

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

Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the May 9, 2023, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Nienaber led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann
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
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk
Roy Cox, Treasurer

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of April 25, 2023.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Draud. Judge 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 May 14-May 20, 2023, as Police Week.

Judge Knochelmann presented the Proclamation to Chief Jones and the Police Department. He stated that we celebrate the daily work of all of law enforcement, and appreciate their service. Although the data is a bit somber, we want to celebrate the daily work of Kenton County's team and all officers in the community. He thanked the officers for all of their service.

Commissioner Draud stated that he appreciates their service.

B. Request approval to expend ARPA Funds for the BIA/LLC Kenton County Workforce Skills Initiative.

External Affairs Director John Stanton stated that this has been discussed at prior meetings, and there has been some interest in investing a significant amount of ARPA funds in order to remediate some of the impacts of COVID. They have been in discussions with BIA on how to do that. They are very close to having a comprehensive program put together that would engage work skills and life skills training for 240 high school students and 400 adults in Kenton County. They think the final package will be ready by the May 23rd Fiscal Court meeting. This item today has two prerequisite components to it, which include \$150,000 infrastructure investment at the BIA facility in Latonia and \$256,000 for staffing. Vicki Berling of the BIA has been a great partner to work with, and has helped to keep refining this program. He thanked Kurt Greivenkamp for all of his help on this project.

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

C. Request approval of the ARPA Social Services Funding.

External Affairs Director John Stanton stated that they discussed setting aside \$2 million in order to meet some of the impacts of COVID in the community for social services. They put out an RFP, and received 42 proposals requesting over \$12 million. In order to work through that, Judge Knochelmann and Administrator Shriver tasked four of them to review those proposals. Kurt Greivenkamp was critical at reviewing each proposal for regulatory compliance. They also involved Adam Howard and Bryan Norton from the Treasury office. It was a difficult process, as there were a lot of good applications. They were able to narrow it down to just short of \$2 million. They also left open an option that if the county were to elect to invest additional monies in remediation some of the impacts, there are other projects that are worth discussing.

Judge Knochelmann stated that with the ARPA money that has come in there had to be a goal set. The organizations are BeConcerned, Children's Home of NKY, Family Nurturing Center, Go Pantry, Master Provisions, New Perceptions, NKY Children's Law Center, Notre Dame Urban Education Center and Transitions. He did ask the staff to make recommendations on impactful projects that were lasting, and just not staffing.

Mr. Stanton stated that he believes there were some consistent themes. There were capital investments, food security and dealing with family impacts.

Commissioner Draud asked if the Children's Home was one of the groups that got funded?

Mr. Stanton answered that they were. The recommendations was \$242,500 to help with facility renovations, as well as telehealth technology. Their original request was for \$500,000, but there was a staffing element of it and a marketing element.

Commissioner Draud commended them on not getting hung up on the staffing element. Staffing is not going to make that much of an impact, whereas program is going to make an impact.

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

D. Request approval of the purchase agreement between the City of Independence and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for the Pelly Rd. property.

Assistant County Administrator Scott Gunning stated that they have in front of them the sales agreement for the Pelly Rd. property. This property was purchased back in 2006 by a prior Fiscal Court. This is a sales contract with the City of Independence.

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

E. Claims List - Dated May 5, 2023

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 23-011

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: \$72,000 for printers for the elections, \$4,500 for veterinary services, \$22,800 for the housing study and the appraisal of 727 Madison Ave. and \$20,000 for cold patch for county roads.

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

B. Resolution No. 23-15

A Resolution adopting and approving the execution of a County Road Aid Coop Program Contract between the Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, as provided in the Kentucky Revised Statutes and accepting all roads and streets referred to therein as being a part of the County Road System.

No questions or comments.

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

C. Resolution No. 23-16

A Resolution of the Fiscal Court of the County of Kenton, Kentucky, acknowledging and approving the request of County Judge Executive Kris Knochelmann that he be and is hereby directed to proceed in the payment of payroll, insurances, utility bills, poll workers, postage, bond payments, CDBG grant payments, sales tax and refund payments as a standing order for FY 2023-2024.

No questions or comments.

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

D. Resolution No. 23-17

A Resolution of the County of Kenton, Kentucky authorizing the Judge/Executive to make application for and, upon approval, to enter into an agreement with the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (KOHS) to execute any documents which are deemed necessary by KOHS to facilitate and administer the project and to act as the authorized correspondent for this project. This Resolution also establishes procurement policy for any KOHS approved project for the FY-2023 application cycle.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a grant for the Sheriff's Office. This is not expending money.

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

**E. Resolution No. 23-18
A Resolution of the County of Kenton, Kentucky adopting the County Road Maintenance list as identified in Exhibit A effective May 9, 2023.**

No questions or comments.

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

**F. Resolution No. 23-19
A Resolution supporting the use of site development funds by the Northern Kentucky Port Authority to fund the Sims Building Project at 727 Madison Ave., Covington, KY.**

Judge Knochelmann acknowledged the Port Board Chair, Roger Peterman and Christine Russell who is running the Port day to day. Also, the project supporter and seller Tony Milburn here as well.

Commissioner Nienaber asked that the Resolution have a fixed dollar amount to say not to exceed three million dollars.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Draud. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a roll call vote with the results being Commissioner Draud, yes, Commissioner Nienaber, yes, and Judge Knochelmann, yes. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

Ordinance

**A. Ordinance 226.12 - First Reading
An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court relating to the approval and adoption of the Kenton County Fiscal Court budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.**

Judge Knochelmann gave kudos to Roy Cox, Kurt Greivenkamp and all of the department heads.

Commissioner Draud asked what Mr. Cox projects for the surplus in the General Fund.

Mr. Cox answered that he doesn't have that exact number yet, but he will get that number to him.

**B. Ordinance 226.13 - First Reading
An Ordinance approving a sublease between the Northern Kentucky Port Authority, as sublessor, and the County of Kenton, Kentucky, as sublessee; creating a sinking fund; and authorizing the execution of various documents related to such sublease.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the first reading for the upcoming OneNKY project. This permits us to get the filing done and get started.

Consent Agenda

- A. **Exhibit No. 23-65**
Request approval to ratify the appraisal contract between ORR Appraisal, LTD and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for the Sims Building.
- B. **Exhibit No. 23-66**
Request approval to apply for the Waste Tire Grant for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- C. **Exhibit No. 23-67**
Request approval to surplus a 12-16.5 Bobcat Tire and a John Deere 6330 Glass for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- D. **Exhibit No. 23-68**
Request approval of the JAG Grant application for the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if item 23-65 is just allowing for the expenditure for the appraisal on the Sims Building?

Judge Knochelmann answered that is correct.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 23-54**
An Executive Order approving the reorganization of the Kenton County Treasury Department.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that this was budgeted last year, and is for the Occupational License group. The activity has increased over the last five to ten years. They have increased by 33% in collections, and 37% in the number of returns that have been processed. So, this is to take a part-time clerk to move to full-time. Then a part-time auditor will be brought in.

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

- B. **Executive Order 23-55**
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Madison Beichler as a Dispatcher I, G5-1 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 3-0.

- C. **Executive Order 23-56**
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Jamie Whitehead as a Dispatcher

I, G5-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

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

D. Executive Order 23-57

An Executive Order approving the resignation of Sara Sgantas as the Communications Manager for the Kenton County Administration Department.

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

E. Executive Order 23-58

An Executive Order approving the resignation of Chyenne Hert as a Vet Technician for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.

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

F. Executive Order 23-59

An Executive Order approving that Michelle Foster return to her position as Software Administrator from Interim Director for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.

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

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud stated that he noticed in the paper that Boone County Board of Education brought a lawsuit against Tik Tok. He would like for the county to do that, and he would like Stacy Tapke to prepare something for us. It will make him feel a lot better, as he feels it is corrupting American youth. Also, he would like to see the article that they talked about come out.

Judge Knochemann stated that he will make sure he gets the article taken care of soon.

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that she is not familiar with the Tik Tok litigation, but she will do some research.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber said goodbye to Sara Sgantas, and she will be missed. Also, he wanted to recognize the Police Department. It is pretty somber numbers that come out. He thanked them for their service. He then stated that Vicki Berling is the single reason that he has his college degree. She is magnificent at what she does. He has all the confidence in the world that all the money that is being invested into the Enzweiler Institute under her supervision will be well spent, and there will be a tremendous amount of benefit.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann thanked Sara Sgantas for all that she has done for the county.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge 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 May 9, 2023.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk