

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

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2022

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge Knochelmann called to order the January 11, 2022 meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Treasurer Roy Cox 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
Roy Cox, County Treasurer
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of December 14, 2021.

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 ION Center by Christy Burch.

Christy Burch, the CEO of the ION Center for Violence Prevention explained where they got their new name for the Center. She then stated some numbers that they have served during the pandemic for survivors of violence around the community. In the last two years, they have sheltered over 600 adults and children. About 351 one of those people are from Kenton County. They have also answered about 8,000 crisis calls, and added a text line. They are still responding 24/7 to all of the emergency rooms for all sexual assault and violence runs. There have been about 12,000 hours of free counseling and therapy, and about 1,700 hours on core advocacy. One of the shelters is in Newport, and one is in Maysville. They have provided about 26,000 bed nights even during the pandemic, and about 66,000 meals. She is proud of her staff, and they work every day to take care of people. They also want to prevent violence from happening, and they spend a lot of time on prevention and training. In November, they reached 1,000 high school students. In Kenton County specifically, they went to Covington Catholic,

Notre Dame Academy, Ludlow and Holmes are the schools that they are in for Kenton County. She is also working hard on getting a living wage for her employees.

Judge Knochelmann stated that there is a lot of energy coming from her, and he wanted the Fiscal Court to see what is being done in Kenton County.

Commissioner Draud stated that he saw that there are emergency shelters in Northern Kentucky and Buffalo Trace. Is this correct?

Ms. Burch answered that the shelter is in Maysville and Newport. They have been full since 2018, and they put people up in hotels if they are full.

Commissioner Draud asked where most of their funding comes from?

Ms. Burch answered that the biggest funding comes from the Victims of Crime Act, which is Federal funding with about \$1.5 million. The second biggest funder is the Cabinet for Health and Families.

Commissioner Draud commended her on working with students. Is this ongoing?

Ms. Burch answered that it is something within the last seven years that they have decided to spend a lot of time and energy on, because they don't want to keep seeing generation after generation experiencing this.

B. Request for approval of an Agreement in Lieu of Taxes for the Two Rivers Project.

Jim Parsons stated that this agreement is also on the City of Covington's Agenda tonight. This is a project that Guy vanRooyen and his partners are looking to adapt and renovate the building for retail use. It has been off the payroll for 30 years, but will now be generating payroll taxes.

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

C. Update on the Kenton County Golf Course.

Nick Bednar, the Vice President of Operations, stated that they are now called Indigo Sports. He then introduced David Peru and Ron Freking who run the Kenton County Golf Course. He then explained that golf has gone through quite a bit of changes over the years. Since golf is mostly a socially distant sport, they were one of the first industries to reopen during the pandemic. They had a big boom in 2020, and still are up 15% so far. The total rounds in 2020 were over 67,000, and in 2021 they were over 69,000. In 2021, the total revenue was around \$2.5 million. This is the first year of incentive rent, and they are \$66,000 above the \$50,000 base rent so the County will get \$116,000 this year. Mr. Bednar then spoke about all of their community involvement with golf outings, food drives and toy drives.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the golf course keeps improving day by day. This will be our first period of having the benefits of the contract. There will be other improvements that we will need to invest in for the future.

Mr. Bednar and David Peru stated that they are continuing to work on all of the improvements, such as having better indoor space for large groups.

Commissioner Draud stated that he hears good things about the golf course, and making money is icing on the cake. He is pleased with the performance.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber stated that the 67,000 numbers are only the two courses, which is great. He then spoke about the impressive service during a recent outing.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she was out at the course recently, and the event was wonderful. She asked how often they survey players and guests?

Mr. Bednar answered that they are constantly surveying, and they do specialized surveys if they have a topic that they are more interested in.

Commissioner Sewell asked if the two major complaints are cart paths, and seating for events?

Mr. Peru stated that basic play is usually the second complaint.

Commissioner Sewell asked what the two things may be that they are complimented on most often?

Mr. Peru answered that it would be turf conditions and customer service.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that people thrive on energy, and the golf course personnel have had a lot of energy.

D. Claims List dated December 23, 2021, and January 7, 2022.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

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

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustments are for the following: \$15,000 for Animal Services overtime and \$10,200 for unused sick time at the Detention Center.

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. Resolution No. 22-02
A Resolution authorizing the filing of a 2021 Kentucky Community Development Block Grant- Public Services application**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the annual CDBG grant for Transitions.

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.

Ordinances

**A. Ordinance No. 121.44 - Second 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 routine codification of our Ordinances.

Commissioner Draud 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. Ordinance No. 150.7 - Second Reading
An Ordinance of the Fiscal Court of the County of Kenton, Kentucky, relating to the amendment of Ordinance 150.6 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Board.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this is about some amendments to the Emergency Communications Board. This new Ordinance gives more flexibility to get members.

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.

C. Ordinance No. 971.18 - First Reading
An Ordinance of the Fiscal Court of the County of Kenton, Kentucky repealing Kenton County Ordinance 971.16 which authorized a local development area agreement relating to the establishment and implementation of a local development area tax increment financing district known as the Local Development Area No. 1 within the city of Crescent Springs, Kentucky.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that they had asked us to participate in a TIF District to fund a new roadway. Those plans have since been shelved, and they repealed their Ordinance. So, to clean up our paperwork we are asking the Fiscal Court to repeal our Ordinance.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 22-01**
Request approval of the Kenton County Clerk 's claim for preparing tax bills.
- B. Exhibit No. 22-02**
Request approval to surplus various items for the Technology Services Department.
- C. Exhibit No. 22-03**
Request approval to accept the grant for Emergency Management Program funds.
- D. Exhibit No. 22-04**
Request approval to accept the proposal from Cohorn Concrete for the extension of the concrete patio at the Kenton County Golf Courses
- E. Exhibit No. 22-05**
Request approval to award the Payment Processing Solutions bid to Kentucky Interactive, LLC. dba NIC Kentucky, for the Kenton County Business Services Department.
- F. Exhibit No. 22-06**
Request approval to surplus a Protainer Roll Off Trailer and various

Office equipment items for the Kenton County Public Works Department.

- G. Exhibit No. 22-07**
Request approval of a modification to a grant for the Bridge to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder for the Detention Center.

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 22-01**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Candace McGraw and Jude Hehman to the OKI Board.

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.

- B. Executive Order 22-02**
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 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 22-03**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Kathy Hunter and Larry Mains to the Cooperative Extension District Board.

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. Executive Order 22-04**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Debbie Vaughn to the Kenton County Planning Commission.

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.

- E. Executive Order 22-05**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the termination of Skylar Seibert as an Animal Services Technician for the Animal Services 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.

- F. Executive Order 22-06**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Justin White as a Public Services Technician I for the Public Works 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.

**G. Executive Order 22-07
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of James Noel as a Seasonal Public Services Technician for the Public Works Department.**

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

**H. Executive Order 22-0 8
An Executive Order declaring a Level One Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

**I. Executive Order 22- 09
An Executive Order rescinding the Level One Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that they assisted the City of Ft. Wright last night at Interplastics on Latonia Ave. The call came in that there was a pretty significant explosion and fire. When they arrived they found out that there was a malfunction in some of their equipment. One of the vessels that they maintain resin in has to be at a very controlled temperature, and that temperature was not being controlled. What appeared to be an explosion was actually a relief valve that operated properly. In addition to the relief valve, there was so much pressure that it blew a large portion of the roof off. Once there is a thermal reaction and it heats up, there is not much you can do to cool it. You do not want to put water on it. They had to put some deluge lines out, and then tried to cool it externally to minimize the reaction. It was off gassing, and that is why they used the mass notification system to put out a shelter in place notice to residents. If inhaled, it was an irritant. Fortunately, there were no injuries and the only damage as to the vessel. It will be an expensive clean up, and the investigation is still ongoing.

Mr. Hensley then stated that the statewide positivity rate for COVID is back up to 26.33%. This is not a good direction. There are 5,000 new cases in the state, 866 of those were in Northern Kentucky. In addition, the hospitals are well over 200 positive COVID patients in the St. Elizabeth network, and 81% of those that are sickest are unvaccinated.

Commissioner Draud asked if now when they put out the numbers, are they including Omicron numbers?

Mr. Hensley answered that they are, and it seems that this is all we are hearing about now. There are not separate numbers on the variants. Omicron is more contagious, but there is less significant impact. However, for the unvaccinated there is no level of protection at all. The very high percentage of those that get the sickest have been unvaccinated.

Commissioner Draud stated that he read in Houston that half of the people in the hospital there have been vaccinated.

Mr. Hensley stated that looking at the numbers here, 66% of the current numbers at St. Elizabeth are unvaccinated and 78% of the 32 people in the ICU are unvaccinated. Also, 81% of the 21 that are on ventilators are unvaccinated. These numbers are provided by St. Elizabeth, and they give this information out on a daily basis.

Mr. Hensley then stated that back in December, Western Kentucky was devastated by a tornado. As a result of that, they encouraged several department heads to get some people trained to respond to these events. We were able to deploy a significant group of Incident Management People down to Western Kentucky to help. He thanked Andrew Schierberg, Mike Blomer, Gary Helton, Rick Buster, Todd Schulkers and Ron Becker for going down there and helping. People from Northern Kentucky that were not familiar with where it was went down there because of the common Emergency Management training that they encourage across not only the Commonwealth, but also the United States. They were able to take command control of that event, and they operated it for the seven days that they were there. It was impressive, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our people who were willing to step up a week before Christmas.

Commissioner Draud stated that we should try to do something to honor them, such as a presentation or a plaque.

Steve Hensley stated that he agrees wholeheartedly on recognizing these people. The Judge had spoken about a learning opportunity here for everyone to get together to get an overview of the process.

Commissioner Draud stated that we should possibly put out a press release about this.

Mr. Hensley then stated that another takeaway is the parallel process that they worked on in this area. There was a call to assist in collecting toys, and it exceeded all expectations. The donations came in from all over Northern Kentucky and other parts of the country. The generosity of people was amazing. There are so many people to thank, and Kenton County should be very proud of our team and our residents.

Police Department

Chief Jones stated that he wanted to start by thanking the Kenton County Residents for their overwhelming support for the Holiday Toy Drive that took place last month. As everyone knows, large parts of Western Kentucky were devastated by the tornadic events that took place, thus leaving many families without the ability to provide their children with gifts for Christmas. Here at the Administration Building, Director Steve Hensley was the point of contact and did an outstanding job of marshaling resources for the collection drive. In the South end of the county, we were able to send 4 tractor trailer loads of toys, as well as over \$20,000.00 in gift cards to our fellow Kentuckians out West. Captain Chris Pittaluga was our project manager for the Toy Drive operation and he wanted to give him an honorable mention as well for his hard work.

Chief Jones then stated that Captain Gary Helton traveled to Western Kentucky to assist in the Incident Command Center as a member of the logistics section staff. Gary has taken advantage of a number of training opportunities as it concerns these types of incident command situations, and he was able to use his skills to assist our neighbors in Western Kentucky.

Chief Jones then pointed out that he is wearing a different badge tonight. The Kenton County officers started wearing these on January 1st of this year to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of your Kenton County Police. The members of the department did considerable research, and

found the original shape of the first KCPD badge and had it matched as closely as possible. He thanked Sara Sgantas for her assistance in the 100-year history project.

Lastly, Chief Jones stated that at our December meeting the Judge and Court recognized eight-year-old Madalyn for her integrity in returning a wallet she found with a large sum of money in it. She has now become quite a national celebrity as we have been receiving requests from New York and other media affiliates for her story. Her good deed here in Kenton County continues to influence people across our nation. She is a very courageous little girl, and as Mark Twain said, "courage is the foundation of integrity."

Emergency Communications

Ashley Hawks stated that she put together and snapshot of their work in 2021, and she handed out the printouts. She went over some of the highlights from that report, such as calls and calls for service. Their overall incoming phone calls in 2021 decreased by about 6,000 calls. However, the 911 calls increased by about 5,000. That was by design through a lot of cooperation through the cities and administrative offices to get some education out there on how to get in touch with their offices as opposed to going through Dispatch. The sources of the calls continue to decrease from the landlines. They have historically been one of the highest Dispatch Centers in the state for taking phone calls. They were the fourth highest in the tristate area per Cincinnati Bell, highest in the Northern Kentucky area and the fifth highest in the State of Kentucky. Their calls for service that needed resources assigned to them were up only about 800 calls, which is not in line with what one would think with the increase of 5,000 911 calls this year. With the pandemic, they have not seen any of the numbers back out to what is expected.

Ms. Hawks then stated that they had many outstanding performers in 2021. They had the winner of the Supervisor of the Year Award, and two of the Dispatchers were nominated for the Dispatcher of the Year. When they look at their staffing, the number of employees that they had at the beginning of 2020 was 36, and for 2021 it was 36 and now it is 37. It isn't the leaps and bounds that they would like to see, but they are starting to see a payoff.

Detention Center

Jailer Marc Fields stated that their top five "customers" are Covington PD, Kenton County Sheriff's Office, Erlanger PD, Kenton County PD and Independence PD. In 2018, they had 11,229 bookings, but in this past year, they had 8,008. Their daily population in 2018 was 693, and this past year it was 588. They have worked very hard to get people out along with the Prosecutor's Office. They have the JSAP program, and in 2021, that program graduated 95 men and 33 women. They took another 497 to their community partners such as Transitions, Grateful Life Center and Brighton Center. They also shipped another 650 inmates to other County facilities. The State took about eight State inmate. The only way they can lower their population is to ship them to other County facilities.

Jailer Fields stated that COVID hit them hard these past two weeks. They have several employees that are gone, but the inmate population has been pretty sheltered from it. There are only a couple active cases. They isolate any new bookings that say they have been exposed.

Judge Knochemann thanked Jailer Fields and his team for doing an outstanding job.

Treasury

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the December, 2021 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 sidewalk progress and the park?

Scott Gunning stated that in regards to the sidewalk, they met with Integrated Engineers last week, and they presented a few options. The best option was chosen, and they are laying out the design. As for the park, they are still in the third phase of the master plan and they will be coming back to the Fiscal Court in about a month or so. They will present to the Fiscal Court, and then they will have the final plan to present to the public.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber thanked the staff for their reports tonight. They were very informative. He believes that Kenton County has the best staff, and the best training in the State.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann stated that presently, the Kenton County Fire Chiefs Association has a training facility in Latonia. That facility is leased from the City of Covington. They are selling that property to Rumpke for a new privately owned transfer station and trash facility. So, there is a need for the Fire Chiefs Association to have a space for training. He has asked Rumpke to buy the lease out from the Fire Chiefs, and they have agreed to that. They have agreed to pay one million dollars in total. The Fire Chiefs Association needs a fiduciary, so he then asked for approval to allow Kenton County to be the fiduciary for the sale for the Kenton County Fire Chiefs. These funds would be used towards a new facility for a training.

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.

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 11, 2022.

Sue Kaiser

Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk