

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

**May 24, 2022**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge Knochelmann called to order the May 24, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Nienaber 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  
                                 Roy Cox, County Treasurer

**Appoint County Administrator Joe Shriver as the acting Fiscal Court Clerk for the May 24, 2022 , Kenton County Fiscal Court meeting**

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.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of May 10, 2022.**

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

**Citizens Address**

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court.

**General Business**

**A. Presentation on the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet 's Rural Secondary Program.**

Andy Yeager from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet stated that every year they come to present their recommended Rural/Secondary Program for the County to review. This year, he is presenting the 2022/2023 program for Kenton County. Kenton County was allotted \$576,000 for the program, and of that, the first line is routine traffic and maintenance. This year there is \$186,000 set aside, and typically they are able to bump that up if the costs increase. There is also \$115,000 set aside for a flex funding project, which the county can utilize. Then there is \$3,800 for administrative expenses. There was only a free balance of \$8,800 last year, so that leaves a total of just under \$400.000 for roadway projects this year and with that he recommends

that Moffitt Rd. be resurfaced (KY 2042). That would be from Rector Rd. to George W. Bach Rd. at a length just over 2.1 miles. The cost would be \$150,000. That leaves \$245,000 for projects, and the next one on the list is Visalia Rd/KY536. That was just resurfaced last year, but the high friction surface was removed. He is suggesting that it be put back on the pavement from Mann Rd. to 177. The cost would be about \$50,000. Finally, Green Rd. KY 2043 that he has split up into two sections. This will be the southernmost section from US25 up to Cruise Creek Bridge, with a cost of \$214,000. That puts it a little over the allotted amount, but depending on what the prices come in at when the projects are let they should be able to get all three projects done. If the County decides to not use the flex funding, he recommends resurfacing Parkers Grove, which is KY 3083.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he has obviously been working with Nick Hendrix on this. He is thinking that Parkers Grove is not wide enough for two cars.

Mr. Yeager stated that there isn't enough money to widen the road.

### **B. Report from Director Scott Hardcorn on the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force.**

Scott Hardcorn stated that on April 30<sup>th</sup> the DEA drug take back day took place. These events help get all of the unused prescription medication off the streets. Northern Kentucky ended up taking in a total of 523 pounds of unused prescription medication, and 803 pounds for the entire month. The most prevalent drugs that they are seeing on the street are fentanyl and methamphetamine. The emerging trend they are seeing would be the counterfeit pills, and that is a nationwide problem. The danger is that they never know what is in these pills. The DEA started the campaign that one pill can kill. Year to date the Strike Force has taken in 5,525 counterfeit pills out of Northern Kentucky. Firearm seizures have been 33 year to date that have been confiscated from drug traffickers. Northern Kentucky is in better shape than anywhere else. This is due to the great partnerships that they have with the community officials, law enforcement including: Chief Spike Jones from Kenton County, Sheriff Helmig in Boone County, Craig Sorrell in Campbell County and Rob Nader in Covington and Kyle Rader in Erlanger. They have all devoted personnel to them. They have highly efficient investigators assigned to them. In addition to that, they have great prosecutors, and he thanked County Attorney Stacy Tapke and Assistant County Attorney Chris Nordloh for all of their great work. Michelle Snodgrass in Campbell County and Lewis Kelly in Boone County do an excellent job.

Scott Hardcorn then stated that they find themselves working with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office more than anyone. There is one prosecutor that stands above and beyond, and that is Casey Burns. He is a huge part of their team. Every Monday morning they have an intel briefing, and Mr. Burns attends almost every meeting and brings his child if he has babysitting issues. Without him, they would not be nearly as successful. He presented Mr. Burns with an award from the whole department for his dedication.

Mr. Burns thanked everyone for the award. He stated that working with Scott Hardcorn and the Drug Strike Force is the easiest part of his job. He knows when he gets cases they will be done right. He commended them on adapting to situations. Thanks to the Fiscal Court getting Wi-Fi across the County, they are seeing less text messaging and more transactions through apps. This helps get more criminals off the street.

Commonwealth's Attorney Rob Sanders thanked Scott Hardcorn for the wonderful job he is doing. He appreciates them recognizing Mr. Burns, as they are dedicated to the partnership. Mr. Burns has really stepped up, and takes care of everything narcotics.

Commissioner Draud commended everyone for the effort in the County. This drug situation has been a high priority for a long time. It appears to him that it is not much better. He asked what their opinion is on the improvement of the drug situation?

Mr. Hardcorn answered that the scene constantly evolves. If you just look at methamphetamine alone, back in the '80s there was the old "biker" dope. The main precursor in that was P2P, which is a chemical. The government ended up making it illegal, so drug traffickers evolved to ephedrine and cold medicine. The government saw the problem, and are controlling the sale of that now. Now, they are seeing a cycle back to the P2P and it is being shipped in high quantities from China to Mexico. The cartels are turning it into methamphetamine and shipping it across the border. He doesn't know if it is worse, as they are constantly evolving and the Strike Force is trying to stay ahead of them. Without the great prosecutors and team that they have, it would be out of control. They are doing a great job keeping it out of our area.

Commissioner Draud stated that he is not talking just about Kenton County but nationwide. It doesn't seem that there has been much progress.

Mr. Sanders stated that where you really see the difference in what the Drug Strike Force and all the agencies are doing is the homicide rate. The rate is dramatically lower than Louisville and Cincinnati. That is where the agents are making a difference. We don't see the violence, as they are taking out major players before they establish themselves well enough that they can start killing. That is the reason the quality of life is the way it is in Kenton County. He hates the term "war on drug", as war by definition is winnable. We don't quit fighting though. He doesn't know if it will every be over, but it is better today due to the efforts of the Drug Strike Force and the local officers.

### **C. Claims List dated May 20, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

## **Resolutions**

### **A. Resolution No. 22-01J A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer Roy Cox explained that the budget adjustments are for the following: There is a lot of inflation that is causing quite a few adjustments. He just went over the big ones. There is \$30,000 for Police overtime adjustment (coming out of Police salaries), \$41,000 for the main Police Station for security cameras (paid for out of Police forfeitures), \$41,000 to bring money forward so we can get cameras order for the new Police building, \$18,000 additional Clerk audit, \$95,000 for TIF for property tax, \$25,000 for road salaries due to an increase in personnel due to work being done for the State, \$6,000 for increased utilities costs for Public Works, \$12,000 for road vehicle repairs, \$45,000 to replace a Police cruiser that was totaled (insurance covering over half of that), \$31,250 for Jail increased utility cost and \$59,000 out of COLT funds for TIF payments.

Commissioner Draud asked what the \$25,000 is that we are doing for the State.

Mr. Cox answered that this is for salaries. We increased our staff this year so that we could do additional salt applications. We have received reimbursement from the State.

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

### **B. Resolution No. 22-13 A Resolution recognizing the 2022 Pioneer Award Honorees.**

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

**C. Resolution No. 22-14**

**A Resolution authorizing the Judge/Executive to execute an agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for transfer of local matching county funds for sanitary sewer and waterline relocation components of the reconstruction of KY 236 from Alice Street to Jacqueline Drive (Item No. 6-80002).**

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

**D. Resolution No. 22-15**

**A Resolution of the land and water conservation fund 2022 grant application.**

Meghan Sandfoss from NKADD stated that there is a lot of money statewide for the LWCF Program. She put together an application for Kenton County, because of the new County Park. There are many opportunities to get Federal funds. They are pursuing the dog park part of the grant. What she has put together in the budget, the demolition, the fill, fencing and resurfacing is about \$507,000 for the whole project. It is possible to request 50% of that amount. It takes about two years to get the funds.

Judge Knochelmann commended Ms. Sandfoss for keeping on top of these opportunities.

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

**Consent Agenda**

**A. Exhibit No. 22-64**

**Request approval of a Cincinnati Bell Services Addendum for the Detention Center and the Police Auxiliary Building for the Technology Services Department.**

**B. Exhibit No. 22-65**

**Request approval of the IPS Contract for CCTV & IP Cameras at Emergency Communications Center for the Technology Services Department.**

**C. Exhibit No. 22-66**

**Request approval of the IPS Contract for Cameras & Card Readers at Police Auxiliary Building for the Technology Services Department.**

**D. Exhibit No. 22-67**

**Request approval to surplus various items for the Technology Services Department.**

**E. Exhibit No. 22-68**

**Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

**F. Exhibit No. 22-69**

**Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Fleet**

Department.

- G. Exhibit No. 22-70**  
**Request approval of a lease agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Gregory and Charlene Combs for the property located at 3920 Richardson Rd., Independence, KY.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

### **Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 22-66 (Action Requested)**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Kylie Rauh as a Shelter Technician for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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

- B. Executive Order 22-67 (Action Requested)**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the reclassification of the Assistant County Treasurer position for the Kenton County Treasury Department.**

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

- C. Executive Order 22-68 (Action Requested)**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the reorganization of the Kenton County Administration Department.**

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

### **Administrative Reporting**

### **Public Works**

Nick Hendrix stated that Eaton Asphalt has recently wrapped up the FY 2021 resurfacing program, and now they are starting work on getting the FY 2022 work done with a completion date of November. He then spoke about the maintenance and traffic update for Bromley/Crescent Springs Rd. The contractor said that the lower section that is closed right now is scheduled to be reopened sometime in mid July. At that time, they will close to thru traffic on the upper section from Edenderry to Anderson. There will still be access for local traffic. It should be finished in October, and the contractor thinks that they can make that happen.

Commissioner Draud stated that it is unbelievable how bad Dixie Highway is, and there should be some situation that they could do things in an emergency. He asked for approval for a letter to be written to KYTC to get this fixed.

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

## **Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that there were two different camera projects on the agenda. One is for the Emergency Communications Center that replaces and upgrades the CCTV and the camera system out at the Police/Dispatch Center. The second camera project is for the new Police Annex building. They are paid out of separate funds, so they have to be separate contracts. By doing both of them simultaneously, there is a bit of a cost savings. Both of those are part of pulling all of the camera systems into one centralized system that can be view at all the sites. It ties it into the camera system at Simon Kenton Way.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they are replacing the switches at the Detention Center. They are going to a new model of switches, which will have us paying Cincinnati Bell for maintenance on the switches and automatic hardware upgrades as they come in. This gives us a nice administrative portal to control our switches, and view all of the traffic going through it, so we can fine-tune it. Currently, this is just for the Detention Center site.

## **External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that this was the first year where there were three days of no excuse early voting opportunities on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is probably a signal as to how habitual peoples voting patterns are, as only 1,421 people took advantage of early voting opportunities. The total turnout for the election was 17%. When there are four full days of voting, and this low of a turnout it shows that there is a lot of work to be done to get people out there voting. There needs to be more education to get people out on those early voting days. As far as he can tell everything went smoothly. He heard barely any complaints.

Commissioner Draud stated that the big thing is to be number one on the ballot. When people don't know anybody, they just vote for the top person.

Mr. Stanton stated that at the Kenton County Mayor's Meeting on Saturday, virtually every Mayor had a story to tell about how Sal Santoro helped them out at some point. Mr. Santoro doesn't represent any part of Kenton County, but he has represented everyone in Northern Kentucky. He is, and will go down as the most consequential transportation legislator in modern Northern Kentucky history. That will be a tremendous loss for us. It took 16 years for him to get where he is, and out of several of the new legislators there aren't any that have expressed interest in the Transportation Committee. That will really be a Northern Kentucky issue for us to deal with in the future.

Commissioner Draud stated that we lost a lot of influence on Tuesday. It takes time to build up influence.

Mr. Stanton stated that we have had a great caucus, and there will be some rebuilding that will need to be done going forward. He then stated that there continues to be a lot of work going on in economic development, and in particular in entrepreneurship, site readiness and workforce development. There will be more individualized and special reports on those subjects.

## **Animal Services**

Kelsey Maccombs stated that in the past month they have had two new Animal Control officers start. She thanked Ashley Hawks and her team at Dispatch for all of the help getting them trained on some of the dispatch areas. They are continuing on their trap, neuter and rescue efforts with the community cats. This is the season that things really kick off with the kittens. From January 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> the cat and kitten intake was 77. Since May 1<sup>st</sup> until today, the intake has been

82. They are looking to amp up their kitten foster program to help keep those vulnerable populations out of shelters, and alleviate some the pressure on the staff.

### **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 for an update on the progress towards the residents getting the connection to the new park.

Nick Hendrix stated that they have gotten the design complete, and there is a little bit of right a way that was purchased. He believes that later this fall, it will be ready for construction letting, and with any luck it will be constructed this fall. At the latest it will be in the spring.

Commissioner Draud then stated that he would like to explain about his car accident the other night. It was raining very heavily, and he had an accident on Sleepy Hollow Rd. He was not impaired, and he thanked everyone involved that helped him. He thanked the citizens of Kenton County for electing him, and appreciates all of the support.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he appreciates the voters of Kenton County. Sometimes you agree with people, and sometimes you do not. Northern Kentucky lost a lot of continuity of government and influence. He is very thankful that Marc Fields and Jon Draud are back.

### **Judge/Executive 's Report**

Judge Knochelmann stated that he and Commissioner Sewell have been meeting with large property owners in Unincorporated Kenton County for long term planning purposes. It is good to get their opinion, as it helps to make policies. The landowners have such great insight.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she thinks they are empathizing with them about being the policymakers. It has been great to be one on one with them, and being honest with them.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he believes that the four Fiscal Court members are very fortunate to serve together. There is a lot of opportunity ahead.

Commissioner Nienaber thanked the Judge and Commissioner Sewell for getting the opinions of the stakeholders.

### **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 May 24, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk