

SEDGWICK COUNTY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MAY 20, 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 Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, Cassie Kizer, Walt Page, Lori Ehmke, Tasha Thode, Donny Schneider, Kim Orth, Victoria Dunker, Patty Lowery, Traci Colbeck and Heather Foley.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Berges moved to approve the May 20, 2025 agenda with the addition of adding the AP Diesel incentive payment and adding Tracy Kizer to the agenda. Tobin second, carried.

There were no payables presented to approve.

Fryar moved to approve the May 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Tobin second, carried.

PUBLIC:

Donald Schneider joined the meeting representing the South Platte users group and asked if the Board has an update concerning the 1041 process and if the county portion has been paid. Berges reported that he was not sure if that had been paid. Discussion was held on the letters received by the landowners. Schneider then asked the Board if a decision has been made about the payroll breach and coverage for the employees and past employees whose information had been breached. Fryar told Schneider that there will be a discussion later in the meeting.

Cassie Kizer, Economic Development, joined the meeting to let the Board know that they offered a workforce grant to the ambulance in the form of 3 laptops.

Traci Colbeck representing SCOR read a letter to the Board. The letter explained the process that SCOR went through to get the old High School transformed into the community center and noted that eight of the nine rooms are leased. Colbeck noted that there was supposed to be grant funding for some of the deficit but that did not occur. SCOR has outlined their list of terms based off of the email received about what the commissioners are wanting to change with the community center structure and asked if they would like her to read it all to them. Fryar told Colbeck that the county and SCOR entered into an agreement to not conduct the contract negotiations publicly and that the document should not be shared with the public until negotiations are complete. Dunker told the Board the document had already been submitted to the paper. Colbeck went on to explain how much SCOR covers of the financials including \$39,000 per year for utilities and approximately \$32,000 of the liability insurance and also the directors full salary minus the health insurance. Colbeck told the Board that if the county wants full control as stated in the email then SCOR would remove their reimbursement funding and would expect the county to continue to contribute in the transition to help keep the community center functioning and for the good of the community. Fryar replied by saying the email the commissioners received was later yesterday and that they have not had time to read and respond and that the attorneys should be included before discussion continues.

Koby Quayle, Sheriff, joined the meeting. Quayle told the Board the Dakota Clark graduated from POST and that he is beginning work today and would like his new salary to take effect today. Quayle asked for the \$2,500 sign-on-bonus to be paid with this pay

period as well. Berges moved to approve the increase in Clarks salary per the contract to go from \$18.45 to \$20.50 per hour. Fryar second, carried. Fryar asked for an update on the storage situation. Quayle told the Board that the other side of the unit is being cleared and that he will have access to the entire unit and will pay the \$500 per month until January of 2026 when it can be re-evaluated. Quayle and Fryar requested a work session. Beckman will set that up. Quayle left the meeting.

#### REPORTS:

Beckman told the Board that she and Alexia met with Cipriani & Werner and will request an executive session for discussion. Due to Alexia being unavailable, Beckman reported that the investigation is still going on and a determination has not been made.

Fryar gave a report on the meeting with CDOT concerning the Welcome Center Maintenance and relayed that more money was asked for with the projects that need to be done. Beckman told the Board that \$145,728 will be asked for in the fiscal year 25-26.

Elmer Ruder, Deputy Assessor, joined the meeting via Google. Ruder read some factual statements concerning the increase in property taxes this year. Ruder explained there are many factors that go into the assessment and there is inflation, and he wanted everyone to know that the assessed values are audited by a State auditor each year. Ruder told the Board that the ending of State Exemptions is one of the main reasons for taxes increasing this year. Ruder will answer any questions that the public may have. Fryar re-iterated the fact that the exemption ending and the assessment on properties less than \$250,000 both had an impact on the increases. Cynthia South, Pueblo Deputy Assessor, joined the meeting via Google and Fryar noted that she will be coming here to help with the protests. Patty Lowery told the Board that her taxes rose significantly, but others were less and asked if there is an explanation for that as she doesn't agree that there is nothing the Assessor can do. Fryar said the mill levy could be changed but it would be devastating to the county budget. Discussion on the budget then ensued as to why we are financially struggling. Fryar said there was a 2 million dollar increase in spending in 2024 and the money expected from the wind farms will not be coming in. Wade explained why the wind farms will be delayed but assured that they will be here late 2026 or early 2027. When asked if the new commissioners were involved in the budget process with the previous commissioners, Fryar answered that he attended those hearings but did not have the history or the authority to make any kind of informed decision. Lowery asked the Board if they are in the process of making cuts. Fryar said they are not far enough into the process yet to make any decisions. Berges agreed that the budget needs to be trimmed. Schneider told the Board that money was put into the commissioner discretion lines, so they have more leverage on decisions and to not purchase unnecessary items. Tobin was asked what his input is and replied that cuts need to be made but a "red marker" system is not a suitable way to do that. Tobin said the first step is to talk with all of the department heads and to look at the multiple factors involved. Berges then asked Cynthia South for any input. South re-iterated all that was said previously.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The VSO employee status was brought back to the Board for consideration after last weeks discussion about becoming compliant. Berges moved to change the VSO position from 1099 contract labor to a part time position with the county at a starting wage on \$17 per hour. Tobin second, carried. Fryar recused himself. Tobin asked about her employment status. Berges said she would be a part time employee.

The Board re-visited the corrected PII Policy, Whistleblower Policy, Procurement & Contract Policy and Transparency Fraud Line addition. Fryar asked to table C,D and E for further research. Fryar moved to approve the amended Procurement & Contract policies. Tobin second, carried.

Discussion was held on the AP Diesel incentive payment that had been approved in previous meetings. Berges moved to approve the incentive payment of 50% use tax for AP Diesel. Tobin second, carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Natasha Thode, Human Service, joined the meeting. Fryar moved to approve the May 20, 2025 agenda as presented. Tobin second, carried. Berges moved to approve the April 22, 2025 minutes as presented. Tobin second, carried. The Board reviewed the March financial report. Berges moved to approve the MOU between the State and Sedgwick County HS. Tobin second, carried.

Dana Foley, CTSI, joined the meeting. Foley gave a presentation to the Board on the county liability insurance data.

Victoria Dunker wanted to re-visit the SCOR discussion as she contacted their attorney and he is the one who encouraged them to speak publicly about this. Dunker told the Board that they would like answers sooner rather than later since the Board is wanting to change the contract. Dunker then read the stipulations in the terms requested from SCOR. There are too many to quote, please see attached document. Fryar told Dunker that the pattern laid out previously was that the attorneys would create a matrix to have these negotiations in and that SCOR has now stepped out of that process and confidentiality. Fryar told Dunker and the guests that they will have the attorneys discuss this.

The next regular meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

It is May 20, 2025 and the time is 10:18 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 10:43 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...

It is May 20, 2025 and the time is 10:43 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 and Darrin Tobin. This is an executive session for the following purpose: For the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e); I caution each participant to confine all discussion to the stated purpose of the executive session, and that no formal action may occur in the executive session. If at any point in the executive session any participant believes the discussion is going outside the proper scope of the executive session, please interrupt the discussion and make an objection. I hereby attest that this recording reflects the actual contents of the discussion at the executive session and has been made in lieu of any written minutes to satisfy the recording requirements of the Open Meetings Law. I will retain the tape in my possession for a 90-day period. The time is now 11:04 a.m. and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were: Ronald Berges, John Fryar and Darrin Tobin. 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...

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sedgwick County Clerk & Recorder

Approved: May 27, 2025

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SEDGWICK COUNTY, COLORADO

(seal)

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

Attest:

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Sedgwick County Clerk & Recorder