

Hays City Manager Dougherty stated that they hope to make this a long-term sustainable water source.

They have removed all structures and are working with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism on a future walk-in hunting area.

The Water Transfer Act, with three state officials, are currently reviewing and checking this request to transport more than 2000 acre feet of water more than 35 miles.

REMOTE-CONTROLLED VEHICLE TRACK AT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – FAIR BOARD PRESIDENT JILL PFANNENSTIEL

Fair Board President Jill Pfannenstiel reported that they have been asked if a 100 foot by 55 foot track for remote-control cars be built. The Hays Hobby Shop has requested the track, that they will build and then host remote control race cars.

The Hays Hobby group hope to host races on the track. The Fair Association will ask them to put up a fence surrounding the track at their cost.

The Commissioners granted the request for a race track for the remote-control cars. A contract similar to the RPM Speedway contract will be drawn up.

VALUATION UPDATE – COUNTY APPRAISER LISA REE

Appraiser Lisa Ree shared some graphs showing the current values on real estate, agricultural, residential, farmstead, commercial and new construction. Appraiser Ree mailed out 15,627 real estate valuation notices on April 1, 2019. The real estate values have shown an increase in value. The real estate properties make up about sixty-five percent (65%) of the parcel count. Tax appeals can be filed starting next week and owners will have thirty days to file an appeal. The agricultural land has also shown an increase.

Appraiser Ree stated that the average sale of homes for 2018 was at \$165,000, which has dropped since 2017 sales. She stated that her office is to set a market value for the real estate; considering what the real estate property would sell for and what a buyer would pay for the property.

The agricultural values on property is determined by the State with an eight-year moving average. Appraiser Ree stated that the agricultural values are limited but the values did show some increase.

Appraiser Ree stated she is to have property values to the County Clerk by June 1, 2019.

OPTIONS FOR COUNTYIDE SALES TAX – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PHILLIP SMITH-HANES

County Administrator Smith-Hanes said that Appraiser Ree had just stated that property taxes are the base for our major revenue source.

Commissioners discussed options with a countywide sales tax at one quarter percent (¼%) or one-half percent (½%) sales tax rate. A sales tax would require approval from voters through a ballot question. They could consider a mail ballot election or regular precinct election, with the election cost paid by the County.

In looking at a Countywide sales tax they felt that a large pull for voter support could be for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Schlyer felt that EMS is a very viable selling point because those services are used by everyone.

Chair Haselhorst felt that we need to look at our County bridges that are going to require some repair and upgrade within the next ten years.

Smith-Hanes shared that Ellis County is one of 17 counties in the State of Kansas that do not have a countywide sales tax.

Commissioners gave Administrator Smith-Hanes direction to write a letter and ask for feedback from city governing bodies on a countywide sales tax. Commissioners also stated that they are glad to meet with city commissioners to talk about this issue.

Commissioners wish to see the cities working together with the County on projects that will benefit the community.

Chair Haselhorst shared how County department heads had helped give presentations on the sale of a Countywide sales tax when it first passed in 2012. The distribution of Countywide sales tax dollars would be 49.12% for the City of Hays, 41.65% to the County, 5.75% to the City of Ellis, 3.06% to the City of Victoria, and 0.41% to the City of Schoenchen.

County Administrator Smith-Hanes said with the timing of a sales tax questions it could be held during the next general election in November 2020, meaning an effective date of April, 2021. Or, a special or mail ballot election could be called for no later than September, 2019 with an effective date of January, 2020.

COUNTY COUNSELOR REPORTS – COUNTY COUNSELOR BILL JETER

County Counselor Bill Jeter reported on the tax foreclosure hearings and expects the sale to be in May or June.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PHILLIP SMITH-HANES

County Administrator Smith-Hanes reported that the Lieutenant Governor will be in town on Wednesday for a listen tour on Medicaid Expansion. He stated that we are a supporter of Hays Medical Center.

Smith-Hanes said that he will be attending a course in June on legislative platforms.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

