

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Kenton Chambers
1840 Simon Kenton Way
Covington, KY 41011

MEETING MINUTES

October 26 , 2021

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge Knochelmann called to order the October 26, 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/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 28, 2021.

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

Citizens Address

No citizens came before the Fiscal Court.

General Business

A. Presentation of the Dispatch Supervisor of the Year Award to Melissa Eddy.

Ashley Hawks the Dispatch Director stated that she was pleased to present the award for Line Supervisor of the Year for a tele communicator to Melissa Eddy. Melissa has been a dispatcher with Kenton County for 23 years, and 16 of those years have been as a frontline supervisor. The last twelve months have been exceptionally challenging for her. In the last twelve months, she has had two officer involved shootings that she has been on the radio for first hand, as well as being the Dispatch Supervisor for everyone in the room. In both of these, she was recognized by numerous agencies, including Boone and Campbell County. She is an exceptional supervisor and frontline dispatcher.

B. Update on the Drug Strike Force from Director Scott Hardcorn.

Scott Hardcorn stated that after almost 20 years with Kenton County, he left at the end of May to take the position of the Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force. It has been enjoyable, and the supervisors there are great as well as Nancy Schaeffer who is the office manager. He spoke about the DEA National Drug Takeback Event. It was this past Saturday, and they took back about 615 pounds of prescription drugs. These were taken off of the streets, and kept out of our waterways. There was an additional 319 pounds from the various drug boxes around the area. As far as the drug seizures and illicit drugs, from October 2020, to September, 2021, methamphetamine is by far the most prevalent followed by cocaine, fentanyl, crack and heroin. Everyone thinks that heroin is readily accessible, but it has been replaced by a more dangerous and deadly alternative which is fentanyl. Last year, they took in 1,964 grams of fentanyl. Heroin that was taken in was 13.4 grams. They are purchasing and seizing what is thought to be heroin, but when they send it to the lab it is coming back as fentanyl.

Mr. Hardcorn then stated that they are seeing a lot of counterfeit pills. The medication looks like Xanax or Oxycodone, but in reality it is fraudulent. They are coming back as fentanyl or methamphetamine. This is very dangerous. The DEA put out a public service announcement called "One Pill Can Kill" to bring awareness to this issue.

Mr. Hardcorn then stated that during his time at Kenton County he was assigned to the Drug Strike Force for five years. It is completely different now, as the investigations are way more sophisticated. They build their cases now before they even do a drug buy due to social media and electronics. All of the counties work together with the DEA closely. It is an excellent regional approach.

Commissioner Sewell asked why heroin is not so readily available? Where is everything coming from?

Mr. Hardcorn answered that the chemicals to make the fentanyl are supplied by China, and then they go to Mexico where there are turned into the drug. Then it comes across the southern border. A couple of weeks ago they intercepted three kilos of fentanyl, and the amount of death that this could cause is astronomical.

Commissioner Sewell stated that it is interesting that people are buying things thinking that they are prescription medicine. She asked if the intent is to try to hook these people?

Mr. Hardcorn answered that yes, they want to get them hooked to come back for more. They aren't being manufactured in a controlled environment, and they are being made by people that have no business making pills. If somebody on the street takes a counterfeit Xanax pill today, it may be a lethal dose in the one they get the next day.

Commissioner Sewell asked where the DEA is running the ads? She is astounded at the lack of education in general about the severity.

Mr. Hardcorn answered that in the law enforcement community, they are going out to everybody. He knows that it was just kicked off, and they were focused on the DEA drug take back.

Commissioner Sewell asked if the DEA works with Health Departments to communicate that information?

Mr. Hardcorn answered that he is not sure. He has seen it on the local and national media.

Commissioner Sewell stated that it should be on social media, as that is the best means of communication.

Commissioner Draud asked if they know what percentage of the illegal drugs come from China?

Mr. Hardcorn answered that he is sure the DEA has statistics on that. A lot of stuff comes through the mail from the dark web.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Mr. Hardcorn for all his hard work.

C. Request approval of a lease agreement between the Office of the Attorney General and the Kenton County Fiscal Court for space in the new Kenton County Administration Building.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is the space that was vacated by PDS when they consolidated their offices.

Commissioner Sewell stated that this is a good use of the space.

Commissioner Draud asked if the Attorney General's Office will have a physical presence in the building?

Judge Knochelmann answered yes.

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

D. Claims List dated October 8, 2021, and October 22, 2021.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

**A. Resolution No. 21-01P (Action Requested)
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer Roy Cox stated that the budget adjustments are as follows: \$80,000 for the fifth floor remodel at the Justice Center that is reimbursable from the State, \$10,000 for the Jail for pre-employment/background checks and \$351,000 to reimburse the grant for SAP funds for medical. This is for medicine that we were billed, and at the end of term it was determined that there was \$351,000 not used. We had been reimbursed by the grant, and we had paid the bill to the vendor. We did receive a refund from the vendor, and this will allow us to pay the money back to the grant.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this cleans up accounting, it is not an expenditure.

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

**B. Resolution No. 21-28 (Action Requested)
A Resolution recognizing the 2021 pioneer award honorees.**

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a great project. Names of the people being nominated are given to the Ethics Commission. The Fiscal Court doesn't see the names until after the Ethics Commission has voted on the winners. This year's winners are Mark Guilfoyle, Will Ziegler, Ray Hebert and Ken Palmer.

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

Ordinances

- A. Ordinance No. 121.43 - Second Reading**
An Ordinance amending the Kenton County, Kentucky code of ordinances re: Kenton County Administrative Code.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this was to add the Sexual Abuse Policy to the Administrative Code, and add Sourcewell to help with the procurement process.

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

- B. Ordinance No. 451.20 - First Reading**
An Ordinance granting and issuing a competitive, non-exclusive franchise for a combined term of ten (10) years to, and authorizing the execution of the franchise agreement with, Cincinnati Bell Extended Territories LLC, its permitted successors or assigns, providing for the construction, erection, installation, upgrade, maintenance, repair and operation of a cable television system for the provision of cable television services in the unincorporated areas of Kenton County, all upon the terms, conditions and covenants contained in the franchise agreement.

Judge Knochelmann stated this is the first reading of the Ordinance. It is to be on record with the franchise agreement with TBNK. A lot of work has been put into this. Commissioner Sewell and Tim Broering, along with the board have done a great job.

Commissioner Sewell stated that Cincinnati Bell has put in a lot of work, and they are great to work with also.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 21-139**
Request approval to surplus vehicles for the Kenton County Sheriff's Department.
- B. Exhibit No. 21-140**
Request approval to accept the tourism grant for the Jacob Spears/Licking River Project.
- C. Exhibit No. 21-141**
Request approval of modified agreement with Brandstetter/Carroll for design services for the Police Department Property.
- D. Exhibit No. 21-142**
Request approval to surplus a Training Pumper Truck for the Kenton County Emergency Management Department.
- E. Exhibit No. 21-143**
Request approval of the agreement with Security Automation Systems for the

Video Surveillance System Upgrade for the Kenton County Detention Center.

- F. Exhibit No. 21-144**
Request approval of the easement agreement for the tower located at 11777 Madison Pike, Independence, KY.
- G. Exhibit No. 21-145**
Request approval to ratify the Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Sons of Independence, LLC for the KY Highway 17 Property (PIDN 048-00- 00-010.03) in Independence.
- H. Exhibit No. 21-146**
Request approval of the statement of work from Seven Hills for the development, testing, and deployment of a new version of the Community Portal, to be called the Tax Portal update, which serves as the public facing County Occupational License Application system.
- I. Exhibit No. 21-147**
Request approval of the IPS contract for access control and security cameras for the Riedlin- Schott Room.
- J. Exhibit No. 21-148**
Request approval of a proposal from WSP for engineering design services for a minor realignment of KY 536.
- K. Exhibit No. 21-149**
Request approval to award Waste Removal Contracts to Best Way Disposal and Bavarian Trucking for all facilities outside of Covington City Limits.
- L. Exhibit No. 21-150**
Request approval of the contract between Shallow Creek Kennels and the Kenton County Police Department for a Narcotics Detection/Patrol Police Service Dog.
- M. Exhibit No. 21-151**
Request approval to award the 5th Floor SOW Remodel bid to Century Construction, Inc. for the Kenton County Justice Center.
- N. Exhibit No. 21-152**
Request approval to extend the contract for uniform and laundry services bid to Cintas Corporation for the Kenton County Public Works/Fleet Department.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 21-133**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the position change of Thomas Hurtt from a Fleet Services Technician to the Fleet Services Office Manager for the Kenton County Public Works Department.

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

B. Executive Order 21-134

An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Carla Nolan as a Dispatcher for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.

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

C. Executive Order 21-135

An Executive Order approving the resignation of Dylan Hinkel as a Seasonal Public Service Technician for the Kenton County Public Works Department.

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

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that while we are still dealing with the COVID issue on a statewide basis, there are only 500 new cases. This is a great improvement. There are only 56 new cases in Northern Kentucky. The positivity rate was up to 14%, and is now 5.84%, which is good news. Currently, St. Elizabeth's numbers are trending in a positive direction as well. In the last meeting, he reported that there were about 150 people in the hospital. Today there are only 85 people in the hospital, and those that are the sickest (73%) are unvaccinated. The trend of the unvaccinated people becoming the sickest continues. The testing continues at the Covington location, the Ft. Mitchell location and the Florence location. That will continue for the future, and one of the locations will be indoors at the old Sears in Florence. The CDC did approve the Pfizer vaccine for ages five to eleven, which has been long awaited.

Mr. Hensley then stated that on the 17th of this month, the State came and performed their annual audit. They had no findings on their office. He thanked Roy Cox's team, and Nick Hendrix's team as they review a FEMA project in addition to all of the financial components associated with all of the federal dollars they receive. Also, on the 15th there was some pretty severe weather here, and it impacted Independence, Ryland and Kenton areas. They did a damage assessment along with the National Weather Service, and it was determined that it was not a tornado. It was straight line winds, and they cause a lot of damage. Also, there is a frost warning for tonight.

Emergency Communications

Ashley Hawks stated that she provided everyone with quite a bit of data. It is a seven page report that should be a relatively holistic view of the Dispatch operations for year to date. It is broken out into phone calls, and then calls for service. She has organized it in a way that everyone can see how much of their time goes to which department and which type of resources. In the back, there is a little bit of information regarding the amount of time that they spend, and how it is allocated by Dispatch.

Commissioner Draud stated that it is an impressive report with a lot of data. This is a job well done.

Police Department

Assistant Chief Chris Haddle stated that they had a homicide investigation on Brewster Ln. While they keep the family of the victim in their thoughts, he would also like to recognize some of our officers and detectives that came out that evening. Captain Gary Helton, Sergeant Ryan Roessler, Detective Nick Rhoden, Detective Andrew Kenner, Detective Billy Snipes, Detective Brian Jones and Officer Michael Algeier were made aware of the call late Wednesday evening, and they worked through the night until around 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning. He thanked the Fiscal Court for being gracious enough to help provide the needed equipment. It resulted in a suspect that is sitting in the Miami County, Ohio jail with a murder warrant holder. He also wanted to publicly recognizing the Ohio State Highway Patrol. They initiated this investigation, and they are a good law enforcement partner.

Assistant Chief Haddle then stated that they had an officer start on Tuesday. He is the first officer in Kentucky to be given lateral credit for his military/law e experience. It is a new way to getting some experience on the road. He does have do a small amount of academy hours. Also, back on October 12th, Walton City Council recognized a couple of officers that were involved in the officer involved shooting back in June.

Assistant Chief Haddle then stated that Halloween is on Sunday, so please be more aware of your surroundings. Also, it is deer season and they are very active. Based on stats last year, Kenton County was the tenth out of 120 counties in reported collisions involving the deer.

Detention Center

Jailer Marc Fields introduced the new Director of the Jail Substance Abuse Program, Bethany Ball. She has been with the Jail for five years, and was the Assistant Director of the program for the past year or so. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from NKU, and she is a certified Social Worker and Alcohol and Drug Counselor. The treatment starts at the Jail, and 61% of the population that are incarcerated today are there directly because of drug charges. The burden on society and the taxpayer is tremendous due to this.

Bethany Ball stated that she is thankful for this opportunity, and she is grateful for the work that Jason Merrick spearheaded. They are excited to continue the work, and with everyone's help it is a great opportunity.

Jailer Fields stated that he has spoken about Forensic Deputies, and what they are trying to accomplish with a micro-credential coming from NKU. He introduced David Wray, who has a police background from the airport, went and got his bachelor's degree with a minor in drug and alcohol addiction. He worked at the Talbert House for six years, and has been with Kenton County for five years. He serves as a Security Deputy, along with being a clinician. Moving him up to Assistant Director will give him the status of selling this to other people with his background.

Jailer Fields stated that they have done a great job. It is a great loss with Jason Merrick leaving, but he will be a partner still in his private endeavors. This program would not exist without the help of the Fiscal Court.

Judge Knochelmann thanked Ms. Ball and Mr. Wray for stepping up, and he appreciates all the work of the team.

Treasury

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

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke stated that statewide since January 1st, 6,536 DUIs are alcohol only, 5,495 are DUI drug only and drug and alcohol combined is 1,366. The numbers are showing that it isn't all alcohol, it is a lot of drugs. Prescription drugs can impair one's ability to drive. She will work on getting Kenton County specific numbers.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she would be interested in how marijuana plays a role in the number.

County Attorney Tapke stated that in Colorado they are manufacturing THC that is off the charts. So, with legalization comes those things.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud stated that Scott Gunning met with Walter Weller regarding fly fishing. He is President of the Fly Fishing Club, and he mentioned that he wants to talk to Scott about help that they can give for Doe Run Lake. He asked if Mr. Weller has talked to Scott yet?

Scott Gunning answered that he has talked to him a few times.

Commissioner Draud stated that they can help clean it up with some supervision, but someone has to maintain it.

Scott Gunning stated that he is happy to talk with him. He knows they partnered with us for the fishing derby, and they may also have helped with the Doe Run Lake cleanup.

Commissioner Draud stated that they were named the National Fly Fishing Club of the Year. Also, he asked for an update on the sidewalk project.

Scott Gunning stated that the Fiscal Court approved the contract with Integrated Engineers. They started the survey of the properties, and hopefully we will be able to go out to bid for the construction in springtime.

Commissioner Draud stated that he knows there was a lot of input on the new park. Is there any kind of priority list, and what came out of the survey?

Scott Gunning answered that we are still working on the master plan, and a meeting is scheduled for November 9th. They will present the final concept plan to our group. It will be brought back to the Fiscal Court, have an interest group and one more public meeting. There were over 600 responses to the survey.

Commissioner Draud stated that he had a gentleman named Doug Stewart contact him about SD1, and a project out in Independence. The sanitation was about 60 years old, and they had a private line that RC Durr helped them build. He talked to Joe Shriver, and he believes he talked to the Sanitation District. He asked Mr. Shriver to speak about that conversation.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that he talked with Executive Director Adam Chaney about this, and he was going to touch base with them. The thing about it is that it is a privately owned package plant. As long as there are not any failures, it would be tough to spin, because you would be talking about connecting private laterals to the main. We are still investigating that, because there are grants for just that purpose. It would be difficult to spend public dollars on private property. Mr. Chaney hasn't given up on it though.

Commissioner Draud stated that Mr. Stewart told him it is in bad shape, and not working properly. That would be good rationale for a grant.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell had nothing to report.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he received a phone call tonight with some folks upset about some of the selections for the Pioneer Award. He has been around a long time in elected offices, and has the opportunity to work with or against different individuals on various topics. There are a lot of very good people here that he disagrees with on some aspects of their politics. He understands people's point of views though. Over the years, he has learned a lot of lessons about remaining calm. There is a lot of emotion out there right now. The people that have won the Pioneer Award are not chosen by the Fiscal Court. The Ethics Commission chooses, and it comes to the Court. If people are that passionate about it, get on this side of the ball. If we can't have opposing views, there will be a lot of problems in the future. The Pioneer Award winners are impressive people in our community. Any Kind of questionable actions in their lives, is far outweighed by the good that they have done. He doesn't discourage phone calls and people to disagree, he just wants homework to be done beforehand. This award is the right thing to give to people who have given of themselves for no financial benefit. The person who is a winner is beyond question for his selflessness. Be sure to get a nomination in when they are open. If you have issues with us, remember that we have family that didn't ask to be exposed to this. When you approach us, you are representing your family as well. We can disagree, but still be successful.

Judge/Executive 's Report

Judge Knochelmann stated that there was Latonia Lakes gathering last week. It was a small crowd, but our team reported the facts of where they are today compared to seven years ago. That neighborhood is not perfect, but has improved on police calls, care of homes and less complaints. Sometimes we forget to look back at the work that has been done. It was a good meeting, and they appreciated it.

Commissioner Draud asked if most of the people are pretty happy?

Judge Knochelmann answered that by the number of people that attended they are thrilled. He thanked the whole Police Department and Public Works for their continued work on this area. The number of houses alone that were either abandoned or a mess has improved. He thanked the Fiscal Court for their involvement.

Judge Knochelmann then stated that we continue to see a lot of interest on projects across the board. Through Tri-Ed and PDS there is a lot of movement to not only respond to good projects that are here, but also the planning for the future. Our Business Services portal has been contracted with a programmer. They had a good meeting with the realtors on that effort. The feedback has been nothing but positive. He is setting the expectation very high, and there is good work coming out of that. Jessica Ramsey, Joe Shriver and Roy Cox have done some great work with this.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge Executive 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 26, 2021.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk