

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**Kenton County Government Center**  
**Second Floor Chambers**  
**1840 Simon Kenton Way**  
**Covington, KY 41011**

**August 23 , 2022**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge Knochelmann called to order the August 23, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Nienaber 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: Scott Gunning, County Administrator  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk  
Roy Cox, County Treasurer

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of August 9 , 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 the 2022 Pioneer Award to Terry Foster.**

Judge Knochelmann presented Mr. Foster with a proclamation, and thanked him for all that he has done for the community.

Meredith Hitter, Mr. Foster's daughter, spoke about her father as a wonderful community man. She is very proud of him, and is proud to say she is his daughter. He has spent almost all of his 65 years to Kenton County.

Terry Foster stated that he is honored to receive this award. His parents moved to Taylor Mill in 1955, and his father was the first Police Chief in Taylor Mill. He did a lot of public service in Kenton County, and he learned his standards from his family. He appreciates the support he gets from his family, friends and colleagues.

**B. Request approval of the first amendment and assignment and assumption of agreement in lieu of taxes for the John R. Green Lofts Project.**

Jim Parsons stated that the John R. Green Project was actually two projects. It was the construction of structured parking, and then the new construction that occurred in Main Strasse. Part of that was the historical John R. Green Building. When the bonds were originally issued, it was all under one structure, but they are two separate projects. What is happening now is that the new construction project that consists of about 178 residential units and the structured parking is being sold to a third party. The historic project is still being developed, and will be renovated by the current owners of that project. Because they are doing this as two separate projects, part of it is actually being assigned to a third party and they need to split the pilot obligations between the two projects. This doesn't extend the bond term at all, and the Court will get the same pilot payment that was received from the original agreement. He appreciates the consideration for the approval.

Commissioner Draud asked what the historical part is to this?

Mr. Parsons answered that it is the original John R. Green retail store. It will be reused and developed into commercial development. When that project was developed, there was a restriction on the property. Some of the parking will be available for public parking.

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

**C. Presentation of the Cooperative Extension District 's Tax Rate.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the Cooperative Extension's rate is 1.1 cents per \$100 assessed value, and 1.39 cents per \$100 assessed value for personal property. This is the compensating rate.

**D. Request approval of a purchase contract for 2139 and 2153 Bromley Crescent Springs Road.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is property alignment for the Bromley Crescent Springs Rd. development.

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.

**E. Request approval of the ground lease with the Northern Kentucky Health Department for the property owned by the Kenton County Fiscal Court adjacent to St. Elizabeth, Covington.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is part of the larger package that they have been working on with PDS, St. Elizabeth and the Cold Shelter. This property is for the new location for the Covington Health Department Facility. It will be a needed asset here in Covington.

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.

**F. Claims List dated August 19, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Resolutions**

**A. Resolution No. 22-01M**

## **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: \$1,000 to cover gasoline purchases outside of Public Works for the Animal Services Department, \$110,000 for the property along Bromley Crescent Springs Rd., \$9,500 for insurance premium tax refunds and \$750 for a change order for the remodel of the 911 center.

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.

### **Ordinances**

#### **A. Ordinance No. 226.05 - Second 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 for Latonia Lakes to recoup the road fees. There was a scrivener's error on the Ordinance he sent you. It should be 32.24 cents per \$100 assessed value.

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. Ordinance No. 226.06 - Second 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 is a reduction of the tax rate.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that this is below the compensating rate, so it is a 6.5 reduction.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is taking this back to the rate from 2009.

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

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Exhibit No. 22-110**

**Request approval to ratify the Change Order #2 and Change Order #3 for the Police Auxiliary building project.**

#### **B. Exhibit No. 22-111**

**Request approval of the Kenton County Detention Center 's Policy Manual.**

#### **C. Exhibit No. 22-112**

**Request approval to award the Golf Course Cart Paths bid to Riegler Blacktop for the Golf Courses of Kenton County.**

- D. **Exhibit No. 22-113**  
Request approval to award the inmate telephone system bid to Combined Public Communications for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- E. **Exhibit No. 22-114**  
Request approval to purchase a 2022 Caterpillar 289D3 High Flow Compact Track Loader for the Kenton County Parks and Recreation Department.
- F. **Exhibit No. 22-115**  
Request approval to go out to bid for a 1 ton dump truck and chassis, 1.5 ton dump truck and chassis and a 2.5 ton dump truck and chassis for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- G. **Exhibit No. 22-116**  
Request approval of the Hot Mix asphalt bid from Riegler Blacktop for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- H. **Exhibit No. 22-117**  
Request approval of the Long Line Striping bid from Oglesby Construction, Inc. for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- I. **Exhibit No. 22-118**  
Request approval to issue a Quietus to the Kenton County Sheriff for the Fiscal Year 2021 taxes.
- J. **Exhibit No. 22-119**  
Request approval of the service agreement between CBTS and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for the firewall services for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.
- K. **Exhibit No. 22-120**  
Request approval to surplus a 9mm Glock 17 to a retired Deputy for the Kenton County Sheriff 's Department.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

#### **Executive Orders**

- A. **Executive Order 22- 121**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the promotion of William Scott to an Engineering Services Technician II for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

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

- B. **Executive Order 22- 122 An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Jason Bannister as a Public Services Technician I for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

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

**C. Executive Order 22- 123**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Carl Thomas as a Public Services Technician I for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

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

**D. Executive Order 22- 124**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Christopher Huhn as a Police Officer for the Kenton County Police 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.

**E. Executive Order 22- 125**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of William Ray as an Animal Control Officer for the Animal Services 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.

**Administrative Reporting**

**Detention Center**

Jailer Marc Fields stated that their work program has really taken off. The City of Covington and the City of Erlanger have been using three inmates a day since the middle of May. They have used 1,872 hours in Covington, and 1,512 in Erlanger. The City of Ft. Wright has had one inmate every day since the middle of April. They have done about 672 hours of work. Kenton County Parks, Garage and Litter crew have provided 7,680 hours of labor. The Kenton County Spring Clean Up had seven inmates for two full days, the Kenton County Fair had five inmates there for six days, St. Joe's Festival had six inmates for three days and the Children's Home Corn Roast had five inmates. The City of Covington wants to start their litter abatement crew back up. He again has to go back to their population, and they need to ship out eligible workers to other county facilities. That leaves limited bed space. Therefore, what the State is doing is really an issue. He has a meeting later this month with a committee that the State has put together. They had a priority ship move for a medical inmate that was approved by the State on July 8<sup>th</sup>. That inmate is still at the Kenton County Jail today. That is how far behind they are, and hopefully something will be done soon.

Commissioner Draud asked if the work program is open to all of the cities?

Jailer Fields answered that it is, and they had a meeting with all of the cities. He believes that every city came to the meeting. Not all of them have asked to participate. They have done some mulching for the City of Edgewood.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that these cities are taking custody of these inmates during the day, so they have to have the resources within their cities to manage that. It is a great program.

**Emergency Communications**

Ashley Hawks stated that on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m. the Dispatch Center switched over to operations at the Government Center in the Emergency Operations Center, where they are

currently still sitting while their office is being renovated. They were able to one at a time log out of their phone, and when everything was logged out everything automatically rolled over to this facility. It went as smoothly as they could ever have imagined. This will set examples for other counties in Northern Kentucky as to how to best prepare for a true emergency, and having to relocate dispatch operations at a moment's notice. They have already had visits from the Campbell County Director, and there will be a meeting with Boone County tomorrow. Additionally, their most recent hire graduates from the Dispatch Academy on Friday, and for their community project they usually do some research on the communities they dispatch for in the area. This time, they were able to do a fundraiser to purchase equipment and resources for the victims of the Eastern Kentucky Floods. Therefore, our Dispatch Center was able to raise \$650 in a week for numerous personal supplies and school supplies for the victims.

Judge Knochelmann stated that all of this is a testament to the IT Department, and the Dispatch team. Not too many years ago, there were three separate dispatch centers in Kenton County. It is also a good testament to Ms. Hawks' leadership.

Commissioner Draud stated that it is due to the Judge's leadership, and the Fiscal Court.

### **Police Department**

Chief Jones stated that just a few weeks ago, Captain Gary Helton reported to the Court as to the task of reaccreditation for the Police Department through the K.A.C.P. Tonight he is very happy to report that they have achieved this status once again thanks to Gary's hard work and the work of many others.

Chief Jones then stated that he would like to thank the officers of his department, as well as the firefighters from the Independence Fire District for their participation in the 2022 back to school cram the cruiser event held two weeks ago at the Independence Kroger. In addition, he would just like to remind residents to take a little extra time in their morning commute, as school is back in session in Kenton County. We need to be cautious as the roads are populated with school busses and students. Take a little extra time, be observant and lets all work together to keep our kids safe.

### **Emergency Management**

Steve Hensley stated that all of the members went to Eastern Kentucky are back home safely. They went down and spent extended periods of time. Also, he will be presenting a budget adjustment soon for \$60,000 for expenses associated with the clean up for the overturned tanker on I-75 a few weeks ago. They are still collecting the invoices for this event.

Mr. Hensley then stated that they have initiated the planning process and attending meetings for the Riverfest operations. Ashley Hawks has agreed to give them two dispatchers. Also, they will do some updates and upgrades in the EOC, and they are able to accomplish that in part by a donation from Duke Energy. Also, they applied for some special projects money through the State Emergency Management Association. This is the Emergency Management Performance Grant, and counties have to be in compliance with all of the requirements across the Commonwealth in order to be eligible for those funds. Not all counties end up being into compliance. There will be some technology and electronic upgrades done in the room. Towards the end of the year, they will be rolling out their CPR/AED training for all of the employees. He then stated that it is important to acknowledge the support of the Fiscal Court. If we would still be operating out of 303 Court St., the move of Dispatch would not have been possible.

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

Assistant County Attorney Chris Nordloh had nothing to report.

## **Commissioners' Reports**

### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud asked what the status is on the Simon Kenton statue for the front of the building?

John Stanton answered that it is still being worked on by the sculptor. He had neck surgery, but is currently working on it. He stated that everyone is welcome to go see the progress.

### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he is happy to have lowered the tax rate. This is due to the Department Heads and staff that have been fiscally conservative.

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

Judge Knochelmann stated that as a region there are a lot of Police Departments and Public Safety Officials. One of the things he would like to see in the future is to coordinate efforts for salaries and structure with the other cities and counties. It would do a lot of good to have a bit of uniform salaries. We took a big step with our Dispatchers recently to be sure that we were compensating fairly. They are tough jobs that need proper compensation, and this needs to be done on a regional basis.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he thinks the Judge is exactly right. We need to look at more opportunities to share in services, so we aren't competing for a finite amount of resources. We need to take anything we can to a regional level.

Judge Knochelmann then stated Commissioner Draud has asked about the housing issue for the region, and there is only one individual point person. There are some meetings that are being planned, and one of the preliminary agreements is that there is not a good set of data to make decisions from. There have been some discussions that before there is any recommended policy, there should be an assessment of what is going on in the community (availability/price points). So, he hopes there is something that can be brought back to the court soon on this issue. The hope is that it will be a regional investment.

## **Executive Session**

### **A. Discussion per KRS 61.810 (B) pertaining to the potential acquisition or sale of real estate.**

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

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

## **Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Nienaber 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 August 23, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk

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