

SEDGWICK COUNTY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ronald Berges with John Fryar, Darrin Tobin present in office. Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, Lori Ehmke, Heather Foley, Kacey Campbell, Bob Coty, Dan Pederson and Tasha Thode present in office.

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

Berges moved to approve the January 30, 2025 payables. Fryar second, carried.

Berges moved to approve the January 14, 2025 and the January 21, 2025 minutes as amended. Fryar second, carried.

Fryar reported on the legislative call and there are new statutes proposed at the state level which will affect Sedgwick County.

Kacey Campbell, Road & Bridge, gave the Board the quotes from Mitch Perry. The quotes have a separation of labor and supplies. Berges moved to approve \$850 payment to Mitch Perry for repairs. Tobin second, carried.

Lori Ehmke, Treasurer, told the Board that there needs to be an approval for changes on the signatures for the warrant account. Berges moved to approve adding John Fryar and Darrin Tobin onto the warrant account. Tobin second, carried.

Discussion was held on the Marc Weber farm lease. Fryar moved to approve the Farm Lease between Marc Weber and Sedgwick County for 10 acres of grassland adjacent to the Road & Bridge Building. Tobin second, carried.

Donald Schneider joined the meeting. Schneider brought up discussion about letters received from land owners concerning the Perkins Canal Project. Schneider said that they are putting together a group legal fund. The landowners will be meeting next week to discuss their options after receiving the seemingly threatening letters. Schneider told the Board he thought that Sedgwick County adopted 1041 powers and suggested they look into that and also to contact an attorney who is well versed in 1041 law. Berges noted that there are a lot of historical sites within the Perkins Canal area. After much discussion, the Board agreed that their involvement in this issue is a priority. Berges asked if citizens could also donate to the fund being set up and Schneider said yes. Schneider left the meeting.

Dan Pederson gave the Board the approved 2025 Sedgwick County Budget. Pederson brought up the penalty notice from the IRS and stated that the payroll taxes did not get paid in 2023. Berges told Pederson that Howard McCormick wrote a letter to the IRS with reasons they should not be charged. Pederson told the Board they reduced the payment requested from approximately \$9,000 to approximately \$5,000, however it needs to be paid. He suggested sending in the payment with another letter and hope for reimbursement. Discussion was held on pay for the outgoing and incoming commissioners for the month of January and a correction that needs to be made. Pederson then told the Board that there was a problem with the software for the tax rolls

which charged an incorrect amount for the school districts. Pederson would like to have a work session concerning the budget.

Rhonda Graham, Economic Development, joined the meeting. Graham gave the Board the cost for the office move. Discussion was held on the amount of back and forth there will be, especially with the childcare piece. Fryar would like to set up a meeting with Victoria Dunker and SCOR to define the relationship. Fryar stated that there are only 3 documents he could find at this point concerning the structure of the community building and SCOR and two of those documents did not have official Board approval. Fryar said in order to push forward with daycare, clarification needs to be made. Fryar is concerned if Graham leaves the Community Building, will the county have any input and he feels the charges for Graham's office, the daycare and the meeting room would be a double charge. Fryar would like to be open about how much money the county pays to keep the building running. There is no charge for SCOR for rent and the directors benefits are paid by the county and a portion of the liability insurance. Berges said that it all needs to be documented in black and white. Discussion was held on the original plan which noted that the north and west would be SCOR's, central would be County's and east would be daycare. Fryar would like to table all of this until the two boards can meet and discuss. Graham left the meeting.

Natasha Thode, Human Services, joined the meeting. Thode asked for approval for a new hire. Fryar moved to approve the hiring of Amber Contreras as the eligibility case manager position at \$17 per hour to start, increase \$.25 for each certificate earned then increase \$1 after one year. Tobin second, carried.

Judge McGuire joined the meeting.

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

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Ronald Berges, Chairman

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Christy M. Beckman, Clerk to the Board