

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT VIRTUAL MEETING

<http://www.tbnk.org/togo2>

MEETING MINUTES

December 22, 2020

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the December 22, 2020, virtual meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Beth Sewell led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Judge/Executive, Kris Knochelmann
Commissioner Beth Sewell, District 1
Commissioner Jon Draud, District 2
Commissioner Joe Nienaber, District 3
County Attorney Stacy Tapke

Staff: Joe Shriver, County Administrator
Scott Gunning, Assistant County Administrator
Roy Cox, County Treasurer
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2020.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Citizens Address

No citizens sent any questions to the Fiscal Court.

General Business

A. Request approval of the Kenton County Sheriff 's 2021 General Term Order.

Jerry Knochelmann stated that this term order is pretty close to last year's term order.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

B. Update on the Kenton County Golf Course.

Nick Bednar stated that about a about a year ago, he met with the Fiscal Court for the first time as the contract was being approved and getting ready for the season. Now, David Peru is the

General Manager at the course. So, that was really their first order of business to get their team assembled. Mr. Peru has a wealth of experience, not just working with their company in the past as a GM, but in the Northern Kentucky market. Along with David came Ron Freking, the head superintendent who oversees the maintenance of the golf courses. Both of them came on January 1st, and were able to build their teams quickly, and instill the culture that they wanted to bring in. The second order of business was to put forth the resources, including maintenance equipment and new golf carts. They were able to get that process done quickly, and got those on site before the spring season. This gave a great first impression to the guests, and also actually gave the maintenance team the tools they needed to put the golf course in the type of condition that they expect.

Mr. Bednar then stated that they increased the digital presence, which was a target for them as well. They unveiled a new logo for the golf course, and a new website which is kentoncountygolf.com. They installed a new point of sale system, and have a mobile app that includes GPS services, as well as communication with their guests. They also installed a pricing structure, which simplified some things for the guests and the cashiers. The KC Card was unveiled, which is a discount card that appeals to their most frequent golfers. It is \$19, and they can save every time they play golf.

Mr. Bednar then stated that their vision at Kenton County is that they simply want to be the best public golf experience in Northern Kentucky. That breaks down into three categories that are really pillars to their success. So, first of all, playing conditions are their number one asset, which is true for any golf course. It is the biggest reason why golfers choose where they play. So, their goal has been to maintain and manicure both the Pioneer and Willows courses to their peak conditions, and just deliver consistency to the market.

Mr. Bednar then stated that all of their staffers attend service approach training at the beginning of their employment from General Manager down to crew member. It's just so critically important that everybody's working in the same direction, and sees guests as the reason why they are there. They practice community building, and they are always going to have something going on in Kenton County, whether you're a golfer or non-golfer. Everyone can come and enjoy this property, whether it's coming to an in house golf event, a fun scramble charitable event or just live music on the putting green, they are going to have events that engage the community. They are going to grow the game through junior golf first tee, and will be the premier location for golf outings and leagues. So, those are the three areas; community building servicing guests mentality and playing conditions. Obviously, they got dealt a major curveball back in March with COVID, but they were largely able to stay open. They have learned ways that they could adapt to make golf even safer than it already naturally is.

Mr. Bednar then stated that they engaged in a water and irrigation expense saving program. Obviously, the elimination of the Fox Run property was a natural savings in water, but Ron Freking has really done a nice job of trying to learn the irrigation system. They have initiated a long term approach to golf course maintenance as well, which is one of our key pillars. Charitable giving will always be at the center of what they do. They supported multiple high schools and events with last minute venue changes that happened as a result of COVID in the fall. They also hosted the world's largest golf outing, which supports the Fisher House and families of veterans. Most recently, David Peru and his team engaged a food drive to support Be Concerned Covington, and raised 588 nonperishables in that food drive.

Lastly, Mr. Bednar stated as far as financially, once they were able to open more fully in May and June they saw record growth. The industry as a whole will be up over 10%. As for this year compared to last year and total rounds played, they did over 66,000 total rounds of golf, and over \$2.1 million in total revenues at the facility. From their standpoint, they met, achieved and exceeded their initial goals that they set for this year. They are thrilled to be partnered with the

County, and everyone has proven to be very responsive. The administration has been excellent to work with, and they just couldn't be more thrilled to be part of the golf community and part of Kenton County. He thanked the Fiscal Court for all of the support.

David Peru stated that he couldn't be more thankful of the response they have received. Scott Gunning, Joe Shriver and everyone on the team has been there when they need a hand. The numbers speak for themselves, but as far as boots on the ground and community he can say that every day they are getting positive feedback. He wants to continue this upward trend, and his office door is always open. So, if there's anything that he can do to help, that is what he is here to do.

Nick Bednar then stated that their budget for this year was pretty aggressive. They knew that with the elimination of Fox Run, they were going to lose some play, but they felt pretty strongly that most of that would transfer over to Willows and Pioneer. They budgeted around 64,000 rounds, and they are going to end up right around 66,500. So, that's been really encouraging, especially since they lost so many rounds in the spring. They certainly still have room to grow on these two golf courses.

Commissioner Draud stated that he thinks the challenge is how to maintain the increase in rounds, because he is assuming that COVID caused problems in in March and April for the golf course. There has been an increase in people going to Summit Hills, and he attributes this to people not having anything else to do.

David Peru answered that this is their task. They want to create good relationships with these guests, and make them feel comfortable. They are not looking at 2020 or 2021 as their target, they are looking at this as an industry. They are progressing, and creating relationships with these guests. Their number one challenge is to figure out a way to sustain what they are doing, and that's why they doing in house events, live music and a lot of other things.

Nick Bednar stated that there were a lot of things they could not do this year, such as large golf outings and banquet. So, there they think some of this will come back in slowly as they get into 2021 and beyond. Ultimately, it comes down to giving people a great experience. People are going to go where they feel welcome, where it's clean and where there are friendly faces.

Commissioner Sewell asked if there is any merit in increasing driving range activity or shorter golf runs?

Mr. Bednar answered that everybody has their launch point. Many people have probably been to the Top Golf up in Cincinnati. It is just a completely different way to experience golf. Younger people gravitating to it, and the question is, how do you connect that to the golf course? Oftentimes people come out and hit on the driving range and may play one hole and come have two glasses of wine afterwards. It's not the traditionally seen whole round of golf, and he thinks they s an industry have recognized that for years. Now is the time to program to that. They didn't get around to this as much as they would have liked to.

C. Request for partnering and funding of business assistance for the City of Covington.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Tom West from the City of Covington has joined us tonight. The Mayor reached out to the Judge a few weeks back, and had a system and program already in place and needed assistance to fill out some of the requests that had come in. This would approve the \$75,000 match.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she is glad that we're able to help. She knows that there were a lot of applicants, and they couldn't meet all of the needs. So, she thinks that the intent is to make that possible

Tom West stated that everyone that qualifies will be helped. He had sent a note to Joe Shriver and the Judge just a second ago, as he realized there was a typo in there. They are actually going to be able to help 17 businesses, not the 15 that was in there. They are incredibly grateful for the support of the County. This is going to make a huge difference for a number of businesses, so hopefully, at the end of this thing, they won't have to go out and fill a bunch of storefronts for businesses that had to go out of business. He thanked the Fiscal Court for the help.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he would like to verify for anybody watching that these dollars would be allocated from CARES dollars we've been able to attain.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he does appreciate the leadership that Covington has taken on behalf of their businesses. He does think it's important, because there's a lot of people who are hurting, and every little bit helps. He feels that they are doing a great job with economic development down there, and he is proud that we're able to assist.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

D. Request approval of the RFQ for the Master Plan for the Fox Run Property.

Scott Gunning stated that the Fiscal Court should have received a late email on this. The committee met and interviewed the three finalists for the RFQ for the master plan of Fox Run. The committee consisted of Judge Knochelmann, Joe Shriver, John Stanton and him. It was a unanimous decision that we award the contract to Human Nature, who is led by Gary Wolnitzek and Chris Manning due to their extensive experience in park design and their overall project approach. We anticipate this study to take about nine months, with an estimated costs of about \$50,000 to \$60,000. This amount will be covered by the grant that we received from the Durr Foundation. So, tonight we're asking the Court to go ahead and accept a bid from Human Nature, and authorize the Judge to negotiate contracts and the final scope of work for that project.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

E. Claims List dated December 18, 2020, and request approval to issue a Claims List December 28, 2020, with checks to be issued on December 30, 2020.

There were no questions on the claims list.

Treasurer Roy Cox asked for permission to issue a Claims List on December 28, 2020, with checks to be issued on December 30, 2020.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner

Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 20-01U (Action Requested)
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year
Budget Adjustments .**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustments were for the following: \$2,000 to increase the fleet repairs for vehicle repairs, \$6,000 for a new oven at the Detention Center, and then some changing around for the Office of Drug Control Policy for \$19,600. Only \$2,600 of that is going to come out of reserves. The other \$17,000 is coming from the Addiction Helpline.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 924.62- Second Reading (Action Requested)
An Ordinance amending Article XI of the official Zoning Ordinance of
Unincorporated Kenton County relating to the location of off-street parking.**

Joe Shriver stated that Stacy Tapke has been involved in the crafting of this Ordinance. We struck a happy medium between being able to allow for three car garages in certain circumstances, without abandoning the percentages that we protected before in the past. So, you don't have all this concrete footage in the front of it. We worked closely with PSs on the language. This is a great compromise to allow builders to provide a product that folks are looking, without giving away the farm, so to speak.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 20-170
Request approval of the bond for the Kenton County License Inspector, Bryan Norton.**
- B. Exhibit No. 20-171
Request approval to ratify the amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. for the Kenton County Administration Community Space Fit-Up.**
- C. Exhibit No. 20-172
Request approval to surplus various IT Equipment for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.**
- D. Exhibit No. 20-173
Request approval of the bond renewal for various officials.**

- E. Exhibit No. 20-174**
Request approval to award the paper/janitorial supplies bid to Federal Supply for the various departments of Kenton County.
- F. Exhibit No. 20-175**
Request approval of the change order for the Legacy radio equipment decommissioning project with MobilComm for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Draud. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 20-127**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Judge Kris Knochelmann to the OKI Board of Directors.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

- B. Executive Order 20-128**
An Executive Order providing for leave for Kenton County employees diagnosed with COVID-19, or who live with person(s) diagnosed with COVID-19.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

- C. Executive Order 20-129**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Rose Blaney to the Cooperative Extension District Board.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

- D. Executive Order 20-130**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Anadia Rockey from a Dispatcher 1, G5-2 to a Dispatcher 2, G7-1 for the Emergency Communications Department.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

- E. Executive Order 20-131**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of

Julie Roesel Belton to the Kenton County Library Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that the statewide number of new cases of COVID 19 are 3,057, with 28 new deaths statewide. This give Kentucky a positivity rate of 8.48%. There were 113 new cases in Kenton County today. Drive thru testing is currently scheduled to continue through January. There is still high interest in the testing, and completing approximately 500 tests per day. Vaccines have made it into our area, and 8,839 people have received them. We will be hosting several vaccine sites for first responders, in early 2021.

Mr. Hensley then stated that the Brent Spence Bridge opened today, a day earlier than scheduled.

It has been an interesting year to say the least, I want and he thanked the Judge and Court Members for their continued support throughout the Bridge and COVID response. He wished everyone a merry and safe Christmas.

Technology Services

Jessica Ramsey stated that they purchased all the HD upgrade equipment for the Historic Kenton County Independence Courthouse. Somebody from TBNK is coming out tomorrow to take a look at that equipment to make sure it's everything that we need. This will enable us to stream meetings held at that facility via the website like we do for the ones that are at Simon Kenton Way. We are also getting started on the video distribution system there, which will enable us to swap between the laptop view and the TBNK feed.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that starting in January, they will initiate a twice annual server restore test of the dispatch servers. This is part of a larger plan to work on a disaster recovery system for the CAD systems. They are also taking a second look at the KCOR website, and doing some upgrades and updates to that website to have it match our branding.

Commissioner Draud complimented Ms. Ramsey on that newsletter technology. He thinks it is a good idea for the employees.

Animal Services

Becky Reiter stated that they are on course to launch the online licensing module at the beginning of the New Year. They are grateful that they can provide this service that increases the convenience to the community. There'll be an article that goes out into What's Happening, and there will be links on the website and Facebook page. Also, Trey Lohre came out to the shelter last week and presented the shelter with a check for \$3,025 from his project with Piper boards. So a big shout out to Trey for the excellent work that he and his family did. The money will be designated for animals that are need a medical care.

Public Works

Nick Hendrix stated that the crews have just finished up some work at the Historic Kenton County Courthouse. They finished with the asphalt base installation just yesterday, and some

curbing on the southern side of the campus was completed last week. It has been a rush, as they have had to fight the weather. He thanked Adam Ryan and his crew, Rick Buster and the Administrative staff who've worked really hard to put pieces together to ensure that we can get some decent parking out there before spring.

Mr. Hendrix then congratulated everyone that was involved in the Brent Spence Bridge project. This includes our local police, fire and EMS. As everyone knows, 41 days ago this thing happened, and in a normal procurement situation with a Transportation Cabinet we would probably just now be starting the work. So, it's nothing short of incredible that we are where we are today. He congratulated his former peers and colleagues at the Transportation Cabinet for their excellent work.

Commissioner Draud asked Mr. Hendrix for an update on the water problem he has inquired about.

Mr. Hendrix answered that the last time they spoke he had given him the latest information that he had. The information was that they reached out to the district, and they have to draft a letter to the homeowner advising them that they need to be responsible. The pipe is off of the outside of the right of way. He stated that he will follow up on this.

Parks/Buildings and Grounds/Golf Course

Scott Gunning thanked Nick Bednar, David Peru and to their entire staff for all their hard work out there at the golf courses. It's definitely been a crazy year, but it's been great to see all the success that they're having and the positive direction our courses are moving in. Both of them have been fantastic to work with, and they really have elevated the daily operations especially when it comes to course conditions and customer service. He is hopeful that this is the first of many successful years with Nick and his crew.

Mr. Gunning then thanked the Fiscal Court for the approval of the master plan tonight at the Fox Run Property. Over the next couple weeks we will be working with Human Nature to get the project started, and will make sure to keep the Court up to date on the progress. Repairs are starting on the trails and bridges at Doe Run Lake this winter. Back in the spring, we had some storms, and trees that damaged the bridges and caused some erosion and slips. With the help of the Banklick Watershed Council, we were awarded a grant from the Durr Foundation to complete this work with the amount being around \$18,000. We are going to be rerouting the trail to allow for the removal of bridge #3, while repairing the two remaining bridges. We are also going to be stabilizing some of the banks along the trail, and removing the invasive species throughout. He expects this work to take the majority of the winter months but it's the goal to have it completed before spring.

Lastly, Mr. Gunning stated that this morning he had a progress meeting at the Kenton County Historic Courthouse. We are working on the punch list items for the County Clerk's office, and she is in the process of getting her computers back up and running. We had some delay from the additional change orders and getting the state out to hook the computers back up, but she should be set to open after the holidays.

Commissioner Draud stated that he would like a copy of the annual report on the golf course for all the Commissioners.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that the Courts are still doing Zoom hearings for the time being. She then wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he is very thankful for the opportunity to serve with the elected officials on here, as well as the staff. This is a great group of people who are doing really good work in tough times. He wished everyone a very safe and happy New Year, and a very Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell stated that this time of year is always a good time to reflect and appreciate those in our lives, and it is also her pleasure and honor to serve with so many gifted and caring staff and elected officials. She wanted to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and many blessings for 2021.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann stated that the Brent Spence Bridge opened today. Steve Hensley has really led the local representation to support KYTC, District Six and the State. We have hosted them in the Emergency Operations Center in our building, and the Secretary has been doing a lot of work from there. A lot of his press conferences and reporting have been from our Kenton Chambers, and we have really tried to make that available for them. Steve Hensley and his team should all be commended all of their work. He then wished everybody a safe and happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Nienaber offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann requested a voice vote whereupon all members present voted in the affirmative with a 4-0 vote.

Text for all proposed and recently passed ordinances may be acquired by accessing the Fiscal Court web page at <http://www.kentoncounty.org> or by contacting the administrative offices at 859.392.1400.

CLERK CERTIFICATION

I, Sue J. Kaiser, having been appointed to the office of Fiscal Court Clerk, do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate record of the actions taken by the Kenton County Fiscal Court at the meeting of December 22, 2020.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk