

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Virtual Meeting
<http://www.tbnk.org/togo2>

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the May 23, 2023, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge/Executive Knochelmann led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann
Commissioner Beth Sewell, District 1
Commissioner Joe 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 LGEA/Road Aid Hearing of May 9, 2023 .

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

B. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of May 9, 2023.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

Citizens Address

No citizens contacted the Fiscal Court with comments.

General Business

A. Presentation of a Proclamation declaring the week of May 21-May 27, 2023, as Public Works Week.

Judge Knochelmann read the proclamation and thanked the Kenton County Public Works team for all that they do for the county.

B. Request approval of a funding request for the Linden Grove Cemetery.

Tony Noll, who is a Board member for the Linden Grove Cemetery stated that the \$15,000 that they've requested from the Fiscal Court would provide funding, that in cooperation with the City of Covington (who has already approved a like sum), will provide the funding that will enable a project that will expand affordable burial and passive recreation spaces at Linden Grove. They will be utilizing soil that was already brought onto the site some time ago and that project has been dormant over this time. They wish to proceed, and have received estimates and secured engineering services that would be made available through this funding. He is respectfully requesting that the Fiscal Court approve \$15,000 for that effort.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Mr. Noll, and stated that he knows his work on the board is volunteer, obviously, and a lot of great work is being done there. He clarified that the city has committed the same amount of \$15,000 previously, and this is hopefully going to be doing some of the preliminary work. We are in mutual support between the city and county of the cemetery.

Mr. Noll stated that it is the plan that this would not only expand some passive recreation areas, but it would make the cemetery a functioning burial ground once again primarily geared towards growing sector, and a most affordable outlet for the citizens of the county.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she appreciates all the work that they continue to do on the project. Every time she visits, it gets more beautiful, and this time of year it's especially lovely to walk over there. She appreciates that they are continuing to work the strategic plan that was put together years ago.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he had cemetery conversations this morning with a couple of friends of his who were involved in cemeteries. He wishes that there was more funding for a lot of the Catholic cemeteries to take a little bit better care of the monuments. Linden Grove is a great place,

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

C. Request approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Northern Kentucky Port Authority for the Sims Building Project.

Christine Russell of BeNKY stated that the Sims building is a really important building in Covington, and what the county and the Port Authority are proposing to do is to create a document that allows the county to provide funding to purchase that building, and then through other financing mechanisms, to rehab the building, restore it as a historic building, and lease it out as office space. It will especially have an eye towards growing companies and growth stage companies working with Blue North, the Port Authority, the County and City of Covington.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Roger Peterman is the chairman of the Port Authority and Jeanne Schroer of the Catalytic Fund have been working on the model both financially and getting the construction done, etc. This is that next step of making this all work, and good progress is being made just today alone on everything, from appraisals to really, some of the meetings and work of the Port. He thanked Roger and Jeanne, as well as Christine for all of their hard work.

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

D. Claims List - Dated May 19, 2023

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 23-01J

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

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustment is for \$3 million, which is to fund the MOU with the Port Authority.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

B. Resolution No. 23-20

A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court acknowledging and concurring in the setting/maintaining of the tax rates of the Kenton County Board of Health for 2023-2024 at 2.40 cents per \$100 valuation.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a reduction in their tax rate.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

C. Resolution No. 23-21

A Resolution of the Kenton County Fiscal Court authorizing the filing of Kentucky House Bill (HB) 1 Jail Arraignment Equipment Grant application for up to \$33,602.00 in HB1 project funds to the Department for Local Government (DLG); authorizing and directing the Kenton County Judge/Executive to execute any documents which are deemed necessary by DLG to carry out this project; and authorizing the Judge/Executive to act as the authorized correspondent for this project.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that this is House Bill One, and is a bit like the elections grant. The money has already been approved, and the county has already approved the equipment. Now we need to sign the necessary documents and submit the request.

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote

of 3-0.

Consent Agenda

- A. **Exhibit No. 23-69**
Request approval of the Treasurer 's Bond renewal.
- B. **Exhibit No. 23-70**
Request approval to reject all bids for acoustic panels for the Driver 's License Office, Riedlin Schott Room and the Historic Independence Courthouse.
- C. **Exhibit No. 23-71**
Request approval of the Wolf Rd. Construction Agreement between the City of Taylor Mill, the City of Covington and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- D. **Exhibit No. 23-72**
Request approval to accept the renewal of the agreement for social engineering training software between Phishing Box and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for the Technology Services Department.
- E. **Exhibit No. 23-73**
Request approval to amend the lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless for access to the County 's back up power supply generator at the Kenton County Parking Garage.
- F. **Exhibit No. 23-74**
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- G. **Exhibit No. 23-75**
Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Enzweiler Building Institute, Inc. and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- H. **Exhibit No. 23-76**
Request approval to accept the proposal from Geotechnology for special inspections for structure repairs to the Public Works Campus.

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 roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 23-60**
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Richard Messingschlager to the Independence Fire District Board.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner

Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

**B. Executive Order 23-61
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Pamela Smith as a Part-Time Tax Clerk for the Kenton County Treasury Department.**

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

**C. Executive Order 23-62
An Executive Order approving the appointments of Dave Schroeder, Sharmili Reddy and John Stanton to the Reapportionment Committee.**

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

Administrative Reporting

Technology Services

Jessica Ramsey stated that the project is complete for the security cameras at the Historic Courthouse in Independence and at the Police and Dispatch building. They have a much more comprehensive security camera system. Their next stop is going to be the Animal Shelter starting in a Fiscal Year 2024. Also, on the agenda tonight, there was a phishing box software renewal. This is software that they use to do phishing tests of user accounts on email accounts for Kenton County.Org email accounts. They actually just ran a phishing test on all of the Admin and Treasury users, and she is happy to report that only one person failed. She is pretty sure they did it on purpose out of pure curiosity, to see what would happen. They are happy that they have trained our users well, to avoid clicking through on phishing attacks.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they had their quarterly Cola user group meeting on election day earlier this month. Adam Howard ran that with Sarah Marksberry and Roy Cox, and one of the cool things that Adam did in that meeting was, he used some of the reporting that is available for the city users to answer some of the questions that they frequently send over to Business Services. They released the Filing Wizard this year for this year's annual filings, and they also did a pretty big communications push about the options for filing online. In doing so, they nearly tripled the portion of returns that were filed online. In 2,022, they only had about six percent of filings done online. This year it was 17%, and she suspects that in the coming years they will be able to bump that up more and more. About two-thirds were done through the new method with the Filing Wizard, which is great news. A quarter of all of those online filings were completed in the very last four days before the filing deadline.

External Affairs

John Stanton stated that the contract on the consent agenda tonight regarding the Enzweiler Institute is for phase one for staff and the infrastructure. They are still working through some of the details on phase two. The hope is to have that on the next Fiscal Court meeting agenda. It is

a very large project, and they want to make sure we get the details right? They have notified the nine agencies that they are sending additional ARPA funds to, and those have been turned over to Treasury for the contract process. These will probably be on Consent Agendas going forward as contracts are completed and finalized. They also have started on site visits for kind of a phase. 2 of that.

Mr. Stanton then stated that they starting to see an upload of additional work associated with the Sims Building. He thinks there will be a pretty constant flow of activity related to that project going forward. Also, he spoke about the Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky event. Lisa Desmarais, a former Kenton County employee, was given the Judith Claves award this year, which is a lifetime achievement award, and is the equivalent of being kind of inducted into the Northern Kentucky Hall of Fame. It was great to see Lisa there, and a portion of the many things that she's done over the years were related to her service here at the county. In particular, they showed pictures of her working to wire this building.

Animal Services

Kelsey Maccombs stated that they had their court case wrapped up regarding the horses. The individual pled guilty on nine counts of animal cruelty. The case started in December, and now all of the horses have been placed. On June 1st they have a hearing, and hope to get some of the funding back that the county invested in the care of the horses. Also, it's kitten season, so it has been crazy. The shelter intake is up and calls are up. It is standard for this time of year, so nothing too out of the ordinary there. They are working on creating more programming around the fostered and volunteer teams to help assist both the staff and the animals.

Public Works

Spencer Stork stated that they have a lot of hard working employees out at Public Works, and he is just proud to be part of the team. In addition, they had their spring clean-up on the 28th and 29th of April. They had 929 loads that came to the Independent Station location, and 137 loads at the Pioneer location. They also started their roadside mowing a couple of weeks ago, and they are currently working through their routes. They started the St. John's slide repair projects last week

Treasurer

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the April 2023, Financial Reports have been submitted.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber had nothing to report.

Judge/Executive Knochelmann

Judge Knochelmann had nothing to report.

Executive Session

- A. Discussion pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (C) proposed or pending litigation and pursuant to KRS 61.810 (B) pertaining to the potential acquisition or sale of real estate.**

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

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval to return from the Executive Session; 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 Sewell offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. 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 May 23, 2023.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk