

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**Kenton Chambers**  
**1840 Simon Kenton Way**  
**Covington, KY 41011**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 22 , 2022**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge Knochelmann called to order the February 22, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner 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  
                                 Assistant County Attorney, Chris Nordloh

Staff:                        Joe Shriver, County Administrator/Deputy Judge  
                                 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 February 8 , 2022.**

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

**Citizens Address**

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court.

**General Business**

**A. Presentation of a Proclamation to Mark Guilfoyle as a 2021 Pioneer Award Winner.**

Judge Knochelmann presented the Pioneer Award Proclamation to Mr. Guilfoyle, and thanked him for his work. He thanked Mr. Guilfoyle for all of his hard work.

Mr. Bob Hoffer stated that Mr. Guilfoyle's wife Casey is at the meeting, and he doesn't do anything without her by his side. This award is also for Casey. Mark works with him at DBL Law, and during their 20 years together he has learned that Mark has had an amazing upbringing by his parents. Mark is very proud that his dad was a hard working pipe fitter, and

he worked hard all day. He instilled that work ethic into Mark. He also instilled the importance of giving back to others. Mark's entire life and career has been finding opportunities to give back to the people he encounters every day. He is honored and proud to give this award to Mark.

Mr. Guilfoyle thanked Judge Knochelmann and the Fiscal Court. He feels that this is a high honor. He grew up in Campbell County, and he and his wife lived in Boone County for a while. They then came to Kenton County, and it is by far the best county in Northern Kentucky. The other honorees that have received the Pioneer Award made him feel so proud to be included with these people.

**B. Recognition of Detective Brian Jones for his outstanding service to the ICAC Unit.**

Chief Jones stated that Detective Jones has done a wonderful job in the ICAC unit. He has exemplified the qualities and characteristics consistent with the Kenton County Police Department's commitment to serving the community. He then presented Detective Jones with the Commendation for Outstanding Service Award.

**C. Recognition of Jason Deacon for his service the Police K-9 program, and introduction of the new Police Dog, Ron in.**

Chief Jones stated that Jason took up as the canine handler in 2014, and has done an outstanding job. His canine partner Loki has now aged out of service, and he will be retiring. He gave Officer Deacon a Commendation for Outstanding Service Award for him and Loki. They exemplified the qualities and characteristics consistent with the Kenton County Police Department's commitment to serving the community.

Chief Jones then introduced the new police dog Ronin, and his handler Officer Adam Watson.

**D. Claims List dated February 18, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Resolutions**

**A. Resolution No. 22-01D  
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustments are for the following: \$4,000 to cover towing expenses that resulted from the recent ice storm and \$7,000 to cover repairs on two snow plow trucks.

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

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 22-17  
Request approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts for the fifth floor renovation of the Kenton County Justice Center.**
- B. Exhibit No. 22-18  
Request approval to accept the bid from Commercial Recreation Group to purchase playground equipment and safety surfacing at Lincoln Ridge Park for the Kenton County Parks and Recreation Department.**
- C. Exhibit No. 22-19**

**Request approval of a bid from Riegler Blacktop for the FY22 resurfacing program for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

- D. Exhibit No. 22-20**  
**Request approval of a modification to the Snow and Ice Maintenance Agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the Kenton County Public Works Dept.**
- E. Exhibit No. 22-21**  
**Request approval to award the Food bid to Single Source, Inc. for the Kenton County Detention Center.**
- F. Exhibit No. 22-22**  
**Request approval to surplus K9 Loki for the Kenton County Police Department, and retire him to his handler.**
- G. Exhibit No. 22-23**  
**Request approval to accept the CDBG Grant for Transitions.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

#### **Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 22-29**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the promotion of Scott Hansman from an Assistant Engineering Services Crew Leader to the Engineering Services Crew Leader for the Kenton County Public Works Department .**

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

- B. Executive Order 22-30**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Ross Ginter as a Dispatcher for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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

- C. Executive Order 22-31**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Terry Wiehoff as a Public Services Technician II for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

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

#### **Administrative Reporting**

#### **Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that one of the big items that they are working on right now is a new HR system to help Kelly Baker with all of the work she is doing, and to also better integrate with our timekeeping system. This will make everything integrated, such as the hiring process, job posting process, the HR benefits process and the timekeeping process would all be streamlined into one system. It will make it a lot easier for employees, applicants and for the internal staff.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they have been making a lot of headway on the tax portal development. They have completed the overall initial framework for this. This is for filing your taxes in Kenton County for the cities. They are also working on the details of every single Federal form that is reference in the Kenton County taxes. They are outlining it and detailing it for the end user step by step.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they have been meeting with different Northern Kentucky payroll companies to get a feel from them about what other companies are using. They are coming up with some big ideas for some future developments for online tax filing. Also, they are working on an overall strategy to get a better feel for all of the IT assets that we have throughout the county that are paid for by the Fiscal Court. Part of this is the network infrastructure, meaning all the switches that we have. There is not good documentation on the age, price and everything.

Commissioner Draud asked if there is an exit interview for personnel?

Fiscal Court Clerk Sue Kaiser answered that a letter is sent out to the employee if they resign or retire, and there is a QR code on the letter that takes them to a survey.

### **Animal Services**

Kelsey Maccombs stated that she continues to do ongoing assessments of policies and protocols, and make any necessary improvements or propose any necessary changes. In January of 2022, the shelter saw 140 total intakes, 127 adoptions, 18 animals returned to their owner, 15 animals sent to rescues. All of this resulted in a 93% live release rate. Animal Control officers responded to 344 calls, and they are currently looking to hire two Shelter Technicians and one Animal Control Officer.

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

Scott Gunning stated that he wanted to share with the Fiscal Court some shelter house statistics in the parks since a few weeks ago they opened up the reservation system for the year. He passed out a report that shows a summary of the shelter house capacity for the past five years. On that report there is a breakdown for Monday through Friday and weekend capacity for each of the shelters at all of the parks. The weekday rentals are low, with it being something that they have been trying to increase over the past few years. They have lowered the rates but as expected, there isn't a whole lot of demand for weekday rentals. Now on the other spectrum, the total capacity on the weekends is at 90%, with Lincoln Ridge #3. And Pioneer #2 being the highest rented shelter. The least rented shelter is Richardson Road, but this number is a little distorted as they have to block that shelter out from being reserved periodically due to parking concerns from soccer and softball games. That is actually impacting the total capacity a little bit too. The reservations have been going up since 2017, with the total revenue for last year being around \$32,000. It is important to note that the numbers for 2020 reflect a shortened season due to COVID restrictions. On the weekends it's clear that people are looking for outdoor facilities to host events. This is something we are looking at, and have taken into consideration during the planning phase for the New County Park.

Mr. Gunning then commended and thanked the staff, as they do a great job keeping up with the shelters. The team normally gets high remarks on the surveys regarding the cleanliness of the

facilities. Lastly on parks, he wanted to mention that unfortunately, Pioneer Park flooded last week. The good news is there was minimal damage besides debris cleanup. Fingers crossed we luck out again tonight and this week. The park is closed, but will hopefully open up in the next couple days.

Mr. Gunning then stated that he has a couple quick updates on golf projects. The patio has been completed, the new tee signs have been ordered and they were continuing the tree removal and stump grinding on both courses.

Commissioner Draud asked if we have an adequate number of ball fields?

Mr. Gunning answered that he has met with Northern Kentucky Baseball a few weeks ago, and we probably don't have enough fields. The fields are at capacity.

Commissioner Sewell thanked Scott Gunning for hiking Fox Run with her and a constituent. The park is a wonderful facility, with a lot of potential.

Mr. Gunning stated that he expects the master plan to come back to the Fiscal Court at the second meeting in March.

### **Public Works**

Nick Hendrix stated that they had a quarterly meeting with the Transportation Cabinet, and they have a resurfacing project set up for a piece of Dixie Highway that has been problematic. He doesn't think it goes far enough for full repair, it is just more of an overlay. They are working with the Cabinet to look through the Governor's plan. There are a number of really strong projects that will be funded for Kenton County. There are a handful of projects that they would like to see moved up in terms of phase. They are working with the legislators on these. He appreciates their support. The most important project for the County is the Ernst Rd. Bridge. It is now funded in the out years in the Governor's Budget.

Mr. Hendrix then stated that they have consistently gone after Federal Grants for KY536. The fruits of all those grants is in operation right now. It is the first section of the BUILD Grant is being constructed right now from Dixie Highway in Boone County, over to KY1303. They would like to pursue a RAISE Grant, which is the new administrations acronym for the program, for the last piece on KY536.

Commissioner Draud asked what is going to be done about the Dixie Highway? Now, it is problematic from Blessed Sacrament Church all the way to the interstate.

Mr. Hendrix stated that at the meeting today, they informed us that they have a resurfacing project set up for it. They will mill off an inch and a quarter, and replace it with some spotty base fillers. They know that this doesn't go far enough to fix the issue, but it goes as far as the funding goes.

Commissioner Draud asked why they did Buttermilk Pike instead of Dixie Highway?

Mr. Hendrix stated that he doesn't want to speak for them. Normally, State roadways get evaluated on a three way rolling calendar. So, they will run a service condition survey every three years. He is not sure how those numbers landed.

Judge Knochelmann stated that they have been trying to get the State to do this project for a while now.

Commissioner Draud stated that there is another dangerous spot on Kenton Lands Rd. right now too near the Water District.

Mr. Hendrix then offered best wishes to Terry Wiehoff. He is retiring from Public Works.

Judge Knochelmann asked for an update on Bromley-Crescent Springs Rd.

Mr. Hendrix stated that the State is facilitating the construction of the road for us, and the report today is that they expect it to reopen in Mid-April and Early May as long as weather cooperates. They have to finish the box culvert, as that is the biggest piece of the current work. The completion date has not shifted. The date is in October, assuming there are no major changes. The next piece will only have intermittent closures.

Commissioner Sewell asked if there is an update on the Roebling Bridge reopening?

Mr. Hendrix answered that there were some material delays, and there were some scope issues as well. The opening date will most likely be in April.

Commissioner Draud asked if the big bridge is going to be built. He has heard it will take ten to fifteen years to build.

Mr. Hendrix stated that this is overstated. If everything were in place to run with construction today, the entire project could be completed in five years. There are seven miles of interstate and roadway that need to be constructed, which includes on and off ramps.

### **John Stanton - External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that with the pandemic coming in, we sometimes don't take notice of events that occur. He wanted to remind everyone of the broadband initiative. There aren't too many times when our County is in the lead on a project of national significance. The President, in his speech to NACO, specifically talked about the broadband expansion initiative in Boone, Kenton and Campbell County. Cincinnati Bell continues to hammer away at this project, and have done 2,000 single family units so far. They are scheduled to do 13,000 units this year. We are still looking at an August 2023, end date. There are still a small amount of people inquiring as to when they will get service. So far, Cincinnati Bell has been fantastic at turning around that information on their scheduling.

Mr. Stanton then stated that we are halfway through the legislative session, and things are moving in a little different form this time because the House passed their budget early. There has been a lot of good communications with those representing Kenton County. Senator McDaniel has been a tremendous help to us. Also, we have had the most clear communications that we have ever had with Senator McDaniel and Representative Santoro regarding our road needs. This is a credit to Nick Hendrix and how he has developed relationships with them.

Mr. Stanton then stated that the new Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky had their grand opening today. It was quite an accomplishment, and the Fiscal Court was steadfast in their engagement of this process. Also, many may know the name John G. Carlisle from the Elementary School that is just down the street from this Covington building. He was a Northern Kentuckian who was Speaker of the House, a US Senator and was the Secretary of Treasury. What he is probably best known for nationally is that he was the driving force behind bottled and bond whiskey and bourbon. He did this in conjunction with Colonel E.H. Taylor, who is a more commonly person. This is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bottled and Bond Act, and MeetNKY is working with Smoke Justis and Richard Dickman to commemorate that on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with an event. He thanked Julie Kirkpatrick at MeetNKY and Richard Dickman for marketing what may be Northern Kentucky's most significant contribution to Kentucky's Bourbon Industry.

Lastly, Mr. Stanton stated that they continue to meet in all kinds of settings and groups that involve PDS of Kenton County. Sharmili Reddy and her team are doing a fantastic job. There is a noticeable elevation of the dialogue from PDS. He is looking forward to seeing what they bring to the table in the coming years.

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

Assistant County Attorney Chris Nordloh 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 he wanted to echo what John Stanton said about the staff of PDS. They are on their game, and they are engaged in the new economic development portion.

### **Judge/Executive 's Report**

#### **A. Request approval to amend the 2022 Fiscal Court meeting schedule by moving the April 26, 2022 meeting to April 25, 2022.**

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

Judge Knochelmann stated that he wanted everyone to be aware of the effort that Josh Wice and Sharmili Reddy are working on with Tri-Ed, SD1 and the Water District. They are working on policies and zoning. They have been a great help. Also, he thanked the Fiscal Court for their efforts with the new Emergency Shelter. They have raised almost \$4 million towards a \$5 million goal for the funding of future services. A staff member that used to be a guest at the shelter was one of the speakers. People's lives have been changed due to this partnership. There is an effort in the future regarding the workforce development. There will be different funding and efforts that are being developed.

### **Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive 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 February 22, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk

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