

County Summit Options on Sales Tax Discussed

(KAIR) -- History was made Thursday night in Effingham as the first known countywide summit took place with elected officials and dignitaries of all cities in Atchison County.

The prevailing topic was the future of the countywide one percent sales tax to fund joint communications and solid waste that was adopted by voters in 1993.

County Counselor Pat Henderson gave a history of the tax and then outlined potential options that have been discussed going forward.

(Play Audio) RT: :39

Henderson said a third option could be a combination of the two.

(Audio Continues) RT: :21

When discussion opened up to the floor with Nathan Eberline from the Kansas Association of Counties moderating, Lancaster Mayor Tim Callahan presented a fourth option.

(Audio Continues) RT: :21

Callahan then asked how entities would be affected if the tax got abolished at the end of the year.

Atchison City Manager Trey Cocking said it would be significant for them.

(Audio Continues) RT: :29

The leaders also discussed legislative policy impacting the local level with Senator Dennis Pyle, and Representatives Jerry Henry and Randy Garber.

They also heard a presentation from Brent Teters of Techs Inc on the first few days of implementation of the new countywide ambulance service April 1st.

It was also announced to each of the cities to determine a representative to be on a new solid waste committee over the next several days.

Leaders ended the three and a half hour session with the intent to meet again, tentatively in June, with another summit.

Many Signals Communications