

September 24, 2004 Friday 10:30 am

The Bourbon County Commission met in open session with Terry Graham and Gary Houston present. Joanne Long was also present. Minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved.

Jason Silvers, reporter with the *Fort Scott Tribune*, was present.

Sharon Elder, Susan Quick and Joanne Long spoke to commissioners about pay raises. Citing the recent pay raises for several courthouse employees, including the sheriff and assistant county attorney, the Clerk, Treasurer and Register of Deeds are feeling left out. Joanne Long presented commissioners with a chart of salaries of those positions for Allen, Cherokee, Linn and Miami Counties, comparing them to Bourbon County. County Commissioner was added upon request.

Position	Allen	Cherokee	Linn	Miami	Bourbon
Clerk	37,176.24	34,309.04	35,755.20	46,815.00	27,047.76
Treasurer	37,176.24	34,309.04	35,131.20	40,080.13	28,395.84
RoD	30,694.84	27,230.28	29,369.60	38,968.00	24,184.32
Commissioner	16,336.32	22,013.16	17,326.40	20,767.00	15,507.36

Position	Average of Allen, Cherokee, Linn and Miami Counties	Difference between average and Bourbon County	Percent difference
Clerk	38,513.87	11,466.11	42.4%
Treasurer	36,674.15	8,278.31	29.2%
Register of Deeds	31,565.68	7,381.36	30.5%
Commissioner	19,110.72	3,603.36	23.2%

The officers do not begrudge anyone a raise, but feel they are entitled as well. Sharon Elder reported that these elected positions have received a total of \$75.00 per month increase since 1998. Cities, schools and other counties give at least a cost of living increase if not a merit increase and they are paid with tax dollars too. Also, though they are asking for themselves today, reminded commissioners that all courthouse employees should get a raise. Terry Graham stated that he agreed that over the years the county employees got the short end of the stick at budget time. It's gotten to the point that bringing salaries up to comparables is nearly impossible in one step. Commissioners will consider the request but stated that it would probably be the first of the year before any changes could be made.