

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**Kenton Chambers**  
**1840 Simon Kenton Way**  
**Covington**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**April 13, 2021**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the April 13, 2021, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Joe Nienaber 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 March 23, 2021.**

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

**Citizens Address**

No citizens sent any questions to the Fiscal Court.

**General Business**

**A. Discussion regarding the Erlanger COVID Business Relief Effort.**

Emi Randall stated that she will be discussing the Erlanger COVID Business Relief Program, and will be requesting that the Fiscal Court participate in the program. The ask is for the Fiscal Court to provide funds to the eight businesses that qualified for the program. The amount is approximately \$30,000-\$50,000.

Ms. Randall explained that the criteria is based on the following: All businesses must have been in operation prior to Jan 1, 2020, have a valid City of Erlanger Occupational License and a physical location within Erlanger, be in good standing with the City of Erlanger, be a Business that is open and operational at the time of disbursement of any potential Business Relief Program funds, have a minimum of 3 (full-time equivalent) employees, have had more than \$100,000 but less than \$7.5 million in total gross receipts (Including all locations of the parent

company) for fiscal year 2019(Tax documents must be submitted), have experienced a loss in gross receipts for fiscal year 2020 (over fiscal year 2019) of 15% or greater, any PPP loans and EIDL must be included in the fiscal year 2020 gross receipts and provide a narrative of how their business has been impacted by COVID-19, and how these funds will help your business.

Ms. Randall then explained that the following types of businesses are ineligible: Home based businesses, hedge fund/private equity, insurance companies, real estate investment companies, gambling/gaming/lotto businesses, commodities/rare coins/pawn businesses, check cashing businesses, banks/lending institutions, multi-level marketing, religious groups/charities, independent contractors, nonprofits and businesses which have filed for bankruptcy or sought bankruptcy protection within the last 10 years.

Ms. Randall then stated that the City of Erlanger will disburse funds to all qualifying applicants within the applicant pool based on funds available, beginning with Tier 1 funds. Subsequent tier funds may be distributed if funds are available. Disbursements may be issued at a pro-rated scale based on the amount of funds available and the amount of funds requested by the applicant pool. Applicants may request funds for all tiers for which they are qualified.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a very thoughtful project, and they did a great job on it. Covington is the only other city that has come to the County with a program. The stipulation is that the City has to manage the program, and have some skin in the game. He recommends that the Court support this program.

Commissioner Draud asked if Erlanger and Covington are the only cities that are asking for this?

Judge Knochelmann answered that they all have had the opportunity to put something together.

Commissioner Sewell asked if this program is eligible to use COVID funds like Covington?

Judge Knochelmann answered that the bucket it would be used out of is remaining COVID dollars.

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

**B. Present a proclamation declaring the week of April 11-April 17, 2021, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Kenton County.**

Judge Knochelmann presented Ashley Hawks with the Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Kenton County.

Ashley Hawks thanked the Fiscal Court for their support, and thanked all the telecommunicators for all of their hard work.

**C. Present a proclamation declaring the week of April 11-April 17, 2021, as Animal Control Appreciation Week.**

Judge Knochelmann presented Beckey Reiter with the Proclamation for Animal Control Appreciation Week in Kenton County.

Beckey Reiter thanked the Animal Control Team and the Fiscal Court. The Animal Control Officers see a lot of tough calls, and they are truly appreciated.

**D. Request approval of an agreement in lieu of taxes for the property located at 303 Court St., Covington, KY.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is another big project for the County. This is the final step for the Fiscal Court, other than the closing on the sale of the property. Everyone has seen the document, and the City of Covington has approved their support financial. This is out of history for us as a Fiscal Court, as we are putting forth 100% of the property taxes back to the development. We have also agreed to support them with parking in our garage as well. This will bring over 110 residential units to the old 303 Court St. building, and revitalize that part of Covington.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0, with Commissioner Nienaber present not voting.

**E. Request approval of the Property Sale and Development Agreement for 303 Court St., Covington, KY.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this agreement is just updated with new timelines and dates.

Judge Knochelmann thanked the Neyer and Turner teams for their care and concern for what is going on in Kenton County.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0, with Commissioner Nienaber present not voting.

**F. Request approval of the Kenton County Community Room Pay App #04.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this payment has been reviewed, and all expenditures are appropriate. There are still a few items that need to be completed.

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

**G. Request approval of the Turner Construction Pay App #34.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that there are 2 final vendors to pay, but they are leaving the contract open, because they are monitoring some issues.

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

**H. Request approval of the selection of Cincinnati Bell as the preferred vendor for broadband and internet expansion in Kenton County, and allow the Judge/Executive to negotiate a contract for expansion and services.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that we have been working on this for a long time. It was just announced publicly that Boone County is in a formal agreement with Cincinnati Bell. Cincinnati Bell put a great proposal together, and this gives them the ability to put together a contract to bring before the Fiscal Court.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that back in September, 2020, the three counties tried to go after some CARES money for this. They were told at that time, that the State would not view the proposal very favorably. It was then that Kenton County decided to pause the participation in the RFQ process, because we were uncertain of the funding mechanism. Boone County continued, and they did a review of the four proposals. They interviewed and selected Cincinnati

Bell, and opened negotiations with Cincinnati Bell. Since the announcement of the last round of stimulus money, which expressly stated that broadband could be expanded, we reengaged the process. It was a benefit to see what Boone County was able to do. We may have some differences from Boone County though.

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

**I. Claims List dated April 9, 2021.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Resolutions**

**A. Resolution No. 21-01G**

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

Treasurer Roy Cox explained that these budget adjustments are for the following; \$17,000 for the Parks Department for health insurance, \$290,000 for the parking lot at the Independence Courthouse, \$33,000 for Solid Waste collection, \$20,000 to cover unexpected vehicle repair costs, \$2,685 to cover the cost of five mounts for mobile radios for police vehicles and \$45,000 for legal fees for Dispatch.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we would not have been able to do some of the things to the Independence Courthouse if it weren't for COVID funds.

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

**B. Resolution No. 21-07**

**A Resolution of the Kenton County Fiscal Court adopting and approving the execution of a Rural Secondary Program Agreement between the Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, and accepting all roads and streets referred to therein as being a part of the County Road System.**

Rick Buster stated that this is reimbursement for the resurfacing program for Kenton Station and Grassy Creek.

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

**C. Resolution No. 21-08**

**A Resolution of the County of Kenton, Kentucky authorizing the Kenton County Attorney to pursue the collection of certain code enforcement liens filed by the Kenton County Joint Code Enforcement Board against certain pieces of real property located in Unincorporated Kenton County upon the expiration of any Executive Orders limiting enforcement thereof.**

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that these liens are mostly in the Latonia Lakes area. This Resolution allows us to move forward on these.

Commissioner Draud asked if this covers the property he has been talking about?

County Administrator Joe Shriver answered that it does not, as they paid their taxes, but they are still working on that issue.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he 100% supports these liens, as he drove through the area recently, and it is a shame that there are these houses that are bringing down the neighborhood that so many worked so hard to fix up.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she agrees, and knows that the people of Latonia Lakes are concerned about these properties.

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

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 21-46**  
Request approval of an ownership and maintenance agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for multiple Traffic Control Devices.
- B. Exhibit No. 21-47**  
Request approval to surplus an office chair for the Kenton County Sheriff's Office.
- C. Exhibit No. 21-48**  
Request approval to ratify the application Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Local Records grant for archiving files for the Kenton County Police Department.
- D. Exhibit No. 21-49**  
Request approval to ratify the Consent and Release and purchase of a permanent easement for the storm water improvement project on Maher Road.
- E. Exhibit No. 21-50**  
Request approval to apply for the Fiscal Year 2021 Port Security Grant for the Kenton County Police Department to be used for 37 ballistic vests and 37 water safety vests.
- F. Exhibit No. 21-51**  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- G. Exhibit No. 21-52**  
Request approval to accept the quote from SECO Electric Company Inc. to replace and install a new UPS Machine for the Kenton County Justice Center.
- H. Exhibit No. 21-53**  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Waste Management Department.
- I. Exhibit No. 21-54**  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Public Works Department.

- J. Exhibit No. 21-55  
Request approval to surplus miscellaneous shelving and a Millermatic 200 Mig Welder for the Kenton County Fleet Department.**
- K. Exhibit No. 21-56  
Request approval to award the HVAC Rooftop Units bid to Independence Mechanical LLC., for Kenton County Animal Services.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

### **Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 21-30  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Bennett Nelson as a Seasonal Trustee for the Parks and Recreation Department.**

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

- B. Executive Order 21-31  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of George Kreuzjans as a Part-Time Dispatcher I, G5-I for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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

- C. Executive Order 21-32  
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court amending the starting pay for Parks and Recreation Seasonal Employees.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that these wages have been adjusted to help get some applicants for the jobs.

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

### **Administrative Reporting**

#### **Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey thanked the Fiscal Court for approving her new employee Michelle Foster at the last Fiscal Court meeting. One of her first big projects is to do a recap and inventory of all the conference rooms at this facility. This will make sure that everything is up to date and working properly. Also, the updated policies and procedures document was finally updated. A lot was included about keeping the network and physical sight secure. They also included ways to protect personal information.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they enlisted the services of Seven Hills Development to help with improvements to the COLA system. It has been a very productive relationship. There is an hour and a half meeting with them every two weeks, where they update everything. Since we did sign a monthly contract with them that guarantees them a certain number of hours so they actually

assigned two people to the project which gives us some back up. This doesn't prevent us from hiring a different developer in the future, but we didn't want to slow down on the work we wanted to get done.

Ms. Ramsey then stated that they have the Kronos update for timecards in the works. Also, there was a pretty big project last week where they set up server redundancy for Dispatch. This means that if there was a hardware failure at Dispatch or a fire, we can immediately switch over the EOC here in Covington. This was a big investment that the Fiscal Court made, but it is a pretty big step in terms of disaster recovery.

Lastly, Ms. Ramsey stated that in early March, Microsoft announced that all organizations that had an on premises exchange server were impacted by vulnerability in their software. That means that 40,000 U.S. organizations alone were impacted by this weakness. They followed all the guidance from Microsoft, and did all the patches, updates and mitigation. The services of a third party were contracted to review our network to insure that we did everything we can to protect ourselves from any attacks related to the software in the future. As of now, she has not received the results back yet from that security vendor. When she contacted our insurance company to make them aware that these steps were being taken, they were very happy with everything we have done so far.

### **Animal Services**

Becky Reiter stated that they are starting their busy season, and are getting more calls for service. They have had 1,300 calls this year for Animal Control Officers, and 300 of those were in the last few weeks. They take care of a lot of different species, such as rabbit, skunks and raccoons, along with dogs and cats. They also assist other departments in the County as well, for example the Police and Dispatch or Family Services.

### **Public Works**

Rick Buster stated that for the last couple of weeks, they have been working on Maher Rd. Over 400 ft. of 36" pipe in less than two weeks. This has been a large project. It is improving all of the drainage along the road and in the slopes for everyone that travels down that corridor. They have the Spring Clean-up coming up on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. On Friday from 8:00-6:00 it will be at Piner Elementary and at Public Works. On Saturday it will only be from 8:00-2:00 at Piner Elementary, and 8:00 - 6:00 at Public Works. Also, GovDeals has been a huge success lately, especially with all of the stuff from the Golf Course. He had just over 40 items that brought in over \$41,000. Lastly, he requested to reutilize the funds in the current budget that are dedicated for slide repair on Highwater Rd., and have them moved over for an active slide that is on Steepcreek.

### **External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that the legislative session ended. This one was a pretty crazy session, as they basically had a budget session wedged into half the time of the short session. The net results were good for Northern Kentucky and Kenton County. Senator McDaniel is out of town right now, or he would likely be here to give his update. One example of good legislative leadership makes is the ability the Senator McDaniel had to restore funding the for the Medical Examiner's Office in Northern Kentucky. This had closed down in 2018, and required families to deal with over a 100 mile transportation issue. Re-opening the Medical Examiner's office will help serve over 500 people a year in the region.

Mr. Stanton then stated that there was strong leadership on the House side. Kenton County is very fortunate to have the delegation that we send down there. He thinks that they get stronger session by session. Also, the Licking River Regional Project technical survey work started. The proposals are due back for the first part of the marketing piece back on Thursday. There will be a

second piece of the appropriations budget, but we are in really good shape on that and will work closely with Julie Kirkpatrick from MeetNKY on the remainder on the development of that.

Lastly, Mr. Stanton stated that there has been a temporary suspension on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, but Moderna and Pfizer vaccinations continue so we want to continue to encourage everybody to get their vaccines.

Commissioner Draud stated that Sal Santoro had the courage to introduce the gas tax, although lack of vision by several State Senators from Northern Kentucky made the tax fail. Anybody that is very observant knows that we don't have enough money for our roads, and the gasoline tax has not been raised for a long period of time. His proposal was still going to be four cents below Ohio.

### **Treasury**

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

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud asked if there are any guidelines on the new COVID relief money?

Judge Knochelmann stated that there aren't any guidelines at the moment.

Commissioner Draud stated that he believes that the Fiscal Court should appoint a committee to decide how the money will be spent.

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell stated that she would like to echo Commissioner Nienaber's sentiments about Ralph Drees and Lou Hartfiel. Her prayers are with the family.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber stated that Lou Hartfiel, the Mayor of Crescent Springs passed away this weekend. He was a great public servant, and his dedication to his city and the many parks that he lead the charge on have been a wonderful addition to the city.

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

Judge Knochelmann spoke about Ralph Drees, and shared some stories on his giving nature, and his wonderful ability to save money for the County as the Judge/Executive.

### **Executive Session**

A. Pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (C) proposed or pending litigation regarding the opioid litigation case.

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

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval to return from the Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Draud. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a voice vote. 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 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 April 13, 2021.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk