

SEDGWICK COUNTY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ronald Berges with John Fryar, Darrin Tobin and Christy Beckman present in office. Guests in office are Alexia Mayhue, Michelle Kirk, Krissy Thode, Bob Coty, Lacy Coty, Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, Cassie Kizer, Steven Wahrman, Heather Foley, Dave Powell, Lori Ehmke, Pam Ornelas, Kody Blochowtitz and Bridget Britton. Guests online are: Tasha Thode, Tasha Harris, Kurt Dilsaver, Lindsay Rocholitz, Kacey Campbell, Kylie Redfern, Madelyn Krajewski, Zach Ruder, Cole McKinley,

Fryar moved to approve the agenda with the amendment of removing Heather Foley from the agenda. Tobin second, carried.

There were no payables for review. Fryar told Foley that the report they are given is unclear and asked for the vouchers for review each week.

Fryar moved to approve the March 4, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Berges second, carried.

PUBLIC:

Dave Powell came in support of the rumor that the Board is wanting to combine our communication center over with Phillips County. Powell told the Board how important our center is and if we lose it, there will be no getting it back. Beckman asked if there was a meeting where this was decided because she has not heard this. Britton answered that there was an economic development work session in Phillips County in which John Fryar and Rhonda Graham attended and Britton was told by someone from Phillips County that the Board is thinking about combining our communication center with Phillips County. Britton told the Board that they have not come down and asked even one question of her and her staff and thinks it is unfair that they are discussing this with other counties. Tobin explained that there was nothing official stated about this. Fryar told Britton that it is the Boards job and responsibility to ask questions about everything in the county and that they are setting up audits so the general government can be analyzed to help find any liability issues. Fryar told Britton that they will be talking to all of the surrounding counties as well. Britton told the Board if they would have asked, they would have found out that the communication center gets money back which helps fund the department. Fryar said this would be better talked about in a work session. Kody Blochowtitz, Lacey Coty, Bob Coty, Michelle Kirk, Aaron Michael and Krissy Stoll came to show support for Britton and the communication center.

REPORTS:

The Treasurer's February Financial Report was reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Tobin told the Board he will be on a call with Hickenlooper concerning grant funding.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Kent Vance joined the meeting. Vance introduced himself to the Board as the grant navigator for Northeastern Colorado. Vance told the Board there will be quite a bit of federal funding for the future. Vance left his contact information.

The next regular meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

#### COUNTY OFFICIAL/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS/WORKSESSIONS:

Steven Wahrman, Emergency Manager, joined the meeting for a department work session. Wahrman explained his job duties to the Board and also showed support for the communication center. Fryar asked Wahrman if he could look into the ICS requirements.

Bridget Britton, Communication Center, joined the meeting for a department work session. Britton prepared a two-hour power point showing the Board all of the duties of the communication center along with the extra duties she performs. Koby Quayle joined the meeting. Rick Ornelas joined the meeting.

Rhonda Graham, Economic Development, and Greg Etl, DOLA, joined the meeting. Etl introduced himself to the Board and gave an update on all things government and gave them his contact information.

Josh Lechman, Republican River Water Conservancy District, joined the meeting. Lechman told the Board there will be a proposal for a new fee structure. The county gets 3% and if they go forward with this proposal, the county will only be getting half of that amount. The monies collected is over \$19,000. Lechman told the Board they have to retire 25,000 acres by 2029.

Rhonda Graham updated the Board on the Local Marketing District proposal. This is a lodging tax on hotels and airbnb's and the money can only go into 4 "buckets" – tourism, child care, economic development and housing. Documents were sent to the Board for review. Graham told the Board that there will need to be a lot of education for the community. Fryar expressed his concerns about the budget and appreciates that this is not something that would cost the county but bring money in for the community. Fryar would also like to visit the incentives topic again. Beckman told the Board that as long as there is a coordinated election there will be no cost to the county to add a question onto the ballot. Fryar asked if there would be a benefit to the hotels. Etl answered saying that with the extra advertising it could bring more people to the community. Fryar asked Beckman to reach out to Kelly Lowery, Attorney, to attend next meeting for discussion about this. Etl suggested that 2% might be low for this tax and to think about going a bit higher. Discussion was then held on county incentives. Graham told the Board that the potential business contact has already received incentives from Phillips County and is waiting to see if our county would produce any for him to consider. Discussion was held

on the Rural Jump Start zone money (started in 2021, through the state) which is for unique businesses to the county. This will be a question for the attorney next week.

Fryar told the Board that he received a letter from attorney Ostrander concerning the letter that was received about Perkins Canal. Fryar said the letter was favorable to the county and there is some discussion as to payment for his services and what to obligate the county for this, etc. Lechman said there will be discussion at the water meeting at the community center tomorrow.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The executive session originally requested by Bridget Britton was changed to having her work session in an open meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Submitted by:

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Sedgwick County Clerk & Recorder

Approved: March 11, 2025

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SEDGWICK COUNTY, COLORADO**

(seal)

By:\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Berges, Chairman

Attest:

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Sedgwick County Clerk & Recorder