

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

**April 12, 2022**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge Knochelmann called to order the March 22, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Sewell 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  
Roy Cox, County Treasurer  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of March 22, 2022.**

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.

**Citizens Address**

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court.

**General Business**

**A. Presentation of a Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.**

Judge Knochelmann presented a proclamation to Ashley Hawks, the Director of the Emergency Communication Center. He thanked the whole Dispatch team for all of their dedication and hard work. He stated that we try to thank them with lunches or acknowledgement with something as simple as decent chairs to work from daily.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she had the pleasure of being at the Dispatch Center recently. She had a friend that was interested in a career, and they toured the facility. Ashley Hawks and her staff were so helpful and terrific people. There are so many good people who don't get acknowledged.

**B. Claims List dated April 8, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

## Resolutions

### **A. Resolution No. 22-01G 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: \$6,000 to cover printing of Business Services forms and envelopes, \$85,000 to cover the Justice Center utility costs through the fiscal year (reimbursed by AOC), \$2,000 to cover wages for Emergency Management, \$11,500 to cover vehicle and building maintenance for the Animal Services Department, \$5,000 to cover vehicle repairs for the Parks and Recreation Department, \$3,000 to cover expenses for the Riedlin Schott Room display case security hardware, \$25,000 to cover expenses for the NKY Drug Strike Force (reimbursed), \$15,000 to cover a pass thru payment to Tri-Ed and \$135,000 to cover overtime for the Emergency Communications Department.

Commissioner Draud asked about the \$135,000 for overtime, and how long that will cover the cost?

Mr. Cox answered that it will coving until the end of the year. It is coming out of the wages line, as the department is shorthanded.

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. Resolution No. 22-06 A Resolution of the County of Kenton, Kentucky authorizing the Kenton County Judge/Executive to enter into a contract to purchase certain right of way on Pruett Road in Unincorporated Kenton County pursuant to KRS 67.080(1 ) (b)(1).**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this is a road project that takes care of a short piece where the road curves. This project will straighten out the road.

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.

### **C. Resolution No. 22-07 A Resolution setting the Kenton County Coroner 's compensation rate.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that each term, the Coroner's compensation rate must be set if going beyond CPI in May. The Coroner's salary hasn't been touched since 2014. We find it appropriate to do this now, so as to get it done before the May 1<sup>st</sup> statutory requirement.

Commissioner Draud asked what CPI is now?

Mr. Shriver answered that it is about 7%.

Commissioner Draud asked what percentage we are adjusting?

Treasurer Roy Cox answered that the Coroner is requesting a 5% increase above the 7%, which is a 12% net.

Commissioner Draud asked if the State provides any money for the Coroner?

Mr. Shriver answered that it is the entire County's responsibility.

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.

### Consent Agenda

- A. **Exhibit No. 22-33**  
Request approval of the participation agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Rivertown Communications, LLC for the What 's Happening publication .
- B. **Exhibit No. 22-34**  
Request approval to ratify a contract with Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. for design services at the Detention Center.
- C. **Exhibit No. 22-35**  
Request approval to ratify the extension of the agreement between the Kenton County Animal Services Department and IDEXX Laboratories for laboratory services , testing and equipment.
- D. **Exhibit No. 22-36**  
Request approval of a proposal from Palmer Engineering for the design of intersection improvements at Kimberly Drive and Independence Station Road.
- E. **Exhibit No. 22-37**  
Request approval to surplus a service weapon; a Sig Sauer Model 229 40 cal with a fair market value of \$375.00. The service weapon will be purchased by the Kenton County Detention Center and to be given to Lt. Humphrey as a retirement gift and by the analogous of the Kenton County Police Departments policy for service weapons according to KRS.65.041.
- F. **Exhibit No. 22-38**  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Fleet Department.
- G. **Exhibit No. 22-39**  
Request approval to award the Dispatch furnishings bid to Xybix Systems Inc. for the Kenton County Communications Center.
- H. **Exhibit No. 22-40**  
Request approval to renew the lawn care service agreement for the Kenton County Parks & Recreation Department.
- I. **Exhibit No. 22-41**  
Request approval to accept the bid from Progress Rail to supply recycled railroad rails for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- J. **Exhibit No. 22-42**  
Request approval to reject all bids for concrete supply for the Kenton County Public Works Department.

- K. Exhibit No. 22-43**  
Request approval of the Adoption Agreement and Contract between Hill 's Pet Nutrition Sales, Inc. and the Kenton County Animal Services Department for pet food and an adoption agreement.
- L. Exhibit No. 22-44**  
Request approval of the Sewer Tapper 's Bond Renewal.
- M. Exhibit No. 22-45**  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- N. Exhibit No. 22-46**  
Request approval to accept the formal quote from Radius Construction for the Dispatch Breakroom for the Kenton County Communications Center.
- O. Exhibit No. 22-47**  
Request approval to surplus a Floor Lamp for the Kenton County Treasurer 's Office.

Commissioner Draud asked what the jail item is on the Consent Agenda.

County Administrator Joe Shriver answered that it is the outdoor recreation areas. The way it was designed, it has lasted over ten years. We had Brandstetter/Carroll come look at the deterioration.

Jailer Marc Fields stated that it is a water issue. The water is flowing underneath the outdoor recs, and has broken them away from the building. The water is now going inside. This includes fixing the two dorms as well.

Commissioner Draud asked if there is a basketball court out there?

Jailer Fields answered that there are basketball courts.

Commissioner Sewell asked if it is a safety issue, as well as a drainage issue?

Jailer Fields answered that it is both.

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 22-41**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the 2022 Burn Ban.**

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. Executive Order 22-42**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Cheyenne Gripshover as a Seasonal Parks Laborer for the Kenton County Parks and Recreation Department.**

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

**C. Executive Order 22-43  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of David Pergram as a Fleet Services Technician for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

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

**D. Executive Order 22-44  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Bryce Black as the Animal Control Sergeant for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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

**E. Executive Order 22-45  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Zach Dressman as an Animal Control Officer for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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

## **Administrative Reporting**

### **Police Department**

Chief Jones stated that he would like to recognize their partners in public safety, and asked Ms. Hawks to extend his appreciation to all of her employees. Chief Jones then stated that he is pleased to report that they are sending two recruits to the academy in May of this year, and if all goes well, they will have them in the Field Training program by September. They have also extended two conditional offers to some lateral candidates that appear to be a good fit for the department.

Chief Jones then stated that he wanted to mention their employee of the month program, where their employees are recognized by their peers for their work. This month's recipient is Detective Billy Snipes for his work on a burglary case that eventually led to evidence use in part to resolve a homicide case in Richmond, KY. He then mentioned a Facebook story that popped up last week praising one of their newest officers, Chris Huhn, for his community policing efforts in the Latonia Lakes Community.

### **Detention Center**

Jailer Marc Fields stated that they had a boiler that was going to be replaced. However, due to all the price increases and inflation, when those bids came in it was higher than what they budgeted for. Roy Cox gave them the approval to buy it, and they aren't going to buy an oven now that they had scheduled for the kitchen. Since they brought it in house, that oven is now not needed. They are saving about \$15,000 between the two he believes. He is happy to report that two Fridays ago, they invited every city down to the jail. The goal is to get their work crews back out to the

cities. We have them at the county now, and the cities are all on board. Every city sent representation, and they went through a training. They will be starting within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Draud commended Jailer Fields for all of the good work he is doing.

### Emergency Management

Steve Hensley thanked Ashely Hawks and her team. They are our hidden heroes. He then stated that he knows that the Commissioners and Judge have received emails regarding Interplastics Corporation. They are in the process in trying to establish a meeting date to bring all of the involved parties together to have a conversation about best practices. There is a public hearing for the citizens in Covington and Ft. Wright that will be scheduled soon, as it is time for them to renew their air quality permit.

Mr. Hensley then stated that they have been able to do their in person meetings and trainings. They hosted an exercise for the Fire Chiefs to stay in compliance, and then hosted the Kentucky Emergency Response meeting with members from all across the state. They were very impressed with our facility. They also had a training course taught by Mayor Hatter, who is a local cyber security expert that taught safeguards associated with computers. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> there will be two opportunities for some EOC training. This will be internally for our staff.

Mr. Hensley then stated that the COVID statewide positivity rate is 1.9%, and we are traveling in a great direction. If anyone has an opportunity to get a booster, he recommends that they take advantage of that.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he wanted to bring to everyone's attention the acknowledgement that Mr. Hensley received from the State as a Highway Hero for his work during the Brent Spence project when there was a fire. Steve was there during the whole event helping, and this is a well-deserved honor.

### Emergency Communications

Ashley Hawks thanked the Fiscal Court for their ongoing support and acknowledgement of their profession. They are very fortunate to have that kind of support, as there are a lot of people around the United States that don't get that type of recognition. She would like to bring awareness to the profession. Currently, public safety tele communicators are classified by the Bureau of Labor as clerical staff and administrative support people. Reclassification has been brought up in legislation at the State and National level over the last several years, and it has been shot down. So, she would like to bring awareness to the opportunities that it would bring to the profession moving forward should this ever happen at a State and Federal level. It would increase their requirements in the state for training opportunities. Currently, tele communicators are only required to have eight hours of in service a year. When you look at other first responders, their requirements are much greater. Additionally, there are no programs in place to do any sort of research on the mental health effects on this profession.

Ms. Hawks then spoke about her Employee of the Month, Donna Richter. She is the most senior dispatcher, and is nearing on thirty years in public safety tele communications. On March 10<sup>th</sup> Donna took a call for a child that had just been birthed moments before and was reportedly not **breathing. The father was rushing to the hospital with mom and baby in the back. Donna helped** the driver remain calm while trying to walk him through clearing the baby's airways of mucus. By the time the driver made it to the hospital, the baby was breathing normally. After a quick break, Donna came back and commented on how despite the fact a life had been lost earlier in the day, a new life was just brought into the world and it balanced out the day. The positive outlook was exactly the reminder the shift needed that day. Please join me in thanking Donna for her awesome job that day and congratulating her on her Employee of the Month!!

Commissioner Draud asked how many hours would be adequate for training.

Ms. Hawks answered that at least 40 hours are needed.

Commissioner Draud stated that it might be difficult in rural areas of the state, as our delegation is probably not aware of the issue.

Ms. Hawks stated that they are very lucky to have this Fiscal Court that pays attention and cares about the employees.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Ms. Hawks for bringing up the topic, and for acknowledging the team. He wanted to make sure we don't miss an opportunity.

### **Treasury**

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

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud stated that he continues to be amazed by the leadership in the Kenton County Team. The department heads do a wonderful job. The Judge and Joe Shriver deserve a lot of credit for the leadership as well. They make the Commissioner's job a lot easier.

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report

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

Judge Knochelmann stated that he would like to bring awareness to the challenges with hiring. We are doing well with retention though. The burden gets greater on the team when shorthanded. Kenton County is a great place to work.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that he would like to thank the entire Northern Kentucky Caucus and Senator McDaniel for all of the efforts they have made. In addition, Sal Santoro, who is a Boone County representative works hard for the whole Northern Kentucky area. Kim Banta, Kim Moser, Adam Koenig and Damon Thayer have been such a great help for the County.

Commissioner Draud stated that he believes that this has been the best legislative session for Northern Kentucky that he has seen. He mentioned Sal Santoro, and appreciates how he works for all of Northern Kentucky. The road funds that he acquired will work for all of Northern Kentucky.

Judge Knochelmann then stated the Fire Chief's Facility Agreement was finalized. The City of Covington supported it along with the Fire Chiefs. Those funds have been transferred, and they will decide where they will go for future training. Also, there has been a lot of discussion about the driver's license office in Northern Kentucky, and they are going to be coming back to our building. We are finalizing a lease for them to use the space that the Circuit Clerk had been

using. There will now be an office here in Covington, instead of everyone having to go to Boone County.

### **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 12, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk