

Schuele Reflects On The Past Year

(KAIR)--2014 was an active year for Atchison County, with Commissioners addressing issues such as the budget and joint communications.

Commission Chair Jeff Schuele says the budget in particular was a challenge. However, he thinks that revenue rates indicate an improving county economy. He says that "Revenue sources are changing gradually, Fortunately, here in Atchison County, we have seen the sales tax revenues holding steady here for the past few years, so hopefully we are seeing the economy get a little bit better". He adds that other sources of revenue include the mortgage registration fee, which will be decreasing over the next five years or so.

Providing an improved building for the county's EMS service was also a hot topic in the past year, and Schuele says it is one that is likely to carry over into 2015. They have looked at the current building, which is the county's old recycling center, for a possible upgrade, but engineers have told Commissioners that it would be too costly to convert. However, Schuele says there are other options being considered.

Schuele adds that Commissioners will also look to address some of the aging infrastructure in the county during the next year. He says they are at a kind of crossroads now, as it will not get cheaper to fix or replace these structures, so the time to act is now.

Many Signals Communications