

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**October 11, 2022**

**5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the October 11, 2022, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge Knochelmann 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: Scott Gunning, County Administrator/Deputy Judge  
Roy Cox, County Treasurer  
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of September 27, 2022.**

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**

John Stephenson

**General Business**

**A. Update on the Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy by Director Amanda Peters.**

Amanda Peters presented from numbers for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. They see around 3,000 per year on the helpline. The State helpline responds to 118 counties, and they take calls from around the State. When they have someone that needs services, they handle contacting the treatment facility for the people. They not only help with treatment, but housing, security and employment opportunities. They work with the Kentucky Opioid Relief Effort, the Healing Community Site, the Local Health Department and the Kentucky Pharmacy Site to provide Narcan at no cost. The Health Department has a mail order Naloxone program, which is on their website or her website to order Narcan. They also receive the dispatch calls for Boone, Kenton and Campbell, and log those. They are for anywhere that there is an overdose, and they partner with Mike Richman, the QRT Officer in Kenton County to contact them. They also have mailers they send out. Also, that they launched an Uber health program that brings in a majority of their calls. That is so that people that don't have transportation can get to the different facilities

Commissioner Draud asked what they are doing to not duplicate the efforts of other agencies?

Ms. Peters answered that they are meeting with their partners regularly. They track everything to make sure they aren't duplicating services.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she was looking over the numbers, and is trying to wrap her mind around totals. The interesting one was the 51,000 people served at St. Elizabeth. Above that it indicates that there are 12,000 people that are actively addicted. She asked for an explanation of the discrepancy.

Ms. Peters answered that the national statistic for addiction is about 5% of the population. That gives the 9,000-12,000 number. The other 2.5% are seeking recovery. They are working with the hospital system to track the data. So, in 2021 the people served by a St. Elizabeth Physician's primary care there were 51,000 people identified with a primary diagnosis or secondary diagnosis of a substance disorder. These are people already connected to the healthcare system. That may mean that they are not in active addiction or seeking treatment.

Commissioner Sewell stated that it is hard to track those people due to HIPA.

Ms. Peters stated that they are working with the hospital with follow-up.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that his concern early on in the epidemic was how well the business community embraces the reentry of people into the system. His company has and has had people with addiction problems, and they help them through it. Are they a big part of the solution?

Ms. Peters stated that the Life Learning Center is the re-entry hub. The business community has been very well invested in this effort.

Alecia Webb-Edgington from Life Learning Center stated that they have 263 employee partners in Northern Kentucky in collaboration with the Workforce Investment Board. The work that they have done with the Kenton County Detention Center and Police Department has really improved recidivism.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he was able to participate in an event at the Life Learning Center where providers were convening together and breaking down what everyone is doing. They found the gaps in the system, and worked on how to fill those gaps. Also, the Life Learning Center has evolved to such a great level today.

Commissioner Draud stated that the Fiscal Court lit a fire under St. Elizabeth to become a leader in the area. They are doing a great job with it now.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he can't say enough about the leadership at NKYODCP and Life Learning Center.

Judge Knochelmann then asked Chief Jones to give his Administrative Report, as it ties into this topic.

Chief Jones introduced Mike Richman, the QRT Officer for Kenton County, and explained that he was hired with a grant that they worked with the Detention Center to receive.

Officer Richman stated he reports to Chief Jones and his command staff, but he works primarily out of Life Learning Center with their staff. The QRT role is new, and is always evolving. His main responsibility is to follow up with people that recently overdosed. He gets that information

from Kenton County Dispatch Overdose Report daily. He also has people he talks to from the Detention Center, Probation and Parole or the Life Learning Center. He goes out to talk to the person to see if he can provide resources to them so that they know what is available to them in the area. If they are willing to accept the help, he will take them to treatment or give them the Helpline number for them to call and get transportation. He also facilitates a weekly meeting called Multidisciplinary Recovery Reentry Team (MRRT). It is where treatment providers, the Life Learning Center, Probation and Parole and the Detention Center get on the meeting to track people that are court ordered to treatment. They try to make sure that they are on track and do what they are supposed to do. Sometimes, one of the treatment providers will say that the person is with them, but need a higher level of care. Sometimes they are able to shift that care around in that meeting instead of going back to court to do that. Also, sometimes people get off track, and he will knock on their door to get them back on track. The main goal of that is to keep them from going back to the jail.

Officer Richman then stated that he teaches classes at the Life Learning Center, and he goes into the jail to meet with people in the JSAP program. This helps him build a rapport with them. He is working with the Northern Kentucky ReEntry Council to try to put together a program to educate first responders as to how to give their family information on how to follow up on a later date.

Judge Knochelmann stated that it is great what Officer Richman is doing.

Commissioner Sewell stated that it looks like significant reductions in numbers of overdoses.

Officer Richman stated that sometimes those numbers are a little bit skewed, because of the amount of Narcan that has been pushed out. He believes that people of overdosing, and someone is giving them Narcan and it doesn't get reported.

**B. Request approval for the South Kenton Citizen 's Group to submit a text amendment for Ag-Tourism to the Planning Commission.**

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.

**C. Request approval to cancel the November 22, 2022 and the December 27, 2022 Fiscal Court Meetings.**

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.

**D. Request approval to issue a Claims List on November 28, 2022, and issue the checks on November 29, 2022, and issue a Claims List on December 28, 2022, and issue the checks on December 29, 2022.**

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. Claims List dated October 7, 2022.**

There were no questions on the Claims List.

**Ordinances**

**A. Ordinance No. 226.07 - 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, and**

**225.50, 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 will balance between property tax and payroll. This would take the cap to 50% of the Federal Cap and adjust the rate itself. It would essentially match what we are finding in our neighboring county, Boone County. One of the efforts of our community is to look at other efforts of funding from models from other counties. This is to balance that between the property tax mix and payroll tax mix which provides most of the funding for the Kenton County operations. It was capped at \$25,000 for a couple of decades, and that is not sustainable. This will adjust it to a sustainable level. He looks forward to feedback.

- B. Ordinance No. 226.08 - 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 White Horse Freight, LLC under the Kentucky Business Investment Program (KRS 154.32-010 -KRS 154.32-100).**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a typical incentive program, and is a growignn logistics business. They will be investing 445 new full-time jobs, and those jobs paying an average of \$75,000. They plan to invest \$5.5 million in new office space, and they have received preliminary approval from the State of Kentucky and the City of Crestview Hills. This is a company that was in Ft. Mitchell in the old Sibcy Cline building. They have really grown in the past two years.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Exhibit No. 22-139  
Request approval of the County Clerk 's Claim for preparing tax bills.**
- B. Exhibit No. 22-140  
Request approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 funding contract between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI).**
- C. Exhibit No. 22-141  
Request approval to award the KCDC Facility Management bid to Four Seasons Environmental, Inc., for the Kenton County Detention Center.**
- D. Exhibit No. 22-142  
Request approval of the amended budget for the Kenton County Sheriff 's Office.**
- E. Exhibit No. 22-143  
Request approval to award the Dump Truck & Chassis Tri-County Bid to all bidders for the Kenton County Fleet Department.**
- F. Exhibit No. 22-144  
Request approval to award the Gym Equipment bid to G & G Fitness Equipment 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 4-0.

**Executive Orders**

- A. Executive Order 22- 140**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Kylee Kendall as a Dispatcher I, G5-1 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.

**B. Executive Order 22- 141**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Trenton Bailey as a Seasonal Public Services Technician for the Kenton County Public Works 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.

**C. Executive Order 22- 142**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Dagan Bunch as an Animal Services Technician for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.**

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.

**D. Executive Order 22- 143**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Brandy Turner as a Dispatcher I, G5-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications 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.

**E. Executive Order 22-144**

**An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Amanda Willis as a Dispatcher 1, G5-1 for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.**

Commissioner Draud asked if all the Dispatch appointments were filling vacancies, or did people resign?

Judge Knochelmann answered that there are always vacancies at Dispatch.

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.

### **Administrative Reporting**

#### **Emergency Communications**

Ashley Hawks stated that their recruitment efforts are certainly paying off. They have seen a tremendous spike in their applications, and the quality of applicants that they have been getting.

Commissioner Draud asked if she contributes that to the salary increases?

Ms. Hawks answered that the increases have helped. The outreach, and getting the word out has been successful. All of the improvements at the Dispatch Center with the new desks and

lighting have reduced migraines, back issues and aches and pains. Also, they had five of their employees attend a Mental Health Training at NKU, which has given them national certification on how to identify mental health issues with other first responders. They are looking to get certification for all of the dispatchers in the future. She appreciates the Fiscal Court's support.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he visited out there this morning, and the environment was good. Everyone was in the best mood he has seen. Ashley and Dave Leonard are great leaders. Also, because of the lack of staffing, Ashley, Dave and others have been filling in for empty positions. They do a great job supporting each other.

### **Detention Center**

Jailer Fields stated that he would like to say something about Ashley Hawks. His son works at Dispatch, and he has the ultimate respect for her and speaks very highly of her. He then stated that Officer Richman spoke about the QRT Program tonight, and when he first went to the jail the QRT Program was part of a grant that the jail had secured a couple of years ago and the jail staff was trying to accomplish this themselves. There is a pre-arrest part of this, and a post arrest part of this. The way they always saw it was that the jail should be the post arrest part of it, because they get after they have been arrested. The other part of this is trying to prevent them from ever having contact with law enforcement again. Mr. Richman does a great job. He did want to say something about what Alecia said about a 28% recidivism rate. The recidivism rate is based on whether the person goes through the drug program at the jail, and then they complete Alecia's program after they have been released. They have to work diligently to get people to complete both of those programs.

Jailer Fields then stated that they are one of the pilots for Senate Bill 90. They got picked because they are already doing it through the Heart Program. When they started looking at cases over the last three years compared to Fayette County, 30,728 criminal cases were shown to have 1,819 cases that would have been eligible for this diversion or dismissal program. They looked at 23,545 cases in Kenton County, and out of that, 2,280 would have been eligible. So, Kenton County actually had less criminal cases, but more eligible cases. That says something about enforcement, as we are being more diligent. This starts January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Draud asked what the recidivism rate is without going through this program?

Jailer Fields said he doesn't have an exact number, but it probably close to the 80%.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the JSAP program has been dropping recidivism over the past few years. The percentage of people who can get to JSAP is smaller, because they are being released. They aren't in the building long enough for us to get them in the program.

Jailer Fields stated that this why the community partners are so important, to keep the program's continuity.

Commissioner Draud asked what percentage of people are eligible to go into those programs?

Jailer Fields answered that a high percentage goes in, but the number drops off.

Commissioner Draud stated that with Officer Richman going into the homes, it is very powerful.

### **Emergency Management**

Steve Hensley stated that Ashley Hawks' leadership has gotten a lot of positive recognition for Kenton County. Recently, she was recognized by a group of her peers as the Director of the Year for Emergency Communications. He then stated that they have been engaged in some of

the planning meetings for BLINK this weekend. It is a well-coordinated event that takes place on both sides of the river. There will be some roads shut down in downtown Covington.

Mr. Hensley then stated that they are working on their CPR training, and that will be open to the Commissioners and the Fiscal Court. They are also starting their EHS facility inspections, as they have to do that on a regular basis. Lastly, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, they will be having a meeting with Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties Coroners to review the mass casualty/mass fatality plan. He congratulated the Judge and Nick Hendrix for the opening of Bromley/Crescent Springs Rd.

Judge Knochelmann stated that they are working with the State to schedule a grand opening. It was a big investment for the county to make. It started with Steve Arlinghaus, doing a study. Nick has worked hard with the State to get creative on getting this done. It saved millions, and hopefully the project will be there for another 100 years. It was  $\frac{3}{4}$  of mile, and took nine years to complete.

Commissioner Draud asked if the County's part was 20%?

Judge Knochelmann answered that there is about \$1.8 million in the project from the County.

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

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that there has been a lot of mention about Senate Bill 90. She is serving on the statewide implementation council, so she will be looking at all the State cases. Her understanding is that part of the funding is coming from the State's portion from the opioid abatement fund. There will be town hall on October 18<sup>th</sup> by the Attorney General to discuss the ideas to use the dollars.

Judge Knochelmann stated that they have asked Amanda Peters, and other experts in the area to give recommendations on how the dollars can be best spent. We will be working with the cities that receive an allocation to work with the County with their funds to make it a regional effort.

### **Commissioners ' Reports**

#### **Commissioner Jon Draud**

Commissioner Draud spoke about Dixie Highway. He didn't realize that the patching is part of the resurfacing. It needs to be done right.

#### **Commissioner Beth Sewell**

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

#### **Commissioner Joe Nienaber**

Commissioner Nienaber had nothing to report.

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

Judge Knochelmann stated that the work of Kelly Baker and Scott Gunning on the compensation study has started. The team doing the study is wonderful.

### **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 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 October 11, 2022.



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Sue J. Kaiser/Fiscal Court Clerk