

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

MEETING MINUTES

February 8 , 2022

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge Knochelmann called to order the February 8, 2022, 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 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 January 25, 2022.

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

Citizens Address

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court.

General Business

A. Presentation of a Proclamation to Emerald Trace.

Judge Knochelmann presented the Proclamation declaring February 8, 2022, as Emerald Trace Day in Kenton County. He thanked them for all of their great work.

Londa Knollman of Emerald Trace stated that they have been a part of the community for a long time. They appreciate all that the Fiscal Court has done for them to help the citizens of Kenton County. Their facility was one of two in Kentucky to receive this award.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she loves this group. Her husband served on their board for years, and he really enjoyed being a part of it. She is honored that they were able to accomplish this. They have such dedicated employees that walk to work in a snowstorm, and they spend the night there on numerous occasions. She is in awe of that kind of work and service.

Judge Knochelmann stated that when Judge Drees had his healthcare issues, and the end of his life was made so much better by the service he received at from them.

B. Claims List dated January 21, 2022.

There were no questions regarding the Claims List

Resolutions

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

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustments were for the following: \$17,000 for a new skid steer, \$55,200 to cover retirement expenses for rehired retiree, \$160,000 for additional salt for the roads and \$450,000 to cover overtime expenses for the remainder of the year.

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

Ordinances

**A. Ordinance No. 226.02 - Second Reading
An Ordinance amending Kenton County Ordinance No. 225.73 relating to the collection of per diem charges and processing/booking fees for prisoners at the Kenton County Detention Center.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this is just an issue being cleaned up from the Supreme Court decision that was made on jail fees.

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

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 22-12
Request approval to ratify the Kentucky Ambulance Block Grant application for the Independence Fire District.**
- B. Exhibit No. 22-13
Request approval to surplus a 2014 Ford Explorer and a 2014 Dodge Charger for the Kenton County Sheriff's Office.**
- C. Exhibit No. 22-14
Request approval to award the 2022 Chevrolet Silverado Upfit bid to KE Rose & Company for the Kenton County Fleet Department.**
- D. Exhibit No. 22-15
Request approval of the bid for food service for the Kenton County Detention Center.**
- E. Exhibit No. 22-16
Request approval of the employment contract between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Michael Richman as a QRT Officer for the**

Kenton County Police Department.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 22-21
An Executive Order declaring a Level One Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- B. Executive Order 22-22
An Executive Order declaring a Level Two Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- C. Executive Order 22-23
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Timothy Mains as a Police Officer for the Kenton County Police 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 3-0.

- D. Executive Order 22-24
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the promotion of Tiffany Schuler from Dispatcher I to a Dispatcher II, G7-1 for the Emergency Communications 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 3-0.

- E. Executive Order 22-25
An Executive Order rescinding the Level Two Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- F. Executive Order 22- 26
An Executive Order rescinding the Level One Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

Administrative Reporting

Police Department

Chief Spike Jones stated that the Kenton County Police Department received 30,981 calls for service as of December 31, 2022, and of those calls, the officers responded to 1,807 medical related calls. This is a 9.18% increase in service from 2020. The Kenton County Police Department average was 4.95 medical calls per day during 2021. The breakdown of all medical calls for 2021 is as follows:

Accident with injuries: 149	Animal bite: 5	Emotional crisis: 99	Overdose: 2
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Assaults: 37 8	Broken bones: 11	Stabbing or cutting: 3	Gunshot wounds:
Wellbeing check: 176	Assist Fire Department: 1,317		
The AED was deployed 5 times by our officers, and Naloxone was used on 3 calls			

Emergency Communications

Ashley Hawks stated that she wanted to remind everyone of the Smart 911 program that is provided free to all of the citizens in Kenton County. This is not just for our citizens, everyone can sign up. This is a profile that can be created, and add information about different vehicles that you own, any key locations in your home, medical information and location and any additional information that you would like conveyed to first responders. This travels with you, and the program will have access to your information. Over 650,000 agencies across the United States have this service. Go to smart911.com to create a profile for everyone in the family.

Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that the COVID numbers are trending in a positive direction. The positivity rate is down to 23.5%, which was previously in the thirties. The numbers in the hospitals are down, although they are still higher than we want them. We have about 186 people currently in the hospital with COVID. There are 3,800 cases statewide, which is down. Only 350 of those are from Northern Kentucky. Please continue to be safe, but things are going in a good direction.

Mr. Hensley then stated that they have started their EHS facility inspections. A lot of those were put on hold due to COVID, but this year there will be onsite inspections. In addition, there was an interesting snowstorm this past week. He wanted to thank the Kenton County team for their efforts. Every department got involved in this. Dispatch did a great job, as did Rick Buster and Nick Hendrix. Chief Jones' team was out in the adverse conditions. It was a very involved decision to close the Administration building, which was discussed each morning with the County Administrator, the Judge, Chief Jones, Nick Hendrix and himself. The building was closed, but all of our emergency response systems were open during the storm.

Detention Center

Jailer Marc Fields stated that the weather affected them at the jail. They have seen their population increase, and today it was 573. He doesn't know what happened over the weekend, but a lot of people were misbehaving. They have tried so hard to transfer inmates to other county facilities, and they are sending a list to the State on priority moves on a weekly basis. The State is just not taking their inmates. There are some serious health issues going on with inmates that they should be taking. Now they are seeing that affect the County jails, as they are refusing inmates. This may be because of COVID. In addition, he thanked the Fiscal Court for the support that they always give. The overtime that was approved tonight is very helpful. They are still having trouble finding and keeping employees. As of today, there are 78 full time Deputies and 5 part time Deputies. The numbers should be right at 100, but other agencies are doing much worse than this jail. It is a difficult job, and he thanks the men and women that work there every day.

Treasury

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the January 2022, Financial Reports have been submitted.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell thanked everyone who worked so hard this past week to help clean up the snow and ice.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber thanked all of the departments for the work with the snow and ice. His is very thankful for the staff that we have.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann asked for a voice order for the appointments to the 911 Dispatch Board after the reorganization.

A. Executive Order 22-27

An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Dave Jansing as the At-Large Member for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Board.

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

B. Executive Order 22-28

An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Jude Hehman as the Municipal Official for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Board.

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

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he really liked being on that board. Ashley Hawks does a great job with the board.

Judge Knochelmann then spoke about the passing of William Pfefferman. He had previously worked in the Kenton County Detention Center for the SAP program. He was working in the substance abuse field, and was such a great person. He helped so many, and will be dearly missed.

Judge Knochelmann then introduced Kelsey Maccombs as the new Animal Services Director.

Ms. Mccombs stated that she previously served as a Senior Operations Manager for the Hamilton County Shelter. Prior to that, she served as the Operations Manager for the Pennsylvania SPCA in Philadelphia. She is looking forward to continuing the great services of Animal Control and the care of the animals in Kenton County.

Executive Session

A. Discussion per KRS 61.810 (B) pertaining to the potential acquisition or sale of real estate.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval of Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. 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.

Judge Knochelmann requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the City of Independence for Kimberly Dr. improvements.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive 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 Executive 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 February 8, 2022.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk