

February 12, 2001    Monday    9:00am

The Bourbon County Commission met in open session in the commission room of the courthouse with all commissioners present. Joanne Long, County Clerk and Jim Harris, County Coordinator, were also present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Robert Query asked Mr. Harris the progress on the grant for handicap accessibility at Elm Creek Lake. Jim Harris said the county would be applying for that grant this spring.

SB210 was brought up. Randy Allen of the Kansas Association of Counties would like someone from Bourbon County to go to Topeka this Wednesday to testify to the committee. Jim Harris will go, possibly with Zack Reynolds.

Dave Klepac presented the commissioners with a cake from the Hidden Valley Lakes Association in appreciation of the 911 signs the county got for them.

At 9:30am several citizens met with the commissioners to discuss the proposed 1% sales tax initiative. Those present included Matt Noll, Lyle Hixon, James Fewins, Raymond George, Chuck Shelton, Fred Savage, Dan Laughlin, Carrol Deer, Walt Johnston, Herbert Headley, Kenneth M. Eastwood, Carol George, Wilma Graham, Anna Johnston, Jake Underwood, Ed Graham, David Edwards, Jerry Nafzgre and Dennis Meech. Ed Graham spoke for the group in favor of the sales tax.

He told the commissioners they were here to ask the board to put the 1% countywide sales tax resolution on the April 3, 2001, ballot. They said that after speaking to the County Clerk, they realized they did not have enough time to circulate a legal petition and have it presented and checked in time to be placed on the April ballot. He would like the tax to be for ten years instead of the five years that failed in November of 2000. The committee does not want to add the expense of a special election and they fear that if the county does not try again to pass a countywide tax, the City of Fort Scott is ready to explore the option of a city only sales tax, which would cost the county millions in revenue over the proposed ten years. The monies collected would generate approximately \$500,000 for the small, incorporated cities throughout the county to help keep levies down. In addition to increasing the length of the tax proposal from five to ten years, the committee does not have a schedule of specific roads in the county earmarked for improvement. They want it to fund only maintenance and creation of hard surface roads at the commission's discretion.

There was much discussion on both sides of the proposal about the cost of maintaining and building hard surface roads, and whether the money would generate enough funds to build enough roads to satisfy the citizens of the county. Gary Houston asked about using the sales tax to supplement the maintenance of all county roads instead of only hard