

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

November 15, 2017

Hello again Texas County Residents. We will follow up on several items of interest to help bring everyone up to date on some issues going on within your county.

November will be a busy time for your elected officials. November 19, 2017 through November 21, 2017 elected officials will be at their semi-annual training session at Osage Beach, Missouri. All 114 counties will gather for training and exchange information on various topics of mutual interest.

We attended a meeting in Mountain View; Missouri November 8, 2017 concerning the loss of revenue the region is losing due to not being able to collect sales tax on the Internet purchases. As we stated in our earlier Commissioner's Corner our local sales tax is down as of last month by some \$60,000.00. Part of this comes from not being able to collect on sales that are made via the Internet purchases.

We take our responsibilities very seriously. Case in point is the recent article published in our local paper by the Texas County Memorial Hospital. Having said that, if everyone would read RSMo 221.120, we feel folks could better understand the decisions that have been made as it relates to who is responsible for their medical care outside the services provided by your county. First the folks held at the county jail are there on STATE charges, they have not been convicted of any crime(s) there are alternatives (BOND OUT, ROR) by the courts. Secondly if you have a person visiting your home and they fall ill and you transport them for medical help should you pay their bill? We feel it is irresponsible to make allegations about responsibility until such time the matter has been resolved. We do not intend on having this issue tried in the Media. We are charged with spending your tax dollars and do not feel, you as taxpayers should bear the burden of free medical care for anyone other than a family member.

Secondly we are addressing the Audit that we just received. We have met with several of the elected officials and we are all in agreement to find ways to comply with most of the recommendations from the State Auditor's Office. We do not feel all their recommendations are relevant; however, our goal is to rise to the good or excellent rating by our next audit. Most departments received minor infractions according to the final audit publication. Other issues have been reviewed and sent to the proper authorities for review.

Effective November 15, 2017 Mr. Brad North has been appointed Texas County Emergency Manager Director (EMD). Brad will bring new ideas for improving our current system. Brad will hit the road running and as spoken to the Regional SEMA Representative. Congratulations and thank you Brad for accepting this important public service position.