

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Kenton County Government Center
Second Floor Chambers
1840 Simon Kenton Way
Covington, KY 41011

Special Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge Knochelmann called to order the April 11, 2023, 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
County Attorney, Stacy Tapke

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

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of March 28, 2023.

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

B. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from the meeting of March 29, 2023.

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

Citizens Address

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court at this time.

General Business

A. Presentation of a Proclamation declaring the week of April 9-15, 2023 as Animal Control Officer's Week.

Judge Knochelmann presented the Proclamation to the Animal Services Director Kelsey Maccombs. He thanked her and her team for their great work.

Kelsey Maccombs thanked the Fiscal Court for acknowledging a very important week. The Animal Control Officers have such a unique skill set in this role where there are all of the animal

handling components, but also having strong interpersonal skills in dealing with people. She is very proud of her team, and they are doing a great job.

Commissioner Draud asked if we are the only Animal Shelter in Northern Kentucky that has a no kill policy?

Ms. Maccombs answered that she believes that Boone County has no kill numbers as well, but she is not certain.

Commissioner Draud asked if that is working out well.

Ms. Maccombs answered that she will report later about their intake, but they are continuing to see an increase in intake. They are up about 51% over last year for intake of large dogs, which obviously has caused quite a strain on their staffing and the facility. However, due to the nature of how well the team is working together, they have been able to continue a 96% live/release rate for the first quarter.

Commissioner Draud stated that he would like to commend her for that policy.

B. Update on the Kenton County Golf Course.

Nick Bednar from Indigo Golf introduced a couple members of his team, David Peru, Ron Freking and Rachel Hummel. They do a fantastic job. He stated that they have been busier than they have ever been the last three years. The last three years have been the three of the six most rounds played nationally the past 45 years. Rounds were down slightly last year, and most of that was due to a slow start in the spring with the weather. Rounds were the fourth most that they have ever had in recorded history. There are more beginners coming into golf now, as there were 3.3 million new golfers come into the game last year. The total on course participation was 25.6 million. This was the first year that the total off course participation was higher than total on course participation (driving ranges, Top Golf, simulators or any type of golf that is not played on a golf course). There were almost 28 million people experience golf that way. Golf is getting more diverse and more female. Almost 21 million people in the U.S. indicated a very strong interest in playing the game. This is their fifth year of on course participation growth in the industry. This pre-dates the pandemic.

Mr. Bednar then stated that grounds play locally, they are down 3.7% nationwide and 7.8% in the Tri-State area last year. The overall play is up 15% from pre-pandemic levels. What that has afforded them is not just the extra volume of play, but some renewed pricing power for the courses. On the other side of that, they are paying more for labor and expenses as well. It has been a challenging time the past few years, but overall golf remains in a very good position for growth moving forward. Kenton County was up 4% in rounds, hosting over 72,000 rounds of golf which was pretty equally split between the two courses. Revenues were up 14% to just shy of \$2.7 million, and with the continued success of revenue that means that they are paying more rent. Last year they paid a base fee of \$50,000, and then as revenue grows they pay more rent. So, last year the incentive rent will be \$87,662 for a total rent of \$137,662 to the county.

Mr. Bednar then stated that some much needed course improvements have been occurring over the past few years. They have been working with County Administration on capital planning, and he feels like they have a good long projection to address the biggest needs that they have. The cart paths are about 2/3 of the way through. The newest addition to their capital improvements is a patio that cost under \$10,000 that was added to the front entrance. There is a walk up food window as well.

Mr. Bednar then stated that they truly believe golf is for everyone. They hosted 82 first tee junior golfers last year, had 144 kids in their junior camps and clinics, hosted over 1,300 youth on

course rounds so over 3,000 junior rounds were hosted out of the 72,000 rounds. Driving range revenues have steadily grown, and have gone from just over 20,000 to over 40,000 last year. Outings are a way people get introduced to the game. That has been a major focal point of theirs from the beginning. Back in 2020 they did 4,000 outing rounds, and last year they did over 10,000 rounds. Lastly, ladies' day on June 21st had all 36 holes filled with nothing but women.

Mr. Bednar then stated that sometimes golf gets the reputation that it is too expensive, but it really isn't. They have rates that appeal to everyone. They have just shy of 100 annual pass holders, and this helps them keep their rate down per play. The KC Card has been a success for them, as they sell over 1,200 of these cards. It is a \$22 card program that offers a discount of \$6 off 18 holes and \$2 off 9 holes. The average person is spending \$27 to play at Kenton County. As for community involvement, he has to give a lot of credit to David Peru and his team for leading this. These are extras beyond golf to be a good steward for the community. They hosted breakfast with Santa, had a food drive and had a toy drive. In conclusion, they have a lot of great momentum in Kenton County right now. They are going to focus on golf course conditions, service, community and trying to be the best public golf value in Northern Kentucky. From Troon and Indigo's perspective, they are very appreciative of this partnership. Administration has been fantastic to work with for sure.

Judge Knochelmann stated that they do not get complaints, which is a good sign of how things are running. He wants to make sure that it isn't forgotten how much has been invested in cart paths and many capital improvements by Kenton County. They are doing a good job managing things like water onsite. It is most appreciated. It keeps getting better and better.

Commissioner Sewell stated that they used to hear complaints every meeting, so it is terrific to hear just good news. Her son was a Junior Leaguer for several years, and it is exciting to see that beginners are getting the bug for that. She likes the tagline, "Best public golf value in Northern Kentucky". She asked how the partnership with the development of Fox Run as a park and walking trail.

David Peru answered that it has been seamless. There have been a few people that find their way into their parking lot, and they help them find their way out. There has been no disturbances, and it is a great amenity.

Commissioner Draud stated that he appreciates the good leadership, because there aren't a lot of complaints and the county is making money. They deserve credit for that, because no one in the past has been able to pull this off. Their leadership is appreciated. We made \$137,000 last year, so this is great. Whoever's idea it was to lease the course should be commended.

C. Claims List - Dated April 7, 2023

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 23-01G

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

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the jail has quite a few things going on that are over budget. All of them are coming out of personnel salaries to cover all of it. The other adjustment is for Dispatch Services for Dispatch to get through the end of the year. It is for towers, generators and the consultant.

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

Commissioner Draud stated that it is nice to have such an honest Treasurer working for the county.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 23-51
Request approval to surplus a John Deere Gator and 4600 Tractor for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- B. Exhibit No. 23-52
Request approval to award the 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 Regular Cab Utility Body Upfit bid to KE Rose Company for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- C. Exhibit No. 23-53
Request approval to accept the state contract MA 758 2100000806 with L & W Emergency Equipment to Upfit Four (4) 2023 Police Dodge Chargers for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- D. Exhibit No. 23-54
Request approval of an agreement to implement a Bridge to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder program at the Kenton County Detention Center.**
- E. Exhibit No. 23-55
Request approval of the Sewer Tapper 's Bond Renewal.**

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 3-0.

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 23-50
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Abby Richter as the Shelter Manager for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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

Administrative Reporting

Public Works

Spencer Stork stated that they will be resurfacing Staffordsburg Rd. on Thursday and Friday. Last year, they got a grant from the Energy and Environment Cabinet for \$155,000 to do that. It is a benefit, because they think it will improve the quality of the asphalt and it gives a way to use all the old tires. Also, the countywide striping is going to be going on this week and next week.

They ended up having four cities team up with them to do some of their routes too. Their first group of Trash for Cash is starting this week. Spring cleanup is April 28th and 29th.

Commissioner Draud stated that he spoke with Sal Santoro, and the Dixie Highway Project has \$10 million put aside for that project, but they will have to go through the design phase first. That was about \$270,000, and can involve turn lanes and utilities. It is in the 2024 and 2025 budget.

Animal Services

Kelsey Maccombs stated that their intake is high. They are working on solutions to be a little bit more proactive. The team is working together to be very efficient. They identify what is coming at the time of intake, and determine if there is an animal with an extreme medical need. She reported last time about a parvo case that didn't even enter the run, because it was correctly identified at intake and taken immediately off site. The animal survived, and has been adopted. Since that time they have had another, so this team is working very well together. They are looking at animals coming in with behavior issues, and making decisions on how to proceed. They are working with the Behavior Coordinator, which is a new position, to identify what those animals needs are in the Shelter and how they can outcome it appropriately. They are working with a much larger net of fosters, which keeps more animals out of the shelter. This helps things run more efficiently, and they are relying on their community to step up for them.

Commissioner Sewell asked if the Behavioral Specialist is able to coach a family that is bringing a pet in to get rid of it? Is there sometimes a reversal where the specialist can help?

Ms. Maccombs answered that they can. Some people get to the point where they just don't know what to do, so having prevention of intake with this position is helpful in these situations.

Technology Services

Michelle Foster stated that at her last meeting she talked about the RFP that they put out for AV work in the Chambers and the Riedlin Schott Room. Scott Gunning reviewed the RFPs with her, and they hope to have a recommendation at the next meeting. Also, they will be putting in cameras at the Independence Courthouse. Finally, this is her last report as Jessica will be back soon. She thanked the Fiscal Court for the opportunity, and thanked Holly Hill and Kurt Greivenkamp for all of their tremendous help.

Commissioner Draud stated that she has done a good job.

Treasurer

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the March 2023 Financial Report has been submitted.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewel had nothing to report.

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann

Judge Knochelmann thanked Michelle Foster for filling in for Jessica Ramsey while she was gone. He then thanked all of the County employees for all of their hard work, with a special thank you to Jailer Marc Fields and the jail employees.

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 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 April 11, 2023.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk