

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 13, 2023**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the June 13, 2023, 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  
Commissioner Joe Nienaber, District 3  
County Attorney, Stacy Tapke

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from meeting of May 23, 2023 .**

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.

**B. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of May 25, 2023.**

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.

**Citizens Address**

Stephanie Weddle, the founder of Forgotten Dog Rescue and board certified behavior analyst in the State of Kentucky stated that she wanted to talk about the animal ordinances in Kenton County, and to inquire about how she can go about modifying some of the ordinances. She knows that they haven't been updated since 2020, and she has personally experienced a lot of animal cruelty cases where it seems that the community in Kenton County is being enabled whereas the rescues and people trying to help are being issued citations. There is a big community cat overpopulation problem, and she personally experienced an incident where a dog was not removed from a home where there was animal cruelty. She is hoping that she can be a voice and talk to someone about modifying some of the ordinances.

Commissioner Draud asked if she has talked to our Director?

Ms. Weddle answered that she has not emailed her back from an email she sent.

Judge Knochelmann stated that she is always welcome to reach out to them directly. He will follow up with this situation, and someone will get back with her. Generally, updates on ordinances are always welcome.

## **General Business**

### **A. Presentation of the 2023 Pioneer Award to Dave Schroeder.**

Judge Knochelmann explained that the honorees are chosen by the Ethics Commission. He then presented Dave Schroeder with a proclamation He and his father are both Pioneer Award honorees.

Angie Taylor, who is representing all of Mr. Schroeder's family, co-workers and friends, stated that she is so happy for Dave. They are all so proud of him, and they are thrilled that he has led them to be in the top ten in the nation for libraries their size. Libraries from all over the country call them to find out what they do for workforce development. Over 500 people have gotten jobs in the last six years, because of the Northern Kentucky Accountability Group and Dave is the brain child of all of that. Also, they are number one in the State of Kentucky, and that is because of Dave. Everything he does every day is visionary, and he leads with integrity and a big heart.

Judge Knochelmann stated that not only do they appreciate Dave's work, but he has set a standard of integrity and kindness. The world needs a lot more Dave Schroeders.

Commissioner Draud stated that they are a good Ludlow family.

Dave Schroeder thanked his family, the Ethics Commission and the Fiscal Court. The library and the Fiscal Court have a wonderful relationship. He then thanked the Board of Trustees and Robin Klaene who helped pull this nomination together without him knowing about it. Also, his dad was amongst the first group to receive this award in 2018, and he passed away the following year so the award means even more to him.

### **B. Request approval of the ARPA Recipient Agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Northern Kentucky Water District to expand Sub-District O.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that originally the Water District contacted the County, and they were awarded a \$1 million grant to do sub-district O. When they started digging into that, they wanted a match. It actually went to Campbell and Kenton County, with each county getting \$1 million. The Judge asked them what they could do if we had more of a match than the \$450,000 they asked us for, and once we sat down with the Water District they said they could impact up to 102 homes. It is all very expensive connections, and that is why it hasn't happened yet. So, 102 out of 500 or less is what we are down to as far as households without water in Kenton County. The Judge felt that it was a great investment to put the additional funds in, so this agreement reflects \$1.4 million out of our ARPA funds going towards this water project.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is probably the best chance that any of the 500 to get accomplished, because the cost starts doubling in terms of per house connection fees. This is still expensive, but it is good use of ARPA dollars.

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.

### **C. Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Enzweiler Building Institute, Inc. and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**

External Affairs Director John Stanton stated that this is revisiting a prior presentation that was made. The Fiscal Court has already approved about \$400,000 through this agreement to help fund infrastructure and staffing. This is the large bulk of the agreement, which will fund the training of up to 240 high school students and up to 400 adults. This is formalizing the contract.

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.

#### **D. Claims List - Dated June 9, 2023**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

#### **Resolutions**

##### **A. Resolution No. 23-01K 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: \$75,000 to cover annual TIF Payments (property tax portion), \$42,150 and \$7,500 to cover wages and benefits through the fiscal year, \$2,000 to cover cost of unexpected wiring needed for fuel pump upgrade for Fleet, \$92,000 to cover annual TIF payments (COLT Portion), \$12,300 to cover increased cost of funding the NKODCP and the addiction helpline and \$4,670,050 to cover approved ARPA projects.

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.

#### **Ordinances**

##### **A. Ordinance 226.12 - Second Reading An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the approval and adoption of the Kenton County Fiscal Court budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.**

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.

##### **B. Ordinance 121.46 - First Reading An Ordinance amending the Kenton County, Kentucky Code of Ordinances Re: Kenton County Policy Manual and County Administrative Code.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this Ordinance is changing the spending limit from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per the State. Also, it is changing the per diem, because it hasn't been changed in 15 years.

#### **Consent Agenda**

##### **A. Exhibit No. 23-77 Request approval of the bid for Property, Casualty, Liability and Worker's Compensation insurance renewal hybrid package with KACO and Princeton, including TPA services with Davies.**

##### **B. Exhibit No. 23-78**

Request approval to go out to bid for Payroll Import Software Development for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.

- C. **Exhibit No. 23-79**  
Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Be Concerned, Inc. and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- D. **Exhibit No. 23-80**  
**Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between CHNK Behavioral Health and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**
- E. **Exhibit No. 23-81**  
**Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Family Nurturing Center and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**
- F. **Exhibit No. 23-82**  
Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between GO Pantry Corporation and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- G. **Exhibit No. 23-83**  
**Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Master Provisions and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**
- H. **Exhibit No. 23-84**  
Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between New Perceptions, Inc. and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- I. **Exhibit No. 23-85**  
Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Northern Kentucky Children's Law Center Inc. and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- J. **Exhibit No. 23-86**  
Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Notre Dame Urban Education Center and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- K. **Exhibit No. 23-87**  
Request approval of the Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between Transitions, Inc. and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- L. **Exhibit No. 23-88**  
Request approval of the Independence Station Road Multi-Use Path and Resurfacing Phase 1 bid from Eaton Asphalt Paving Co., Inc. for the Kenton County Parks Department.
- M. **Exhibit No. 23-89**  
Request approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between Life Learning Center and The Kenton County Fiscal Court as part of the Bridge to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder program.
- N. **Exhibit No. 23-90**

Request Approval to surplus 6- 275 Gallon Tanks and 5-Echo Weed Eaters for The Kenton County Public Works Department.

- O. Exhibit No. 23-91  
Request approval of the Road Resurfacing bid for various roads from Eaton Asphalt Paving Co., Inc. for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- P. Exhibit No. 23-92  
Request approval to withdraw the bid award for the Landscape/Lawn Services from Szabo Project Services, Inc. due to non-compliance of the contract, and award the bid to Merkle Lawn Care Co., for the Kenton County Parks and Recreation Department and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- Q. Exhibit No. 23-93  
Request approval to award the bid for Peer Support Specialist to the Life Learning Center for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- R. Exhibit No. 23-94  
Request approval to ratify the license agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Covington Turners Society, Inc. for improvements to a parking lot in exchange for a license to use the lot.
- S. Exhibit No. 23-95  
Request approval to extend the contract for salt with Compass Minerals for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- T. Exhibit No. 23-96  
Request approval to reject the KACO Salt Reverse Auction bid from Cargill, Inc., for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- U. Exhibit No. 23-97  
Request approval to reject all bids for the restroom renovation for the Public Works Administration Building and accept the Sourcewell contract NC-GC05-062420-LM with the Lusk Group for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- V. Exhibit No. 23-98  
Request approval for the Judge/Executive to enter into an agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the Maintenance of Rural Secondary and related roadways in Kenton County for the 2024 Fiscal Year.
- W. Exhibit No. 23-99  
Request approval of the cancellation of the PhishingBox annual renewal agreement for phishing and social engineering training software for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

#### Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 23-63  
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Roy Cox as the Kenton

## **County Treasurer.**

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.

- B. Executive Order 23-64**  
**An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Shannon Smith and Representative Stephanie Dietz to the meetNKY Board.**

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.

- C. Executive Order 23-65**  
**An Executive Order approving the appointment of Jackson Webster as a Public Services Technician II for the Kenton County Public Works 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. Executive Order 23-66**  
**An Executive Order approving the appointment of Jordan Cummins as a Police Officer I for the Kenton County Police Department.**

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.

- E. Executive Order 23-67**  
**An Executive Order approving the appointment of Ellen Richter as a Part-Time Administrative Assistant 2 for the Kenton County Police Department.**

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.

- F. Executive Order 23-68**  
**An Executive Order approving the resignation of Michael Allgeier as a Police Officer for the Kenton County Police Department.**

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.

- G. Executive Order 23-69**  
**An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Amanda Peters to the Transitions Board.**

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.

- H. Executive Order 23-70**  
**An Executive Order approving the appointment of Spencer Stork at the County Engineer/Director of Public Works.**

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.

- I. Executive Order 23-71**

**An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Michael Drysdale to the Airport Board on recommendation from the Grant County Fiscal Court.**

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.

**J. Executive Order 23-72  
An Executive Order approving the retirement of Donna Richter as a Dispatcher for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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.

**K. Executive Order 23-73  
An Executive Order approving the step increase of Loni Reis from a Dispatcher 1 G7-1 to a Dispatcher 1 G7-2 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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.

**Administrative Reporting**

**Emergency Communications**

Brent Cummins stated that he wants to explain a new piece of technology that his department is using. It is called Rapid SOS, so if you call 911 they can see where the phone is at that moment. It will show on a map where you are, and it is free technology. There are benefits with it, as it will show your medical contacts in your iPhone. An added bonus with the system is that it integrates with the Police bodycams.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that just so he is clear, if he calls 911 he doesn't have to have a subscription for his phone to be identified?

Mr. Cummins answered that there is no subscription. If someone has an Android and don't have the medical portion, there is an integrated website to complete the information.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if he has to share his location?

Mr. Cummins stated that there is no need to share the location. It only works if you call 911.

**Detention Center**

Deputy Jailer Todd Rice stated that this past week, Jailer Fields, Captain Smith, Lieutenant Klier and he attended the Kentucky Jailer's Conference in Covington. They had a good week, and he thanked the Sheriff for his Honor Guard and Judge Knochemann for giving the opening speech. Currently the population is 585, and that is a good thing.

**Police Department**

Chief Spike Jones stated that he would like to congratulate our own Captain Gary Helton for his successful completion and graduation from the FBI Nation Academy's 286<sup>th</sup> session. 238 law enforcement officers graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The 286<sup>th</sup> session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 47 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 25 countries, five

military organizations and six federal civilian organizations. Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership and fitness training. Participants must have proven records as professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

Chief Jones then stated that this summer, they will be sending Captain Chris Pittaluga to the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, KY for the SPI Administrative Officer's course. The Administrative Officers Course is a 12 week (480 hour) in-residence, accredited college level educational program. The course curriculum is designed to develop informed, effective, ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers who are capable of assuming positions of leadership in their respective agencies. It is an appropriate course for individuals in or about to be promoted to middle and upper management positions. The comprehensive development program provides instruction in law enforcement issues, diagnostic problem solving and administrative law. The varied methods of instruction used by the faculty permit participants to engage their individual creativity and initiative through the analytical examination of issues and problems faced by contemporary law enforcement executives. This course is required as a prerequisite for appointment to the position of Police Chief by many government jurisdictions throughout the United States. Numerous graduates of the Administrative Officers Course are among today's law enforcement leaders directing agencies throughout the United States and abroad.

Chief Jones then thanked Director Kelsey Maccombs for her assistance with a south-end resident who recently lost her husband. She was left with a K-9 that she is unable to keep up with, and Kelsey, as well as her team, have been very compassionate in dealing with the situation.

### **Emergency Management**

Steve Hensley stated that Duke Energy donated \$5,000, and that will be for any safety program or initiative that they decide to apply it to. He thanked them for their generosity. Also, they will be having building safety training on July 13th for the County Clerk's office. The last CPR/AED class will be conducted on June 27<sup>th</sup>, and an EOC exercise is scheduled for City, State, and County Public Works Departments June 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, they received a grant for additional AEDs, and once it's installed we will have one publically accessible on every floor. Lastly, they received confirmation that Kenton County has completed all of the requirements for our Storm Ready Renewal.

### **Treasurer**

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the May 2023, financial reports have been submitted.

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that she attended the Kentucky Mental Health Summit, and there were about 1,100 people from around the Commonwealth in attendance. It was interesting, because Sam Quinones was there, and he was the guest speaker. He mentioned Kenton County multiple times during his speech, and how Kenton County is doing it right. He referred people to Kenton County as an example of how a community can come together to fight addiction. Kenton County is specifically mentioned in two or three chapters of his book. He is also the first person she has heard say that jail is an important part of fighting addiction.

Ms. Tapke then stated that she needs the Fiscal Court to give some conflict counsel. There are over 200 appeals pending for the property tax assessments this year. They have had to create two separate boards, and there are one or two cases where there is a conflict. The statute says if



there is a conflict, the Fiscal Court will appoint someone to enter into an agreement with the conflict council at a favorable rate. She asked for approval to enter into an agreement with conflict council.

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.

### **Commissioners' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell stated that she is glad that Commissioner Draud is back. She then congratulated Spencer Stork on his appointment as the County Engineer/Public Works Director.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he is also glad that Commissioner Draud is back. He then stated that Spencer Stork's appointment is well deserved. He is thankful that the county has the caliber of people they have had for that position. Also, he feels that through the ARPA Funds a lot of money has been spent. The beauty of it is that we get to spend it on something worthy. There are a lot of causes that will be greatly helped by the money that we have distributed. Everyone who was in charge of the process did a good job of getting the money in the right hands.

#### **Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann**

Judge Knochelmann stated that he thinks that Kenton County is going to do as good of a job as anyone at distributing the ARPA Funds. Between broadband, workforce and the one time expenditures to agencies, we will be proud of the work that has been done. He thanked John Stanton, Adam Howard and Kurt Greivenkamp for their great work.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that the old County Building at 303 Court St. is ahead of schedule. They are now 70% leased, and they were hoping to hit that number by the end of June but have already hit it. There is some available retail space, but they are wanting it to be more signature and are waiting for the right user.

### **Executive Session**

#### **A. Discussion pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1C) 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 4-0.

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 4-0.

Judge Knochelmann asked for approval of Resolution 23-22.

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

**Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochemann 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 June 13, 2023.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue J. Kaiser/Fiscal Court Clerk

DRAFT