

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT VIRTUAL MEETING

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the March 9, 2021, virtual meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge/Executive 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
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 23, 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.

A. Approval of the Minutes from the special meeting of March 2, 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. Presentation of the 2020 Pioneer Award to Bill Goetz.

Judge Knochelmann welcomed Mr. Goetz to the meeting, and introduced Larry Klein who nominated Mr. Goetz for the Pioneer Award. He then read the proclamation about Mr. Goetz. He then stated that the first time he ever met Bill, he was about 15 or 16 years old. He has always

been nothing but very kind, patient and supportive. He has done so much for this community, and has been kind and generous throughout his life.

Larry Klein, who nominated Mr. Goetz for this award, stated that he feels very fortunate to call Bill Goetz his friend and mentor. He has been a mentor to many elected officials and appointed officials in his career in Northern Kentucky and around the State. He was always a strong believer in decision making, and he had very strong convictions. He was always fair and friendly, and he would be the first one to poke fun of himself. He feels very fortunate and lucky to have Bill Goetz as a friend. He can honestly say he loves Bill. He is a dear friend and a dear man. We are lucky to have him here in Northern Kentucky. He thanked the Fiscal Court for honoring him with this award,

Mr. Goetz thanked the Fiscal Court for giving him this award. He is humbled by everyone's wonderful comments.

Commissioner Draud stated that Mr. Goetz is one of the few people that everybody respects and looks up to in government.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she regrets that somehow we left off some important years of service with PDS. That is where she met Mr. Goetz. She doesn't know how many years he served on that board, but it was a long time before she came along. He was a great coach to her, and they certainly missed him when he stepped down. She loved getting to know him and serving with him during that time. She thanked him for all of his support.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he recalls when Mr. Goetz was the first City Administrator in Northern Kentucky as far as the smaller cities are concerned. He knew him originally through his dad, and has been doing this now for going on 20 years. The reason he is doing this is because of people like Bill Goetz. He is probably one of the best public servants this community has ever seen. He thanked him for his leadership and inspiration in choosing what he wanted to do. This award is so well deserved, and he appreciates everything he has done for the Community.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Mr. Goetz again on behalf of everyone in Kenton County.

B. Update from Chris Conners on the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force.

Chris Conners stated that the last time he spoke to the Fiscal Court, he explained how the border closures and mobility restrictions was a good thing, and that the availability of drugs was down. Drugs were harder to find and more expensive, so that's a positive thing. However, they warned that once things started opening up, these drugs are being stockpiled at the borders and would start coming across in massive amounts. Things are slowly opening up commercially, and they are seeing increases. Fentanyl and heroin numbers are decreasing, but cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamines are increasing. The numbers look pretty consistent, and they're down from a few years ago, or even a year ago. The lack of heroin and fentanyl have probably had something to do that. The form they are mostly seeing fentanyl is being sold as Percocet, Oxycodone or OxyContin. They are finding that it is not made by the pharmacies, it's homemade. They're pressing some other medicine in with fentanyl and calling it Percocet, and selling it as such. They can see the imperfections in the pills, and this can be very dangerous to someone that is thinking they're getting five milligrams of hydrocodone and it turns out it's more

C. Request approval to accept Copperhead Environmental Consulting's proposal for the Licking River Blue Water Trail Project, and to authorize the Judge/Executive to negotiate the terms of the agreement.

John Stanton stated that a year ago the General Assembly voted a \$150,000 appropriation and supported a regional project of outdoor adventure tourism stretching 122 miles from Paris Kentucky to the Ohio River. Kenton County was designated the fiscal agent for this project, and have been working in cooperation with Bourbon, Harrison, Pendleton and Campbell counties. The project was put out to bid for technical and strategic analysis of this, and we got 10 proposals that ranged up to a price of \$426,000. Given the fact that this is a five county project, this is a rather large project. The advisory committee reviewed all 10 proposals, and thankfully Copperhead, which was the third lowest price proposal, emerged as one of the two favorites. The committee conducted Zoom interviews with the two finalists, and the recommendation by a pretty decisive consensus of the committee was that we hire Copperhead. The hope to have this completed by the end of the year. Also, on the Consent Agenda there's an RFP to put out on the streets related research on Jacob Spears. The Copperhead RFP is only costing around \$114,000, there will be some leftover money. This piece will help support MeetNKY and the developing narrative for the promotion of this. We have been told that we can get that particular RFP done for \$10,000 or less. We want to put the RFP out on the street to see what kind of prices we get back. So far, this has been a great project with tremendous cooperation and help from Campbell County and Kim Serra, who's been assisting us with staffing and also working with the three counties to our south.

Commissioner Draud asked what exactly they're going to do?

Mr. Stanton answered that the concept is to develop it as 122 mile blue water trail. For example, there are five low head dams in Harrison County that capture water for agricultural and water usage. Part of the analysis will figure out how you navigate five low head dams to get around them. They'll also be analyzing things like whether it's a year round blue water stream for kayaking or canoeing, or where their best spots for fishing would be. It will be a pretty thorough technical analysis for that whole 122 miles.

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.

D. Claims List dated March 5, 2021.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 21-01F

A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget

Treasurer Roy Cox explained that the budget adjustments are for the following; \$36,500 for salary and benefit adjustments for moving the Communication Manager to Administration from Technology Services, \$20,700 to shift to outsourcing some software development, \$20,100 for tuition reimbursement, so we can get through the rest of the year with that, \$107,000 in the Road Fund so we can fill the Dome with salt and prepare for it if there's any more events and then \$1,000 for towing in Fleet Maintenance.

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.

Ordinances

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

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that this is the second reading. The first part of the amendment is \$584,000 for the elections grant that was received. Then there is \$900,000 for Department of Justice SAP grant at the Jail, \$103,700 for the remaining part of this year for another SAP grant at the jail and then \$200,000 for the Transitions COVID grant.

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.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 21-34**
Request approval to accept the bid for Stop Loss Services from Partners for the Kenton County Health Insurance Program.
- B. Exhibit No. 21-35**
Request approval of the CDBG Grant Contract for COVID funds for Transitions.
- C. Exhibit No. 21-36**
Request approval to allow the Judge/Executive to execute a Memorandum of Agreement to maintain a traffic control device on US 25 in Covington.
- D. Exhibit No. 21-37**
Request approval to reject the bid from US Imaging, Inc., and re-bid for the Kenton County Police Department.
- E. Exhibit No. 21-38**
Request approval to surplus three (3) blue recycle dumpsters for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- F. Exhibit No. 21-39**
Request approval of the monthly maintenance agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Seven Hills Technology for software development to support the Community Portal and COLA systems for the Kenton County Business Services Department.
- G. Exhibit No. 21-40**
Request approval to issue an RFP regarding research into Jacob Spears.
- H. Exhibit No. 21-41**
Request approval of the lease schedule with Dell Financial Services, and the bid from C-Forward Technologies for 43 Dell Latitude laptops for the 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 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 21-24 Request approval to rescind the Level One Snow Emergency.

No action was needed on this item.

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that he will start off with a couple non COVID related items. He is happy to report that he doesn't think we will have another snow emergency anytime soon, so we can put that behind us. He is also happy to report that the damage that occurred from the river flood levels was pretty minimal. They did work with some of the river cities, but overall, the impact was pretty minimal by comparison to other areas of the Commonwealth. As for the construction project on the bridge, he believes that the traveling public has grown accustomed to finding alternative routes. It is all going as well as can be expected so they are hopeful that they will continue to see few problems.

Mr. Hensley then stated that the COVID cases are trending in a pretty positive direction. The positivity rate across the Commonwealth is about 3.94%, with only 82 new cases in Northern Kentucky. The vaccine rollout is going quite well, and about 25% of the population in Kentucky has received at least the first vaccine. Testing continues out on Atlantic and down here at the IRS location. The Convention Center location is making a transition starting Thursday, Friday Saturday. They have scheduled 6,000 doses, and some of those will be second doses of Moderna and some will be first doses of Pfizer. That process continues, and they will be resetting that facility to give second doses on one side of the facility and first doses, on the other. The Health Department and St. Elizabeth continue to do their vaccine clinics. They mentioned that one of the unique parts about the Johnson and Johnson single dose vaccine is that it can be used with the special needs and homeless population. This helps, because they don't have to try to find them again to bring them back in for the second dose. He stressed the importance of vaccines, and the CDC is rolling out some guidance. There's going to be some allowances made for people that have had the vaccine as far as social gathering, travel, special events and other things. He encouraged anyone that may be on the fence about getting the vaccine to reconsider and get out there and protect yourself and get it.

Police Department

Chief Spike Jones stated that he would like to present to the Fiscal Court their 2020 annual report. In 2020, they obviously were confronted with delivering essential police services to the County while dealing with the COVID pandemic crisis. They were able to staff all of our shifts fully and do this safely. They didn't miss a beat, and he is very proud of the men and women that worked for the Kenton County Police Department for being able to take up that challenge, and still deliver those essential services. They are grateful that an overall decrease in traffic accidents was noted during the year 2020, as well as a decrease in overall fatalities. They observed a notable decrease in total calls to service, but the very creative officers used that time to increase their business checks, special area checks and vacation checks on private residences and businesses. He is very proud of everyone for taking up that. They also had a 32% overall decrease in arrest from the previous year in 2020. The annual report, which the Commissioners

will receive in the mail also has more stats, along with customary information of retirements, awards, and so forth.

Chief Jones then stated that they did get their all track solutions radar trailer up and running, and have been doing some test runs with some statistics on it. It is really a fascinating piece of equipment, and it gives them peak times and average speeds. It gives them the total amount of traffic on a given roadway at any given time, so he knows they are going to have lots of applications for that. He is looking forward to some requests from the Fiscal Court for specific areas they'd like to see put out based on information they receive from constituents.

Emergency Communications

Ashley Hawks stated that the Fiscal Court approved the purchase of the text to 911 software, and she is happy to say that things are moving very rapidly on this project. They are already orchestrating installation of the software, and working to schedule the training. They have also been in contact with Sara Sgantas to work on some sort of a public education deployment plan, so that the public can be fully prepared for what to expect from text to 911. This is something that will get Kenton County up to speed on the Next Generation 911 that the entire country is moving towards.

Ms. Hawks then presented some statistics from the big snow event that we had recently. She reviewed the patterns of the calls for service for Dispatch during this event. She stated that the dispatchers have done a fantastic job managing these things with the staffing that they have on hand.

Parks/Buildings and Grounds/Golf Course

Scott Gunning stated that he wanted to give a quick update on the progress they are making with the master plan at Fox Run. First, they are working on presenting the Fiscal Court with some potential naming options, but in the meantime they are going to be referring to that property as the new Kenton County Park. As they work through that process, people might see this generic name temporarily used in announcements until a new permanent name is chosen. During the last week of February, they did host the first interest group meeting. That interest group is comprised of 13 members, and includes citizens and various representatives from both the public and the private organizations. So, from that meeting, they started a dialogue, and received some good feedback on potential opportunities for the property, along with some challenges that they might face for the park. Right now they are in the process of scheduling the first public meeting, which should be held around the end of March or first part of April. He will make sure the Fiscal Court is aware of the day and time once it gets set, along with the information that is going to be presented to the public. Human Nature was out on the site continuing their site inventory and their analysis of the property.

Mr. Gunning then stated that things are progressing according to the timeline in regards to the Parks programming of events. They are beginning to gradually start some of the in person programs back up. The first one is the Spring Fling on April 10th at Mills Park, which will be a socially distance craft and scavenger hunt. As always, if anybody wants more information on this or any of our events they can find those details on our website.

Lastly, Mr. Gunning stated that the golf course was very busy this winter. They removed approximately 270 tree stumps, both old and new throughout the Willows and the Pioneer courses. This should help with playability, turf conditions and just the general overall aesthetics of the course. With the spring weather being here, they are starting to see the customers come back, and they look forward to another successful year.

Treasury

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the February, 2021, Financial Reports have been submitted.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that the courts are getting closer to opening, and some services will open on May 1st.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber had nothing to report.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann stated that he has a couple of updates, the first regarding economic development in the region. Projects are still coming in, and they had a good board meeting today. Tom Banta is our appointee to the Tri-Ed Board, and as of today has become chairman. Bob Heil stepped off, and he is also going to be heading up some of the fundraising efforts over the next year or two. As the mission and function of the organization is matched with the needs and available dollars, he's going to stick around to help. A lot of things are happening that have potential, and there is an interest in sites primarily for distribution. There is also a lot of interest in spots for corporate headquarters, and corporate office expansion. Things are good and we've got a great team. They are working through budget cuts and other things, and have worked to manage the cost very well. Last July, the entrepreneurship effort was spun off into Blue North, and he chairs the board. It is a great board that continues to organize and facilitate between the other entrepreneurship efforts in the region, including Aviatra, Mortar and others.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that due to COVID, the Covington Drivers' License office has been closed. John Middleton is reopening on May 1st in the space at the Covington Administration building by appointment only. Also, with the consolidation and the great work that has been done by PDS, the space on the fifth floor of the south wing of the Administration Building is open. He would like to bring back a plan to the court for this space, so that it can be occupied and monetized.

Commissioner Draud asked if John Middleton's office is going to relocate to the Historic Courthouse in Independence?

Judge Knochelmann answered that no they will not. We would have to do a construction project to make that happen, and there's not enough space there. Right now the State is just leasing space from that previous Kroger space. It has never been at the Courthouse in Independence. The space that we took over in the historic courthouse building was a records room. That is the space that's now able to be used for social distancing, and people can actually get in the building away from the weather.

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 Sewell. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

No action was taken after the Executive Session.

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 March 9, 2021.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk