

SEDGWICK COUNTY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 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, Cassie Kizer, Rhonda Graham, Bridget Britton and Alexia Mayhue present in office.

Tobin moved to approve the agenda as presented. Fryar second, carried.

There were no payables to approve.

Fryar moved to approve the January 30, 2025 minutes. Tobin second, carried.

Berges noted that the Colonial Insurance was on the agenda for a follow up. Fryar asked Foley if she would reach out to the employees to see if there would be a need for the supplemental insurance and to get back to the Board so a decision could be made.

Berges noted that Gib Becker was on the agenda for a follow up as well. Discussion was held about the request Becker made in prior meetings about a filler donation. Fryar asked if a work session with Kacey Campbell and Bob Coty could be set up to discuss the matter in order to make a decision. Beckman will put it on the agenda for next week.

Fryar reminded the Board that there is a meeting in Sterling tomorrow at 9:00 and asked for their attendance concerning the landowners and the Perkins Canal letters that were sent out. Fryar said he has discovered a lot of documentation about the Canal.

Fryar requested setting up a work session with Dan Pederson, Accountant, in the future to get a better understanding of the budget. Beckman will reach out to Pederson.

Rhonda Graham, Economic Development, joined the meeting. Graham asked the Board if they are interested in circling back to the marketing district question for the ballot. Graham explained that this was something that was put together with the previous Board and noted that it would be monies from travelers / visitors staying at local motels/hotels and air B&B's, not from county residents. After discussion, Graham was asked if she could provide a timeline and list for the Board to review before they make a decision. Graham then told the Board that the RAISE grant for roads and bridges which was written as a regional grant is still being delayed. Graham will attend a meeting next week to ask more questions and will report back to the Board. Graham told the Board that this years Cruise Night will be on August 15th and asked the Board if they can use the courthouse lawn again for the activities. Britton asked if that included the bathrooms, but Graham said not this year. Berges moved to approve the Chamber using the courthouse lawn for Cruise Night on August 15th. Tobin second, carried.

Alexia Mayhue, Concentrics, joined the meeting. Mayhue gave the Board a presentation about the Sedgwick County Government IT Services Overview and Future Points.

Mayhue discussed the importance of what the company does and what it can do for Sedgwick County government. Mayhue told the Board that she did not have quotes for the cabling project with her but the logistics have changed a bit since it was quoted last year. Mayhue will get quotes ready for the Board. Mayhue told the Board the contract is up for re-negotiation with Concentrics. Mayhue told the Board that she will stay after the meeting to set up zoom and to work on their laptops. Fryar told Mayhue that he would like to set up a meeting with her and the Sheriff to discuss the needs of the Sheriffs office. Mayhue will reach out to the Sheriff.

Bridget Britton joined the meeting and told the Board she would like to be on the next agenda to let her know exactly what extra duties they would like her to keep doing within the county. Beckman will schedule Britton for next week.

Ben and Dani Fowler, Sedgwick County Lumber, joined the meeting and Kevin VanZee, Julesburg Family Market, joined the meeting by phone. Fowler told the Board that he would like the businesses and the county to be able to work together in a transparent way. Fowler is concerned that too many of the contractors that have been hired by Sedgwick County have not been asked to try to get at least one local bid and those tax dollars are not staying in the county. Fowler told the Board that for every dollar spent with a local company, it turns around many times over and that someone should not be forced to use a local business but the business should at least get a chance to compete. Fowler would like to see the Board require that at least one bid be presented from a local business if possible. VanZee expressed his concerns as well. Fryar told the guests that he would like to talk to legal counsel first to make sure there are no legal ratifications, but he agreed with Fowler and VanZee and said they could come up with policy that states local bids are also required. Berges moved to approve making policy language to include getting at least one bid from a local business. Fryar second, carried. The guests left the meeting.

Discussion was then held on the possibility of getting work cell phones for the commissioners. Fryar opened that up further to see if there is a need for this in the other departments as many might be using their personal cell phone for county business. Beckman will reach out to the department heads to see what the need will be before a decision is made.

Jim Beck joined the meeting. Beck told the Board that he supported Jack Devie in his endeavors and then congratulated the new Board members.

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