

SEDGWICK COUNTY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Howard McCormick with Donald Schneider, Ronald Berges and Christy Beckman present. Lori Ehmke, Heather Foley, Darin Tobin, Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate and John Fryar joined the meeting.

Schneider moved to approve the agenda with the addition of SCOR and Budget discussion under unfinished business, Hospital report and add an executive session. Berges second, carried.

Schneider moved to approve the November 26, 2024 payroll and payables. Berges second, carried.

McCormick moved to approve the November 12, 2024 minutes as presented. Berges second, carried.

Koby Quayle, Undersheriff, joined the meeting. Beckman Swore in Quayle as the new sheriff. Phil Biersdorfer will now be the Undersheriff.

Berges reported on the hospital board meeting. The hospital is getting closed to being fully staffed and the finances are moving towards the black. They are awaiting the response to the grant that was filed.

Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, asked the Board if they would be willing to put an ad in for the Shop Local Ad in the amount of \$300. Berges moved to approve the payment of \$300 from the lodging tax monies, for the Shop Local ad. Schneider second, carried.

Bridget Britton, Communication Center Director, joined the meeting. Britton recommended the hiring of a new employee. Berges moved to approve the hiring of Brett Brently as dispatcher to start at \$16.92 and raise to \$19.67 after 12 weeks of training and certification. Schneider second, carried. Britton then told the Board that there was a threat by a county employee to the county property, Sheriff's vehicles. The Sheriff has been apprised of this. Britton then asked Beckman if she could have her department budget as she has not seen it and is uncomfortable not knowing what the numbers for her budget are before it gets approved. Beckman referred her to Heather Foley, finance director. Foley thought she sent the budget to Britton but will get a copy to Britton. Britton left the meeting.

Schneider moved to approve the Sedgwick County Operation Plan. Berges second, carried.

McCormick brought up discussion about the upcoming budget to John Fryar and Darin Tobin. McCormick told the guests that the budget was very much in the red when they

became commissioners, and they would like the new board to be successful and not have a deficit to begin with. McCormick explained some details and gave the guests the most current changes to the budget and the 2024 wage scale along with the proposed 2025 wage scale. McCormick told them how the wage scale came to be and discussed the process they went through with a three-year market adjustment and lot's of decisions and number crunching they had incurred. McCormick told them the requests from the departments were all reasonable but even after removing a 2.5 million deficit from Road & Bridge, County General is still in a 1.5-million-dollar deficit if the requested budget gets approved. The wind tower revenue will not be seen in the county until 2026. McCormick also told the Board about some of the department fees and that they will be approving the changes at the next meeting.

McCormick moved to add a December 10th cutoff date for the VSO position. Berges second, carried.

It is November 26, 2024 and the time is 9:00 a.m. For the record, I am the Chairman, as required by the Open Meetings Law; Also present at the executive session are the following persons: Donald Schneider, Howard McCormick, Ronald Berges and Kelly Lowery, For a conference with the County Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b); The time is now 9:25 a.m. and the executive session has been concluded. 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...

Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, re-joined the meeting by phone. A request was received from Tasha Harris for two new hires for Ambulance. Schneider moved to approve the hiring of Alex Gerk to be Paramedic and Robert Pool to be CPR / Driver. Berges second, carried.

McCormick told the Board that due to ongoing litigation in 2025, Schneider will be required to appear at hearings to be held in Denver. McCormick moved to pay Donny Schneider at his current rate of pay plus mileage for the hearings and will set \$2000 in Clearing Admin for this purpose. Berges second, carried. Schneider recused himself.

McCormick told the Board that Victoria Dunker and the SCOR Board requested that the Economic Development Director, Rhonda Graham, vacate the office she is currently located in at the Community Center and move to a different office that the Board selected for her. She was given until December 10th to vacate, however, the Board was told that Graham thought it should be their decision. After review of the lease between SCOR and Sedgwick County, Kelly Lowery, Attorney, advised the Board that SCOR has full control over the office spaces and their occupants. McCormick noted that the lease and its contents have been discussed in previous meetings with Graham. The Board will write a letter to Graham asking her to adhere to the request from SCOR and to vacate the office by December 10th and that if this request is not responded to, SCOR will have Zach

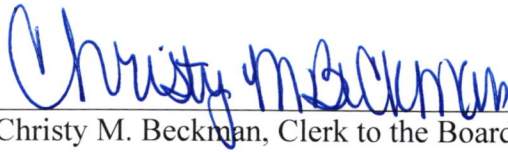
Ruder, Building Maintenance, come and remove the contents of the office. McCormick noted that if the new Board wants Graham to stay in the office, they will have to decide whether to pay \$500 per month for that office space.

McCormick asked Beckman to put the departmental fees together for the next meeting so they can be reviewed and approved.

Berges moved to adjourn the meeting. McCormick second, carried.



Howard McCormick, Chairman



Christy M. Beckman, Clerk to the Board