

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

Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the January 13, 2026, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Sewell 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
 Kurt Greivenkamp, Treasurer
 Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of December 9, 2025.

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

Citizens Address

Michael Staverman stated that in early December, he spoke to this court and raised the fact that only two percent of ICE detainees in Northern Kentucky facilities were violent offenders. That stat was unchallenged. Other stats were challenged, but that stat was not challenged. 98 percent of detainees are not violent in Northern Kentucky. He still has concerns for all of those detainees' constitutional rights, for their safety, health, and well-being in our Detention Center, which is run by Marc Fields. He has other concerns in light of the events of the last couple weeks. In Minneapolis, we saw the violence of these ICE operations. Renee Good was a law-abiding citizen and mother who was not out to harm anyone, but an agent decided to step in front of her vehicle, put three bullets in her, and murder her in cold blood. So it's clear to all of America that this is not about safety in our streets. This is not about getting violent offenders off the streets. We hardly have any violent offenders in Northern Kentucky. This is about power. These men are looking to exert power and they're ready to kill at a moment's notice. We have 287G agreements and we have an intergovernmental service agreement which is bringing these agents into our county with open arms, saying come here, run your operations, exert your force, be violent in our county. Jailer Fields apparently welcomes that violence. He asks this board, do you? Are you prepared? This summer they will come here. This summer they will look to point their guns at people. Neighbors who come out into the street, they will be ready to kill. Are you prepared for some of that responsibility? Because of your silence, you're doing nothing, your complicity gives them license

to murder people. Please end the 287G agreements today. Please end the intergovernmental service agreement today. Add it to the agenda for the next meeting, or at the very least, please investigate Jailer Marc Fields. Investigate our detention center to ensure and assure everyone here that constitutional rights are being honored, health, wellbeing, and safety is being maintained in our detention center for all.

Ashlyn Green stated that this issue is so important to her that she felt it would be a moral failure to not speak up and use her privilege to speak for our community members who can't for fear of losing everything. In 2012, when she was in high school, she had the opportunity to speak to a holocaust survivor for a final project in her history class. Her name was Ava Core and she passed away in 2019. One of the questions she asked her was, what were the warning signs? Did you see or do you see any of them in American society today? She told her that Hitler succeeded because he gave people someone to blame for the hardship in their lives. For Hitler, it was the Jews, and in the current political climate, modern times, it was Obama, or it was immigrants. That was during Obama. That was one of the most impactful moments in forming her political ideology. Last weekend, she saw a video of a man named Juan Carlos, a legal citizen who was living in his car in Minneapolis. ICE brutalized him. They pinned him to the ground, pushed his face into the concrete, punched him, kicked him, kneed him in the face, despite him not resisting and being outnumbered five to one. After finding out he was legal, they let him go, impounded his car, and ticketed him. What are we doing? She never dreamed that she would be at home crying and worrying for her baby cousin who lives in Chicago. Her mom is white and her dad is black and Hispanic. She does not look white like she doe, and she has never given it more attention than curiosity when we were little, but her grandma visited her in Chicago and told her that her cousin warned her of ICE presence, where she lived and worked, and to prepare herself for what she might see. Now, she has to worry for her safety. What if her cousin forgets her ID the day that ICE stops her? What if they brutalize her baby cousin because she wasn't getting her ID fast enough? She held her the day she was born in rural Illinois, and she has to worry about ICE taking her off the streets, beating her, for no reason. ICE has no place in our community. She does not want to worry for her community like this. She doesn't want to worry about mothers sending their child to school. She doesn't want her three-year-old niece to see ICE raids as she goes to the park with her father. Please end the 287G agreements in Kenton County and stop letting ICE hold their hostages in our jail. In light of many of our government officials quoting Nazis and using Nazi imagery in regards to ICE, she wants to end with a quote from Ernest Hemingway. "There are many who do not know they are fascists, but we'll find out when the time comes".

Mohammed Ahmed, a Covington resident and a proud Palestinian American, stated that he is speaking today to respectfully express opposition, as mentioned, to the 287G agreement with the Federal government. He personally cannot support this in good conscience for several reasons, but the main one being that we should all be alarmed at the level of militarization that exists within law enforcement in light of Renee Good's murder. We cannot accept any Orwellian arguments that would justify executing a mother of three who posed no threat nor harm to anyone. In fact, the actions of that officer are not isolated because they do represent a problematic pattern of tactics that have been violently applied in a way that is appalling and anti-human to anyone who has a conscience. He knows this personally firsthand because these tactics of ICE are also inspired by the Israel Defense Forces who have trained ICE agents that have gone to Israel and learned how to use the same tactics that killed Renee Good, among others. As a Palestinian, he knows firsthand about this, because his family in the West Bank has been brutalized and even killed while dealing with the daily humiliation and subjugation at the hands of the same IDF, and the same IDF has also filmed itself using the same tactics on TikTok when they filmed themselves carrying out a genocide in Gaza. So he would never want to see that level of violence, dehumanization, and cruelty represented in Kenton County because he really firmly believes this isn't about left versus right. We should see this as right versus wrong, and he hopes anyone with humanity and common sense would agree that tearing families apart, subjecting individuals to cruel and inhumane treatment inside of our respective facilities, and even belligerently using deadly force would see

that as wrong. The only people who would benefit from ICE are private prison corporations and various contractors across different sectors, while everyday people like us still struggle with issues that are not connected to illegal immigration because, as mentioned, that is just a scapegoat to avoid humanely addressing other domestic social problems like hunger and homelessness. He asked the court to please do the right thing for all of us, not just a select few.

Virginia Southgate, a resident of Covington, stated that her family has been in Covington a long time. She figured out that her granddaughter is 10th generation in her neighborhood. Her Immigrants ancestors came here in the 18th century. Every one of her direct ancestors was here before Ellis Island opened. She doesn't have a problem with immigrants, but what she does have a problem with is a failure to follow the rule of law. The 287G agreements are a partnership with people who are undertrained and over armed, and who have made public statements with apparently the full backing of the Federal government that they do not feel that it is necessary to follow the law. She does not feel safer having militarization, as has been mentioned, on our streets. She is not afraid of her immigrant neighbors, but she has a 34-year-old daughter who said the murder of Renee Good made me feel much less safe. She doesn't want the 287G partnership with federal agents to stand. We have enough to do in our own community, with our own resources, without having to support lawless militarization in our streets.

A gentleman from Covington stated that he just found out about this today, but he goes by the name RJ. He has been living in Covington for about 10 years now. One of the things that led to his decision to move here and stay here was his neighborhood. He loves seeing families be able to walk to the park, be able to walk to church, or just be able to walk around town, and he doesn't want that to go away. He cares about his neighbors. He wants them to feel comfortable here, and he wants to feel comfortable too. He wants to know that if he does, God's forbid, have to call the police, that a bystander is not going to be put in a windowless facility somewhere, who knows where. This just does not make him comfortable, and it makes him wonder what's going to happen to his city.

General Business

A. Update from Kim Webb on the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky.

Kim Webb stated that every year she comes to the Kenton County Fiscal Court to show her gratitude on behalf of the organization for the support of Kenton County for the shelter that's located in Covington. She shared a video, and then a slideshow that highlighted all of the services that are provided on both on an ongoing annual basis and for the winter cold shelter right now that's happening and also for the daytime services. One of the things that's really coming to light is about this concept of community-based services and a community-based service model that people are wanting to stay in their communities in which they live and reside. Last known address is folks who are willing to go to a shelter and access any type of service because it's in their community and they're unwilling to travel to other places. Hence, why statistically we do not see folks from Boone or Campbell at high percentages and it's like less than 10% for each of those counties. They want to stay where their jobs are. They want to stay where they live and what they know to be true. We talk about self-sufficiency not stabilized or subsidized stability. A lot of conversations right now in our nation talk about HUD homelessness. That definition is very narrow about chronic most at risk without widening the lens for student homelessness, family homelessness, people that are living in extended stay motels for example supporting the hotel industry. What we tend to see and what our work program does is these are men and women in the winter that are employed, that are going to market race housing and statistically of the 60 guests who exited housing we have the ability with our data system to kind of do a look ahead and a look back at what's the recidivism for these folks. So, of the 60 guests who exited housing, 60% remained housed after three years maintaining self-sufficiency without a voucher or subsidy of any type. This is about the work we do to find and match people to housing where the jobs are that can afford the housing that's in their community. So again for our housing work programs we

do the baseline entrance for night-by-night shelter, but also our rise in our work program guests because we recognize the quickest way and the most successful way to exit homelessness is through employment and income.

We also know we have our on-site health care clinic, and we're proud of the fact that we have three partners in that space. We have our advanced practitioner RN that we fund through St. Elizabeth's Business Health, but we also have Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved that comes in for daytime services and then we have UK College of Medicine students who are coming in one to two nights a week under residents and physicians supervising and donating time. Last year in our commitment to providing holistic care since we moved in, we actually piloted health care at our Scott Street location. We have onsite health care with two beds in the clinic and the ability to have almost 1900 visits to clinic, and those clinic visits range from everything from Tylenol to heart attacks, strokes, throat obstructions, cancer and things. This is an urgent care model, and is about keeping people comfortable and connected to services.

More than two-thirds of the guests we see have insurance currently. She doesn't know how long that's going to last with the changes to Medicaid, but they have insurance. They just struggle to access care, but it's also our commitment to train the next generation of doctors.

Ms. Webb then stated that they are almost always at capacity as the occupancy rate is 97.37%. They struggle to fill our 16 bed room when bringing in women in the winter months, and so hence why the occupancy will always struggle to be at 100 percent. It is a 68 bed facility.

We value connection over exit. She was out west and talking with the professionals at the National Alliance on Homelessness. We take this very seriously as are performance metrics to show how well we train our staff. Working with the City of Covington on a monthly basis for our meetings, we get our dispatch log from Kenton County. We look at the incident reports and we had 79 police calls divided by almost 25,000 bed nights for an incident rate of 0.31. These are calls that we're making because we need help in the building. So, 79 times we called law enforcement to assist, and that is just our overnight bed count. That does not include the 24 hour restroom. It doesn't include our daytime shower and laundry program. They were out west at the National Alliance on Homelessness, and people were very impressed on how we calculated this, because there are communities that will calculate their police calls for shelters based on the entire call log for the City of Covington. They are really proud of this and our work to keep our guests in the building and train staff to manage.

Lastly, Ms. Webb stated that we talked briefly about widening the horizon of homelessness in our community. She has just begun reading a book about the hidden homeless and the definition of homeless and who meets that definition and where we tend to focus our energy and resources which leaves out lots of individuals that would otherwise receive the value of a shelter bed. Almost 70% of our guests spent less than 14 nights in a calendar year. People are resilient, give them a bed, invest in our operations and we will keep people employed and back to work and back to families.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Kim continues her great work. The stat of less than 14 nights or less in a calendar year is huge.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she is so impressed with how Ms. Webb has matured as a leader, a professional, as an organization over the years. Reading through all these stats, she is just proud of how she met all the questions and concerns, and she could have run. She knows that this has not been easy at times, but she just really matured into an amazing leader and she is

just thankful for that. She is thankful that this data is helping us be better. It's taught her some things that she probably would not have understood without it, so thank you for being willing to document it and bring it to us as a court and as and the community. Are the women that aren't coming to you finding shelter say at Welcome House or do you know that?

Ms. Webb answered that yes, to the ION Center. She doesn't know the stat off the top of her head, but there are a large percentage of women that are homeless or fleeing domestic violence. So they're going to the ION Center. They're going to try their very best to get into Welcome House. What we have available versus the volume of people is only going to continue to show that we're sending far more folks into Ohio for service than ever come over here.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that it is kind of funny how time changes people. He and Kim were just talking about when we were trying to get the center built, he was probably one of the biggest sticking points with the center. It was about the process of dealing with the city and the county and never really about the kind of purpose of it. Since then, he has talked to Kim multiple times. One instance he recalls is when he was down at his payroll company in Boone County and there was a guy in his wheelchair with three inches of snow on him. It was a Saturday, and Kim answered her cell phone and gave us guidance on what to do. Unfortunately the guy didn't want to go anywhere, but she was always willing to answer the phone. This isn't a place where you just go and get out of the cold. The services that they connect you with is the reason you're only there for 14 nights. The shelter has been in the new building for four years. Kim has a spectacular staff, and he never dreamed the extent that they go to connecting people to services. Kim is a great leader with a great crew. It is a worthy organization and he is going to take it a little bit further outside of her organization to Kenton County. We have a Detention Center that's probably one of the best in the country, and he knows it is because we single-handedly, through our Detention Center, took probably the largest chunk out of the heroin crisis in our state and in our region with the SAP program. It is a nationwide renowned program that has been basically carbon copied all over the country. People have access from our Detention Center to the Life Learning Center, and our judges and prosecutors are working with our jail for this program. Life Learning Center is connected to all these agencies. Kenton County probably has the strongest social service network that works together. It is unbelievable, and Kim's a big part of that. He is in the construction industry and owns construction companies, and unfortunately some of our people find their way to Jailer Fields. The people he knows that have been in both the jail and the shelter are well cared for there. It is a testament to the Fiscal Court. A long time ago, Georgetown had just opened their own shelter and that was a result of the conversation that we had years ago when they wanted to build a cold shelter. They needed to have someplace and they were using their fairgrounds to do it. It is an incredible model we have as a shelter in our community. That is what we've worked to try to be down to the Opioid Abatement Commission awarding us four hundred thousand dollars and calling our program innovative and one that needed to be duplicated across the state. because of the work we do on the recovery ready side and with that designation and so we're proud that Kenton County has led this and carried this responsibility. We've had conversations about some upcoming ideas that would probably improve things here in Northern Kentucky.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Joe's comments were spot on and he thinks the beauty of what we have in Kenton County is we do care about everybody and we back it up with action.

B. Request approval of the Amended Federally-funded Subaward and Funding Assistance Agreement between The Life Learning Center and The Kenton County Fiscal Court.

Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp stated that this is just a realignment of our funding levels to better match the projections of Life Learning Center with these ARPA funds that expire on December 31, 2026. This is amending their contract to better align themselves with the projections that we've come up with. The ARPA money that we had is going to be reallocated.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Draud. Judge/Executive Kris 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 TradesNKY, Inc. and The Kenton County Fiscal Court.

Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp stated that this is another ARPA contract using those federal funds, and this will bring the trades into the six Northern Kentucky middle schools of the Kenton County School District. This is funding to renovate classrooms and to purchase equipment and consumables for each school.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a program that's been developed through Trades NKY, and other counties have really tested this. It puts some one-time dollars into the program, so we're not annually funding staff and things. We are funding these primarily one-time costs so these programs can be up and running in the school district. This would be a total of \$400,000, and it will really make an impact. The Superintendents have been very supportive, and it will be pretty exciting to get another group of individuals ready for everything from welding to making better people who know how to use a screwdriver. This is in addition to Enzweiler, who is in Ludlow High School right now. Trades NKY might be in Holmes High School, but they're not in any Kenton County High School and certainly nothing that we've funded before. It is about developing the pipeline and getting them exposed earlier before they have to make their pathway decisions when they get to high school. It is about feeding into Enzweiler Gateway and dual enrollment feeding into the ATCs and the CTE programming. It is about getting them more exposed at a younger age, so they can love the trades jobs.

Commissioner Draud stated that he just read recently that electricians are making between \$180,000 and \$200,000 without going to college and no debt.

Lorena Moore, the new Executive Director for Trades NKY, stated that Trades NKY was founded by two gentlemen who own their own construction companies, and who had this vision of getting that early exposure and hands-on learning for the younger kids. It has grown so much that they needed to hand it over to someone who could manage it, so that's why they hired her. Her background is in workforce development for over 30 years with marginalized youth young adults.

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

D. Request approval of pay application #21 to Dugan And Meyers for the Kenton County Government Center Parking Garage.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this has been vetted and is appropriate to pay.

Commissioner Draud asked if this is the final payment?

County Administrator Joe Shriver answered that it is not. The parking garage was a project, but then the podium is going to be a project that will continue into the spring. Dugan and Meyers is doing that as we speak. They are pouring concrete to that first deck along Main Street on Saturday, and then you'll start seeing the wooden framing come up on that. The part on MLK will be about two weeks out for that foundation to be finished.

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

E. Claims Lists dated December 29, 2025 and January 13, 2026.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

- A. Resolution No. 26-01A
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

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

- B. Resolution No. 26-02
A Resolution approving the surety on bonds for the Kenton County Sheriff.**

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

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance 121.49 - Second Reading
An Ordinance amending the Kenton County, Kentucky Code of Ordinances re: Kenton County Policy Manual and County Administrative Code.**

Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp stated that the budget adjustments are \$13,000 for gasoline at the Detention Center, and \$250,000 for medical claims both coming from reserves. Then \$20,000 for equipment repairs at Fleet also coming from reserves. That is cleaning up medical claims, as we are just now hitting the budgeted amount for that. This will get us through June.

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

- B. Ordinance 121.50 - First Reading
An Ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the County of Kenton, Kentucky.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this is the yearly codification of Ordinances.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit 26-01
Request approval of various Public Official 's bonds.**
- B. Exhibit 26-02
Request approval to reject the bids for the Police Evidence Room Renovation and re-advertise with a revised scope.**
- C. Exhibit 26-03
Request approval to accept the CDBG grant for Transitions.**

- D. **Exhibit 26-04**
Request approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and St. Joseph School for a School Resource Officer.
- E. **Exhibit 26-05**
Request approval of change order #1 for overhead door replacements of Public Works Buildings.
- F. **Exhibit 26-06**
Request approval to go out to bid for gasoline and diesel fuel for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- G. **Exhibit 26-07**
Request approval of the grant application to the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services to provide EMS continuing education to each County EMS agency.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 25-171**
An Executive Order declaring a Level One Snow Emergency on December 11, 2025, in effect until rescinded.

No action needed.

- B. **Executive Order 25-172**
An Executive Order declaring a Level Two Snow Emergency on December 13, 2025, in effect until rescinded.

No action needed.

- C. **Executive Order 25-173**
An Executive Order rescinding the Level Two Snow Emergency that was declared on December 13, 2025

No action needed.

- D. **Executive Order 25-174**
An Executive Order rescinding the Level One Snow Emergency that was declared on December 11, 2025.

No action needed.

- E. **Executive Order 26-01**
An Executive Order accepting the retirement of Sheriff Charles Korzenborn as the Kenton County Sheriff, and appointing Jude Hehman as the Kenton County Sheriff.

Judge Knochelmann stated that when a Sheriff resigns, he has to appoint a new Sheriff. He thanked Jude Hehman for stepping up. We wish Sheriff Korzenborn nothing but the best. He is just an amazing human being who has given his life to the community. He is grateful for his absolute kindness. He doesn't think he would ever hurt a soul, and he did nothing but what was good in his mind for the community. He is glad that he is going to be able to hopefully enjoy some retirement.

F. Executive Order 26-02
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann to the Covington Economic Development Authority Board (CEDA).

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

G. Executive Order 26-03
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the Voluntary Declination of Employment from Landon Webster as a Public Services Technician I for the Kenton County Public Works Department.

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

H. Executive Order 26-04
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Tiffany Schuler as a Public Safety Telecommunicator II for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

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

I. Executive Order 26-05
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Trevor Diaz Waggoner as the Canine Behavior Coordinator for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.

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

J. Executive Order 26-06
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Jordon Williams as a Public Services Technician I for the Kenton County Public Works Department.

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

K. Executive Order 26-07
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Adam Wenz as a Fleet Services Technician II for the Kenton County Public

Works Department.

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

- L. Executive Order 26-08**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment and contract for Richard Brandon Markesbery as a School Resource Officer for St. Joseph's - Crescent Springs.

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

- M. Executive Order 26-09**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Greg Rehkamp as a Contract Police Officer for the Kenton County Police Department.

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

- N. Executive Order 26-10**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Abby Noll to the 911 Appeals Board.

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

Administrative Reporting

Technology Services

Jessica Ramsey stated she is going to report on the incident at the Dispatch Center. We had multiple weather events last month, and it really showed to us the value of having that all building UPS device that we talked about last month. Between now and then, we did put in some smaller UPS devices on our server infrastructure, on our switches and on the computers that the 9-1-1 operators use. That helps us whenever we do have one situation fail at the building because we've got plenty of redundancy. During the time that dispatchers were working at 1840 Simon Kenton Way, we were able to get a lot of work done at dispatch. She is proud of all of this work that got done. There were some power outages this past weekend, and during that we had a little bit of a power flicker. Dustin went out to try and see what caused this, and it was human error. At least it wasn't the expensive equipment we just purchased. Secondly, this year one of the goals she has for the department is to offer some more training to people at different facilities based on some feedback we've gotten from some of the agencies. In a couple of weeks we're going to have our first training session on how to use the chambers meeting room. Michelle's going to lead it, and we'll go through how to run a meeting, how to use all of the AV equipment in there and do some sort of basic troubleshooting. She is looking forward to getting some feedback from the people who attend that to see what can be improved going forward.

Commissioner Draud asked how long we had to operate the backup center for Dispatch?

Jessica Ramsey answered that she believes it was two weeks, and it was the first time we ever had to use it. It was nice to make sure that everything was working properly. She learned a lot about some of the laptops and everything we have in there, and it helped her make some decisions on what to budget for next year when we do replacements in terms of the specs for the laptops.

External Affairs

John Stanton stated that today was day six of the state budgets of the State Legislative session six out of 60. It is a budget year, and he thinks most everybody would agree that the first five days are usually the least interesting five days in the General Assembly. He thinks by the time he reports again, there will be a lot more to report. He does want to mention that we've always been fortunate over the years to have great support from Public Works in terms of our presentations. After all these years, the road plan still remains a little bit of a mystery to him. Nick Hendrix set a high bar for our ability to communicate with our legislative caucus. He really wants to congratulate Spencer Stork and Brandon Seiter, because he thinks they've taken that even up another step. They have done a great job with communicating with our folks down there regarding the needs in the county.

Mr. Stanton then stated that he would like to mention SparkHaus. He thinks outside of Blue North, he may be giving more tours of SparkHaus than anybody else. It is all good news as 33 out of the 35 offices there are rented, and at least over 300 folks are members. Dave Knox, Mitko, and Reese are all doing a great job there. Since September 22nd, when it opened, they've hosted over 70 events and over 3,000 people. There was also a pretty substantial delegation from the University of Kentucky up here last week to see what's happening in Covington. They were all folks who were here for the first time to visit the site for the future medical school. That went extremely well, and again it's kind of a team effort. He thanked Gina Douthat for helping to facilitate and make that stuff go very quickly.

Mr. Stanton then stated that the Age Well study is now beginning to enter its final phases. There should be a public soon with some of the recommendations that Laura Allen and her team have made. He believes there will be some action taken in 2026 based on the recommendations that are there in the report.

Lastly, Mr. Stanton stated that good work is going on with Corey Eimer and Vicki Berling at Northern Kentucky Works. Corey came in and met and updated us on their 2026 work agenda, and he thinks we're going to continue to see a good trajectory there as far as engagement.

Public Works

Spencer Stork stated that his department made it through the first big couple of snow and ice events this season. Everything went very well, and the salt dome is fully stocked again. Next up, we have our Christmas tree mulching event going on, so if you have Christmas trees that you want to get rid of and get them mulched up this event is for you. They are used for the fish and wildlife, you can check out our website for locations for dropping those off. Also, they recently celebrated three graduates from Public Works from the Roadmaster and Road Scholar Program. It is a very good program with a lot of educational classes and training for all our staff to go through.

Judge Knochelmann asked Mr. Stork to make a comment on the kick off meeting with the Transportation Plan.

Mr. Stork stated that during his last update he said that we were getting ready to get that process going with the Transportation Plan update. We did have a kickoff meeting this week, and

everything went well. We have a good plan moving forward, and we'll be executing that throughout this year.

Commissioner Draud asked who did the patchwork in front of Highland Cemetery?

Mr. Stork answered that it was KYTC.

Commissioner Draud stated that they did a good job with it. Also, his other question is do they train the people that are applying the asphalt to the road to make it even with the sewer lids, because there should be some training with that. You can go up and down Dixie Highway, and it must be 10 or 12 where you go over a bump.

Mr. Stork stated that there are some classes about asphalt placement, but sometimes with the utilities you end up having issues like that depending on if you can get the right risers and how close they are to other utilities or concrete curbs.

Animal Services

Kelly Sauer stated that she just wanted to take this opportunity to do a little recap on 2025 Animal Services. The year brought many changes to Kenton County's Animal Services Department. We upgraded our foster and volunteer program with a more defined structure and volunteer management software, expanded our surrender diversion counseling and resources, updated and implemented new policies regarding cleaning, handling medical appointments, trap and a release, euthanasia data collection and post adoption support. We even implemented an Animal Control Officer Ordinance study group, which actually turned out to be a lot of fun. All of this happened with the intent of moving us one step closer to making data and purpose driven decisions and working more efficiently. Some of those changes are evident in the numbers. From closing of the year last year we took in over 2,417 animals, which was actually down 465 from 2024. We had a reduction of 233 owner surrenders alone which is really nice. She thinks some of those diversion programs are paying off as they increased the owner returns by 66 pets, transferred 262 animals to rescues and did 1,506 adoptions, which was up from 2024 as well. They also reduced the total euthanasias from 2024 by 62 animals, bringing the live release rate up to 96 which is the highest it's ever been. They logged 3,799 volunteer hours and had 1,153 animals placed in foster homes last year. They are off to a really great start. In better news, they did take in 13 emergency chihuahuas today, so if anybody's interested in fostering please let her know.

Treasury

Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp stated that he needs the record to reflect that the financial reports for December, 2025, have been submitted

County Administrator 's Report

County Administrator Joe Shriver had nothing to report.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Draud

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he is glad the filing deadline came and went, and is happy for everybody who signed up to run. He wishes everybody luck, and it has been a pleasure to serve in the worlds that we have. He is looking forward to the last year that he has here with this great group.

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann

Judge Knochelmann stated that Dr. Draud decided not to file to serve again, but we'll make plenty comments about him for this next year. We have a lot of work to do, but very justly, we acknowledge your great work. As he said to the reporter, it's funny when we came in here 11 years ago or so weren't always on the same page but it's been wonderful to form a great friendship. He has the utmost admiration and respect for Dr. Draud and his passion for the county and Kentucky.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive 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 January 13, 2026.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk