



Manhattan Free Press

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County Budgeted Expenditures 2010 - 2012

	2010	2011	2012
General	\$19,069,054	\$20,352,437	\$21,464,296
Bond & Interest	\$ 2,038,997	\$ 2,000,197	\$ 2,701,068
Worker's Comp	\$ 139,313	\$ 137,624	\$ 130,000
County Building	\$ 359,500	\$ 356,100	\$ 472,000
RCPD Fund	\$ 3,232,781	\$ 3,299,047	\$ 3,719,551
Total:	\$24,839,645	\$26,145,405	\$28,486,915

This is the latest Riley County Working Budget. This is only for the operation of the County and not the outside agencies.

County Working On An Increase For The 2012 Budget

Editorial
By Jon A. Brake

Ok, who forgot to tell the Riley County Commissioners that the April City Elections was meant to apply to them too. The Tax and Spend candidates were defeated but the Riley County Commission didn't get the message.

A look at the latest 2010

Budget Development Worksheet by the County Finance Department looks like the voters will need to speak out loud and clear in 2012 election.

Commission Chairman Karen McCulloh and Commissioners Al Johnson and David L. (Dave Lewis) Guthals are planning on a Budget and

Tax increase for 2012.

The Commissioners are planning a \$2.3 Million increase over last year and a \$3.6 Million over 2010.

It is not that these Commissioners can not cut spending, they can, but they do not want to.

We had better start watching where the County gets their

money too. The Bond and Interest Fund has gone up from \$1.7 Million in 2010 to \$2.7 million in 2012. That is the amount of money we will spend each year paying off our Debt.

We call Manhattan "Debt County USA. It could be we need to start calling Riley County "Debt County USA.

Revenues Top Predictions

By Gene Meyer
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Kansas tax revenues topped predictions for the fiscal year ended Thursday, but state officials offered only muted cheers about the outcome.

Kansas collected \$5.54 billion in income, sales and use taxes during the year ended June 30, about \$685 million, or 14 percent, more than in fiscal 2010, and a slender \$88 million, or 1.6 percent more than state revenue officials predicted as recently as April, the Kansas Department of Revenue said Thursday.

The totals included a larger than expected increase in individual income taxes, to \$2.7 billion, or 12 percent more than a year earlier, a 19 percent gain in sales tax receipts to \$1.97 billion that almost exactly matches a jump in sales tax rates that kicked in 12 months ago, and a disappointing drop, from both recently projected and year earlier levels, in corporate income tax collections, to \$225 million.

One unexpectedly strong contributor to the higher individual income tax receipts is an approximately \$11 million gain in capital gains and business income, which many small business owners report on their personal individual returns, said

Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan.

What that seems to mean, Jordan said, is that "small Kansas businesses are starting to recover from the recent economic downturn."

Offsetting those gains are sales tax receipts, which despite a 19 percent increase in basic sales tax rates in July 2010 have been flat or negative until this just-ended June.

Forecasting 2011 Kansas' tax revenues has been difficult officials this year. As recently as April, economists and state budget officials calculating the projections from which legislative budget writers work trimmed \$1.3 million from a six-months earlier estimate in part because of volatile sales tax and corporate income tax receipts.

The forecasters also warned then that fiscal 2012, which begins Friday, might also be challenging because of higher fuel prices and a persistently above average state unemployment rate.

Given lingering uncertainty about how strong this current early recovery might be, "we should continue to focus on reducing government spending to encourage further growth," Jordan said.

Kansas Borrows \$600 Million Against Future Revenues

By Gene Meyer
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Kansas fiscal leaders voted Thursday to borrow \$600 million against the state's expected 2012 revenues to help pay bills until taxpayers file their next returns.

Members of the Kansas State Finance Council voted unanimously to issue a certificate of indebtedness for the money, which is essentially a no-cost line of credit from the state's Pooled Money Investment Board, the state's short term cash manager of state funds.

The latest certificate, which is akin consumers tapping their credit cards for enough cash to last until their next paycheck, is

\$100 million less than the Council borrowed last year, but still the second highest on record since state leaders first dipped into those funds in 1983. State law requires Kansas to pay off its certificate by the end of each fiscal year; last year's \$700 million loan was returned to state coffers Thursday.

"I don't like the idea of the state operating on credit," said Gov. Sam Brownback, who is also the council's chairman. "But I am please that we were able to lower this request by \$100 million, and it is my intention to lower that figure in years to come."

The latest certificate is the

thirteenth one in as many years that Kansas has needed to get through what essentially is a cash flow problem, said state Budget Director Steve Anderson. The state's biggest obligations are in July, December and January, while its biggest collection of tax revenues happens in April, he said.

Kansas is required by statute to set aside about 7.5 percent of its state budget in an emergency reserve, but legislators for the last several years have voted - and governors acquiesced - to waive the requirement.

"Our goal this year was to close a more than \$500 million budget gap without raising

taxes, and we did that," said Sherriene Jones-Sontag, the governor's press secretary.

Other members of the nine-member council include the three highest ranking majority and minority leaders of the Kansas House and Kansas Senate plus the appropriations chiefs from each house.

Separately on Thursday, council members also voted to increase by \$10 million the \$3.9 million that lawmakers last session appropriated for disaster relief funding at the Kansas Adjutant General's office.

Weather Woes Dim Kansas, Midwest Economies Report Shows

By Gene Meyer
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Supply disruptions and other business headaches caused by Midwestern floods and Japan's earthquake and tsunami in March are noticeably chilling prospects for economic recovery in Kansas and its Midwestern neighbors, according to a monthly business survey of the region.

On a scale of 1 to 100, a monthly index of business conditions in Kansas slipped to 52.7 in June, and its lowest point so far this year, from 59.2 in May, researchers at the Creighton Economic Forecasting Group reported Friday. Regionally, the same

index plummeted to 54.9 from a month-earlier 60.2.

Any reading above 50 means that economic indicators still point to economic growth, the latest numbers also suggest that expectations for growth are slowing, said Ernie Goss, a Creighton University economist and head of the forecast group.

Confidence about the economy's future also dropped sharply among the supply managers that pollsters surveyed, to 52.3 in June from 60.4 in May. High energy prices and uncertainty about the national economy's course contributed to the gloom, Goss said.

The Cato Institute: Deb-Ceiling Myths

By Michael D. Tanner
Cato Institute

Now that Osama bin Laden has been successfully dispatched to the eternal damnation he so richly deserves, Washington is ready to return to the more mundane question of whether the Obama administration will be allowed to spend this country into oblivion.

The next big fiscal fight will be over when and how to increase the debt limit. The administration has been hard at work trying to shape the message and public opinion. Unsurprisingly, much of that message is less than 100 percent accurate. Here are some myths about the debt ceiling and the upcoming debate about raising it:

1. Failure to pass means defaulting on our debts. If there has been consistent message from the White House, it that the United States can't afford to "default on our debts." That is

almost certainly true. However, refusing to raise the debt limit does not mean defaulting on our debts. The U.S. Treasury currently takes in more than enough revenue to pay both the interest and the principal on the debts we currently owe. And if the Obama administration is truly worried about whether it will do so, then it should urge

Congress to pass the legislation proposed by Sen. Pat Toomey (R., Pa.) requiring the Treasury Department to pay those bills first. It is true that, once we had paid our debt-service bills, there wouldn't be enough money left over to pay for everything else the Obama administration wants to spend money on. The government would have to prioritize its expenditures - sending out checks for the troops' pay and Social Security first. Other spending would have to wait. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner says that not spending

money Congress has appropriated is "the same as default." It is not. It is economizing, which is what you do when you are out of money.

There is nothing wrong with forcing government not to spend money that it had planned on spending.

2. Failure to pass the debt-ceiling increase on time would be unprecedented. Both the administration and the media sound as if we are at the edge of zero hour, the time at which economic Armageddon will erupt if we have not raised the debt ceiling. That's not quite so. It is true that Congress has never refused to raise the debt ceiling. But it has, in fact, frequently taken its time doing so. In 1985, Congress waited nearly three months after the debt limit was reached before it authorized a permanent increase. In 1995, four and a half months passed between the time the government hit its

statutory limit and the time Congress acted. And in 2002, Congress delayed raising the debt ceiling for three months. In none of those cases did the world end. It won't this time, either.

3. It's always a "clean bill." The administration is also insisting that it would be shocking for Congress to add any conditions to the debt-ceiling increase. But such conditions are far from unprecedented. There have been numerous amendments and conditions attached to debt-ceiling bills throughout the years. Remember Gramm-Rudman-Hollings? The classic spending-control plan was added to the debt-ceiling vote in 1985.

4. This is not about future spending. The administration insists that raising the debt ceiling is just about paying for spending that's already occurred. Not quite. Depending on how high it is raised, it may

be about paying only for spending that is already authorized - or much more. Authorized and spent are not the same thing. There is nothing wrong with forcing government not to spend money that it had planned on spending. Moreover, Tim Geithner is reportedly calling for an increase in the debt ceiling big enough to last through the 2012 election, which would enable a lot of new spending.

5. Only Republicans oppose raising the debt ceiling. The media and the administration want to turn this into a partisan fight. The ongoing narrative is that radical Republicans in thrall to the Tea Party want to wreck our finances, while Democrats responsibly want to pay our bills. In truth, a number of prominent Democrats are on record opposing a debt-limit increase without substantial reductions in spending. They include Sen. Kent Conrad (D.,

N.D.), Mark Pryor (D., Ark.), and Joe Manchin (D., W. Va.). Even Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D., Minn.) normally a reliable liberal vote, has been expressing ambivalence. And the most prominent spending limit liable to be offered as a condition for raising the limit, the CAP Amendment proposed by Sen. Bob Corker (R. Tenn.) is cosponsored by Sen. Claire McCaskill (D., Mo.). The real story is that a small group of extreme liberals wants to keep spending more in the face of bipartisan opposition.

So far, Republicans have not been very good about presenting their message. If they want to win this fight, they are going to have to do a lot more to correct the record.

Michael D. Tanner is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and author of Leviathan on the Right: How Big-Government Conservatism Brought Down the Republican Revolution.



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Obituaries

Mary E. Schindler

Mary E. Schindler, age 82, of Manhattan, Kansas, died Thursday, June 9, 2011, at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan. She was born on June 30, 1928, at her grandmother's home in Ionia, Kansas. She was the daughter of Homer Hamilton and Alma Evelyn (Dietz) Roach of Jewell, Kansas. Mary earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and a mas-

ter's degree in curriculum and education from Kansas State University. She was an avid K-State fan, longtime member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority and was a generous donor to the Kansas State University Foundation. On January 26, 1958, she was united in marriage to Dale E. Schindler in the All Faiths Chapel at Kansas State University. He preceded her in death in 1994. She was also preceded in death by her parents. Mary taught at Amanda Arnold and Marlatt elementary schools in

Manhattan for 13 years. Following her retirement in 1993 she decided to follow her dream and joined the Peace Corps. Mary saw this as a wonderful way to see the world and do volunteer work at the same time. She spent her 64th and 65th birthdays in Poland serving as a Peace Corp volunteer, teaching high school students English. In addition to her teaching Mary was an avid reader. She also enjoyed knitting and gardening and especially enjoyed growing roses. She was a member of the Review Club and the Amanda Arnold

Retired Teachers group. Mary is survived by one son: Matthew H. Schindler (Susan), Manhattan, KS; three daughters: Jill Summers (Mike), Olathe, KS; Marta Kramer (Raymond), Grosse Ile, MI; and Libby St. Clair Schindler, Washington, DC. Also surviving is her sister: Ann Davis, Littleton, CO; seven grandchildren: Raymond Kramer, III, Claire Kempf, Ben Summers, Nick Summers, Nicole Rush, Michael Schindler, Amelia Schindler, three great granddaughters: Camryn and Hadley Summers, Madison Kramer

and one great grandson expected in October. Memorial services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 9, 2011, at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel. Inurnment will be at a later date in the Wallace Cemetery in Jewell, Kansas. On-line condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website located at www.yml-funeralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the American Cancer Society, the Good Shepherd Hospice House, Manhattan or the KSU Foundation for the Mary E. Schindler Education Fund. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen

Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.



Emily "Cathy" Mowry



Emily Catherine "Cathy" Mowry, of Manhattan, Kansas went home to be with her Lord Jesus, June 29, 2011 surrounded by her family.

Born on February 6, 1930, at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington D.C. she was the daughter of Col. William B. and Mary Catherine Phillips Stewart. A military family, they were moved and lived in many posts in the continental U.S. and Hawaii. This led to lifelong curiosity and joy at the world's diversity. Cathy attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence and majored in journalism, a perfect match for her

attention to detail and curiosity. She became the first feminine editor of the University Daily Kansan. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi. At the University of Kansas, she met Gerald L. Mowry the love of her life. One year later they were united in marriage at the First Methodist Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas on December 27, 1951. They followed his medical practices in Platte City, Mo, Hanover Ks, and Kansas City while going through OB-Gyn Residency. They then moved to Manhattan in 1963 where her husband practiced Obstetrics. By her husband's side, Cathy became the warmth and support he looked to all their life together.

Cathy was an active life-long member of the Republican Party. She was a chairman of the Riley County Republicans and also served as District Vice-Chair. She was instrumental in helping in Bob Dole's campaign and election to both Congress and the U.S. Senate.

Cathy enjoyed writing both professionally and for the creative delight found in using words correctly. She authored two books, Elephant Hunting in Kansas and For Our Children. Not only did she love writing, rarely was she seen without a book in hand. She leaves a legacy of bibliophilia in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

A master gardener, she was often found in her beautiful yard, a sun-

hat on her head and pruning shears in her hand. Her appreciation for color inspired the seasonal enchantment always found in her gardens.

At the age of 5, she began playing the violin and with devotion and enthusiasm became an accomplished violinist. She enjoyed playing with the university orchestra at Kansas State. She continued to play as long as she was physically able. Nothing pleased her more than impromptu family concerts where she was often joined by her daughters, son and even sometimes her husband on the flute.

She loved Jesus and as a member of Westview Community Church was a living example of kindness, love, self-sacrifice and daily joy. She lived her faith. She and her husband were instrumental in the formation of Life Choice Ministries. Cathy also volunteered her creative talents to the Kansas Children's Service League by making dried floral arrangements sold at fundraisers. She is remembered for her generosity and for the gentle way she brought beauty and life to any place she was.

Her husband, Dr Gerald L. Mowry, survives her. Also surviving are their four children: Mary Catherine Toburen (Randy), Topeka, KS; Gerald Stewart Mowry, St. Mary's, KS; Emily Elizabeth van der Hoeven (Guido), Raleigh, NC; and Ellen Virginia Imhof (Michael), Avon, CO. Fifteen grandchildren: Stephen

Paul Toburen, Andrew Josiah Toburen (Arielle), Gideon David Toburen, Miranda Elise Toburen, Emily Catherine Bombac (Lawrence), Andrew James Mowry, Geoffrey Lee Mowry, Abigail Joy Mowry, Anna Miriah Essman (Russell), Christopher Ainslie van der Hoeven (Amy), Derek Jan van der Hoeven, Amanda Catherine van der Hoeven, Michael Gabriel Imhof, and Miles Gregory Imhof. Cathy is also survived by two great grandchildren: Everett Maxwell Essman and Beatrice Emily Essman, and two brothers: William B. Stewart, II (Rosalie), Port Hueneme, CA, and Roger H.P. Stewart (Grace) Topeka, KS.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by one sister: Mary Ellen "Winkie" Youmans as well as a niece Bonnie Ellen Stewart and nephew John Stewart Youmans.

Memorial services were held 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 3, 2011, at the Westview Community Church, 3001 Ft. Riley Blvd, Manhattan with Pastors Rick Haworth and Ben Duerfeldt officiating.

On-line condolences may be left for the family by clicking on "Send Condolences" on this page.

A memorial has been established for Life Choice Ministries. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502

Marie Surratt Nelson

Marie Surratt Nelson, died on July 2, 2011, in Manhattan, Kansas. She was 84.

She was born in Draper, North Carolina on August 17, 1926 to Janie Watson Surratt and Joe Surratt. The family subsequently moved to Fries, Virginia, where she graduated from Fries High School

in 1944. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1948 and a Master of Science degree in 1975 from Radford University.

In 1951, she joined the Women's Army Corp, proudly serving for 4 1/2 years, before being honorably discharged as a 1st lieutenant.

Marie taught in the states of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, and completed her career in education as Director of Pupil Personnel Services for the

Carroll Country School District in Hillsville, Virginia.

She devoted her life to God, family and education, and was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Wamego, Kansas, and previously, the Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Galax, Virginia.

Survivors include a son, Bill McFarlin, of Manhattan, Kansas and Twin Lake, Michigan; grandchildren Rebecca and Jennifer

McFarlin, of Wamego, Kansas; and brother Ralph Surratt, of Charlotte, North Carolina.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the First United Methodist Church in Wamego, Kansas or Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Galax, Virginia, in care of Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, 1317 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Janet Lee Castillo

Janet Lee Castillo, 51, Manhattan, passed away on Saturday, July 2nd, at Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan. Janet was born in Manhattan, on February 3, 1960, a daughter of the late Elrena (Chamblee) Peoples and Billy Joe Peoples.

She attended the Manhattan schools and graduated from Manhattan High School in 1978; graduated from the Manhattan Area Technical School, where she received her Certified Nures Aide

and also attended Kansas State University. Janet also was a teachers assistant for USD 383, worked at the Regency Daycare, was the activity director at the Douglas Center where she enjoyed mentoring the neighbor children. She was also a member of the Mt Zion Church of God, and a member of the Sisters of Soul.

On Nov. 15, 1995 in Beatrice, Nebraska she married Ignacio "Venny" Castillo and he survives. Also surviving are 2 sons, Demontheous L. Thompson, of Wichita and Angelo M. McDaniels, of Fairfield, Calif., three sisters, Christine, wife of Kenneth Cade, of Junction City; Evlyn Curis, of

Manhattan; Michelle Smith, of Junction City; sister in laws, Malia Vaita & Lynn Castillo; borther in law, Theodore "Teddy" Wooten; and many nieces and nephews. Janet is preceded in death by her parents and a sister Lora J. Wooten.

A memorial service will be at the Mt. Zion Church of God, 916 Yuma St. in Manhattan on Saturday, July 9th, at 1:00pm. Inurnment will follow at a later date. At the family's request there will be no visitation.

The family request donations to Janet Lee Castillo memorial fund and may be sent in care of the Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home. Visit www.irvinparkview.com to

send an email condolence or for more information.



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Editorial

Political Bumper Stickers: Be Kind To Your Vehicle's Backside



Paul A. Ibbetson

Bumper stickers—we see them every day in almost every form. Sit for a few minutes at a stoplight and you literally see almost every form of human expression slapped across the chrome, and more often plastic bumpers of the vehicles of this nation. The political season is without a doubt a bumper sticker bonanza for the dealers of these sticky examples of free speech. There is almost an endless variety of quips, jabs and simply political low blows that can be affixed conveniently to the backside of your conveyance for other drivers to view in the wake of daily travels. With such awesome sticker possibilities, the question is whether or not we should reflect on the responsibility that comes with politicizing our street-bound chariots.

Like the division between the tattooed and the non-tattooed, car owners have customarily broken up into separate camps of those that believe that their

car's body should remain wholly "clean" and those that have the inclination towards "illustration." Common aversions to bumper stickers range from concerns over loss of paint during removal to the notion that stickers simply take away from the vehicle's original beauty. Despite these arguments, many of the most loyal non-bumper-sticker advocates will break their own non-bumper-sticker pledges during this political season and add support for their personal candidate by way of the rump of their righteous ride.

I would speak to all those across this spectrum with a few political protocol suggestions for the 2012 presidential race in the name of bumper sticker sanity.

First, remove all past Election Day stickers. Nothing says "denial" more than an old, crinkled, half-biodegraded "John Kerry 2004" bumper sticker. We have all seen the equivalent before, even on the most beautiful of vehicles, and we have all done the same thing: grunt with displeasure, shake our heads in sadness and die a little inside. Remember, you may be in a wreck while on the road, and removing an ancient, long-dead political sticker might help you avoid unnecessary dementia testing while at the hospital. The potential upsides are just too many to ignore.

Second, one political sticker on your car states your case; twenty stickers says you're imbalanced. Also, the nature of

your sticker says more about you, the vehicle owner, than your political affiliation. As a former police officer who made hundreds of car stops, I've seen that bumper stickers often say a lot about the character of the individual behind the wheel. Just like bumper stickers that say, "I love weed," and "Got Magic Mushrooms?" might not enhance the quality of an interaction with the police, overly vulgar, aggressive and stupid political stickers say something about you. Remember, your mom might have to borrow that car.

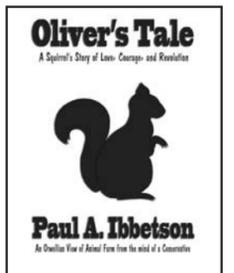
Lastly, political bumper stickers have a lifespan that ends on election night: win, lose or draw. This can be hard to swallow for those that have a bumper sticker of a winning candidate now being displayed in all its post-election glory. Trust me, that sticker and your candidate will never look better than it did in that single moment in time. Take a picture, and start

applying soap and water. The validity of this thinking is seen every day in the tattered Obama '08 stickers still adorned among the declining faithful of the liberal political motorcade. It's sad to see and makes many wonder, which has fallen apart worse, the Obama bumper stickers or the Obama presidency?

If a person's home is their castle then their vehicle is not far removed. Show it some respect this political season. Just as importantly, show some respect to all of humanity in your review mirror, be responsible for yourself and be kind to your vehicle's backside.

Paul A. Ibbetson is a former Chief of Police of Cherryvale, Kansas, and member of the Montgomery County Drug Task Force. Paul received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminal Justice at Wichita State University, and is currently completing his Ph.D. in Sociology at Kansas State University. Paul is the author of

several books including the 2010 release "Oliver's Tale: A Squirrel's Story of Love, Courage, and Revolution." Paul is also the radio host of the Kansas Broadcasting Association's 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 award-winning radio program, *Conscience of Kansas* airing on KSDB Manhattan 91.9 FM, www.ibbetsonusa.com. For interviews or questions, please contact him at ibbetson91.9@gmail.com



Paul Ibbetson's new book is "Available at Amazon and the Manhattan Hastings Store."

Editorial

Letters to Tom

The Tea Party v. the FEE Party

This year Independence Day was particularly meaningful. Thankfully the Fourth of July fell on Monday so we didn't have to go through the charade of celebrating our Declaration of Independence on the Third or Fifth of July. On Saturday I had the opportunity attend the Riley County Townhall Meeting hosted by Senator Jerry Moran at the Historic Union Pacific Depot in Manhattan, Kansas. I think that the signers of the Declaration would have been pleased to see a Senator make himself available to hear those who elected him. If King George III had adopted a similar policy, history might have taken a different turn.

Senator Moran gave an outstanding presentation. He spent fifteen minutes briefing us on the ongoing debt ceiling crisis before Congress, explaining his positions on the issues and his vision for our state and nation. He devoted the rest of



Mike Kryschal

the meeting to answering questions from the audience. The 'news' that emerged from the meeting was that Senator Moran will not support increasing our country's debt limit without serious cuts in spending. I agree and would add that the way our media is framing this issue is another example of the alternate reality of the left. If you or I were unable to pay our debts because we had embraced an extravagant lifestyle and mismanaged our finances, the logical response would be to reduce our spending and cut up our credit cards.

The response of the left is to double-down on spending and threaten to punish citizens on social security and our military if we don't extend their credit. There are an abundance of federal programs that can be eliminated without impacting our seniors and soldiers - let's hope our representatives have the courage to cut them. Senator Moran told us that it would be good if we elected candidates who, once elected, were willing to say "no" to special interests that exist to enrich themselves on revenue provided by tax-paying Americans. He is right and he deserves our support for saying so.

During the question session it dawned on me that the Tea Party has competition in the struggle for America's future. As you know, the Tea Party is a movement of Americans who support core values outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. It is a movement that exists, for the most part, on a local level. It is

made up of people who want our government to return to the first principles contained in our founding documents and believe that we are Taxed Enough Already (TEA). What then is the FEE Party and what are the first principles of its members? The FEE Party is the Free Entitlements for Everyone Party. Like the Tea Party, the FEE Party is a movement. Its adherents include Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and the Indifferent who want their share of the take. Its first principles are that government exists to solve every problem an individual may encounter and that everyone's property is fair game to accomplish this objective. The 'Free' in Free Entitlements for Everyone does not mean that they don't have to be paid for - the 'rich' have to pay - it means that they don't have to be earned. About half of the questions and comments made to Senator Moran consisted of demands (not requests) for government wel-

fare and the need to compel the 'rich' to pony up the money to finance the welfare state. This is supremely ironic. On July 2, 1776, representatives of the thirteen colonies voted to declare independence from Great Britain because King George III had, among other grievances, imposed taxes without the consent of the colonies. They also voted to affirm the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. On July 2, 2011, proud members of the FEE Party demanded that the property of their fellow citizens be confiscated by the government in order to satisfy their needs. Benjamin Franklin wrote: "The U. S. Constitution doesn't guarantee happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have to catch up with it yourself." This distinction seems to be lost on the FEE Party. I meant it when I wrote that the kind of country we live in will be determined by the struggle between those who believe in limited government, individual freedom, and

personal responsibility and those who want unlimited government with the power to provide a safety net at the expense of liberty. The choice is ours - Tea Party or Fee Party.

Mike Kryschal, Colonel (Retired), United States Army, has a Bachelor's Degree from John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio and a Master's Degree in International Relations from Boston University. He served in the United States Army from 1972 to 1999. He was a platoon leader in the 25th Infantry Division, company commander in the 82d Airborne Division, battalion commander in the 1st Infantry Division, and brigade commander in the 2nd Infantry Division. He served in the 1st Infantry Division in Desert Storm. Since retirement, Mike has been an adjunct professor of history, political science, and leadership.

BOB Vets Return to Battlefield Sites

Several WW II area veterans of the Battle of the Bulge have just returned from Luxembourg/Belgium where they were guests of "Friends of the US Veterans/Luxembourg". The veterans of WW II were invited back by the two countries to thank them for freeing their countries of 4 1/2 years of Nazi occupation.

Two area veterans who returned to the battle fields of WW II were Jim Sharp of Manhattan and Carl Shell of Junction City. Sharp and Shell are both members of the NE Kansas Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Jim Sharp of Manhattan was one of the

founders of the chapter, and the first President, and Carl Shell of Junction City is the Vice President. In addition to Sharp and Shell, eight other family members and friends of the NE Kansas Chapter of the BOB made the trip. In total there were 14 BOB veterans and 36 family and friends making the journey.

The "Friends of US Veterans/Luxembourg" met the vets and friends at the airport, railroad stations and via car as they arrived to a Welcome Reception at the headquarters hotel (Euro Hotel) in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. Once the

American Vets arrived the Friends of the Veterans/Luxembourg picked out the expenses for the next six days. The Friends of the Veterans/Luxembourg had pre-arranged each day for a tour bus to take tours of the battlefields, villages, cemeteries and museums in the area of the Battle of the Bulge. At each village the Burgenmeister (Mayor) welcomed the vets and friends to their village and provided a reception, luncheon or dinner as thanks for freeing them of Hitler and his army. More than a dozen villages were visited.

At each location visited the

veterans who fought in the battles, explained the battle field action that took place in the villages, crossroads, forest and fields. At several locations some civilians who resided in the village at the time of the battle explained their encounters with the invading armies and the struggle under Nazi occupation.

There were many memorials, museums and markers in the villages and the countryside in the area of the Battle of the Bulge—all established by local villagers' in honor of the American soldiers who liberated them. As each memorial, cemetery, or marker was visited

local villagers' provided a large bouquet of flowers for those soldiers who had fallen in battle. They had also placed an American Flag and Belgian or Luxembourg flag at each marker as the national anthem was played and sang by the attendees. Each remembrance ceremony was closed with a prayer and taps being played by the local villagers.

Area veterans expressed amazement at the attention given them more than 65 years after liberation of these countries. Even the American Embassy got in on the action when Sharp was invited to speak at the Embassy in Luxembourg City, to a group of

International students representing more than a dozen countries including, Russia, Denmark, Poland, Turkey, China, Holland, and others.

In addition, the vets their family and friends were provided with reserved seats at the biggest annual celebration that takes place in Luxembourg—The Grand Duchy's Birthday Party, a National Holiday, at the Luxembourg Cathedral, where formal dress was required.

Other NE KS VBOB vets and family/friends may wish to attend this commemoration next year and if so, they may obtain further information by contacting Jim Sharp 785-539-8582 or Carl Shell 785-209-1080.

Two Different Plans Will Set KPERS' Future

By Gene Meyer
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Two sharply different views of the future Kansas Public Employees Retirement System will be represented on a new commission being formed to shape the state pension fund's future.

Kansas Senate President Steve Morris, a Hugoton Republican, on Tuesday named state Sen. Jeff King, an Independence Republican, and longtime Sedgwick County Manager William Buchanan of Wichita to a new study commission being formed this summer to recommend ways to plug multibillion dollar gaps in KPERS' long term funding

King earlier this year led Senate negotiators in what sometimes were contentious negotiations over whether to continue offering traditional guaranteed defined benefit pensions to teachers, state and local government employees and others covered by KPERS or to convert the system to what

is known as a defined contribution savings plan similar to 401(k) plans businesses offer their employees.

King's counterpart in those negotiations, state Rep. Mitch Holmes, a St. John Republican who strongly advocated switching the plans, last week was appointed to the same study commission by House Speaker Mike O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican, along with state Rep. Steven Johnson of Assaria. Johnson also served on the House Pension and Benefits Committee.

Neither side won that particular argument in the last session. Legislators instead passed compromise legislation that requires the new study commission to consider both plans and any others they think appropriate and bring some specific recommendations to the 2012 legislature in January.

The four newest committee members will join five appointed earlier this month by Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback and two named by Senate Minority

Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat.

Brownback named three financial services professionals from the Kansas City and Wichita area, a Kansas City attorney who represents employers in labor disputes and a southwest Kansas agribusiness executive who serves on the Dodge City school board. Hensley appointed state Sen. Laura Kelly, who also is a Topeka Democrat, and Rebecca Proctor, a Shawnee attorney who represents unions.

Two more commission members, chosen by state House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat, remain to be named.

The funding gap for which the commission will be seeking a solution is an officially projected \$7.7 billion gap between the benefits KPERS, the largest pension fund in Kansas, has promised to pay its approximately quarter million members during the next few decades and the money it is projected to have by then to

make those payments. Some independent analysts estimate the gap may be as much as nearly three times larger, based on a combination of lower returns on investments than KPERS assumes and longer recovery times required to recoup market setbacks.

The compromise legislation passed last session calls for lawmakers in 2012 to vote on the commission's recommended solutions.

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"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."
- Thomas Jefferson, 1787



Riley County Minutes

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas June 23, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building June 23, 2011 with the following members present: Karen McCulloh, Chair; Alvan Johnson, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Anne Smith, aTa Bus Director, attended.

Shepek said Lori Feldkamp reported 19 Big Lakes clients use the aTa Bus Service.

Shepek said REACH is doing a cookbook as a fundraiser and asked the Board to submit recipes.

Vargo said Ron Fehr sent an e-mail that reported the following:

"At the City Commission Briefing Session last night I received direction to put the following item on the City Commission Meeting for action: "Resolution No. 062811-A-Intent to Withdraw from Joint Health Board Agreement". The Commission is having a special City Commission meeting next Tuesday June 28 at 5:00 PM prior to its work session to discuss this issue and take possible action. If passed, it would mean the City would not be obligated to budget for the Health Department for 2012. It is the intent, that the City would then approve a charter ordinance that would allow any contributed City funds to the health department through December 31, 2011 including reserve funds to stay with the Board of County Commissioners.

We received your letter regarding annexation of Marlatt Ave. and will be scheduling it for an upcoming meeting.

Also last night the City Commission appointed Commissioner Jankovich to serve as Co-Chair of the Wildcat Creek Watershed Working Group. Let us know when your appointment has been made so the Co-Chairs can meet and start to facilitate activities."

Lewis moved to appoint Alvan Johnson as the Co-Chair of the Wildcat Creek Watershed Working Group. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

Vargo asked the Board if it would be okay for him to meet with Holeman on the legal issues with the Health Department becoming a Riley County department.

Vargo stated he would also like to begin researching how other counties operate health departments.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed.

Johnson moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Garick, LLC for the demonstration of the tree debris disposal at the

Riley County Transfer Station at no cost to Riley County. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2011 as amended. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Eileen King, Treasurer; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Anne Smith, aTa Bus Director; Jennifer Wilson, County Extension Director; Robert Nall, Information Technology Director; Greg McHenry, Appraiser; and Bob Isaac, Planner, attended.

Shepek presented a detailed description of the 2012 budget development worksheet with requested budget and appropriation totals.

9:50 Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor Administrative Work Session

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; and Bob Isaac, Planner, attended.

Cox discussed the RIM bankruptcy settlement.

Cox said he hopes to get Riley County's transfer of funds in July.

Cox discussed the 2005-2006 tax foreclosure sale process.

Cox said he is working on three road vacations.

Cox said code enforcement matters have increased during the summer.

Cox stated the extern in the office is working on the animal control resolution.

Cox said he is close to having the Deutsche Bank petition complete.

10:20 Bob Isaac, Planner Public hearing for a plat and rezone for Richard Britt, Jr.

Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; and Richard Britt, Jr., attended.

McCulloh opened the public hearing.

Isaac presented the request to plat and rezone a tract of land for Richard Britt, Jr.

McCulloh said her concern is the temporary migrant worker housing.

Isaac said Riley County and the State of Kansas inspect the migrant worker housing.

Britt said they have been inspected by the State six of the last six years and have passed.

Isaac reported SMH Consultants provided an analysis which states a left turn lane is not warranted at this time.

Hobson said SMH's study evaluated traffic at peak hours. Hobson stated SMH's analysis utilized the projected traffic counts on Scenic Drive for the year 2030. Even with the increased traffic, the model indicated the level of service provided was not reduced below an acceptable level. Only when the traffic on Scenic Drive was increased an additional 50% did the level of service become unacceptable.

Isaac said the Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board held a public hearing on June 6, 2011, and forwarded a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the request to rezone a tract of land from "U" (University Development) to "C-PUD" (Commercial Planned Unit Development). Staff also recommends approval of the request.

McCulloh closed the Public Hearing.

Johnson moved to approve "Resolution No. 062311-17, Resolution amending the zoning map of Riley County concerning the use of certain real estate located in Ogden Township". Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:50 Cindy Volanti, Human Resource Manager

Debbie Register, Register of Deeds; Kathy Carpenter, Legal Assistant; Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Robert Nall, Information Technology Director; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Julie Merklin, League of Women Voters; Eileen King, Treasurer; Brad Dornes, Manhattan Mercury; Craig Cox, Assistant County Counselor; and Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director, attended.

Volanti presented the cost of step/COLA for 2012 budget and CPI-U May index.

Volanti presented an update on the KPERS legislation. Volanti stated the 85 point requirement for KPERS benefit will remain the same.

Volanti reported there is the potential in 2012 Riley County employees eligible for retirement benefit payouts is \$130,000.00.

Volanti presented the Flex time/Compensatory time policy amendments.

Department heads discussed the pros and cons of compensatory time.

Lewis asked if Volanti knows how much overtime each department would need.

Volanti said yes, she has done a 5-year average of overtime/comp time for all departments.

Volanti stated other counties do base the overtime budget based on the usage of each department.

Volanti said the department heads have discussed the comp time policy and by majority vote, 8-2, and one abstaining, they wish to abolish compensatory (comp) time. Main objectives of this decision; maintain a more productive work force, efficiency of county dollars, and eliminate staffing problems.

Johnson moved to approve the abolishment of Compensatory Time, Article F Attendance and Leave, F-6 Compensatory Time effective for payroll year 2012, beginning on December 24, 2011. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Johnson moved to approve the Riley County Personnel Policies and Procedures, Article F Attendance and Leave, F-16 Flex Time, to be effective with payroll beginning December 24, 2011. Which reads as follows:

F-16 Flex Time

With prior Department Head, or designee, approval, flex time may be used if a non-exempt employee has a short absence, did not use paid leave, and the absence can be made up by working a "flexed" schedule. This may include having an employee adjust his or her arrival and departure times within specified ranges in order for the employee to reach or maintain the required 40 hours for the workweek. A Department Head, or designee, shall require that flex time be utilized if a non-exempt employee has completed his or her 40 hours and is not authorized to work overtime hours. Flex time must all occur within the same workweek - it cannot be carried over to the following week. An example of an appropriate use of flex time could include a non-exempt employee working part of a lunch hour when severe weather conditions caused the employee to be late in arriving to work. Unused rest breaks cannot be considered flextime.

If a non-exempt employee has department head approval to flex time by working on a

scheduled holiday rather than another work day within the same week as the holiday, the employee will receive straight pay for the hours worked in addition to regular holiday pay. This does not apply to those non-exempt employees who are required to work on scheduled holidays.

If a non-exempt employee has previously requested annual leave or extended sick leave during a week in which overtime hours are worked, overtime will be allowed with department head, or designee, approval. Approval of overtime must be indicated on the request of time off form. If request of time off is not marked, flex time will be processed.

Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:20 Lewis moved that the County Commission recess into executive session pursuant to the non-elected personnel matters exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act in order to discuss a performance matter involving a county employee and to protect the privacy of the employee, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 11:35 a.m. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:40 Lewis moved to go out of executive session. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

11:41 Lewis moved to adjourn. McCulloh seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas June 27, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building June 27, 2011 with the following members present: Karen McCulloh, Chair; Alvan Johnson, Vice Chair; Dave Lewis, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; and Paul Foltz, attended.

Hobson discussed the water pressure spike at the LEC. Hobson said the pressure did increase, but not to the level of the pressure relief valve so there was no reason for concern.

Shepek reported Big Lakes Developmental Center State SRS funding will be reduced by \$627,931 effective July 1, 2011.

Foltz asked about the status of the Riley County boundary location.

Holeman said he has not presented a report on the matter to the Board.

Johnson moved to approve a Contract Agreement with Reece Construction Co., Inc. for the North Otter Branch Road culvert replacement in the amount of \$63,473. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners asked Holeman to attend the next City Commission meeting to relay the Board's serious concerns of the City withdrawing from the interlocal agreement of the joint health department.

Johnson moved to approve the minutes of June 23, 2011 as

amended. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director and Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; and Paul Harris, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

Meredith presented the revised 2012 Public Works budget request.

9:15 Ralph De Zago

Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; and Paul Harris, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

De Zago said he would like to continue using the Courthouse Plaza space to sell hot dogs.

De Zago stated the new City ordinance begins today. DeZago said the new Manhattan City fee is \$300, which cannot be pro-rated.

Holeman said Riley County does not have a legal obligation under the Manhattan City ordinance since the Manhattan City's position is the ordinance does not apply on Riley County property.

Lewis moved to approve that Ralph DeZago use the Courthouse Plaza to sell hot dogs through September 30, 2011 subject to cancellation by the Board. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:30 Press Conference

Melissa Kirkwood, Development Officer; Barbara Poresky, Curator Designer; Linda Glasgow, Curator Archivist and Librarian; Tim Hegarty, Riley County Police Department; Doug Messer, Assistant Fire Chief; Cheryl Collins, Museum Director; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Ginny Barnard, County Extension Agent; Larry Couchman, EMS Director; Paul Harris, Manhattan Mercury; and Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, attended.

Messer said while fireworks are used as part of the holiday celebration, it is important to remember that fireworks can be

dangerous if not handled properly. Unfortunately, statistics indicate over half of all fireworks injuries in Kansas occur to children under the age of 18 with burns being the primary type of injury. To help the public celebrate safely, the following are tips for safe use of fireworks:

Always purchase high quality fireworks from reliable and legitimate sources

Always read and follow label directions

Have an adult supervise all fireworks activities

Always ignite fireworks outdoors

Have water nearby

Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks

Light only one firework at a time

Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks

Never give fireworks to small children

Store fireworks in a cool, dry place

Dispose of fireworks properly

Never throw fireworks at another person

Never carry fireworks in your pocket

Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers

Messer said bottle rockets and M80s are dangerous and illegal in the state of Kansas. The use or sale of these banned fireworks is considered a crime under Kansas law.

Messer said as always Riley County encourages everyone to attend public fireworks displays instead of using consumer fireworks. Professional and licensed shooters conduct these displays and they are both safer and more economical to attend. Fire protection and spectator safety are some of the requirements of these displays.

Hegarty reported calls for service were up this weekend of Country Stampede. Hegarty said DUI's were down.

Hegarty said crime is down from this time last year.

Kirkwood said 2011 is the State of Kansas Sesquicentennial. It is also the final year of construction of the Flint Hills Discovery Center in downtown Manhattan.

See Riley County Page 5A

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Riley County

The Discovery Center is an interactive science and history learning center intended to educate and inspire visitors of all ages of the importance of our rare and fragile Tallgrass prairie eco-system. This year of celebration and reflection provides us with a unique opportunity for the Flint Hills region to capture our way of life for future generations.

Kirkwood said to mark the 150th anniversary of the state and to commemorate the founding of the Flint Hills Discovery Center, we are launching a region-wide, 50-year time capsule project. Every Flint Hills county is invited to become a part of our institution by collecting aspects and expressions of your life in your communities. Each county will be given an archival box and materials to safely store the items collected. The boxes will be placed inside a space in the building, and then physically sealed shut with a plaque acknowledging the participants.

Kirkwood said the collecting of objects is just part of this project. Keep in mind that for the 2061 Kansas Bicentennial, the capsule contents will be

opened and interpreted as a special exhibit at the Discovery Center. It is the hope and goal of this project that will give future audiences an insight into the opportunities, challenges, inspirations, and adversities that mark our region now. She asked for help to celebrate what makes the Flint Hills such a special place to live, work, and play.

C. Collins said at the Kansas Preservation Alliance Annual Meeting June 3, 2011 in Topeka, Kansas, three Riley County Historical Museum staff members were elected to the Kansas Preservation Alliance Board of Directors. Riley County Historical Museum Curator of Design, Barbara Poresky, was elected Treasurer; Museum Assistant Rhea Howard, was elected Director, and Curator of Archives/Library Linda Glasgow was elected President. The Kansas Preservation Alliance was founded in 1979 and works to support the preservation of Kansas' heritage through preservation of historic structures and places.

Glasgow discussed her experience in serving as the President of the Kansas

Preservation Alliance.

Poresky discussed her experience in serving as the Treasurer of the Kansas Preservation Alliance.

Meredith reported an asphalt seal is scheduled to be applied Monday-Friday, June 27- July 1, 2011 beginning on Riley County 376, Fancy Creek Road/Winkler Mills Road, and Riley County 875N Winkler Road.

Meredith said traffic will be allowed through this project, but drivers should expect delays of up to 15 minutes. Be advised that fresh asphalt oil will be applied and take alternate routes when possible.

Barnard stated Extension provides free pressure testing of canners. Barnard said Extension will provide cooking classes for 3rd - 5th grade kids at the Farmers Market July 2, 2011 and July 23, 2011.

Barnard said Food Preservation classes will be held July 6, 2011, August 10, 2011, and September 7, 2011 at the HyVee Club Room.

Couchman reported the 16th Annual Country Stampede was one of the best due to the weather, entertainment, crowd attitude, and decrease in med-

ical service calls.

Shepek said the 2012 budget work sessions have begun. Shepek said the goal is to have the budget completed by July 14, 2011.

10:10 Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services
Administrative Work Session

Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters, attended.

10:15 Johnson moved that the County Commission recess into executive session on pending litigation for the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the County Commission which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:25 a.m. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:25 Johnson moved to go out of executive session. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

10:25 Johnson moved that the County Commission recess into executive session on potential litigation for the purpose of consultation with an

attorney for the County Commission which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, an exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, the open meeting to resume in the County Commission Chambers at 10:35 a.m. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

10:32 Lewis moved to go out of executive session. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

No binding action was taken during the executive session.

10:35 Chuck Murphy and Susanne Kufahl, Riley County-Manhattan Health Department

Bill Felber, Manhattan Mercury; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer; and Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services, attended.

Murphy presented the 2012 Health Department budget request.

The Board discussed potential changes in the organization of the Health Department.

11:00 Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer

Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; Cindy Volanti,

Human Resource Manager; Eileen King, Treasurer; Monty Wedel, Planning/Special Projects Director; Leon Hobson, Public Works Director/County Engineer; Rod Meredith, Assistant Public Works Director/Parks Director; Brad Schoen, Riley County Police Department Director; and Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services, attended.

Shepek presented the 2012 CIP budget request.

Shepek presented the 2012 Economic Development budget request.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to finance Riley County's share of the Konza Water project in the 2012 budget.

Holeman presented some draft comments on the City's proposal to withdraw from the interlocal agreement for the Riley County-Manhattan Health Department.

11:36 Johnson moved to adjourn. Lewis seconded. Carried 3-0.

Mars Chocolate Announces \$250 mln Topeka Expansion

By Gene Meyer
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Global confection giant Mars Inc. said Wednesday its Mars Chocolate North America division will build a \$250 million chocolate production plant in Topeka.

State and local government officials hailed the decision to build the plant, the first new one of its kind in the U.S. in 35 years, as a boon to Topeka's and Kansas' economy and to the jobs market in the capitol city, where unemployment rates are running 6.6 percent, slightly higher than Kansas average.

Officials projected that about 200 workers will be hired to make M&M candies and Snickers candy bars in 2013 during the first phase of the project's development and that total employment will rise to 425 as production hits full stride.

While those are welcome in a metropolitan Topeka market that currently supports 6,900 manufacturing jobs, state Labor Department statistics show adding 200 jobs would raise total manufacturing employment in the capitol city only to May, 2010 levels. In comparison, about 200 people currently

work for the Topeka Shawnee County library system; about 400 work at the larger of two Walmart Supercenters in the city, according to the economic development organization GO Topeka.

State and local officials are offering the company a \$9.1 million incentive package that includes \$1.5 million free land on 150 acres of a southern Topeka industrial park, \$2.5 million to cover training and startup costs for plant workers, and another \$1.7 million in workforce development funds.

However, the package still must be approved by Topeka

and Shawnee County executives serving on the Joint Economic Development Organization, or JEDO, which the two governments formed to manage proceeds from a \$14 million annual sales tax passed in 2004.

Counting construction needed to open the plant and support jobs that will be created after its opening, the opening could as many as 974 jobs with payrolls topping \$584 million for Topeka and Kansas' economies during the first 10 years of the project, said Steve Jenkins, economic development chief at the GO Topeka, the Topeka

Chamber of Commerce's economic development arm.

Jenkins called the project, "the most significant economic development for Topeka and Shawnee County in many decades."

"This is a sweet day for Topeka and the people of Kansas," said state Gov. Sam Brownback. "The decision to build this new Mars facility in Topeka demonstrates that Kansas can compete and win in the global business world."

While the potential impact on the state and local economy appears to be significant, it also is difficult to gauge, other observers say.

For example, the average \$43,000 annually that GO Topeka estimates workers at the new plant will be paid, normally would turn over 2.03 times based on experiences at other confection manufactur-

ers, said Jeremy Hill, director of Wichita State University's Center for Economic Development and Business Research.

That doesn't exactly square with the potential impact GO Topeka cited, which works out to a projected \$60,000 per year for a decade for each of the 974 direct and indirect jobs the organization estimated. But it wasn't clear Wednesday how many of the indirect jobs might involve higher paying, higher tech jobs needed to install some highly ambitious renewable energy sources and other ecologically friendly features Mars said it will install in the planned 350,000 square foot production facility.

"We just don't know at this point," Hill said Wednesday.

Grants by Kansas Bioscience Authority May Violate Statute

By Paul Soutar
Special from
KansasWatchdog.org

TOPEKA, Kan. - Legislators say the statute authorizing the Kansas Bioscience Authority needs to be clarified, and grants given to organizations with financial connections to KBA board members may not be appropriate.

The Kansas Legislature created the KBA in 2004 and gave it \$581 million to create bioscience research and jobs in Kansas. KBA has been under fire for expenses and salaries paid to top executives and grants funding projects out of state.

A portion of the statute creating the KBA, K.S.A. 74-99b04, says, "No part of the funds of the authority shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its employees, officers or members of the board, except that the authority may make reasonable payments for expenses incurred on its behalf relating to any of its lawful purposes and the authority shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for its benefit relating to any of its lawful purposes, including to pay its employees reasonable compensation."

Board member Bill Sanford, appointed by Senate President Steve Morris, is the CEO of NanoScale, a Manhattan bioscience company that received multiple grants from the KBA.

KBA minutes note that Sanford recused himself from discussion and votes on the

NanoScale grants.

Former board member Angela Kreps, also appointed by Morris, is the president of KansasBio, which also received grants from KBA.

Brad Kemp, who heads KBA's Cancer Fighting Cures initiative, responded to a KansasWatchdog request for comment from KBA on the statute. Kemp said K.S.A. 74-99b08, a paragraph addressing conflict of interests, sets conditions for such grants so long as there is no "personal interest."

K.S.A. 74-99b08: Any member of the board and any employee, other agent or advisor of the authority, who has a direct or indirect interest in any contract or transaction with the authority, shall disclose this interest to the authority in writing. This interest shall be set forth in the minutes of the authority, and no director, officer, employee, other agent or advisor having such interest shall participate on behalf of the authority in the authorization of any such contract or transaction; except that, the provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit any employee of bioscience research institutions, or any public institute or private enterprise engaged in the business of bioscience who is a member of the board, who has no personal interest, from voting on the authorization of any such contract or transaction between the authority and such employee's employer.

House Speaker Mike O'Neal told KansasWatchdog:

At first blush there appears to be an internal conflict as what 99b04 appears to ban, 99b08 seems to provide leeway on. The issue appears to involve what is intended by "inure to the benefit of ... members of the board". This language does not refer to the board member's employer so requires a showing of direct benefit to the member. K.S.A. 74-99b08 is a disclosure requirement which is curious given 99b04 but it does provide an exemption from voting prohibition where there is "no personal interest" as opposed to an interest of the employer of the member, so again there appears to be a distinction being made between direct member conflict as opposed to a conflict involving the employer of the member in general.

O'Neal said the bottom line is that, "The statutes and intent need to be clarified given some of the funding decisions being made." O'Neal said he would forward the issue to the Revisor of Statutes Office for their opinion.

Senator Chris Steinegar, R-Kansas City, said he doubts legislators envisioned such a loophole when it created the KBA. "The entire KBA statute needs an overhaul and a reduced scope if not outright repeal."

"America's classic and successful entrepreneurial model is that of Hewlett and Packard; Ewing Kauffman; Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak; Bill Gates and Paul Allen. All were men who pursued their ideas and

dreams without government subsidy. The KBA model merely pays well educated, well connected men to live off government grants."

KBA's president, Tom Thornton, resigned in April. His total pay, bonus and benefit package was worth more than \$463,200 for fiscal year 2010. Thornton has since gone to work for the Cleveland Clinic's offices in Washington, D.C. Sanford also serves on the board of the Cleveland Clinic.

O'Neal acknowledged problems at KBA but said the authority has also done some good work. He cautioned that strong criticism of KBA could damage its reputation. A major focus of KBA has been securing federal dollars for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan.

"Certainly we want to grow our bioscience economy," Steinegar said, "but KBA is spending enormous sums on self promotion, wining and dining, and consultants," Steinegar said.

On Nov. 9, 2009, KBA's board approved a \$375,000 grant to NanoScale as part of \$1.5 million in total grants to develop the enhanced contaminated human remains pouch. Three companies, two in California and one in Maryland, have expressed interest in the \$30 million Department of Defense contract to make body bags using the NanoScale process.

Home Sales Beat National Trend in May

By Gene Meyer
KansasReporter

TOPEKA, Kan. - Kansas home sales rose from month-earlier levels during May, but trailed year-earlier sales by nearly 21 percent, the Kansas Association of Realtors reported Thursday.

The association reported 2,760 homes were sold in Kansas, up from 2,434 in April, but far fewer than 3,484 units that changed hands in May, 2010, when a federal tax credit program designed to spur home buying skewed sales higher.

"Sales this year are right on pace with 2009, a year unaffected by the home buyer tax credit," said Wichita Realtor Jamie Holt, president of the association. "Taking into

account normal seasonal patterns, we anticipate a slow, steady increase in sales activity in the second half of the year."

Because homes are the largest purchases many consumers make in their lifetimes, sales patterns often are watched as one barometer of how the rest of the economy may fare. Its reading in Kansas is mixed.

Median prices for homes sold in May also rose, to \$135,000 from \$127,975 in April, but remained lower than \$148,000 a year ago. More unsold homes, 20,261 of them, remained on the market at the end of May than in April, but the increased sales pace would theoretically clear out that inventory in 7.3 months, about a month more quickly than

seemed likely in April.

The association report does not address how many unsold homes in Kansas might be involved in foreclosure proceedings, which could slow a potential sales recovery. RealtyTrac, a southern California services provider that tracks foreclosure statistics, estimates 838 homes in Kansas, or one in each 1,473 in the state, is in some stage of foreclosure proceedings, which a far lower number than the national one in 605, and also lower than Colorado, Oklahoma and Missouri, but not Nebraska.

Foreclosures have a more subtle effect on Kansas' current market, Holt said.

"What we see are younger

people, who normally would be buying their first home about now, approaching the market with trepidation because of what their parents have just gone through," she said.

Kansas markets fared better than in many other parts of the U.S. where the National Association of Realtors reported that sales generally fell during May. That drop is likely the result of many causes, from lingering real estate problems in states hit far harder than Kansas to bad weather, flooding and high gas prices that kept some potential buyers from shopping during May, said Lawrence Yun, the national association's chief economist.

from page four

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Manhattan Regional Airport Announces Additional Flight To Chicago O'Hare

MANHATTAN, Kansas, July 6, 2011 – The City of Manhattan is pleased to announce that American Eagle Airlines, the regional affiliate of American Airlines, will add a second non-stop flight to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) beginning November 17, 2011. With the addition of this flight, American Eagle will operate a total of five flights at the Manhattan Regional Airport (MHK).

The schedule to and from Manhattan Regional Airport (all times local):

Chicago O'Hare to Manhattan (ORD-MHK)

Flight	Departs	Arrives	Days
4257	10:15 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Daily, except Tues/Wed
4370*	7:30 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	Daily

Manhattan to Chicago O'Hare (MHK-ORD)

Flight	Departs	Arrives	Days
4031	7:00 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	Daily
4258	12:40 p.m.	2:40 p.m.	Daily, except Tues/Wed

* On Saturday, Flight departs at 4:30 p.m. and arrives at 6:15 p.m.

Dallas/Fort Worth to Manhattan (DFW-MHK)

Flight	Departs	Arrives	Days
2724	10:00 a.m.	11:25 a.m.	Daily
2865	2:50 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Daily
2834	8:10 p.m.	9:35 p.m.	Daily

Manhattan to Dallas/Fort Worth (MHK-DFW)

Flight	Departs	Arrives	Days
2816	6:35 a.m.	8:10 a.m.	Daily
2732	11:55 p.m.	1:25 p.m.	Daily
2844	4:50 p.m.	6:15 p.m.	Daily

Tickets for the new service are now available for purchase. American Eagle will operate roundtrip service using 50- and 44-seat Embraer jets for all flights. The latest information on flight schedule and ticket information can be found at www.flymhk.com or www.aa.com.

DFW International Airport offers nearly 1,900 flights per day and serving 57 million passengers a year. American Eagle provides MHK access to the world's third busiest airport and one rated "Best for Customer Service in North America" by an Airports Council International survey of passengers in 2006 and 2007. DFW International Airport provides non-stop service to 135 domestic and 38 international destinations worldwide.

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For additional information, please contact Peter VanKuren, Airport Director, at 785-587-4560 or via email at vankuren@ci.manhattan.ks.us. For current flight information, visit us at www.flymhk.com.

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