

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
VIRTUAL MEETING
<http://www.tbnk.org/togo2>

1840 Simon Kenton Way
Covington, KY 41011

MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2020
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the August 11, 2020, virtual meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge 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
Scott Gunning, Assistant County Administrator
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk
Roy Cox, County Treasurer

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of July 28, 2020.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Citizens Address

No citizens sent any questions to the Fiscal Court.

General Business

A. Claims List - July 24, 2020.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 20-01N
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year
2020-2021 Budget Adjustments.

Treasurer Roy Cox explained the two budget adjustments. The first one is \$100,000 for COVID19 expenses. This is for renovations to the Clerk's office in Independence. The

renovations will be a little over \$90,000. The second budget adjustment is for \$9,725 for an ASAP grant at the jail.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

B. Resolution No. 20-24

A Resolution of the Kenton County Fiscal Court regarding 2020 Grant Funds for the Kenton County Police Department.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

C. Resolution No. 20-25

A Resolution authorizing and approving an Administration Agreement for the collection of assessments under Kenton County's Energy Project Assessment District as created by Ordinance 950.89.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Ordinances

A. Ordinance No. 225.90 - First Reading

An Ordinance (225.90) of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget and amendment thereof.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this for COVID relief dollars that we have applied for with the State of Kentucky. We have been budgeted \$5.6 million.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that a budget amendment means that you are going to receive money that was not budgeted.

Commissioner Draud asked if we know how much we will receive?

Mr. Cox answered that the county has been awarded \$5.6 million. It is a reimbursement grant, so we will get back any money that we have spent.

Judge Knochelmann stated that our application to Department of Local Government has not been approved yet, but it will likely be approve.

Commissioner Draud asked if this is contingent on getting it from the Federal Government?

Judge Knochelmann answered that the Federal Government has already allocated it, and that money is available.

Consent Agenda

A. Exhibit No. 20-110

Request approval to authorize Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann to accept the settlement of Quietus from Kenton County Treasurer, Roy D. Cox, for the 2019 Tax Settlement for the Kenton County Sheriff 's tax collections.

- B. Exhibit No. 20-111
Request approval to ratify Change Order 20 with Motorola for the radio system.**
- C. Exhibit No. 20-112
Request approval to award the food service program to Trinity Service Group for 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 Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 20-70 An Executive Order relating to the Kenton County Fiscal Court approving the promotion of Scott McClain from Fleet Mechanic to Fleet Services Supervisor for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Administrative Reporting

Steve Hensley- Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that as of yesterday 700,417 Kentuckians have been tested. There is a 5.71 positivity rate, and 35,254 cases are confirmed in Kentucky with 775 deaths. In Northern Kentucky, as of yesterday, we had 3,176 confirmed cases, with 81 deaths in, NKY-Boone, Campbell, Grant County, and Kenton. Out of those cases, 1,441 are from Kenton County, which included 41 of the deaths, and 51 new cases were added to Kenton County yesterday. It appears that many of our new cases involve people being exposed to other COVID positive cases, or traveling to other states, gathering in large crowds, stores, gyms, country clubs, and sports facilities.

Mr. Hensley then stated that last month we hosted drive-thru testing at Summit View Academy in Independence. We tested Tuesday thru Thursday from 7:30-2:30 of each week. Our average day at that location, we tested between 375 and 400 people, and on our largest day we tested 506 people. This was a partnership with the State/Kroger/Gravity. We wanted to express our appreciation to the Kenton County Schools for allowing us to utilize the school campus for the entire month, along with the Independence Police, KY State Police, and County police departments for their assistance with traffic and security.

Scott Gunning - Parks/Buildings and Grounds/Golf Course

Scott Gunning stated that he wanted to update the Fiscal Court on two projects that they are working on. The first one is all the work that is happening at the Historic Independence Courthouse, and then the progress that is happening with the Fox Run Property.

If you have driven by the Independence Courthouse in the past couple weeks, you have probably noticed all the scaffolding up, the change in traffic patterns and all the construction that is going on. As you are aware, we have three different projects happening right now at that site. The first project is the water mitigation project, and making sure we are protecting the building from future water issues. Since his last update, the contractors have mobilized, they have set up scaffolding around the building and are starting the exterior parapet restoration. They have also started the removal of the plaster and wall paper inside the court room. As expected, we have uncovered some mold, and are in the process of testing that to determine proper mitigation. As of today, we are awaiting those results but work is continuing and moving along according to schedule.

Mr. Gunning then stated that the second project is the removal of the firehouse that used to sit adjacent to the courthouse. This is due to the building being underutilized and needing significant improvements. If you remember, last year we consolidated our building and grounds department to the public works campus, and eliminated the need for this building. The building has been removed and Nick Hendrix's crews are starting to work on the retaining wall along Klette Road. Once again, I want to thank Nick Hendrix and Rick Buster for their help on this portion of the project. The plan will be to expand parking in this area, and close the parking off on the McCullum side to make the building more accessible and safer.

Mr. Gunning then stated that the third project that is underway is the renovation of the clerk's office, which is related to improving safety for the employees and visitors due to Covid-19. We are opening up the clerk's space by removing the wall from the old record room and reconfiguring that space to improve flow and to allow for social distancing and better service. We are also adding sneeze guards and reworking the counter space. Since the approval of the contract at our last meeting, Century Construction has mobilized and started the demolition. We are awaiting some unexpected asbestos testing but we are still looking at a 60 day substantial completion with 90 days for final. He will make sure to keep the court updated on all three of these projects as they move forward, but as of right now everything is moving in the right direction.

Next, Mr. Gunning stated that he wanted to discuss the old Fox Run Golf Course property. He knows that the court is aware of this, but for the public's knowledge, he wanted to do a quick recap or summary on the status of this property. To start, back in November the Court went out and hired CBRE for strategic planning for the Golf Courses. Throughout this process, we uncovered a deed restriction on a majority of the 598 acres that make up the Kenton County Golf courses. This restriction is from the property being purchased with grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Act that limits the property to recreational use only. After exploring and researching all our options for the property, the court has approved the conversion of the 225 acres that once made up the Fox Run Property to be used for passive recreation. This will add and expand nearly 50% more park and green space for our county park system.

Mr. Gunning then stated that we are currently in the process of exploring different amenities for the Fox Run Park, and are starting to put together some tentative plans and options for the court and public to review. In the upcoming months, we will be seeking public feedback and exploring funding options and grants for the property. In the meantime, the fence along Independence Station has been removed and the property is open to the public to use for passive recreation. This includes hiking, biking, walking the trails, fishing and wildlife observation. The park is open from dawn to dusk with the entrance for the public being along Independence Station Road. We have started to mow around the parking lot and road to make the property more presentable, and will be installing signs marking the boundaries later this week. We do ask that visitors be mindful of the two active golf courses and not enter those areas. We will be sending out a press release letting the public know they can start using the property along with the rules and regulations for it. We are really excited about this, and the opportunity to offer our residents

some additional recreational options. We have already received a lot of positive responses on it, and he thinks people are really looking forward to the future of this property.

Commissioner Draud asked if there is any legal liability if anyone gets hurt on that property?

County Administrator Joe Shriver answered that they can't sue us, as there is a statute that states that as long as we aren't charging admission we are not liable.

Nick Hendrix - Public Works

Nick Hendrix thanked the Fiscal Court for the promotion of Scott McClain. Mr. McClain has 12 years as a mechanic, and has previous management experience. He is confident that this will be a smooth transition. He then stated that we now have a fixed construction letting for Bromley-Crescent Springs Rd. in September. We have gotten over a set of administrative hurdles in the last few months. This means that ideally we would have contractors out there in late October or early November. Duke and Cincinnati Bells work with utility poles should begin in the next two to three weeks. Duke has really come to the table to make sure this project was a priority.

Mr. Hendrix then spoke about the Trash for Cash program. During the COVID transition, our Solid Waste Coordinator, Melissa Grandstaff was able to put together a sister program to the one that Boone County does where 501C3 groups and volunteers can clean up litter on the side of roads in a controlled environment. They are paid for litter pickup by a grant that is sponsored by the Division of Waste Management. Sara Sgantas has been working with Melissa to get all those administrative documents loaded on the website. That program is up and running, and we are taking applications.

Dan Mathew- Emergency Communications

Dan Mathew stated that on July 22, 2014, a unanimous vote by the Fiscal Court awarded the bid for the design and analysis of a radio system to Trott Communications. The vote would put Kenton County in a leading role to design and build one of the most complex radio systems. This system will provide cutting edge assistance to safety agencies across Northern Kentucky. He can say from personal experience that as a Fire Chief during that time he had seen a lot of studies, and heard a lot of talk. He had doubts as to whether we would see a new radio system. On April 25, 2017, Motorola was chosen to build the new radio system. That vote in Kenton County helped us acquire property to build four new radio towers, placed five new shelters, upgraded our infrastructure and built nine new radio systems throughout the county. All of that was just the backbone of the system. This is in no way an inclusive list, and doesn't include things such as an amplification system, and the actual purchase of end user radios. It doesn't seem like a long list, but that vote in 2017 was very important. It isn't really about the actual radio system. It is about who it was built for, the citizens to keep them safe. Prior to our digital system, we were working with equipment that was old, and was frequently failing. This potentially place out first responders in harm's way, and made it difficult to communicate. The vote in 2017 was for the first responders and citizens.

Mr. Mathew then stated that he is proud to report that at approximately 1:00 p.m. on August 5th all Kenton County public safety agencies, fire and EMS have been transitioned and are successfully operating on the new digital radio system. He reached out to Ed Butler, as he was involved from the very beginning. Mr. Butler said, "The new radio system has far exceeded our expectations. The ability to communicate seamlessly with other disciplines both improves safety and efficiency for our first responders. The system design has greatly improved coverage in areas where the old analog system was failing. The improvements will make our community safer. Congratulations to all involved for doing what is necessary, regardless of cost to keep our residents, visitors and first responders safe."

Mr. Mathew then stated that this is very exciting news, but the work isn't finished. We are still bringing on some of our Public Works agencies, some limited school resources and some Federal Law Agencies. He wasn't around for all of the project, so to attempt to thank everyone involved would be futile. He is quite certain that in the future we will have a much more formal announcement to thank all that were involved. As a first responder he would like to say thank you to everyone for making this possible, because it has really made a difference in the ability for first responders to communicate across all three counties at one time.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he breathed a sigh of relief when the system was implemented. He is very grateful for everyone involved. He is very proud of everyone in Kenton County.

Commissioner Draud stated that he would like to see some extensive PR, where everyone in the county knows about this achievement. Sometimes these achievements aren't fully appreciated, because people aren't aware of them.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we will make sure this happens. We see that people that work day to day on these projects don't get enough accolades. He knows that a couple of you have said that Kenton County leads.

Commissioner Nienaber thanked Dan Mathew, and everyone that was involved in this project. He does believe that Kenton County, once again, showed leadership on this project. It's an expensive project, but our building was an expensive project, but if you are in this business to do the right thing you will end up spending some money. This project is so important to core communication, and is very important. Everyone handled the pressure with class. He appreciates all of the effort.

Commissioner Draud stated that one of Judge Knochelmann's first big achievements as Judge/Executive was the merger of the Covington and County services. This goes down as another big achievement. Congratulations for all the great leadership.

Judge Knochelmann stated that these things don't happen without everyone working together.

Roy Cox- Treasury

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the June and July 2020, financial reports have been submitted.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke congratulated everyone on the accomplishment with the radio system.

Commissioner Draud asked if we will see any money from the opioid lawsuit.

Ms. Tapke stated that there is a lot to sort out, and will be a very long time for it to be resolved.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that this has been a very progressive Court taking on projects, and he is proud that we are a good team. This is a group that gets stuff done, and he is proud of the staff and colleagues.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann stated that it all comes down to leadership, and he feels that the employees of Kenton County have never been stronger.

- A. Request approval to modify the Fiscal Court meeting schedule, moving the September 1, 2020, and September 15, 2020 meetings to September 8, 2020, and September 22, 2020.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. 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 August 11, 2020.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk