

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**March 8, 2022**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge Knochelmann called to order the March 8, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Treasurer Roy Cox led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann  
Commissioner Beth Sewell, District 1  
Commissioner Jon Draud, District 2  
Commissioner Joe Nienaber, District 3  
County Attorney, Stacy Tapke

Staff: Joe Shriver, County Administrator/Deputy Judge  
Scott Gunning, Assistant County Administrator  
Roy Cox, County Treasurer  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of February 22, 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 4-0.

**Citizens Address**

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court.

**General Business**

**A. Update on the Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (NKODCP) by Amanda Peters.**

Amanda Peters stated that they are partnered with the Health Department on a brochure of all the services covered in Northern Kentucky. She reviewed all the services and numbers for January and February of this year. She pointed out that March is the three-year anniversary of the Helpline. There are so many good agencies that collaborate with them in Northern Kentucky, including Transitions and the Life Learning Center.

Commissioner Draud asked if they have been asked to testify in Frankfort regarding the bill to legalize marijuana?

Ms. Peters answered that they have not, but they do have a working group and Dan Ingram from the State is providing some language to work to see how that may go. They have been working with Kim Moser on this, and there is a prevention team in Northern Kentucky.

Commissioner Draud asked if there is some literature that shows a direct link to marijuana with higher use of other drugs?

Ms. Peters answered that they do have some of that research, and will get Dr. Draud a copy.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she is stuck on the 12.2% of individuals that need treatment for substance abuse disorder receive the help that they need. She is assuming that this is a national number. She asked if our number is that low in this area?

Jim Beiting of Transitions answered that the bigger issue is the stigma of coming into treatment. It is hard for some people to accept and admit that they have this disease of a substance disorder. So, 88% of the people don't call due to the stigma or denial. They like to catch people early in the disease, but it is hard. They need to talk about it more, to make it easier for people to pick up the phone. There are many resources in Northern Kentucky.

Commissioner Sewell stated that another statistic that is powerful is that almost 30% of high risk patients are caught when they do their annual medical screenings.

Ms. Peters stated that Northern Kentucky has so many resources for people to call and get into treatment right away.

Commissioner Sewell stated that it would be very powerful to have a physician tell you how serious the situation is.

Jim Beiting stated that there are about 500 pregnant women in Boone, Kenton and Campbell County that have substance use disorders, and they only have six women in treatment right now.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the good news is that the anti-stigma marketing that is being done in Cincinnati is helping Northern Kentucky. This marketing needs to be done for year.

Commissioner Draud asked how they are defining substance use disorder?

Jim Beiting answered that there is an established medical definition that they all use that is widely accepted by medical professionals. The short version is if drugs and alcohol are causing a problem in your life, but you keep using anyway, you have a substance abuse problem. About 5% of the people in Boone, Kenton and Campbell County have this substance use disorder. That is about 20,000 people, with only half of that going to recovery. There are many people that need help. The infrastructure that has been developed over the past years has been amazing.

Ms. Peters stated that there is a regional pregnancy group, so if there is any issue there is a group working on it.

## **B. Claims List dated March 4, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

## **Resolutions**

### **A. Resolution No. 22-01E 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: \$47,000 to cover additional voting expenses, \$29,800 to cover rising fuel costs for the Police Department and \$15,200 to cover a siren repair, Western Kentucky Tornado relief expenses and an increased maintenance contract.

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

### **B. Resolution No. 22-04**

**A Resolution authorizing an application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for matching Federal RAI SE Grant Funds for the widening and realignment of KY 536 from Calvary Drive to KY 17.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that we have been working with the state on the next phase for 536. We were declined on our application last time, so we are applying again. If approved, it would be for \$25 million and we would do a 20% match. Secretary Gray, Bob Yeager and Sal Santoro are very supportive of our application.

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

## **Consent Agenda**

### **A. Exhibit No. 22-24**

**Request approval to ratify the contract for the CDBG Transitions Grant.**

### **B. Exhibit No. 22-25**

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

### **C. Exhibit No. 22-26**

**Request approval to go out to bid for design and re-Construction of Tennis, Pickleball and Basketball Courts at Richardson Road Park.**

### **D. Exhibit No. 22-27**

**Request approval to accept the bid for Stop Loss and Third Party Administrator Services for the Kenton County Health Insurance Program.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

## **Executive Orders**

### **A. Executive Order 22-32**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Kelsie Attebery as an Animal Control Officer for the Animal Services Department.**

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

## **B. Executive Order 22-33**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the step increase for Zachary Lawson from a Dispatcher 1, G5-1 to a Dispatcher 1, G5-3 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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

### **Administrative Reporting**

#### **Emergency Management**

Todd Schulkers, the Deputy Emergency Management Director, stated that statewide COVID-19 cases are trending in a very good direction. The statewide positivity rate was 6.9% as of last Friday. As for the EHS facilities that are required to submit reports to the state, with the exception of one that is currently being completed, all have been submitted. The deadline for submission is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Schulkers then stated that as they discussed during a recent Mayors Group meeting, Ft. Wright Mayor, Dave Hatter has offered to provide us with a “Cybersecurity Awareness Training” workshop for City and County officials. We agreed to host the training, which will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> (10:30-12:30), and the afternoon session would be (1:30 to 3:30). These workshops will be held in the second floor training room in the County Administration Building, at 1840 Simon Kenton Way.

Mr. Schulkers then stated that during a prior Fiscal Court meeting, they discussed the incident management team’s deployment to Western Kentucky. As a result, they thought it would be beneficial to provide some “Emergency Operations Center” training to our County and City agencies. That training will be offered in two sessions in an attempt to be shift friendly for those participating. Session 1 is May 3, 2022, 9:00-12:00, and the second session is May 5, 2022, 12:30-3:30. Around the same timeframe, they will also be hosting a workshop for elected and appointed officials. This workshop will address the role of elected/appointed officials, within the Emergency Operations Center during a disaster. They will also be discussing the recent real world response in Western KY.

#### **Police Department**

Chief Jones stated that they are currently accepting applications for the position of police officer with the Kenton County Police Department. They look forward to giving the recruit test in June of this year and encourage any interested applicant to apply by going on line at [www.kentoncounty.org](http://www.kentoncounty.org). They have two people currently in the background process for their department, and if all goes well they will only need to fill two positions to be at full staff.

Chief Jones then stated that he wanted to mention their successful application and receipt of the 2021 Post Authority Grant. This grant is providing two lifesaving pieces of equipment for the police officers. They will receive two very different types of vests. One is a U.S. Coast Guard Type III Flotation Device, and the other is an AR 500 Armor Plate Carrier. Both of these devices were paid for in full by the Port Authority Grant, and the department greatly appreciates Todd Schulkers assistance in obtaining this equipment. He then asked for everyone to pray for his colleagues in the Ukraine.

Commissioner Draud asked how heavy the new vests are?

Chief Jones answered that they are 25 pounds.

### **Emergency Communications**

Ashley Hawks stated that all of their frontline supervisory staff attended a week long situational leadership course in the month of February. This is the first time that the frontline staff has been eligible to attend this type of training. Previously, it has been included in a several week long course at the Executive level for dispatchers. What it does for them is to allow them to meet their employees where they are, and match their supervisory skills to where that employee is to bring them to where they need to be.

### **Detention Center**

Jailer Fields stated that through the first two months of this year, they have had 1,434 days of men in January and 1,370 days of men in February in the substance abuse program. They have had 314 days of females in January and 375 days of females in February. They are seeing a trend of addicted pregnant females. They had a meeting with NKU today to start a help desk ticket training. A lot of companies need women to answer phones, and they will train them at the end of March or beginning of April. It is a nine week course, and the women will come out highly employable. There is no cost to the county, as NKU will pay for their certification.

Jailer Fields then stated that they now have 25 people working on GEDs, and they now have moral recognition therapy. They have 18 people in that right now, and are getting ready to add a parenting and family values class. They have four instructors coming from Catholic Charities as volunteers. Along with that, they will be adding anger management therapy. They have found that anyone who has completed the program inside the jail, and then gets the aftercare the recidivism rate drops. There is only a 30% recidivism rate, which is a good number.

Jailer Fields then stated that yesterday they sent four people to the State Penitentiary. They were high medical inmates, and they claim they will be opening up in the next few weeks.

### **Treasury**

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

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that the Attorney General announced on February 25<sup>th</sup> that the National Opioid Settlement had been reached. That is against the big 3 plus Johnson and Johnson. What will come to Kentucky is \$483 million, and there was a lot of work done to get local governments 50% of those proceeds. So, when the money comes in, 50% is going to go to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and 50% will be divided amongst the counties and cities that participated in the lawsuit. If there are questions as to what Kenton County gets out of this, she is hoping she will have answers to give soon. It will be paid over the course of 18 years.

Commissioner Draud asked if all of the counties are in the lawsuit?

Ms. Tapke stated that there were several litigating counties. Kenton County was a litigating county, and a lot of cities did not litigate. Part of what they are figuring out is who gets what based on the status. There are formulas based on different factors. Population isn't a factor, but the number of pills that were being distributed, number of overdoses and number of deaths were part of the criteria. It all depends on what the impact was to the community, not population. Hopefully, there will be money distributed soon. There is also litigation that hasn't been settled against other defendants. The funds have to be used for the specific purpose of abatement.

## Commissioners ' Reports

### Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell stated that she wanted to address the discussion regarding the selection of the voting machine company. There were some questions and concerns about the choice of that company, and was it deemed secure. She is glad that the legislators are looking into this. She was fortunate enough to serve on the committee that selected the companies, and there were people that the Clerk asked to look into the security side of the process. Those tech experts did some research, and the security process that this company goes through is determined by certification at the State level. They actually defer to a federal standards lab. Our legislators are really looking into this, and are making sure that we are establishing the security standards for us and are applying those to future companies. It is becoming even more important for this to be addressed. She has discussed employing a committee of experts at the County level to get ahead of questions and issues. They are not connected to the internet, so they can be even more secure.

### Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud stated that Sal Santoro was telling him that Dixie Highway will be fixed this summer, and will be done right.

Nick Hendrix stated that what is in the program right now is resurfacing not replacing. They have gotten a lot of complaints.

### Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that the Fiscal Court is in the eighth year together, and he remembers even longer ago hearing Chief Jones speak about heroin. He remembers that he didn't get a big response at that time from the cities about the problem in the neighborhoods. Then listening to the presentation tonight, he thinks that the Fiscal Court, the law enforcement community and Homeland Security rose to the occasion on this issue on behalf of the citizens to try to help with the drug issues. It is sad that heroin is now the lower issue, and other drugs rise up to take its place. We can never rest, and always be proactive against these trends.

### Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann stated that regulations have been set for what the ARPA money can be used for, so he would like some suggestions within those regulations for its use.

#### **A. Request approval to cancel the June 28, 2022, and the October 25, 2022, Fiscal Court meetings.**

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

### Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann requested a voice vote whereupon all members present voted in the affirmative with a 4-0 vote.

Text for all proposed and recently passed ordinances may be acquired by accessing the Fiscal Court web page at <http://www.kentoncounty.org> or by contacting the administrative offices at 859.392.1400.

#### CLERK CERTIFICATION

I, Sue J. Kaiser, having been appointed to the office of Fiscal Court Clerk, do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate record of the actions taken by the Kenton County Fiscal Court at the meeting of March 8, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk