

Meeting Date; 01/07/2020

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regular

HONORABLE REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in regular session on the 7th of January 2020 at 9:30AM in the Council's Chambers in Berea, KY. Present was the Honorable Reagan Taylor in the chair presiding and the following members of the Fiscal Court: Roger Barger, Tom Botkin, and John Tudor were present. Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, Madison County Jailer Steve Tussey, Madison County Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman Mitchell, and Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger was also present.

It being determined a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order.

Judge Taylor asked Magistrate Tudor to lead the court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 12-17-2019:

Motion by John Tudor seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on December 17, 2019.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes	Roger Barger-Yes
John Tudor- Yes	Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Proclamation-School Board Recognition Month:

Judge Taylor proclaimed January 2020 as School Board Recognition Month. Madison County School Board Members recognized Becky Coyle, Samantha Burford, Beth Brock, Lori Cobb, and Brandon Rutherford for their continuous efforts in their roles.

IN RE: 2nd Reading-Ordinance 19-20-Snowplow/Road Trucks:

Judge Taylor presented the 2nd reading of Ordinance 19-20 concerning a lease agreement of \$1,200,000 for Snowplow and Road Trucks.

Motion by John Tudor seconded by Roger Barger to approve the second reading of Ordinance 19-20 concerning the lease for Snowplow and Road Trucks.

Magistrate Tudor reminded residents that the project would be funded by the coal and mineral severance tax.

Judge Taylor explained that this funding was categorized under the LGA fund in the treasurer's reports.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes	Roger Barger-Yes
John Tudor- Yes	Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: 1st Reading-Ordinance 20-01-Discontinuance of Road-Ralph Park West:

Judge Taylor presented the 1st reading for Ordinance 20-01, the discontinuance of Ralph Park West road. This was requested by a resident of the road.

Motion by John Tudor seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 20-01, the discontinuance of Ralph Park West road.

Magistrate Tudor stated that this was an abandoned road that hasn't been maintained in years. The property owners surrounding the road have all agreed to privatize Ralph Park West.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

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Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 20-01-County Clerk Budget:

Judge Taylor presented the County Clerk's budget, Resolution 20-01, for approval.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Roger Barger to approve Resolution 20-01, the County Clerk's budget.

County Clerk, Kenny Barger, announced that the biggest change in the budget is the increase in revenue. Barger has been involved in efforts for the new e-recording bill and recording fees. He recognized his coworkers for their work ethic and drive to do the right thing.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 20-02-Sheriff's Budget:

Judge Taylor presented the Sheriff's budget, Resolution 20-02, for approval.

Motion by John Tudor seconded by Roger Barger to approve the Sheriff's budget, Resolution 20-02.

Sheriff Mike Coyle announced to the court that he will be losing four deputies by losing \$300,000. Coyle is unsure of what services will be continued by the sheriff's office. Overtime, pay raises, and new employee vehicles are among a few requests the sheriff has previously advocated for. The overcrowding at the detention center has carried over problems to other departments. In 2019, the sheriff's office opened 745 criminal cases, served 3,728 court papers, 784 evictions notices, 126 domestic violence calls, and 346 alarm checks, etc. The court has been very gracious through the years. The financial difficulties the court is facing now will be passed on to our citizens, detention center, and sheriff's office. Court security of seven courts is maintained through the sheriff's office. In 2019, 7,845 inmates were transferred to court in-county, 1,516 out-of-county. Instead of our prisoners being housed in Madison County the sheriff's office is having to travel across the state, causing more increases to the budget. Inmate transfers rose 20% from 2017. Coyle's staff is committed to protecting the public but are limited with the financial situations.

Judge Taylor further explained that certain services are required of the sheriff's office such as serving papers and court security. The sheriff's office was never intended to be the main law enforcement. Over the past 15 years the number of state police employees have decreased significantly with sheriff's numbers rising. The sheriff's office picks up where the state police has had to fall back. To create a new standard the citizens must offer support.

Magistrate Botkin emphasized the effects of having to layoff members of the sheriff's office.

Magistrate Barger stated that Madison is the 5th fastest growing county in the state of Kentucky. The tax rate is ranked 72nd.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 20-03-Memorandum of Understanding Airport Board:

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Judge Taylor asked for the court's approval of the memorandum of understanding with the airport board, Resolution 20-03. This agreement is entered into by the city of Richmond and Berea, the county of Madison, and the airport board. The board received an \$800,000 grant that can be added to their hanger project. Madison County will help the board to secure a \$500,000 loan, having no financial burden on the court.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Roger Barger to approve Resolution 20-03, memorandum of understanding with the airport board.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 20-04-State Road Transfer-Jubilee Lane:

Judge Taylor asked for the court's approval to transfer the state road Jubilee Lane into the Madison County road system.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by John Tudor to approve Resolution 20-04, state road transfer of Jubilee Lane.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 20-05-Appointment of Planning commission Member:

Judge Taylor recommended that the court appoint Bill Buchanan to serve on the Planning Commission and approve Resolution 20-05.

Motion by Roger Barger seconded by John Tudor to approve Resolution 20-05, appointing Bill Buchanan to serve on the Planning Commission.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 20-06-Appointment of CSEPP Planner Agreement:

Judge Taylor recommended that the court appoint Mary Eipert to serve on the Planning Commission and approve Resolution 20-06.

Motion by John Tudor seconded by Tom Botkin to appoint Mary Eipert to serve on the Planning Commission and approve Resolution 20-06.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 20-07-Renewal of CSEPP Planner Agreement:

Dustin Heiser, EMA Director, addressed the court requesting the approval of the CSEPP Planner Agreement renewal, Resolution 20-07.

Motion by Roger Barger seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 20-07, CSEPP Planner Agreement renewal.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Personnel-Promotion-Fire Department:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, addressed the court to recommend the promotion of James Andrae to a firefighter 2 position with a proposed rate of pay at \$8.50/per hour, effective January 8, 2020.

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Motion by John Tudor seconded by Roger Barger to approve the promotion of James Andrae to a firefighter 2 position with a proposed rate of pay at \$8.50/per hour, effective January 8, 2020.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Personnel-Promotion-Fire Department:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, recommended the promotion of Matthew Frost to a firefighter 2 position with a proposed rate of pay at \$8.50/per hour, effective January 8, 2020.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by John Tudor to approve the promotion of Matthew Frost to a firefighter 2 position with a proposed rate of pay at \$8.50/per hour, effective January 8, 2020.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Personnel-Promotion-Fire Department:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, recommended the promotion of Alan Ethan Jones to a firefighter 4 position with a proposed rate of pay at \$9.50/per hour, effective January 8, 2020.

Motion by Roger Barger seconded by John Tudor to approve the promotion of Alan Ethan Jones to a firefighter 4 position with a proposed rate of pay at \$9.50/per hour, effective January 8, 2020.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

Tom Botkin-Yes

Roger Barger-Yes

John Tudor- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- 2020's Unity March and Service will be Monday, January 20th, at 5pm. Participants will gather at First Baptist Church on the corner of Francis and Collins Streets at 4:45pm, and march to the Madison County Courthouse then back to the church for a special service at 6pm.
- The Richmond Area Arts Council is hoisting "An Evening of Elegance Art Exhibit Celebrating African American musicians and Visual Artists from the Bluegrass State Past and Present" will be Saturday, January 25, from 5 until 8:30pm at the Richmond Area Arts Council at the corner of Lancaster Ave. and Water Street.
- Madison County is proud to welcome back the All "A" Classic Basketball Tournament to ECU's Alumni Coliseum January 22 through January 26. If you would like to volunteer during one of Madison County's signature events, please contact Richmond Tourism.
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce's annual Kick-Off Gala will be Monday, January 27th, from 5 until 7pm at Eastern Kentucky University's Perkins Building.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Botkin stated that the county is growing. Madison County is in great shape in comparison to places he's traveled. Botkin mentioned his appreciation for the words of Judge Taylor.

Magistrate Tudor reiterated what a great department the Sheriff's office is, thank to Sheriff Coyle. Jailer Tussey is doing a great at the jail-thank you. Tudor stated his appreciation for Rachel, Glenna, Burt, and Chris for their efforts in their departments. At some point the county will have to get help from the citizens to continue operations. Thank you to all our employees. Happy New Year.

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Magistrate Barger stated his appreciation for all the departments. A special thanks to Tim, Willie and Scott. We get mud when the rain falls, and their response is appreciated. Thank you to all our employees, and court. Politics don't matter-we're here working for the county.

Judge Taylor offered gratitude to magistrates and fellow employees for their continued efforts and support. Taylor is optimistic about the years to come and encouraged others to enter 2020 with a positive mindset.

Clerk Kenny Barger reiterated the financial struggles the county is facing, especially in the sheriff's department. The proposed tax increase drew attention from citizens concerning problems the county is facing. Barger encouraged citizens to contact their state representatives-there are a lot of improvements to be made. We're not out of the woods. We need people to get involved now. Barger noted that those serving the county aren't in it for the money, but because they want to be involved and make it a better place.

Sheriff Mike Coyle stated that our society is based on money. Madison County has been very lucky to have had the first responders we've had and have today. There's no better time to have people pull together and bring the good Lord back in to the picture-it's not all about money. We're going to move forward, not backwards. Coyle stated he was proud to be a Madison Countian.

Jailer Steve Tussey stated the jail numbers; 396 inmates housed in Madison County; 70 inmates housed in other counties. Tussey expressed his gratitude for the sheriff's office and all their efforts.

Comments from Department Heads:

No comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience:

Robert Whitaker, resident of Battlefield, addressed the court concerning flooding in his neighborhood. He stated that he never witnessed any of the flooding that's been experienced this month. It is his opinion that the flooding is in result of the upper retention pond not draining fast enough. The hydrologic study that was conducted doesn't have any data to support a \$2 million dollar project, he said. Whitaker also expressed concerns surrounding the sinkhole.

Douglas Wyatt, resident of Battlefield, addressed the court concerning flooding in his neighborhood. Wyatt stated his finished basement was destroyed due to flooding. Wyatt stated that their home has flooded five times since February. Wyatt stated that he was grateful for the support from Magistrate Botkin. Wyatt asked that this be taken care of now.

John Johnson, resident of Battlefield, addressed the court concerning flooding in his neighborhood. Thank you to Magistrate Botkin and Judge Taylor for taking my phone calls. Johnson stated that on the July 23rd fiscal court meeting flooding in Battlefield was discussed. Johnson suggested that the creek be cleaned out. He asked for a status update from the court.

Turner Newton, resident of Battlefield, addressed the court concerning flooding in her neighborhood. Newton explained the hardships caused by the flooding.

Lisa Hall, resident of Battlefield, addressed the court concerning job creation and flooding. Hall presented the court with a packet of information containing a photo of her backyard, map of the flood zone, etc. Hall asked the court to address this issue.

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Dustin Heiser, EMA Director, addressed the comments and concerns mentioned from the audience. He noted that there was severe flooding in February of 2019. Damage assessments were completed by Kentucky EMA. In result, Madison County did not qualify for individual assistance. There are mitigation efforts being discussed at both the local and state level. The challenge that arises is that this is not a quick process.

Judge Taylor stated that the court was sympathetic and are willing to help. However, there are laws that must be followed, and limited tax dollars. The court is continuing to look for solutions. There were certified engineers hired to complete these hydraulic studies. Taylor invited the audience members to come back to the January 28th Fiscal Court meeting where the Jackson group and their engineers will give a presentation and offer an open dialogue. There are no obstructions in the sinkhole.

Robert Whittaker approached the court again to explaining his reasoning for water retention suggestions.

Magistrate Botkin requested information from Dustin Heiser concerning the requirements for a flood zone.

Magistrate Tudor offered his sympathy to homeowners and stated he would visit the neighborhood himself.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Roger Barger seconded by John Tudor to approve pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for January 28, in Richmond at 9:30AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Tom Botkin to adjourn, seconded by John Tudor. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned 11:30am.



REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE