

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 25, 2023**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the July 25, 2023, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Beth Sewell led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann  
Commissioner Beth Sewell  
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, Treasurer  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of July 11, 2023.**

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

**Citizens Address**

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court at this time.

**General Business**

**A. Presentation regarding developments with the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

Director of Emergency Communications, Ashley Hawks presented on the history and accomplishments of the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we are acknowledging what has been accomplished over the past seven to eight years. Ms. Hawks has done a phenomenal job of recapping everything, and it isn't a surprise as to why her team speaks so highly of her. None of this happens without the Fiscal Court supporting the departments financially, and taking some risks along the way. Because of it, first responders, staff and the public in Kenton County are safer.

Commissioner Draud stated that he remembers when we merged with Covington, and one of the ultimate goals then was to have one system for all three counties. Listening to her describe all of the cooperative things that are going on, does she think that should be an ultimate goal?

Ms. Hawks answered that she thinks that the computer system is the first step towards that, but she doesn't think they need to look towards merging the actual centers. That might be something in ten more years down the road, because she doesn't think you should ever put all your eggs in one basket when it comes to public safety. Everyone shouldn't be in one location. There are different models out there, where they could be consolidated but not co-located.

Commissioner Draud stated that they are doing a lot of cooperative things already.

Ms. Hawks stated that one of the things about Dispatch is that they don't make any decisions on their own. They answer to a board, police, fire and Emergency Management. They have to do what is best for everyone, all of the time. The computer system is the next step, and is best for Northern Kentucky.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that somewhere in the recesses of the recordings, there is probably one that of him reporting a driver that was reckless. He went through Boone County, Erlanger and Kenton County Dispatch, which ended up in Ft. Wright. He is proud to say that what we have done with Kenton County, Covington and Erlanger wasn't easy, but it was the right decision. Kenton County has been the leader in communication across the three counties, and they continue to be. His opinion is that if we are going to go thru this CAD thing, we are going to have to be the ones that put it out front. He also thinks that we have an imperfect system for funding, but it is the best system available in the three counties right now. He is proud that we maintain \$75 per household, as we didn't have a fair system before. He is proud that Ms. Hawks has been able to take her budget and people and be leaders in the State and the industry. It is amazing what they have done in recruiting as well.

Commissioner Sewell stated that it has been wonderful having Ms. Hawks here, and experiencing her desire as a female. She wanted to know if it is a redundancy issue that she is concerned about regarding a regional center. Is it important to have separate locations in case something happens in one place, so other counties could still handle it?

Ms. Hawks answered that this is the reason.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Kenton County Dispatch is the third largest in the State.

#### **B. Presentation of the 2023 Pioneer Award to Bruno Giacomuzzi.**

Pat Frew, who nominated Mr. Giacomuzzi stated that he is a great member of the community and the Covington Business Council Board. He wanted to recognize his efforts, not only with St. Elizabeth, but what he does with the community. He applauds the County in offering this award.

Judge Knochelmann presented Mr. Giacomuzzi with a proclamation and award.

Mr. Giacomuzzi thanked the Fiscal Court for the award. He is blessed to be in this community, and to have worked for St. Elizabeth for as long as he has. He has made a lot of friends and colleagues, and it has been a pleasure.

#### **C. Request approval to purchase the property at 510 W. 12th St., Covington, KY.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is an agreement with our neighbor on 12<sup>th</sup> St.

Commissioner Draud asked if they want to sell?

Judge Knochemann answered that yes they do. This would be used in case the County wants to develop around the Administration Building.

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.

#### **D. Claims List - Dated July 21, 2023**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

### **Resolutions**

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

##### **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: \$67,000 to cover the cost of the COLT payroll import automation and \$8,000 for advertising for the Sheriff's Office on delinquent tax bills.

Commissioner Draud asked if we choose our banking through a bidding process?

Treasurer Roy Cox answered that we last went out to bid quite a few years ago, but because of the relationship that we have we do frequently check with other banks to see what offers there may be. We have money at Huntington, Traditional Bank and Truist. Huntington is our main bank, and we get favorable rates with them.

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.

#### **B. Resolution No. 23-27**

##### **A Resolution approving the Building Emergency Plans for the Kenton County Administration Building.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that we moved into the Administration Building in late 2019, and as we were starting to work on these plans COVID hit. That set us back, but we picked back up and came up with a new Building Emergency Plan for the entire building. Once this is adopted, we will be going through specialized training with the employees that work in this building.

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.

### **Ordinances**

#### **A. Ordinance 532.22 - Second Reading**

##### **An Ordinance adopting the Kenton County Reapportionment Commissioner's Report establishing the boundaries of each of the districts of the County Commissioner's and Justices of the Peace.**

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.

#### **B. Ordinance 451.21 - First Reading**

##### **An Ordinance of the Kenton County, Kentucky Fiscal Court granting and issuing a**

competitive, non-exclusive franchise for a combined term of ten 10 years to, and authorizing the execution of a franchise agreement with, Spectrum Mid-America, LLC, an affiliate of Charter Communications Inc., and its permitted successors and assigns, said franchise providing for: the construction, erection, installation, upgrade, repair, maintenance, and operation of a cable television system for the provision of cable television services within the unincorporated areas of Kenton County; retention of police powers and sovereign immunity; a \$300,000 performance bond to ensure franchise compliance; indemnification by franchisee including adequate insurance coverage; construction and technical standards; compliance with FCC technical & customer service standards; conditions of street occupancy; public, educational & government access channels; payment of franchise fees & offset; council approval required for transfer of control or assignment of franchise; right to audit records; default, revocation & termination of franchise procedures.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is for a project that has been going on for years.

Commissioner Sewell stated that Tim Broering has worked on this for 20 years in some capacity, and she is glad to finally see this on the agenda.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 23-119  
Request approval of the State Local Debt Officer's decision approving the issuance of the Kenton County, Kentucky Lease Agreement with Kentucky Association of Counties Finance Corporation Office Building Project.
- B. Exhibit No. 23-120  
Request approval to authorize an agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazmat/WMD Unit to provide services related to hazardous materials containment and control.
- C. Exhibit No. 23-121  
Request approval to award the bid for Payroll Import Software Development to Seven Hills Technology for the Technology Services Department.
- D. Exhibit No. 23-122  
Request approval to surplus an adoption trailer for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.
- E. Exhibit No. 23-123  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- F. Exhibit No. 23-124  
Request approval to purchase a 2023 Chevrolet Traverse AWD for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- G. Exhibit No. 23-125  
Request approval to purchase four 2023 Chevrolet Equinox AWD for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- H. Exhibit No. 23-126  
Request approval of the contract for Glass Break security with IPS for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.

- I. **Exhibit No. 23-127**  
Request approval of the contract for additional cameras at the Historic Kenton County Courthouse in Independence for the Technology Services Department.
- J. **Exhibit No. 23-128**  
Request approval to go out to bid for the County's Financial System for the Kenton County Treasury Department.
- K. **Exhibit No. 23-129**  
Request approval to purchase one 2022 Promaster City Cargo Van for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- L. **Exhibit No. 23-130**  
Request approval to purchase two 2023 Chevrolet Silverado Trucks for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- M. **Exhibit No. 23-131**  
Request approval to extend the Road Material Sign bid with Osburn Associates, Inc., and Lightle Enterprises of Ohio, LLC., for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- N. **Exhibit No. 23-132**  
Request approval of a Memorandum of Agreement confirming that the Kenton County Emergency Communications Center is the recipient and processor of 911 calls as it pertains to collaborative care coordination for consumers.

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 4-0.

#### Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 23-86**  
An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Kevin Canafax to the Kenton County Airport Board.

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

- B. **Executive Order 23-87**  
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Scott Gunning to the Kenton-Covington Wellness Board.

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

- C. **Executive Order 23-88**  
An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Chief Spike Jones to the NKY Community Action Commission.

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

**D. Executive Order 23-89**  
**An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Rhonda Ritzi to the Kenton Conservancy Board.**

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.

**E. Executive Order 23-90**  
**An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Jody Lange to the Water District Board.**

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.

**F. Executive Order 23-91**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the Order of Affiliation for the Kenton County Government and the Kentucky Search Dog Association.**

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.

**G. Executive Order 23-92**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving an Order of Affiliation between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Northern Kentucky Technical Rescue Team.**

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.

**H. Executive Order 23-93**  
**An Executive Order approving the appointment of Paul Ritter to the Recreation Commission.**

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

**I. Executive Order 23-94**  
**An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Mike Ruttle to the Piner Fire District Board.**

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 23-95**  
**An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Jim Dressman to the BE NKY Board.**

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.

**K. Executive Order 23-96**  
**An Executive Order approving the step increase for Daniel Preder, Senior Police Officer for the Kenton County Police 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.

**L. Executive Order 23-97  
An Executive Order approving the step increase for James Rider, Public Services Technician III for the Kenton County Public Works 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.

**Administrative Reporting**

**Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that this is a new fiscal year, and there are new computers and new servers. They did order two new host servers that arrived on Friday, and as of 6:21 this evening Dustin and Darrin had already installed them, upgraded them and moved everything over to the new servers at the Police Building. She is very pleased that this is complete. Also, this Friday they will be starting the project to add hybrid meeting functionality in the Chambers and the Riedlin Schott Room. They will be adding camera and speaker functionality, so a hybrid meeting is possible. Additionally, they will be adding overflow into the EOC Room, so if there are meetings that can't hold everyone in the Chambers, people can watch from the EOC. In the Riedlin Schott Room, they are also adding HDMI capabilities to display to all of the TVs at one time. The podium will also be able to be moved, and they are adding speakers for better sound. One camera will be added to record the meetings if necessary.

Commissioner Draud asked if there was enough money left over from Ried Schott's donation to do all of this?

Judge Knochemann stated that most of this would be coming out of County Funds.

Commissioner Sewell asked how the usage is for the room?

Fiscal Court Clerk Sue Kaiser stated that the room is used frequently. It is used by the building agencies a lot for meetings, lunches, etc. As for outside agencies, we have gotten around two groups per month that are using the room and paying for the room.

Commissioner Draud asked if there was a ballpark figure on all these important improvements?

Ms. Ramsey answered that total it is around \$67,000, which is \$20,000 less than they projected.

**External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that he appreciated Ashley Hawks and her team for their presentation. Some months ago, they talked about putting together a document that contained the milestones of the last eight years. In his mind, he quickly calculated that this may be an 80-120 page document. So, being able to separate out some of the departments seemed like a good way to go about doing this. Ashley and her team put together an incredible presentation. We are going to take that and work with the annual report that she does, and put together a document that can be shared in the community on the website and distributed through the news. Ashley's presentation was very informative, and the fact that if you own a home you can pay only \$75 a year you can pick up your phone seven days a week, 52 weeks out of the year and know that someone will answer and dispatch the aid that you need. Next month, we will have a presentation from Animal Services and will continue to knock these out one at a time. At the end of the year, we will have a single document

we can put together that will tell the story of the last eight plus years and will be able to be refreshed every year.

Mr. Stanton then stated they have four more meetings regarding ARPA. They have started to see work being done. He was at The Life Learning Center yesterday, and work has begun. Programs like that will help people learn how to make a living, and will show them how to make a life. Also, we are starting the ramp up process for the General Assembly session in 2024. It is a budget session, which is important. We will be working closely in areas like Economic Development, Social Services and Transportation to make sure we are represented well.

### **Animal Services**

Kelsey Maccombs stated that she would like to talk about the first six months of 2023. There intake is still trending at about a 37% increase over 2022. In the first six months they have responded to 2,471 Animal Control Calls, and that is an 18% increase over 2022. She is working with one of the finest teams of Animal Control Officers, and she would put them up against anyone in the country. They are so compassionate, skilled and really want to continue to serve our community. They create opportunities for education, as well as making sure they are working with public safety at the forefront. So, 897 of those calls were in Covington, which is 36%. The dense population is usually where you see many of those concerns. In addition, they recently sent two officers down to Lexington to an Equine Training. This will help them when they have to deal with the equine population, such as having to trailer a horse.

### **Public Works**

Spencer Stork stated that he would like to promote the Waste Tire Event that Kenton County is hosting from August 17<sup>th</sup> to August 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and August 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This will be at the KYTC Maintenance Building that is at 3923 Madison Pike. There are some restrictions on who can bring tires, and the information is on the website.

Mr. Stork then stated that a project was approved back in April to do some structure repairs at the Public Works Facilities. They had 23 columns that were corroding and needed to be replaced in the truck storage, the Fleet maintenance building and the old soft storage building. They were able to get almost all of those replaced already, and only have one to go. It will make the building a lot safer. Also, the Independence Station Rd. sidewalk project had a pre-construction meeting last week. The utility companies were there, and now they have a game plan.

Judge Knochelmann asked if that will definitely be this summer?

Mr. Stork answered that it will be more towards the fall, because the utility companies have to give adequate notice to their customers. Utility relocation takes time.

Commissioner Draud asked about the arrangement with the state department on patching those potholes on Kenton Lands Rd.

Mr. Stork answered that they were able to complete that, and they were okay with us utilizing our agreement.

Commissioner Draud asked when they will be doing a permanent fix?

Mr. Stork answered that they have their resurfacing program, and there are a lot of categories that they rate on each roadway to give it an ultimate score. It then goes on a list, and depending on how much money they have they can complete a certain amount of projects. He think the way that they described it was that it was very high up on their list, but not high enough that they could guarantee it would get on the next program. It might be another year and a half.



Commissioner Draud stated that he has been talking to Bob Yeager, and he has promised him that he will repair that stretch of road from Barleycorns to Karen Dr. Northern Kentucky should be a priority on the roads. He would appreciate if something can be said to the Transportation Cabinet about that stretch of road there.

Judge Knochelmann stated that it is set to be repaired, but not replaced.

### **Treasury**

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the June 2023, financials have been submitted.

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell thanked John Stanton and Kurt Greivenkamp for all of the ARPA work that has been done. She is looking forward to those funds being used well. Also, she thanked everyone for starting the success of the county reports by department.

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud stated that he went to the Kenton County Women's Club, and wants the handicap spaces to be re-evaluated.

Assistant County Administrator Scott Gunning confirmed that they are in compliance with the law.

Commissioner Draud then asked for a press release to be sent out listing the accomplishments of the Fiscal Court.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he will be sure this gets done.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that we did what we did with the payroll tax, and we are in control of what is happening with that tax and what we are going to do with the future of it. The bottom line is that Covington is getting services by his count. 12% more than their population just on Animal Services. We are going to have a great system, probably by the end of this year. A lot of these needs are going to be addressed, but you couldn't get to that without putting into place what has been done with the adjustment to the payroll tax. Covington is raising their net profits tax, because they need more money. We did what we had to do, because we needed more money for the citizens of Kenton County. We are pretty responsible people, and we will continue to make lists of accomplishments. We are getting things done, but it costs money to run just like every other city in Kenton County. We are in control of what is happening. They make hard decisions that others have not been willing to make. Give it a couple more months, and he is sure everyone will be happy. There will be a great streamline revenue system in Kenton County, because we have the guts to do it. There are 168,000 people in this County, and he has only had one person reach out personally to talk to him about this.

**Judge/Executive Knochelmann**

Judge Knochelmann stated that they are working aggressively on issues with the State regarding Dixie Highway and across the County on different projects. Wolf Rd. is getting a good response, and a bridge at the Ryland Lakes Country Club will get temporary repairs.

**Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Draud. Judge 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 July 25, 2023.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk