

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

September 8, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on September 8, 2021 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman Peter F. Meitzner, with the following present: Chair Pro-Tem Commissioner Lacey D. Cruse; Commissioner Sarah Lopez; Commissioner David T. Dennis; Commissioner James M. Howell; Mr. Thomas Stolz, County Manager; Mr. Michael D. Pepoon, County Counselor; Ms. Lindsay Poe Rousseau, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Tim Kaufman, Deputy County Manager; Mr. Akeam Ashford, Director, Strategic Communications; Ms. Shaienne Lewis, Deputy County Clerk.

GUESTS

Dr. Garold Minns, MD, Infectious Disease Specialist, Local Health Officer

ROLL CALL

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

Chairman Meitzner said, "Next item, please."

PUBLIC AGENDA

Chairman Meitzner said, "Commissioners, there's a couple items here on public agenda. We received a copy of public agenda comments that came into our website after 3:30 p.m. on the 20th. When we had the special meeting on August 20th that evening. So we received a copy of those that came in, 3:30 p.m. was the cut-off for the 4:00 p.m. meeting. We received more comments after that, and then a few during the meeting, and subsequently. So I would like to, if you reviewed those or seen them, we did all receive a copy of those."

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

MOTION

Chairman Meitzner moved to receive and file the public comments that were received by our website for the August 20th special meeting.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

Chairman Meitzner said, “The second item, we did receive public comment for today's meeting. As of 5:00 p.m., or whatever the cut-off was, 5:00 p.m. last night. So we received a number of those by email. Any comments or questions about those?”

MOTION

Chairman Meitzner moved to receive and file the public comments.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Chairman Meitzner said, “And then thirdly, did anybody sign up, do we have anybody for public speaking today? We didn't have anybody? So but, lastly, there's been some questions now that we've moved to a new about when do we, it's been we cut-off at 5:00 p.m. the night before for signing up for public comment the morning after, and we can do it as a public meeting or I've asked Tom can you just pull whatever the Commissioners want. If we want to allow people to sign up to the 9:00 a.m. meeting is fine, or do we want to keep the policy, or the practice that we've had of 5:00 p.m. the night before. We don't have to decide that right now. I didn't want to catch any of you off guard. Why don't we, either Tom can poll and determine if we ought to have a public discussion about it, a public discussion about a public comment, or continue on with the 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Howell.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Thank you, Chairman. I don't substantially see a difference between someone signing up the day before and appearing before the BoCC in person, versus someone signing up at the meeting. It's been our practice for most of the years that I've been here, we've allowed people to sign up the morning of the meeting, up until 9:00 a.m. In fact, just a minute ago you asked if there was anybody that signed up this morning, and that's been our typical practice for quite a long time. Even after post COVID, I should say we aren't actually out of COVID yet obviously. We've been doing it this way for a while is my point. Yesterday was a message that was sent out that people would have to contact our Communications Department prior to 5:00 p.m. yesterday to actually speak before us this morning. I don't think that's accurate. So I personally think we ought to go back to what we've been doing. If we are going to have mitigations to not have people speak in front of us at all, we can have that discussion. But I think as long as people come before us, we ought to allow them to sign up as late as 9:00 a.m. in the morning the day of our meeting. Thank you.

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. Commissioner Dennis.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I think there are two aspects to this. One are the written comments that come in through our website, and I think those still need to come in by 5:00 p.m., because that's the only way I'm going to have an opportunity to review them, and for us to be able to make any recommendations to staff or anyone else as a result of those comments. And the second one is people that want to come in person. I have no problem with someone coming in person and signing up the day of. So I think there is a distinction between the two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, alright. Commissioner Cruse.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Chairman. It is our job to listen to constituents and the public, so I don't have an issue with them signing up the day before. I would be fine with that.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. And do you have an opinion, Commissioner Lopez.”

Commissioner Lopez said, “I don't care.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. And I don't, either. I mean, I'm good with letting the public sign up until 9:00 a.m. before the meeting on Tuesdays [Wednesdays] going forward is our practice. Okay. So we resolved that. So you don't have to do any work on that. Okay. Any other thoughts or comments about the public agenda? I don't see any. Next item, please.”

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

**A. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2021.
ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT.**

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioners, if you see we do have a series of minutes from five different meetings. I would like to bundle those together to approve, unless anybody wants to talk about any one of them individually.”

MOTION

Chairman Meitzner moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 23rd, the Special Meeting of July 27th, the Regular Meeting of August 4th, the Special Meeting of August 5th, and the Regular Meeting of August 11th.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

- B. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2021.
ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT.**

Action for this Item was taken with Item A.

- C. REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2021.
ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT.**

Action for this Item was taken with Item A.

- D. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2021.
ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT.**

Action for this Item was taken with Item A.

- E. REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2021.
ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT.**

Action for this Item was taken with Item A.

Chairman Meitzner said, "Next item, please."

PROCLAMATIONS

- F. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK.**

Chairman Meitzner said, "Commissioner Cruse."

Commissioner Cruse said, "Thank you, Chairman."

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 11 minutes, with an average of 130 deaths by suicide a day. Every 3.4 days, someone in Sedgwick County dies by suicide; and

WHEREAS, psychological studies have consistently found that the overwhelming majority of people who die by suicide 90 percent or more had a mental disorder at the time of their deaths, and often, these disorders had not been recognized, diagnosed, or adequately treated; and

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

WHEREAS, far too many Sedgwick County residents and Kansans die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable. In 2020, 105 Sedgwick County residents died by suicide; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition is to promote and implement evidence based approaches, local research and community change to reduce the impact of suicide with the ultimate goal of zero suicides in Sedgwick County; and

WHEREAS, in Sedgwick County, help is available by calling the Suicide Prevention Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days per week at 316-660-7500.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lacey Cruse on behalf of Chairman Peter F. Meitzner, and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of September 5 - 11, 2021, as

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

The topic of suicide will continue to challenge us all to increase our awareness and education, and I call upon the residents of our community to join me in learning to recognize the signs of someone at risk, taking those signs seriously, and knowing how to respond. With the challenges that the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to our community and the effects this has had on everyone, it is especially important that we challenge ourselves to recognize Suicide Prevention Week this year.”

MOTION

Commissioner Cruse moved to adopt this Proclamation.

Chairman Meitzner seconded the motion.

Chairman Meitzner said, “Thank you for reading that. Commissioners, any other comments? It’s very serious stuff so thank you for that proclamation. There’s a motion and second to approve the Proclamation. Madam Clerk, call the roll.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 183-2021

Commissioner Cruse said, “And accepted this morning by Dr. Nicole Klaus of KU (University of Kansas) School of Medicine. Good morning.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Good morning, Doctor.”

Ms. Nicole Klaus, Associate Professor, KU School of Medicine, greeted the Commissioners and said, “On behalf of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition, I accept this Proclamation, and just want to invite the community to learn more about risk factors for suicide and to learn how to communicate about suicide and get help for yourself or others in our community. So that we can reduce our numbers. I also have a 2020 annual report on suicide numbers in Sedgwick County that I can share with you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. I think that's part of the next item....”

Ms. Klaus said, “It is.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “...so why don't we wait...”

Ms. Klaus said, “Okay.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “...then we will do that officially. Okay thank you, doctor. We'll see you in a minute. Okay. Madam Clerk, next item, please.”

NEW BUSINESS

**G. SEDGWICK COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION 2020
SUICIDE DATA REPORT.**

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. Welcome, Dr. Klaus again.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Ms. Klaus said, "Thank you."

Chairman Meitzner said, "Now you're back."

Ms. Klaus said, "Alright. So these data have been collected over the past 20 years by the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition. This couldn't have been done without collaborations with the Health Department and the Regional Forensic Science Center, so I want to acknowledge their contributions. And in 2020, we lost 105 Sedgwick County citizens to suicide, which is a rate of 20 per 100,000. And in the 20 years that we've been collecting this data, Sedgwick County rates have been consistently higher than national rates, and we can see that our rate is also rising more quickly than national rates. In 2019 our numbers had gone down a little bit, and they went back up in 2020, so this is the highest rate that we've seen in the 20 years we've been collecting data, and it's consistent with that overall rising trend that we've been seeing for the past several years. When we break down our suicide rates by age, we can see that 15 to 54-year-olds have the highest rates of suicide in our community. And looking at it by gender, we can see that the increased suicide numbers the past year are largely accounted for by men, and typically our break down is about 75 percent men, 25 percent women, this past year, our deaths were 90 percent men.

"We are also seeing rising trends in rates of suicide deaths by firearm, so the 2020 numbers are consistent with that rising trend that we've been seeing over the past several years. And one of the reasons that we collect these data locally are to have more current numbers, and so we pulled the numbers for the first half of 2021 to look at as well, and there's a little more noise when we try to look at it by month, but as of June for the first half of 2021, we have recorded 37 suicide deaths for this year, which is similar to what we saw the first half of 2019, when the numbers were down a little bit. In 2020 for the first half of the year there were 49 deaths, so we are hopeful that this trend will continue in the second half of 2021. When we look at our local deaths by suicide, just over half of them have a known documented history of mental illness, and/or suicidal ideation. And 18 percent had a known history of previous suicide attempts. There may be more that just weren't known or documented in the autopsy report.

"We have also been trying to document life stressors, and things that, precipitating factors that may have contributed to some of these deaths locally, and what we saw in 2020 was a similar pattern to what we've seen in previous years, where relationship stressors were the most common noted stressor in younger individuals who died of suicide, whereas physical health stressors were the most common noted stressor in older individuals who died of suicide. Only 5 percent of the deaths in 2020 specifically mentioned COVID-19 in the autopsy report, and we actually saw lower numbers of autopsies that mentioned job or financial stressors than we have in previous years. This year, 13 percent of our deaths were among veterans and I also want to highlight some of our local suicide prevention efforts.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Ms. Klaus continued, “There are some new things going on this year that I’m really excited about. Well, COMCARE has expanded their offerings of mental health first aid, and trained over 100 people in mental health first aid in 2020. I love that that number is almost identical to the number of deaths we have in 2020. And we have 80 people trained so far in 2021, with seven more classes scheduled, so we are on track to surpass that 104 from last year.

“We have also been working with state and national collaborators on implementation of the zero suicide framework of systems change to affect suicide numbers, and we have specifically had some grants and some activities to build awareness and leadership efforts in our health systems, and enhance continuous quality improvement and offer a variety of evidence-based trainings within not only the community, but within the health systems in the community as well. And as you may know, 988 expansion efforts are underway, and expected to go live in July, 2020. So, again, I invite the whole community to know the signs of suicide, to increase your awareness, and to know the resources and what you can do to support yourself or a friend or relative in need. There's several ways you can get involved in the Community Health Improvement Plan, or upcoming events around suicide prevention month. Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, Doctor. There’s comment or question from Commissioner Cruse.”

Ms. Klaus said, “Great.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you. So just briefly, we do have a couple of events coming up, one is tomorrow and one is Saturday. Can you just briefly highlight those for everyone if they would like to get involved?”

Ms. Klaus said, “Absolutely. The Party for Prevention is coming up tomorrow, and this is a fun event, but really brings people together around this important cause to raise funds and raise awareness, as well as the Suspenders for Hope Walk/Run that's happening this Saturday at Wichita State [University]. So you can go to the Suspenders for Hope Walk/Run and then hit Zoobilee later that day.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you. If anybody wants to, or needs help to find those, just reach out to me, I'm happy to send you in the right direction. Thank you so much for being here. This is an important topic to continue to discuss. One life lost is too many. And it's, you know, we meet Friday mornings once a month at 8:00 a.m., and there's a pretty good group of us. How many are on the coalition, would you say?”

Ms. Klaus said, “Oh, goodness. Not everybody can come every month. We usually get probably 20 or so.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Cruse said, “Yeah.”

Ms. Klaus said, “But I would assume we have at least twice that many that are involved in some way.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Well thank you so much for being here. Appreciate the information.”

Ms. Klaus said, “Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Thank you, Dr. Nicole. Appreciate all the work you do. I don't see any other comments.”

MOTION

Chairman Meitzner moved to receive and file the report from Dr. Klaus.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

Chairman Meitzner said, “Madam Clerk, next item, please.”

H. PRESENTATION ON THE INPUT RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS RELATED TO THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA).

Chairman Meitzner said, “Good morning, Brent.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Brent Shelton, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Before I begin the presentation, couple of housekeeping. You're getting a couple of handouts. The first one is the PowerPoint presentation that we'll be walking through, and then the second is the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) needs assessment executive summary. This will substitute the one that was included in your Commission agenda packet, there's been a slight change for some clarification on the item seven on the fourth page and I'll get into more detail about that when I get to that. Commissioners, as you are aware, Sedgwick County received \$50,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds. We'll be receiving another \$50,000,000 after the first of the year. This is part of the \$350,000,000,000 allocation to state and local governments across the country, which is part of the \$1,900,000,000,000 federal act. I mention those numbers because while \$100,000,000 is a lot of money, it's a small piece of a much larger pie. So to assure that we're effective and that we're open and transparent in how we allocate and utilize these funds within the community, we've embarked on some processes and methods of gaining information from the community about how to best utilize these resources.

“So what have we done so far? We've conducted an internal needs assessment, an external needs assessment. We've conducted some focus groups, and we're going to talk this morning about an ongoing needs assessment that's being added to the county's website, as well as an update on where we are with the community navigator program that we've mentioned a couple times in the past. Again, there is a need to be strategic, a need to be effective with the resources because of the fact that there are so many opportunities out there that overlap. The internal needs assessment was completed earlier this year, and from that you did develop and approve a spending plan for about \$38,000,000. As we're going through that process now, we're standing up process documents so that departments and divisions that are accessing those funds and for internal needs can go through the same process that we can maintain consistency and compliance with the federal guidelines. More of the focus this morning is on what we have done to reach out to the community and determine needs that might be out there. So the first thing that we did was conducted an external needs assessment. Between May 20th and June 30th, county website was open for people to log on and provide us with information about how we might best utilize the ARPA dollars that have been entrusted to Sedgwick County. We received just shy of 1,500 responses. We did collect some demographic information about the folks, and we found that two-thirds of them have lived in the county for over 20 years; 87 percent of our respondents were currently employed in Sedgwick County. We also found that 40 percent were working professionals in the healthcare sector, IT (Information Technology), legal services, and other areas, and 40 percent of the households that responded had at least one to three children living in the home.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton continued, “The methodology that was used for the needs assessment, external needs assessment, was a list of 15 different ARPA-eligible expenditure categories, and from that list of 15 eligible categories, we asked respondents to prioritize the top six, give us their number one priority, their number two, their number three, so forth, until we compiled the data that told us how many times a given eligibility funding area was selected, number one, number two. We compiled all of that information together so that we could determine if an item was chosen the most often, it was the top number one priority, but maybe it was number two, in some other, so we aggregated all that information so we could not only get those that were listed number one, but those that were listed most often and kind of put some weight to where they ranked in the top six. From that, the respondents gave us four top priorities for county utilization of the ARPA dollars, and the first one was to provide assistance to small businesses and non-profits to help them reopen and stay open safely to serve the residents of Sedgwick County. That received 947 prioritization responses. The second thing that we heard from the respondents was to fund programs that address community violence intervention. Homelessness, affordable housing development, housing counseling, and/or lead remediation. So it was kind of a way to address public safety issues through homelessness or addressing homelessness or housing insecurity issues. The third of the top four with 834 responses was to offer mental healthcare services to vulnerable populations. And fourth, with 766 responses to provide funds to hospitals, cities, schools, child care providers and other businesses that provide essential services for premium pay, or for hazard pay for those that are employed in providing essential services.

“In addition to these top four, we found that, just quickly in order of priority, financial assistance to households that have been affected by COVID that have no other resources was number five, medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment was number six, so we see mental health appearing a couple of times in the top prioritizations. Ensuring county services and offices remain open, and then to round out the list, expanding early learning services, improving broadband, improving ventilation systems in public buildings. Foster care services, expanding COVID-19 vaccination and testing programs. Assisting licensed child care facilities, assistance to our service industry, travel and tourism, and then finally, to continue to purchase and distribute personal protective equipment. Once the external needs assessment closed on June 30th, we then moved into a second phase to get more in-depth information about these prioritization, these areas that had been prioritized. So six focus groups were convened. They were convened in the areas that you see listed on here in terms of our service industries with arts, travel, tourism. There was a focus group specifically dealing with community health. Economic development, business, workforce development, and you can see through the list, education, youth and child care.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton continued, “These four focus groups were all centered around subgroups of residents and community leaders that are part of a greater COVID-19 task force. This task force has been around for over a year and a half now, dealing with the pandemic response, dealing with now pandemic recovery, and these subgroups are focused on how do we go after additional ARPA dollars or other funding that might be available to help the local economy recover, to help people get back into the work force, to access some of these other resources. So those focus groups around those groups, people who are the chairs of those subcommittees with this overall community-wide task force, then reached out into their sphere of influence, their peer group, and invited other experts within these sectors to come and visit about what are they seeing? What are the impediments or the barriers to recovery, where were we currently in terms of these sectors in dealing with the pandemic?”

“We added another section, specifically for local governments, invited all the cities in Sedgwick County to attend that. The cities and the county received a collective \$12,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds. We wanted to determine what they might be planning to do with those funds, how we might participate with them, and then for folks that couldn't make it, there was a final session to catch-all, or a potpourri session to find out, from people that couldn't make earlier sessions to which they may have been invited. When these focus groups were convened, they lasted for approximately 90 minutes. We had groups ranging from a little under 10, up to 20, 25 people in the focus groups. Each one of the focus groups regardless of sector was asked the same six questions around which dialogue was stimulated and people were then providing information about where they are in their plans and so forth, and the opportunities that they see with county ARPA dollars or other ARPA-related funding.

“To briefly speak to the questions that they were asked, they were asked first where do you believe your organization, your business, your community group is in the COVID recovery process today. Are you behind where you were when the pandemic started, have you fully recovered, where are you on that spectrum? And then based on that response, what are your immediate needs? What do you need today to sustain efforts that you are undergoing, and then the third question, what sort of strategic planning might you be doing? How are you preparing for the next 24, 36 months going forward? We also wanted to know if their assessments included securing funds from multiple resources. There were non-profit groups there that looked to other funding sources, as well as businesses. What were they considering in terms of accessing funds to deal with the pandemic? They were asked specifically how would ARPA funding help address the needs of those who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and/or that continue to be underserved by the recovery efforts. Finally we asked them what efforts they would recommend that occur between now and the end of the ARPA funding, which is DECEMBER 30th, 2024, to communicate and promote collaboration between industries, organizations, communities, and to support the general public.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton continued, “So around those questions some themes emerged that kind of went across all sectors. The number one challenge, it was number one in all the groups, were work force challenges. The need to attract new skilled workers, employers are now demanding higher pay and benefits. The ability to work remotely. The work force changed dramatically during the pandemic, and employers were talking about needing additional technology and training. Talked about competition between the retail sector and the manufacturing sector now for the same pool of employees. Child care services was listed as a top priority or a result across all the focus groups as well. And they addressed this from a couple different areas. One was the access to child care services, as well as the inability of child care providers to get re-licensed or reopen after the effects of the pandemic. A barrier has been created we were told by regulatory requirements for new workers to pass criminal background checks as they are reentering the work force in the child care area. Fire marshals are experiencing delays in conducting reopening inspections. So we got a one to three-month delay in getting facilities reopened, as well as getting people hired to work there.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Hey Brent, can I ask? Is it all right if we ask along the way?”

Mr. Shelton said, “Absolutely.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “So I get it, all the challenges to get relicensed and reopened. So what related to ARPA funding can we do to help assist this? We don't know for sure?”

Mr. Shelton said, “We're kind of still gathering data...”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Right.”

Mr. Shelton said, “...and that's one of the things we'll speak to in just a little bit...”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay.”

Mr. Shelton said, “But to the extent that we have an adverse effect from ARPA with funding for, for instance, child care services, would make sense. Then we could funnel money there.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay.”

Mr. Shelton said, “We're seeing that the child care, I think, we've got community partners involved in child care, that are accessing ARPA dollars outside of our direct allocation. So there's some ARPA money flowing to them that's not flowing through the county first...”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton said, "...and that was to the earlier point, there's so many opportunities, we have to fill the gaps, if you will, in what's not available in other places."

Chairman Meitzner said, "Okay. Alright, thank you. Thanks for letting me interrupt."

Mr. Shelton said, "You bet. Another thing with the child care services that they were finding was that non-traditional hours of child care, evenings and weekends are very scarce. And this is primarily being used by healthcare workers. So we've got people that are trying to provide healthcare services, but can't because of a lack of child care during the second and third shift hours, so it adds to that work force challenge. If we look at the third and fourth one in terms of finding the best ARPA funding, it kind of goes to what we have mentioned, what is the best avenue to go through, what's the best funding source to operate some of these things, and to the extent that small businesses or small non-profit organizations seek this money, may be outside the county allocation, could the county assist them in the application process or the monitoring process? So maybe not providing funds, but providing technical assistance with something that came up in that discussion.

"Expanding available mental health services. There is a perception that as schools reopen, that there would be more behavioral health and mental health issues that would be identified or exacerbated within our schools, as well as within families that have dealt with maybe they've suffered the loss of a family member due to the pandemic, the incidence of domestic violence we've seen data that indicates that that's increased. Folks may be evicted because they haven't been able to pay rent and the eviction moratorium has expired. So there were different things that mental health services could be used to deal with some of these additional problems that we're going to be seeing. Testing and vaccination efforts, and specifically vaccination efforts were something that most of the folks in the focus groups were very supportive of. They would like to get the county average up to about 70 percent or more of all eligible folks be vaccinated. They were looking forward to vaccinations being made available to children between the ages of 2 and 12. A theme was that the recovery isn't going to fully happen until we get enough vaccinations so that we get to that level where we're not worried about continued infections and so forth. But getting that vaccination level up was something that they were all pretty much supportive of, and supportive of the county's efforts to improve in that area.

"Finally that was specific to local government, and this is the change to the executive summary that you have, on the fourth page on item number seven, it speaks to cooperation between the county and the cities in the county in terms of them being able to fund infrastructure projects.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton continued, “They mentioned broadband, but of the five cities outside the City of Wichita that participated in the focus group, water and sewer projects, which are specifically identified in the American Rescue Plan Act, were items that they would like to have county participation as well, because they may have gotten a tranche of money, but it’s not enough to take on that size of an infrastructure project. Cooperation or collaboration with the county in these infrastructure projects would be something that they were interested in. Any questions about the focus groups and that was a very broad brush of what happened in these six groups between July 20th and July 29th.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Very good, thank you for that.”

Mr. Shelton said, “If no questions on that, let's move into, then, where we're headed in terms of continuing to gather data. We will be adding to the ARPA funding link on the county's website at sedgwickcounty.org, an ongoing needs assessment. We want to continue hearing from individuals, from businesses, from non-profits, about what barriers they are encountering, what opportunities they see, what do they need to help with the continued recovery. Now, I would add that in order to be strictly compliant with federal regulations in the federal guidance, this is an anonymous survey. If a non-profit was to come to us with a really tremendous opportunity, we're not going to know who that non-profit is when they fill out this survey, because we wouldn't want to exclude them from being able to participate in providing that service. Individuals can respond anonymously as well as businesses. We want frank, open information about those barriers, those opportunities and so forth. This will be going up before the end of the week, it’s about a four-page needs assessment, but everybody doesn't have to go through all four pages, they pick the ones that are specific to them whether it’s an individual it will open up the individual questions and so forth.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Brent, wait just a second. Commissioner Cruse has a question.”

Mr. Shelton said, “Okay.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Chairman. With this needs assessment, I really want to avoid the issues that we had around folks thinking they were going to get a certain amount of money, and then didn't. I get it that this is the step before that, but I want to make sure that people understand reporting requirements, what all information they are going to have to provide, I mean, I think how do we ensure clear communication around expectations for receiving funds?”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton said, “I think we're planning to do a few things in that arena. One is if a program was identified and an award was made to an agency at the time that maybe that request for proposal goes out, or that notice of funding opportunity goes out. We will invite people to come in that would wish to participate in that grant program, and hear about the requirements, hear the reporting requirements. You're going to have to provide us with outcomes, how many people did you serve, and what were the outcomes as a result of that? What are those performance measures, were you successful? What sorts of reporting requirements are going to be there for that specific opportunity? So if someone, and it's been suggested by our consultants, if an organization, an individual or business, does not attend that meeting, they're not going to be eligible to participate in responding to that request for proposal.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Do we expect requirements to change?”

Mr. Shelton said, “They have not been set yet, Commissioner, so absolutely. I'm sure they will.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Okay.”

Mr. Shelton said, “And that's another thing, that as you agreed to a couple weeks ago, to extend the timeline before we begin making these opportunities available, we want to get final guidance so that we can provide final guidance and final information to folks that might wish to participate in these opportunities.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Okay. I just want to make sure that we have all of our ducks in a row to avoid all of the issues and concerns that we had with our CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) funds disbursement. I know that we'll do that, but if we could put every single possible stopgap in there that we have at our disposal, I hope we do that.”

Mr. Shelton said, “Believe me, I lost hair over that one. It is something that we definitely want to focus on as we go through the next round. And that's one of the things with CARES under such a tight time frame to get funds out and dealing with ever-changing guidance, those things were bound to happen. And we did hear some comments about that in the focus groups that that changing guidance was a frustration for folks. We want to do everything we can to avoid that.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton said, “This just shows the link to the ongoing needs assessment in sedgwickcounty.org. It will be under the ARPA funding block that's on the home page of the county's website. One of the other things that we will put on this federal ARPA funds link is a connection to how to get ahold of Community Navigators once that program gets stood up, and so let's talk a little bit about where we are in that process at this time. Just as a reminder, \$500,000 was allocated to Community Navigators in the spending plan that you recently adopted. As we've discussed. Yes, sir?”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioner Cruse has another question.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “I'm sorry to interrupt you again. So on the ongoing needs assessment, can we go back one more page? So the ARPA funds, and it mentions right under there, click here to see the latest information on \$100,000,000. I just want to be clear, and help everyone understand that even though we are receiving \$100,000,000, we're receiving one chunk one year and one chunk the next year, \$38,000,000 of it we've already sort of allocated. So that isn't necessarily money that will be available to community organizations and the like. So is that going to be clearly communicated as far as what our spending plan already outlines?”

Mr. Shelton said, “Yes, in fact, Commissioner, the spending plan that you've adopted is currently on this site...”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Right there, okay.”

Mr. Shelton said, “So people can see what's been allocated or committed by the Commission, and then as we provide reporting to the federal government, that will go on here as well, so it's fully transparent, the reports how we spent the money on a monthly basis, and quarterly performance measures, and so often. All of that will be made available to the public. So that will be the one stop shop, if you will for finding that information out as well as then that information about Community Navigators. How to begin to access them. So as we mentioned before Community Navigators, simple terms connect needs with resources. Here's just a list of possible needs opportunities, things that we've heard through the needs assessment and from the focus groups. The community Navigators could assist folks in making those connections to those resources.

“To your earlier point Commissioner Cruse, the request for proposal is in its final iterations. We're waiting on some information from one of the consultants that would speak specifically to requirements about reporting, and once we get that put together I think that we will have this ready to go out on the street next week. How are we going to award this, the Community Navigator Program? It will be based on an organization's ability and demonstrated ability with managing grants.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Mr. Shelton continued, “Have they had experience in dealing with federal uniform guidance in the past? Do they know about community resources? We are putting some specific language in this about marketing abilities and the types of marketing efforts, if they plan to employ to reach certain census tracks and certain underserved populations, we want to see how they’ve reported in the past. Have they demonstrated an ability to report on both outputs and outcomes, because we need to know if this allocation of funding, if they are making connections, that’s an output. If those connections result in people getting employed or getting the access to the resources they need, those are the outcomes that we need to know about. Do they collaborate with other community partners and how have they in the past, or how do they demonstrate to us the ability to connect with those adversely affected populations? Historically underserved populations, which is a specific goal of the ARPA funds. So at that concludes my prepared comments. I’ll answer any questions, and then I would recommend that you would receive and file.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioner Cruse.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Chairman. Okay. So I’m on this ARPA page right now, and this needs assessment executive summary, will that be placed on there?”

Mr. Shelton said, “We certainly can. These are all public documents.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Okay. Yeah. I don’t see that. And then where is, okay. I think I need to spend a little time on this page.”

Mr. Shelton said, “Okay.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “I appreciate this going up, but I would like to have this out here. I don’t see it on here as of yet. If we could put that out.”

Mr. Shelton said, “Yes. We wanted to present it to you before making it available on the website.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you so much.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, Brent, thank you. Any other questions? Appreciate the update. I know the public appreciates it. We’re still going to be taking input I see on that one slide, although we’ve kind of officially cut it off, but we’re still taking, or not officially cut it off, but we put a little bit of a Gantt Chart time frame ending, but we’ll still take opinions if any of the Commissioners get a question, we can refer them to the website.”

Mr. Shelton said, “Correct. That’s right…”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, thank you.”

Mr. Shelton said, “...and it's an evolving, ongoing process, so as we...”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Right.”

Mr. Shelton said, “...gather more information, you'll hear from us again.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Alright. Any other questions?”

MOTION

Chairman Meitzner moved to receive and file the ARPA needs assessment Report.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

Chairman Meitzner said, “Thanks again, Brent. Madam Clerk, next item, please.”

I. RESOLUTION CREATING NEW SEDGWICK COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

Mr. Thomas Stolz, County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Commissioners, while Sheena is going to the podium, we are going to discuss under Item I the concept of bonus pay that had we talked about a few months ago and the Commission had to date, allocated a pool of \$15,000,000 to consider for that usage. Lindsay [Poe-Rousseau, CFO] and Sheena [Schmutz, Human Resources Director] and their staffs have put in considerable time over the last six to eight weeks modeling what this could look like. I think this is an opportunity today to have Sheena talk through what that modeling looks like and get you some numbers and look for further direction on what the Commission wants to do regarding this item. Thank you.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Chairman Meitzner said, “Good morning, Sheena.”

Ms. Sheena Schmutz, Chief Human Resources Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Today we want to provide you information on the American Rescue Plan Act, commonly referred to as ARPA, specifically addressing the premium pay for our Sedgwick County employees. Today we are presenting you with a policy that outlines premium pay for essential eligible employees. We have two objectives for today. The first being the approval of the allocation of the funds, and the second is the direction or approval of the methodology for administering the program. But just a few definitions pertaining to the policy in the U.S. Treasury guidance. An eligible worker is a worker needed to maintain the continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, and additional sectors as each governor of the state or territory or each tribal government may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of the residents of their states. Essential work is work involving regular, in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others.

“Sedgwick County is looking at the premium pay from March 13th, 2020, through March 24th, 2021. The purpose is to provide essential workers some level of relief due to the higher levels of exposure during this period. The Division of Finance coordinated information for departments to submit paperwork attesting to all applicable working times for those eligible workers. Departments and or employees must be able to provide backup information for all hours submitted for review for the premium payments. As we briefed the Commission last week on the information we received today, we provided three options for the Commission to review. And I have given you a handout just as a reference for what those premium pay options would be. The first option is to focus on categories 1A and 1B employees and remain within the \$15,000,000 allocation. Option two, to fully fund both categories and increase the premium pay from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Or the third option, is to fund both categories within the \$15,000,000 allocation, and reduce the cap and the hourly rates. Currently, HR (Human Resources) is reviewing information provided by the departments. At this moment we’re reviewing job descriptions to ensure that those positions have been properly placed within the tiers. We have been asked to present this information back to the Commission, and we plan to do so by next week.

“There are many moving parts to this process and we want emphasize that premium pay is for current employees, and employees must remain employed with Sedgwick County on the last day of the final pay period prior to the payday. While previewing all the submissions, our focus has been on tier 1A, those that were required to be on site 100 percent of the time and with higher levels of exposure to the public. Based on some questionable data, we want to make sure that we review all of that information before we move forward. In addition, employees will also have the option to opt out of premium payments. They will be notified of any potential premium pay payment, and further communication will go out on E-line. So we would like to get further

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

direction from you again on our two objectives for today is the fund allocation and the methodology for approving the premium pay.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, thank you, Sheena. I know there's been considerable efforts on this. We've all been talked to, and individually so we could have our input. So we're asking for a decision if we can today because the timeline I see to get these out, the premium pay. You know, to me, it's kind of on the premium pay options, there's a decision between option two, which increases \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000, so after taxes, it is approximately \$3,000, or option three, as we stay with the original thought of the \$15,000,000, and to everybody, I mean, that's eligible, and that after tax number would be, looks like \$2,400. So I do lean towards helping everybody that we can that was involved in this, all of our employees that were eligible, versus just the category one. Because the category two people did have some exposure while on site, or even exposure while off site. That's where I lean. I just take the lead in telling you I'm kind of okay with option two, but maybe option three might be still a nice bonus pay for this critical pay or the premium pay under the rules of the ARPA that was set out. So thank you for explaining this. Commissioner Cruse.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Chairman. Sheena, could you give us a break down of how many employees are eligible in option one, versus option two?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “Option one includes 1,318 employees in category one. 1A that would be 1,035. And then 283 in 1B.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “And category 2?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “Let’s see. Give me just one second. I will get that information...”

Commissioner Cruse said, “I think it's like 2,100 the last...”

Ms. Schmutz said, “Yes. 2,193. I couldn't find the number quick enough.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Okay. I have to agree with Chairman on option two. I feel that when we increase it to the second category, we're going to hit more employees, and I feel like in order to give the maximum benefit allowable, considering these funds are to be used for COVID recovery and COVID in general, I would lean towards option two. I want to make sure that the majority of our employees who are eligible to receive these funds have an opportunity to and show them exactly how important they are by putting our money where our, you know, where our mouth is. That's kind where I'm leaning. And thanks for the opportunity.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. Commissioner Lopez.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Lopez said, “Thank you so much. Since I first started here which is what like eight months or so at this point, that’s the one thing I hear repeatedly is what can we do for the staff at the county, how can we raise morale, what can we do to show them they’re valued, especially after last year and everything that, you know, that you guys have gone through. I do think it is really important that we do that, and we show just how much, you know, we do value all the work that gets done here. I'm completely in favor of option two, raising it to \$20,000,000 if that's what it's going to need, so that way everybody who is eligible can receive that and receive the maximum amount that they are allotted here. So I am in favor of option two and I hope we can get that passed today, because I do think it's really important to show how much we value them. Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Howell.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Thank you, Chairman. I am curious, so the dates that we're looking at right here, those are defined by the program, the federal government picked those dates, or is that based on the dates of our local health order?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “That's correct. Our local health order.”

Commissioner Howell said, “If we have a local health order in the future, does this open that back up again in the future, if we want to spend additional funds in the future, if there ever was another order going forward, does that open back up again?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “I think that's a fair assessment, yes.”

Commissioner Howell said, “I’m glad to know that. Thank you. How was the \$15,000,000 estimate determined initially?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “That was the allocation that was approved by the Commission, I don't know, Lindsay, if you have more details on how the \$15,000,000 was originated.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Good morning, Lindsay.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Ms. Lindsay Poe Rousseau, Chief Financial Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “We actually were looking at the grand total allocation awarded to the county of \$100,000,000, we looked at what was produced through the internal needs assessment in terms of number of employees who departments said that were eligible. We also looked, if you recall last year, we did hero pay, or COVID stipends, and so we looked at some of those numbers. We originally had thought about \$10,000,000, but then realized that whole payroll taxes would be necessary to be paid on all of that, so in order to increase the amount that was available to employees, we increased that to \$15,000,000, with that covering also the payroll taxes that we’re required to pay. Does that answer the question?”

Commissioner Howell said, “I guess my question would be, which employees did we consider in that. So when you calculated that, you said hero pay. For example, EMTs didn't get hero pay, for example. I'm just curious, this includes things like attorneys, for example, people in offices, for example. Were they thought of when the \$15,000,000 earmark was calculated?”

Ms. Poe Rousseau said, “Yes sir, so the hero pay is actually not the critical pay that has been given this year. These were those \$200 or \$100 per paycheck stipends that were given mid last year around the same time that we were doing furloughs. Actually EMTs were eligible to receive that funding. We had about 1,390 employees who received COVID stipends. We knew that not all of those folks were still with the county. We did know that some additional folks who had the opportunity to do some telework, but also had to be on site to do some work were also part of that pool, because we were having conversations with the courts about backlog, the District Attorney's Office, all of those folks. So when we were trying to come up with an estimate, it was part of that bigger conversation.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Okay. I also am in favor of option two. And I think that for the reason primarily, I think that, you know, employees have essentially been given an expectation I think, they've heard the word \$10,000 has been said around the county. So anything less than that in my opinion is a bit of a bait and switch. I think it would create disappointment. I don't want that to happen. I think the one that we can do that gets to the greatest number of employees is option two. I think that that’s the right thing to do. I've heard other Commissioners already speak. I don't know if it's appropriate right now, but I would be glad to make a motion we would approve option two at the appropriate time, Chairman. Thank you.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Second.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. We still have another comment. Can I just briefly follow up? Did we not, trying to get my mind around the \$15,000,000. Didn't we in that first \$38,000,000 decision, that \$15,000,000 was included in that, if you recall. Remember we took a chunk of them and waited a week to come back. I think that was related to the floors and the moving of the facility. So we did take formal action on the \$15,000,000 a couple months ago as part of that \$38,000,000, my recollection. Okay. Commissioner Dennis.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “I guess I'm confused. Is there a motion on the floor? Because I haven't had a chance to speak at all.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “I know we made a motion.”

Commissioner Howell said, “I said at the appropriate time.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. Commissioner Dennis.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “Well thank you, Mr. Chairman. When Tom brought this to us initially, he said, hey we got a lot of front line workers, front-facing people, like Fire, EMS, Sheriff's Department and so forth that were working last year because, and they had to go out every single day, and the only protection we gave them was some PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). We didn't have any vaccine, we didn't have any other way of protecting them. Those employees went out every day and did their job and I thank them very much for that. And I sincerely appreciate that. We had a lot of other employees that were sitting behind Plexiglas working from home, and yet they are going to be eligible for this same as people that were front line, wearing a mask that may or may not work for them, and some gloves and maybe some other PPE. And at the time when Tom brought that to us we were talking about \$10,000,000. I was fine with that, because I want to make sure that we recognize those front line employees that are doing their job each and every day. Remember a year ago, we got to stay with what our history is.

“A year ago we had thousands of people here in Sedgwick County that didn't have a job. I'll just relate one email that I received from an individual. He'd been laid off as an aircraft employee. And he needed a knee replacement, but he lost his health insurance at that point in time. And as a result he couldn't get his knee replaced. Let me tell you about another individual that I talked to. He owned a very small business downtown, and he had three employees. He wasn't deemed essential. As a result of that not being deemed essential, he had to lay off his three employees and close his business, while we had Walmart and Lowe's and Home Depot and all these supposedly essential businesses open. But that individual that had to have his knee replacement, we still required him to pay his property tax, and that property tax was going to pay the salaries of all these employees that we have here.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Dennis continued, “That small business owner, just one out of hundreds that closed, was still required to pay his property tax, and he sent that property tax in to us diligently, and that paid the salaries of all these employees that still had a job. So my point is that we had thousands of people that were deeply affected by this, that lost their jobs, that had no income, that we still required to pay, did not have health insurance, had no other benefits. But we had employees here at Sedgwick County, and I love our employees here at Sedgwick County, I'm not speaking against them, what I'm trying to point out is the difference, is that each and every one of our employees here in Sedgwick County still had a job, still had a paycheck, could still pay their property tax that we were collecting. If they needed to have a knee replacement, they could go and get a knee replacement because they still had health insurance.

“So I just listened to Brent give us a complete briefing on things at the external and internal needs assessment. I listened to Akeam when he started the meeting today, and said hey we have implemented QLess, that's fantastic that we've implemented QLess, but we still got an hour or so wait and we're not solving that problem. We have a ton of things that are on this external and internal survey, things like broadband, schools were closed last year, and what we learned from that was that broadband is critical, but are we spending any money for broadband? No. So I am very, very, very concerned that the public, first of all, this is the first real public meeting that we've discussed this. And we just came out of a three-day weekend. So I don't know how many even saw what our agenda is for today, or even understood what's going to be discussed. And yet we're going to vote on maybe putting \$20,000,000 towards bonus pay for employees that had a job all during the pandemic that had health insurance and so forth. I don't know if the public is ready to weigh in. I didn't receive any emails, because they didn't know about this.

“The other thing that concerns me is that way back when we had our last En Banc, at that point in time, I asked to have another En Banc so that we could work with all of the different agencies and find out what the best way of supporting our community, and that's where I'm at, is supporting our community. Making sure that we're providing the services that we need to protect the community and as we move forward. Some of the employees that are going to get these bonuses are going to retire this year. And I appreciate what they did, but it's not going to help us as we move forward. So I honestly think that we're premature on this. I think we need the community to weigh in on this. I think we need another En Banc. I've heard rumors that we will maybe have another En Banc later this month. So I truly, I don't want to kill this, I want to make sure that we do what's right for the community. And in order to know what's right for the community, we need the community involved, and we're just going to suddenly just decide that 40 percent of the money that we got in our last \$50,000,000 we're going to spend on something that is not really going to benefit the community. It is going to benefit our employees, but the community as a whole is not going to get any benefit from it, except maybe sales tax money when they go spend the bonus.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Dennis continued, “I think we’re premature on bringing this forward. I think we need the community to weigh in. Because of the scheduling, we stuck it right after a three-day weekend. Now is not the time for us to be making this decision until we get the community input. So I truly think that we need to defer this decision. I don't want to kill it, because as I said, back when we it was first presented and we were going to give it to front line workers, I was all for that. Now we are going to give it to lawyers and nothing against lawyers, okay. Because I'll get bad emails, but people that were working from home, people who were protected, people who weren't front line. And I think that we need to wait until after the En Banc and see what the entire community wants us to do. So my preference would be to defer this, and if I need to make a motion to defer, I'm willing to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. Commissioner Howell, I think you are next.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Thank you, Chairman. Just because my memory is not perfect, I actually think we have discussed this publicly at least in passing. I'm not sure how much discussion has been made, but is there any recollection by the manager or Sheena. Can you confirm that we've had some discussion on this publicly?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “We talked about premium payment. We haven't necessarily talked about the methodology.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Okay. Thank you for that. And just so I understand, clarifying question here. We are intending to provide, if you are a 1A classification employee, would you get two payments of \$5,000 minus taxes, which we anticipate would be a 40 percent withholding rate, so you would get \$3,000 in that paycheck for this bonus. Again, when they settle up with the IRS (Internal Revenue Services), when they file their taxes they may get part of that back. That's how that would work, right?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “Correct.”

Commissioner Howell said, “So our intent is to give them \$10,000 over two payments, of course, whatever tax liabilities they have at the end of the, when they file. That would be what they would have to pay taxes on that amount of course.”

Ms. Schmutz said, “Correct. What we would do would be we would add an hourly amount to their wage up to \$12 and cap that at \$10,000.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Howell said, “Okay. And so just as a couple of points here. I don't know, Commissioner Dennis would clarify or not. Is he supportive of the \$15,000,000 proposal, either option one or option three today, and option two, you want to hold off on? I would like to know what his thoughts are on that.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “You want to comment?”

Commissioner Howell said, “I have other questions and comments but go ahead.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, I'm sorry.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “I'm for deferring it today until after we hear from the public.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Okay. Thank you for clarifying. The difference from options one and three versus option two is a five percent difference in the allotment from the government. So the \$15,000,000 would be the same amount of money to fund option one or option three. The difference from option one to option three is the number of employees receiving some of that revenue. Option two is a larger pool of employees, but requires \$5,000,000 increase in funding from this \$100,000,000 allotment we have from the government. If you are a 2B employee, they would get \$5 an hour bump. Do they still get potentially \$10,000 or are they limited to an appropriate...”

Ms. Schmutz said, “They would be capped at \$10,000 as well, but because that number is lower, that \$5 is lower it would probably be harder for them to reach that cap amount.”

Commissioner Howell said, “So they wouldn't necessarily be, and, I didn't quite understand exactly how that works, I want to clarify. Again, that \$5 an hour is 41 percent of \$12 an hour. So they wouldn't just receive 41 percent of the \$10,000, they would receive \$4100...”

Ms. Schmutz said, “That's correct. It would be based on the \$5, just the \$5 amount.”

Commissioner Howell said, “It wouldn't be capped at \$4100. It would be capped at...”

Ms. Schmutz said, “They would still cap at \$10,000. Yes.”

Commissioner Howell said, “If someone had zero risk for COVID, say they did work from home this entire time, between that period of time, would they receive any funding in this proposal?”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Ms. Schmutz said, “No. So the hours that someone teleworked would not be eligible, so we ask the departments and of course the employees as well, if they were in a hybrid model or if they completely teleworked those would not be eligible, but the hours that they teleworked from home they would not be eligible for this premium payment. It’s only actual hours worked on site.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Okay.”

Ms. Schmutz said, “And I might add just for clarification from where we were at last week, HR is going through and we’re reviewing that information right now to make sure that that is accurate.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Okay. I don't personally have any problem with moving forward today. I think that this would be helpful to the employees to have it sooner than later. If we were to wait, I don't know how long we would wait, but I don't know that it substantially changes what our plan is. I think that at least several Commissioners have spoken in favor of option two. I've heard them speak today and I feel comfortable moving forward. I would be glad to make a motion again. I don't know if that's appropriate right now or not. But generally we respect each other with respect to deferrals. I am not quite sure what the deferral is for, unless it is waiting for an En Banc which is right now not scheduled. Again, this was in our agenda, it was outlined in our agenda last Friday when the agenda was published to the public. So this is the way we do business every week. Most agenda items are published on Fridays, and the public has from Friday through Wednesday to respond they could be here today and they could also email us or whatever. So to the extent they have not responded, I don't know that there's a concern by the public. In terms of the En Banc, I am not sure what we would do that would cause this to be a different proposal. I'm ready to make a motion, but I would like to hear other comments. Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. Commissioner Cruse.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Chairman. You know, supporting our employees doesn't necessarily mean that we aren't supporting the community. I think it means we're stepping up and showing our employees how important they are. We were and are a responding agency in the community. We never shut down. We're losing employees like crazy. The stress of this work and being on point 24 hours a day sometimes is a lot, and we're losing employees. We completely shifted, use the word of 2020, we pivoted. We did that constantly over the last 18, almost 19 months now, and so I would not be in favor of deferring this. I know we do that on occasion when Commissioners want to defer. I think this is a very important step to take for the employees and I am willing and confident in my decision that this is the right move we make with this money. I just wonder is there an actual motion on the floor?”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Chairman Meitzner said, “Mike, was there, originally when Commissioner Howell said I'll make the motion, I don't know if you...”

Commissioner Howell said, “I would be glad to make a motion when the comments are done. I think it is inappropriate to make a motion prior to all the comments....”

Chairman Meitzner said, “It’s not been made officially yet.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Okay sounds good.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioner Lopez.”

Commissioner Lopez said, “Thank you. I would agree. I think supporting our staff is supporting our community. Because at the end of the day, our staff is the one who is out in the community serving those individuals. If we don't retain them and if we’re not supporting them to the best of our ability, then I do think that hurts the community, and not just internally what our staff, I'm sure would feel like if we did not do this. We had already allocated \$15,000,000 correct? So this was just adding \$5,000,000 more. It is not the whole \$20,000,000 that we're trying to allocate today. Is that correct?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “That’s correct, \$15,000,000 has already been allocated we would just adjust your spending plan an additional \$5,000,000.”

Commissioner Lopez said, “Okay and I do agree that broadband is crucial that we prioritize that. I’m completely on board with that one. I would love to see potentially what we could do next year when we get the second half of this money and then with the infrastructure bill that’s coming along as well. I think that's something we need to prioritize and make sure that we're doing everything we can to ensure that that's funded. But I do think that it's supporting our community by supporting our staff if we continue to lose staff at the rate we have been, then we won't be able to offer the services we do now. They would be severely lacking in many ways. I think this is the right move to go today, if it was the full \$20,000,000 and we hadn't had this conversation before, I would be, you know, more understanding of diverting it. But we have talked about this, and we have already allocated the \$15,000,000. So I'm comfortable moving with \$5,000,000 more, and really showing, like I said, how much we value our staff, and I want them to know that even if they weren't, you know, at a fire station or they are not a paramedic, I mean, they’re still our staff and they still make this county run in the way it needs. So I'm in favor of Jim’s motion as well. Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. I have a couple comments, but I'll let you go first, Commissioner Dennis.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Dennis said, “Just a couple questions. First of all Sheena, are we in a sprint or a marathon on this?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “A little bit of both. Right now, with the number of, I guess, employees' information that we've received, we truly want to focus on that 1A group, and it would be imperative that we work quickly so that we can make our deadline. Tiers 1B, 2A, and 2B are something that we can take just a little bit more time, and by more time I mean maybe just a couple weeks, to ensure that we can go through that for accuracy and then we could apply those payments.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “Well I agree, I said initially during my comments that I wanted to reward those that were frontline workers that were out there every single day with very little protection, so I've never had a problem with supporting those folks. That's why I'm curious about whether or not we are in a sprint or a marathon. Because I don't see, if we need to do the \$10,000,000 in order to move forward on the front line workers, I'm fine with that. I'm not fine with going beyond that, because I think that we do need input. Mr. Pepoon, I do have a question for you. If you recall just the very last meeting, we had the Wichita Eagle saying that the County Commissioners violated ethics because we hadn't filled out one little sheet of paper to say that Commissioner Cruse was on TKAAM (The Kansas African American Museum) and I was on the Zoo Board and a couple other Commissioners were on boards. Even though every one of those appointments were made in a public meeting, we have the minutes for those, and so forth. So that seems to me to be kind of very trivial, granted the [Wichita] Eagle thought it was important, so it got a lot of press. One of the other things we were talking about during the ethics discussions was is any of your decisions as a Commissioner going to impact you financially or any of your relatives financially, is that not correct?”

Mr. Michael Pepoon, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, “Commissioner Dennis, I think some of that was in the presentation by the woman who came down from Kansas City with BKD. I mean, the first part of your comments had to do with specific conflict of interest laws that State of Kansas has for elected officials, and most of those laws deal with money that either you or your spouse would be getting from...”

Commissioner Dennis said, “What about children?”

Mr. Pepoon said, “There's nothing in that about children. So this would be, you know, maybe under ARPA funding or just general conflict of interest principles that could come into play, but it doesn't come into play from the law under the Kansas statutes.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Dennis said, “So something that we don't fill out a piece of paper and it does go before the Commission, that's a big deal and it goes to the Wichita Eagle and the fact that children of Commissioners will be benefiting financially from any kind of decision that we make today, that's just fine and good?”

Mr. Pepon said, “I don't know how to respond to that, Commissioner. Gets into some issues that really aren't legal.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “That amazes me. I'll reiterate, if the vote is to provide \$10,000,000 to our first responders today and defer the rest of it until a future date, after we have public input, I'm fine with that. If not, I'll have to make a motion in order to be able to defer this. I've not seen since my time on the Commission that we haven't approved a request to defer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. I'll make a couple comments before Commissioner Howell. Okay, thank you. Just wanted to note that, I'm repeating that we did have conversations about the \$15,000,000 and that was in a public hearing along with a lot of other stuff. I think we voted unanimously for the \$15,000,000. At the time we didn't say \$15,000,000 part to one and not part to another and things like that. I was for instructing I recall Finance and HR to determine who would be eligible in for part of this \$15,000,000. I recollect myself that when I was first approached by this in a one on one type meetings between Finance and maybe HR and Tom that the ARPA rules which is in the second paragraph of our handout. The ARPA rules allowed up to \$25,000 per eligible worker and not knowing exactly what that was going to be well I think it was going to end up taking up obviously much more. So when we got it down to let's say what's \$10,000 and we did the backwards math from there. So \$10,000 per estimated employee at the time was going to be at least \$10,000,000 maybe closer to \$15,000,000 is that recollection correct with you, Lindsay? Okay, so that's where \$10,000 commitment out of \$25,000 ARPA eligible was clearly a reduction in what could have been promoted as \$25,000. That \$10,000 per employee qualifies under ARPA which equals the originally \$15,000,000 and now the request improved to \$20,000,000.

“My last comment is that I was just in a serious meeting about another topic with Sheriff Easter and he made a comment to me on the side after our meeting that this, you know we've talked about various departments that have had trouble. Obviously COMCARE and things like that have not discussed with COMCARE but Sheriff continue to bleed from his staff getting recruited and trying to keep staff and recruit staff and he said this single item here would be a huge help for the Sheriff's Department on his jail. We need to do something immediately and forward looking and for this for our employees and I know there's, I hear what you're saying Commissioners Dennis but there has been public input and available for public input and we've had availability to have discussions and that's the backwards math of how we got to the \$10,000

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

instead of \$25,000 and then eligible employees was more in the \$15,000,000 estimate and then the reality is what you've done here says \$20,000,000 is eligible to fall within this \$10,000. So that's just my comments and history of what I recollect. Commissioner Howell, you were next."

Commissioner Howell said, "Thank you, Chairman. Just for clarification Commissioners are not going to get this, is that correct?"

Ms. Schmutz said, "We have not received any submissions from Commissioners."

Commissioner Howell said, "It's my intent that Commissioners would not receive this, that's what I would prefer. What about management, Tom's folks. Are you planning to receive this?"

Mr. Stolz said, "I will not Commissioner."

Commissioner Howell said, "I think that that needs to be clarified today. Thank you very much. I have a large family, some folks have married into my family. I think it inappropriate to keep attacking my family. They're firefighters, they are paramedics, they have worked in the Sedgwick County jail, they've worked in the Election Office and on it goes. The reality is my family they are adults, they are not me, they have the right to provide services to people of Sedgwick County and secure those jobs independently. In fact if I applied for the jobs I asked our counsel is there any conflicts of interest and they said no. At the end of the day these are independent adults and they provide services to Sedgwick County just like everybody else that they work alongside. And if there's money provided to them then they should be eligible for that as well. I didn't create this program, the federal government created this program. I went and read about it and it's very clear people who are firefighters and paramedics that's exactly, that's the number one audience this is intended for. If you want me to Commissioner Dennis I'll recuse myself, but I don't think it's inappropriate that this Commission considers this today and I don't think it's a conflict of interest in any way. I am bothered greatly that you keep attacking my family, if another Commissioner would like to make a motion I would be glad to support that or recuse myself if counsel you think it's inappropriate for me to vote on this, I will recuse myself. Just give me some clarity please, on what I should do here today."

Mr. Pepon said, "Commissioner Howell, I don't think it'd be inappropriate for you to go ahead and vote on it. Just because I think a Commissioner has a family member working for the county does not bring them into the state conflict of interest laws and I don't think a Commissioner would have to recuse him or herself from voting on a budget or any other issue. If it only may be directly and only applied to maybe your family member may be you'd want to do that. When it applies to a broad class of individuals that your family members are also part of I don't think that is considered a conflict of interest."

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Howell said, “And based on your comments today I would be glad to vote on this but I’ll let somebody else make a motion. Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioner Lopez”

Commissioner Lopez said, “Just really quick, when we look at the categories, I mean if we left off some of category two there are people like COMCARE workers in category two. Can you explain the people that are in that group that we would be leaving off...”

Ms. Schmutz said, “Sure and maybe for those that are listening I’ll just go through all the categories so that way we can explain what those are. In category one, 1A means that they are on site 100 percent of the time at high level of exposures. Category 1B is on site 100 percent of the time with a limited level of exposure. Category two is a hybrid remote work and also required to be one site, 2A is that hybrid model with a high level of exposure on site and 2B would be the hybrid model with limited level of exposure while on site.”

Commissioner Lopez said, “Okay I just think it’s really important that all of our focus doesn’t always go to the same departments because I mean our Tag Office, our Clerk, our Treasurer, Facilities, Corrections, COMCARE I mean all of these departments are crucial to what we do and if we only focus on some I mean what is that saying to the rest of these groups that they were here. They were doing their jobs and we need to recognize that they were here too and not just always, you know, going to Fire and EMS. While I think they’re extremely important obviously but I just think it’s important that we’re not leaving off these other groups just because they’re not those first responders necessarily.”

MOTION

Commissioner Lopez moved to approve option two of the ARPA Premium Pay.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, motion and a second. Commissioner Dennis.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me clarify a couple of things, all I’m asking for is to delay this for one week so that we can have input from the public. I don’t know what would be the problem with delaying for one week to see if there’s any questions whatsoever before we move forward. Second thing I want to make sure that I clarify very carefully is that I have never attacked another Commissioner’s family. I was just questioning, we just received a briefing on ethics and they talked about just the appearance of some kind of an ethical conflict is something that someone should recuse themselves for.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Dennis continued, “That was my only question, repeated a couple times I was attacking a family and absolutely that was not the case. I am just curious about the ethics involved in this. Since there is a motion and a second I would make a substitute motion to defer this for one week.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “There’s a substitute motion, is there a second? Is there a second? I don’t see a second. Commissioner Howell.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Thank you, Chairman. Again, when we’ve asked for delays typically it is because things are coming to us at the last minute. Let me reiterate once again this was put out to the public last Friday and nothing about this proposal was changed, so I don’t understand why a delay would be warranted in this case. Number two, whether we approved option one or two or three the difference is \$5,000,000 and that \$5,000,000 has absolutely zero impact or effect on my family members. The firefighter and the paramedic, so I’m advocating today for a \$5,000,000 increase primarily for people who are in option 2A and 2B of this proposal today. Finally, I want to talk about conflicts of interest, I just verified with the counselor this is not a conflict of interest, but I think receiving Zoobilee tickets is. I had received two tickets for \$150 each, I think, and I believe all five Commissioners probably received those. I plan on trading mine back in because I think that’s a conflict of interest. I’d like to know if we’re going to follow these ideas of conflicts of interest we need to be serious about it. I appreciate the offer of those tickets but I think that when someone sits on that board and we appropriate nearly \$8,000,000 roughly to Zoo operations I think we need to clarify that that might be considered a conflict of interest. Once again, I don’t think there’s a conflict in this particular case and what I’m advocating for us to do is to bring other employees in that has nothing to do with my family. Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay there is a motion and a second on the floor. Commissioner Dennis.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “Thank you, I understand there that I did not get a second to my motion. I think that one week, I’m baffled that we can’t wait one week. This sets a heck of a precedence since I’ve been on the Commission, 100 percent of the time when one Commissioner asks for a deferral for a week or two weeks or a month even it’s been 100 percent of the time it’s been approved. I guess from this point forward that’s no longer applicable, I’m kind of saddened by that state of events. That’s all, thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioner Cruse.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Chairman. I’d just like to clarify that I have asked to defer things and that have not been deferred so this is not the first time and it has not been 100 percent. If you need me to find the time that there were deferrals that I made I’m happy to do that, but this is not 100 percent of the time that it’s been deferred. Thank you for allowing me that clarification.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay I don’t see any other comments. There’s a motion and a second to go with option two. Madam Clerk, please call the roll.”

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 184-2021

Commissioner Dennis said, “Does option two include \$20,000,000 or \$15,000,000?”

Ms. Schmutz said, “\$20,000,000.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “It’s the 20,000,000.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “This is the hardest vote I’ve had in four years to be on the Commission. I really, truly want to make sure that the employees know how much I respect what they did. I think what we’re doing is wrong.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Motion carries. Thank you Sheena, for your work and Finance as well and other management, and other team managers of the departments. Okay. Next item, please. Commissioner Cruse.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Chairman.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

MOTION

Commissioner Cruse moved to call an off-agenda item to discuss with Dr. Minns regarding COVID.

Chairman Meitzner seconded the motion.

Chairman Meitzner said, "Commissioner Howell."

Commissioner Howell said, "Normally when you call for an off agenda item you explain the reason for the off agenda item so we know what we are voting on."

Chairman Meitzner said, "Thank you for correcting."

Commissioner Cruse said, "The off agenda item will be called to discuss with Dr. Minns who was only on the call until 10:45, but I would still like to have a conversation about COVID. If he is still on there at all."

Chairman Meitzner said, "There's a motion and a second for a discussion with Dr. Minns regarding COVID. Madam Clerk, please call the roll."

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

OFF AGENDA ITEM

Chairman Meitzner said, "Joe, we're diverting your item until after this. Okay. Commissioner Cruse."

Commissioner Cruse said, "Thank you, Chairman. Dr. Minns, we would just like to hear an update as far as our numbers, what you're seeing in the hospital system. It's important for us to understand that this is still going on, and we'd like to hear from our health official."

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Dr. Garold Minns, MD, Infectious Disease Specialist, Local Health Officer, greeted the Commissioners and said, “All right. Well, you may have these numbers available to you from the Health Department. The weekend during September 4th, we had 1,800 cases of COVID in our county, which is the highest number we've had probably since November, December of 2020, as compared to having 142 cases in the week of July 3rd. So as you can see, we've had a quantum leap in the number of cases, and we're at what we haven't seen for almost a year. We also are still running a positive test rate of around 8 percent. It fluctuates around 8 percent, some a little over, some just under, but its inconsistent now at that level for the last five or six weeks. So the virus is still circulating in our community. It's still here. As you know, the hospital numbers, over 200 cases combined the two hospitals combined, are over 200 cases, and a large number of people in ICU (Intensive Care Unit) is on ventilators. So this Delta virus has proven to be a much more aggressive virus than the earlier original virus. As a matter of fact, it has displaced the original virus to where almost all the cases now are the Delta strain, which appears to be much more contagious. There's still debate whether it's more dangerous or more fatal. We don't have enough evidence to say that, but we do know it's much more contagious.

“We are also seeing more kids in the hospital, certainly not at the numbers we're seeing adults and of the adults, we're seeing people at younger age groups than we did the first nine months of this illness in our city. As you've heard before, over 90 percent of the people who are in the hospital were unvaccinated. We are seeing a few breakthroughs but most of those patients are having mild illnesses and not having severity that leads to death. Of the pediatric cases, they're not as sick as the adults, but some of them are ill. We know a number of the chronic conditions this virus can lead to that affects the kids as well as adults. On a national level, I just happen to have the Wall Street Journal in front of me. It says Delta variant throttles job growth, and I can speak from experience at my own institution that this is having an impact on both the patients who get it and their contacts, because they have to be taken out of circulation. They have to be put in quarantine. My own secretary is now in quarantine because of a contact. So I'm feeling the ramifications of this virus myself in my work. So that's the status of where we're at. The kids less than age 12 still have no access to a vaccine, and it's still unknown when that will be available. As you know, there is still debate going on. There is some who feel at the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) we should go ahead and offer boosters of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine, in the middle of this month. I don't know that a final decision has been made. It seems like there is debate going on about that. We'll hear more, we're staying tuned with where things are going. That is a brief overview of where we're at in this county. It's reflected nationwide, not just this county. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to entertain them.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioner Cruse.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Cruse said, “Thank you, Dr. Minns, for being here today. There is word across the nation of other variants. Can you speak to that?”

Dr. Minns said, “Well, the CDC as well as our own Department of Health in Topeka is taking a random sample of all the islets they get and are doing genotyping on those or mapping, and there are lots of other variants. The newer variants that have come out, we don't know whether they're more contagious than Delta or not. This virus will continue to mutate. That's how this virus succeeds. It creates lots of mutations and it just throws them out there to see which one is more potent than the last variant, and eventually that variant will take over. Now, I don't know whether the new variants we've seen since Delta, I don't think we have enough data to say they're likely to displace Delta. They certainly haven't shown that so far, but this virus, as long as it's replicating in people, is going to mutate, continue to mutate, and develop variants almost at random, and it remains to be seen if any of those variants are more successful in infecting people than Delta is.”

Commissioner Cruse said, “So Dr. Minns, a couple more questions. At what point would, I mean, we have flu season upon us. Our hospital system is already pretty over-maxed. What would be a trigger point, whether it's positive test rates or lack of staff in hospital system, or what would be a trigger point that could enact further restrictive measures?”

Dr. Minns said, “Well, I will leave it to the hospitals to decide when they are unable to take more patients. I think they're close to the point of turning down referrals from outside hospitals. I know many of the rural hospitals are struggling to find places to send their patients. I've never heard the hospital declare a certain numerical point at which they would have to close the hospital to any admissions. It's not me that would make that decision. That is themselves. I don't know that, we checked with KDHE. There is nothing in their records that's ever determined when schools would have to close in terms of the number of cases in the city. I think their feeling is the schools should stay open as long as they have the staff to do that, but they know best how many staff they need to educate and take care of the operations at their schools. So I have no knowledge of what they say, how many staff, how many teachers, before the schools have to close. And KDHE has been asked if they have any numbers of cases in the city or in the schools that would lead to school closure, and they say they do not. That would be left up to individual schools.

“As you know, I think it is time to seriously consider reinstating the mask mandate. I think that is the least impactful upon employment, the least impactful on people being out of work, and it is the least measure that really inhibits people's activities. I don't have a set number in my head about when we would move to the restrictions we had in 2020. I would be very reluctant to do that, and frankly, you, the Commissioners, would have to decide whether you can accept that.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Dr. Minns continued, "I'm very reluctant to return to what it was like in the first six months of this because of the impact it had on employment, our economy and everything. But you know, at some point, if this thing doesn't calm down, I don't know. We will have to make that decision together."

Commissioner Cruse said, "Yeah. Dr. Minns, thank you for being here. I know that you had a hard stop about 10 minutes ago. So I appreciate you hanging on to discuss this with us. I know this is not a popular topic. I get it that people are sick and tired of this virus. Also, the thought of masks, what happened the last time that we had a conversation about this, I get it. It's not anything anybody wants to talk about, but when I see our school system and when I hear my daughter telling me about all of her friends that are out sick, when I see reports of physicians exhausted beyond belief and all of our hospital system maxed out, what do we do? Do we wait until we have another story of someone who just needs their gallbladder removed to die in a waiting room for a simple procedure that could have happened had there been a place for them to go and receive care? I don't know. I mean, I hope that it comes to the point where we all realize that we have a role to play in this and our role is to be a part of the collective of keeping our community healthy. And so I have received tons of e-mails talking about freedoms and liberties and all of that, and I just want to make sure that we understand that we all have a responsibility in this, and it is important that we talk about it and that we be real with the very real situation. Just this past two nights ago we had a shooting at a nightclub. What happened if, I mean, that was a tragedy that should not have happened, and I'm very sorry for the family and others involved, but those things are real, and those things happen in our community. That will tax a hospital system even more than they're already taxed. So I get it that we are put in a tough spot, but we were elected to the Board of Health, and that's our job, and it's important for us to not shy away from these conversations, not pass the buck down to school boards, but really tackle the issue from this bench, because that is our job. Thank you, Chairman."

Chairman Meitzner said, "Commissioner Dennis."

Commissioner Dennis said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Minns, two quick questions for you. One is the hospitals, what percent of the people that are now in ICU are not vaccinated?"

Dr. Minns said, "I haven't asked that question recently, but I've been told in the past that the ICU's over 90 percent of the people in the ICU are unvaccinated."

Commissioner Dennis said, "Very good. So this is really a problem at the hospitals of the unvaccinated?"

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Dr. Minns said, “Yes. We've had that discussion before. If we could get the vaccination numbers up higher, I think that would be the optimal solution to this problem. The vaccine does seem to be effective against the delta virus...”

Commissioner Dennis said, “Well, thank you.”

Dr. Minns said, “...our vaccination numbers are not moving very much.

Commissioner Dennis said, “I think all five Commissioners here, Board of Health, agree that vaccination is the way to get out of this. The second question that I've got, if we go back to the order that you wrote a month or so ago, there was no enforcement action in that order whatsoever, and I guess if you pass a mandate there has to be some kind of enforcement. I don't see our Sheriff going out arresting people or issuing them tickets. I don't see the police, because they don't work for us, doing that. How do you anticipate that we would enforce any kind of a mask mandate?”

Dr. Minns said, “I think the order that was written, and Justin could speak on this would direct the businesses in town, the retail businesses, the grocery stores, the Home Depots, some of which have already done it, it would require all of them to demand masking in their premises. I think people will need to continue to shop, and I think in the past when we had a mask mandate and the businesses were required to enforce that we had pretty good mask-wearing rates. And it was when the CDC said, well, if you're already vaccinated, you don't need to wear the mask anymore, that's when those mask mandates were relaxed, and guess what? No one wore their mask. And that's when the number of cases started going up. So it's not an enforcement in the sense of the police force or law enforcement going after people, but practically, if people need to wear masks to get into places of business and places of purchasing and getting their food and whatever, I think experience indicates it really was pretty good, at least in the stores. I'm not saying they wore the masks outside or other places, but to me, that's in a sense an enforcement.”

Commissioner Dennis said, “But the problem with that is we have confrontations when you start telling a private business that they now have to enforce something that the public governmental body tells them to enforce. Now they're putting their employees in a heck of a place trying to enforce something with people that disagree with them. So I think that would cause more problems. Thank you. That's all my questions.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Commissioner Lopez.”

Commissioner Lopez said, “Thank you. Can we get an update on percentage in our community that's vaccinated?”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Dr. Minns said, “Well, the latest figures I've seen, and maybe you were directing that to someone else but I've got to go here in a little bit. Approximately mid-40s. I won't give you an exact number. Mid 40s are vaccinated and probably another 10 percent of the population is immune from natural infection, so maybe we're in the mid-50s in terms of people being, quote, immune, unquote, to the virus. But Tom or Tim may have updated data the Health Department's given more recently.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Yeah, Dr. Minns, we've got Tim Kauffman coming to the stand.”

Mr. Tim Kaufman, Deputy County Manager, greeted the Commissioners and said, “I don't have those numbers with me. I can tell you that we're right around 50 percent now for eligible vaccinated, and we're around 41 percent for total percent vaccinated. As Dr. Minns indicated, we've got some folks that have been infected. I will send those numbers to you later this morning.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, thank you.”

Commissioner Lopez said, “I think it's really important that we do have this conversation today, because when we've spoke about this before is right when schools were starting. We did start to see a decrease in our positivity rate, which was really good. But as we all knew what would happen, with schools being back in session, and the majority of them not masking and all of them not masking at the beginning, our numbers are continuing to rise. I think last week when we had our superintendent call there was about 4,000 kids in Sedgwick County on quarantine of some sort, 4,000 kids. That's a lot of kids, that's a lot of parents. Especially if they're young kids and can't be home by themselves. So, for parents I think it's a good point to discuss what that does to our economy when people can't work because they have to stay home with their kids and they weren't expecting that. How many jobs are we going to let someone take off for a week and a half with no notice and keep their job? It's just not the reality for so many people. It is important that we're watching this, because our positivity rate is over nine percent again, with so many kids being quarantined, and that's just kids, not school teachers or school staff or anybody else. That's just children.

“So it's hard, because I started having calls weekly with our superintendents, anybody who was able to get on at that time, and we had a pretty good number each week so far. I can tell you that there is a big difference in the conversations we had before school started and the conversations we had last Thursday. They are beyond frustrated. They are exhausted, and school just started. Their nurses and the staff that are helping them with testing and contact tracing are overwhelmed. They are begging us to do something. Last week, they were saying that it was like a wildfire. It's lit. It's started, and they don't know what to do to slow it down.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Lopez continued, “And I heard repeatedly that they're asking the Board of Health to do our jobs. I don't know how to say that nicer, but we are the Board of Health. This is our job. We have Dr. Minns and other physicians that will come and speak to us whenever we ask for them to come and speak to us. Board of Education, they don't have that same ability because they are so many of them. And I understand that each district is a little bit different, but we are seeing numerous clusters in schools, primarily in the younger kids. And thankfully they're not getting as sick as adults when they get this. So they're not filling our hospitals yet. But the number in our hospitals is growing. It will continue to grow if we do nothing to slow this down. That's the reality of it. It's only a matter of time before a kid gets really sick or we lose a teacher. It's not a matter of if but when, unfortunately. And we just need to do our jobs as the Board of Health. Listen to the medical professionals who have spent their lives really working to keep our community safe. I mean, we've been hearing from our hospitals for weeks that they cannot keep this up. For weeks, we've been hearing that, and we have yet to take action on it. It's not just COVID patients. I tell my family, you know, be careful when you drive. Please don't text and drive right now, because if you get in a wreck and you need an ICU bed, you might not have one, and that's the reality of what we're facing right now, and it's kind of mind-blowing to me that that has been going on for so many weeks. We have heard this for so many weeks. We have not done anything, and we wonder why it's continuing to get worse.

“Now, with school starting, I mean, it's really hard for me to wrap my mind around, and I just, you know, I feel for our medical community. Right now, I feel for our schools and their nursing staff, and the paras and the parents and the kids and everything else that goes along with this. And it is frustrating, because the state has taken away any of our ability for kids to remote learn. My daughter's high risk, she's got an autoimmune disease and she was on quarantine and she couldn't go to school. She's also on national junior honor society, which is exciting for her. She missed seven days of PE class, which are participation points. So now she's going to have a bad grade in gym, which could affect her stance to even be on the national junior honor society. So there are just so many things that are just so frustrating. And our hands are tied in so many ways, and a lot of that is at the state level. And I hate that that's the case, but that's the case. And so we can control what we can control. We can't control the state. So we need to do everything we can to protect these kids, to keep them out of quarantine, if possible, and masking would do that. So thank you, Dr. Minns, for being here today. Thank you, Commissioner Cruse, for bringing this up. It is important that we're watching these numbers and just seeing where this is going, because it's not looking good now. We knew this was going to happen weeks ago. We said it was going to happen, and now we're watching it happen. I can tell new a couple more weeks what's going to happen, because it's going to continue. But if we do nothing, then I guess we'll just continue to watch it happen. Thank you.”

Dr. Minns said, “I apologize, but I'm about 15 minutes late to a meeting I have with people in Kansas City on zoom. So if there's no more questions, I think I'm going to have to sign off.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Chairman Meitzner said, "I don't see any more questions, Dr. Minns. Thanks again for being available. We appreciate all you do."

Dr. Minns said, "And I know this is a difficult issue for all of us. It's very difficult."

Chairman Meitzner said, "Yes, sir. Okay. Thank you. No other comments? I don't even know if this is a receive and file report or just this agenda item is over and we move on. Okay. Madam Clerk, next item please."

J. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2021.

Chairman Meitzner said, "Hi, Joe."

Mr. Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing Department, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts on September 2nd results in four items that we bring before you this morning.

1. BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS (B497) 811-U-4148 -- PUBLIC WORKS FUNDING -- B497 BRIDGE ON RIDGE BTWN 39TH & 47TH S

"This recommendation is to accept the low bid from Klaver Construction Co., Inc., and that's in the amount of \$761,811.75.

2. ON-CALL COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BROKER SERVICES -- FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUNDING -- FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

"This recommendation is to accept the proposals for the On-Call Commercial Real Estate Broker Services from CBRE, Inc., also ReeceNichols South Central Kansas and Lange Real Estate, LLC at the rates listed, and this will be for a contract period of two years with two one-year options to renew.

3. ON-CALL HAZARD PREPAREDNESS, PLANNING, CONSULTING & RECOVERY SERVICES - DIVISION OF FINANCE FUNDING -- DIVISION OF FINANCE (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

"The recommendation to accept the proposal from Witt O'Brien's LLC for the contracted rates as listed, and this would be for a period starting August 1st, 2021 through July 31st, 2023.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

**4. ON-CALL HAZARD PREPAREDNESS, PLANNING, CONSULTING & RECOVERY SERVICES - DIVISION OF FINANCE
FUNDING -- DIVISION OF FINANCE (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT – (ARPA)**

“This recommendation is to accept the proposal from Disaster Recovery Services, LLC for the contracted rates listed, and that same period of time, which starts August 1st, 2021, through July 31st, 2023.

Mr. Thomas said, “I’ll be happy to try to answer any questions you may have, and I recommend approval.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Alright, Joe. Busy time for the Board of Bids. Thank you for your report. Any questions about any of the items that Joe referenced?”

MOTION

Chairman Meitzner moved to approve the report of the Board of Bids and Contracts as presented.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

Mr. Thomas said, “Thank you, Commissioners.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Thanks again, Joe. Madam Clerk, next item.”

CONSENT

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

- K. ONE (1) UTILITY EASEMENT AND ONE (1) TEMPORARY EASEMENT FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO - EVERGY BATTERY STORAGE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**
- L. AGREEMENT WITH KDOT FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT A BRIDGE ON 21ST STREET NORTH OVER ROCK CREEK BETWEEN 375TH AND 391ST STREET WEST.**
- M. KANSAS DEPARTMENT ON AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES (KDADS) PARTICIPATING CDDO AGREEMENT FY 2022.**
- N. CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT RENEWAL FOR THE OLDER AMERICAN ACT (OAA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 3,215,944 FOR THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT FOR AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES (KDADS) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022 AREA PLAN.**
- O. RENEWAL OF FOURTEEN VENDOR CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE SENIOR CARE ACT PROGRAM (SCA).**
- P. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF REGISTER OF DEEDS RECORDS 1990-2017.**

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 185-2021

- Q. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES RECORDS 2008-2018.**

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 186-2021

- R. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF SEDGWICK COUNTY CLERK RECORDS 2000-2018.**

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 187-2021

- S. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF CENTRAL SERVICES RECORDS 2016-2017.**

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 188-2021

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

T. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RECORDS 1986-2017.

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 189-2021

U. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF COUNTY MANAGER RECORDS 2015-2017.

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 190-2021

V. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT RECORDS 2012-2018.

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 191-2021

W. A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1 RECORDS 2011-2017.

County Clerk has assigned Resolution No. 192-2021

X. HIRE ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN ABOVE GRADE MINIMUM.

Y. PLAT, VADEN'S LITTLE ACRES.

Z. PLAT, HOPPER WINDWALKER ADDITION.

AA. GENERAL BILL CHECK REGISTER FOR AUGUST 11, 2021 TO AUGUST 17, 2021.

AB. GENERAL BILL CHECK REGISTER FOR AUGUST 18, 2021 TO AUGUST 24, 2021.

AC. GENERAL BILL CHECK REGISTER FOR AUGUST 25, 2021 TO AUGUST 31, 2021.

AD. TREASURER CLAIM CERTIFICATION.

AE. PAYROLL CHECK REGISTER FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2021 PAYROLL CERTIFICATION.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

AF. PAYROLL CHECK REGISTER FOR THE AUGUST 28, 2021 PAYROLL CERTIFICATION.

Mr. Stolz said, “We have 22 items on consent today, one of which is a KDOT (Kansas Department of Transportation) funding to construct a bridge on 21st North over Rock Creek between 375th and 391st Street West, which is in District Three, and another item which is a consideration of a grant renewal for the Older Americans Act in the amount of \$3,215,944 for the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability services in their fiscal year of 2022. The rest of it is routine. So I ask that you approve Consent Items K through AF this morning.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay. Thanks for the explanation.”

MOTION

Chairman Meitzner moved to approve items K through AF.

Commissioner Cruse seconded the motion.

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

VOTE

Commissioner Lopez	Aye
Commissioner Dennis	Aye
Commissioner Howell	Aye
Commissioner Cruse	Aye
Chairman Meitzner	Aye

Chairman Meitzner said, “Would this be the appropriate time to adjourn for the fire before we come back for committee and wrap up? Okay. We'll do that. We will recess and call to order the Governing Body of Fire District No. 1.”

The Board of County Commissioners recessed into the Fire District No. 1 meeting at 11:12 a.m. and returned at 11:13 a.m.

Chairman Meitzner said, “We will return from recess back to the regularly scheduled Commission meeting.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Madam Clerk, next item, please.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Meitzner said, “Committee Reports. Does any of the Commissioners have anything to report on any of the committees that they may serve on? I don't see any at this time. So we will close the committee reports. Next item, please.”

OTHER

Chairman Meitzner said, “Other, Commissioners? Commissioner Lopez.”

Commissioner Lopez said, “Thank you. So I am trying to get as many donations and cards and thank yous for our medical community as I can. I'm collecting items until the beginning of next week. I have a whole bunch of elementary schools that are doing this and I have the cutest little cards that are coming in. But if anybody is interested in creating cards in their classrooms or just want more information, please reach out to me. And I would love to get that out to you and as much as we can get for the medical community, I think the better. I say it a lot, but they are struggling, and they really need a morale boost, need to know they're valued and we appreciate them. So that's the whole point with this, but if you want to help in any way please let me know and I would love your assistance. Thank you.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, thank you. I know you put a lot of effort into that. Commissioner Howell.”

Commissioner Howell said, “Thank you, Chairman. I just wanted to provide some follow-up comment. A couple weeks ago we talked about an opportunity for me to visit the hospitals. Although I haven't had a chance to visit Wesley. I do appreciate an invitation from Via Christi, and I did spend quite a bit of time there. Altogether, the President of the hospital, Kevin Streckler, did provide his undivided attention frankly. It was really quite an opportunity for me to go inside the hospital and see what's going on and examine to my heart's content all the things I had questions on. I appreciate their grace, allowing me to have that privilege to that to do that. We did get to go basically all over the entire hospital and ask lots of questions. I presented to him quite a bit of data that I think that causes conflict, and they actually did not have good answers to some of the questions I had. They certainly are committed to digging into those questions and trying to find out where the conflicts are stemming from. To that end, they are seeking to do that, and they promised to provide some data back to me on some of my questions, so we're not done with the conversation just yet.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Howell continued, “But one of the things I think has caused a lot of conflict is the fact that we have some federal sites and even state sites that talks about the number of beds available. To my satisfaction, I would tell you that I believe that the county reporting data is actually quite accurate on our bed status. So I think one of our takeaways, in my mind when I hear about bed status, I'm going to kind of disregard some of the federal websites and even state websites and look at what's being provided through a verbal report through a management team. I think that's the right data. And there are reasons why those numbers are different. In fact, it's quite interesting, the history of the hospital, to find out why these numbers are so vastly different, and they are extremely different. But there is really detailed and complex answers as to why they're different. To that end, I think the hospital, I think they intend to do this. They haven't actually got it solved yet, but I think they intend to provide better bed data to KDHE, who then will report up to the U.S. Health and Human Services and CDC websites I think that talk about bed space. And I think that will hopefully bring things back in line with each other. So that's one of the things I think that was valuable in our visit.

“The second thing is I did actually get to go inside of the COVID ward and get to see what that's like. I will tell you that it is obviously extremely difficult for staff to deal with this each and every day, and I want to just put my appreciation out to them and say thank you for what they do. This is not an easy job, obviously. It's extremely hard. I haven't had a chance to go through Wesley yet. Maybe I'll still get that opportunity, but I think the way Via Christi handles COVID by having a separate ward area I think is very efficient, and I know that they are doing a tremendous job. I think they've got the best outcomes probably of any hospital in our state and possibly even of our larger region because of the things they're doing there, and they're efficient and they're effective. I want to say thank you for their innovative ways of handling this challenge. I do know it's extremely difficult what they're dealing with.

“Once again, I plan on putting out maybe more of a statement once I get the data from the hospitals that I've requested. I'm still kind of waiting on that. So I haven't received all the information that I was going to get from them yet. I assume they're still working on that. So when I get that data, I will probably write up a narrative of exactly what I discovered by going through the hospitals. I do just want to share up front I did get to go through there and see it for myself and I appreciate greatly what they do there. I think they're a tremendous hospital and the staff is fantastic. I know it's hard what they're dealing with. As a bonus, I did get to spend several hours with Ron Baker. If you don't know, he's a former basketball star here at Wichita University and NBA star as well I want to say thank you for that opportunity. He's now a spokesperson for the hospital system and just a great personality. That was that kind of fun to spend time with him as well.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

Commissioner Howell continued, “Finally, changing topics entirely, I am one of these people that really focuses a lot on gun safety. I think that we need to have law abiding citizens that are trained and manage their firearms responsibly. And with that, we know from talking to police officers here in Wichita, one of the biggest problems we have in the Wichita area is guns being stolen from cars. I think there's a lot of reasons as to why that happens to. To that end, I just wanted to point out there is an opportunity this Saturday. I believe it starts at 9:00 a.m. that Range 54 will be handing out 500 gun safes so that responsible gun owners can lock up their firearms in their vehicles should they have to leave it in their vehicle for some reason. And they're going to be providing this for free. So it will start at 9:00 a.m. this weekend at Range 54, which is at 5725 East Kellogg. Thank you, Chairman.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Okay, thank you. And also I think it's important for us as a Commission and the public to know that last week I got to be involved in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) preparedness on Hurricane Ida was potentially going to send various cities around the country some patients in care homes and especially hospital patients to various part of country to try to evacuate. We were on notice that we were going to receive some, but we didn't know for sure. To be on a zoom call or conference call with about, gosh, 20 or 25, Rusty was on, Tim was on. Coordinating 20 or 25, including our EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and our Sheriff and police and everybody to imagine 10 patients landing out on a C135, and their staff would stay on the plane.

“So from the landing to wherever their destination was, a hospital or depending on maybe a pediatrics patient or whatever, but Julie [Stimson, Emergency Management Director], I just want to compliment Julie. She coordinated that, and to hear how our community works together to potentially handle this was very impressive for me to witness. I was not asked, and I did not get to say one word, because there was a lot of departments that were expert in this area in coordinating that, including, like I said, our EMS, ambulance service, private companies, everything else as far as hospitalizations, care homes, whatever. So I just share that. I think we got word that we are not receiving any Hurricane Ida patients from care homes or hospitals. So it was kind of a great exercise in preparedness that we didn't, fortunately, have to use especially with our hospitals being quite full. So I just wanted to share that with everybody and know that behind the scenes there's a lot of people working when disaster is hitting not only us but around the country. Anybody else have anything to share? I don't see any. So next item.”

Chairman Meitzner said, “Executive Session. We do not have an Executive Session, and so we do not have anything other. So thank you for tuning in today, and have a good and safe week, and we will see everybody next week. Adjourned.”

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

PETER F. MEITZNER, Chairman
First District

LACEY D. CRUSE, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District

SARAH LOPEZ, Commissioner
Second District

DAVID T. DENNIS, Commissioner
Third District

JAMES M. HOWELL, Commissioner
Fifth District

ATTEST:

Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk

APPROVED: