

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

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 28, 2024**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the May 28, 2024, 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, Treasurer  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the LGEA/Road Aid Hearing of May 14, 2024.**

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 meeting of May 14, 2024.**

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 CVG Airport.**

Seth Cutter presented on the accomplishments and developments at the CVG Airport. Commissioner Draud asked who gets the credit at the airport for the vision of buying all of that land?

Mr. Cutter answered that the entirety of the airport property is located in Boone County proper, but they are governed by the Kenton County Airport Board. In the late thirties or early forties they had the foresight to invest in the property.

Commissioner Draud stated that the land is very valuable right now.

Mr. Cutter stated that they have about 7,700 acres of airport owned property. That puts them in the top ten of U.S. airports by land size. Louisville's airport is limited by the interstates. CVG is not constrained in that way. Some of the developments like the one Senator McDaniel helped to advocate for in Frankfort would not be possible if they didn't have land they could develop.

Judge Knochemann stated that kudos should be given to Judge Wehrman at the time, as he is credited for some of those big steps for the county. He then stated that Candace McGraw will be retiring next year.

Mr. Cutter stated that she has been the CEO since July of 2011, and she will be retiring as of June 30, 2025. The board has launched the process to find her replacement. They have retained a firm to work with them, and have recently put out the job specification. They will spend the majority of the fall processing candidates. No one can fill Candace's shoes, but they want to find a leader that will continue with the vision that was created. They have great leadership and community support.

**B. Claims List - Dated May 24, 2024.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Resolutions**

**A. Resolution No. 24-01J  
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustment is to cover medical claims at the Detention Center through the fiscal year.

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.

**Ordinances**

**A. Ordinance 150.8 - Second Reading  
An Ordinance relating to the Kenton County Fiscal Court, enacting and creating the Kenton County Transportation Improvement District (TID) as authorized by KRS184.350-184.395.**

Representative Santoro stated that the Transportation Improvement District is local control and partnership. He served for many years, and couldn't understand why some other states had projects moving forward. When he took care of the budget for transportation, he thought they have to find something out. So, Transportation Improvement Districts streamline projects, and gives local people control. This is moving statewide, and they are letting economic development move faster. The state works slowly, and this is a partnership where you can use Federal money, state money and local money to approve a board that would then have this new highway come. In Kentucky it is not just the road, it is the infrastructure which includes water, sewer and gas.

Commissioner Sewell stated that the only thing she struggles with is the potentiality for local assessment. The Judge assured her that this is not what is currently in this Ordinance. As she reads about it in other areas there is some opportunity for property tax levy on locals or sales tax levying. She asked if that is what we are headed towards? We call this a local government entity, and it will be governed by a local board much like a special district. What does that look like long term?

Representative Santoro answered that in the House Bill, only an elected official in the court could approve any assessments or hikes. The board itself could not do it. It would have to be the Fiscal Court to approve.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he has no intention of bringing that forward. It is just to have the tool for the opportunity. We want the projects to be done faster.

Representative Santoro stated that the private dollars could go into this as well. It took two years to get this done.

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.

### Consent Agenda

- A. **Exhibit 24-77**  
**Request approval of the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding Extension Agreement between the Kenton County School District and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**
- B. **Exhibit 24-78**  
**Request approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for Jail SAP services for the Kenton County Detention Center.**
- C. **Exhibit 24-79**  
**Request approval of the agreement between Kenton County and Addiction Recovery Care for the provision of substance use disorder and mental health services to prisoners at the Kenton County Detention Center.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

### Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 24-55**  
**An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Bob Hoffer and Chad Summe to the Airport Board.**

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. **Executive Order 24-56**

**An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Dr. Laroy Kendall to the District Board of Health.**

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 24-57 (An Executive Order approving the appointment of Kimberly Hummel as a Licensed Veterinary Technician for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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.

**D. Executive Order 24-58 An Executive Order approving the appointment of Terrence Donohue as a Seasonal Trustee/Weekend Maintenance Laborer for the Kenton County Parks and Recreation 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.

**E. Executive Order 24-59 An Executive Order approving the move of Chad Frost from the Kenton County Parks and Recreation Department to a Public Services Technician II for the Kenton County Public Works 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**

**Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that she wanted to talk about the new altafiber contract that was approved at the last meeting. They have been working for about six months with their consultant ATC to renegotiate the contract. The data contract is a three year renewal, and the voice is just a one year renewal. There will be significant changes in terms of data speed. The internet speeds will be going from 300 mb to a Gig, which is more than tripling the speed. The speed at 1840 also influences the speed at the Animal Shelter, Public Works and the Drug Strike Force. They have also increased the speed at the Detention Center from 50 mb to 200 mb. Police and Dispatch will be going from 200 mb to 500 mb. They have also increased the speed for the Commonwealth's Attorney and PDS from 100 mb to 200 mb. That is happening for them at no cost increase. All of these speed increases and improving the internal speed tenfold have come in at a reduced cost of 25% less than what was being paid before. The voice agreement will have some reduced costs, as they are purchasing the phones.

Judge Knochemann gave Ms. Ramsey kudos for her negotiation skills.

Ms. Ramsey stated that a lot of that is due to ATC, and they don't charge us anything for the negotiations.

**External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that we lost big losing Sal Santoro in Frankfort, but we did have a very successful session. We will probably be more active going down to Frankfort to rebuild relationships. We have a great relationship with NKU bringing legislators up here, and we will be doing more of that this summer. There is still technically a part-time legislature, and they meet quite a bit between sessions.

Mr. Stanton then stated that Seth Cutter from CVG has been phenomenal. He mentioned that the CEO, Candace McGraw, has the unique distinction of being the first Northern Kentuckian to truly lead the global trade organization that she belongs to. She is chairing the ACI World, which is the global consortium of airports. If you haven't had a chance to visit FEAM and some of the other installations out at the airport, he encourages everyone to do so. The growth is phenomenal.

Mr. Stanton then stated that we are entering a period now where there will be periodic reports on ARPA. They will be revisiting some of the grant recipients to make sure they are on track for disbursing their money on a timely basis required by the Federal Government. Kurt Greivenkamp is doing a great job of tracking those expenditures. There will also be increased activity from meetNKY over the next six months. Their strategic planning process is largely finished, and they are in the process of figuring out how to convert that strategic plan into action. Lastly, their partnership work with the UK College of Medicine and the Chase Law School continues. They have some good working relationships with Hotel Covington and the Metropolitan Club to assist with student recruitment.

Commissioner Draud stated that Mr. Stanton's job has gotten harder in Frankfort.

Mr. Stanton stated that it has, but Senator McDaniel was incredible in this last session across all three counties. One of the good things about Sal Santoro was that he never jealously guarded the influence that he put together, and always looked out for the region as a whole.

### **Public Works**

Spencer Stork stated that they just wrapped up their Public Works Appreciation Week last week. He thanked the Fiscal Court for the recognition, and thank you to Meg Erpenbeck and Tony Winslow for the press releases.

Mr. Stork then stated that their 2024 resurfacing program will start tomorrow, which includes Spillman Rd, Pruitt Rd and Kline Rd. They will be starting out with storm sewers, and will be working their way through that project. They will also be starting an intersection conflict warning project on Independence Station Rd.

Commissioner Draud asked if the County has crews that do potholes?

Spencer Stork answered that we have two crews that do potholes and in place patching.

Commissioner Draud stated that he doesn't know who is responsible for this, but there is one across from Kroger by the cemetery.

Spencer Stork stated that this would be the responsibility of KYTC, but they can reach out to them to let them know about it.

### **Animal Services**

Kelsey Maccombs stated that this time last year, she applied for a program assessment with the University of Houston for their volunteer and foster programs. They just wrapped up the assessment, and it was good to do it through a transition period as they changed some staff. They surveyed the volunteers and compared it with national data and protocols, and have given

them recommendations on how to improve relationships and improve protocol. They are excited to implement some of the changes. The volunteers have given the feedback that they don't necessarily know what is going on with agency. In response to that, they are launching a volunteer newsletter.

Ms. Maccombs then stated that they are sending their final two officers to the training for euthanasia certification this week. This is important, because their after hours euthanasia are few and far between but they are usually timely and necessary. To call in staff or wait for an emergency vet takes time, and that is time an animal is suffering. Also, she thanked the Fiscal Court for approving the hiring of the licensed vet tech. While they haven't had a vet tech, they haven't been able to do surgery in house which causes a bottleneck of animals.

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud asked Scott Gunning to give an update on the sidewalk project.

Assistant County Administrator Scott Gunning stated that the utility poles have been moved, and Eaton Asphalt is beginning to start the project.

Commissioner Draud asked what happened with the turn lane that Commissioner Nienaber asked about?

Judge Knochelmann answered that they had conversations with KYTC, and they have an assessment being done.

Commissioner Draud asked if anything happened with the road in Covington at Farrell Dr.?

Judge Knochelmann answered that they are still looking at it.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that Sal Santoro is a true asset, and he will be missed in Frankfort. He thanked him for all that he has done for Kenton County and Northern Kentucky.

### **Judge/Executive Knochelmann**

#### **A. Executive Order 24-60**

#### **An Executive Order approving the termination of Jason Fields as a Police Officer for the Kenton County Police 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.

- B. Request approval to amend the Fiscal Court meeting schedule to change the June 11, 2024 meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 a.m., and change the location to Covington.**

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.

- C. Request approval to amend the Fiscal Court meeting schedule to move all meetings from the Historic Kenton County Courthouse to the Kenton County Government Center until October, 2024.**

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.

### **Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge 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 May 28, 2024.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk