

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 24 , 2023**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge Knochelmann called to order the January 24, 2023 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 Nienaber, District 3  
County Attorney, Stacy Tapke

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of January 10 , 2023.**

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.

**Citizens Address**

Tyson Hermes asked to address an item on the agenda. He asked about the Resolution regarding the Kenton County Fair Housing. He is thankful that the County takes care of this, and once in a while they do get people that come to the City and ask for a similar Resolution. It is nice to be able to say that the County has already take care of it. He would like to ask that the Judge and Commissioners entertain the idea to add in paragraph two and three that political affiliation cannot be discriminated against. It is something that gets overlooked a lot, and with House Bill 50 and Senate Bill 50 it is even more important.

Mr. Hermes then stated that the other item he wanted to discuss was that he would like to ask the Commissioners to entertain repealing the recent Ordinance that raised the payroll taxes, at least until there is more information. It seems like there hasn't been adequate study of what the taxes will bring in. At one time they were told there is no way to figure that out, but it sounds like at one point the Commissioners had been told that it would be between \$9-10 million. Doing some quick study between Erlanger, Independence and Covington, and they think those numbers are going to be somewhere between \$20-25 million. If anybody should be able to figure out what should be expected from this tax, it should be Kenton County. They have all the payroll data for Kenton County, except for Covington and Covington would surely turn over their information. Even if

going off of last years numbers. They just want a projection. They would feel more comfortable, and he thinks that the Commissioners were maybe not given enough information or were possibly misled before making their vote. He asks that they entertain repealing that until there is more information.

Commissioner Draud asked Mr. Hermes if the City of Erlanger has a franchise tax?

Mr. Hermes answered that they do on public utilities.

Commissioner Draud stated that he thought they did. He asked if they were considering removing that when the 911 fee came into play? Do they need both the 911 fee and the franchise tax?

Mr. Hermes answered that they have been talking about that being a possibility for Erlanger to be able to get rid of an entire tax by removing the franchise fee.

Commissioner Draud asked when they plan to do that? He thought they were planning to do that when the 911 fee came in.

Mr. Hermes answered that he was Mayor at the time, and he doesn't believe that was ever discussed.

Commissioner Draud asked when they are planning on doing it then?

Mr. Hermes answered that it is something that they discussed. He doesn't know if he is familiar with their council and how it is made up, but they don't have quite the makeup on council to be able to do that.

Commissioner Draud stated that he doesn't seeing any problem with adding that political aspect to the Resolution.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that these documents were prepared by the NKADD, who is the grant administrator, and he would like to clear it through them before any changes are made. These are required for the Federal dollars that we are getting. He is not saying that he opposes any change, he is just saying that before we make a change to their documents we have to ask them.

Commissioner Draud stated that maybe they need to hold up with that, as it might make it stronger.

Judge Knochelmann stated that they should go ahead and approve it tonight, and then get with Elishia before the next meeting. We can always amend it. She has these documents that she needs by her deadlines. He encourages Mr. Hermes and anyone else who sees this to feel free to reach out before the meeting about anything on agenda, and it will help things be more efficient.

## **General Business**

### **A. Claims Lists dated January 20, 2023.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

## **Resolutions**

### **A. Resolution No. 23-01B**

**A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer stated that the budget adjustments are for the following: \$50,000 to cover collection rate based refunds to eligible cities (this is for the City of Edgewood), \$35,000 to correct budgeting error for software development contract services for the Technology Services Department and \$5,000 to cover additional costs over the original budgeted amount for the boiler replacement at the Detention Center.

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. Resolution No. 23-03**

**A Resolution authorizing the filing of a 2023 Kentucky Community Development Block Grant-Public Services application.**

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. Resolution No. 23-04**

**A Resolution prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental, lease, advertising of sale, rental or lease, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage or rental services because of race, color, religion, sex, disability (physical or mental), familial status (children) or national origin.**

Commissioner Draud asked if this is the issue that they were dealing with that had a committee regarding adequate housing?

Judge Knochelmann answered that this is totally unrelated. There is a consultant now who has been hired to evaluate the whole region. He believe this is a 90 day - six month process that they will be going through and will bring back to us. That was contracted through NKADD as well.

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.

**D. Resolution No. 23-05**

**A Resolution authorizing and approving certain actions in connection with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.**

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. Resolution No. 23-06**

**A Resolution of Kenton County appointing a Title VI Coordinator, appointing three members as Title VI Committee and Section 504 Committee Members, allowing the Judge/Executive, on behalf of the Fiscal Court, to be authorized to sign the Title VI Statement of Assurances, and that the County adopt the Kentucky Department for Local Government 's Title VI Plan.**

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. 930.5 - Second Reading**  
**An Ordinance amending Article VII and Article X of the Official Zoning Ordinance of Unincorporated Kenton County relating to agricultural tourism definitions and regulations within the A-1 and A-2 agricultural zones.**

Judge Knochelmann thanked Kathy Donohue for all of her hard work with this issue.

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.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 23-12**  
**Request approval to ratify the Kentucky Ambulance Block Grant application for the Independence Fire District.**
- B. Exhibit No. 23-13**  
**Request approval to award the Dispatch Laptops bid to C-Forward for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Center.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

### **Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 23-13**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the reappointment of Joe Nienaber to the PDS Council, with Beth Sewell as the alternate.**

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.

- B. Executive Order 23-14**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the step increases for various Police Officers 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.

- C. Executive Order 23-15**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the step increases of Jeremy Lynn and Billy Scott for the Kenton County Public Works 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.

- D. Executive Order 23-16**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Trenton Bailey as a Seasonal Public Services Technician 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.

**E. Executive Order 23-17**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of William Johnson as a Parks Services Technician I for the Kenton County Parks 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.

**F. Executive Order 23-18**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Brandy Turner as a Dispatcher I for the Kenton County Emergency Communications 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.

**G. Executive Order 23-19**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Taylor Jackson as the Animal Control Sergeant for the Kenton County 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.

**H. Executive Order 23-20**

**An Executive Order declaring a Level One Snow Emergency effective January 22, 2023.**

No action needed

**I. Executive Order 23-21**

**An Executive Order rescinding the Level One Snow Emergency effective January 23, 2023.**

No action needed.

### **Administrative Reporting**

### **Emergency Communications**

Ashley Hawks stated that about three years ago the Dispatch staff started to participate in the Career Development program the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. This program created different certificates that provide the employees something to work towards through their training that is required by the State of Kentucky. As of the end of December 2022, they have had several employees who have received different certificates through this program. The great thing about this is that once they have received certificates, they can be applied towards many universities in Kentucky towards a masters or bachelor's degree. There are many employees that are currently looking into that. The certificates are broken into several different areas of expertise. There is the general telecommunications certification, which is intermediate and advanced, and depending on how long they have been there, the types of training they can get and how many trainings they attend designates what certificates they can get. They also have three specialized areas, certified training officer, supervisors and managers/directors. They

currently have 14 intermediate dispatchers, 10 advanced, one trainer, two supervisors and one manager/director. It is a lot of work on their behalf.

Commissioner Draud asked how long Ms. Hawks has been with the County?

Ms. Hawks answered that she has been with Kenton County since 2005.

Commissioner Draud stated that we are lucky to have her, and she is a dynamic employee.

Commissioner Nienaber asked how it is looking at Dispatch as far as employees?

Ms. Hawks answered that they are currently down 15, and the percentage is 53% as far as staffing. There are interviews coming up. She is in the process of taking a class for recertification. The national standard is 25% on failure rate for trainees, and they better than that.

### **Detention Center**

Jailer Marc Fields stated that he would like to recap what happened in 2022 at the Detention Center. In 2022, they had 7,951 total bookings, but in 2021 they had 7,947. They came from a high of 12,000 in 2018 down to this number. Covington leads the way in the number of bookings with 2,985, Kenton County Sheriff's Office had 808, Erlanger had 758 and the Kenton County Police Department had 305. It is the same cities where the population is concentrated that they see the most arrests. The daily population in 2022 was 597, in 2021 it was 590, in 2020 it was 570, in 2019 the average daily population was 775 for a 600 bed facility and in 2018 it was 693. They have really tried to keep their population down to keep the cost down for the County. In doing that, they transported and released to other county facilities 457 inmates in 2022 alone. The Home Incarceration Program released 664, and 753 people were released to treatment. The State took 34 inmates, and there is still a list of inmates that they are waiting to get transferred to the State. Next Wednesday they are coming to get ten. There are several people in our jail that can't be housed in our jail over 45 days per statute. There is a guy with a life sentence in our jail that has been there 206 days after sentencing, but a total of 513 days. There are several of those. It is a continual fight to get the State to take their inmates.

Jailer Fields then stated that Hamilton County has closed floors of their jail due to staffing. Everyone is dealing with the same thing. In 2022 Kenton County had 78 interviews, and out of that they hired 34. Out of that 34, they still have 24 of those employees. That is about 34%. The things that the Fiscal Court has been supportive of them to do has made a difference and is appreciated. He believes they are seeing the effect of that, and the quality of their applicants has gotten much better.

### **Emergency Management**

Steve Hensley stated that they had a workshop planned for the Public Works crew, but the weather has caused them to reschedule for February 20<sup>th</sup>. They were invited and able to provide an overview and introduction to Emergency Management to the Northern Kentucky City Clerk's Association this week. It was very well received, and it was a great group of people with good questions. They also attended over the weekend the Kenton County Mayor's Group meeting, and started the distribution process for the countywide EOP (Emergency Operations Plan). They were also visited in the last couple of weeks by the National Weather Service to reinspect the Emergency Operations Center, and look at our policies to make sure we are still qualifying for the Storm Ready Program. The County was success, and have received the designation.

Finally, Steve Hensley stated that on February 7<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting a joint Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs meeting at the Government Center. The purpose of that is to talk about the common

ground they have going on like how to better utilize equipment and more effectively communicate at the scene. Also, this evening at 11:00 p.m. a Level One Snow Emergency will be issued for Kenton County. He asked all residents to move their vehicles from the roadway.

### **Police Department**

Chief Jones stated that it is time for his annual certified first responder's report. The officers are trained in advance of the ambulance crews when they show up in some of the rural parts of the County. He is taking that training himself this week. In 2022 the Kenton County Police Department received 30,695 call for service. Out of those calls, they received 2,006 medically related call, which averaged about to about 5.5 medicals per day. The breakdown is as follows: 159 accidents with injuries, 7 animal bites, 24 assaults, 23 assaults with injuries, assisted the fire department 1,468 times with 16 broken bones, 121 emotional crises, 3 overdoses, 4 stabbings, some accidental gunshot wounds and 174 wellbeing checks. Their total Naloxone use was five deployments of that lifesaving drug that were successful. Their AED was deployed six times for six saves this year. They are very fortunate to have this program, and he encourages any agency in the area to get on this program.

Commissioner Draud stated that the Kentucky State Police are going to start wearing cameras, but we have doing it for seven years. We were ahead of our time.

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud stated that he regrets missing the Mayors meeting last week. His question to Mr. Hermes about the franchise tax was to determine if the one of the reasons they had the franchise tax was that they need the money to operate on. He has not been misled by anything. He has a lot of faith in the County Treasurer, and his support of this payroll tax is pretty simple. The Treasurer has projected that the County will be in the red by 2024, so public agencies need operating expenses. The Jail, pensions and all the things that go with that need money. The estimate from the Treasurer has been around \$10 million, and he thinks the tax is fairer now. Ours was out of line with the other counties. He also supports it so that we do not rely on the property tax for revenue. If we don't get the revenue, we can't do some of the great things that the County has been doing. This County is a first class operation, but it takes money to operate things. Money attracts some outstanding employees, and Kenton County has outstanding employees. You can't get outstanding people without having reasonable salaries. Again, he has not been misled. He support this payroll tax with pride.

#### **Commissioner Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that as this thing moves forward, this will be a process. He hopes that everyone can keep things civil. He knows there is a disagreement right now, but we will work through it. There are a lot of moving parts where it is concerned. He assures them that no one deceived him. To think that there was a complete agreement on all of this is not possible. Everyone has different opinions on how to execute it. There was nothing but the best intentions.

He understands where everyone is coming from, but he hopes everyone remains calm while we work through it together.

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

Judge Knochelmann had nothing to report.

### **Executive Session**

- A. Discussion pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (B) for the purpose of potential acquisition of property, and KRS 61.810 (1) (F) discussions which may lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee.**

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 3-0.

### **Executive Order 23- 22**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Billy Snipes as a Senior 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 3-0.

County Administrator Joe Shriver asked for a budget adjustment to be approved to cover Mr. Snipes' departure pay.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

### **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 3-0 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 January 24, 2023.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk

DRAFT