

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**October 10 , 2023**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Knochelmann called to order the October 10, 2023, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Sewell 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 September 26 , 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 October 6 , 2023**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Resolutions**

**A. Resolution No. 23-01 S**

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

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustment is for the following: \$10,000 to cover asset forfeiture expenses that comes out of the asset forfeiture money for the Police Department. This is to cover a carryover item from last year.

Commissioner Draud asked if that is an annual thing?

Mr. Cox answered that it is not. The Chief will budget items that the forfeiture money can be spent on. This is money that comes into the County from seized items. It gets put into a special account.

Commissioner Draud asked how much they will get each year?

Chief Jones answered that it depends on what the forfeitures are each year, so the number varies.

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. Resolution No. 23-32**

**A Resolution of the Kenton County Fiscal Court sponsoring a proposed text amendment to the Rural Commercial Zoning District and authorizing the County Administrator to submit a text amendment application to Planning and Development Services of Kenton County ( "PDS").**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that over the last six weeks, we have had two requests come in for RV storage. PDS looked, and there is no real contemplation for that in the Southern County. They did see that on a preliminary pass it might be appropriate under the RC Zone, but to make sure they wanted to go through the full blown process of doing a text amendment.

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.

**Ordinances**

**A. Ordinance 226.16 - Second 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 Diversey, Inc. under the Kentucky Business Investment Program (KRS 154.32-010 -KRS 154.32-100).**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that the Court passed this in November of 2022, but because our rate was different they are now applying for the Kentucky Business Investment incentive through the State. They just wanted us to clean up our Ordinance to make it clear what our incentive was and amend our Ordinance.

Commissioner Draud asked what Diversey does?

Judge Knochelmann stated that they are a light manufacturing company.

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. Ordinance 226.17 - First Reading**

**An Ordinance of the Kenton County Fiscal Court, County of Kenton, Kentucky, amending Ordinances 78-6-1, 220.8, 223.0, 223.7, 225.19, 225.25, 225.48, 225.50, and 226.07 imposing regulations and license taxes (fees) on those engaged in franchises, trades, occupations, professions and other businesses in Kenton County.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the proposed change of the payroll tax that we had in place. The adjustment was made about a year ago, and this would reduce the payroll tax down to lower than what we started with a year ago (which has been in place since about 2005), it will raise the cap to the Federal cap and move the net profits back.

Commissioner Draud asked if now they won't be paying what we approved?

Judge Knochelmann answered that we raised it by two tenths, so now it will take it 2.1 tenths down and raise the cap to the Federal cap. The net result will be more income. Kudos to Roy Cox as his estimates were very good, and he stood up to a lot of criticism. The result is that we will have the lowest payroll tax we have had in almost 20 years. We will then remove the net profits tax for the first time in ever down to zero. This is first reading, and will come back for a vote at the next meeting. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued work.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 23-177  
Request approval of the renewal of the annual CivicPlus agreement for website services for the Kenton County Fiscal Court, Sheriff, PVA and Detention Center.**
- B. Exhibit No. 23-178  
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Technology Services Department.**
- C. Exhibit No. 23-179  
Request approval to accept the FY23 JAG Grant for the Kenton County Police Department.**
- D. Exhibit No. 23-180  
Request approval of the Rider for the 2023 tax collection for the Kenton County Sheriff's Office.**
- E. Exhibit No. 23-181  
Request approval of the authority for executing vehicle titles and other vehicle purchases and/or sales documentation for all program vehicles/equipment be delegated to the Fleet Services Supervisor or the Director of Public Works.**
- F. Exhibit No. 23-182  
Request approval of purchase of one (1) tandem axel dump truck for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- G. Exhibit No. 23-183  
Request approval to modify the current contract for road striping between Oglesby Construction Inc., the Kenton County Public Works Department and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**
- H. Exhibit No. 23-184  
Request approval to award the drone bid to Kuker Ranken for the Kenton County Police Department and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.**
- I. Exhibit No. 23-185**

## **Request approval of the County Clerk 's Claim for preparing tax bills.**

Commissioner Draud asked what the Civic Plus item is.

Judge Knochelmann stated that they do our website management and communication. We have been using them for about five years. The website will be updated in the next month or so at no additional cost.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

### **Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 23-120  
Request approval of the re-appointment of John Cain to the Ryland Heights Fire District Board.**

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 23-121  
Request approval of the discretionary pay increases for 2023-2024.**

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.

- C. Executive Order 23-122  
Request approval of the of the step increase from Dispatcher 1, G7-2 to a Dispatcher 2 , G8-1 for Hope Tuke 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.

- D. Executive Order 23-123  
Request approval of the resignation of Scott McClain as the Fleet Supervisor for the Kenton County Public Works 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.

- E. Executive Order 23-124  
Request approval of the promotion of Kimberly Dornheggen from Dispatch Supervisor to Assistant Director of Operations 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.

- F. Executive Order 23-125  
Request approval of the appointment of Trenton Bailey as a Seasonal Public Services Technician for the Kenton County Public Works 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.

**G. Executive Order 23-126  
Request approval of the appointment of Carl Day as a Seasonal Public Services Technician for the Kenton County Public Works 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.

**Administrative Reporting**

**External Affairs**

John Stanton stated that work continues on the Sims Building and the entrepreneurship effort. There were six responses to the RFP. Continuing to work with the Life Sciences group with the OneNKY Center. A number of people are included in the site readiness meetings, and the consultants are on board working with the group on that. Also, there will be one more memo coming to the Court with ARPA recommendations. He asked that the Court keep in mind two issues for consideration. One is related to significant evidence of decline in elementary/middle school test scores from the pandemic. If you look at math and literacy scores across the board, they are about 15 points down in the wake of the pandemic. The other issue is transportation issues associated with workforce, and people trying to transition back into the workforce through Life Learning Center and others. Finally, he thinks everyone will be please to see all the changes that are coming with Meg and Tony in the Communications Department.

**Technology Services**

Jessica Ramsey stated that they are making improvements at the Administration Building on the AV System. They put up a video wall in the EOC, and worked with Homeland Security to use some of the grant money that they received. They are also making some minor improvements to the Chamber's area, which will make it easier for hybrid meetings. The big changes they will be making are to the Riedlin Schott Room. They will be adding a camera, some speakers and a lectern that can be moved. Currently, they are waiting for a new camera to come in, which will help with hybrid meeting as well.

Commissioner Draud asked if the camera is supposed to improve the acoustics?

Ms. Ramsey answered that the speakers that they are putting in will make the sound a lot better. Judge Knochelmann stated that they will be working on the sound in this courtroom as well.

Commissioner Draud stated that he is proud with what has been done to this building.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Scott Gunning has worked very hard on it.

**Animal Services**

Kelsey Maccombs stated that year to date they are up 27% in Animal Control calls, so the officers have been very busy. She hopes that this is because the public trusts them, and that is why calling more frequently. The increased volume of both calls and animals in the shelter has contributed towards the necessity of their team working really well together. Amidst the chaos, watching everyone step up and assist in every way possible. During the first three quarters, they had 4,039 calls with 1,587 of those being in Covington. The third quarter alone had 1,470 calls, so they are keeping busy. She can't say enough good things about her team. Finally, their intakes have increased, and year to date through September they are up 23% on large dogs. This last weekend

they held an adoption promotion, which resulted in 67 total adoptions. There is a lot of movement, but they don't stop coming in. The return to owner rate has stayed at about 34%, which is well above the national average.

Commissioner Sewell asked what the top three calls are at the shelter?

Ms. Maccombs answered that animals at large is the top call. There are a lot of well being checks.

Commissioner Sewell stated that over 70% of animals are not returned to their home.

Ms. Maccombs stated that the officers really try to get them back home. The statistics are at about a quarter of a mile where the dog is lost.

### **Public Works**

Spencer Stork stated that at the waste event last month, they had 670 vehicles come through. This is down a few hundred from the spring cleanup, which they attribute to the voucher program having a bigger impact. He also promoted the Hazardous Waste Event, which will be at the Florence Freedom stadium on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, their crews have been working very diligently to get everything wrapped up on the roads and bridges before the snow and ice season hits. They are doing a great job.

Commissioner Draud asked if he had heard any news on the Dixie Highway?

Mr. Stork answered that he hasn't heard anything definitive on that yet. The other section from Buttermilk to I-75 is being coordinated between KYTC and a design consultant on redesigning that section.

Commissioner Draud said that he was told that they need more money for that project.

Mr. Stork stated that he doesn't know if they formalized their cost estimate.

Commissioner Draud stated that they keep promising it will get done, but it is getting close to winter.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he thinks they are moving on it.

### **Treasury**

Treasurer Roy Cox asked that the records reflect that the September 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 asked what the status of the sidewalks/paths?

Assistant County Administrator Scott Gunning answered that Spencer Stork is leading the project. The contract has been awarded to Eaton Asphalt, and they started removing some trees. We are still finalizing some utilities.

Commissioner Draud asked what took so long?

Mr. Gunning answered that it is the utility easements. It may get done this year, but it will be close.

Commissioner Draud then spoke about a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Holmes High School baseball champions.

### **Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann**

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/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 October 10, 2023.



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Sue J. Kaiser/Fiscal Court Clerk