

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT MINUTES**  
**Kenton Chambers**  
**1840 Simon Kenton Way**  
**Covington, KY 41011**

**January 21, 2020**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the January, 21, 2020, 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  
                                 Assistant County Attorney Drew Harris

Staff:                        Joe Shriver, County Administrator  
                                 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 January 9, 2020 .**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Draud. Judge 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. Claims Lists -Dated January 10, 2020 .**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**B. Presentation by Seth Cutter on the report on Unsheltered Homeless in Northern Kentucky produced by the Northern Kentucky Homelessness Working Group.**

Seth Cutter stated that he is going over some of the data that has been collected, and pieces of this have been presented to the public a few weeks ago. The group got going under the chairwoman, Candace McGraw, and was asked to look at the data around what we do or don't have from collecting information about people at various service providers. The focus has been on the people that are most visible in the community, the unsheltered homeless. The service providers have been working very closely with the group to get information. The objective was to create a report from all of the data. The working group are not subject matter experts in this area. There were three questions added to the slate of questions that are asked of clients who are coming into different service providers. The county, city and state where they last had stable housing is one question. Also, the city and state where they attended high school, and the approximate last date of stable housing.

Mr. Cutter then stated that the data they have is from July, 2018, through June, 2019. Our region served at least 1,530 individuals, which is about 829 households. There is a mix of families and individuals. About 60% of the households didn't include children, and 3% were veterans. More than half of the clients served were struggling with one or more disabilities. Men account for 44%, and there is a variety in the amounts of time between stable housing residents. Unsheltered homelessness knows no stereotype. Most respondents put their last reported stable housing city as Covington. There were people from Cincinnati and the other largest cities in Kenton County as well. We don't want to just look at where people most recently came from, but where they were in the months prior. Also, where they attended high school. There were a lot that attended high school in Cincinnati. Most are coming from the most densely populated cities. All of the shelter providers in the area are not included in the numbers, just the ones that participated in asking these questions. Most respondents reported their last home address as in Kenton County, followed by other Kentucky cities, Ohio, Boone and Campbell County. There were other counties in Kentucky that were being served as well. They also reported the known homeless camps in the area.

Mr. Cutter then stated that most of the folks that are being served are from Boone, Campbell and Kenton County. The last stable housing was in Covington, followed by a great portion that are coming from Ohio. More than 50% of the respondents reported that their high school was in one of those places. So, it leads us to believe that people are staying nearby to where they grew up. It is interesting that there is a wide range of how long people have struggled. Some have been more than five years, and some are less. These issues have no stereotypical profile. The group recommended that the elected officials continue to collect the data, and ensure that it can be reported to the community. It needs to be acknowledged that certain populations need to be counted better. In January, the Federal Government mandates that the service providers do a count of all the homeless people in a shelter or on the street. It may not be extremely accurate though. The elected officials need to keep working on policy recommendations, and looking for ways to improve the conditions.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Seth Cutter for all of his hard work. Candace McGraw would have liked to have been at the meeting, but she had a board meeting. This report was presented to the neighbors around Covington. Edwin King was running the Kentucky Housing Corporation, and is now doing a similar roll in Tennessee. Under Mr. King's leadership though, the questions were added that will help with the data. Also, we are getting data from Shelterhouse in Cincinnati and the preliminary numbers were in excess of 150 plus people served are Northern Kentuckians.

Mr. Cutter stated that when they looked at various data in Ohio, it showed that many Northern Kentuckians go to Ohio to be sheltered. This issue is truly regional, and people that are in need cross the river every day.

Commissioner Draud asked if there is a plan of action to work with Cincinnati?

Mr. Cutter answered that the reason they collaborated closely with 8451, is that part of their program deals with this issue. They work with strategies to end homelessness in Cincinnati, and to look at factors leading to recidivism and are looking at the data. They have teamed up with KHC, and are looking at some of the same questions. That is why they are looking at the idea of a Regional Coordinator, as there is so much work to be done. The shelter providers step up at a time when we need it, and their staff is trained very well. To continue to do that at a sustained level, you really need someone who is looking at it every day and collaborating with Cincinnati.

Commissioner Draud asked if Mr. Cutter will be giving the same presentation to Campbell and Boone County?

Mr. Cutter answered that they have talked to the two Judges to let them know that they are willing to present to their Fiscal Court.

Commissioner Draud stated that he sees a need for someone to coordinate it all, but also believes that Boone and Campbell County need to be partners to finance it.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he believes the presentation should be made to the other counties. Also, Boone County did their own individual count.

Commissioner Sewell stated that the surprising number is to look at the combined Kentucky numbers. That is at about 43% if you don't count Kenton. The question is, where is the closest homeless shelter that is serving those folks? Is it in Louisville or Lexington?

Mr. Cutter answered that what they found with the reported cities is that the NKADD cities are coming here. The way KHC works, is that they administer HUD programs for the balance of state outside of Louisville and Lexington. So the Metro Governments in those communities run their own programs, and receive Federal funding. Then KHC administers the balance. When it comes to funding, we need better data and the shelter providers stepped up.

Commissioner Sewell stated that there are several agencies that didn't participate. She is curious about what the questions are that are being asked. One question that she would like to know is why they are coming to Covington. She assumes it is because they don't have other options. Is it service related?

Mr. Cutter stated that they would try to get the whole roster of questions. One of the things that they did learn was that if you are a low barrier shelter, it is harder to get answers to the questions. It is a testament to Judge Knochelmann and the shelter providers stepping up.

### **C. Opening of the Cornerstone Capsule from 303 Court St., Covington, KY.**

Judge Knochelmann introduced Charlie Summe, who was on the Kenton County Fiscal Court when the capsule was made. He then took out some of the items from the capsule that was full of letters and memorabilia. The Fiscal Court will make a video showing each item in the capsule soon.

### **D. Discussion regarding the new Administration Building.**

#### **1. Request to approve the Contractor 's Application for Payment #28.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that the pay app has been reviewed by the County Engineer, the Judge and himself. They find it to be appropriate expenditures pursuant to the contract.

Commissioner Draud asked if this is the last payment?

Mr. Shriver answered that it is not. If you look on the application, you've got about \$5.4 million represented there. The lion's share of that is previously bought supplies, so that we could partake in the sales tax exemption. So there is one million or so left there. We are waiting for everything to be completed.

Commissioner Draud stated that he noticed the landscaping, and all of the bushes have died. Will those be replaced?

Mr. Shriver answered that yes, they will be replaced.

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

## **Resolutions**

- A. Resolution No. 20-01B (Action Requested)**  
**A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the Budget Adjustments are for the following: \$100 for unused sick pay, and \$22,000 to move the budgeted numbers for the Addiction Helpline. It was budgeted in two separate lines, and this just moves it from Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy to the Addiction Helpline.

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

## **Ordinance**

There were no Ordinances at this time.

## **Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 20-02**  
**Request approval to ratify the contract for Panic Button Monitoring service with Emergency Systems for the 1840 Simon Kenton Way, Covington, KY building.**
- B. Exhibit No. 20-03**  
**Request approval to extend the contract for uniform and laundry services with Cintas Corporation for the Kenton County Public Works/Fleet Department.**
- C. Exhibit No. 20-04**  
**Request approval to issue a bid solicitation for a track-mounted aerial lift for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- D. Exhibit No. 20-05**  
**Request approval of the bid from Riegler Blacktop for the resurfacing of various Routes for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- E. Exhibit 20-06**  
**Request approval of the contract addendum for the master lease agreement with Dell Financial Systems for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.**
- F. Exhibit 20-07**  
**Request approval to accept the bid from Independence Mechanical to replace the air handler unit at the Kenton County Golf Course.**
- G. Exhibit 20-08**  
**Request approval to surplus cages from the Kenton County Animal Shelter .**
- H. Exhibit 20-09**  
**Request approval to go out to bid for 164 laptops for MDC for the Kenton**

## **County Emergency Communications Department.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

### **Executive Orders**

#### **A. Executive Order 20-04 (Action Requested)**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the adjustment in pay for Philip Clare as a Dispatcher II for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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

#### **B. Executive Order 20-05 (Action Requested)**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Mike McKenney as the Foreman for the Kenton County Fleet Department.**

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

#### **C. Executive Order 20-06 (Action Requested)**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Joanne Rigney as a Call Taker/Dispatcher 1-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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

#### **D. Executive Order 20-07 (Action Requested)**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Eleanore Blair as a Dispatcher II for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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

### **Administrative Reporting**

#### **Emergency Communications**

Dan Mathew handed out his monthly statistics. He then spoke about Smart911. They are working on marketing the product that we purchased over a year ago. This is for the residents, and allows people to create a safety profile. A database is created that travels with you across the nation. When you call 911 from a cell phone, the 911 provider in that region will get the information that you provide. You can provide as little or as much information that you want about your home, your pets and your family. It is a good tool for the elderly or hard of hearing folks. We are trying to encourage people to utilize the system. There is an app on cell phones where you can get started.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if there is any percentage of people that dial from their cell phone as opposed to a land line?

Mr. Mathew answered that around 80% of the calls come from cell phones.

### **Police Department**

Assistant Chief Scott Hardcorn stated that they recently hired two new officers, and on Sunday they will be shipping off to the academy for 20 weeks. They will be filling their last vacancy in the middle of next month. He then stated that each year the Northern Kentucky Police Chief's Association holds an awards banquet, and the most recent banquet was this past Saturday. Sergeant Curtis Bush was the recipient of the 2019 Chief Robert Shield Memorial Award for outstanding police service. He was recognized for his life saving efforts on a medical call involving a juvenile. According to the medics that showed up on the scene and the mother, if it wasn't for the efforts of Curtis Bush the young child wouldn't be with us today. He thanked the Fiscal Court for their continued support of the Certified First Responder Program. Kenton County has some of the best trained officers when it comes to medical.

Assistant Chief Hardcorn then stated that since the drone team has been active in April of 2019, they have had approximately 20 callouts, and that is not just in Kenton County. They have been to Campbell County, Boone County and at the Ludlow Bromley Yacht Club. They currently have six trained pilots, as they have to be certified because we are so close to the airport. We are lucky to have Charles Duncan on the staff, as he is a certified commercial flight instructor. They will be doing another round of training in the first week of February of five county guys. Boone County has reached out to us, and we are going to train six of their guys as well.

Lastly, Assistant Chief Hardcorn stated that our Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce has had three arrests last week by Investigator Brian Jones. He made two state arrests and one federal arrests. He is doing a fantastic job, and Fox 19 will be doing a story on him later this week.

### **Parks/Buildings and Grounds/Golf Course**

Scott Gunning introduced some key staff members from Billy Casper Golf, the General Manager David Peru and the Superintendent Ron Freking. We are excited to have this team for our golf course, and there are a lot of positive changes already being made. The customer service is great.

David Peru stated that he is a Kenton County resident, and has been for his entire life. He is happy and excited for this opportunity. They will take pride in their work, and look forward to getting a fresh set of eyes on the course. Everything that they do is about the employee and customer experience.

Ron Freking stated that he has been in this industry for over 30 years, and he used to play at the Kenton County Golf Course when he was young. He remembers what the golf course was like back then. He is excited for the opportunity and challenge that the golf course presents. He thanked the Fiscal Court for trusting the property to them.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we have been getting good feedback, and everyone is very excited. He asked the gentlemen to speak about what is going to happen between now and the traditional big season kickoff?

Mr. Peru answered that they will be starting anew, and they will be hiring and training the best staff. Every employee that gets hired will go through their ACE customer training. It will be a service first philosophy. There are 125 new carts (purchased by Billy Casper Golf), a six person people mover for the parking lot, \$800,000 or more in new mowing equipment and are getting rid

of all of the minor issue so that they can focus on the golf course. They are cleaning a lot as well.

Judge Knochemann stated that the \$800,000 investment was not Kenton County's money.

Mr. Peru stated that there are no expenses for Kenton County other than what is written out in the management agreement.

### **Director of External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that Cincinnati may be serving as many as three times the number of Northern Kentuckians. We are hoping to sync with the numbers at Shelter house. About a quarter of the people that responded have a bit of a generic response, and we don't have a way to make them answer. We will continue to get more data though as time goes by. There are about between ½ to 1% of the population in Kenton County are unsheltered homeless. This is probably as low of a number as we will ever experience, as we are well into the eleventh year of economic expansion in the country. If you aren't able to find stable housing and a job in these circumstances, it will be more difficult if times change. This is the unsheltered homeless that we studied, so we are going to do a study this coming year of the McKinney Vento population. The unsheltered homeless are more of the stereotype out on the street, but the McKenney Vento is the population that are most typically dealt with by the school districts. These are the couch hopping homeless people. He praised Candace McGraw and Seth Cutter for the work that they have done.

They really did an exceptional job, and it will open the door on us getting a better understanding on this issue. The reality is that the economy will come back, and the work being done now will prepare us for that.

Mr. Stanton then stated that the Frankfort session is underway, and he is going to go down tomorrow for the first time. Former State Representative Dennis Keene is heading up the Department of Local Government, and this is a positive for Northern Kentucky. Also, Jeff Harmon has been named the Associate General Counsel for the Office of the Senate President. He is a fantastic individual, and has done a lot of great for the community and the State during the Bevin Administration. Now, he will continue his work on the legislative side working with Senate President Robert Stivers.

Mr. Stanton then stated that the Homeless Shelter has opened, and has been covered locally as well as nationally. The B-Line bourbon tourism initiative is going well, and we are currently working with MeetNKY to elevate that in 2021. Buffalo Trace Distillery released their tourism numbers for 2019. They had a 35% increase in visitors, of which 80% were from out of state. The leading state for visitation was Ohio.

Mr. Stanton then stated the Pendleton County has now come onboard for the Licking River project. The folks from GIS and PDS will be surveying the length of the Licking River in Pendleton County in 2020, and we have already completed the surveys on the Kenton and Campbell County portions of that. We are in discussing with Harrison and Bourbon County about doing surveys in those areas as well. Commissioner Sewell has been a welcome participant in this project. Lastly, Mr. Stanton introduced Lee Crume who is the CEO/President of Tri-Ed.

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

Assistant County Attorney Drew Harris had nothing to report.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud thanked all of the Kenton County employees for always responding in a pleasant and quick manner to his requests.

### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he would like to update the court on the happenings of PDS. PDS is the former Northern Kentucky Planning Commission and the Northern Kentucky Planning Council. It has operated in the capacity that it is now for the past 53 years. It has had the same structure for all that time, and was born out of the need for consistent zoning for cities that were growing in Kenton County. What the developers found in the 1960s was that there were different rules in all the cities. Kenton County Planning Commission, NKY Planning Commission and Council were born out of need to have consistent zoning throughout Northern Kentucky. It has had the existing management structure for 53 years, and populations have grown and circumstances have changed through the years. This presented a need to step back and look at how we are managing all of the planning and zoning in Kenton County. There was a task force put together a few months ago, that met regularly to study different options for a new structure. What morphed out of a good conversation from people on different sides of the spectrum were able to respectively come up with a new structure.

Commissioner Nienaber then stated that every city used to appoint someone to the Planning Council, and from that council an executive board is then elected (Management Board). You didn't have to be an elected official to be on that board. The new structure will have a 19 member board that will be elected officials appointed from the cities and the county. An Executive Committee from that board from the elected officials. There will be four permanent seats on that board based on population, and nothing can happen in the county without an affirmative vote from the county and one of the three cities of 15,000 or two of the three cities of 15,000 without the county vote. Nothing really happens without Erlanger, Independence, Covington and the County. The other two seats will be occupied by members at large. It makes sure that every tax dollar in that organization from the time it leaves the tax payers pocket to the time it is distributed is managed by elected officials. Then if the citizens don't like the expenditure, they can opt not to send them back in the next election cycle. The important point is that all of involved were very professional, even if they weren't happy with the outcome. Tomorrow night will be the meeting where this structure will be adopted. There will be some elections that will transition soon. His goal is to have all the services appeal to the entire population of Kenton County. A new director will be hired this year. It is very exciting times, and the staff at PDS is excellent. He thanked Beth Sewell, Tom Litzler and Dave Jansing for stepping down from their positions on the board. Also, he thanked Judge Knochelmann for managing all of the personalities.

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

Judge Knochelmann asked for approval to publish a Claims List on January 28<sup>th</sup> and cut the checks on January 30<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 4-0.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that everyone should visit the Ignite Institute in Erlanger. The building was donated by Toyota, and is in partnership with Kenton and Boone County Schools. He toured the school recently, and all of the students are very energetic and amazing. There were 3,000 applications for 300 spots coming into the school.

**A. Request approval to move the February 11, 2020 meeting in Independence to February 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in Covington**

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

**Executive Session**

**A. Pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (C) pending litigation regarding the case of Hamilton vs. Kenton County.**

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

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval to return from the Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Knochemann 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 Knochemann 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 21, 2020.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk