

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT VIRTUAL MEETING

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

MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the January 12, 2021, virtual meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Joe 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
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 22, 2020.

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, 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. Presentation of a Proclamation declaring January 15, 2021, as Ken Harper Day.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Mr. Harper's birthday is January 15th, and we wanted to celebrate him as he has been a longtime leader in our community. He then read the Proclamation.

Ken Harper stated that he is honored that the Fiscal Court would do something like this. He has been impressed with the County Commission for so long, as well as all of the staff. They all seem to just generate concern for the area, and that makes this honor so much greater. He was so surprised when he was notified that he would be honored tonight. He feels that the Fiscal Court exemplifies the Rotary model of "service above self". Also, there's a line in the Jaycee creed that says "service to humanity is the best work alive". Everyone in State and County government now sure exemplify that.

Commissioner Jon Draud stated at this is a well-deserved honor and recognition. He remembers when Mr. Harper, Clyde Middleton and he were largely responsible for building the Republican Party. He then explained how this honor tonight came about, which was from Will Terwort who is one of our local historians in Kenton County. He brought it to their attention, and he appreciates Mr. Terwort's efforts.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber wished Mr. Harper a Happy Birthday, and stated that he is a class act. He looked up to him as a child. It makes him appreciate it even more so in today's environment. Mr. Harper is a class act.

Commissioner Sewell stated that good guys like Mr. Harper can are always evident, because they always switch the praise back to those that are honoring them.

B. Claims List dated December 28, 2020, and January 8, 2021.

There were no questions on the Clams Lists.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 21-01A

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: \$4,000 for the sprinkler repair at the parking garage, \$10,000 for hazmat clean up and \$143,000 for a new SAP Grant out of the jail.

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

B. Resolution No. 21-02

A Resolution recognizing the Campbell County Homeless Sheltering Facility.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Commissioner Draud brought this to his attention to acknowledge the Campbell County Fiscal Court and their Jailer for sheltering the homeless this winter.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that Campbell County Fiscal Court and the Judge/Executive saw the need in Campbell County as far as having a shelter for the homeless, and helping with the regional problem. They had the space in their facility, and they decided to convert that so that as the weather turned cold, they could start housing the homeless.

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Consent Agenda

A. Exhibit No. 21-01

Request approval of the Kenton County Jailer 's bond.

B. Exhibit No. 21-02

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

Department.

- C. **Exhibit No. 21-03**
Request approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Police Duty proposed vehicle/equipment purchases for the Public Works Department.
- D. **Exhibit No. 21-04**
Request approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Police Duty surplus vehicles/equipment.
- E. **Exhibit No. 21-05**
Request approval for the Judge/Executive to award contract(s) to the apparent best bidders (s) for Fiscal Year 2021 Light Duty and Police Duty vehicles.
- F. **Exhibit No. 21-06**
Request approval of the bid from Paul Michels and Sons, Inc. for the reconstruction of Relway Drive for the Public Works Department.
- G. **Exhibit No. 21-07**
Request approval of the bid from Riegler Blacktop for the reconstruction of Manor Lake Drive for the Public Works Department.
- H. **Exhibit No. 21-08**
Request approval to go out to bid for **43 laptops to replace the current leased laptops from the Kenton County Emergency Communications 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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 20-132**
An Executive Order rescinding the Local Emergency Declaration for the Brent Spence Bridge.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Secretary Gray and Bob Yeager, as well as Steve Hensley and his team for all of their hard work on this project.

- B. **Executive Order 21-01**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Bryan Norton to the NKADD Board of Directors.

Commissioner Nienaber 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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

- C. **Executive Order 21-02**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Terry Foster to the Local Board of Health.

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

D. Executive Order 21-03
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Ross Ginter as a part-time Dispatcher 1, G5-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications 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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

E. Executive Order 21-04
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Paul Anderson as a part-time Dispatcher 1, G5-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

F. Executive Order 21-05
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Jeremy Sheehan from a Dispatcher 1, G5-1 to a Dispatcher 1, G5-2 for the Emergency Communications 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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

G. Executive Order 21-06
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the reorganization of the Kenton County Administration Department, and the Kenton County Technology 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 Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

H. Executive Order 21-07
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the retirement of Sondra Patterson as a Tax Compliance Officer for the Kenton County Treasury Department.

Judge Knochelmann stated that it is sad to see Sondra move on and retire, but she's absolutely fantastic and we will miss her.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochermann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Sewell, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochermann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Management

Steve Hensley started off with the case rates for today, which are not trending in a positive direction. There are 3,053 new cases in the Commonwealth today, and 300 of those are in the Northern Kentucky region. That brings the statewide death total to 20,944 with 22 new deaths today. There are 1,733 people in the hospital, with 397 of those are in ICU (five are on ventilators). The positivity rate is over 12% today, so numbers are still trending in a bad direction as somewhat predicted that they would be after both the New Year's and Christmas holidays. Everyone is encouraged to exercise all the precautions like continuing to wear masks, distance from each other and use hand sanitizer.

Mr. Hensley then stated that the testing on Atlantic in partnership with St. Elizabeth continues to go very well. They are testing between 400-500 people a day. The St. Elizabeth team is doing a phenomenal job out there. Also, the State in partnership with one of the private corporations and the National Guard also opened up another testing site in the west lot of the IRS property. The City of Covington offered a portion of the IRS property that they acquired recently to utilize for another drive through testing location. They are averaging on their very first day, which was yesterday, about 250 people. Today he doesn't know just exactly how many they tested, but for the first day or so that's great. This sit was set up with the intent to provide some relief for St. Elizabeth, and some supplemental testing opportunities for people. The St. Elizabeth testing site was initially set up to test 250 people, and they're hitting 500 sometimes 600 on a day. However, here recently, with people returning to college and the demand of the holidays, more people are wanting to be tested. This is very timely to have this other location in place, so hopefully this new **location will minimize the increased demand out there on Atlantic.**

Mr. Hensley then stated that on a more positive note is that the vaccine was rolled into Northern Kentucky. They have been working with both the hospitals, and all of our first responder groups. That is doing very well and Tier One A is almost completed, and then the Tier One B, was rolled out the clinic last week. They rolled out simultaneously in the neighboring counties, but he can only speak about Kenton County. Kenton County was able to successfully vaccinate every every first responder that indicated their willingness to receive the vaccination, which was slightly over 700 first responders. This was done in a three day period. He thanked all of the County Department Heads, because they work hard to encourage their people as there is still a bit of uncertainty about the vaccine. All of the medical experts say it's absolutely the right thing to do. He received it last week, and he had no adverse effects other than just a sore arm. He encourages people, when the opportunity presents itself, to get the vaccine. This week they continue with the vaccination clinics, primarily for medical providers that are outside of the hospital networks. They have set up again at the Lakeside Christian Church, and vaccinated approximately 400 people today. They are giving the next opportunity to the first responders that that may have missed the first opportunity or may have reconsidered. Then there are some other forward facing emergency responders and others when more vaccines arrive.

Police Department

Chief Jones stated that he would like to go over the 2020_Certified First Responder (CFR) Report. In 2020, the total calls for service were as follows: KCPD received 29,201 calls for service for 2020 up to 12/28/2020. Out of those calls for service, KCPD responded to 1,655 medical related calls for service. KCPD averaged 4.56 medical calls for service per day during 2020 up to

12/28/2020, and 1,655 medical calls for service represents 5.67% of the total number of calls. KCPD had 10,257 calls for service when traffic stops, vacation checks and special area checks are removed. The 1,655 medical calls for service represent 16.14% of the adjusted calls for service.

Chief Jones then gave the total breakdown of all the medical calls for 2020. They were as follows: accident with injuries: 164, animal bite: 7, assault: 22, assault with injuries: 19, assist fire: 1,151, broken bones: 2, emotional crisis: 107, overdose: 4, stabbing: 1 and **well-being check**: 178. There were 13 deployments of Naloxone. After the Kenton County Police Department administered Naloxone to the patients, all were transported to St. Elizabeth Health Care for medical treatment. There were no deaths reported after a Naloxone deployment. Also, officers had to apply the AED five times.

Chief Jones then stated that the Serious Traffic Accident Reconstruction (STAR) Team had 16 total callouts. They assisted the agencies of Independence, Covington, Ludlow, Elsmere, Erlanger and Ft. Mitchell. They responded to six fatal collisions and 10 serious or critical injury collisions. Five collisions resulted in criminal charges filed.

Emergency Communications

Dan Mathew stated that their training hours are about 60% over 2019, which means they had bodies being trained at a much greater rate than in 2019. They continue to focus on increasing their staffing to maintain minimums. The problem with training courses is that it requires somebody to not be in a position working as they are training. This forces somebody else to work overtime to get that training complete but they refuse to sacrifice the quality of their program. They will continue to train, and have refocused their training a little bit. The lack of loss of employees through training has dramatically increased, as they have kept all but one employee in 2020. Previously, their training program saw about 60% of the people failing out in past years.

Mr. Mathew then stated that their calls for service have been down due to COVID, but they are working with some of their partner agencies and some other departments to help them use technology to get people where they need to go before they're calling the Dispatch Center. There's a lot of calls that they would get asking questions that they could not answer because they didn't have that information. So, they have been working, for example, with the Sheriff's Office to create a phone tree. This way people can receive access to those services within that department as opposed to calling out to Dispatch and being frustrated by the lack of information that they provide them. This helps keep some of their incoming calls down a little bit as well.

Mr. Mathew then stated that they are answering calls within 10 seconds 90% of the time, which is a national standard. That's just reflected in how busy they are that month, or how slow they whether they hit the 90% mark or the 80% mark. Hopefully at some point, as they increase their staffing that number will continue to climb up into the mid-90s, again. Their calls for service were down about 13% from 2019, and their fire, EMS and police incidents overall were down about 12%. This could be due to COVID, but although their work workload was down a little bit their employees continue to show up to work and serve the citizens of Kenton County. All of these things that they do at Dispatch, such as the new radio system and all these other projects don't happen without the support of the Fiscal Court. They are very thankful that the Fiscal Court keeps them competitive in the market. The Fiscal Court recognizes the first responders for all the hard work they do out there. That kind of support goes a long way. **So**, moving forward to 2021 they are going to continue working on their staffing, which started with the two new hires that were approved this evening. They will continue to build their disaster recovery capabilities with the help of the Kenton County Technology Services department, and continue on the foundation that they started with in building a safe, responsible and quality product for everybody. None of this could be done without the help of others like Technology Services, Public Works and

Emergency Management. He is very thankful for the partnerships, and the help that they have received from everybody.

External Affairs

John Stanton stated that the Licking River RFP has been out on the street for a couple weeks, and there have been about a dozen entities that have expressed interest in the project. Several of them asked for an extension to do a better proposal over the holidays. So, we've extended the due date for the RFP to January 22nd. He then thanked the Fiscal Court for approving the communications reorganization. Over 100 videos have been generated in 2020. Those of you who've been involved with local government for a long time know that 30 years ago there was hardly a day that went by when you didn't have a reporter in your building. Most folks got their news from the Kentucky Post or sometimes the Enquirer. Those days are gone, and we're continuing to try and figure out ways to successfully share information with the 161,000 folks of Kenton County, and also to receive information and questions from them. He thinks that this reorganization will be helpful to us on the journey into whatever the new forms of communications will be.

Mr. Stanton then stated that the General Assembly is in session. Most of what they have passed so far has kind of been stuff that's been highly publicized over the past eight or nine months. Kudos to Steve Hensley, because he's been an extremely helpful resource on some of the changes that are being made with the emergency regulations, and thanks to him for flagging issues and then serving as a resource for our legislators on the broadband front. Boone County is moving forward in their discussions and negotiations with Cincinnati, and we have a great group that is led by Dan Humpert and Dave Schroeder from the Library District. He thinks that we will continue to see updates on broadband going forward, particularly as we learn more about how Boone County is handling the issue.

Mr. Stanton then stated that Rusty Mardis, who's a Kenton County resident that works at Easter Seals, has been working with TANK to develop a program that mirrors the program in Cincinnati. This includes having fare discounts for active military and veterans. So, with the Fiscal Court's permission we will supply a letter of support for this program to TANK.

Treasury

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the December, 2020, Financial Reports have been submitted. He also commented on Sondra Patterson's retiring. She will be missed greatly. She's not only a very good employee, but she is a really, really good person.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud asked that the foreclosure be done as soon as possible.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber wished John Stanton happy work anniversary. He then stated that we're halfway through this term, and he appreciates everything everybody's done. This is a great group.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann had nothing to report.

Commissioner Draud had to leave the meeting.

Executive Session

- A. Pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (C) proposed or pending litigation regarding Motorola, enforcement of liens on properties in Unincorporated Kenton County, and regarding Williams v. Schoultheis.

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

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

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 January 12, 2021.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk