

# KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT VIRTUAL MEETING

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

## MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2021

5:30 P.M.

### Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the February 23, 2021, virtual meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Beth Sewell 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 February 9, 2021.**

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.

### Citizens Address

No citizens sent any questions to the Fiscal Court.

### General Business

#### **A. Claims List dated February 19, 2021.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

#### **B. Request approval of the Kenton County Community Room Pay App #03.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this pay app has been reviewed, and has been deemed appropriate based on the services rendered. They are finishing up, and just waiting on some lighting fixture decisions. Aside from that, a lot of the work has been complete. There is still some work with downing displays to be done, but as far as construction goes, a vast majority has been completed.

Commissioner Draud asked if Ried Schott is coming back to Kentucky anytime soon?

Judge Knochelmann answered that he just sent us an email today, and he's planning to be here in March.

Commissioner Sewell asked if we are planning an actual kickoff of the room, or something like that, where it'll be introduced to the public?

Judge Knochelmann answered that he doesn't think it will happen for this trip. He thinks that would be too premature. It could possibly happen in the spring or summer. In terms of the space, we've obviously been in there when it was dirty, but now with a little bit of cleaning of windows and windows sills, you could go in there and use the space, right now. We just have to decide on the furnishings, and we're working it into the budget that we have so we don't go over for tables chairs.

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.

### **C. Presentation of the Kenton County Roadway System.**

Nick Tewes gave an update about where our roadway system is at this time. Four years ago they had IMS come in to survey Kenton County's roads. The results help figure out how to allocate money and repairs. IMS did it again this summer. This is kind of the scale that we're talking about with our roadways system and how important it is to maintain it. When you take into account the payment structure, sub grade and everything else that's associated with the roadway, this is the largest asset that Kenton County owns. It is valued at nearly \$77 million. That is the reason why pavement management is so important. The roadway is going to deteriorate at a very small rate once it is completed. Over the first 40% of the pavement's life it's going to deteriorate about 15%, whereas in the next 15% of the pavement's life it's going to deteriorate at 40%. So, that's why it's so critical to get to the point where it hasn't deteriorated too far, and where \$1 spent at the earlier stages saves you \$8. That is the target zone that we look for when we choose our roads, and that's when we want to catch them before they get too far gone. So, along with Boone County, we hired IMS. They came in and surveyed all of our roads for each municipality. Their van takes all the characteristics of the roadway and puts it together, and gives it a payment condition or PCI score. That PCI score is what we use when we look at prioritizing roadways, method of repairs and when to repair each road. Looking back at the data from 2017, our average score was a 59 which is just a little below the nationwide average of 60 to 65. About 6% of our roads at the time were considered in excellent condition, which was pretty far below the nationwide average of 15%.

Mr. Tewes then stated that the data from this year shows our PCI score jumped up to nearly 65. It's a 64.8, and the excellent condition jumped up from 6% to 18%. So, we had a pretty substantial increase across the board. He thinks we're heading in the right direction, so he really appreciates all the effort, time and money that the Fiscal Court has put back into the roads

Commissioner Draud asked if a majority of the money was spent on Latonia Lakes?

Mr. Tewes answered that yes it was.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that to Commissioner Draud's point, \$1.7 million over the four years drastically improved the road conditions of our roads when you take Latonia Lakes out of that equation.

Nick Hendrix stated that you have to keep in mind that about one and a half million of that three million at Latonia Lakes was waterline reconstruction, so a big part of that number was a utility installation and not direct directly related to payments.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if that was a 50% match?

Mr. Hendrix answered that that is correct. We did get some money from State government, which was some of the Secretaries discretionary funding. Then, we used Flex funds for resurfacing, which was another \$200,000. The difference was a 75/25 split with the residents.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that we are six years in. He used to be in the Administration over the city level, and they always had a five year road plan. They always had street maintenance factored into their budgets. He is a firm believer in regular maintenance of crack sealing, and making sure that drainage stuff is cleared. He thinks that it is the largest asset on any city or county books, and so it needs to have the respect that it deserves.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she is just curious about a county our size with a budget our size. We made a significant jump and improvement, but we're still at about 65 which is good, but our excellence it's still at about 18% and we're spending a little over a million, aside from Latonia Lakes. Is that a number that's comparable to counties our size?

Nick Tewes answered that yes, the nationwide average for excellent pavements is actually 15% ,so we've actually jumped slightly higher than that, and a road network of our size typically shoots for that 60 to 65 range. With the number of miles that we have, it's going to be pretty hard to maintain something at a very high level. This is also just kind of the beginning, and he thinks that we can also get higher than this. After a couple more years of doing this, and selecting the right roads he would expect that number to jump up again for years from now.

Commissioner Draud stated that hopefully people will have enough vision to understand that taxes aren't always a bad thing. Sometimes taxes are needed.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we are catching up on some of the maintenance, and he thinks that our size of county is also primarily going to look at just the miles. We've been doing a lot of catch up, and we still have a couple of big projects that we have really never done before. Out in the Independence area, there are some suburban streets that have not been touched for maybe 40-50 years but we are making progress.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she doesn't don't disagree with what Dr. Draud said. She thinks that if people see the product of a tax, they are more willing. She believes that where people get frustrated is that they are taxed for so many things that they may never see the return on that investment.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that if we don't maintain the streets in the suburban neighborhoods, people will have no reasonable expectation that property values will be maintained. Why drive down a crappy road to paint your House? If we're not going to invest the money on the streets, why would people invest the money in their stuff? It is not a tax, it is an investment.

## **Resolutions**

### **A. Resolution No. 21-01D**

#### **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: \$11,000 for vehicle repairs, \$250,000 for overtime at the Detention Center, \$15,000 for custodial supplies for the Detention Center and \$4,000 for solid waste to get us through the end of the year. Nothing is coming out of reserves for these. These are all coming out of other line in those particular departments.

Commissioner Draud asked if the \$250,000 is just for one month?

Mr. Cox answered that it is not for one month. It will take them through the end of the year.

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.

### **Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance 225.94 -First Reading  
An Ordinance (225.94) of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget and amendment thereof.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that this is an amendment so we can use the revenue that we are getting in. There is \$584,000 for an elections grant. There are also two Jail SAP grants, and \$200,000 for the Transitions CDBG grant. We need to be able to amend the budget, so we can take that revenue and spend it.

Commissioner Sewell asked if we already got the elections grant, or is this a new one?

Mr. Cox answered that this is the original grant. We actually had a first reading on this budget amendment before, but the Transition's grant had not been approved at that time so it had to be brought back before the Fiscal Court.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 21-27  
Request approval to accept the bid from Bluegrass Paving, Inc. for road resurfacing for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- B. Exhibit No. 21-28  
Request approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Kentucky and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for a H.E A.L.S. (Helping End Addiction Long Term) grant for the Kenton County Detention Center.**
- C. Exhibit No. 21-29  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.**
- D. Exhibit No. 21-30  
Request approval of the Cincinnati Bell Service Agreement that cancels the FUSE (internet services lines) at the Kenton County Detention Center and the County Attorney's Office.**
- E. Exhibit No. 21-31  
Request approval of the Cincinnati Bell Services Agreement to increase the data**

connection speed at the Police and Dispatch Building.

- F. Exhibit No. 21-32**  
**Request approval for the Judge/Executive to execute a purchase agreement for Public Right of Way from the Alderbrook Homeowners Association.**
- G. Exhibit No. 21-33**  
**Request approval to accept the CDBG Grant for COVID funds for Transitions.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

### **Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 21-14**  
**An Executive Order declaring a Level One Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- B. Executive Order 21-16**  
**An Executive Order declaring a Level Two Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- C. Executive Order 21-17**  
**An Executive Order rescinding the Level Two Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- D. Executive Order 21-18**  
**An Executive Order declaring a Level Two Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- E. Executive Order 21-19**  
**An Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency as a result of dangerous snow conditions with a need for salt.**

No action needed.

- F. Executive Order 21-20**  
**An Executive Order rescinding the Level Two Snow Emergency.**

No action needed.

- G. Executive Order 21-21**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the step increase for Bianca Jones from a Dispatcher 1, G5-2 to a Dispatcher 2, G7-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

Commissioner Sewell 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.

**H. Executive Order 21-22**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Jennifer Wesselman as a Systems Analyst/Developer for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.**

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.

**I. Executive Order 21-23**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Trent Hill as an Animal Control Sergeant for the Kenton County Animal 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.

**Administrative Reporting**

**Emergency Management**

Steve Hensley thanked Sue Kaiser and Sara for all of their assistance with all the documentation for the Snow Emergencies. He then thanked Nick Hendrix and his team for the great job they did removing the snow and making the roads passable. He then stated that their COVID work continues. The numbers continually trend favorably, and the positivity rate is down to about 6.3% statewide. The new cases today are 530, with 13 new deaths. That's considerably better than what we have seen in the past weeks, in fact, he thinks we're in an at least a four week downward trend. All of the drive thru testing sites continue to go well, but the St. Elizabeth site that was seeing as many as 600 people a day is now back into about 300 people a day, which is a little bit more of what the model was that it was designed for. He thinks people are starting to be more interested in receiving the vaccine than receiving the test.

Mr. Hensley then stated that the Governor has made the announcement that they will be opening up the vaccine on March 1<sup>st</sup> to the 1C category. This will open it up to anyone 60 and older, essential employees and other central workers. The concern is that we don't want to create unrealistic expectations for people, as it is difficult keeping up with the demand for those that like to receive it. He asked the public to be patient as it relates to scheduling these appointments, because there are still a lot of people in the 70 and above category that want to get the vaccine and haven't been successful, yet.

Mr. Hensley then stated that on Friday of last week Governor Bashir did come up to Northern Kentucky and visited both of our operational vaccine sites here in Kenton County. The Governor did express his appreciation to Judge Knochelmann and the Fiscal Court, not only for obtaining the agreement with the Convention Center, but providing the free parking through our parking garage at the Justice Center. He was very appreciative, and said that's not always the way it works in other areas across the Commonwealth.

Lastly, Mr. Hensley stated that there will be multiple closures on I-75 while they prepare and complete the painting project on the Brent Spence Bridge. That project is going to start next month, and go through November while they prepare, prep and paint the bridge both on the north and southbound side. The traveling public should expect some delays, and the state does have their website up which is the Brent Spence Bridge info site. One can get to it directly from the District Six page and get updates on that project as it progresses.

Commissioner Draud asked how much it is going to cost to paint the bridge?

Mr. Hensley answered that he doesn't have that number, but he did hear that it is going to require 35,000 gallons of paint.

Commissioner Draud stated that he assumes that they're not planning on taking it down.

Steve Hensley stated that he doesn't think there was ever a plan to take the bridge down. Perhaps a companion bridge sometime in the future, but he doesn't think there are any plans to remove that bridge.

Mr. Hensley stated that we do need to thank Mayor Hehman, as our Public Works Crews were stretched very thin doing what they needed to be doing during the snow. The City of Ft. Mitchell loaned us a truck that helped clear up some of the snow that had piled up down in front of the Convention Center to make for safe passage for the 70 and older crew that was coming in for their vaccine. Nick Hendrix sent down one of his crews with a Bobcat, dump truck and equipment to clean out the majority of the snow on the sidewalks and in the parking lots.

## **Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that she would like to start with some of the items that were voted on this evening, including the Cincinnati Bell contract changes. They have made some major changes to the contract including ending the excess line out at the Detention Center that was primarily used for a vendor that is no longer being used. In addition, they are also canceling the data connection line for the County Attorney's office, and instead they are going to be absorbing them into our high speed connection at 1840 Simon Kenton Way. Both of those changes will save each of those agencies a significant amount of money every month. They will also be increasing the speed out of Police and Dispatch from 50 megabits to 200 megabits, and that will help with a lot of the issues they've been having. We have several agencies that will start having call recording software available to them, which will allow them to monitor the customer service that people are receiving over the phone, and monitor their staff to make sure that there's some training opportunities. They just went live with that today.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that the other item that was voted on this evening was the resignation of Jennifer Wesselman. She found another opportunity, so they are very excited for her. Her primary job was to work on our COLA systems for the community portal, and for the city users who use our tax system. Although she's leaving, we do actually work with a vendor who originally developed the software for us, so we will continue to have support on that front to continue to implement feature requests and improvements that are planned. She met with some individuals from Erlanger earlier this week to get feedback from them on some changes they'd like to see.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they are going through the security standards for Dispatch and Police to make sure that they comply with all security standards issued by the FBI and CIS. This includes updating the policies and procedures document, and she will be sending that over to the Fiscal Court in the next month or so. The original document might be from 2003, so there's plenty of technical updates to make to that including some of the hardware that's referenced in it

that nobody has seen for over a decade. They will also be going through the set of standards to make sure that they checked all the boxes.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they will be updating the MDC user agreements for the cities, who had MDC issued laptops and police vehicles, so we can make sure that we can comply with see this. They will be updating the disaster recovery plan, which they already have in place and have been working on over the past year. The Fiscal Court has approved some purchases to implement that for disaster recovery down at 911, but what they didn't really have was a good idea of how that process will work. Dan Mathew did put together a document, and she is reading through that and adding anything that needs to be added to make sure that they have covered all the bases.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that this Friday the County Attorney will be switching over to our network. They are switching over to our network, and making some changes to how they connect to the internet at 1840 Simon Kenton Way or working from home. They had a training session earlier this week to walk them through all the changes, and they are all very comfortable with it.

Next, Ms. Ramsey stated that they are still in the process of doing the Kronos timekeeping system upgrade. They are in the discovery stage, and training staff on that. This means that they are just giving them information from our current system so they can add it to the new one. Her department is also in the midst of doing their computer replacements. They have about 20 that are sitting in their office right now that Dustin Brown and C Forward are working on implementing. They are working on a big batch with the Sheriff's Office, and they did some for Animal Services already. There are more coming for the Fiscal Court.

Lastly, Ms. Ramsey stated that Joe Pflum and Darrin Gilvin are currently working on improving the set up for Police evidence down at the Police building, so that they have a more secure setup that's a little more reliable than what they have right now.

### **Animal Services**

Beckey Reiter stated that she would like to take this opportunity to thank Trent Hill for his service to the Animal Control team. He was truly dedicated to improving the team and the services. She then stated that she will be coming to the Fiscal Court with seeking permission to go out to bid for the replacement of three rooftop units on the Adoption Center. That is a budgeted item, but they just want to make the Court aware that this will be coming. Lastly, she thanked Jessica Ramsey and her team for the switch out of the hardware. Sometimes that can be disruptive, but it did not affect them at all.

### **Public Works**

Nick Hendrix stated that he would like to lead off tonight with talk about Bromley/Crescent Springs Rd. Part of the road has been shut down at this point. They are entering the closed phase a little sooner than they expected. He thinks that the last number reported was that they planned to have the corridor closed in the early spring. The contractor found some potential efficiencies, and they are moving into this phase one. They forecast a four week closure at this point, assuming weather cooperates. Then the section will be reopened for a few months before it's closed again as originally anticipated this summer.

Mr. Hendrix then stated that as Steve Hensley had mentioned, we had a little snow in the last couple of weeks. He thanked Steve Hensley for helping coordinate all these emergencies, and he also wanted to thank his crews. Rick Buster, Adam Ryan, Todd Redman and their crews as



well as Scott McClain and all of Fleet Services did a fabulous job. Managing these storms can be very challenging, and he is very proud of the team.

Lastly, he thanked Nick Tewes for giving the presentation, but also for being the project lead on this project, not just this time, but last time working with the cities. He has done a great job, but he couldn't do it without the Fiscal Court's support, and he just wanted to say thank you. The investment that has been made in the projects and programs has absolutely moved the dial when we start talking about surface condition. The improvement of our roadways is noticeable, and he thanked the Fiscal Court again for their investment.

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke thanked the Technology Services Department for all of their help with her IT needs.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud asked that the issue he had discussed with the Judge be resolved.

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell thanked all the people that were out plowing last week. She heard a lot of great compliments. She thought it was nice that the Judge did a ride along with Public Works for this.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he is always concerned when you put big trucks full of salt on windy hills, but our departments did a great job. He listened to a scanner to see what was going on around Kenton County, and you'd be amazed at what you hear. The professionalism at some of the incidents that our Police, Dispatch, Emergency Management and Public Works have been involved in is top notch. He is proud to be a citizen of Kenton County, and he appreciates everybody's efforts.

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

Judge Knochelmann stated that he would like to thank Steve Hensley, Nick Hendrix and their teams for getting the vaccine site and the Northern Kentucky Convention Center up and running. Also, he wanted to give praise to Gretchen Landrum who manages the Convention Center. She is an absolute rock star. She manages the Convention Center with such professionalism.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that they met with District Six today. There are fewer repaving projects done on state roads in Kenton County this year. That is not good, and that comes from smaller amount of dollars, so that's what we should expect. They're trying to do their best, but we do meet with them regularly. Bob Yeager, who is managing the district, does everything he can, but it's a challenge and it's very obvious.

The other thing I didn't want to tell you about that they the bids for the Emergency Cold Shelter. They have gone out on the street for the construction project there. We do serve on a building committee, so we are watching that and communicating. They are expecting the bids by early to mid-March, and hoping to get the project completed by the end of the year. That's the addition, as well as the renovation work. He had a good meeting with the City of Covington on Monday

morning. They've been very positive about the relationship that we've had and how that's going. Campbell County opened up one of their facilities in Newport at the jail, and the population has been a little less than expected. Part of that has to do with the cold, and, people are just hunkering down and not moving about. Also, some of the other expanded services in Ohio have kind of kept people around, and then Boone County has paid for around 23 hotel rooms for the population that is there. It is good news to see what is happening with the Emergency Cold Shelter, and they are in a good spot with the City of Covington on that project. They have been supportive to the shelter in terms of building permits, zoning and their license to operate. He met with the Covington City Manager, as well as their Community Services Director so just kudos to them. They offered feedback in a very professional way.

### **Executive Session**

#### **A. Pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (C) proposed or pending litigation regarding Motorola.**

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval of Executive Session; 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 and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval to return from the Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Judge Knochelmann asked for approval to have DBL Law work on behalf of the County with Motorola.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a voice vote. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

### **Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge 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 February 23, 2021.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk