

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

February 25 , 2020
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the February 25, 2020, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Treasurer Roy Cox led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Judge/Executive, Kris Knochelmann
Commissioner Beth Sewell, District 1
Commissioner Jon Draud, District 2
Assistant County Attorney Chris Nordloh

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

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of February 12 , 2020.

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

Citizens Address

Rob Norris, a fulltime instructor coordinator for Gateway Community College stated that the primary purpose of their program is to bring skills to river cities. On February 6th it was announced that TANK was going to significantly reduce bus service. TANK told him that their hands are tied, and the only avenue is to speak with the Fiscal Court. He feels that this is an enormous issue, and it is counterproductive to everything that they are doing from the skill training side. He is asking that is we aren't going to support TANK, then what are we going to do? Where are these kids going to go? The state has said supply chain is important, advanced manufacturing is important and there is no support by TANK for advanced manufacturing so they can get to the campus. The state has said healthcare is important to our community, but under the proposed route changes there will be no TANK services. These are serious issues that the community needs to talk about and address. He was frustrated that TANK's only answer was that they are the transportation experts, but don't have creativity.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we are working on this diligently.

John C.K. Fisher from the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, and they are the state agency that bans discrimination in any way. He is here to speak about establishing a homeless coordinator to help the public and private agencies that provide housing and programs for the homeless. Secondly, he is asking this Fiscal Court to not approve the TANK proposal to eliminate bus lines.

Mr. Fisher then stated that the City of Covington has recently passed an Ordinance regulating the homeless shelters in Covington. There are about 5 homeless shelters in Covington, but

there are about 40 or so agencies that help people with homelessness, mental or physical illness and other problems affecting low income people. However, there is not one governmental official that coordinates or works with all of these agencies, or who can direct homeless people to the proper agencies. Northern Kentucky needs a homeless coordinator who can work with all of the agencies and the general public to make them all more efficient. He is asking this governmental body to see if they can donate office space, funds or a staff member that can work full time as a homeless coordinator. There are many reasons for homelessness, and the time is now to appoint someone whose full time job is to help with this problem. We have a full time agency call the Tri County Economic Development Cooperation to help business, so why can't we have a full time housing coordinator to help those in need?

Mr. Fisher then stated that he would like that the Fiscal Court not approve the TANK proposal to eliminate bus routes. Eliminating these routes could have life or death consequences for people who can't get to the hospital. It could also affect commerce for those trying to get to school or work. It is better to reduce service, increase taxes or fares then to eliminate service. One of the mandates of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission is to work for the public health and the public good. When we are speaking of homelessness, the U.S. Supreme Court recently let stand a case out of Idaho that said it is illegal for communities to arrest homeless people for sleeping outside if those communities have not provided shelters for those people who need it. So, this issue regarding homelessness affects not only Covington, but all communities. They have attended a TANK meeting, and they told them that the best way to handle this is to speak to the Fiscal Courts. He knows that these issues can be resolved.

Commissioner Draud asked where the 40 locations that help Northern Kentucky are located? Are they just in Kenton County?

Mr. Fisher answered that this is in all three counties. Most of them are in Covington, but it is in all the three counties. They are proposing that the homeless coordinator work in all three counties.

Commissioner Draud stated that he asked, because he knows it is a regional problem. He likes the idea of a coordinator. It can be funded by all three counties. He isn't making any commitments, but again he likes the idea. He asked if Mr. Fisher has talked to the other two Fiscal Courts?

Mr. Fisher answered that he plans to.

General Business

A. Claims Lists -Dated February 21, 2020.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

A. Presentation of final changes to the Direction 2030 comprehensive plan pertaining to Unincorporated Kenton County and requesting approval of Resolution No. 20-06 to request that the recommended Land Use Map changes for Unincorporated Kenton County be sent to the Kenton County Planning Commission.

James Fausz of PDS spoke about the recommended land use map, and the long term future of land use. This has been a yearlong effort. Between the last meeting and tonight, some detailed information was provided regarding the overall project. He wanted to point out that there was additional public input that has resulted in a change along Dixie Highway in the southwestern corner of Kenton County. Commissioner Sewell with her hard work, went out and looked and

one of the things that is different is the removal of industrial and mixed uses along Dixie Highway on the east side. Aside from that change, there are no other changes, and he asked for approval of Resolution No. 20-06.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the Fiscal Court will vote on it tonight, and then it will be taken to the Planning Commission. He thanked Mr. Fausz and Emi Randall for all of their work on this.

Commissioner Sewell stated that the residents were concerned about moving over the boundary at the railroad and 25. They talked to the landowners to help understand their wants and desires. She thanked Mr. Fausz for listening to them and responding.

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

B. Request approval of the offer from Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to reconstruct portions of Richardson Rd.

Nick Hendrix stated that he is speaking on behalf of the Transportation Cabinet. They have had a project in the works for the last couple of years on Richardson Rd., just east of Turkeyfoot Rd. There are a handful of obstacles that could be improved. The scope of the project they put together removes large trees in the clear zone of the roadway on each side. They also have scoped it to improve drainage. They are going to try to add shoulders on both sides, and approve some of the drop conditions. The project starts about 200-300 feet west of Thomas Dr, and it ties down about 200 feet past the golf course entrance. Part of the project is to correct part of that super elevation as well. They are coming to the Fiscal Court is to ask for a temporary easement. It is a good project for people that are traveling to our golf course and people who travel that roadway. The county isn't giving up permanent right of way.

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

Commissioner Draud wanted to go back to the TANK issue. He doesn't have any idea what is going on with this.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Andy Aiello gave a presentation a few meetings ago. The goal is to make TANK more financially stable long term. With that they made a proposal and got input of residents and business. Some people have come back to us to ask us to adjust things. We have met with TANK about four times to look at the budget, and how it would affect users and riders. Nothing has changed yet that is public, but there have been some easy fixes and there are some others that will impact the budget.

Commissioner Draud stated that he doesn't know anything about the budget issues, but both gentleman that came to the meeting tonight made great points.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the clearest thing that he saw was that for so long, TANK has been operating in their biggest footprint possible. Now, the goal is to make sure that we impact the most amount of users, and make it more usable. Their net proposal shows some reductions, but the idea is that it will dramatically improve the number of users.

C. Update on the Kenton County Detention Center 's Substance Abuse Program.

Jason Merrick from the Jail Substance Abuse Program thanked the Fiscal Court for this amazing experience. They were able to launch a project in 2018 called JSAP Cor12 with funding from the Federal Government. They partnered with one of the gold standards in the United States,

the Hazelton/Betty Ford Foundation to implement a three track program with medication assisted treatment. He reviewed the first report. They were only able to capture 13 of the 101 participants that had come into the six month completion window. The outcome data doesn't represent a very large portion of the sample that they served. He considers this report as the first draft. They are tracking homelessness, drug use, mental health use and they saw a dramatic reduction in homelessness. Every person that they served received stable housing. 22% were homeless when they came into custody, and none of them were homeless when they left. 71.4% reported no injection drug use within 30 days of their release. Illegal drug use was reported as 99% not using after release. There has been an increase in the medication assisted program. Out of the 13 reporting, 46% that didn't use medication at the 6 month point were still in jail or back in jail. The people that used the medication were out and doing well. There was 46.2% increased employment at six months. There is more financial support to children, improved mental health, violent behavior is down and hallucinations are down. Over 93% of the participants were participating in one of the 12 step support groups.

Commissioner Sewell commended Mr. Merrick for always being enthusiastic. She asked what the reason was that only 13 people were captured?

Mr. Merrick answered that it is a six month program, so of the 100 people 50 of them were still in the program. Only 13 of them had entered into the six month window. The six month follow up rate was at 118%, so of the people that were in the window for the six month follow up they completed the 118%.

Commissioner Sewell noticed that they are doing a lot of work for unemployment. How is that working?

Mr. Merrick stated that the first year they worked out a lot of kinks. They are augmenting the criminal justice system in Kenton County in a way that is not being done anywhere else. The Life Learning Center has taken on so much responsibility for these men and women reentering society. They are able to serve as a hub for case management, life skills, housing, food and jobs. They even transport to the jobs. Corporex, Bill Butler and his team, Alecia Edgington and everyone at Life Learning Center are amazing partners. He hopes that this can be replicated in other parts of the state. It is an amazing system. They have always been the default program at the jail, and they have never really had funding for after care and reentry. They are showing that it works, and there will be a return on investment. It costs \$1500 to help someone for the first couple of months, compared to \$23,000 for a year of incarceration.

Judge Knochelmann stated that you have Life Learning Center, you have physicians, you have UK and everyone sitting there having open conversations about the different ideas. They are constantly fixing and adapting.

Commissioner Draud asked how homes are found for the homeless?

Mr. Merrick answered that they use their sober living partners, so part of the grant funds are set aside to provide stable, sober housing for seven weeks after their release. This is paid for while they are getting a job and adjusting.

Commissioner Draud asked if \$23,000 a year is really what it costs to keep an inmate at the jail?

Mr. Merrick answered that this number isn't exact, but it is close.

Commissioner Draud stated that it is kind of low. Typically, nationwide it is a lot more than that. The achievements are a lot to be proud of out there.

Mr. Merrick said that there has been a decrease in opioid use in Kenton County. There is an increase in methamphetamine, but now they have the solution in the fully functional inpatient care unit at the Detention Center with aftercare. They are poised to do some amazing work.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she will never forget her visit out there. Many of them say that this is the first time that anyone has ever cared about them. She was on the street in Covington, and a young man came up to her to let her know that he was at the Detention Center when she was out there visiting. He told her that he was working now, and was happy.

Mr. Merrick stated that there are a lot of success stories out there.

D. Discussion regarding the new Administration Building.
1. Request to approve the Contractor 's Application for Payment #29.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this payment has been reviewed by himself, Nick Hendrix and the Judge, and it has been found appropriate.

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

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 20-01D
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Adjustments.

Treasurer Roy Cox explained that the budget adjustments are for the following: \$18,000 to cover cleaning services for the two Courthouses and \$2,000 for HVAC system assessment at the Animal Shelter.

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

B. Resolution No. 20-05
A Resolution of the County of Kenton, Kentucky adopting the County Road Maintenance List as identified in Exhibit A, effective February 25, 2020.

Nick Hendrix stated that this is a routine function on the court.

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

Ordinance

A. Ordinance No. 840.11 (Second Reading)
An Ordinance relating to the amendment and reenactment of Chapter 90 of the Kenton County Code of Ordinances regulating animals.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the second reading to put this Ordinance into action.

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

Consent Agenda

- A. **Exhibit No. 20-23**
Request approval to surplus old computer equipment and accessories for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.
- B. **Exhibit No. 20-24**
Request approval to surplus assorted tire chains for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- C. **Exhibit No. 20-25**
Request approval to surplus various equipment at the Kenton County Golf Courses.
- D. **Exhibit No. 20-26**
Request approval to award the bid for diesel fuel only to Valor Oil, and gasoline only to Petroleum Traders Corp. for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- E. **Exhibit No. 20-27**
Request approval to repurpose funds to purchase a commercial concrete curbing machine for the Kenton County Parks Department.
- F. **Exhibit No. 20-28**
Request approval to modify the waste removal services contract to include Pioneer Park for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- G. **Exhibit No. 20-29**
Request approval to award the hot water heaters bid to KW Mechanical for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- H. **Exhibit No. 20-30**
Request approval to utilize surplus funds to purchase a Kubota Excavator and a Trailer for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- I. **Exhibit No. 20-31**
Request approval of the Memorandum of Agreements for Pavement Management Systems between the Kenton County Fiscal Court, the City of Edgewood, the City of Elsmere, the City of Villa Hills and Boone County for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- J. **Exhibit No. 20-32**
Request approval to renew the lease agreement with Northern Kentucky Youth Association for the facility management at the Richardson Rd. Park Baseball Complex.
- K. **Exhibit No. 20-33**
Request approval to renew the lease agreement with Northern Kentucky Youth Football League for the facility management at the Middleton-Mills Park Football Complex.
- L. **Exhibit No. 20-34**
Request approval of the contract with Dell Financial Services for a 36-month lease of 167 laptops for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

- M. Exhibit No. 20-35**
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.
- N. Exhibit No. 20-36**
Request approval to go out to bid for the replacement of the playground at Richardson Road Park.
- O. Exhibit No. 20-37**
Request approval to go out to bid for the replacement of the playground at Middleton Mills Park Baseball Complex.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 20-14**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the promotions and pay rates for the Kenton County Police Department.

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

- B. Executive Order 20-15**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Tiffany Schuler as a Dispatcher I for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

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

- C. Executive Order 20-16**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Rebekah Carey as a Dispatcher I for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

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

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Communications

No report.

Police Department

Chief Jones stated that his department has done their I75 corridor blast again. It was raining, which led to some additional problems for them. The two officers wrote a total of 17 charges and two warnings. They also did a live interview with Channel 5 on the morning show. They rode along with one of the officers for a bit. One of the officers, while on a traffic stop was rear-ended by another motorist, and because of Officer Roessler's experience he had his car parked

in a manner that protected everyone. They will have some more extensive statistics that will come out. Erlanger is compiling the total numbers for that day.

Commissioner Draud asked if this is a Federal Grant that pays for this operation?

Chief Jones answered that this is through the state. It is a Highway Traffic Safety Grant that is done periodically. We are optimistic that we will be able to continue this effort. Also, they are working on a Port Authority Grant that they had received last year that assisted in the drone program. They are very optimistic that they will receive the grant again.

Lastly, Chief Jones stated that at the last Fiscal Court meeting he had one of the newly designed patrol cars parked in front of the courthouse. It incorporates the branding, and he appreciates the assistance in getting that together.

Parks/Building and Grounds/Golf Course

No report.

External Affairs

John Stanton stated that Angie Cane is now Northern Kentucky's representative to the Governor in the Department of Local Government. She was the District Director for Congressman Ken Lucas from 1998-2004, and he thinks Angie will serve Northern Kentucky very well. She is very experienced and knows the region.

Mr. Stanton then stated that it is day 34 of the Legislative Session, and there was some thought that moving up the filing deadline would have the activity level commence a little earlier. This hasn't happened. There will be a lot more to report in the future.

Mr. Stanton then stated that it is nice to see Lee Crume here from Tri-Ed. For the first time since the reorganization of Tri-Ed, they are fully staffed. He is looking forward to what is to come from them. Also, PDS did exceptional work during the Land Use project. There is no question that it is the most thoughtful, balanced piece of land use planning. This will help move forward with what he still thinks of as site readiness, but is trying to get used the term location enhancement terminology. He thinks that it is a very balanced approach to what is going on down there. There is a lot more work to do for many years to come, but he thinks that this is a good first step towards good planning in this area going forward.

Mr. Stanton then stated that he had a good meeting this morning with Office of Drug Control Policy. Amanda Peters continues to bring high energy to that program. The new door hanger is ready, and a good agenda will come out in March. Lastly, Candace McGraw and Seth Cutter continue to work with the Homelessness Working Group, and good work is being done there also.

Lee Crume of Tri-Ed stated that they had the pleasure of working with PDS on the Land Use Map, and it is excellent work. He then introduced Charles Patton, a new business owner in Covington. Mr. Patton spoke about his Cat Café that he is bringing to Covington.

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.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann stated that he had a great meeting today with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District Six. Bob Yeager from KYTC has continued to be a great partner. He then asked for approval to go out for an RFP for the operation of the Emergency Shelter. We want to go out for a request for who would operate the shelter. We have a great relationship with the ESNKY, but we want to make sure we cross every T and dot every I to say is there an entity that will operate our shelter. We will be very basic, but we will want to get that out quickly.

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

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 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 February 25, 2020.

Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk