

SEDGWICK COUNTY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 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, Rhonda Graham, Cassie Kizer and Tasha Harris were present in office. Alexia Mayhue, Bridget Britton, Kurt Dilsaver, Kacey Campbell and Lacy Coty were present via Google Teams.

Fryar moved to approve the agenda with the addition of adding CQI reporting, Quote on fill dirt from Blochowitz Ditching and Lexipol quote. Tobin second, carried.

Tobin moved to approve the February 25, 2025 payables and payroll. Fryar second, carried.

Berges moved to approve the February 18, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Tobin second, carried.

Tobin reported on the CCI meeting. Tobin told the Board that HB 25-1041 would cause financial strain for the county and HB 25-1208 and HB 25-199 and SB 25-003 were all opposed by majority, however, SB 003 has already pushed through. Discussion was held.

Discussion was held on the AARP letter of support. Berges moved to approve the letter of support. Tobin second, carried.

Discussion was held on the follow up of Gib Beckers request for filler. Berges suggested proposing a quote for fill dirt. Fryar is in favor of helping them out but not losing money. Discussion was held on the amount of trucks that will be used. Berges did not find out how many as of yet. Berges will contact Becker to find out how many trucks will be used.

Heather Foley updated the Board on the Colonial Insurance follow up. Foley is working with the representative and will updated the Board when there is more information.

Foley updated the Board on the pending county credit card project. Foley has been looking into purchase cards, however, those are strictly for fuel. After further research, Foley has found one that would be good for the county and has started the application process. Foley will follow up on this when she gets more information.

Fryar started discussion on the follow up with AP Diesel. Rhonda Graham did some research and sent the findings to the Board. Fryar would like to propose a 50% reduction on use tax. Berges asked if a work session is needed. Fryar moved to look at AP Diesel today and add a work session for the future. Tobin second, carried.

Discussion was held on a question about why retirement offered to part time employees, especially those who also have a full time job. Beckman told the Board that after researching the laws, talking to the county attorney and with the CCOERA representative she found out that government entities are exempt from the ERISA law which states that if a PT employee works over 1000 hours per year, they are entitled to benefits. The

county policy clearly defines a part time employee and clearly identifies that part time employees do not receive benefits. There are many factors that point to the county not being required to offer benefits to part time employees, however, Beckman found out that a voluntary 457 could be offered to PT employees for them to be able to contribute to retirement on their own. The Board would like to have a work session in the future to discuss this.

The follow up for the Building Maintenance employees receiving OT will be put on hold until next week.

Tasha Harris, Ambulance, brought up discussion about CQI and if allowing Howard McCormick to review reports would be a conflict of interest. Harris told the Board that Dr. Regier would be the one going over McCormick's reports so there would not be a conflict of interest and Harris goes over every report on top of the requirements. Fryar asked how much that would cost for the year. Harris said there are many variables so it would be hard to estimate. Berges moved to approve appointing Howard McCormick to CQI at a rate of \$50 per event. Tobin second, carried. Harris told the Board that she met with Marquardt and Stretesky foundations about supplementing the ambulance salaries. Each has donated \$25,000 and would like to revisit in 6 months. Harris left the meeting.

Fryar noted that the amount of Lexipol that was approved in a prior meeting for Lexipol has increased \$500. Fryar moved to approve the increase at \$4,134.60 with no more than this amount. Berges second, carried.

The MGT contract was reviewed. Fryar moved to approve the Master Services Agreement between Sedgwick County and MGT Impact Solutions LLC (MGT) for the allocation plan in the amount of \$5,300. Tobin second, carried.

Discussion was held on the HPE Networks 2000 invoice that was received. Beckman reached out to Concentrics who said it was not needed but recommended keeping the warranty active. Tobin questioned the need for this if we are changing our server. Alexia Mayhue joined the meeting and agreed with Tobin. Fryar moved to table this discussion. Tobin second, carried.

Berges told the Board that Blochowitz Ditching has approached the Board about discounted contracting. Blochowitz suggested 500 yards per job or 1,000 yards annually (cumulatively) to qualify for a discount. Berges told the Board that Blochowitz Ditching will be offering a quote to the High School greenhouse project. Fryar expressed concerns about contractor fees costing the county more money than bringing in. Berges moved to adopt a 25% discount on fill or gravel that meet the benchmark of 500 yards per job or 1,000 cumulative yards per year. Tobin second, carried. Berges proposed \$3.50 per yard with the county loading for the Gib Becker project. Fryar second, carried.

Cindy South and Frank Beltran, Pueblo County, joined the meeting. Beltran updated the Board on their plans in helping Elmer Ruder with the system in this re-appraisal year in the absence of Eva Contreras. The Board thanked the guests for all of their help.

Rhonda Graham, Economic Development, joined the meeting. Graham brought up discussion about incentives. There is a potential business owner looking to Phillips County or Sedgwick County to start his business and is wanting to look at what incentives are offered by both counties. Beckman will set up a work session for this.

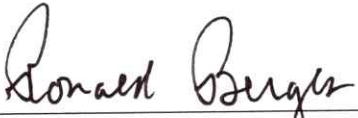
Heather Foley, Finance, joined the meeting. Foley requested to go into executive session. It is February 25, 2025 and the time is 9:45 a.m.. For the record, I am the Chairman, as required by the Open Meetings Law; this executive session is being electronically recorded. Also present at the executive session are the following persons: Ronald Berges, John Fryar, Darrin Tobin and Heather Foley. This is an executive session for the following purpose: For discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f)(I)&(II) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees; The time is now 10:00 a.m. and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were; Ronald Berges, John Fryar, Darrin Tobin and Heather Foley. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record. Hearing none, the next agenda item is...

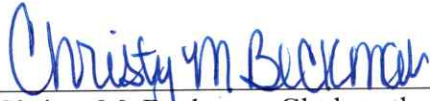
Tracy Kizer, Weed and Pest, joined the meeting. Kizer requested to go into executive session. It is February 25, 2025 and the time is 10:00 a.m.. For the record, I am the Chairman, as required by the Open Meetings Law; this executive session is being electronically recorded. Also present at the executive session are the following persons: Ronald Berges, John Fryar, Darrin Tobin and Tracy Kizer. This is an executive session for the following purpose: For discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f)(I)&(II) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees; The time is now 10:28 a.m. and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were: Ronald Berges, John Fryar, Darrin Tobin and Tracy Kizer. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record. Hearing none, the next agenda item is...

Fryar reported on a meeting held with the SCOR directors. Discussion was held about creating a set of guidelines and the cost to the county to keep the community center open. There was some hostility and it is due to the oral agreements that were made along the way. Fryar is afraid the cost to the county is going to escalate due to building maintenance. Fryar asked for a list of upcoming issues to keep the building functional. This amount equals up to around a half million dollars. There are HVAC issues, electrical issues and drainage issues. SCOR is saying that if the county doesn't continue with maintenance and they fail, it will be the county's fault. There is also an issue with ADA compliance with the bathrooms. There is an opportunity to re-negotiate the lease before July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Fryar also had discussions with the directors about the rooms available for county individuals. Fryar then told the Board there was a meeting with the architect and there has been some misrepresentation. SCOR will provide the minutes from their meetings in which commissioner Schneider gave them oral authority for certain things. Fryar suggested that the contract be re-negotiated with certain stipulations including rooms for Economic Development. The Board wants to see the community

center thrive but there are liabilities for the county that need to be looked into. The county is in a 60 day window for the childcare grant before it goes away so there needs to be discussion with the architect specifically about the day care. Fryar told the Board that he had a meeting with Victoria Dunker and Rhonda Graham specifically about the daycare and the grants. There was resistance from Dunker. Information for the Architect was asked for but has not been given as of yet. Since the meeting, Victoria told Fryar that she captured a video outside the building of Graham speaking negatively about SCOR and said she would give it to him. Fryars concern is should they be using the county surveillance for this type of thing? There are no signs stating you are being recorded anywhere so this makes it an illegal act. Fryar told the Board that there was an issue with Grahams key as well and there has been a lot happen to cause distrust. Discussion was held on the grants that are specific for the daycare and SCOR is wanting to take some of that money to use on other parts of the building. The county may have to move how money is being taken out so the county is not in violation. The Board concurred that the county employee will be brought in for a discussion.

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

  
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Ronald Berges, Chairman

  
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Christy M. Beckman, Clerk to the Board

