

All parties mentioned their desire to help everyone in Bourbon County with emergency services.

Dick Hedges asked who the Bourbon County Economic Development representative was for Bourbon County. It is Gary Houston. The city will send Mr. Houston the minutes of previous meetings.

It was asked if the first Monday of each month would be acceptable to have the joint city/county commission meetings. Everyone was in agreement that it was. The city and county commissioners will meet the first Monday of each month at noon at Grannie Vail's Restaurant. If it is not possible to meet, we will notify each other.

Mr. Graham asked Mr. Nienstedt about the progress at Ellis Park which is jointly owned by the City of Fort Scott and Bourbon County. Mr. Nienstedt said that the cold weather has stalled the cleaning effort.

Neighborhood Revitalization was discussed. The county is currently not participating but the City of Fort Scott is. Mr. Hedges said the city was going to poll the people to see if there was interest in renewing the plan. Terry Graham asked if the schools and community college were participating. They are not yet. The county is concerned with the guidelines but Mr. Nienstedt said that the statute allows for county governments to set their own criteria for qualification. He said the city is only in charge of how the city handles revitalization. The county would like to include all the small cities in Bourbon County if it were to join the neighborhood revitalization. Mr. Graham asked if the city receives many complaints from citizens about the borderlines, where one person is in the program and a neighbor across the street is not. Mr. Nienstedt stated there probably were. He also stated that it may be a way to help recoup investments if the economy declines.

The proposed 1% sales tax increase was discussed. The measure was defeated on November 7, 2000, but there is talk of putting it on the April 3, 2001, ballot. The county commissioners would like it to be presented in petition form. When asked what the city would do if the measure is defeated a third time, Richard Nienstedt stated the city would appeal to the state legislature for its own 1% city sales tax.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55pm after regular business.

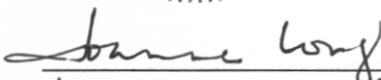


THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS

 Robert Query

 Gary Houston

 Terry Graham


Joanne Long, County Clerk