

June 3, 2019

Editor,

I saw a couple of stories, in last weeks paper, about the goings on of our Fiscal Court. First, I think we have some very fine gentlemen representing us, however, it is like newly weds. There will be times of disagreement but, that doesn't mean there is no more harmony.

I saw where they have endeavored to levy a tax on our various insurance policies which will generate a very great unknown amount of money next year. They don't seem to have an idea of how much will be generated nor do they know what they are going to use it for because it doesn't come in until next year. Since it won't be levied until next year, I think they should wait until next year to levy the tax because it might not be necessary, you know? It could be that they don't know what to do with it but they will have a year to come up with something to spend your money on.

There's something strange about that insurance tax. If you remember, 3 or 4 years ago the City of Inez was going to levy an insurance tax on its residents and they didn't know what they were going to do with it either. It reminds me of a teenage boy. Give him a few dollars he hasn't earned and he will find a place to spend it.

Then there's the occupational tax. What are they going to do with it? The only thing I've heard is that "we need the money".

There's no question that the county is in a plight ! The pretty new courthouse is a real boondoggle. It takes well over a half a million to pay the payments. About the same amount of money the increase in the occupational tax will raise, but they don't seem to know what they are going to do with the money. If they can't tell us what they are going to do with the money what is to keep them from spending it on another building? Or maybe they want some new cars, or maybe pay raises. You know, it could be that if they get the tax, when the Harvest Fest comes they may open the doors for the bathrooms instead of the folks, who pay the taxes, having to use the port-a-potty.

They have only been there 5 months and still have to get started but they knew it was going to be bad. In my opinion they should have some public meetings and let the folks make some suggestions instead of canceling the regularly scheduled meetings to prevent public input. They are developing a "pattern" of canceling the "regular open" meetings to the point that they will have changed the meeting dates and times without doing it by ordinance, as is required, which opens the door to being legally challenged and having meetings voided !

The worse thing to come out of the last meeting was relinquishing control over the county sewer system. In Kentucky, local governments control all wastewater systems. Local governments can control the water system if they are city owned. If they are county owned, like ours, they are PSC regulated. If the Fiscal Court relinquishes control of setting the rates for the sewer systems in Inez and Warfield, the board can double it, triple it or whatever it desires. The Inez system used to be owned and controlled by the city government and if the sewer board wanted to raise the rates they had to go to the city commission and beg for a rate increase. Now it's owned by the county and they want to surrender it all to an independent board that is not responsible to the city nor the county. That's not to say the folks on the board are not good folks but, look at the gripes about the different water boards. These boys won't be there for ever.

In Summary, your insurance cost will go up about \$150 or more a year; if you work your B & O tax will go up about \$200 or more; and, if you're on the sewer system it's no telling what you will pay. I suggest the court cancel the second readings of the various ordinances and have some public meetings and get some input from the folks. The Bible tells us to have a vision and then a plan. My question: What's the vision?

Dick Young