

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**Kenton Chambers**  
**1840 Simon Kenton Way**  
**Covington**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**April 27, 2021**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the April 27, 2021, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann 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 April 13, 2021.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**Citizens Address**

No citizens sent any questions to the Fiscal Court.

**General Business**

**A. Presentation of the 2020 Pioneer Award to Arnold Simpson.**

Judge Knochelmann read the Proclamation honoring Mr. Simpson. He then stated that this is the third year for the Pioneer Awards. The idea for the award came from Commissioner Draud, and we were unable to do these awards in person in 2020, so we are doing them this year.

Commissioner Draud stated that he used to ride back from Frankfort with Mr. Simpson, and he found him to be a gentleman. He was always recognized for his principles and high standards.

Sheriff Korzenborn thanked Mr. Simpson for all of his support in Frankfort for all of these years.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she often sees Mr. Simpson out and about in Covington, and he has always had time for his constituents. He is a hard working person, and she always appreciated his questionnaires to his constituents.

Arnold Simpson stated that he is very privileged to be a recipient of an award that he will honor. He served for the purpose in hopes that he could make the community a little bit better. He was the recipient of nothing but support by individuals within his district and throughout the State. This is why he was able to do a good job.

**B. Recognition of the Kenton County Police Officers that have received the Lifesaving Award.**

Chief Spike Jones stated that COVID has changed every way that we do things. Over the last year, there were four officers that did outstanding work in lifesaving. There was a private ceremony for them, but he didn't have the opportunity to present them to the Court. Officer Taylor, Officer Padden, Sergeant Schihl and Officer Hogan did some outstanding work, and were able to revive four of our residents with their certified first responder skills. Most recently, another honoree saved a life as well. Officer Allgeier gave CPR to a male found non responsive, and absolutely helped save this man's life. Chief Jones presented Officer Allgeier with the Lifesaving Ribbon.

**C. Honoring the service performed by the Poll Workers in the 2020 Election.**

Gabe Summe stated that it is hard to acknowledge all of the poll workers from the election in person, as there are so many of them. It is a paid job, but they all stepped up to make sure all went well for the elections.

Sheriff Korzenborn stated that COVID left things chaotic, and the workers did a fabulous job of adapting. The day of the election, they finished at 8:30 p.m. They were the first County done in Kentucky. He thanked all of the workers for all their hard work.

Judge Knochelmann thanked the Sheriff and Gabe Summe, as well as the poll workers for their smooth work.

Gabe Summe stated that the Board of Elections was very involved and hands on. The Board of Elections consists of the Sheriff, Sarah Rogers and Scott Kimmich.

Sheriff Korzenborn thanked Gabe Summe for doing such a great job.

**D. Request approval of the recommendation from the Kenton County Board of Elections to accept the bid from ES&S for new voting equipment.**

Bobby Gantley, President of Harp Enterprises addressed the Fiscal Court stated that they have been the election services vendor for Kenton County for the last 35 years. They are on year 49 of doing business in the State of Kentucky. Kentucky had great elections, and that trickles down to their business and working with the County Clerks. It was a surprise that an RFP was issued, and the proposal to be considered on the agenda tonight is some scanners and about 204 machines that are called ballot marking devices. It was shocking to them, as the RFP called for preprinted ballots, which is a voter verifiable paper audit trail. That is what their proposal was, and it is the responsibility of the Fiscal Court to make the decision on the machines. He is here to respectfully ask the Court to give them a chance to present their system in front of them.

Commissioner Draud stated that he wasn't aware if there was a discrepancy in the RFP.

Gabe Summe stated that when they first sent out the original RFP, the law was that would have to have a set of equipment for every precinct. Then they were expecting there to be a change in the statute, which there has been under HB574. At the same time, to keep consistency the very first RFP was very difficult for them to compare apples to oranges. So, they redid the RFP to keep it consistent. There was no discrepancy. They did what they did before, they just had better questions the second time. Based on that information, that is what they analyzed and demonstrated. There was an election committee which included some of her poll workers, and they made the decision. As far as the volume of what they are going to use, and the way elections will look has changed substantially by HB574. She ordered based on what the future is going to look like, not what the past was.

Commissioner Draud stated that his question is more to the paper ballot. She will need to have the ability to print on demand, and that was part of the decision making.

Gabe Summe stated that they will still have paper ballots, and the ability to have a ballot marker. This allows her to use blank paper as well.

Commissioner Draud stated that he understands that there is a better maintenance agreement with the firm they are choosing.

Gabe Summe stated that they not only looked at the prices between the two, but they looked long term as well.

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. Request Approval of Pay App #5 for Radius Construction.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this is the second to last phase of the work. They are finishing construction, and still have to complete the fixtures and furniture.

Commissioner Draud asked if what is in the room is all there will be in there?

Judge Knochelmann answered that the room is not complete. There will be more.

Commissioner Draud asked if we spent \$250,000 on this room?

Judge Knochelmann answered that Ried Schott donated the money for the room. The money was spent on the room and the display on the first floor.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

#### **F. Claims List dated April 23, 2021.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Exhibit No. 21-57**

**Request approval to ratify the extension of the contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Behavioral Health, and continue to provide case managed aftercare for individuals re-entering society from a criminal justice**

**setting for the Kenton County Detention Center and transition funds to the Kenton County Police Department for QRT implementation and outreach.**

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**Executive Orders**

**A. Executive Order 21-33**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the position change of Kelsie Attebery from a Shelter Technician to an Animal Control Officer for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**B. Executive Order 21-34**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Kim Pfetzer as a Part-Time Tax Clerk for the Kenton County Treasury Department.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**Administrative Reporting**

**Emergency Management**

Steve Hensley stated that the COVID vaccine clinic that they were running for the last 90 days at the Convention Center has come to a close. It resulted in about 40,000 doses to Northern Kentucky residents. He thanked our partners at the Convention Center, and would like to honor Gretchen Landrum and some of her people at a meeting in the future. Also, Kroger was the clinicians that delivered the vaccines, and they did a great job. The vaccines will continue at the brick and mortar locations throughout Northern Kentucky.

Mr. Hensley then stated that they will be working on the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Their EHS Chemical Facility Location inspections have started again. They will continue to work with their other projects and partners for some of their safety training that was put on the back burner due to COVID.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Mr. Hensley for all his hard work at the Convention Center these past few months.

**Police Department**

Chief Spike Jones stated that total calls for service are down 384, traffic stops are down 83, citations are down 161, business vacation checks are down 301, special area checks are up 209, case reports are up 20, accident reports are up 4, and arrests are up 9. Overall, the statistics are fairly consistent with the pre-COVID numbers. The officers are out doing their job.

Chief Jones then stated that a statewide Casey's Law campaign is going on right now. He has handouts answering all questions about Casey's Law, and you can go to [www.caseylaw.org](http://www.caseylaw.org). Also, two officers were recognized by the NKY Chief's Association. Sergeant Ryan Roessler and Patrick Taylor received a Police Service Award. Kenton County Police Department is an award

winning department, and he is proud to be a part of it. They appreciate the support of the Fiscal Court.

### **Emergency Communications**

Ashley Hawks stated that the Emergency Communications Center just concluded their first ever security audit that was conducted by the Kentucky State Police. Historically, the security portion of the audit was conducted at the time of the CGIS audit by the State Police personnel. She is pleased to report that they were in compliance across the board. It is difficult to keep up with these kinds of things with technology in this profession. It was a lot of work on their part, the TAC officers and Technology Services, but it all turned out great.

### **Parks/Buildings and Grounds/Golf Course**

Scott Gunning thanked the Fiscal Court for the budget adjustment at the last meeting for the parking lot at the Historic Courthouse, as it has allowed us to start that project now instead of waiting until the next fiscal year. Nick and his crews have already started laying out the design, marking the utilities, and repairing some of the drainage issues. That work will continue over the next few weeks. The work in the Fiscal Court Chambers continues to progress as the plaster, lighting and paint is complete. Last week, they started installing the audio and video equipment and are scheduled to reinstall the radiators and the flooring this week. I know this has been an ongoing and long process but he wanted to thank the court for allowing to get this building back up to the standards that it should be.

Mr. Gunning then stated that they hosted the first public meeting for the new County Park on April 14<sup>th</sup>. He is happy to report that there were over 50 participants that attended the virtual meeting, and they shared their thoughts on the property. Human Nature did a good job facilitating the meeting and got a lot of useful feedback for the planning process. For anyone that missed the meeting, it was recorded and is posted on our website along with the survey on what amenities people want to see in the park. The survey will be open until April 30<sup>th</sup>. When it comes to projects, they are starting to repair the sand volleyball court at Mills Road Park, and are installing a new swing set at Lincoln Ridge this week. The seasonal employees are back, but unfortunately it has been difficult getting to full staff this year. The good news is that with the change in starting pay, they are starting to get more applicants.

Lastly, on the golf course, he went out there this past Sunday and got to speak to a few customers who had nothing but positive comments on the course conditions and the direction the facility is heading in. He received some good news yesterday that David Peru was selected as the National General Manager of the Year for Indigo Golf. This was an internal award out of their 125 courses that they manage. He congratulated David and thanked him for his leadership and passion that he has for the courses. He continues to be excited for the 2021 golf season as things are looking good and are off to a great start.

Commissioner Draud asked if there were several people at the parks meeting speaking in favor to connect the subdivisions with the park?

Mr. Gunning answered that this question did come up, and the HOA present brought that up. There was a lot of positive talk about this. They have developed some preliminary cost estimates, and right now it is in the budget for the next year.

### **County Attorney 's Report**

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

**Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber thanked all of the Department Heads. They are the strongest team in Government.

**Judge/Executive 's Report**

Judge Knochelmann had nothing to report.

**Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud 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 April 27, 2021.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk