

SEDGWICK COUNTY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ronald Berges with John Fryar, Darrin Tobin and Christy Beckman present in office. Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, Lori Ehmke, Heather Foley, KC Campbell and Bob Coty present in office.

Fryar moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a report on the SCOR meeting. Berges second, carried.

Berges moved to approve the January 21, 2025 payables. Fryar second, carried.

Fryar reported on the SCOR meeting he attended. Fryar expressed concerns about the relationship between SCOR and the county. The lease agreement seems to be the only documentation and there are no defined lines concerning the duties of SCOR and the county, no relationship between SCOR and the daycare and no definitions of the duties of the director, Victoria Dunker or the relationship between Victoria, SCOR and the county. Fryar said he understands that there were previous agreements made orally but nothing written down. Fryar has asked SCOR to put those down in written form. Fryar would like to know who will manage any changes and also what is the relationship between maintenance and SCOR and the county. Fryar told the Board he asked Rhonda Graham, Economic Development, not to attend any meetings until everything gets sorted out. Fryar will be looking into all of this to be able to define all of the duties and relationships and is hoping to have a work session with Zach Ruder, Building Maintenance as well. Fryar said they will have to go into executive session when discussing any employees.

Berges moved to approve allowing Howard McCormick to remain on the CBIG Board and to appoint John Fryar as the CBIG commissioner representative. Tobin second, carried. Fryar recused himself.

Fryar moved to approve the transfer of \$13,000 from County General fair fund into the other fair fund. Tobin second, carried.

Fryar told the Board that he learned at the conference that the state requires counties to have a comprehensive plan. Fryar learned that Sedgwick County does not have this plan in place and he would like the Board to start looking towards the future and to come up with a 1, 3 and 5 year plan. Fryar will do some more research and will reach out to the department heads to figure out who could be instrumental in putting a plan together.

Zach Ruder, Building Maintenance, joined the meeting. Ruder presented the Board with a quote for tools that are needed. Ruder told the Board that there is a large deficit in the tools needed for his job and asked the Board to review his list.

Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, joined the meeting. Sandlin told the Board about the Explore Magazine and showed them where the ads and pictures were from previous payments from Sedgwick County. Sandlin explained that there are 25,000 copies in approximately 15 different locations and said she is asking for \$1500.00 to be paid from the Lodging Tax fund for this ad. Sandlin then showed them the Outdoor Guide in which Sedgwick County was on the title page and had two inside full page ads and also had a picture on the backside, all for \$1499. She will be re-asking for that in the future. Fryar

moved to purchase the ads for \$1500 for the Explore Magazine from Lodging Tax funds for 2025. Tobin second, carried.

Kimberly Jarrett, Communities That Care (CTC), joined the meeting. Jarrett told the Board that CTC has started a teen night out for young people in 6-12th grade and is working off of grant monies. They were allowed to have a night at the fairgrounds at no charge from the past Board and is asking if the Board would let them have one night per each month for the next six months while they are in the process of finding a permanent space for free or for a reduced price. The Board would like to bring Tracy Kizer into the conversation before making a decision. Jarrett left the meeting.

Natasha Thode, Human Service, joined the meeting. Berges moved to approve the January 21, 2025 agenda as presented. Fryar second, carried. Berges moved to approve the December 17, 2024 minutes as presented. Fryar second, carried. The Board reviewed the November financial report. Thode told the Board that she was asked to send her PTO request to all three previous commissioners and asked if that was to continue. Berges said she can send the requests only to him. Thode left the meeting.


Kacey Campbell, Road & Bridge, joined the meeting. Campbell told the Board that the repairs to the north side of the building will cost \$850 and a local contractor will be doing the work. Berges moved to approve the repair, Fryar second, carried. Fryar then asked when a second bid needs to come into play. Beckman will do some research and will get back to the Board. Fryar then said he would like to see the department heads not have to ask for permission to do repairs or make purchases for things that are in the budget that has already been approved.

Zach Ruder's list of equipment was brought up again. Fryar moved to approve the outfitting of both trucks at \$6,000 and the garage at \$2,592. Berges second, carried. Ruder told the Board that he has also started the project of replacing the old lights to LED lights which will produce a savings for the county. The cost will be \$3,000. Rhonda Graham will look into an energy efficiency grant to see if funds could come from that for the lights. Ruder told the Board that there is no hot water in either of the bathrooms downstairs and that he would like to put heaters in similar to the ones on the main floor. Fryar asked if Ruder could determine the price for the heaters with the plumbing and electrical and present that to the Board. Ruder will get that done. Ruder told the Board that the SCOR Board asked him to tear down the risers from the music room but Fryar told Ruder to wait on that project until all of the SCOR lines are defined. He asked Ruder to bring any projects to the Board first in the future.

Rhonda Graham, Economic Development, joined the meeting. Fryar asked Graham if Viking Environmental would be able to help with the new Landfill cell. Graham told the Board that Viking liked the property south of the building and feels they would be able to offset having to do another cell. Fryar would like KC Campbell to sit in on the next meeting with Viking. Graham would like to bring Phillips County as well. Graham told the Board that the Historical Society, Italian Caves Registry has made it through state and is moving forward to national. The determination will be made on March 3rd. Graham then told the Board that she has set up a meeting with NECALG to address the issues that the entities are having on June 30, 2025 at 10:00 in the Hospital Board Room. She would like to have the Board attend and thinks lack of knowledge has led to some of the issues. Graham told the Board that concerning housing, a questionnaire has been sent out so the Colorado Department of Housing can determine what knowledge already exists and what they will need to provide. A discussion was held on childcare. Graham told the Board

that none of the milestones have been met for the grant and she spoke to them and they will not be pulling the funding. They gave until 12/31/26 but would like milestones to be done. Graham will be calling El Pomar which gave a \$50,000 grant to see if an extension can be given. Fryar asked Graham to give the Board all of the spreadsheets and information on the childcare grants. Fryar told Graham that there will be roundtable on March 7th and would like her to attend. Graham is keeping a close eye out for other childcare grants as well. Graham told the Board she is need of an office. She is in a small office and is working out of boxes and card tables as she doesn't have office furniture yet. She was told that she would have to pay \$500 per month for the office she previously had and would be charged to use the boardroom. Discussion was held on places Graham could move to, however, Fryar agreed that the office space she had would be the best for her. They will look into temporary office space with the budget that she has while all of this gets sorted out. Graham left the meeting.

Tobin moved to adjourn the meeting. Fryar second, carried.



Ronald Berges, Chairman



Christy M. Beckman, Clerk to the Board

