

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
MEETING MINUTES  
Covington Courthouse  
303 Court St.  
Covington, KY 41011**

**June 25, 2019  
5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the June 25, 2019, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge/Executive Knochelmann led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Judge/Executive, Kris Knochelmann  
Commissioner Beth Sewell, District 1  
Commissioner Joe Nienaber, District 3  
County Attorney Stacy Tapke

**Staff:** 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 May 28, 2019.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**B. Approval of the Minutes from the Special Meeting of June 19, 2019.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**Citizens Address**

No citizens came before the court at this time.

**General Business**

**A. Claims Lists-Dated June 7, 2019, and June 21, 2019.**

There were no questions on the claims lists.

**B. Presentation of the 2019 Pioneer Award to Rick and Mary Hulefeld.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the second year for the Pioneer Award, and the nominations come from Kenton County citizens. He then presented Rick and Mary Hulefeld with the Pioneer Award, and thanked them for being such a blessing to the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Hulefeld expressed their sincere appreciation for this honor.

**C. Presentation of a Proclamation to Sharif Abdrabbo.**

Judge Knochelmann presented a Proclamation to Captain Abdrabbo.

John Stanton stated that it is a joy to have Mr. and Mrs. Hulefeld as Pioneer Award winners. Also, Mr. Stanton stated that Captain Abdrabbo is a wonderful example, and a great family man.

**D. Presentation from the Northern Kentucky Health Department on the data from the Syringe Access Exchange Program.**

Dr. Saddler from the Northern Kentucky Health Department presented on the Syringe Access Exchange Program. She asked that the Fiscal Court amend the Resolution to allow them to operate during more hours to help more people.

John Mitchell from St. Elizabeth Healthcare expressed his support of this program.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he appreciates all of the hard work, and asked if there are any negative reports on this program from the community or St. Elizabeth?

Dr. Saddler answered that they have tremendous communications between St. Elizabeth and the Health Department. If an issue has arisen, Mr. Mitchell has been great about calling to let them know. They talk through the problem, and the problems that arise are a product of people who have used the exchange and then gone to St. Elizabeth for one reason or another when they didn't have a reason. They work hard to educate people so that when they leave the mobile unit, they are able to go about their business and go on their way. They did reach out to the Covington Police Department and Covington EMS to find out if they are seeing any issues. The response is that they are not seeing anything negative beyond what was happening before the program.

Commissioner Sewell asked if there is still concern about Hepatitis C?

Dr. Saddler answered that there still are concerns. They started in 2015 with high rates of Hepatitis C, which were connected with injectable drugs. They knew people were sharing needles and syringes, and the rates have continued to go up. They are not able to test for Hepatitis C on the mobile unit, but that is one of things that they make referrals for people to come to the Health Center to test for it. A grant was received from the Gilead Pharmaceutical Company to allow them to expand their testing for Hepatitis C in the community, and also to provide linkage to care.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if we are winning?

Dr. Saddler answered that we are making progress. It took some time, but things are improving. It will take some more time.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that the Needle Exchange was a tough thing for him to vote for, and he thinks the metrics will be hard to see. He was hoping that this would be a temporary program, but this will be here for the unforeseeable future.

**E. Presentation from Roger Peterman on the Business Improvement District.**

This issue was tabled.

**F. Discussion regarding the new Administration Building.**

**1. Request approval to ratify the Contractor's Application for Payment #20.**

Nick Hendrix stated that this is the application for payment through the end of May. It has been reviewed by the owner's representative.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**2. Request approval for contract modification to WSP contract for Owner Rep Services and FF&E coordination.**

Nick Hendrix stated that this request is due to schedule slippage on the contract. This is simply a budget that has been put together that puts us to the end of August.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we would rather this not be part of the contract, but we know that the work they are doing daily is needed on the project.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**3. Request approval to award the Kenton County Furnishings bid to Professional Office Environments for the new Kenton County Administration Building.**

Nick Hendrix stated that at the last meeting in Independence, Joe Shriver presented all of the FFE items that were being purchased off of a state master agreement. We tried our best to purchase as much as possible off of those agreements. The items on the list today are items that were not able to be purchased off of those agreements.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Roy Cox for all of his help to get everything that we could on the state contract.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**G. Request approval for Motorola Change Order for site work at Devou Tower.**

Dan Mathew stated that this change order came about because there is some additional work that needs to be performed. The original change order from Motorola was substantially higher than

what is being requested. Through Nick's hard work, he has determined that this is a feasible amount of money to do the work.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we had an original bid on all the towers. They originally came back and said they want this amount. We got the number down with them.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

### **Resolutions**

#### **A. Resolution No. 19-011**

##### **A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustment are for the following: Justice Center Maintenance Service agreement for \$2,000, travel and training for \$2,200, \$1,500 for a Duke bill and \$2,000 for the fire suppression system in the garage.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

#### **B. Resolution No. 19-12**

##### **A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court approving and adopting the compensation rates for the Kenton County employees, and authorizing the County Treasurer to pay the rates on scheduled pay days.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

#### **C. Resolution No. 19-13**

##### **A Resolution approving adjustments to Detention Center pay scale.**

Jailer Terry Carl stated that Mr. Fields has been doing a fantastic job. The problem that they are having is that there isn't a large pool of Correction's Officers out there. This community is very competitive regarding salaries. The increase in the salaries is going to make a big difference as far as recruiting and retention. This week and last week we lost three people. One went to Boone County, and two went to Butler County.

Marc Fields stated they created a scale to be competitive with other counties. In the past twelve months, they have lost 52 Deputies, over 13 years the turnover rate has been approximately 42 a year and last year 75% of the Deputy turnover was employees with less than three years of service. He explained the new pay scale for the future. The first year, there is a pretty good sized bump, and it is a little less the second year. They have gone from a ten year top out to an eight year top out. In the past twelve months, they have hired 44 Deputies. Now, 19 of them are no longer with the department. Twelve of those left for other jobs that paid more money. The new plan has an incentive for the first three years, because they believe that if they keep people at least three years they will keep them for their career.

Mr. Fields then stated that he has many ideas for recruiting. The new application process that the county has in place online has generated 857 views, and only had 51 applications. They are

on every job board that is out there. They have created a program at Gateway that is called a Corrections Certificate, and this gives them 30 credit hours to go towards an Associate's Degree. They created an Associates Degree with a concentration in corrections that will begin this fall. They also are going to the local Police Departments' testing, and put out the Detention Center material. Every person that tests for those Police jobs won't get hired, and this is a pathway to that. They have also reached out to Police Departments to share training. They have also done more training, and invested in video and body cameras.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we have been working for the past couple of years with Boone and Campbell County to have the same starting wage. We now have that agreement.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he appreciates the creativity.

Commissioner Sewell asked if this proposal is the same as was presented during budget meetings?

Judge Knochelmann answered that it is, and may have a smaller impact financially then thought.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**D. Resolution No. 19-14**

**A Resolution approving the application for the federal BUILD grant for KY 536.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the same project that we went after last year, and we are doing it again this year.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**Ordinances**

No Ordinances were presented.

**Consent Agenda**

**A. Exhibit No. 19-71**

**Request approval to issue an RFP for facility management services for the Kenton County Justice Center.**

**B. Exhibit No. 19-72**

**Request approval to ratify a contract modification for grant funding for the State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response for the Kenton County Detention Center.**

**C. Exhibit No. 19-73**

**Request approval of the Equipment License associated with a tower lease.**

**D. Exhibit No. 19-74**

**Request approval to rescind the executed Unincorporated Urban Place (UUP) Agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.**

- E. **Exhibit No. 19-75**  
**Request approval of the Service Level Agreements with various departments for the Kenton County Information Technology Department.**
- F. **Exhibit No. 19-76**  
**Request approval to accept grant funding to expand the Quick Response Team Model in Kentucky for the Kenton County Detention Center.**
- G. **Exhibit No. 19-77**  
**Request approval to surplus various Information Technology equipment from the IT Department**
- H. **Exhibit No. 19-78**  
**Request approval for change order to the Justice Center Cupola Tower Repair project**
- I. **Exhibit No. 19-79**  
**Request approval for change order to the Parking Garage Main Dry Stand Pipe Replacement project.**
- J. **Exhibit No. 19-80**  
**Request approval for addendum to Cincinnati Bell contract for Voice over IP (VoIP) to add County Attorney and PDS to the County system.**
- K. **Exhibit No. 19-81**  
**Request approval to employ Patrick & Associates for auditing services for FY2018-2019**
- L. **Exhibit No. 19-82**  
**Request approval to award the Dispatch Laptops bid to C-Forward**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochermann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

#### Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 19-64**  
**An Executive Order of the Kenton County Fiscal Court approving the reorganization of the Kenton County Buildings and Grounds Department**

Assistant County Administrator Scott Gunning stated that this is another item that was discussed in the budget meeting. The plan is to contract out the facility management at the new building, and some of the employee resources will be shifted to the south end of the county. This reorganization does have an impact on two current employees, and this will be used to offset the facility management contract. The two employees were informed of the change last week, and the change will take place on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- B. Executive Order No. 19-65**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court re-appointing Roy Cox as County Treasurer, effective July 1, 2019 with term expiring June 30, 2023.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- C. Executive Order No. 19-66**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the position change of Joe Richardson from a Trustee to a Laborer for the Kenton County Parks Department, with the effective date of May 14, 2019.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- D. Executive Order No. 19-67**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the position change of Tom Heilig from a Laborer to a Trustee for the Kenton County Parks Department, with the effective date of May 14, 2019.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- E. Executive Order No. 19-68**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Kevin Canafax to the Kenton County Airport Board, with the term expiring on June 30, 2023.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- F. Executive Order No. 19-69**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Don Kaiser to the Kenton Fire District Board, with the term expiring on June 30, 2022.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- G. Executive Order No. 19-70**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Janice Friedman to the Piner Fire District Board, with the term expiring on June 30, 2022.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- H. Executive Order No. 19-71**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Becky Darnell to the NKADD Council on Aging, with the term expiring on June 30, 2021.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**I. Executive Order No. 19-72**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Michael Drysdale to the Airport Board on recommendation from the Grant County Fiscal Court, with the term expiring June 30, 2023.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**J. Executive Order No. 19-73**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Kylie Gross as a Call Taker for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department, with the effective date of July 8, 2019.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**K. Executive Order No. 19-74**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Brittina Nichol Bolin as a Call Taker for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department, with the effective date of July 8, 2019.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

**L. Executive Order No. 19-75**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Adam Dunn as a Litter Crew Supervisor for the Kenton County Public Works Department, with the effective date of June 21, 2019.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.

## **Administrative Reporting**

### **Public Works**

Nick Hendrix stated that they are still working on the FEMA work that they had declaration for in February of 2018. Unfortunately, Highwater Rd. is closed right now, and they are working diligently to get it back open. The realignment of Independence Station is part of that work, and is slated to start next week. The house is already torn down. Also, he had an opportunity last Wednesday to spend time with Bob Yeager from District 6 and he is well aware of the challenges that the district faces. They are not unlike the challenges that the Transportation District faces in Louisville and Lexington. They don't face them in the other nine districts, but they are up against a roaring economy in our area. To get competent warm bodies is difficult, and Mr. Yeager spent

most of the day talking about the things that he is working on both locally, and with the central office to help bridge the gap.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if he is hearing that it is not a financial problem, but it is a labor problem?

Mr. Hendrix answered that it is a little bit of both. Obviously, there is a major shortfall in the fuel tax, because roadway funding comes from the average wholesale price of gas at the pumps. The bigger issue for us is labor. Today, there are three people in the Kenton County Barn for the Transportation Cabinet for more than 450 lane miles.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that if he was a Mayor, he would be calling District 6 to say that they have bodies and trucks and just give them material.

Mr. Hendrix stated that some of the cities are doing this. During winter, it is a struggle to get buses to the south end of the county and three or four roads can make a difference whether school is canceled. It is always a balance of state responsibilities and local dollars being put in.

### Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that one of the items that Nick Hendrix and Bob Yeager discussed was the condition of the dividing wall on I-75 Southbound, just south of Dixie Highway. We are spending a lot of time out there with pretty serious accidents, as a result of semis losing control. The worry is that the dividing wall will finally give out.

Mr. Hensley then stated that they had their active shooter exercise with the Diocese, and it was very well attended. He thanked the Diocese for all of their hard work. Also, the county has been working with city fire departments in the north end of the county and fire districts in the south end of the county. Ludlow, Bromley and Crescent Springs have had some discussions about who is going to be providing service to the incorporated area of Bromley. The decision was made by Ludlow city officials that they are going to contract with Ludlow, as opposed to continuing with the Bromley volunteer fire department. An evaluation was done to see who was going to be best suited to provide fire service to the unincorporated area of north Kenton County. That was served by the Bromley volunteer fire department, and they were in a much closer proximity than Ludlow was at the time. Due to some of the division that has gone on down there, the Crescent/Villa Department has been providing, by contract, ambulance service to that service already. As part of the evaluation as to who was going to be best suited geographically, we decided collectively that having the Crescent/Villa Fire Authority cover the unincorporated area of Kenton County that borders Bromley, Villa Hills and Crescent Springs. It has been defined by the Fire Commission, and that transition has been made.

Mr. Hensley then stated that the Judge put a committee together to look at better solution to provide fire service to the southern end of Kenton County. As part of that process, we first looked if there was a possibility of bringing everyone from Independence South together. That currently isn't a possibility. So, we started looking at what other solutions may be available. They have been able to successfully reach an agreement between the Kenton Fire District Board and the Piner Fire District Board to initiate the process to merge. The next phase of that process will be a public hearing that will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> by the Judge.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if the idea was all three to merge?

Mr. Hensley answered that this was the ask, but only two agreed to merge.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Kenton and Piner boards voted unanimously for this change. Ryland is not part of that, and we do know that they don't have the resources long term to operate. They still need assistance, but chose not to be a part of this round.

Mr. Hensley stated that they applaud all of the agencies for all of their compromises.

### **Animal Shelter**

Beckey Reiter thanked Sarah Hightchew for reporting for her at the last meeting. She then stated that they are nearing completion of the surgery room, and she thanked Nick Hendrix's crew for re-pouring a new floor. They are hoping that by the end of the second week of July it will be equipped and ready to go. Also, pet licenses expire at the end of the month and they are available for sale at the courthouse and the Animal Shelter. Hopefully, when the new website launches it will be available online. Lastly, she stated that during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July season they see a lot of animals become frightened from the fireworks. She asked that everyone check the current website for lost and found animals.

### **Treasurer**

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the May, 2019, financial reports have been submitted.

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

### **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 had nothing to report.

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

Judge Knochelmann had nothing to report.

### **Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Sewell 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 3-0 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 June 25, 2019.



Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk