

Meeting Date; 1/24/2023

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 24th of January 2023 at 9:30AM in the Richmond City Hall Chambers in Richmond, 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. Madison County Attorney Jennie Haymond, 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 Brandon Robbins from Revival House 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 1-10-2023:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on January 10, 2023.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Glenna Smith, Treasurer, addressed the court to give the monthly treasurer's report (see on file).

Judge Taylor stated that he wanted the Court to know about the Opioid Settlement Fund. Glenna explained that she does not list the Opioid Settlement Fund or the ARPA Fund because they are funds that are just sitting there, nothing is going on with them. Once they start spending out of it, then she will start reporting it, however, it is listed with the balances on the report.

Magistrate Combs asked what the Opioid Settlement Funds are set for. Judge Taylor stated that once they get a good understanding of what those funds can be spent on, they would present it to the Court. Glenna also stated that what is in there now is all they will get for this year, but each year they get a payment.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he saw a claim from Western Kentucky Correctional Healthcare which \$35,000 of the claim is for February 2023 and asked if we were paying them in advance. Glenna stated they do have to pay them several months in advance, per the contract.

IN RE: City of Richmond Men's Rehabilitation Center Discussion:

Rob Minerich, City Manager, City of Richmond, talked about a potential partnership with the County to potentially bring a men's rehab center to Richmond. Madison County and Richmond are one of the fastest growing counties and cities in the State, but with that, comes one of the highest overdose rates per capita. About a year ago, they partnered with Bluegrass Area Development District and The Fletcher Group to start working on an EDA (Economic Development Administration) Grant application, as well as looking for suitable property for the center. The application is now complete, and the property has been secured. Phase I of the project will create 40 recovery beds, and Phase II will create 55 additional longer-term beds. The total cost of the project is \$6 Million and the EDA Grant is for \$3 Million, the City of Richmond is willing to use \$1.5 Million of its Opioid Settlement funds. Minerich is asking the Fiscal Court to match the \$1.5 Million with its Opioid Settlement funds. He would also like to have an Interlocal Agreement for the Court to review and vote on at the next meeting.

Magistrate Botkin asked Minerich what the timeframe would be from breaking ground to operational, should the grant be approved. Minerich stated it would be between 12 to 18 months, which hinders on getting the EDA

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grant. What they are hearing from Bluegrass ADD and The Fletcher Group is if they get an interlocal agreement between the local governments, it is very likely they will get the \$3Million from EDA. Botkin also asked if they already had the land purchased. Minerich explained that they have an option on the property, which is in a qualified census tract, and is a property that will just need to be renovated instead of building.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the interlocal agreement would include operational cost. Minerich stated that it is for the construction of opening the facility, and New Vista would operate it.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that it seems the facility might help with the jail population, that some inmates might be better housed there instead of the jail. Judge Taylor stated that one of the things that they discussed was could there be specific beds for inmates being diverted from the jail. Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he believed this is the right direction they need to go but asked if Berea would be a part of the agreement as well.

Minerich stated that they have reached out to the City of Berea but got the feeling that they wouldn't want to participate since the facility would be in Richmond, and Berea already has a project for a rehab center.

Magistrate Hughes thanked Minerich for getting the camp at Exit 90A cleaned up. Minerich stated that it was a group project with the help of inmate labor and a county dumpster truck to get it cleared out, as well as help from RPD and the Fire Department. They started working on that in November with contacting those homeless individuals, getting them moved, and making sure they have the services that they needed to get help.

Magistrate Botkin had asked Melissa Sloan, Executive Director of Madison Home, to give the Court a briefing on the program, the services they provide, and their funding needs.

Melissa Sloan explained that Madison Home services the unhoused in Richmond and Berea and are starting to see an influx of those in surrounding counties. Madison County is seeing a growing crisis with the unhoused population, with nowhere for them to go. Madison Home is located on 5th St. and is currently not open due to a significant amount of renovations needed to bring the building up to code. Although they are currently not housing, they are still offering case management services, a Narcan Home Reduction van comes twice a month for needle exchanges, peer support, therapists, and twice monthly healthcare from Baptist Health. Sloan stated that she has a meeting with Major Fraley in Berea to talk about bringing Berea in to help fund the ongoing services of Madison Home to help get the doors open to house the unhoused by potentially using APRA Funds and would appreciate if the County would consider making a contribution as well. The men's rehabilitation center would be tremendous, but where will they go after they finish rehab-more than likely Madison Home so they can work with a case manager so they can sign up and get stable for housing and to apply for jobs.

Magistrate Botkin asked Sloan how many unhoused individuals they could house once the building is renovated. She stated between 50 and 60 additional beds once they are able to open their doors. Currently they are housing individuals each night during the week in different churches, as well as in motels which they are having to pay for. Magistrate Botkin also asked what she anticipates the cost of the renovations would be. Sloan stated that in October the cost was roughly \$150,000, and with the growing inflation, predicts it could be between \$150,000 to \$300,000 at this time. This doesn't include the ongoing services once the doors are open to continue running the facility. They would like to look into hiring a grant writer so they don't have to rely on the City or County for help but can actively be seeking grants. She stated that her position is a volunteer position and doesn't get paid for her work at Madison Home.

Magistrate Hughes asked her why she is volunteering if she isn't paid. She explained that there is no one else to do it and she has a need to serve this population. She has been a social worker with New Vista for over 15 years and serves as a case manager for a substance abuse treatment facility in Lexington, as well as providing ongoing case management services at Madison Home and running their day-to-day operations.

Magistrate Botkin asked if she had the funding, how soon did she think they would be operational. She said probably within 12 months.

Judge Taylor asked if Madison Home owns the building or if it was owned by a private individual. Sloan explained that a local doctor owns it but leases it to Madison Home for \$1 a year.

Magistrate Combs thanked Sloan for her work and that he appreciates her service.

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Magistrate Botkin explained that he asked Sloan to speak today because Madison Home is another resource to help with the unhoused population and thinks that they should support the City in their effort to get the grant. Madison Home is not just for men, but women and families as well.

Magistrate Lochmueller agreed with Magistrate Botkin and thinks that at some juncture to see if Berea could help as well. Judge Taylor stated that Berea has a facility, Room in the Inn. They had a joint meeting in October with Madison Home, Room in the Inn, the cities of Richmond and Berea, and the County to get a coordinated effort of how to help combat the unhoused problem. Sloan explained that Room in the Inn is still housing in hotels because Berea doesn't have a building to house the unhoused at this time.

Judge Taylor explained that our jail has become a homeless shelter, a medical facility, etc. and as a Fiscal Court, they are responsible for paying for that through taxpayers' dollars. Services such as Madison Home, can help eliminate those services from the jail. Sloan stated that the jail and hospital didn't need to be utilized as homeless shelters, there needs to be a homeless shelter established for the unhoused population.

Judge Taylor went on to explain that the interlocal agreement would state that the County will use a portion of their Opioid Settlement Funds to fund this project. The Opioid Settlement Funds are from lawsuits from the pharmaceutical companies, not from federal taxpayers' dollars.

Madison County Attorney Jennie Haymond informed Fiscal Court that within the Court System, they already have programming in place to divert all low-level drug felony offenders from the jail to a state-funded program through drug court or through Baptist Health's CDIOP program, but they need places to send them to house them and give them follow-up services.

Judge Taylor asked what the pleasure of the Court would be in regards to an interlocal agreement. All Magistrates agreed to the presentation of an interlocal agreement at the next court meeting. He also asked Melissa Sloan if she could present a budget for Madison Home so they could present it to Fiscal Court to see what they could do to help with that project.

IN RE: Resolution 2023-08—ASAP Harm Reduction Grant Application FY23:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2023-08— ASAP Harm Reduction Grant Application FY23 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is confirming the Madison County Fiscal Court to serve as the applicant agent for the FY23 ASAP Harm Reduction Grant.

Laura Nagle, Chairman of the ASAP Board and Risk Reduction Specialist, was present to answer questions regarding the ASAP Grant. She explained that ASAP is the Agency for Substance Abuse Policy which started in 2000, is through the Tobacco Settlement funds, and the Fiscal Court is an agent for the ASAP Board. They apply for funds twice every year, once for the General ASAP Grant which includes awareness, education, treatment, prevention; and then for the Harm Reduction Grant, which just focuses on harm reduction.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2023-08— ASAP Harm Reduction Grant Application FY23.

Magistrate Botkin stated that as a member of the ASAP Board, he sees the work that Laura does, and appreciates what she and all those associated with it do for the first responders.

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 2023-09—Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Bid Award:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-09— Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to award a bid for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to Atlantic Emergency Solutions in the amount of \$122,000, with equal allotments of \$40,666.66 each for Madison County Fire Department, Richmond Fire Department, and Berea Fire Department.

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Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-09— Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Bid Award.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the items listed to find has a “meet, does not meet, and exception” check box by each of them in the associated documents sent to them, and the picture sent didn’t appear to have everything as was asked. He was wondering if they found everything that they were searching for in the apparatuses. Cole Baker, EMA/CSEPP Medical Logistics Officer, explained that this was a very detailed bid and there are a lot of different equipment other than just SCBA’s that go along with this. They were able to look over it and found everything they were looking for. He stated that this is a company they have used before and were very helpful with any questions they had.

Jill stated that this has been a joint project between all the Fire Chiefs.

Cole also explained that anything that is purchased over the \$40,666.66 for each Fire Department would be paid for out of other funds they have.

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 2023-10—Refurbish 2001 Freightliner Fire Pumper Truck (Engine 3) Bid Award:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-10— Refurbish 2001 Freightliner Fire Pumper Truck (Engine 3) Bid Award for the Court’s approval. This Resolution is for awarding a bid for the Madison County Fire Department Refurbishing of a 2001 Freightliner Pumper Truck (Engine 3) to Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus in the amount of \$139,194.02.

Magistrate Hughes asked if the truck was usable now, which Judge Taylor stated yes it was, if it would be taken out of commission for this refurbishment, which Judge Taylor stated yes it would be, and how long would it be out of commission, in which Judge Taylor stated that it is a back-up truck. Judge Taylor explained that it was decided when the County bought the 2 new trucks about 4 years ago, that they would keep this truck as a backup, and refurbish it to be used when the other trucks are out for maintenance. Magistrate Hughes stated that he wasn’t sure what kind of priority this would be with it costing so much money without looking at the truck beforehand and asked if they had to act on this today. Jill explained that the bid is good for 30 days, and that no funds would be expended within this fiscal year, which they have already spoke with Glenna about how to carry over these funds that were budgeted for this into the next fiscal year. She also stated that it would have to be re-bid out again if it went beyond that 30-day timeframe.

Judge Taylor stated that as the County grows, there will be a growth in services that are provided, and they thought that it would be good to have a backup engine if there ever came a time for expansion. Judge Taylor asked Jill when the bid would expire, and she stated it would be on February 28th.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to table Resolution 2023-10— Refurbish 2001 Freightliner Fire Pumper Truck (Engine 3) Bid Award until the next Fiscal Court meeting.

Magistrate Combs asked Scott Shepherd if he knew what the price of a new truck would be. Shepherd stated it would be right at \$1 million. He also stated that they had been working on this concept for the past 3 years. If a truck goes down now, they don’t have an engine because they only have one engine per station. In the past, they have been in the position where they have had to reach out to the City of Richmond to borrow an engine while they newer ones have been worked on, which is not a good way to leave the community. When a fire truck gets 20 years old, the Fire Commission considers it obsolete. This refurbishment sends the truck back into the factory and they redo the truck, the lights, interior; all but the motor and transmission. The Road Department, however, has checked out the motor and transmission, and feels like they can get 10 more years out of them. When the bids came back, the closest bid to Brindlee was \$180,000, so they feel that the bid they received is a good bid.

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Clerk Barger asked Shepherd since most of the fires that the County Fire Department goes to are rural and without a pumper truck, they don't spray water because they can't hook to a fire hydrant and have pressure. Shepherd stated that was true. He stated that this truck is a little smaller than the new engines so it can get to places that some of the bigger trucks can't get to.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he has been given good information, but he would feel more comfortable if he could look the truck over.

Judge Taylor asked the Magistrates to coordinate a time with Chief Gray to go look at the pumper truck in question.

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 2023-11—Grant Writer Bid Award:

Glenna Smith, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2023-11— Grant Writer Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to award a bid for grant writing services to Shirl Cross in the amount of \$40,000 per year.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2022-11— Grant Writer Bid Award.

Magistrate Botkin asked how they came to the cost for the grant writer. Judge Taylor stated that Ms. Cross bid for that amount. Jill explained that it is a cost savings for the Court, since the previous contract was for \$50,000.

Magistrate Hughes stated that Shirl is local and is good at what she does.

Judge Taylor stated that Shirl had worked with them in the past and they are happy to have her back. He also thanked Tom Webb for his service to the County over the last couple of years as the grant writer.

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 2023-12—Purchase Snow Trucks:

Scott Shepherd, Road Department Supervisor, presented Resolution 2023-12—Purchase Snow Trucks for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve the purchase of three snow trucks for the Madison County Road Department from Bluegrass International in the amount of \$679,001.85, which consists of an individual cost of \$226,333.95 per truck and will be included in the 2023-2024 Road Department budget.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve presented Resolution 2023-12—Purchase Snow Trucks for the Madison County Road Department.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he thought the cost was too high and feels that the economy is heading toward a recession. He believes the supply chain issues will start moderating and the cost of vehicles will come down. He suggested purchasing trucks and having Tebco build beds for them.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he knows the family that owns Tebco, and explained that due to supply chain issues, they can't get trucks.

Magistrate Combs asked Shepherd once they get 10 trucks, will they be prioritized any way to preserve half of the fleet in any way so they will last longer, or will they all be used the same amount. Shepherd stated that they all will be dedicated strictly to snow removal and nothing else. The goal was to have a step-down program with the purchase of a new truck by moving one of the older snow trucks down to become an everyday truck and taking that older everyday truck out of the fleet since they are at the end of their life.

Judge Taylor stated that when you use a truck for both snow and an everyday dirt truck, the wear and tear of removing and reinstalling the blades and salt blocks every time is hard on the trucks. He stated that the citizens appreciate and expect the job the road crew does during a snow event.

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Shepherd and Magistrate Botkin both stated that they agree with Magistrate Hughes that it is too high, but both also stated that several years ago when they purchased new trucks and cruisers, those were too high at that time and the price has just gone up from then.

Magistrate Lochmueller agreed with Magistrate Botkin that the cost is not going to go down, but he understood Magistrate Hughes' concern. He stated that it is a difficult decision, but they are there to serve the constituents and if they don't have the proper equipment, then they can't get out to clear the roads.

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: Personnel:

Morgan Elliston, Human Resources Coordinator, recommended the hiring of Steven Buchert as a Road Department Truck Driver-General Labor, at a rate of \$16 per hour effective January 25, 2023.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the hiring of Steven Buchert as a Road Department Truck Driver-General Labor, at a rate of \$16 per hour effective January 25, 2023.

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:

- A reminder that the boys and girls 2023 All A Basketball Classis will be January 25th through the 29th at ECU's Alumni Coliseum. We are proud the Berea Community Lady Pirates made the tournament again this year. Please be mindful of increased traffic during those dates.
- Whitehall is hosting their annual Valentine's Day Tea on Saturday, February 18th from 6 until 9 PM. Please see their website or Facebook page for required reservations.
- The Madison Community Band will be hosting their 2023 Winter Concert at First Baptist Church in Richmond on Sunday, February 19th at 3 PM.
- Mayor Robert Blyth's State of the City address will be Thursday, February 23rd at 8:30 AM at the ECU Perkins Building. Please contact the Richmond Chamber of Commerce for required tickets and reservations.
- The three Madison County Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution has partnered with the Battle of Richmond Visitor Center to collect used prescription pill bottles. The bottles will be used in shipments of medical supplies headed overseas. The guidelines are rather strict, so please call the Battle of Richmond Visitor Center at 859-624-0013 for more information.
- The Madison County Courthouse and its related offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2023 for the Presidents' Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, February 21st at 8 AM.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Combs stated that he appreciates the discussions today. This is troubling times with inflation and increased costs and that some decisions are a burden they will have to bear.

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Magistrate Lochmueller expressed his appreciation of the discussions and points of view today. He stated that he serves on the Water Board as a representative of the Court with their first meeting is on Thursday, as well as on the Valley View Ferry Authority Board. He has enjoyed the inter-relationship with the Valley View Ferry Authority Board. He was able to go to the Lexington facility, who will be doing some work on the ferry and the barge, to meet a couple board members on the Lexington Government and has enjoyed representing this Court.

Magistrate Hughes asked Scott Shepherd if he knew anything about the obstruction in the creek on Union City Rd. Shepherd stated that it is a State road so they can't work on it. Judge Taylor reached out and met with Kelly Baker, who reassured him that they are making plans to clean that out. Shepherd was not sure if it has been done yet or not. Judge Taylor stated that Kelly Baker and Shane Tucker came down a couple weeks ago to look at the situation and the last that he heard was that they were going to try to trap the beavers and get it cleaned out.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he had a couple calls about the roadside ditches on old US 25/KY 3376 where there had been some trees cut down. Most of the debris has been cleared but there are some pretty good size pieces in the ditch. He has spoken with the State Transportation Department and they are not the ones that cleared that area, so he will be checking with Bluegrass Energy to see if they have been clearing for their powerlines to try to get them to clear it.

Judge Taylor thanked Rob and the Richmond City Commissioners for allowing Fiscal Court to use the City Hall Chambers. He also asked the court members to put a hold on February 7th so they can try to have a special called work session to discuss broadband and the economic development in the county.

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.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for February 14, 2023, in the Berea Council Chambers' Courtroom at 9:30AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from James Brian Combs to adjourn, seconded by Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE