves, and basically what we're asking for is for some assistance from the County Commission to help us buy materials and such to replace this building and get it back into a safe manner."

Chairman Dennis said, "Okay, thank you. Do I have any questions from the Commissioners? Seeing none, thank you for being here tonight. I appreciate it."

Ms. Albers said, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Next individual is Andy Riggs. If you'll approach the podium, you have three minutes. State your name for the record."

Mr. Andy Riggs, Executive Board Member, Sedgwick County Fair Association, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I first want to thank Mr. Dennis for coming out and supporting the fair this year. I didn't actually get to see any of you other guys. I don't know if you made it or not, I apologize if you were there and I didn't see you. We try to keep, as Bret said, try to keep this a family oriented thing for everybody to come out to. We try to keep it low-cost which means there's free admission. There's anything and pretty much everything you can do on the fairgrounds for free, go through all the vendors, you know, you don't have to pay anything like the [Kansas] State Fair. Like I said, we're just looking to try to modify or replace something that was built before we were even born, so just with that help would be greatly appreciated. We can do a lot of it, you know, on our own with, like I said, the manpower of either organizing or trying to find more volunteers, because he said, you know, everything is volunteer-based. I'd probably say 98 percent of it is volunteer-based. So with that, we'd like your help, and anything you can do would be greatly appreciated."

Chairman Dennis said, "Okay, thank you again for being here this evening. I don't see any questions at all, but again we appreciate you coming and speaking to us."

Mr. Riggs said, "Thank you guys."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Okay, we're going to go in order, so I think you each got cards so you'll know which order you're in, but the first one is Jetta Mortensen. If you'll approach the podium and state your name for the record, you have three minutes."

Ms. Jetta Mortensen, Driver, Meals on Wheels, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a retired RN (Registered Nurse), and I do a lot of Meals on Wheels, and I like to remind the Commission about the importance of that program. I drive about three to four days a week, and I deliver about 30 to 40 meals each day. The people I deliver to food and secure, they're seniors and have a lot of medical problems. But by getting this meal, it enables to stay at home and not going to a nursing home which is much more expensive, \$7[000] to \$8,000 a month. So I think it is very important, and when I come, we have time to visit a little bit, and as a nurse, I always try to check out to make sure that their medical problems that it's nothing out of whack, so if I find problems, I call home-base and let them know, so they can come out and check it out. So, I just wanted to let you know how important it is for many people here in Wichita. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Mortensen, thank you very much for being here, and thanks for what you do for our community. We appreciate it. Next individual is Steen Mortensen."

Ms. Steen Mortensen, Driver, Meals on Wheels, greeted the Commissioners and said, "My wife did speak so eloquently. I want to thank the Commissioner first for taking a difficult task of kind of dividing out the monies we have to all the different things that

we need to pay for. I came to Wichita with my wife and was told that this is a wonderful place to be. When I visited the first time, I found out, yes indeed, it is. There's a lot of people who care for each other. There was very little traffic at that time, that's a long time ago, but certainly less than in California when we came. So we decided to be Americans and have been here since.

"I have practiced medicine for 42 years, and went into remission, whatever we call that, of all what I was doing, in February. But then the winter is, through these last number of years, I've had the pleasure of assisting my wife and driving around in snow-filled little streets in southern Wichita, and seeing the people and talking to the people who are getting this service from Senior Services. As a physician, I want to make a special point. My wife hinted at following their illnesses and general health. Now if you look at the economy, what is one of the best things we can do for our citizens? It's to keep them healthy because it's cheaper. My wife said through nursing homes, but hospitals are expensive. Medicine is incredibly expensive, so the better thing you can do nourishment for them so they can keep their health going as long as possible, the better off we all are, including myself, as getting older.

"So I want to emphasize the things that we're fighting right now is that those who don't have a lot of money cannot buy a lot of food because prices are going up. Now unfortunately, my wife comes home and tells me that also hits the Senior Services. So not only is it important activity we're doing, but it needs to have support because they don't just sit down there. We do the driving, but they have to find the money to buy the food. If they don't have enough money to buy the food, they don't get the food. So I appeal to you to continue to support the activities of the Senior Services, specifically the Meals on Wheels, to keep our seniors healthy and more comfortable is the best we can do for our fellow citizens. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, Mr. Mortensen. We appreciate you being here this evening, and thanks for what you do for our seniors. Next individual is Reitha Stevens. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Reitha Stevens, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I thank you for taking the time to hear what I have to say, and if you'll forgive me for reading it because I'm not one of those that remembers very well, just telling you, so I'm going to read it. The Linwood Center has been a place of contact for me and my daughter. My daughter has no transportation to get to the center, and she would have to walk, and I find that not safe for her even though she lives very close to Linwood Center, and she uses the library very often. Then I go to the activities to the senior center, and the center is very close to me and saves me on gas since I am not very low, because I am on very low income.

"I don't like to go to other centers because they are too far for me to go. I enjoy seeing the children coming out of the center for their care and activity there at the center, Linwood. I want and hope that the center remains there for a long time, and I see, and I like to see my friends there at the senior center when I go to visit with, and also I do my exercises there as well. I have found that I had a condition in my body that I needed to do the exercises, so I attend those exercises three days a week, so it's, and it gets me out of the house and go somewhere, so I love being able to come to the center. I appreciate you taking the time. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Stevens, thank you very much for being here this evening. We appreciate it. Next person is Laurel Alkire. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Laurel Alkire, Executive Director, Senior Services, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I was here at the first public hearing to focus on our Meals [on Wheels] program, but I'm here to talk about our senior centers, and I said hey, get a few seniors here, and wow, there's a lot of seniors here. Good job, staff. Senior Services did not ask for any increases, we're still under a funding formula for our senior centers; however, I want to support all of the senior centers in our area, and I want to thank you for supporting them. They are an important and integral part of any community in which they exist.

"Senior centers keep people moving with exercise classes and health and wellness. We're really all about prevention. As much as we can, we want to keep them out of the hospital, as he talked about, that's a very expensive endeavor for the entire community. We keep them learning with lots of educational things, and we keep them connected with other seniors. As you can see there, that I think is the most important. We are learning more and more about how much isolation affects our physical and our mental health. They say it's as dangerous as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. So, these senior centers, and you're going to hear a lot about how important they are to them. We just appreciate your support and hope that that will continue. I want to just give you a few statistics.

"Through July of this year, Senior Services centers have served 2,172 unduplicated seniors. Of those, only 98 were 55 or older, 55 to 59, but 357 were over the age of 85. I'll tell you, I've got some pickle ball players in their 80's that can kick my behind, and I'm afraid to play with them. We don't only just do exercise and educational classes, there are things people don't know we do. This year, we provided tax, free tax help with AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) to 928 seniors. We handed out 116 farmer's market vouchers to seniors. So far, we have counseled 105 seniors for the Medicare counseling. All of my senior centers have to be Medicare certified. So, I just wanted to share a little bit with you of things you might not know. Again, you're going to hear a lot, and I just want to thank you for your continued support. Questions?"

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell thanked the Chairman and said, "I just have one question. You're opening statement or near the beginning of your remarks, you said something about you're not requesting an increase in Senior Services. Can you please clarify what you meant by that?"

Ms. Alkire said, "Well, I know that there are a few centers that moved up. If you're aware, we're on a funding formula that was created in 2010, and that formula, the funding that we get, there are different levels is based on the number of people that come into those senior centers and the number of activities in different areas that we provide. It's not just they give you the money and you do what you want."

Commissioner Howell said, "Right."

Ms. Alkire said, "We have to meet those standards, and I think that's very important. So under the funding formula, if we wanted to move up to the next funding level, we would have to operate at that next level for two years before we came before you and requested additional dollars. My senior centers are not quite above, I think Downtown has to serve over 2,000 seniors before we would be able to do that. So we're not asking for any increases in this program, I just wanted to come and show our support for all the senior centers in our area."

Commissioner Howell said, "Which senior center do you work?"

Ms. Alkire said, "We have Downtown, Linwood, Northeast and Orchard Park."

Commissioner Howell said, "So for those four, you're saying because of the performance-based funding agreement..."

Ms. Alkire said, "Right."

Commissioner Howell said, "...that's been in place, you haven't met the thresholds to actually..."

Ms. Alkire said, "Exactly, to move up."

Commissioner Howell said, "But you're aware that other senior centers aren't..."

Ms. Alkire said, "Yes, the smaller."

Commissioner Howell said, "...making that same, the argument that they are deserving of more funding based on the same formula."

Ms. Alkire said, "That is correct."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay. Then I am curious, but you do operate the Meals on Wheels program. I thankfully got to deliver meals with..."

Ms. Alkire said, "Last year."

Commissioner Howell said, "It was a great experience, and I loved seeing how that program works, and so I saw a lot of volunteers. Where do you, are the volunteers part of the senior center? How do they..."

Ms. Alkire said, "No."

Commissioner Howell said, "How do you find the volunteers to do that?"

Ms. Alkire said, "We are so fortunate. A lot of our volunteers have been there 10, 20, 30 years."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay."

Ms. Alkire said, "I think once they do it, once you do it and you have the time especially, most of ours are retired because they're the ones who have the time. You get hooked. They really enjoy that rapport with those clients, and those, when I, I don't get to get out of my office very often, but when I deliver, they'll say well where's Bob? I'll say Bob is fine, he's just on vacation. I'm just filling in. So they're very connected to each other, and that's, I think, a real important part. But we're just always out trying to recruit volunteers, and it's not an easy job because everybody's looking for volunteers."

Commissioner Howell said, "So just a follow-up question now. I know that when I did my, when I got to go experience this myself, we were actually picking up the meals at a senior center."

Ms. Alkire said, "Correct. Well, you pick it up Downtown."

Commissioner Howell said, "You pick it up Downtown..."

Ms. Alkire said, "That's the Downtown [Senior] Center."

Commissioner Howell said, "...Senior Center, right?"

Ms. Alkire said, "Right."

Commissioner Howell said, "So, and I saw some of the activities that were going on at that same time. I know you have a new kitchen somewhere, I have not seen it yet. Is that same location or..."

Ms. Alkire said, "Yes, it is the same location."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay."

Ms. Alkire said, "It's just three times as big as the old one."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, so just, if that senior center wasn't there, then how would you deliver those meals?"

Ms. Alkire said, "I don't know."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay."

Ms. Alkire said, "I don't know."

Commissioner Howell said, "That's all my questions, thank you Mr. Chairman."

Ms. Alkire said, "Let's hope that doesn't happen."

Commissioner Howell said, "That's fine."

Ms. Alkire said, "Thank you."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Appreciate your chance to ask questions."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. I appreciate it. Thanks for being here this evening."

Ms. Alkire said, "Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thanks for coming the other day. Next individual is Jane Mosteller."

Ms. Jane Mosteller, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "My husband is Fred, and he's a member of the Derby [Senior Center], so we go to both of them. My husband was diagnosed in the 1990's with diabetes. We went to several different doctors, classes on diabetes training. He did not understand enough to really change his diet or his habits. He was, his only testing was done in the doctor's

office. I saw an ad in the Linwood paper about a diabetes class, and the instructor assisted him in the importance of better testing, also, improved diet. She got us off of pop and instructed us on that orange juice is a medicine, not a luxury drink, not a drink.

"These classes were actually awesome. She explained how fiber, fat and carbs affect the blood sugars. It was a several week class. She strongly recommended a tablespoon of peanut butter at night before you go to bed to help keep your blood sugars stable through the night. We actually followed her, re-took the same class at Derby at the senior center on 21st, and a couple of different times at the Linwood Senior Center. Now this is 2018, I mean we're talking some 25 years later. This is good, and I thank the senior center for this. My husband's recent A1C (glycated hemoglobin) was a seven, and the doctor said that is equal, equivalent to an A-, and that is awesome. My father-in-law, I love senior centers. They changed our lives. He was able to have a, this is stupid, sorry. He was able to have an apartment in Haysville, and went to the senior center across, a low income apartment and went to the senior center across the way for meals and friendship, and it helped him a lot, especially in his final years.

"I've been taking a diabetes, pre-diabetes class in Derby, and the Derby Senior Center saw me have trouble with my balance. They actually called me and suggested that I take a class on mobility and balance. I took that class from them. That helped me tremendously, and even this year, the tax lady at Linwood said that my taxes have been done wrong. She did amendments for us, and we got back several hundred dollars, so I thank her for that on a tax refund which you don't get very often. Dollars invested in the senior centers are educating physically, mentally and emotionally today and also paving the way for the soon to be members of our very beneficial elite group, and I want to thank you for every dollar that you put into the seniors because we all plan to be there. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, Ms. Mosteller. Appreciate you being here this evening."

Ms. Mosteller said, "Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Next individual is Donna Fisher. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Donna Fisher, Tax-Aide, AARP, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I don't know how much the Commission knows about the AARP foundations tax-aid program, but we operate in seven senior centers in Sedgwick County during the tax season. It is an all-volunteer program. There's some back in Washington D.C. (District of Columbia), there are few paid people, everybody else are volunteers. Most of us our retired volunteers.

"It's our purpose to provide low and moderate income, primarily seniors, with free tax preparation. Many of the folks can't afford to pay someone. Some are doing Homestead only, and that's the Homestead taxes are a way, tax refunds are a way to, for them to help them stay in their homes. We do a lot of Homestead returns for seniors throughout our organization. We partner with the senior centers. We are in 14, in Sedgwick County, in 14 locations. At least half of those are senior centers, in addition to the four Wichita ones under Senior Services. We're in Derby, Haysville, La Familia and Park City are places where we do the taxes as well. It's a great partnership with the senior centers. We help, you know, it gives us a location to do set-up and do

taxes. They help us schedule the people to come, and we are able to help a lot of seniors that can't afford to pay a tax accountant to have their taxes done or to get any refund that's due them. So, we're very conscientious, we're well trained, but we appreciate and need the senior centers. So thank you very much for the financial support of the senior centers, and we appreciate the cooperation of the senior centers with the tax-aid program."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Fisher, thank you very much for being here, and thanks for serving. Next individual is Stan Allen. Please state your name for the record, and you'll have three minutes."

Mr. Stan Allen, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "About like 13 years ago, I got old enough to go to the senior center, so I did that, and I'll tell you, I have not been disappointed ever since then. I met a lot of people over there, and made renewed acquaintances I've had in the past. I found them over there, and they have a good activity system going on. There's a pool table, you get to play pool. I'm with Linwood Center, and sometimes we go downtown and play on the good tables. They got some good tables down there. But anyway, we see a lot of dedicated volunteers over there too, and if you're not careful, why you'll find yourself volunteering for something. It's always a blessing to do that, be a part of it.

"It's just a good thing to sit here tonight and listen to the people comment on what they have to say about it. Learning a few things, and that's good. We also have a Bible study over there on a regular basis, and that's a blessing. Every time I get a chance, I like to go see some of that and be there for that. That's about all I have to say, but the senior centers, they're all very important to older folks who want to, when I was young, I didn't think a thing about it, but when I'm old enough for it, it fills a real gap so-to-speak in my life and gives me a place to go. I really appreciate the library being there right there with us, so handy and so close, and I don't live very far from there, so that's a blessing too. Thank you very much."

Chairman Dennis said, "Mr. Allen, thank you very much for being here this evening. Next individual is Phillis Allen. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Phillis Allen, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm very thankful to be here, and I'm honored to be before you to talk about our senior centers. That was my husband before me, and he's the one that got me going there. The senior centers have kept me being active.

"I've developed a lot of arthritis in my body, and through going to the senior center, it has encouraged me to be a volunteer. I also volunteer two days a week at the Bread of Life food ministry. Without being encouraged by the senior centers to keep active, I think I would be at home in a chair just growing old and getting stiff. Our senior centers are very important to us seniors. They keep us motivated, they keep us active, they keep us healthy. We develop such a friendship between one another. I love to play cards. I love to play 13-point pitch, 10-point pitch. I also shoot pool, and our senior centers is a good safe place to go. I'm thankful for it because I wouldn't want my folks just to go off somewhere. Where would you go and to have it be secure? I feel secure and safe at my Linwood Senior Center, and I think the rest of the seniors feel safe at their centers. We thank you for the support, and we hope we get further support from our Commissioners. That's all I've got to say tonight. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, Ms. Allen. We appreciate you being here this

evening. Next individual is Judith Eguino. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes.”

Ms. Judith Eguino, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Thirty-nine years ago I came from Bolivia. My cancer in my uterus was operated at Wesley Medical Center, something that Bolivian doctors didn’t do. They didn’t want to, so that’s number one thing that kept me alive. I didn’t have cancer anywhere else, but a few years later, I get through, just found out about the senior center, but first time it was the Hispanic senior center. I am one of the four co-founders of La Familia. It was founded in 1990, and later on I was hired to be a teacher. I’m a Spanish teacher at the Linwood Center and a dance teacher, French teacher and also at Edgemoor and Orchard. In addition to that, I’m also student of Zumba classes, and lately I’m more social with the seniors at the Linwood Center because they are my family.

“I’m alone, and biologically my family is overseas in France, also Bolivia and Miami, Florida, so the Linwood Center has become my family. I’m here to show my moral, physical, emotional support to this center because that’s what I have taken from them, which is good, to give and take, you know, and thank you for your support. I’ve been at the centers for about 15 years teaching, and they keep giving me the jobs because we are including in our centers, teaching Spanish as a second language at different levels, that’s what I do, and I love it. So, I live in the southeast area of Wichita. My son has grown up here, being a 12-year-old back then, and now he’s a 51-year-old opera singer. I’m appreciative for that.

“I feel like the senior centers have helped me to just become my emotional problems by not having a family. Also in the financial way, I mean, they are just friends to me. They’re more than friends, they really are friends and family. Otherwise, I wouldn’t know where to go. The teaching job is wonderful at the centers, and sometimes I only go there for coffee and donuts, but that’s the social part to keep me sane, you know, because it’s like one of the ladies said, it’s not good to be alone. Really, I am 73, in four months I’ll be 74, but a big part of the senior center in Wichita have been the senior centers. I’m a widow also, but they are widows too.

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“Some of them, and I see the happiness, I go to the dances, and I appreciate what you do for the centers. I would just love for you to keep us and continue support because many of us benefit from these centers emotionally, physically and mentally. Thank you so much.”

Chairman Dennis said, “Ms. Eguino, thank you very much for being here. Next individual is Linda Matthews. Please state your name for the record, and you’ll have three minutes.”

Ms. Linda Matthews, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I can speak regarding Linwood Senior Center, both as a member and as a former worker. It is with great pride I call myself a member of Linwood. It is one of the most important and interesting places you can go to as a senior. They offer a wide variety of activities and interests to just about anyone, from the average reader to the exercise buff, you can learn a new craft, attend social gatherings such as the birthday parties or games ranging from bingo to pinochle, or just stop in to say hello and see what other friends might be at the center that day. There’s never a dull moment at

Linwood Senior Center. We thank you for your support of all the four senior centers here in Wichita. We also thank you for allowing me to take up a few minutes of your time this evening, and we hope you'll help keep us seniors off the street."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Matthews, thank you very much for being here. We appreciate your sense of humor. Next individual is Eline Kinder. Ms. Kinder? Ms. Kinder here? Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes. You can pull that down a little bit. There you go."

Ms. Eline Kinder, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I was lucky, my mother was a person who went there long before any of you all. She would drag me along sometimes, say come on you got to hear this lecture, you got to see what's going on. It was just great, and so I just feel so happy that it's still there that I can go. I personally want to thank you all for your past funding of the senior centers, and I most sincerely hope that the funding will not only continue, but even expand in the future. They asked me to talk about why some of the reasons I love the senior centers, and this one thing they offer daily meals, these are at a nominal fee. Some of the people that go are going for socializing, but some of the people go there because that's the one meal they get a day. I think that's really important, and the socializing thing that happens with eating, you know, eating is a real cultural thing in our society, and eating with friends that's, just great for the digestion and that helps to keep us healthy."

"Speaking of socializing, that's another reason I love our senior centers, there are lots and lots of studies, as somebody mentioned, that demonstrate that people that are alone, they end up getting sick and then they end up going to care homes and hospitals and do all that, and that's expensive. So eating together, that helps us help socialize people, and that keeps them from just, just keeps all of us from sitting around, getting gloomy and then getting sick. Doing these social interactions like with dining together and stuff, helps us to get healthy and to stay healthy and strong.

"Speaking of strong, all of the senior centers have daily exercise programs including but not limited to weight lifting, yoga, flexibility classes, balance, stretching exercises, and that doesn't even mention about the walking and dancing classes and those kinds of events as well. I'm particularly fond of the lectures that give us so much helpful information. Some of those lectures are just like one hour, but a lot of them go for, you know, several weeks, like of an afternoon for several weeks at a time. They give amazing information that is very very helpful, like the lady said about the diabetes, and then other things, heart conditions and other really awful conditions, and they give us ways to help with that to take better care of ourselves.

"There's also other kinds of training, like how to quit being a hoarder and cooking classes and healthier eating classes and all that. Then there is all the wonderful fun stuff that has already been mentioned, and finally and maybe the most important, the wonderful wonderful friendships that people develop there, it's just amazing and it's also amazing you can learn things from the classes, but it's amazing what you can learn from the wisdom of all those wonderful wonderful seniors. Thank you very much for listening, and again thank you for supporting the senior centers. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis, said "Ms. Kinder, thank you very much for being here this evening we appreciate it. Next individual is Odean Moore. State your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Odean Moore, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "We thank you for giving us this opportunity to tell about the senior centers. I want to say ditto to everything that's been said. I think that they were reading my comments. But one thing about it, you go to the doctor, he says are you exercising? How much are you exercising? How far are you walking? Get into a permanent exercise program, and that's what our senior centers do. We can walk a mile or two miles or three miles if you're up to it. We can have dyna-bands, we have weights, we have, well like they said they even have arthritis exercises. Then we have the fun exercises, Tai Chi, line dancing, advanced or beginners, whichever you would like. Then I can go back to my doctor and I can say, yes I'm exercising, I'm walking.

"I'm a widow of 30 years, and going out and being with others, if you don't do that, you will die. You have to have the emotional contact. You have to get with other people, and that's better than a medical therapy program. You can pay to go to therapy programs, but you can go to a senior center and have that and it doesn't cost. They also have games, they have birthday parties, they have mother's tea, and of course the men like to play pool. I just want to say we appreciate all that you have done for the senior centers, and we just hope that you realize how important it is and keep funding us in the future."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Moore, thank you very much for being here this evening, we appreciate it. Next individual is Lisa Wang. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Lisa Wang, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I come here because I went to the Linwood Senior Center, and I come to senior center only three months and I got very much benefits. For example, the activities like the muscle stretching, the shoulder much well. Before, my shoulder can't reach very well and now is better. The game before bingo or something, for example, and the line dancing, with me physical and mental health much better.

"They have offer health cooking, we know how to make food better for my body. Last month, my daddy passed away in China. I join grief support group. They teach us and pray for me, and they help me feel good. So I join the senior center, it open my eyes, my sight, and I learning a lot of knowledge and English, and find I know very nice ladies in the front. So I want to keep the senior center and ask you to continue to support the senior center. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to promote the friendship. Thank you so much."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Wang, thank you very much. We appreciate you being here this evening. Next individual is Diane Pope."

Ms. Diane Pope, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said "When I was a child, I was affected by polio. So I struggled with that and everybody kept saying, no, you can't do anything, so I had to prove to them that I can do it, but I was still lonely all through grade school because I wanted a friend and there was no friends out there. As I got older and went to work, I was slower than everybody else, so I still didn't have any friends. So once I retired, somebody mentioned the senior center, so I went down to Linwood and thought okay, I'll just check into it to see what they have to offer. So they explained to me all the activities that they do, and before I left they said why don't you come and try us out and see what we're like.

“So I thought okay, so I went and I really love the senior center. They have different activities that I can do. There’s friendship and there’s love that everybody has in their heart, and they give it to everybody around here. I have love in my heart that I’ve always wanted for years and years to give to somebody, and here it is at the senior center. I do thank you all for your support for helping the senior centers, and I hope you can continue it. I want to mention with all the Commissioners that maybe sometime all of you can take one activity and go and join the senior center just to see what they are like. They have a pumpkin patch that you can go and ride a cart and pick your own pumpkin. Then at Christmastime, they have the Christmas lights. They have a bus and everybody gets in the bus, and they have cookies and hot chocolate and everybody just laughs and just really enjoys themselves. So I’m hoping maybe one of these times you all can join us just to see what we’re like. So thank you for all your support. Thank you.”

Chairman Dennis said, “Ms. Pope, thank you for being with us this evening. Next speaker is Gary Heath. Mr. Heath, state your name for the record, and you have three minutes.”

Mr. Gary Heath, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I want to thank you all for always helping to keep us going. I didn’t know what a senior center was up until a couple of years ago, I’d never heard about them at all. Went by the Linwood Center and thought about joining and went in and seen what it was, and so I joined. I was a little slow of coming, but now I come every day. I’m there all day long, the most wonderful people I have ever met in my life that goes there. The association is wonderful, and I want to thank all of you for always being so good to me and we’re all trying to love each other in the center there, so we get along well, and we ask if you keep us going so we can keep strong and keep our relationships, and so our love keeps growing for each other. Thank you.”

Chairman Dennis said, “Mr. Heath, thank you very much. Next speaker is Cherise Langenberg. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes.”

Ms. Cherise Langenberg, Director, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I am just so proud for you to know what we do. We don’t take people and retire them, we take people and re-fire them. So that’s what we do, we do it every day with the activities that are going on there. We do it every day with the iron sharpening iron and the kinships that happen. In the political climate today which is very challenging to abide by, I am thrilled that we have such great hearts here that you can be demonstrated that we really appreciate your support, and we couldn’t do it without you. These people are full of wisdom. It is my joy to serve them and it is my honor. I just am so proud of you all, and they speak form the heart, and I do too.

“I just want you to know again what you do is very hard and very difficult because you have to make ends meet, and it is a tough thing and they are also on limited incomes and budgets. Most of our programs we don’t charge for those things, people pitch in and we have a tremendous group of volunteers, and without our volunteers we couldn’t run. That is really the bottom truth, and so we appreciate everybody from the door greeter to the people that clean up afterwards, and to the men that wear their little aprons when they serve the women tea. But we do want to let you know that 50 years ago senior services was started by a group of churches and individuals that invested their heart and life and knew that seniors need a place to come and be a part of. That’s so important and so integral that we are thankful that it’s still going.

"We are having a great celebration this year, 50 years, 50 years of amazing work. So we want to welcome you, if the police officers can dance, we want you to come dance with us too. On September 20th, we are having a dance and it is called Building Momentum. September is National Senior Center Month, and we would love for you to build some momentum with us. On Thursday, I believe it is September 20th, we are having a dance at our downtown center from 1 [p.m.] to 3 [p.m.]. We'll be playing a variety of music, and so if the police officers have time to dance, we think you ought to as well, so we want to welcome you to that. So anyway I just want to thank you again for your support, and we ask for your investment in the future.

"You know, it's really challenging when you have a lot of youth programs and not so many senior programs, just a drop in the bucket. So we think the investment is worth it, and again, thank you again for your great support. We appreciate it."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask you a couple of questions if that's okay. Thank you, I really appreciate you taking the time to be here today."

Ms. Langenberg said, "Sure."

Commissioner Howell said, "From the testimonies of all those that have already spoken about Linwood, it sounds like it's a tremendous organization, and we thank you for your service to our community."

Ms. Langenberg said, "Yeah, we just actually helped save the library, Linwood Library, our people rallied. Good job, that's all I can say."

Commissioner Howell said, "Well, I just wanted to reflect on some funding with yours, I believe you guys are considered a Multi-purpose Center Level 1. You get [\$]57,000 from the county."

Ms. Langenberg said, "Yes, that is correct."

Commissioner Howell said, "You're not eligible for any increase right now, but can you talk about your membership? How many members do you have?"

Ms. Langenberg said, "Sure, we do have a paid membership. We have a \$25 membership fee. Most of the other centers around like Derby and Haysville do not. The city also supports them which we do not have that support, we rent from the city. Right now, we do have a few scholarships that we make available because Linwood is in a lower income neighborhood, but I would say bright-spirited in all ways. You were asking me a little bit about budget. We are very, right now we served as of, I think I gave Stacy the information, we served 625 people in the last six months. Of those, we have about half that pay membership fees. So we have to serve 250-plus people to receive the [\$]57,000 that you're talking about. The next level up is actually, I think 1,001 and that is our Downtown Senior Center meets that requirement. I used to be the director of the Downtown Senior Center, so I know that budget as well."

Commissioner Howell said, "Are you the full time director?"

Ms. Langenberg said, "I am."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, I see here that there's donations of [\$]21,672 planned for next year. Is that the scholarships you were talking about?"

Ms. Langenberg said, "I was going to say, I'm not sure, I need to kind of look at that. That is probably the paid memberships that we're talking about, of \$25 revenue."

Commissioner Howell said, "You get some money from The United Way, I see."

Ms. Langenberg said, "We do get some money from United Way."

Commissioner Howell said, "About [\$]17,000 from participants fundraising, and then there's some donations of [\$]21,672."

Ms. Langenberg said, "We do. United Way is divided by the four centers, that budget."

Commissioner Howell said, "I've got that breakdown here, but by adding all this up, it looks like your 2019 budget, from my understanding, is around, just under a \$100,000. Does that sound about right?"

Ms. Langenberg said, "It is, yeah."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay, and you are paid out of that \$100,000?"

Ms. Langenberg said, "I am."

Commissioner Howell said, "Where is the building that you operate? Is that a Wichita owned building?"

Ms. Langenberg said, "It is a Wichita owned building. Orchard Park and Linwood both rent from the city."

Commissioner Howell said, "So you pay a rental?"

Ms. Langenberg said, "We pay rent to the city, yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "Okay."

Ms. Langenberg said, "That's a lot of that budget actually, so yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "I would just like to make a point, again I don't know if this is just, I am reflecting on all the numbers I'm seeing in front of me."

Ms. Langenberg said, "Sure, I appreciate it."

Commissioner Howell said, "It looks to me like all of the small towns do provide, for the most part, there is quite a bit of funding from other cities even the city of Cheney and Valley Center and Bel Aire are, they all donate some money to the organizations we call senior centers, but..."

Ms. Langenberg said, "Yes, they do."

Commissioner Howell said, "...but, Wichita doesn't do that."

Ms. Langenberg said, "No, it does not."

Ms. Alkire said, "Commissioner, I can tell you when the aging mill levy was established."

Chairman Dennis said, "Can you approach the podium? Then we'll have you on..."

Ms. Alkire said, "When the aging mill levy was established some years ago, that's when the city quit funding senior centers or any, they figured you guys were doing it. They do, I'll give them kudos, they have not increased my rent in probably 12 or 15 years at both Orchard and Linwood, but when the aging mill levy came to be, the city stepped aside. It's been that way ever since."

Commissioner Howell said, "That's interesting, it's a long time ago now, but..."

Ms. Alkire said, "Long time ago."

Commissioner Howell said, "...but I don't know if we have any history on how that shifted."

Ms. Alkire said, "I'll see if I can find it."

Commissioner Howell said, "I'm a data guy, I like to see those kinds of things. Well thank you for your answers. I appreciate appreciate..."

Commissioner Dennis said, "Thank you all for being here this evening."

Ms. Langenberg said, "Thank you again."

Chairman Dennis said, "Appreciate it. Next individual is Jeri Myers. Please approach the podium, state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Jeri Myers, Director, Mulvane Senior Center greeted the Commissioners and said, "I did bring a lot of my people, but I think they are kind of quiet and they didn't want to talk very much, so I appreciate all you guys from Linwood standing up because the same thing happens at our center, so you guys are great, good job. Picture it, Wally Smith, an older gentlemen taking Meals on Wheels, was preparing to take his shower when we delivered his meals. The door was open and we walked in and yelled his name. Put them on the table, he said. I'm going to take a shower. Do you need anything, we asked. Nope, I'm just fine. The next day, the meal deliverer walked into Wally's house and yelled his name, there was no response."

"They walked in the kitchen, and the little bathroom where Wally was going to take his shower located off the kitchen, revealed that Wally was laying on the floor where he had fallen, and he had hit his head and he was semi-conscious and he had lain there for those 24 hours from when we delivered meals to the next day. My deliverers are wonderful, they called 911 and they rushed him to the hospital. He was dehydrated and had a concussion, and I think he stayed two weeks in the hospital and then was in rehab, but he finally did get to come home. Sometimes just like everybody else has said, the driver sometimes is the only person that a homebound person sees all day

long.

“Another lady came into the center and told me that someone turned her in to the Motor Vehicle Department [of Motor Vehicles] (DMV) because she wasn’t a safe driver. They had taken her license away and she was so upset she said, I have these pieces of paper, but I don’t know how to fill them out, can you help me? I had never seen anything like that myself, but we did get this all figured out and she had to go to the doctor. She had tremors, she had to go to the doctor and the doctor had to say it was okay, and okay so she got her driver’s license back. Another man told me he hated weekends because he didn’t have anything to do. All he did was sit in his chair and watch TV (television) and it got pretty boring.

“We talked about isolationism, you said don’t repeat so I’m just going to say we talked about isolationism, how harmful it is for seniors. We know that the goal of every senior is to keep seniors safe and independent in their own homes. All senior centers provide educational programs, they provide exercise and health. We do the AARP tax program. I teach the Matter of Balance Class, we do elder abuse, care living, and we have WSU (Wichita State University) nursing school come to our center and do diabetic checks and visited with the people about what kinds of things are you doing in your life that are really helping you.

“Education on identity theft, fraud, scams, truly truly important in this day for seniors. Seniors are our most valuable resources and at the same time the most vulnerable, somebody can get to them just like that. My son’s a firefighter in Wichita, and he asked me if we did hoarding classes. He said, Mom sometimes when we’re called out, we can’t even walk through a house. There’s not even a path there, and if there was a fire it would go up really fast. We already talked about it saves taxpayers about \$100,000 to keep a senior out of a nursing home. Mulvane partners with everybody in Mulvane.

“We partner with the school system, we have had seniors raking leaves, we’ve had high school seniors, pardon me, raking leaves. I have to discriminate here, washing windows, they haul off trash and that was for their National Honor Society (NHS). Middle school kids have painted on the curb, painted the number of your house on the curb for us. We partner with the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Mulvane and Mulvane Recreation. Mulvane Recreation gives a lower price for people who want to walk and do exercises. They have educational class, and they do trips for our seniors also. Our center has a lot of volunteers, and you can’t run a senior center unless you have volunteers, and I saw some of you guys at the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) when they have that big volunteer lunch, and you saw how many people were volunteering. We cannot do without our volunteers.

“I have seniors at my center who knit caps, make lap robes and knit toe socks for the V.A. (Veteran’s Administration). They give rides whenever are needed, they deliver meals. I just want to say, seniors are well informed today. They pay their bills on time and they pay their taxes and they get out and vote. They take pride in their community, and they are a proud generation. There are more seniors today than ever before, and the numbers are just going to keep increasing. At our center we have a calling list for inclement weather, emergencies, or if someone, just like the other lady said, is gone. Where is so-and-so, he is okay, I just talked to him. Okay, we also hand out commodities, we do API (Aging Projects, Inc.) meals, and we hand out Panera bread.

“If someone needs help with home repairs, if we can’t find anybody, my husband is

pretty handy with a hammer, and he can change lightbulbs and he's installed doors before. In the end, seniors are our most valuable resource in any community. They want to be in their homes, they want to remain independent. They are the backbone of every community, and they have the experience and the wisdom to pass on to generations, other generations than themselves. More funding would be much appreciated and well used. The Mulvane Center for eight years has held Senior Center Level 2, and if it goes up every two years, that's four years and we've never received any more funding than what we get for Senior Center Level 1. We invite you to come to our center and thank you very much for all you do. Do you have any questions?"

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Myers, thank you very much. I don't see any, thanks for being here. Our next speaker is Dana Walden. Dana Walden, please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Dana Walden, Assistant City Administrator, City of Park City, greeted the Commissioners and said, "With me this evening is Daniela Rivas and she is our Director of Finance, so she can answer any questions that you may have as well. First and foremost, we want to say thank you so much for the support that you have given to Park City. It's because of our partnership with you that we have been able to provide and have the privilege of providing the services to seniors in Park City. As you can see this evening, this is very reflective of the seniors that we serve and how important it is to them to have these services. Our center was established in 1984, and it has developed a strong reputation of providing quality services to citizens of Sedgwick County.

"We do not limit, of course, to the city of Park City, we serve people outside of that as well. The center has continued to grow in both the attendance and the programming that we offer, and Commissioner Howell, we are one of the senior centers that has moved up to that next threshold. We are requesting the additional funding. Currently, our center is funded and operates under the status of a Senior Center Level 2, while we meet the programming and attendance requirements of a Multi-purpose Senior Center Level 1. Some of the things that we meet, an example would be, the senior center level attendance for a Level 2 is 151 to 200, for Multi-purpose, it is 201 to 1,000. On an average, the Park City Senior Center has over 700 active members each year. As far as programs and activities, the required activities for the step-up would be to provide 15 baseline programs. Park City provides 28 in 2017. Educational programs is 70, we met that 70 threshold, and special events to move up would be 20, and Park City provided 24 in 2017.

"The center continues to grow, and for 2018 the center is on track to meet or exceed the numbers in the requirements to move up and be classified and funded as a Multi-purpose Senior Center Level 1.

Therefore, what we are requesting is your consideration of an increase in funding for the 2019 budget in the amount of [\$]22,000. This requested increase would bring the funding from [\$]35,000 which is associated with Senior Center Level 2 to [\$]57,000 which is the funding level associated with a Multi-purpose Senior Center Level 1. From 2014 to 2016, the active membership in Park City Senior Center has increased 22 percent."

"The budget for Park City since 2014 to 2019, what we have included in our proposed budget, has actually doubled. We had the budget for the senior center in 2014 a little over \$76,000, and for 2019 we have proposed \$153,414, so the city is really wanting to continue to promote our senior center and we are standing behind it. The senior center funding that we receive from Sedgwick County has been in the line item for the senior

center director for the salary and benefit package. Our senior center director is a full-time director. The qualifications that she has include a Master's Degree in Aging Services [Management] (MASM), State of Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Adult Care Home Administrator Certification, she is SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas) certified for Medicare counseling, and she is certified in the [Matter of] Balance Program and is an instructor of that.

"In addition, our senior center has really met capacity. We have a 5,000 square-foot building and discussions are underway right now for us to either expand that or build a new senior center. So we are very committed to this. Our director personally teaches classes and provides a portion of programs and services. She directs the activities of approximately 40 volunteers with approximately 250 hours per month, and she schedules and coordinates activities both at the senior center and away from the senior center with professional services and people within the community. Some of our programs include what you've heard this evening, and you can see how important that is, we deliver Meals on Wheels from our center to Park City, Bel Aire and Valley Center. Nutritious meals are served at the center. We have a volunteer transport program, the AARP tax assistance program that you heard about, that is out of our center as well.

"Medicare counseling, once again, our senior center director is SHICK certified. We have health maintenance clinics for things such as foot-and-nail, blood pressure, hearing, all the things that you've heard this evening as well, and educational and fitness programs. The center serves as a hub of information. It provides programs that aim to provide opportunities to increase the health, knowledge and socialization for a population that is sometimes very vulnerable. It helps them to maintain in their homes so that they can age-in-place. The information referrals that are available are not just toward the seniors themselves, but to their family members as well. So the impact of the senior center is very far reaching. Park City is committed to serving Sedgwick County seniors and their families. We will continue to reach out to this ever growing population as all of our baby boomers are continuing to age at a very quick rate, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Sedgwick County, and we hope to serve our senior citizens."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you. Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell, said "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say number one, again, Ms. Walden, thank you for coming out today, and I wish you and I could have spoken before now, but I appreciate you taking some time to clarify some things. I think there may be some confusion on the timeframe for requesting. I guess sometimes we go out and we look at the center and I guess we verify performance measures, that is something that has to happen in the process. So I actually had previous information that said that Park City and Valley Center would both be considered for more funding this year, but then I got a recent thing from staff that said that they were not, and this shows at the bottom, there's a bullet statement that says they would be considered for additional funding in 2020.

"So I don't know if that's wrong. We need to verify the timeline on this whole thing, so I will be asking staff, I guess, to clarify some of those details. But right now just to clarify, the number is [\$]35,000 currently, in 2020 you will be asking for [\$]22,000 more, going from [\$]35,[000] to [\$]57,[000]. The question is whether or not that should happen this year or not. That is my only questions, so I need to work with staff to verify how we ended up with some conflict between what you understand and what I earlier understood and what the staff is telling me now."

Ms. Walden said, "Absolutely, we would appreciate clarification of that, and if we are not eligible this year, we will actually be back to ask that for the next funding cycle."

Commissioner Howell said, "Yeah, and it does tell us that would happen next year in the following year, but again, earlier this year I was led to believe that this was going to happen in Fiscal [Year] (FY) '19 which we're obviously deliberating tonight. So anyway, I want to say there is some, apparently some confusion, I'm going to work through that, I'll work with staff on that, and so to the extent there was a question or comment directed at me. I'm the one that was asking the questions about this which is why I think that you may have directed that comment at me."

Ms. Walden said, "The reason I directed that comment to you is because earlier when I was watching the comments, you had asked a question about those senior centers that were moving up to the next..."

Commissioner Howell said, "Very good, I appreciate that. That's a good clarification, and again, thank you for coming out."

Ms. Walden said, "We were one that we were under the understanding that we would be eligible, but once again, we very much appreciate the funding that is provided by Sedgwick County. If we're eligible, we would very much appreciate that, and if we're not, we will be back to ask when we are..."

Commissioner Howell said, "I understand."

Ms. Walden said, "...because our program continues to grow."

Commissioner Howell said, "Once again, thank you so much for your comments."

Ms. Walden said, "Absolutely."

Chairman Dennis said, "Commissioner Ranzau"

Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, "Dana, thank you for coming. I was going to ask you, I've asked staff to contact Madison to make sure she understood the process for getting evaluated and moving up, are you aware? I've been told that that's happening, and I'm planning on following up but have you heard anything?"

Ms. Walden said, "I do not know, and the reason that I'm here this evening is because Madison is on vacation, but she will be back next week. I will absolutely be getting with her to see if she has been contacted."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Alright, I will follow up as well, but if there's any questions let me know, but Tim and Annette understand the need to make sure that's communicated well."

Ms. Walden said, "Absolutely, thank you."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thanks."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Walden, thank you very much for being here. We appreciate it."

Ms. Walden said, "Thank you very much."

Chairman Dennis said, "Next speaker is Nancy Anderson. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Nancy Anderson, Member, Valley Center Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "In the light of what she just said about Park City, my question is kind of the same. We are at a level senior club so we get \$5,000 a year for our senior center. Three years ago, they said that the funds were not available for the next level, so our city stepped in, our volunteers saved our senior center, we would have lost it. So my whole thing is that the county needs to work with the cities to help support these senior centers because you've heard all the good things that they do.

"But we were told that our next level is \$18,000 so we would go from [\$]5,000 to [\$]18,000 and they said that won't happen until 2020, and we have been doing, for the last two years we have been doing, trying to earn that next level. I don't know, we were told that the monies were frozen and that we wouldn't achieve that, we wouldn't be able to do that. So now in 2020, they tell us if we complete everything, which we have, that it should possibly come about, but I don't know if there are guarantees for that or if it's a misunderstanding or what. I talked to someone today in the [Central Plains] Area [Agency] on Aging (CPAAA), and so that was what she explained to me, but up until this point they told us that everything was frozen, so maybe you can look in to that."

Chairman Dennis said, "Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Yeah, I have. The funding was frozen but there was a process when you were ready, like I think someone said that you had to be there for two years, and then you ask and then staff goes out and evaluates that and certifies that, then you're certified to move up. Now the funding may not be available at that time, but at least you are certified to move up. I've asked, I see Annette nodding back there to communicate with Charlene as well about that, and I've talked to her a little bit the other day, and we will follow up to make sure she understands that process as well so at least that step is completed."

Ms. Anderson said, "I hope you will consider that the funds will be there when we meet that requirement, and thank you for your time."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thanks for coming. I appreciate it."

Chairman Dennis said, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just want to clarify, so you're getting [\$]5,000 now and if you move up you'll go to [\$]18,000, that's the formula."

Ms. Anderson said, "Yes."

Commissioner Howell said, "How long do you think you've been eligible for that? How many years?"

Ms. Anderson said, "Well, we had a part-time person in 20, it's been three years, and we lost that part-time person, and so Charlene came in, our current director came in as part-time six months, well four months after that. We took over in January, and she came in in April I believe, and so we had kept all the programs going but did not do any of the paperwork, because I was doing it as volunteer, and so it wasn't my job, so the city did hire her part-time. So she should have had all of that, all the requirements but they told us the funds were frozen."

Commissioner Howell said, "Did Valley Center, it says like right now they're planning to give [\$]16,670 for next year. Do you know, is that something fairly new? Have they been donating, has the city been funding at that level for a while or do you know?"

Ms. Anderson said, "Well for three years they've been paying everything but the [\$]5,000 that we get from the county, so they've been paying for the director and a building."

Commissioner Howell said, "I see. Alright, well this is similar to the previous discussion and I, early on I was told that Valley Center also should have been considered for more funding this year along with the other four that are on my list here. Then it was taken off later by staff, so I think there is some confusion as to whether that should be on or not, and I will work with staff to get to the bottom of that. Thank you again for..."

Ms. Anderson said, "Great, thank you so much. I appreciate it."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you Ms. Anderson, we appreciate it. Next speaker is Lawrence Macionski. I hope I said that right or close. Please state your name for the record. You have three minutes, sir."

Mr. Lawrence Macionski, Member, Mulvane Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I just want to let you know that I was born and raised in Detroit, I went through two race riots. Of course everybody knows the decline in Detroit and why it occurred. It occurred because of lots of mismanagement in government, okay. I saw the Motor City Capital of the World, their management went out and bought buses. Well people in Detroit don't ride buses, they build cars and they love cars and they do all there is."

"Now, I've been paying taxes for 55 years. I am a baby boomer. The baby boomers in the United States are on the increase. You're going to see more and more of them coming, okay. You can't delay this any longer, it's at your doorstep. Next year there's going to be more, the year after there's going to be more, there's going to be more the year after that. They all pay their taxes."

"How many people pay taxes? Okay, how many people are baby boomers? Okay, and how many people vote? Okay, thank you for the audience participation. I came to Wichita eventually. I left Detroit, I got the (inaudible) out, I saw the writing on the wall. When I came to Wichita, I said Wichita parallels Detroit 25, 50 years ago. At one time, Detroit had three million people in it. That is the population of Kansas. Today, Wichita has more people in it than the city of Detroit, okay. People, if things aren't right, they're going to get out, okay. When I came here, since I have been here, I have paid my county property taxes, and my first property taxes I paid was \$250 a year. Now I am paying \$2,100 a year, okay."

"I've invested by my taxes in the senior services that I expect, just like I pay 55 years in social security, and I expect to get my social security, it's not an entitlement it's something I worked for, I invested in. My wife died 15 years ago, and there's a lot of elderly men who live alone. My closest relative is a thousand miles away. I like to go to the senior citizens center and besides that, Jeri is my next door neighbor, so I am kind of obligated to buy Girl Scout cookies from her kids and do the things that neighbors do. Anyhow, I would like to say more, but I've been told I am over time so thank you very much. I hope that you do the right decisions because you don't want me to come back."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you sir for being here today, believe it or not I am a baby boomer myself. Next speaker is Andree Sisco. Please state your name for the record, and you have three minutes."

Ms. Andree Sisco, Director, Oaklawn Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Does my three minutes start now or in five minutes after I get started? The reason why I ask when my time started is because I wanted to thank Commissioner Howell and Senator [Mike] Petersen for coming out to National Night Out which was this last Tuesday. We had a wonderful event, and I want to thank them for their support. On the subject of seniors, Sedgwick County Department of Aging falls under the supervision of Annette Graham. Her staff worked very hard to come up with the funding standards for senior centers. At this time, Oaklawn Sunview Senior Center receives from Sedgwick County \$35,000 a year to operate, the amount of funding is for Senior [Center] Level 2. However for the past three years the Oaklawn Sunview Senior Center has operated as a Multi-purpose Level 1.

"According to the senior center funding standards, we should receive roughly \$57,000. As a multi-purpose center, we have worked very hard to accomplish the more than 15 baseline activities, the more than 20 special events, the 70 education items, including the ones required on the topics. Our attendance level is at over 201, we are supposed to be between 201 and 1,000 as required. The Oaklawn Sunview Center does have a full-time director and we are open eight hours a day. Our director has an Associate's Degree in Communications, a Bachelor's in Science (B.S.), and a Master's [Degree] in Public Administration (MPA).

"We attended our four quarterly senior summit meetings and attended the eight hour class on hoarding this year. We keep daily logs of activities and submit our reports to the county as required. Our Senior Center also supplies a newsletter which lists community events that are happening throughout the month. These funding standards of a multi-purpose center are not new. When I am asked, you as County Commissioners to award funding to senior centers that have reached their goals. I am a simple person who thinks that Sedgwick County is a great place to live. I raised both my children in Oaklawn, we believe in our County Commissioners from all districts that understand the needs of the seniors to keep them active and in their homes.

"Oaklawn Sunview Center offers a lunch program Monday through Friday to help meet the nutritional needs of the seniors. We also offer food commodities distribution to offset the cost of food. We have in-house in our building, a Department of Children and Services Office [Department for Children and Families] to help our local families get help when needed. We all know that there are a number of seniors that are helping to raise their grandchildren and having a DCF (Department of Children and Families)

office on-site works well for them. Our center offers computers to our local residents. The Oaklawn Improvement District has free faxing and a free public notary as well. At your last budget meeting, I stated that an effective elected official you must be, sorry, should I keep going or stop?"

Chairman Dennis said, "Finish your thought, please."

Ms. Sisco said, "Let's see, as a County Commissioner, you give senior centers the much needed support to help keep our seniors informed and educated on issues of their health and well-being. As a County Commissioner, you must advocate for the better public policy and services to improve the quality of our senior citizens. By helping us develop and implement programs at our senior centers, we will help keep them in their homes longer. By using the senior center funding requirements, you help us sponsor outreach teams and sponsor creating programs and activities for our seniors of all life walks."

"When I think of the funding formula, I think of a person that goes to college to better themselves. Each of the requirements is like a class that you have to pass. A Senior Level 1 will be an Associate's [Degree], a Senior Level 2 would be a Bachelor's Degree, and a Senior Multi-purpose Center will be a Master's [Degree]. We have worked hard to achieve our Master's Degree, and we would like you to award us the Master's Degree Funding. I would like to leave you with one thought. When you go to bed at night, are you confident that you have done all you can do to meet the needs of our seniors? Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Ms. Sisco, thank you very much for being here this evening, appreciate it. Our next speaker is Kim Landers. State your name for the record, and you have three minutes please."

Kim Landers, Director, Haysville Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I come once again to impress upon you the importance of our local senior centers and the positive impacts that they have, not only in the lives of seniors themselves, but in the whole community. I realize that you see many people with their hands out asking for money for their division or specific department, and this must be difficult to prioritize the request knowing that you cannot give everyone what they are asking for. During last year's public hearing, it was suggested that we could acquire additional funds through the non-profit Chamber of Commerce.

"I followed up with that suggestion, and was surprised to learn that dues to become a member were \$1,000 a year. We simply do not have that kind of money to secure additional funding for our center. I know you are aware that some senior centers have been working for years not only to improve the quality of the programs and the services we offer to the aging community, but also to lend assistance and guidance in the many areas that impact the aging population. We are usually the first point of contact for that senior or their children if they are having issues with Medicare, home healthcare needs and transportation problems, or should they have general questions regarding how to handle a situation that has arisen and they don't know where to turn.

"For example, several years ago I was contacted by a lady from Wichita who could not afford to pay for both her health insurance and her medications. She was in tears at the thought of she and her husband becoming homeless. After speaking with her, I was able to make some contacts and get her some short-term help with her

medications which enabled her to go on and pay her health insurance. After looking at her policy, I realized that she had been substantially overpaying for her Medicare insurance, and the following month she made an appointment with me to discuss the upcoming years Medicare policy. She was very surprised to learn that she could save \$6,000 between her husband and her policy, and once again she was in tears, but this time this was tears of joy. We are always trying to find new activities to reach seniors who have not been to our center.

“Some of the things that we have done this year is to start a monthly cooking class that emphasizes recipes for one to two servings. We have added one new exercise class and will be adding an additional one before the end of the year. We have Coffee with Cops and that is well attended, but our favorite activity is Family Feud and we have had competition between other local senior centers and ourselves. Each of these activities fills a need for somebody and makes their life less lonely and gives them a greater sense of fulfillment. In closing, I ask you to consider the impact that additional funding will make in providing additional services, activities and essential assistance that our senior center can deliver before there is a decline in someone’s health making it necessary to seek out community services. Thank you.”

Chairman Dennis said, “Thank you. Commissioner O’Donnell.”

Commissioner O’Donnell, thanked the Chairman and said, “It’s good to see you again, Kim. I think it was just a week ago Friday that we last chatted. You might piggyback on some of those other comments, the city of Haysville has continued to put more and more money into the senior center, correct?”

Ms. Landers said, “Yes they have, yes they have.”

Commissioner O’Donnell said, “They have committed those funds and you are eligible to move up to the next tier, but understanding budgets, you and I talked about maybe just finding supplemental funding year-to-year, that any amount would help, and that you would utilize that and take advantage of any money the county could find.”

Ms. Landers said, “That’s correct, yes.”

Commissioner O’Donnell said, “Yeah, because I really respect what you do down there, and you’ve obviously have been performing extremely well.”

Ms. Landers said, “Thank you.”

Commissioner O’Donnell said, “Thank you. Good to see you.”

Chairman Dennis said, “Thank you. Thanks for being here. Our next speaker is Richard Brown.”

Mr. Richard Brown, Member, Linwood Senior Center, greeted the Commissioners and said, “My mother was Josie the Riveter all during World War II, building B-29’s. I’ve personally paid taxes in this county for over 68 years. As the perspective that cropped up listening to the other folks speaking is that any help that the county offers to the seniors and the senior centers, might well be considered a dividend on our investment. Further, I think you might have an opportunity to consider the life experience and

education of the seniors as an unsolicited asset instead of just considering us as an obligation. As an example of an asset, Mr. Dennis might remember the failed effort to promote a tavern on Wichita State's campus as opposed to the clutter that we ended up with. Further, my membership, my participation at the Linwood Center offers me an opportunity to follow in the line of my grandfather Brown, who was a clown for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey [Circus], laughter is the best medicine. Thank you."

Chairman Dennis said, "Mr. Brown, thank you very much for being here. We appreciate it."

Mr. Brown said, "Can I bank any unused seconds for next time?"

Chairman Dennis said, "That's the last speaker that I have that signed up. Is there anyone in the audience that didn't have an opportunity to sign up that would like to speak though? I would like to give them an opportunity. Is there anyone else that hasn't had a chance to speak? Again, thank you all very much for being here this evening. I sincerely appreciate it, and I know each of the Commissioners appreciates hearing all of the different comments that you had this evening. We will take them under advisement as we work through our 2019 budget. With that in mind, I'd like to close the public hearing of comment portion for our 2019 Sedgwick County budget. Madam Clerk, next item."

CONSENT

Mr. Scholes said, "Commissioners, I recommend you approve consent agenda item Bravo (B)."

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved to a approve consent agenda item Bravo (B).

Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

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

Mr. Scholes said, "Commissioner, Chairman, Chairman..."

Chairman Dennis said, "Can you wait just one minute until the public..."

Mr. Scholes said, "One second, I think we need to receive and file the comments from the budget hearing, is that correct?"

Chairman Dennis said, "Okay, before we..."

Mr. Scholes said, "Do we need to do that?"

Commissioner Howell said, "We do."

Chairman Dennis said, "Okay, it says receive public comment and close the public hearing is what it says in my agenda."

Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "You can do whatever you want Mr. Chairman. You're the Chairman."

MOTION

Commissioner Dennis moved to receive and file comments from the public hearing.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

Commissioner Howell said, "I would like to just make a quick comment if that's okay."

Chairman Dennis said, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you. I just want to say thank you to all those that came out and testified tonight. It may not have been obvious to anybody who is watching the YouTube Channel or online, but we had 20 other folks in the overflow room tonight which was a very good showing, so all together I added up the amount, them in this room plus what's in the other room, we had about 70 people in attendance. I think their main issue was senior center funding or senior services, and so I just want to make that point clear. I would make other comments, but since the room is cleared out, I guess I will do that another time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Dennis said, "Thank you, Commissioner Howell. I see no other comments. We have already passed the consent agenda, does everybody agree with that? Madam Clerk do you agree that we have a consent agenda passed? Very good. Then I'd like to adjourn the Board of County Commissioners meeting for Thursday. Wait."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "You didn't take the vote."

Commissioner Unruh said, "To receive and file."

Chairman Dennis said "Oh, I'm sorry."

VOTE

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

Chairman Dennis said, "Madam Clerk, does anything else have to come before the Board of County Commissioners meeting tonight? Very good."

the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Approved on the Consent Agenda

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.