

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT

VIRTUAL MEETING

<http://www.tbnk.org/togo2>

1840 Simon Kenton Way
Covington, KY 41011

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2020

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the September 8, 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
Roy Cox, County Treasurer
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of August 25, 2020.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Draud. 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. Approval of the Minutes from the Caucus meeting of August 27, 2020 .

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.

Citizens Address

No citizens sent any questions to the Fiscal Court.

General Business

A. Public Hearing regarding the Kenton County Tax Rate.

Treasurer Roy Cox opened the public hearing at 5:33 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to hear any comments on the proposed tax rate for the Kenton County Fiscal Court. The proposed rates are 15.9 cents per \$100 valuation for real property, 20.2 cents for personal property and 15.8 cents for motor vehicles. These rates are the same as last year. He has received no written comments or phone calls. No members of the Fiscal Court have received any comments regarding the tax rate. The hearing was then closed at 5:34 p.m.

B. Presentation/Testimony on the Kenton County Library 's tax rate.

Director Dave Schroder from the Kenton County Library stated that the Library Board set their annual tax rate on August 18, 2020. It is the same tax rate as last year, 11.3 per \$100 for real and 19.71 per \$100 for personal.

C. Presentation of the Cooperative Extension District 's tax rate.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that a special called meeting of the Cooperative Extension District was held earlier today. The tax rate is 4% over the compensating rate for the 2020 tax year. The rate for real property will increase from 1.042 cents to 1.048 cents per \$100 valuation. This will produce revenue of \$1,230,013. The rate for personal property will increase from 1.216 cents to 1.260 cents per \$100 valuation, and will produce revenue of about \$111, 577. On the real property, this is an increase of six cents per \$100,000 property assessment.

D. Presentation of the Planning and Development Services (PDS) tax rate.

Director Sharmili Reddy stated that the PDS board adopted their tax rate on August 20, 2020. Planning and Development Services Management Board developed a proposed budget detailing anticipated revenues and expenditures and a proposed tax rate for its Fiscal Year 2021 operations. The tax rate equals \$0.0268 per \$100 valuation on all real property, and a tax rate that equals \$0.0268 per \$100 valuation on all motor vehicles, watercraft, and other personal property.

E. Request approval of a Memorandum of Agreement for Appropriation for the Licking River Greenway Study.

External Affairs Director John Stanton stated that this is an outgrowth of the bourbon tourism initiative that has been going on for a few years. A few years ago we found that the Licking River was a corridor for early bourbon production and distribution, particularly the corridor that is about 122 miles long from Paris, KY to the Ohio River. Thanks to the stellar support from Senator Chris McDaniel, the General Assembly appropriated \$150,000 to study and promote this as an outdoor recreation and bourbon tourism corridor. Kenton County is serving as the fiscal agent for this appropriation, but it is a partnership with Bourbon, Harrison, Pendleton, Campbell and Kenton County. This is the paperwork associated with the County accepting that appropriation on behalf of all of the counties. Once that is processed and submitted to the State, and the appropriation arrives, we will come back to the Fiscal Court with a proposed RFP to put out there for initial work to be done on the corridor.

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.

F. Claims Lists - Dated September 4, 2020.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

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

There were no questions on the budget adjustments.

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.

B. Resolution No. 20-29 A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court authorizing the Judge/Executive to execute an affiliation agreement with the Northern Kentucky Health Department for services provided by the Northern Kentucky Medical Reserve Corps during certain emergencies.

Emergency Management Director Steve Hensley stated that this agreement is done each year, and it protects any of the responders from a worker's compensation perspective.

Commissioner Sewell asked if this is just volunteers that happen to come in from outside of the community?

Mr. Hensley answered that this is an organized group that is coordinated through the Health Department that would respond and assist us during a large scale disaster. Many are nurses, nurse practitioners, doctors and such.

Commissioner Draud asked how many members there are?

Mr. Hensley answered that there are over 100 from various areas across the United States.

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.

C. Resolution No. 20-30 A Bond Inducement Resolution for the Arlington Properties, Inc. project.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a project at the top of the hill, which is the old Chase Law School Property.

Mr. Parsons stated that a few months ago, the Fiscal Court authorized an inducement Resolution for this particular project. Since that time, they have waived all contingencies relative to the purchase of the property from the NKU and move forward to closing on that. Now, they need to officially issue the bonds, which are industrial revenue bonds that only have the County as a conduit issuer of the bonds. As part of the Resolution that was approved in May, an

agreement in lieu of taxes was approved between the City, County, the Covington School District and the Kenton County School District. A portion of this project is going to be split between the two school districts, so they will both share in the tax revenues from this project. They have received approval from the State Local Debt Officer, which is required. They anticipate closing on the project sometime in October, and move forward to start the construction. This is about a \$50+ million market rate rental program, being done by Arlington Properties. They are a developer from Alabama, but they are doing several projects in Northern Kentucky. Again, this isn't Kenton County's debt, it is totally supported by the project.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we did help with the sale of the property with NKU to make this happen, and this Fiscal Court should be commended for that. We believe that between the State and the developer, we may have connectivity with sidewalks down Dixie Highway, do some crossing and then will allow for the first time someone to be able to walk from Ft. Wright to Covington safely. There are some dollars that developer helped partner on, and some ideas with the State. He thanked Bob Yeager for trying to help make this work.

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, present not voting, Commissioner Sewell, yes and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0 w/one present not voting.

Ordinances

**A. Ordinance No. 620.14 - Second Reading
An Ordinance discontinuing Lynn St in Unincorporated Kenton County.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that there was a property owner nearby, and we connected with them to talk about concerns.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Judge Knochelmann. 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. Ordinance No. 225.91 - Second Reading
An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the levy and adoption of the 2020 tax rates of 15.9 cents per hundred dollars valuation on real property, 20.20 cents per hundred dollars valuation on personal property and 15.8 cents per hundred dollars valuation on motor vehicles to provide such revenue as has been budgeted and approved for expenditure in the current fiscal year.**

Commissioner Draud stated that it should be noted that this is the same tax rate as last year.

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. Ordinance No. 225.92 - Second Reading
An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the levy and adoption of the 2020 annual improvement benefit assessment rate on the basis of the assessed values of benefitted properties within the former city of Latonia Lakes, Kentucky as specifically identified in Kenton County ordinances 620.9 & 620.10.**

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.

- D. Ordinance No. 924.61 - First Reading**
An Ordinance adopting the recommendations of the Kenton County Planning commission approving the Stage 2 development plan for 2323 Anderson road in Unincorporated Kenton County.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this development is next to PeeWees in Crescent Springs. No vote is needed tonight, as this is the first reading.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 20-118**
Request approval to authorize an agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazmat/WMD Unit to provide services related to hazardous materials containment and control.
- B. Exhibit No. 20-119**
Request approval of a lease between the Unified Prosecutorial System and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for 4,977 square feet of office space for the Commonwealth Attorney 's offices in the Kenton County Administration Building.
- C. Exhibit No. 20-120**
Request approval of a lease between the Unified Prosecutorial System and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for eight parking spaces for the Commonwealth Attorney in the Kenton County Parking Garage.
- D. Exhibit No. 20-121**
Request approval of a lease between the Department for Public Advocacy and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for eight parking spaces in the Kenton County Parking Garage.
- E. Exhibit No. 20-122**
Request approval to surplus a 2014 Ford Explorer for the Kenton County Sheriff 's Department.
- F. Exhibit No. 20-123**
Request approval to surplus a 1999 International Bucket Truck and a 2010 Caterpillar 308D Track Hoe for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- G. Exhibit No. 20-124**
Request approval to accept the grant from the Port Authority for updating and maintaining the drone program for the Kenton County Police Department.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

Executive Orders

A. Executive Order 20-77

An Executive Order relating to the Kenton County Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Sarah Etler as a part-time Tax Clerk for the Kenton County Treasury Department.

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.

B. Executive Order 20-78

An Executive Order relating to the Kenton County Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Meghan Kinman as the Veterinary Technician for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.

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.

Administrative Reporting

Steve Hensley- Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that over the last five days we have only averaged 3 positive cases of COVID per day in our emergency departments. This is down from the 30's per day a few weeks ago. We do expect this number to climb with the holiday weekend. The drive thru testing has been picking up more positives that were historically going to the emergency departments. This is overall great news.

Mr. Hensley then stated that 927,819 people have been tested, there are 53,064 positive cases, 10,648 recovered, 996 deaths and a positivity rate of 4.34%. The age group with the highest percentage of positive cases is 20-29 at 10,375, followed by the 30-39 at 8,094. The Kenton County Cases were at 1,817 as of Monday.

Mr. Hensley then stated that they worked a Black Lives Matter event involving approximately 75 participants over the weekend that began in Elsmere and ended in Boone County. This event gave them the opportunity to utilize one of their new regional talk groups. This gave them the ability to move both the police and fire units to a common talk group, giving everyone involved the ability to communicate directly with each other, both within and across the county line. Mr. Hensley then stated the Fiscal Court owns a 2003 International Fire Dept.-Tanker, and has assigned it to the Fire Chiefs Association to utilize as an additional water source in the Southern portion of the County. With the improvements in the available water supply, the Fire Chiefs have voted to take this vehicle out of service, and return it to the Fiscal Court to surplus. The Ryland Fire District has expressed interest in this vehicle. They have been instructed to come to the next Fiscal Court meeting, and present their request.

Mr. Hensley then thanked Stacy Tapke, as they had a hazmat bill that they were having a problem with, and once they received a letter from Drew Harris the matter was resolved quickly.

Commissioner Draud asked if the data that was mentioned in the beginning if the same amount of testing is being done in the County?

Mr. Hensley answered that they are still doing the same number of tests, however Mr. Colvin cautioned us that he is looking over the past five days and a portion of that will be the time that some of the labs were closed for the holiday. All the testing that they can do for procedures can be done rapidly. He felt that it was good news though.

Commissioner Draud then stated that he would like to see a real campaign to let the public know that the new radio system is up and running well.

Mr. Hensley stated that the system is working as designed, and is a true benefit to the three counties.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we are definitely going to have a socially distanced event to celebrate the new radio system.

Spike Jones - Police Department

Chief Jones stated that the Police Academy is back open, and recruits Waits and Snider have returned there to complete their training. Mr. Waits is slated to graduate on October the 29th and Mr. Snider will graduate on December the 10th. Also, the evidence collection van is now fully operational and all of our officers have been trained in its operation. They have extended a conditional offer of employment to one individual, and are awaiting the results of his background investigation to come back.

Chief Jones then stated that on August the 17th. Officer Hogan observed a vehicle driving erratically and initiated a traffic stop. Upon speaking with the driver, it was discovered that the driver was suffering from a medical emergency. As our officer was speaking with him the driver went into full cardiac arrest. Officers Hogan and Paddon began CPR, and called for a life squad. The officers continued until the squad arrived. The operator of the vehicle was transported to the hospital, and underwent lifesaving emergency surgery and is now recovering. It is my belief that our officers were in the right place at the right time with the right training, and saved this man's life. In the future, he will present them with the Lifesaving Award.

Dan Mathew- Emergency Communications

Dan Mathew stated that he appreciates Mr. Hensley mentioning his department's participation in this weekend's events. He likes to have the opportunity to share with everyone the great work that his people do on a daily basis. The radio system has been up and operational for over a month now. There have been no system failures in Kenton County. We are experiencing some growing pains, as it is a different system but everyone is happy with how it is operating.

Mr. Mathew then stated that their overtime has been up a bit. Since the start of COVID they have not hired anyone new, and lost four employees since January 1st. Two were to retirement and two left to pursue lifelong goals. They are in the process of hiring some individuals, and hope to work on this overtime. Also, calls for service are down over previous years.

Roy Cox - Treasurer

Mr. Cox asked that the records reflect that the August, 2020 Financial Reports have been submitted.

County Attorney's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud asked about the internet service in the southern part of the County. He has a constituent in Morningview that is having trouble getting service, and he thought there was a committee that had been formed to help get some of the CARES money to pay for more broadband coverage.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he and Commissioner Sewell have been working on this for some time. Because of the CARES money that we have access to, we have an opportunity to potentially ask for dollars that we could expend before the end of the year. We have asked for advice from local experts, and are getting that data as we speak. We are also talking to Campbell and Boone County to see if the three counties can do more as a group. We did some preliminary asks from the leadership in Frankfort, and they were very positive about it. We are verifying that the request could be legally approved, how much it will cost and what areas will we need to work on with this. He will be bringing something back to the Fiscal Court asking for permission on this issue. We will know more about this in about a week. We have asked the Kenton County Library to take the lead on this, and their board has voted unanimously to do this.

Commissioner Draud stated that he would like to explore the idea of sidewalks on Independence Station Rd., so that subdivisions could walk to the parks. John Stanton gave him a good report on the progress of this. When he spoke to Senator Thayer, it seemed that there wasn't as much money for sidewalks from Frankfort as there used to be. The City of Independence would gain from this.

Commissioner Draud then asked if a committee has been formed regarding the Fox Run property?

Judge Knochelmann answered that there is not a separate committee, but he would like to get a planner to give us a model. We are going after some grant money to help fund this effort. This a legacy type of project.

Commissioner Draud stated that he would like to have a group of citizens give input on this as well. He has a couple of people he would like to recommend. John Stanton would be good on this committee. He responded very quickly to his requests.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the planners could be the facilitators for the group of citizens.

Judge Knochelmann then asked for approval to send out an RFQ for planners to give us a model to use for the Fox Run property to look at the site, and let us know what the best way to move forward would be for this property so that people would have access to it.

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.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber thanked Sharmili Reddy for doing a great job with PDS. He is happy with the tax rate that they are taking, and is looking forward to the partnership between PDS and the Fiscal Court. He thanked Emi Randall, who has taken another job, for her service.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann had nothing to report.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. 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 September 8, 2020.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk