

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

MEETING MINUTES
September 12 , 2023
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the September 12, 2023, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann 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 August 29 , 2023.

Commissioner Sewell 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 Court.

General Business

A. Claims List - Dated September 8 , 2023

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

A. Resolution No. 23-01Q
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: \$26,550 to cover the payout of unused sick pay for the former Assistant Police Chief and \$300,000 to cover city occupational license refunds.

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

Consent Agenda

- A. **Exhibit No. 23-165**
Request approval of the bond for the Kenton County Sheriff 's SWAT Team.
- B. **Exhibit No. 23-166**
Request approval to cancel the Drone contract with Adorama Inc. and re-bid for the purchase of a Drone for the Kenton County Police Department.
- C. **Exhibit No. 23-167**
Request approval to award the uniforms bid to CMS Uniforms & Equipment for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- D. **Exhibit No. 23-168**
Request approval to increase the safety shoe allowance for the Kenton County Public Works , Parks and Recreation and Building Maintenance Departments.
- E. **Exhibit No. 23-169**
Request approval to surplus a service weapon; a Glock 26 Pistol with a fair market value of \$275.00. The service weapon will be purchased by the FOP for the Kenton County Police Department and to be given to Assistant Chief Chris Haddle as a retirement gift and by the analogous of the Kenton County Police Departments policy for service weapons according to KRS.65.041.

Commissioner Draud asked what the safety shoe allowance is?

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that the employees of those departments are given an allowance that was \$140, and after polling other agencies it was discovered that this amount was too low.

Assistant County Administrator Scott Gunning stated that the allowance is now \$200.

Commissioner Sewell stated that inflation has made it so you can't buy the appropriate shoes for \$140 anymore.

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 3-0.

Executive Orders

- A. **Executive Order 23-113**
Request approval of the appointment of Taylor Buster as a Dispatcher 1, G7-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

Commissioner Sewell 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 23-114
Request approval of the appointment of Christina Bentley as a Dispatcher 1, G7-1
for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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.

**C. Executive Order 23-115
Request approval of the resignation of Jordan Cummins as a Police Officer for the
Kenton County Police Department.**

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

**D. Executive Order 23-116
Request approval of the pay increase for Kylee Kendall as a Dispatcher 1 (G7-2)
for
the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

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.

Administrative Reporting

Public Works

Spencer Stork stated that as they are preparing for snow and ice season, he wanted to make everyone aware that the County contracts with several cities to provide them services, as well as KYTC. Erlanger has decided to take their roads on themselves, and it was due to cost. Also, they have set the dates for the fall cleanup, and it will be September 29th and 30th. The Hazardous Waste Cleanup will be November 4th, and that will be for Boone, Campbell and Kenton County at Thomas More Stadium.

Judge Knochelmann asked Mr. Stork to speak about the cities that have come onboard with our striping program.

Mr. Stork stated that every year they do a striping program, and if they can provide large quantities to the contractor in the area they can save money. In an effort to coordinate with the cities to get the discount, they asked them to participate. They have had four different cities come to them this year to participate in that program.

Commissioner Draud stated that based on the letter that was written to Bob Yeager got a nice response, and it sounds like the work will be getting done on Dixie Highway.

Technology Services

Jessica Ramsey stated that September is a very busy month in IT. They do generate the property tax bills that go out, and are also in the process of doing a lot of projects. They are working at putting in the new cameras and security system at the Animal Shelter. They have also been making improvements to the Riedlin Schott Room, Chambers and the EOC to allow for more hybrid meeting capabilities and to address other concerns. As far as the property tax bills this year, they are making an effort to reduce the amount of appeals that they get on the 911 Fee. Kurt Greivenkamp in Treasury has looked at the appeals over the past few years, and people that have appealed

each year and get automatically approved each year will get the fee taken off of their bill. She thanked Kurt for all of his work.

Commissioner Draud asked how much money the 911 Fee brings in for the County?

Treasurer Roy Cox answered that it is approximately between \$5.7-5.9 million.

Animal Services

Kelsey Maccombs stated that she would like to speak about the reorganization of her department that happened at the last meeting. The reorganization included three new positions including a full-time veterinarian. This is the first time the County will have a full-time vet on staff. It is a huge investment in what the County needs, especially when addressing the community cat population. Community cats are re-populating at alarming rates, and currently there are no other organizations that are taking care of this issue. With a contract veterinarian, and a finite time to do surgeries they have found that it is not enough. A full-time vet will help with this problem. She is very grateful, and knows they will accomplish a lot.

Commissioner Sewell asked if Animal Control is going out and picking up these cats on a routine basis?

Ms. Maccombs answered that without having the surgery space to take care of them, they are not able to address this like they should.

Treasury

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the August 2023, Financial Report has been submitted.

County Attorney's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud stated that he reads the LINK newspaper every morning, and he read that Covington raised their property tax. Is that correct, because they had the highest one anyway?

County Administrator Joe Shriver answered that he believes they did, and he had read an article as well that said with the shortfall that Fidelity workers left when able to work from home it left Covington with a \$7.2 million impact on their budget. That is one of the few things that they have done to mitigate that loss.

Commissioner Draud stated that they needed money, so instead of trying to cut back they raised their taxes?

Mr. Shriver answered that he can't speak to that, as the article only mentioned the shortfall from Fidelity.

Commissioner Draud then stated that he saw this morning that some lady who worked for Covington in their Public Work's Department stole \$180,000 from the taxpayers of Covington. It was shocking to find out that she had stole money in 2012, and she didn't get fired then. He asked if anyone knew about it?

Chief Jones answered that it is an active investigation.

Commissioner Draud stated that it would seem that they would have safeguards in place, and have two people sign off on any expenditure. He asked Roy Cox to go over the safeguards that the County has to keep this from happening.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that having dual authorization is the key. Anytime there is money brought into the county, it is not allowed in his office. It has to be recorded by someone else, so the person making the deposit doesn't touch the money first. When the money comes in, the person logs it onto one side of the spreadsheet with a passcode and then when it is deposited another person puts it into another part of the spreadsheet that is password protected as well. There are dual authorizations on checks, and basically where money can be removed or received. The three signers on the account are himself, the Judge and Joe Shriver, so it takes two signatures to write any type of check. Any time a check is written, the checks are not allowed to go back to the payable's person. Someone else matches them against the invoices. Department heads have to have a three-part receipt for items. He does all of this to protect his people and the county.

Commissioner Draud stated that maybe Mr. Cox could get with Covington to give them some suggestions.

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the County is much more restricted per KRS than what the cities are, which makes it easier for us to have those internal controls.

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann

Judge Knochelmann stated that a Workforce Study done by NKU has been published for a month or so. A Housing Study facilitated by NKADD should be posted tomorrow or Thursday. It is 200 pages of data, and he encourages everyone to read it. It is a good study about what the facts are in Northern Kentucky. It is very self-explanatory.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. 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 September 12, 2023.



Sue J. Kaiser/Fiscal Court Clerk