

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

HONORABLE REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in regular session on the 10th of January 2023 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, Ky. Present was the Honorable Reagan Taylor in the chair presiding and the following members of the Fiscal Court: James Brian Combs, Stephen Lochmueller, Billy Ray Hughes, and Tom Botkin were present. Assistant Madison County Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Sheriff Michael Coyle, Jailer Steve Tussey, and Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger were also present.

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

Judge Taylor asked Reverend Dr. Timo Karvonen from Berea United Methodist Church to lead the Court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Michael Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 12-14-2022:

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on December 14, 2022.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Proclamation—Madison County School Board Recognition:

Judge Taylor proclaimed January 2023 as School Board Recognition Month and urged all citizens to honor Beth Brock, Samantha Burford, Lori Cobb, Becky Coyle, and Brandon Rutherford for their service.

Superintendent David Gilliam, Deputy Superintendent Randy Neeley, Chief Academic Officer James Ray, Lori Cobb, Board of Education Member, and Brandon Rutherford, Board of Education Member, were present to accept this Proclamation.

Brandon Rutherford, Chair and Board Member of the Madison County Board of Education, thanked the Court for the recognition and appreciation. He stated that the Board works hard and strives to give the kids of Madison County, who are the future of the community, the best education they can get to make the future of Madison County better.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked the School Board, teachers, and administrators for all their hard work on behalf of the Lochmueller family.

IN RE: Resolution 2023-01—Madison County Clerk's 2023 Budget:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2023-01— Madison County Clerk's 2023 Budget for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the Madison County Clerk's 2023 Budget.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2023-01— Madison County Clerk's 2023 Budget.

Clerk Barger explained that the Clerk's budget is a little different than a normal budget in that the revenues must match the expenditures, and since they are a fee-based office, they give 25% of their revenues back to the Fiscal Court every quarter. He stated that the goal of the Clerk's Office is to be the most customer focused, cost effective Clerk's Office in the State, and believes that they have achieved that.

Magistrate Combs thanked Clerk Barger for being focused on customer service and for being conservative in the office.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he believed the constituents appreciate the customer service they receive in the Clerk's Office and expressed his appreciation to Clerk Barger and his staff.

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Judge Taylor stated that he didn't believe that a previous Clerk had ever given funds back to the Court like Barger has, which in turn allows the Court to use those funds to better the County.

Magistrate Hughes asked if Clerk Barger still looked for areas to improve. Clerk Barger stated that they absolutely do. Because of his staff, he is able to be more involved in the Clerk's Association with Legislation to get things changed that stand in the way of better customer service.

Clerk Barger explained that most of the Clerk's budget is a pass-through; they collect taxes to distribute to other taxing districts like School Board, and Fiscal Court. The operational budget amounts for estimated receipts and estimated funds available for the calendar year are \$2,128,047.00.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-02—Madison County Clerk's Office Space Renovations:

Kenny Barger, Madison County Clerk, presented Resolution 2023-02— Madison County Clerk's Office Space Renovations for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve the renovations for the relocation of the Madison County Clerk's Office to 321 N. Madison Avenue Richmond, KY due to the remodeling of the Courthouse.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-02— Madison County Clerk's Office Space Renovations.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if this existing building is one that the County already owns. Judge Taylor stated that yes it was. Judge Taylor explained that the building was vacated in July and that he has been working with Clerk Barger on a plan to best utilize the space for his office needs.

Clerk Barger explained that the cross training his office staff does will allow the customer to come directly in and get serviced at the counter without having to go from one office to another. By using the N. Madison Ave. building, the Clerk's Office is saving taxpayers money by not having to pay for rent and is investing what they do have to spend for a remodel into an existing County building.

Magistrate Hughes stated the big challenge would be informing the community of the new location. Clerk Barger agreed. Clerk Barger explained that another advantage of using this location is its proximity to the Courthouse; it can't be seen from the Courthouse, but it is just a few blocks away. He also stated that there would be signage from the Courthouse to the new location.

Magistrate Botkin asked where Clerk Barger planned to put all the records and archives that are currently in the basement of the Courthouse. Clerk Barger explained that the archives will be in the basement of the new location. The majority of the books have been and are continuously being scanned electronically, so those books will be moved to the basement of the Family Court building since they are all online.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-03—Madison County Sheriff's 2023 Budget:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2023-03— Madison County Sheriff's 2023 Budget for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the Madison County Sheriff's 2023 Budget.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2023-03— Madison County Sheriff's 2023 Budget.

Sheriff Coyle presented the Sheriff's Office 2023 Budget, which is \$5,827,534.39. Sheriff Coyle explained that this is the largest budget that the Sheriff's Office has ever asked for in the past 12 years. The society and

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

environment have changed over the years, and to help retain officers to keep the county safe they are asking for a \$5000 pay increase for all full-time workers, as well as a pay raise for the Court Security Officers. Sheriff Coyle acknowledged that this is a big pay raise but is a much-needed pay raise when taking into account the fact that state-wide everyone is short officers and that the County wants to retain the officers that they have trained so they don't leave to go to other agencies that pay more than the County does. He explained that both Richmond and Berea City Officers start out making more than what this proposed pay raise would be. The second biggest part of the budget is for cruisers. The purchase price of the new vehicles has gone up over the past years, as well as the installation of the needed devices and equipment that is put into the vehicles. The budget for gas has also increased due to the cost of gas.

They also added in a line item for the Accident Reconstruction program, which will allow them to reconstruct fatality accidents without waiting for assistance from the State or other counties. The additional units the Sheriff's Office has been able to add in over the years has been very valuable to the County and he is very proud of the work the Sheriff's Office does.

Magistrate Hughes stated that the Sheriff's Office does a great job, but he is not sure the County can afford this budget, which increased 40% over last year's budget.

Magistrate Combs asked the Sheriff when the budget has to be approved. Sheriff Coyle stated it was today; it has to be sent to Frankfort before the 15th in order for the Department to have a budget to work from. Magistrate Combs also asked Sheriff Coyle if they saw any possibilities in the future of their revenues to grow through the collection of more fees. Sheriff Coyle stated that they collect their money through eviction notices, civil papers, criminal papers, and any of the court processes. By law, vehicle inspections can only be \$5 plus a \$10 trip fee if they have to travel for the inspection. There are a lot of situations that arise that they can't control or factor into that take money out of their budget, like guarding inmates receiving hospital care 24 hours a day.

Judge Taylor stated that as a Fiscal Court, they have to decide if they are going to support financially a law enforcement presence in the unincorporated limits of the county. The Sheriff Office's manpower has continued to increase over the years due the State Police's manpower decreasing, to the point that the State Police doesn't work a third shift in Madison County; that is covered by the Sheriff's Office in an agreement they have with the State Police. Judge Taylor also explained that in years past, before he took office, the Fiscal Court hardly ever gave money to the Sheriff's Office and that was because they had a police presence from the State.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked Judge Taylor if they knew what the dollar amount was that they are spending for duties that is not mandated by law that they have to do. Judge Taylor stated that if they are not providing a law enforcement presence in the county, the deputy's gross salary would be an estimate on what they are spending. Judge Taylor spoke on the pay raise portion of the budget. He explained that there is an effect of the decision that legislature made last session to give State Police officers a much needed \$15,000 increase, which has come down to local governments and has caused a need to increase pay to be competitive and retain officers. The other option is to lobby in Frankfort to explain that there needs to be some relief in law enforcement by either funding the primary source of law enforcement in the county or adding more State Police officers to work the county.

Magistrate Lochmueller agreed with Judge Taylor and would like to see the Court cohesively make the decision to lobby in Frankfort in the future.

Magistrate Hughes stated the budget is a tremendous increase and will impact other services in the county.

Magistrate Botkin stated that most of the court campaigned on policing the county by making sure there is a law enforcement presence in the county. Drugs are still coming into the community, especially in the county, and manpower is needed to combat this. Until the County can no longer afford to pay the needed manpower, he wants to see our people get paid what they need to get paid in order to keep them in the County, because retaining deputies is more cost effective than hiring new deputies. He also encouraged Sheriff Coyle and Major Terry to keep getting retired KSP officers, who bring their knowledge and skills to the County and also save money because they don't need County benefits.

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Magistrate Lochmueller agreed with Magistrate Botkin, that retention is a lot cheaper than trying to rehire people. He stated that he appreciated the answers and input during the discussion and feels that he needs to support law enforcement but also feels that they need to work toward a better future.

Judge Taylor feels that partnerships within the County and with other entities is important, and that they need to start having conversations with other entities who should be doing those things that aren't mandated for the Sheriff's Office to do. They need to work towards a better partnership and a solution to the problem.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- No Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-04—Kit Carson Commons Project Final Payment:

Glenna Smith, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2023-04— Kit Carson Commons Project Final Payment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is authorizing a final payment for the Kit Carson Commons Project.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2022-1392023-04— Kit Carson Commons Project Final Payment.

Judge Taylor stated that this has been a good project for the community and appreciated the partnership that allowed them to be a pass-through for the project.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-05—Approval of Bond for Madison County Judge Executive:

Glenna Smith, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2023-05—Approval of Bond for Madison County Judge Executive for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the bond for the Madison County Judge Executive.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2023-05— Approval of Bond for Madison County Judge Executive.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-06—Madison County Road Supervisor Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-06—Madison County Road Supervisor Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the re-appointment of Scott Shepherd as the Madison County Road Supervisor.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-06—Madison County Road Supervisor Appointment, re-appointing Scott Shepherd as the Madison County Road Supervisor.

Magistrate Combs echoed the resolution, stating that Shepherd does an outstanding job working with IT to develop Snow Tracks.

Judge Taylor stated that Shepherd, Clerk Barger, and the County team utilize different measures to look for ways to be more efficient and provide a better service to our customers.

Clerk Barger stated that Shepherd and the Road Department get a lot of praise on maintaining the roads, and that falls back on maintaining the equipment. The Road Department doesn't only maintain their trucks, but also

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

other department vehicles. This not only saves the other departments money on maintenance of their vehicles, but also pays for the mechanics that work at the road garage.

Magistrate Lochmueller expressed to Shepherd that Sheriff Coyle was very complimentary of his services and is sure that the Sheriff appreciates him and his department.

Magistrate Botkin stated that Shepherd was very effective in planning the purchase of the newer trucks and in initially making a plan to buy equipment over time instead of all at once. He is very appreciative of Shepherd.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-07—Ratify the City of Berea's Appointments to the Madison Airport Board, Inc.:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-07— Ratify the City of Berea's Appointment to the Madison Airport Board, Inc. for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to Ratify the City of Berea's Appointments of George Wyatt and Charles Conley to the Madison Airport Board, Inc. for a 4-year term, expiring on January 16, 2027.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-07— Ratify the City of Berea's Appointment to the Madison Airport Board, Inc for George Wyatt and Charles Conley, expiring on January 16, 2027.

Magistrate Botkin stated, as the liaison to the Court on the Airport Board, he is able to see the work that these gentlemen do and appreciates their hard work on improving the airport.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Snow Truck Discussion:

Scott Shepherd discussed the future of the snow trucks and the future plans for those trucks. Shepherd explained that the Court decided to purchase 10 new snow trucks about 3 years ago at a cost \$119,500 a truck, with the thought of purchasing one additional truck every year thereafter so the fleet wouldn't wear out all at one time. However, for the past 3 years they have been unable to order any additional trucks due to unavailability. He stated that International called him last week to inform him that they had 3 cancellations and asked if he would like to order those trucks at a cost of \$226,333.95 per vehicle with delivery being in December 2024. If they decide to not take the trucks and wait until next year's order list, they will not receive them until December 2027. Shepherd explained that they run 17 trucks and 2 pick-ups; 10 of which are the new trucks from 3 years ago, and the other 7 age from 25-31 years old and are probably 5 years over their life span due to the elements that they operate in.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked Shepherd how far out the purchase of these 3 trucks would take him in regard to their usability. Shepherd said it's hard to tell since they are 3 years behind, but Judge Taylor stated that they have about a 20-year life span. He reminded the Court that the county is growing, and it could get to where they would have to add a new snow route to cover the growth. Shepherd added that each route is approximately 40 road miles.

Magistrate Hughes suggested, since they have 15 days to inform International of the decision, that they come back at the next meeting and vote on it.

Magistrate Lochmueller agreed. He stated that whether they purchase the trucks or not, coming back after gaining more information, and voting on it would be best.

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

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Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Snow Truck Discussion:

Scott Shepherd discussed the future of the snow trucks and the future plans for those trucks. Shepherd explained that the Court decided to purchase 10 new snow trucks about 3 years ago at a cost \$119,500 a truck, with the thought of purchasing one additional truck every year thereafter so the fleet wouldn’t wear out all at one time. However, for the past 3 years they have been unable to order any additional trucks due to unavailability. He stated that International called him last week to inform him that they had 3 cancellations and asked if he would like to order those trucks at a cost of \$226,333.95 per vehicle with delivery being in December 2024. If they decide to not take the trucks and wait until next year's order list, they will not receive them until December 2027. Shepherd explained that they run 17 trucks and 2 pick-ups; 10 of which are the new trucks from 3 years ago, and the other 7 age from 25-31 years old and are probably 5 years over their life span due to the elements that they operate in.

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Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Shepherd added that the 10 trucks that were purchased 3 years ago were Freightliners (which can't be ordered at this time), and this contract would be with International. They have looked into other providers, like Mac and Peterbilt, but they don't make single axle trucks and their tri-axle trucks are too expensive and cause wear and tear on the roads.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked Shepherd if he knew what the cost of contracting out for snow events would be. Shepherd stated that they did an analysis of that, and Independent Contractors wouldn't do it but did give them an estimate of triple what they are paying out now.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the 10 trucks previously purchased are being paid for by LGEA funds and wanted to know where the funds for this purchase would come from. Glenna Smith stated that they haven't looked into it yet but suggested that since these trucks would not be in until 2024, to set aside money from each budget year so it doesn't hit so hard.

IN RE: Personnel:

Morgan Elliston, Coordinator, recommended the promotion of Clayton Cornett from Firefighter II as a Firefighter III, at a rate of \$9.85 per hour effective January 18, 2023; the hiring of Bobby Aldridge as an Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour effective January 25, 2023; and the hiring of Jessica Russell as a Finance Officer, at a rate of \$23.89 per hour effective January 30, 2023.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the promotion of Clayton Cornett, and the hiring of Bobby Aldridge and Jessica Russell.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- The Richmond/Madison County Chapter of the NAACP will be hosting their annual Martin Luther King Day March for the Homeless on Monday, January 16th beginning at 1 PM. Donations for the homeless are encouraged, and if you want to donate but not participate in the march, drop off your contributions at the staging area beginning at noon. Please see the Richmond/Madison County NAACP's website or Facebook page for more details.
- The Pregnancy Help Center Celebration of Life Event will be Sunday, January 22nd at 1:30 PM on the Madison County Courthouse lawn. Please check their Facebook page for more information and updates.
- Richmond Chamber's Annual Kickoff will be Tuesday, January 24th from 12 to 1:30 PM at ECU's Perkins Building. Learn about the vision for the 2023 Chamber. Visit richmondchamber.com for more information and registration.
- Madison County is proud to welcome the boys and girls 2023 All A Basketball Classic back to ECU's Alumni Coliseum Wednesday, January 25th through Sunday, January 29th. Please be mindful of increased traffic during those dates in the area.
- After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Fort Boonesborough is bringing back their February Fireside Chats every Saturday in February. Please contact the Fort for a list of presenters and schedule.
- The Madison County Courthouse and its related offices will be closed on Monday, January 16th for the Martin Luther King Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, January 17th at 8 AM.

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Botkin stated that he had received several calls about trash pickup on the roadsides, and thanked Jailer Tussey for getting inmates out to pick up the trash; the public appreciates it. He also stated that the State will be slope mowing on Tates Creek and will be patching potholes on Lancaster Rd, so be mindful of those areas when traveling.

Magistrate Hughes asked about the status on the alert radios and when they might get sent out. Jill Williams stated that there have been some delays on those, but they do have most of those in-house and are expected to have the mailing company send those out in February. She explained that they would be mailing out a postcard prior to the radio mailings to inform the public that they should be expecting a package detailing what it is and will be providing instructions on disposing the old radios.

Magistrate Hughes also asked where he would find out if a constituent's house is within the broadband coverage area. Jill stated that the Magistrates can call or email the Judge's office so they can log those calls and inform the constituent of their coverage. Magistrate Lochmueller asked Williams about cell coverage. She stated that they haven't had specific conversations in regard to wireless providers. She did suggest that the Magistrates keep a record of data on specific areas that don't have coverage so they can present the data to the providers.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked the Judge and other Magistrates on the discussions they have had today, and the staff for the training they have had leading up to this meeting. He stated that he had several constituents calling with concerns about people pulling out of Love's Truck Stop, going right instead of left and blocking traffic. Judge Taylor stated that there are signs that say, "No Semis" and he has been working with the State on a solution to the problem for years and it is a work in progress.

Magistrate Combs stated that they had some good discussions today, with some tough decisions. He believes that their fundamental goal as a governing body, is to protect the citizens, and that is why he chose to support the Sheriff's budget. He thanked the Sheriff's Office for allowing him to do a ride-a-long, stating that it was an eye-opening experience and he observed how dangerous their work can be.

Jailer Tussey informed the Court, that if they get calls from their constituents concerning trash that needs to be picked up on the roads, to pass that on to him and he would get someone out to take care of it.

Clerk Barger stated that the Court is going to have to have a discussion concerning who the law enforcement agency of the County is, and what the citizens want from the County.

Sheriff Coyle thanked the Court and expressed his appreciation to them for passing the budget. He stated that their agency does a lot in the county and is called upon many times to do work that isn't in their job description, but they are proud to do it. He also informed the Court that the railroad crossing on Main Street will be closed Wednesday through Friday.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

No Comments from the Audience or Facebook.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve to pay claims and transfers.

Meeting Date; 1/10/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for January 24, 2023, in the Richmond City Hall Commission Chambers at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Billy Ray Hughes to adjourn, seconded by Tom Botkin. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE