

**KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**Historic Kenton County Courthouse**  
**5272 Madison Pike**  
**Independence, KY 41051**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**July 14, 2022**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the July 14, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge Knochelmann 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  
Roy Cox, County Treasurer  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of June 14, 2022.**

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.

**General Business**

**A. Presentation of the 2022 Pioneer Award to Larry Maxey.**

Judge Knochelmann presented Larry Maxey with the Proclamation for the 2022 Pioneer Award.

Mr. Maxey stated that this award was a complete surprise, and he is honored. He then spoke of a time capsule that he helped set up at the courthouse in Independence. He talked about a bond that was put into the capsule.

**B. Claims Lists dated June 24, 2022, and July 8, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims Lists.

**Resolutions**

**A. Resolution No. 22-19**

**A Resolution authorizing an application to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for**

**reimbursement of expenditures for the transportation of non-public school students.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that this is an annual contract with the State for the transportation, and we get reimbursed for the funds that we spend.

Commissioner Draud asked how many school districts are involved?

Mr. Cox answered that there are three different bus services. There is Covington, Kenton County and then DOC Safe Transportation for St. Agnes.

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.

**Ordinances**

- A. Ordinance 226.04 - Second Reading**  
**An Ordinance amending Kenton County Ordinance No. 226.02 relating to the collection of per diem charges and processing/booking fees for prisoners of the Kenton County Detention Center.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the second reading for this Ordinance, and it was explained at the last Fiscal Court meeting.

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.

- B. Ordinance 532.20 - First Reading**  
**An Ordinance amending Kenton County 's Code of Ordinances placing traffic control devices on streets located in Unincorporated Kenton County.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this for Alderbrook Dr. and Blue Ash Ln. No action is needed today.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 22-82**  
**Request approval to ratify the application for the FY2022 Port Security Grant for the Kenton County Police Department.**
- B. Exhibit No. 22-83**  
**Request approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Department of Corrections and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for program facilitator services.**
- C. Exhibit No. 22-84**  
**Request approval to authorize an agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazmat/WMD Unit to provide services related to hazardous materials containment and control.**
- D. Exhibit No. 22-85**  
**Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Police Department.**

- E. **Exhibit No. 22-86**  
Request approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Kenton County School District for four police officers to serve as School Resource Officers.
- F. **Exhibit No. 22-87**  
Request approval to purchase Right of Way (ROW) at 474 Independence Station Road, Independence KY for sidewalk connection to New County Park.
- G. **Exhibit No. 22-88**  
Request approval to surplus a John Deere 5400 Tractor for the Kenton County Parks Department.
- H. **Exhibit No. 22-89**  
Request approval of Change Order Number One for the Kenton County Police Storage Building.
- I. **Exhibit No. 22-90**  
Request approval of an RFP for **proposals from qualified consultants/firms to conduct an organizational employee compensation study, as well as a position/pay scale review and evaluation.**
- J. **Exhibit No 22-91**  
**Request approval of Change Order #001 for the Kenton County Police Storage Building.**

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

#### Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 22-82**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the Order of Affiliation for the Kenton County Government and the Kentucky Search Dog Association.**

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.

- B. **Executive Order 22-83**  
**An Executive Order rescinding the Declaration of Emergency regarding the COVID public emergency.**

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 22-84**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving an Order of Affiliation between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Northern Kentucky Technical Rescue Team.**

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 22-85**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Jude Hehman, Dave Jansing, Assistant Chief Nick Russell and Chief Chris Schutte to the Emergency Communications Board.**

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 22-86**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Adria Whitfill as a Shelter Technician for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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

- F. Executive Order 22-87**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment Whitney Quint as the Accounts Payable Clerk for the Kenton County Treasury 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.

- G. Executive Order 22-88**  
**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the contract renewal of Chad Irwin as a School Resource Officer for the Kenton County Schools.**

Commissioner Draud asked how that actually works? Do they have to request someone, and are we paying for it?

Judge Knochemann answered that we share the cost with the schools.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that originally we got a grant for this back in the day. Under that grant, we had to hold onto the positions for a while. Over the years, we have fluctuated with the numbers, but this court has had these positions. Initially, we started out just splitting the salary, and then morphed into splitting the loaded rate for the officers. This past year, through the negotiations with Chief Jones and Scott Gunning with the schools, the district is bearing a little more of the cost for the position. They are picking up more of the equipment, gasoline and such for the position. Then, we are splitting the loaded rate for the officer.

Commissioner Draud asked if there is an effort to try to require a School Resource Officer in all schools?

Mr. Shriver stated that they did pass that law, without specific funding for School Resource Officers. They require that each school district have an officer on each campus. Schools can apply for an exemption if it is too much of a hardship to provide an officer.

Judge Knochemann thanked the Kenton County Schools. They have been great to work with over the years.

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.

**H. Executive Order 22-89**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the contract renewal of Michael Thatcher as a School Resource Officer for the Kenton County Schools.**

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

**I. Executive Order 22-90**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the contract renewal of William Conrad as a School Resource Officer for the Kenton County Schools.**

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.

**J. Executive Order 22-91**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the contract renewal of Steve Benner as a School Resource Officer for the Kenton County Schools.**

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.

**Administrative Reporting**

**Animal Services**

Kelsey Maccombs stated that they have been working with the Human Society of the United States about providing a training in Kenton County for local law enforcement and animal control agencies. This will be a free training for this region. This will help with handling animals in the field. Also, she has been working a lot on data and dispatch has been a great resource for getting a lot of the data. She is hoping to dig down into the data for the next couple of meetings. From January to June of 2022, they responded to 2,032 animal control calls, they took in 1149 animals, 589 adoptions, 185 animals transferred to rescue and 179 returned to their owners. That is an area she hopes to improve by reuniting animals to their homes. The live outcome rate is 92%. Primarily what they are seeing as far as deaths in care is the fragile kittens during the season. Oftentimes, they come in too sick to save or decline rapidly.

Commissioner Draud asked if they had a reduced rate for adopting cats?

Ms. Maccombs answered that they are running an adoption special of a \$25 adoption fee through Saturday.

Judge Knochemann asked if the number of calls from January to June was trending up?

Ms. Maccombs answered that it is a trend up. They have been seeing an increase over the past few years in Animal Control calls. She is working with Dispatch to find out if these are an increase in calls, or an increase of call that Animal Control is specifically responding to.

**Public Works**

Nick Hendrix stated that he wanted to update the Court on the new Police building. The construction has started on the auxiliary building just south of the main building. The building pad is in, and the metal building components are slated to arrive next week. The change order that

was ratified tonight was approved with a \$100,000 contingency in it. This first change order was for about \$39,000, so that money was already built into the contract. It was a sub-grade issue with some soft clay at the site.

Commissioner Draud asked if that is common practice now to build change orders into contracts?

Mr. Hendrix answered that it is common practice on building construction to build in some contingency on the front end of the project to allow for changes in the work. He then updated the Court on Pruitt Rd. The contractors are working on a minor realignment of the road, and they expect to have it reopened before school starts. Also, the update on Bromley/Crescent Springs Rd. as of last Friday was that the contractor expected to finish base paving soon. They have been non-committal to the opening of everything except to say it will be open by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that this is a new fiscal year, which means they can buy new things. In the coming weeks, they will have a couple of bid postings for replacement laptops for Dispatch. This will be replacing the MDTs. They will also be posting a bid for a storage device that does the hard drive storage for all the servers. Last year they managed to get one for just under the bid limit, and this year they are coming in about 25% more expensive. It also took nine months for it to come in last time. Also, they are trying to wrap up a lot of upgrade projects prior to the property tax collection season. As they are doing their server upgrades, they are taking the opportunity to add more storage space. They are also rolling out a new anti-virus product. Finally, the new switches have arrived for the Detention Center, and they are slated to get installed the first week of August.

### **External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that as time goes by, we forget how much has been done over the past seven years. One of the things he wanted to remind everyone of tonight is the reorganization of many regional organizations. Some of them are far enough back like CVG that we can see the results. You can see the positive results with PDS as well. He spoke about MeetNKY, and how they are in the stretch run of the strategic plan. He hopes that they will be at a meeting to report before the end of the year. He is pretty encouraged by the nature of this plan so far. They had a meeting with all the stakeholders in the bourbon tourism initiative, and it was easily the best meeting with that group that they have had so far. Also, workforce development and workforce attraction has been a large focus of the Chamber and NKADD. The Chamber has probably more publicly known for what they are doing, with the NKADD being the engine. There were some changes in staffing at the Chamber, and he believes they are reconfiguring their engagement in workforce development. The person who was leading workforce for the NKADD, Tara Johnson Noem, was recently selected to become the NKADD's Executive Director. There will probably be more engagement from Boone, Kenton and Campbell on workforce issues. It will come in two components; workforce development and workforce attraction.

### **Parks/Buildings and Grounds/Golf Course**

Scott Gunning stated that he wanted to give a quick update on the third phase of renovations at the Historic Courthouse. They have started the portico roof at the Clerk's entrance area. They have been working with Gabe to minimize the interruption to her operations, but they have changed the traffic flow to the front of the building for now. The cornice and roof work is scheduled to start in August, with landscaping in the late fall. As of now, the project is on schedule, and fingers crossed it remains that way.

Mr. Gunning then stated that he wanted to take a minute to introduce and publicly thank the Recreation Intern Marissa Hayward for her work in the parks. Marissa is here tonight in the

audience. She has been working with Rhonda Ritzi organizing and helping with the recreation programs as an unpaid intern. She attends Eastern KY University and is scheduled to graduate this December with a major in Parks and Recreation Administration. He thanked Marissa, and introduced her to the Court as she is doing a great job.

Marissa Hayward stated that they have been very busy this summer, as it is the big season for recreation programs. So far, they have served over 1,150 participants in their programs. They have had the Wild Wednesday Program, the Almost Every Other Thursday Science, the Kid's Fishing Derby, Art in the Park (in cooperation with Art Equals and Art Cooperative). For the University she has been doing a special project called the Walk and Talk Nature Hike series. They had their first one last week. It was successful despite the rain. The second one is this Saturday at the New Kenton County Park. The last one is next Saturday at Doe Run Lake.

Commissioner Draud asked Scott Gunning to go over the sidewalk issue.

Mr. Gunning stated that tonight the Court approved the purchase of the right of way. The design is complete, so once they get the right of way it will move forward.

Commissioner Draud stated that this will be a good project for the people that live in that area.

Judge Knochelmann stated that there are plans to have an update on the park.

### **Treasury**

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

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that over the past several years they have contracted for psychological services to do evaluations for adult guardianship hearings and also involuntary hospitalizations. Both of the providers have reached a point where they are no longer able to provide that service for the County. She is asking that the Court notify them that their contract is not going to be renewed, and issue an RFQ for contract services to be provided. It is building up a backlog in their cases.

Judge Knochelmann asked for approval to notify the providers that their contract is not going to be renewed.

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.

Judge Knochelmann asked for approval to issue an RFQ for contract services to be provided for evaluations for adult guardianship hearings and involuntary hospitalizations.

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.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber wished County Administrator Joe Shriver a happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud asked if his constituent called Joe Shriver about a road situation?

Mr. Shriver answered that he has two people on the situation.

**Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann**

Judge Knochelmann stated that the driver's license is back in the Government Center in Covington, and have taken over the space in Independence. So, Kenton County has the two offices, and the volume is very high. Steve Hensley is right next door in his office, so it is nice to have him keep an eye on things. They are very cooperative, and it is going pretty well. He thanked Scott Gunning for going through the whole process to get that done.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that Blue North, the entrepreneurship effort in Northern Kentucky, has been restructured. They have built a whole plan for Northern Kentucky around that organization. He serves on the board, and they just hired a new director. Dave Knox is an experience entrepreneur in the region. He has some great success on both sides of the river, and he is committed to rebuilding that organization. The goal is to be the front door for those that are looking to start and grow businesses with the support of everyone that is at the Innovation Hub down in Covington, NKU, Aviatra and many other organizations. Dave is a well respected partner to all of them.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he will be bringing back up the issue of housing at a future meeting. There are some efforts out there to coordinate efforts.

**Adjournment**

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris 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 July 14, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser/Fiscal Court Clerk