

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**Historic Kenton County Courthouse**  
**5272 Madison Pike**  
**Independence, KY 41051**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2022**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the August 9, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge 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: Scott Gunning, County Administrator/Deputy Judge  
Roy Cox, County Treasurer  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of June 26, 2022.**

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.

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the special meeting of June 28, 2022.**

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 came before the Fiscal Court.

**General Business**

**A. Presentation of a proclamation to the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) for 50 years of service to Kenton County.**

Judge Knochelmann presented Andrew Aiello of TANK the Proclamation celebrating 50 years of TANK's service. He stated that Mr. Aiello's leadership has been fantastic.

Mr. Aiello stated that he has been with TANK for 17 years, and on behalf of the TANK Board of Directors he would like to thank the Kenton County Fiscal Court for all of their support. TANK was created by the three Fiscal Courts back in 1972 because they saw a need. The Fiscal Courts care a lot about the people that live in their County, and this system was created to help

people get to work, school and doctor appointments. He thanked the Fiscal Court for the recognition.

**B. Presentation of the 2022 Pioneer Award to Steve Hensley.**

Judge Knochelmann presented Steve Hensley with the 2022 Pioneer Award. He then stated that in his eight years in his role there are certain people that he goes to when making sure things are okay. Steve Hensley is always there, and will never take the credit. He appreciates Steve so much, and thanks him for all of his work.

Steve Hensley stated that he has been blessed throughout his career to work for and with great people. He has recognized a few successes, because of the people that he works with. He couldn't do it without the support of his family either.

Commissioner Draud stated that Steve has been one of the most responsive people that he has ever worked with, and gets back with you quickly to resolve the problem. This is a well-deserved honor.

**C. Executive Order 22- 117**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the promotion of Trevor Rohe to a Sergeant I for the Kenton County Police 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.

**D. Swearing in of Trevor Rohe as a Sergeant I for the Kenton County Police Department.**

Assistant Chief Chris Haddle stated that the Chief wishes he could have been here for this, but he is at a conference. This is very well deserved. Trevor has been with the agency since 2014, and it is the only agency he has ever worked for.

**E. Claims List dated August 5, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Ordinances**

**A. Ordinance No. 226.05 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the levy and adoption of the 2022 annual improvement benefit assessment rate on the basis of the assessed values of benefitted properties within the former City of Latonia Lakes, Kentucky as specifically identified in Kenton County Ordinances 620.9 & 620.10.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that this is an annual Ordinance for Latonia Lakes that we have to do every year, because as the assessed values of the property change the payment is based on that rate.

**B. Ordinance No. 226.06 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the levy and adoption of the 2022 tax rates of 14.4 cents per hundred dollars valuation on real property, 19.1 cents per hundred dollars valuation on personal property and 15.8 cents per hundred dollars valuation on motor vehicles to provide such revenue as has been budgeted and approved for expenditure in the current fiscal year.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this will reduce the property taxes by roughly 6.5% for the second year in a row. This rate has not been seen since 2009. We will take action on this at the next meeting. We will be discussing things in the coming months to get the total tax reform for Kenton County. He will be coming back for future plans to balance between property tax, payroll tax and how that sets the County up for decades of financial stability.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 22-101  
Request approval to surplus the property at 471 Jericho Road.**
- B. Exhibit No. 22-102  
Request approval to ratify the certificate and assurances forms for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program for the Kenton County Police Department.**
- C. Exhibit No. 22-103  
Request approval of the County Litter Abatement Grant Application for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- D. Exhibit No. 22-104  
Request approval to award the Dispatch Laptops bid to C-Forward for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**
- E. Exhibit No. 22-105  
Request approval to renew the Trane Adaptive Frequency Drive (AFD) agreement between Trane U.S. Inc. and the Kenton County Detention Center for the centrifugal chiller.**
- F. Exhibit No. 22-106  
Request approval to surplus a 9mm Glock 43, a 40 cal Glock 22 and a 9mm Glock 22 and give them to retired Deputies for the Kenton County Sheriff 's Department.**
- G. Exhibit No. 22-107  
Request approval to award the pauper burial and indigent cremation services bid to Don Catchen & Sons Funeral Home for the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**
- H. Exhibit No. 22-108  
Request approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sale of the Pelly Road Property.**
- I. Exhibit No. 22-109  
Request approval to surplus light duty fleet vehicles for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

### **Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 22- 102  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of**

**Missy Miles to the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) Board.**

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

**B. Executive Order 22- 103  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Rhonda Whitaker-Hurtt to the Tri-Ed Board.**

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

**C. Executive Order 22- 104  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Janice Friedman to the Piner Fire District Board.**

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

**D. Executive Order 22- 105  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Garry Neltner to the NKADD Council on Aging.**

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

**E. Executive Order 22- 106  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the reappointment of Sharon Noll to the Northern Kentucky Independent Health District Board.**

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

**F. Executive Order 22- 107  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Amanda Peters to the Transitions Board.**

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

**G. Executive Order 22- 108  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Guy van Rooyen and Sandy Ritter to the MeetNKY Board.**

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

**H. Executive Order 22- 109  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of David Tretter to the Building Code Appeals Board.**

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

**I. Executive Order 22- 110**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Lewis Diaz to the Kenton County Airport Board on recommendation from the Boone County Fiscal Court.**

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.

**J. Executive Order 22- 111**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the reappointment of Damon Allen and appointment of Sherry Goodridge to the Police Merit Board.**

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.

**K. Executive Order 22- 112**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Gregory Bartlett and the re-appointment of Julie Roesel-Belton to the Kenton County Library Board of Trustees.**

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

**L. Executive Order 22- 113**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Hannah Feilhauer as the Human Resources Generalist/Recruiter for the Kenton County Administration 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.

**M. Executive Order 22- 114**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Erin Graul as an Animal Control Sergeant for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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

**N. Executive Order 22- 115**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Nicholas Rhoden as a Sergeant for the Kenton County Police 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.

**O. Executive Order 22- 116**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the wage adjustment for Ronald Morrison as a Solid Waste Technician for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

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

**P. Executive Order 22-118**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the amended compensation structure for the Kenton County Emergency Communications 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.

**Q. Executive Order 22-119**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Wayne Bach, Jim Shumate and Tony Tuttle to the Road Closure Committee.**

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

**R. Executive Order 22-120**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Michael Rohmiller to the Kenton County Airport Board.**

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, present not voting, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**Administrative Reporting**

**Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that this time of the year they start shopping for new computers for the Fiscal Court and all the other governmental agencies that they provide IT support for in the County. It is a time intensive project to purchase it, and they like to do it all together to get better pricing. When they sit down to replace a computer, it could take a lot of time per user. They have to confirm that every single thing that is done on each computer individually works properly. It isn't just about getting shipment in, as it is sitting down with the user as well. When they looked at different IT vendors across the region, a lot don't offer personalized service. She wanted to take the time to give a shout out to Michael Willen, who has spent a lot of time getting to know individual users, and setting up their equipment.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they are planning to go live with the new UKG system for job posting. Previously, they have used NeoGov, and that was an improvement on paper applications, but there have been a lot of complaints from hiring managers about issues with the program. So, the UKG system is the same system used for timekeeping and will save a lot of time in redundancy for the HR Department.

Lastly, Ms. Ramsey stated that they just finished rolling out new switches at the Detention Center. These switches are extremely nice in that in addition to new hardware, they also come with software and a dashboard. This can be logged into, and real time traffic can be seen. It is useful, as if there is one person having trouble connecting they don't have to send two personnel out to the Detention Center to troubleshoot it. They can just log into a website, and quickly fix it in five minutes. It saves a significant amount of time and money. It gives a real time view of traffic and alerts, which protects from a ransomware attack.

Commissioner Draud asked how often the computers are replaced?

Ms. Ramsey answered that as a general rule, she budgets for replacements every five years. If it rarely gets used, this may get pushed off a year. If it is a highly used computer, it may be sooner than the five years.

### **Animal Services**

Kelsey Maccombs stated that she is grateful for the appointment of the new Animal Control Sergeant. She has brought on a significant amount of folks to her department, and Dispatch and Technology Services have been a huge assistance to her. The new Sergeant comes with a wealth of experience in Animal Control. Her first priority will be creating a training program. It will increase safety for both the animals and the officers in the field.

Ms. Maccombs then stated that there has been a lot of communication about the Community Cats Program. There are many well-intentioned people that find cats outside, and bring them to the shelter when in reality these may be someone's outdoor cat. They want to continue returning these cats. She is working to get this communication out to the public.

Ms. Maccombs then stated that they are down to just one vacant position, and she is grateful to the Fiscal Court for getting her people hired.

### **External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that the workforce RFP is close to being completed. They will be studying the governance structure for workforce in Northern Kentucky. The Kentucky Data Center recently released their population projection based on the 2020 census. The good news is that Boone and Kenton are going to continue to grow. The bad news is that they are not going to grow nearly as much as the economy will demand. In fact, Warren County is projected to race past Boone and Kenton to become the third most populous county in Kentucky by 2050. This is just a reminder that as workforce is discussed going forward; it is not just about talent development. It is talent attraction. We need to learn how to market our region better to get people to move here, and how do we reduce the barriers to get people to move in.

Commissioner Draud asked what was predicted for the State of Kentucky as far as growth?

Mr. Stanton answered that we are not a rapid growth state. He will send the stats out. He then stated that there may be a special session on Eastern Kentucky. We are blessed to have Chris McDaniel as the Chair of the A and R committee, and he will be in the center of anything that occurs as far as the budget. Special sessions are called by the Governor, and they are as broad or as narrow as the Governor's call. Lastly, the most recent addition of What's Happening has come out, and it is under new ownership. It has a different appearance, and it was more work for Sara Sgantas. This still remains as the one publication that goes to every household in Kenton County. It gives us four pages to communicate about the County. There is one more addition under the current contract, and he will continue to evaluate how we operate with What's Happening in the future. We pay for four pages, and sometimes five if we get a grant.

Mr. Stanton then stated that at the end of the second quarter report, we had hit about an additional 10,000 single family homes with broadband, and about 1,600 multi-family residences. Colin Taylor, who is the liaison with Alta Fiber does a good job. We get very few complaints. There plans are to hit 6,300 more single family homes by the end of the year.

### **Public Works**

Nick Hendrix stated that he is pleased to announce that the Fiscal Court has received a rubberized asphalt grant from the Division of Waste Management. It is one of four in the State. These grants are offered to get rubberized asphalt deployed, and comes from crumb rubber from

waste tires. The fee you pay when buying tires for recycling goes to this fund. They will be paving Staffordsburg Rd. from Visalia Rd to Kenton Station Rd. Hopefully, it will be this fall, but more likely in the spring. He thanked Melissa Grandstaff and Anna Miller for the hard work that they put in on this grant. This will extend the paving program for a about a mile.

Mr. Hendrix then stated that he would like to thank Steve Hensley's team and Rick Buster for going down to Eastern Kentucky to help with the flooding. Also, he congratulated Steve Hensley on is well deserved honor tonight.

Judge Knochelmann asked Mr. Hendrix to update the court on the vehicle that has been discussed.

Mr. Hendrix stated that the vehicles came up in staff meeting, so a couple of vehicles that were being surplusd are now going to help Eastern Kentucky. Scott McClain, who is very good at keeping up our Fleet program pulled them off, and is sending them tonight.

Commissioner Draud stated that he spoke with Sal Santoro, and he and the Secretary of Transportation took a tour of Eastern Kentucky. That is the kind of person we are really going to miss. He doesn't know if Eastern Kentucky will ever recover. He then asked if there is any progress on the Dixie Highway situation.

Mr. Hendrix answered that they followed up at their last quarterly meeting, and followed up with Bob Yeager last week. He was going to try to run at it again. They initially had some issues with the estimate, and they wanted to try to move forward with the resurfacing. We have tried to articulate that it needs to move forward with design, hopefully before the bridge project starts to impact Dixie Highway.

Commissioner Draud asked if they are going to do it right?

Mr. Hendrix answered that this is what they are trying to work through right now. They have had discussions about how important this is to the Fiscal Court. Bob Yeager was going to follow up with the Secretary and the State Highway Engineer to see if there was a chance. He committed to letting us know something in a couple of weeks. What they need to do this fall is at least address the base failures in front of the Ft. Mitchell Fire Department. The resurfacing is set to be complete in November.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this corridor needs to be rebuilt.

### **Treasury**

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the July 2022, Financial Reports have been submitted.

### **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 stated that he would be remiss in not recognizing his good friend Steve Hensley. He cannot think of anyone that has been more effective in the amount of time that he has been. He is a good problem solver. He is a go to guy, and his knowledge spans decades. He is always gracious and responsive. He doesn't think he has ever met a more effective person in so many different roles.

**Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann**

Judge Knochelmann stated that Steve Hensley has a very good way of putting ideas in your head, and making you think they are yours. He then congratulated Scott Gunning on his first week.

**Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris 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 August 9, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser/Fiscal Court Clerk