

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 11, 2021**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the May 11, 2021, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Beth Sewell 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 April 27, 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. Presentation of the 2020 Pioneer Award to Garren Colvin.**

Judge Knochelmann read the Proclamation for Garren Colvin.

Bob Hoffer, who nominated Garren Colvin for the award, stated that he is representing the community in recognizing Mr. Colvin for what he has done for each of us and our families. For him, the true definition of a leader is someone who sees a problem, and despite all the criticism goes on to fight that problem to make it better for everyone. Mr. Colvin epitomizes that, from the time he took over as CEO, his motto has been that we are going to make this a better community to live in. He attacked the opioid crisis, which was not popular. He attacked smoking and vaping as well, and received criticism for that as well. He then attacked the whole cancer crisis in our community, and going out on a limb to build a phenomenal cancer center so that all of us and our families don't have to go to other states to be treated. He has truly been a leader that has

improved the quality of life for so many families. He felt that Mr. Colvin was a perfect candidate for this award.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Garren Colvin has lead everyone through this pandemic, and was such a great help to Dr. Saddler and the Health Department. The passion he has to acknowledge the work of his team is wonderful. Also, whenever the region asks for help from his team, he has never seen him say no. His help getting a location for the Emergency Shelter was tremendous.

Garren Colvin thanked the Fiscal Court for the award. What people don't know is how much Judge Knochelmann and the Commissioners protected this County this past year. He has met with Judge Knochelmann three days a week for most of the last 13-14 months. Every day, he had the constituents of Kenton County at the forefront. It is great to partner with people who have the community in mind when making decisions.

Commissioner Draud stated that with all the accolades that Mr. Colvin has received, he thinks the most important point is that he never forgot his roots. He is a very down to earth person, and cares about people.

### **B. Presentation by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the Rural Secondary program.**

Andy Yeager from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet stated that Kenton County was allotted just under \$750,000, and of that \$242,000 is set aside for routine maintenance and traffic. Since we have an agreement with the County, \$180,000 of that will be allotted for the agreement this year. This is an increase of 50%. He knows we have gotten hit harder with snow and ice this year, so it is nice that this was able to be increased. Flex Funds have \$150,000, and he spoke with Nick and they agreed that the number one project on the list is very expensive. So, the County will not be utilizing the Flex Funds so that the project can be completed. That leaves \$500,000, plus a free balance of a little over \$120,000 from last year. So, there is \$625,000 left for projects. The main project will be to dramatically upsize the culvert on Green Rd. Currently, there is about a 72", 140' long culvert. It needs to be larger, and will be almost triple the size. They need to do a design on that. He estimates the cost at \$500,000 based on previous construction projects. That leaves \$125,000, and they propose to replace the double barrel culvert on Paxton Rd. with an aluminum box structure. Nick Hendrix has agreed to do the work with the County forces. That takes up the allotment for this year. If bids come in lower, and there is money left, they can look at doing some paving on Moffitt Rd.

Commissioner Draud asked how much they have allocated for potholes?

Mr. Yeager stated that this comes out of their routine maintenance. There is \$180,000 for next year for potholes.

Commissioner Draud asked if they have someone specifically assigned to that project?

Mr. Yeager answered that the County is performing the maintenance on rural secondary roads, and the Transportation Cabinet still maintains the State secondary and interstates.

Commissioner Draud stated that he is talking about Dixie Highway specifically.

Mr. Yeager stated that is a different pot of money. He believes they are going to patch a few different roads this week, and he thinks Dixie Highway is one of them.

### **C. Presentation of a Proclamation, declaring the week of May 16-May 22, 2021, as Public Works Week.**

Judge Knochelmann read the Proclamation for Public Works Week.

The Public Works crew introduced themselves, and Judge Knochelmann thanked all of them for all of their hard work.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he started his career out in the Public Works field, and he does know that it is a difficult job. He admires all of them for their hard work.

Commissioner Draud stated that their work is very important, and is much appreciated.

**D. Claims List dated May 7, 2021.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Resolutions**

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

**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: \$42,000 for the parking garage to put in new digital cameras, \$25,000 for Police overtime, \$6,500 for vehicle repairs, \$70,700 for Parks Master Plan at the Golf Course, \$4,000 for utilities in Parks, \$17,000 for overtime at the Road Department and \$5,000 for Pauper burials.

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. Resolution No. 21-09**

**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 2021-2022.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is something that we do every year.

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

**C. Resolution 21-10**

**A Resolution of the Kenton County Fiscal Court making certain findings relating to the sale of 303 Court Street, Covington, Kentucky.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is acknowledging the incentive for the State. It looks like the timing with the City and State that we should be able to close on this by the end of June.

Richard Spoor stated that this closes the loop on a particular finding with respect to the original agreement. It specifically is finding that the original agreement is in furtherance of economic development purposes.

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, Judge Knochelmann, yes, and Commissioner Nienaber, present not voting. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

**D. Resolution 21-11**

**A Resolution for the Judge/Executive to enter into an agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the Maintenance of Rural Secondary and related roadways in Kenton County for the 2022 Fiscal Year.**

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

**E. Resolution 21-12**

**A Resolution authorizing an Application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for matching Federal RAISE Grant Funds for the widening and realignment of KY 536 from KY 1303 to Calvary Drive.**

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.

**Ordinances**

**A. Ordinance 225.95 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, providing for a credit of its Occupational License Fee for new employees as part of an economic development project by Atlas Air, Inc. under the Kentucky Business Investment Program (KRS 154.32-010 - KRS 154.32-100).**

Judge Knochelmann stated that Atlas Air is coming to Erlanger, and this is a great project for Kenton County and Erlanger.

**B. Ordinance No. 225.96 - 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 2021-2022.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is just the first reading of the budget, and no action is needed.

**Consent Agenda**

**A. Exhibit No. 21-58**

**Request approval of a parking agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Dressman, Benzinger, LaVelle PSC (DBL) for spaces at the Kenton County Garage.**

**B. Exhibit No. 21-59**

**Request approval to reject the JPC Pavement Repair bid for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

**C. Exhibit No. 21-60**

**Request approval of the Court Facilities Local Government Reimbursement Form for the Kenton County Justice Center for the Fiscal Year 2022.**

- D. **Exhibit No. 21-61**  
Request ratification of the annual Service Level Agreements for Kenton County Technology Services provided to the following agencies: Kenton County Clerk, Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force, Kenton County Detention Center, Kenton County Sheriff 's Office, Kenton County Dispatch, Kenton County PVA and Kenton County Attorney.
- E. **Exhibit No. 21-62**  
Request approval of the Kenton County Treasurer 's Bond.
- F. **Exhibit No. 21-63**  
Request approval to surplus an Auto-Sham Oven for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- G. **Exhibit No. 21-64**  
Request approval to extend the contract for concrete with Ernst Concrete for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- H. **Exhibit No. 21-65**  
Request approval for the Judge/Executive to enter into an agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for the repair of KY 1930 - Locust Pike from MP 1.42 - 1.70.
- I. **Exhibit No. 21-66**  
Request approval to award the Security Cameras bid to Nor-Com, Inc., for the Kenton County Parking Garage.
- J. **Exhibit No. 21-67**  
Request approval to surplus various exercise equipment, two desk chairs and other miscellaneous items for the Kenton County Police Department.
- K. **Exhibit No. 21-68**  
Request approval to cancel the contract with First Green services effective June 3, 2021, and re-bid for the Independence Courthouse Cleaning Services.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

#### **Executive Orders**

- A. **Executive Order 21-35**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the 2021 Burn Ban.**

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. **Executive Order 21-36**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of JoAnne Rigney as a Part-Time Dispatcher II, G7-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications 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.

- C. Executive Order 21-37**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Chris Conners as the Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force.**

Judge Knochelmann thanked Chris Conners for all of his work.

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.

- D. Executive Order 21-38**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Thomas Crabtree as a Seasonal Parks Trustee for the Kenton County Parks Department.**

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

- E. Executive Order 21-39**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Bridgette Clary as a Tax Compliance Officer for the Kenton County Business Services Department.**

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.

- F. Executive Order 21-40 (Action Requested)**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Jeffrey Hunter as a Seasonal Parks Laborer for the Kenton County Parks Department.**

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

- G. Executive Order 21-41 (Action Requested)**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Anderson Ealy as a Seasonal Parks Laborer for the Kenton County Parks 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.

## **Administrative Reporting**

### **Animal Services**

Becky Reiter stated that she has nothing new to report. They are concentrating on their increased summer business. The HVAC system for the adoption center is coming along. All of the equipment has been ordered, and as soon as that has been received they will schedule an appointment to get it installed. Also, the Animal Shelter has resumed applications for new volunteers. She commended Samantha, who is the Volunteer Coordinator. She has maneuvered a lot of challenges over the last year. So far this year, the volunteers have put in 2,100 hours. She has done a fabulous jobs.

### **Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that they made a number of improvements to the most used conference rooms at 1840 Simon Kenton Way. They added the ability for people to connect to the displays without using a 10 foot cord. They also worked on the set up for the Community Room, and wrote in depth instructions for using the technology. Also, they met with the auditor for Dispatch last week. We got glowing reviews on our IT security, and our procedural security for our Dispatch Center.

Judge Knochelmann asked if that evaluation has been done before.

Ms. Ramsey stated that it is mandated for every three years. This year, they beefed up the IT piece of it.

### **Public Works**

Nick Hendrix stated that in recognition of National Public Works Week next week, they are hosting Fill a Public Works Truck Week event on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a Public Works truck at the Kroger in Independence and in Crescent Springs at Remkes. It is an event to increase awareness of what Public Works does across the nation. The proceeds will benefit the Women's Crisis Center and the Barracks Project. Also, he wanted to express his appreciation to the Fiscal Court for their proclamation tonight, but what means more to them is the support every year during budget time. It means a lot to the entire staff. He is thankful to have his staff.

Commissioner Nienaber asked if there were any specific items that they are wanting for the Fill a Truck event?

Mr. Hendrix answered that the flyer on the website will give that information, but specifically for the Barracks project, they are asking for paper products.

### **External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that we have been the beneficiaries of three visits in the last two weeks by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Ryan Quarles. He has been investigating everything from rural health care to broadband access. Much appreciation to Paul Weckman, who hosted him for a round table at the Main Strausse restaurant group at The Standard. Also, the Licking River Project continues, with the desktop review almost completed. By the time he reports next, the field work should be completed. They did have a drowning of a kayaker on Elkhorn Creek in the Frankfort area near a low head dam. Low head dams are the primary barrier to making good use of these streams. We have six of them in the Licking River Corridor from Paris to Ohio. That will probably be the primary obstacle that we work through as we attempt to make this a more active recreation corridor. They are interviewing two firms for the market research project, so he should have a recommendation by the next meeting. Lastly, we are all evaluating how things are working out in the vaccine world, and for about the last fourteen months every week they have been pushing out to about 3,500 emails with updates. One thing that he could always count on was that there would be responses from people who needed help. Last week for the first time he had no one respond to those emails seeking assistance on where to find vaccines. He feels that we have turned a corner.

### **Treasury**

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

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that there has been a change to the Open Records requests. There is now a five day time that one has to get the request completed. The Attorney General will also have a form that will help individuals complete their requests.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud asked that the Judge and his team come up with a ranking systems for the money that will be given in the COVID relief. He then would like for the Judge to bring it before the Fiscal Court, so that they can approve what is a priority.

Judge Knochelmann said he thinks this could be a good idea.

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell thanked Roy Cox for making the budget process so seamless and easy. She also likes Commissioner Draud's ideas about the ranking for Federal money, and would like to see a long term plan.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber asked everyone to keep his nephew that is in Marine boot camp in their prayers.

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

Judge Knochelmann had nothing to report.

#### **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 May 11, 2021.



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Sue J. Kaiser  
Fiscal Court Clerk