

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

MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge Knochelmann called to order the November 9, 2021, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Commissioner Joe Nienaber 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
Kurt Greivenkamp, Assistant County Treasurer
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of October 26, 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 2021 Pioneer Award to Ken Harper.

Shane Noem spoke about Mr. Harper's accomplishments in Northern Kentucky, as well as the State and how he impacted him individually.

Gil Fauber from Rotary stated the Mr. Harper's service to Rotary was top notch. He is an example to all of us in public service.

Judge Knochelmann read the Proclamation, and thanked Mr. Harper for all of his service to Kenton County.

Ken Harper stated that he is grateful that his wife Eileen was mentioned. She was his guiding light. All of the groups that he was involved in provide great community service, and he learned a lot from them. He feels that this is such an honor.

B. Presentation of a Service Award to Lisa Desmarais for her work on the broadband project.

Judge Knochelmann stated that this is a service recognition award that is being given to Lisa Desmarais. When the County needed someone to work in our Technology Services Department, Lisa took on the task of leading the department. She then helped with all of the technology in the new building, which was a large task.

Lisa Desmarais stated that when she was asked to get involved, she was happy to help. She attended a couple of broadband meetings, and was able to help out with the project. She is the Chair of the Board of Regents for the Kentucky Community and Technical College system, and they are talking about the challenges in Kentucky and one of them is broadband access. She has been singing the praises of Northern Kentucky and Kenton County with the advances that are being made.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Ms. Desmarais should be recognized for the statewide board that she is on.

C. Claims List dated November 5, 2021.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

**A. Resolution No. 21-01Q
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

Assistant Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp stated that the budget adjustments are for the following: \$20,000 to cover hazardous material cleanup reimbursements, and \$37,500 to cover the additional cost of the cart path project.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the cart path is the next piece of the puzzle with the golf course.

Scott Gunning stated that we got a quote for this over a year ago, and the cart paths have deteriorated even further. So, there is additional work to be done.

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.

Ordinances

**A. Ordinance No. 451.20 - Second 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.**

Commissioner Sewell stated that this has been worked on for a year. Cincinnati Bell helped wrap it up quickly.

Commissioner Draud stated that he heard on the radio this morning that the Federal Government is giving \$65 million for broadband around the country. He asked what we are spending on our broadband?

Judge Knochelmann answered that it will be a total of \$10 million in Kenton County that will be paid by ARPA money, which is still Federal money.

Commissioner Draud asked what the cost is for the total project?

County Administrator Joe Shriver answered that it is \$40 million, and Cincinnati Bell is Covington \$30 million.

Commissioner Draud stated that it would be about \$100 million for all three counties.

There were no questions on the Ordinance.

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

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit No. 21-153**
Request approval to accept the bid from Riegler Blacktop for cart path paving/renovations at the Kenton County Golf Courses.
- B. Exhibit No. 21-154**
Request approval of a lease agreement between the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- C. Exhibit No. 21-155**
Request approval to surplus sixteen (16) 55 " Sharp Aquos LED Televisions for the Kenton County Detention Center.

All items on the Consent Agenda were voted on together.

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.

Executive Orders

- A. Executive Order 21-136**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the re-appointment of Charles Tirone, Dr. Garry Neltner, Gary Hampton, Dr. Shelly Voet and Dr. Kevin Wall to the Kenton County Local Board of Health.

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. Executive Order 21-137**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the Fiscal Court Holiday Schedule for the calendar year of 2022.

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 21-138**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the renewal of the contract of Chief Spike Jones for the Kenton County Police 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.

- D. Executive Order 21-139**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Douglas Patton as a Police Officer for the Kenton County Police 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.

- E. Executive Order 21-140**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the step increase for Sarah Halpin from Dispatcher 1, G 5-3 to Dispatcher 1, G 5-4 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.

- F. Executive Order 21-141**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of John Mairose as a Police Officer 1 for the Kenton County Police 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.

- G. Executive Order 21-142**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the appointment of Christopher Huhn as a Police Officer 1 for the Kenton County Police 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.

- H. Executive Order 21-143**
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 Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge Executive Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- I. Executive Order 21-144.**
An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Becky Reiter as the Director for the Kenton County Animal Services Department.

Judge Knochelmann stated that everyone appreciates the work, and the team that she has built. She always has a home at Kenton County.

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.

- J. Executive Order 21-145**

An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the resignation of Samantha Helt as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Kenton County Animal Services 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.

K. Executive Order 21-146

An Executive Order relating to the Fiscal Court approving the promotion of Jeff Arnold from Public Services Assistant Lead to Public Services Crew Leader 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

Animal Services

Becky Reiter stated that it has been a pleasure working for Kenton County. There have been a lot of changes in her life, and it is time for family. She has done a lot of things at the Animal Shelter, and the staff is more than capable and have done great things for Kenton County. She appreciates all of the support that the Fiscal Court has given. Also, they lost another employee, but she is a new mom and wants to be with her family. They are concentrating on making sure that the staff is well prepared.

Public Works

Nick Hendrix stated that they had their hazardous waste event for Northern Kentucky, and 2,500 vehicles showed up in six hours. More than 1,000 were Kenton County residents. This is a little less than usual. The event was very organized thanks to Melissa Grandstaff and the other counties. Secondly, they are adding Jeff Arnold to their team and he really appreciates that promotion. He will provide some fantastic leadership, with over 20 years in the department. Finally, he thanked Becky Reiter for her service, and he has enjoyed working with her.

Parks/Buildings and Grounds/Golf Course

Scott Gunning stated that the walkway and sidewalks are complete by the clerk's entrance at the Historic Courthouse. A special thanks to Nick Hendrix and the Public Works crews, as they did all the concrete and drainage work. We are planning on the parking lot to be paved by the end of year, fingers crossed the weather and scheduling works out for us. The good news is, the vendor has indicated they should be able to do it before the plants close. When the paving does take place, we will have to restrict access to the building for a few days. The Sheriff and Clerk's office have been made aware of this and we are working with them to minimize any impact to their operation. In addition to the parking lot, we've also started to get the bid documents ready for the next phase of the roof project along with working with GRW on the landscape plan.

Mr. Gunning then stated that on the parks side, a majority of our fall sports leagues have wrapped up their season. We are in the process of winterizing our facilities and shutting down the restrooms and irrigation systems. Our seasonal employees are starting to finish up the year, so we are trying to get a few projects done before they leave including the baseball dugouts at Richardson Road Park and replacing the basketball goals at Pioneer.

Mr. Gunning then thanked the Fiscal Court for approving the budget adjustment for the repaving of the cart paths. The holes that we are going to be focusing on this year are #10 through #14 on

the Willows, with an estimated start date of early spring. Lastly, he is working with David Peru to get him scheduled to attend an upcoming meeting to recap the season and to answer any questions you might have on the courses.

Commissioner Draud asked if Mr. Gunning passed on the email that he sent about the 9 hole question?

Mr. Gunning answered that he passed it on to David Peru. He will address this with him to come up with a solution.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he believes the customers should be able to play nine holes whenever they want to play.

Mr. Gunning stated that there is not a coupon for nine holes, and that was the issue. He will work on it.

External Affairs

John Stanton stated that the Attorney General had his grand opening in the building today. Historically, it is the first time that the Attorney General's office had a physical presence in Northern Kentucky. There are currently two attorneys and an investigator operating out of that space, but they are looking to add two additional attorneys as time goes on. This will be a great asset for the region.

Mr. Stanton then stated that the Licking River Project public meetings have been set for December 8th in Campbell County, and one in Kenton County on December 13th. Also, he thanked Kurt Greivenkamp for navigating the bureaucracy in Frankfort to get the second \$250,000 appropriation.

Mr. Stanton then stated that they are continuing to work on the Randolph Project, and they cut a contract to do four more videos for that project. He has worked with half a dozen digital media companies in Northern Kentucky, and consistently those bids come in at \$6,500 to around \$10,000. He thinks that Sara Sgantas can do the work that these companies are doing, and it isn't costing anything extra.

Mr. Stanton then stated that they are now kicking off the strategic planning process for MeetNKY, and they have narrowed down the potential vendors to two. Those interviews are tomorrow. That is to create a strategic plan for Northern Kentucky in community branding, product attraction and marketing. So far, Julie Kirkpatrick is doing a great job on that front.

Mr. Stanton then stated that he has seen Beckey Reiter revolutionize her work in not only Kenton County, but in Boone County previously. She has left a legacy in her profession in Northern Kentucky that anyone can touch.

Commissioner Draud asked how much space the Attorney General will be using?

Scott Gunning answered that it is about 2,000 square feet.

Commissioner Draud asked how much they are paying for that space?

Judge Knochelmann answered that they are paying \$31,000 a year.

Commissioner Draud asked how many employees will be using the space?

John Stanton answered that initially there are three, and they are looking to add two more.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Scott Gunning and John Stanton did a lot of work on this. Also, PDS has done a great job with their staffing to open up the fifth floor.

Commissioner Sewell stated that she did watch the video for Dr. Jones and the Randolph Project, and we do have TBNK that can do videos as well.

County Attorney 's Report

County Attorney Stacy Tapke had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Jon Draud

Commissioner Draud had nothing to report.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell thanked Beckey Reiter for her great service, and changing the focus of the Shelter to protect as many lives as possible. She was remiss for not saying it at the employee dinner the other night, but it has become very evident to her that the quality of staff at the top is great but also how willing they are to help grow and nurture people under them. When we have to say goodbye to someone like Beckey, there is a sense of security that things are going to be okay. Also, the courthouse looks great, and thanked Nick Hendrix and Scott Gunning for the hard work.

Scott Gunning thanked John Thoburn for all of his help on the project.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he appreciates all that Beckey Reiter did for the shelter. He remembers listening to the live release rates from meeting to meeting, and how quickly and dramatically she affected change. She is in a class of her own, and we will be at a distinct loss without her.

Judge/Executive 's Report

A. Request approval to cancel the December 28, 2021, Fiscal Court Meeting

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.

Judge Knochelmann stated that we are continuing to build through Tri-Ed for long term planning for economic development. There was a board meeting today, and the insight is there for this vision. All the groups are working together to draw businesses in to the area. Also, Blue North, which is the entrepreneurship effort in Northern Kentucky, has partnered with grant money. There is a four to five month process where they will be visiting entrepreneurs, funders, advocates and elected officials to get insight on what needs to be done to be an entity to support those organizations and needs. For example, Aviatra works with women owned businesses and they are being interviewed. Mortar, who works with minority groups is being included as well. They are bringing everyone together.

Lastly, Judge Knochelmann stated that the Notre Dame Women's Soccer Team won State, and St. Henry Women's Volleyball won State as well.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that the Notre Dame Pandas are one of the most dominant teams anyone will ever see. They were 28-0-1, with 24 shutouts, 114 goals scored which is a state record.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. 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 November 9, 2021.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk