

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

MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2023

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the August 15, 2023, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann 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 the meeting of July 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.

B. Approval of the Minutes from the special meeting of August 1, 2023.

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.

Citizens Address

Jim Beiting from Transitions stated that in honor of Overdose Awareness Day, they will have an event on August 31st at 6:00 p.m. on the Purple People Bridge. Judge Knochelmann is speaking, alone with others. He invited everyone to the event, which is designed to bring awareness to the issues of overdose.

General Business

A. Claims List - Dated August 11, 2023

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 23-010

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: \$500 for the Sheriff's Office for advertising, \$20,000 for a drone and camera for the Police Department that is covered by a Port Authority Grant, \$110,000 to replace the golf course fence along Independence Station Rd. and Richardson Rd., \$35,000 to replace a collapsed sewer line at the Richardson Rd. Shelter House, \$10,000 to cover attorney fees in the lawsuit against the State Department of Corrections, \$23,000 to cover the cost of real estate fees for the sale of the Pelly Rd. property and \$20,000 to cover the cost of removing the radio tower on Hands Pike in Covington.

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.

B. Resolution No. 23-28

A Resolution adopting and approving the execution of a Rural Secondary Program Agreement between the Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, and accepting all roads and streets referred to therein as being a part of the County Road System.

Commissioner Draud asked what roads this covers. He asked if Dixie Highway is considered a rural road?

Spencer Stork answered that it is not. This covers Callant Rd. and Byrd Rd. We will have more roads for the resurfacing program, but those are the two roads that we are using the Rural/Secondary Road Funds for this time.

Commissioner Draud asked if he has talked to Bob Yeager recently?

Mr. Stork answered that he has not.

Commissioner Draud stated that he promised that they would do that stretch of road around Karen Dr.

Mr. Stork stated that he will keep on that.

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. Resolution No. 23-29

A Resolution of the Kenton County Fiscal Court authorizing the filing of a Kentucky House Bill (HB) 1 County Clerks election equipment grant application for up to \$226,072.25 in HB 1 Project Funds with 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.

There were no questions on this Resolution.

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.

D. Resolution No. 23-30

A Resolution 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 2023 Fiscal Year.

There were no questions on this Resolution.

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.

Ordinance s

A. Ordinance 451.21 - Second 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 was the long standing agreement with Spectrum.

Commissioner Sewell stated that this is the completion of that pending the approval of all of the member cities. It will be a ten year agreement, but we will have an option at five years if there are concerns or discussions. It is exciting news.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Commissioner Sewell for her work on this.

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. Ordinance 226.14 - First Reading

An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the levy and adoption of the 2023 tax rates of 13.3 cents per hundred dollars valuation on real property, 16.5 cents per hundred dollars valuation on personal property and 15.8 cents per hundred dollars valuation on motor vehicles to provide such revenue as has been budgeted and approved for expenditure in the current fiscal year.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the first reading.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the compensating rate is devised to give us the same amount of revenue that we had last year. This year's compensating rate for us was 13.4 We are taking the

rate down to 13.3. That is a 7.6% reduction in property taxes. We are also taking the personal property tax down to 16.5%, which is a reduction below the compensating rate.

Commissioner Draud stated that there should be an article written about this reduction.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the second year that we will take the rate lower than compensating. We were at compensating for three years in a row before that. We are the only county in Northern Kentucky that has done that for five years. A couple have actually taken the 4%. The work that we did with Occupational is doing exactly what we wanted to do, which is to get the burden off the rooftops and balancing the revenue. He thanked Roy Cox, and thanked the Commissioners on their support of this.

- C. Ordinance 226.15 - First Reading**
An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the levy and adoption of the 2023 annual improvement benefit assessment rate on the basis of the assessed values of benefitted properties within the former City of Latonia Lakes, Kentucky as specifically identified in Kenton County Ordinances 620.9 & 620.10.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the annual renewal to pay for the roads in Latonia Lakes.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 23-133**
Request approval of a contract between Diocesan Catholic Children's Home and Kenton County Fiscal Court regarding funding of Capital Projects at DCCH through the COLT Funds.
- B. Exhibit No. 23-134**
Request approval of a contract between Holy Hill Child & Family Solutions and Kenton County Fiscal Court regarding funding of Capital Projects at Holly Hill through the COLT Funds.
- C. Exhibit No. 23-135**
Request approval of the Kenton County Cooperative Extension District Board's tax rate.
- D. Exhibit No. 23-136**
Request approval to accept the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.
- E. Exhibit No. 23-137**
Request approval to go out to bid for a Private, Public Partnership to provide a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- F. Exhibit No. 23-138**
Request approval to issue a Quietus to the Kenton County Sheriff for the Fiscal Year 2022 taxes.
- G. Exhibit No. 23-139**
Request approval to accept brokerage services for the sale of vacant land located at 2139 Bromley Crescent Springs Road, Crescent Springs, KY 41017.

- H. **Exhibit No. 23-140**
Request approval to accept bid from Jolly Plumbing to repair failed sewer line at Richardson Road shelter house.
- I. **Exhibit No. 23-141**
Request approval to surplus two (2) 21 ' 3 row aluminum bleachers for the Kenton County Parks & Recreation Department.
- J. **Exhibit No. 23-142**
Request approval to surplus a DS75 3 Station Folder/Inserter and an IN-700DS Mailing Machine for the Kenton County Treasurer 's Office.
- K. **Exhibit No. 23-143**
Request approval to award the Golf Course fence replacement bid to R&M Fence and Construction, Inc. for the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- L. **Exhibit No. 23-144**
Request approval of the Hot Mix Asphalt bid from Riegler Blacktop, Inc. for the Public Works Department.
- M. **Exhibit No. 23-145**
Request approval of the In-Place Paving bid from Riegler Blacktop, Inc. for the Public Works Department.
- N. **Exhibit No. 23-146**
Request approval to surplus three (3) Kenworth T-370 Dump Trucks for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- O. **Exhibit No. 23-147**
Request approval to extend the Rotary Drilling contract with Hennecke Drilling LLC., for the Kenton County Public Works.
- P. **Exhibit No. 23-148**
Request approval to award the PG Parking Access & Revenue Control System bid to Amano McGann for Annual Software License Fees for the Kenton County Parking Garage and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- Q. **Exhibit No. 23-149**
Request approval to purchase One (1) 2023 Chevrolet Silverado Truck off of State Contract MA 758 2300000802 for the Kenton County Building Maintenance Department.
- R. **Exhibit No. 23-150**
Request approval to award the Kenton County Motor Vehicle renovations bid to Radius Construction Co., Inc. for the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- S. **Exhibit No. 23-151**
Request approval to reject all bids for Uniforms/Body Armor and re-bid for the Kenton County Detention Center and the Kenton County Police Department.
- T. **Exhibit No. 23-152**
Request approval to proceed with pressure washing and restriping at the Kenton County Parking Garage.

U. Exhibit No. 23-153

Request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Sanitation District No. 1 to reallocate KIA Grants for Septic-Removal Projects to the Lakeview EQ Project in Kenton County.

V. Exhibit No. 23-154

Request approval to award the drone bid to Adorama, Inc. for the Kenton County Police Department and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.

Judge Knochelmann spoke about item 23-139, and stated that we are putting the property on Bromley/Crescent Springs Rd. with a realtor. This was property that was acquired to allow for the new building of Bromley/Crescent Springs Rd. This property abuts two properties that Susan Huff is selling on Edenderry in Ft. Mitchell. This helps us, and her as well.

Commissioner Draud asked about the Mental Health services at the Detention Center.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a request for going out to bid for the JSAP program. This is to bring in a partner so we don't have to manage that with our own staff.

Commissioner Sewell asked what we plan to do with the current staff that oversees this program?

Jailer Marc Fields answered that it depends on the proposals that are received, but they will encourage them to accept our staff to work with them. They have just recently lost three employees that work on that program to outside agencies.

Judge Knochelmann stated that it is an evolution as we have a national standard JSAP program.

Commissioner Sewell asked if there are comparable programs in other jails that have moved in that direction?

Jailer Fields answered that there are jails that do this today. Grant County is one of them. The regulations keep changing.

Commissioner Sewell asked if there will be anything with this change that could potentially be regrettable?

Jailer Fields answered that he is worried about losing some decision making abilities, but isn't worried about anything security wise.

Commissioner Draud asked where the Sheriff is, as we are doing his Quietus.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the Quietus is to certify the tax bills. The Clerk gives the tax bill to the Sheriff for him to collect, the Sheriff pays the taxes out to us and returns any delinquencies to the Clerk. The Quietus is our certification for the County's portion of it, the amount that he got, collected, distributed and returned to the Clerk were all correct. This isn't end of term money receipts.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 23-98**
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Mike Litzler and George Sparks to the Kenton County Recreation Commission.

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

- B. Executive Order 23-99**
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Brad Ramey to the Ft. Mitchell TIF District Board.

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

- C. Executive Order 23-100**
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Susan Kinsella to the Library Board of Trustees.

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.

- D. Executive Order 23-101**
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Matt Mattone to the Kenton Conservancy Board.

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

- E. Executive Order 23-102**
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Becky Darnell, Terry Deavy and Rosemary Hoffman to the NKADD Council on Aging.

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.

- F. Executive Order 23-103**
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Brandon Seiter as the Engineering Services CIP Manager 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.

- G. Executive Order 23-104**
An Executive Order approving the resignation of Darrin Gilvin as the Network Engineer for the Kenton County Technology Services 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.

- H. Executive Order 23-105**
An Executive Order approving the transfer of Darrin Gilvin to a School Resource Officer 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 4-0.

I. Executive Order 23-106
An Executive Order approving the step increase for Lena Samad to a Dispatch I, G7-2 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications 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.

J. Executive Order 23-107 (Action Requested)
An Executive Order approving the retirement of Chris Haddle as the Assistant Chief 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 3-0.

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Communications

Ashley Hawks stated that last week she went with one of the training officers, Julie White to the APCO International/National Conference in Nashville, TN. It is the first time in 20 years that KCECC personnel have attended anything outside of the State Conference for training. There were several different topics that they had courses on such as; Leadership and Emergency Response, Frontline Dispatch Training, Emerging Technologies, Radio and Wireless Communication and Overall Dispatcher Wellness. They were able to purchase all of the sessions that they attended, and bring those back for our dispatchers to review. She thanked the Fiscal Court for the support. It has inspired the staff to do above and beyond regular training.

Police Department

Assistant Chief Chris Haddle thanked the Fiscal Court for the opportunity for working for Kenton County. His career spans 27 years, and he is grateful for all of it.

Commissioner Draud congratulated him on his career.

Judge Knochelmann thanked him for the great service.

Assistant Chief Haddle then stated that the Kenton County School District will start school tomorrow. He reminded everyone to keep an eye out for school zones and buses. School zones are active thirty minutes before school and five minutes after. Also, if a road is not divided by a barrier, you must stop for the bus. Lastly, the Kenton County Police held a Jam the Cruiser event last week to get school supplies for the Kenton County Schools. This coming Saturday is the FOP Golf Outing that will see some proceeds going to high school scholarships.

Detention Center

Jailer Marc Fields stated that there have been emails going back and forth about work details, so he gave an update on the Class D Program. Within the jail they only have 37 inmates out of the 553 that are eligible to go outside the walls of the jail to work. Out of that 37, 13 of them are in the JSAP program and cannot go out. On a daily basis, they are sending out two workers to the City of Covington, one worker to the Kenton County Garage, three to Kenton County Public Works and one to the Kenton County Parks. On the hours through the year, the City of Ft. Wright had 944 labor hours given, Kenton County Garage had 1,144, Kenton County Parks had 2,952,

City of Covington had 2,640 and the City of Erlanger had 1,024. That is on top of things like the Kenton County Fair and the St. Joe's Festival, as well as many other events. When we talk about shipping inmates to another facility, the other jails want people that can go out and help with the community. Our goal is to increase our program, but sentences are becoming less for the lower crimes. The population has been staying right at the 550 mark, and in July the average daily population was 578. That is phenomenal for a summer month.

Commissioner Draud asked what the eligibility requirements are to be on work duty?

Jailer Fields answered that this is issued by the State, and it has to do with the crime and the institutional history of the inmate. This is part of the lawsuit, because they want to get the inmates classified in a timely manner. He will be answering the emails he has received.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the highest population pre COVID was around 900, and now it is at 550. He thanked the team for the wonderful work.

Jailer Fields stated that they are at the highest point employeewise than they have been at since December of 2021. They are still short though.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that his daughter is a nurse at St. Elizabeth in the substance abuse department, and it is not uncommon to have a Kenton County Deputy spending the night one on one with an inmate at the hospital.

Jailer Fields stated that in July, they had 41 medical runs, and 20 hospital transports. Commissioner Sewell stated that she appreciated Jailer Fields sharing the article that Sam Quinones wrote, which featured Kenton County. It was in the Atlantic Magazine.

Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that they hosted the Kentucky National Guard for an emergency response training class. They have been traveling across the Commonwealth and meeting with each jurisdiction. Also, they have been working on the Hazardous Mitigation plan, and the final meeting on that will be on Friday the 25th. In addition, they hosted some additional active threat training at the Historic Independence Courthouse. He thanked Todd Schulkers and Eric Nelson for helping to facilitate that training. It was a good and eye opening training, and he thanked Gabe Summe for the efforts to get this training.

Mr. Hensley then stated that there have been a couple of hazardous material responses recently. There was one in Elsmere. They also participated in a missing person's case that turned into a criminal case, but the child has been found and returned to the parent.

Mr. Hensley then stated that Riverfest is coming up soon, and they will be setting up the EOC for that soon. Also, the tragedy in Hawaii is an opportunity to remind people of the importance of having redundant ways of receiving emergency communication. Never depend on any one tool.

Treasury

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the July, 2023, Financials have been submitted.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud encouraged the Fiscal Court to consider an increase in pay for the poll workers. He then asked that a letter be sent to Bob Yeager encouraging the replacement of Dixie Highway.

Commissioner Draud then asked if the renovations are completed on the Historic Kenton County Courthouse?

Assistant County Administrator Scott Gunning answered that the roof project is still out there, and a punch list. Then we will start phase four, which will consist of the hallway, entry way and Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Draud stated that this should be something that we write about, and how we are maintaining this historic building. He then asked about the sidewalk project.

Mr. Gunning answered that they are still finalizing the utility easements. It should be done by potentially the end of the year.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell congratulated Assistant Chief Haddle on his retirement, and stated that he will be missed. The people in Southern Kenton County will miss him coming prepared and having solutions at their meetings.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that Chief Haddle's 27 years is a great career. He congratulated him on his retirement.

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann

Judge Knochelmann presented an Ordinance for first reading. He stated that it is adjusting the 911 Fees for the year.

- A. Ordinance 320.15 - First Reading (No Action Needed)**
An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the Fiscal Court of Kenton County, Commonwealth of Kentucky, establishing a service fee for enhanced 911 Emergency Dispatch Services to Owners of real property in Kenton County, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that the OneNKY Groundbreaking is on August 30th. The Governor and Senator McDaniel will be speaking.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris 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 August 15, 2023.

Sue Kaiser

Sue J. Kaiser/Fiscal Court Clerk

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