

Meeting Date; 2/14/2023

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 14th of February 2023 at 9:30AM 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. Madison County Attorney Jennie Haymond, Madison County Sheriff Chief Deputy Tony Terry, 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 Pastor Stephen Hobbs from Berea Church of God to lead the Court in prayer and requested a moment of silence to honor Eddie Goode. Judge Taylor asked Magistrate Tom Botkin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 1-24-2023:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on January 24, 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: Approval of Special Called Work Session Minutes 2-7-2023:

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve the minutes from the special called work session on February 7, 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: Proclamation—FRYSC:

Judge Taylor proclaimed February 14, 2023 as FRYSC Day and urged all citizens to honor the Madison County Family Resource and Youth Services Center for the services they provide to our students and families each day. FRYSC Regional Representative Amy Carmichael, Region 10 Program Manager Lisa McKenzie, Ashley Taylor, Angie Daniels, Tracy McIntosh, Kathy Coomer, Hope Burchett, Zac Wray, Sean Quinlan, Ashley Johnson, and Rebecca Maupin were present to accept this Proclamation.

Ms. Carmichael thanked the Court for the recognition and for working with the FRYSC and the schools to keep them safe, and she also thanked the FRYSC at each school for being great community stewards.

Judge Taylor is thankful for each Family Resource Officer and what they do for the kids by showing them love and support.

Magistrate Botkin stated that his wife was the secretary at Shannon Johnson and has been able to see firsthand what it is that the Family Resource Centers do for the students and appreciates all their hard work.

Sean Quinlan explained that the Family Resource Centers follow these kids that need help from Elementary School through High School and stated that we have a great community that helps them help the students.

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

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Tim Gray, Chief, presented Resolution 2023-10— Refurbish 2001 Freightliner Fire Pumper Truck (Engine 3) Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to award a bid for the Madison County Fire Department refurbishing of 2001 Freightliner Pumper Truck (Engine 3) with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-10— Refurbish 2001 Freightliner Fire Pumper Truck (Engine 3) Bid Award.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he had some questions during the last meeting concerning the truck; he met with Chief Gray who went over the truck with him answering his questions, and he expressed his appreciation to Chief Gray.

Chief Gray stated that Brindlee is ready to take the truck, per approval, and it will have a turnaround timeframe of 8 to 10 months.

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 2023-13—80/20 Bridge Funds-East Bill Eads Road (CR 1312):

Scott Shepherd, Road Department Supervisor, presented Resolution 2023-13— 80/20 Bridge Funds-East Bill Eads Road (CR 1312) for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to adopt and approve the execution of a rural secondary program agreement between the Madison County Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, and accepting all roads and streets referred to therein as being a part of the County Road System. The project is to replace a bridge on E Bill Eads Rd (CR 1312), in which the Transportation Cabinet shall be responsible for providing and agrees to reimburse up to the amount of 80% of the actual project cost, and the County shall be responsible for 20% of the cost.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2023-13— 80/20 Bridge Funds-East Bill Eads Road (CR 1312).

Judge Taylor asked Shepherd if he could give a little bit of a back story about the bridge. Shepherd explained that about a year ago, the State notified them that this bridge is in critical condition; the metal supports under it have rusted through, and they've been cautioned about weight limits for the bridge. The new bridge is a precast bridge, which will come in about 8 sections so the tear out time and replacing the bridge will be relatively short at 3 to 4 weeks, and they are hopeful to start work on it in May.

Magistrate Botkin asked what the bridge would be rated for weight wise. Shepherd stated it would be 36 or 40 ton, he couldn't remember exactly. Since everything in this bridge will be concrete, the life of it will be a lot longer than what the current bridge was.

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 2023-14—Broadband Expansion Funds Proposal:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2023-14— Broadband Expansion Funds Proposal for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the broadband expansion plan and to authorize the use of up to \$750,000 of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to ensure every Madison Countian has access to high-speed Internet service by May 2025.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-14— Broadband Expansion Funds Proposal.

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Magistrate Lochmueller stated that based upon his experience and history in the telecommunications industry, this is a grand slam, and he is very proud of this project; it is critical to the future of the Madison County citizens.

Magistrate Combs thanked everyone that was on the Broadband taskforce for all their hard work. He explained that this would not have been possible without ARPA funds, which is money that is appropriated through the federal government.

Judge Taylor thanked everyone on the taskforce as well.

Clerk Barger stated that the biggest workload goes to Chris Iseral. He knew the process forwards and backwards, and they wouldn't have been able to get it done without him.

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 2023-15—HB1 County Clerk Election Equipment Grant Application:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2023-15— HB1 County Clerk Election Equipment Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is authorizing the filing of a Kentucky House Bill (HB)1 County Clerk's election equipment grant application for up to \$70,000 in HB 1 project funds with the Department for Local Government (DLG); authorizing and directing the Madison County Judge/Executive to execute any documents which are deemed necessary by DLG to carry out this project; and authorizing the Judge/Executive to act as the authorized correspondent for this project.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2022-15— HB1 County Clerk Election Equipment Grant Application.

Clerk Barger explained that when they started using poll books, there was a contract that was paid for by the State Board of Elections through the HAVA Grant, which that contract is ending soon. The Secretary of State's Office, Board of Elections, and the Clerk's group petitioned legislature for money for election equipment and poll books. He explained that there are 4 poll book providers that have been approved by the State Board of Elections and they have all gone through the RFP process, and the County Board of Elections will be meeting tomorrow to select a vendor and get the process started. Once they receive the equipment and fill out the necessary documents for DLG, they should be reimbursed quickly.

Judge Taylor asked Clerk Barger how many poll books will they be getting with the \$70,000. Clerk Barger stated that it would be 50 poll books, with all the peripherals and the software. Judge Taylor explained that one of Fiscal Court's statutory obligations is to pay for elections.

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 2023-16—General ASAP Grant FY24:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2023-16—General ASAP Grant FY24 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is confirming the Madison County Fiscal Court to serve as the applicant agent for the FY24 General ASAP Grant and authorizing the Judge Executive to sign on behalf of the County to make an application to the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Office of Drug Control Policy, for assistance to affect alcohol and substance abuse issues in Madison County and to increase drug prevention and awareness activities funded by the program.

Magistrate Botkin stated that this is a good group, they do good work, and he appreciates them getting the budgets together for this grant.

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Jackie Dean, Director of the Scholar House program and Treasurer of the ASAP Board, was in attendance. She spoke about the Kit Carson Commons Scholar House and the Eastern Scholar House.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve presented Resolution 2023-16—General ASAP Grant FY24.

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 2023-17—Battlefield Park Operations Joint Memorandum of Understanding:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-17—Battlefield Park Operations Joint Memorandum of Understanding for the Court's approval. This Resolution is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Madison County Fiscal Court and the City of Richmond for the transfer of ownership and operation of Battlefield Park to the City of Richmond for use by the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation Department and Visit Richmond Tourism Commission.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stevens Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2023-17—Battlefield Park Operations Joint Memorandum of Understanding.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he appreciated their work in making sure Phil would continue on there; he has done a lot of good work at the Battlefield Park over the years.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he appreciates Phil's work in the past in keeping with the history of the park and the activities that have gone on out there. He believes the City probably has a little bit better bandwidth for administering and organizing a park of that size, that it is a good agreement, and is hopeful that they can continue to support the City as best as they can.

Judge Taylor agreed and stated that it doesn't change the access the citizens have to the park. The City of Richmond has a Parks and Recreation Department and tourism that can market the park better.

Magistrate Combs stated that this is a win-win. It will be well supervised and enhanced by the City being a part of it now.

Judge Taylor thanked the City of Richmond for having a good partnership.

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: Personnel:

Morgan Elliston, Coordinator, recommended the hiring of Shawn Rowland as a Road Department Truck Driver-General Laborer, at a rate of \$16 per hour effective February 15, 2023; and the hiring of Travis Coffey as an Assistant Golf Shop Attendant, at a rate of \$10.25 per hour effective February 15, 2023.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the hiring of Shawn Rowland and Travis Coffey.

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:

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- The 2023 44th District Basketball Tournament will be the week of February 20th. Semi-finals will be on Monday, February 20th and Tuesday, February 21st. The championship game will be Friday, February 24th. All games will be played at ECU's Alumni Coliseum.
- Richmond Mayor Robert Blythe's annual "State of the City" address will be at 8:30 AM on Thursday, February 23rd at ECU's Perkins Building. Please contact the Richmond Chamber of Commerce for required tickets/reservations.
- This year's Statewide Tornado Drill in Kentucky will be Wednesday, March 1st around 10 AM. Kentucky Severe Weather Preparedness week is Monday, February 27th through Friday, March 3rd.
- The Battle of Richmond Visitors Center's 3rd annual "Be A Battle of Richmond LIFESAVER" campaign begins March 1st and will run through April 30th. You can drop off bags of individually wrapped LIFESAVERS at the Battle of Richmond Visitors Center. If no one is there, you can leave your donation on one of the benches on the front porch. The staff at the Visitors Center will get your donations to Military Missions in Lexington to be included in care packages for military personnel all over the world. For more information, please call 859-624-0013.
- 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 gets a lot of complaints from the community about trash on the side of the road and in the ditches throughout the county. He stressed that this is our home, and everyone needs to play a part in being responsible in keeping the roads clean by disposing of trash correctly. He thanked Magistrate Botkin for going with him to the Judge's Conference and Legislative Day.

Magistrate Lochmueller informed the Court that he will be attending another Valley View Ferry Board meeting soon. The work with the equipment is going very well and they are hopeful to get the Valley View Ferry back online before April, but will share the exact timeframe when it becomes known. He was able to sit in on the Madison Utilities Board meeting as a liaison for Fiscal Court, which he found that to be interesting and is looking forward to keeping everyone updated on the activities there. He also stated that he is working with Chris Iseral on some stuff with the ferry to try to upgrade some of their abilities in both voice and data at the ferry location for the future of the citizens.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he was just glad to be there.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he has been working with CSX for several months about the crossing out on Menelaus and has been assured that it will be completely redone in the spring. He expressed his appreciation to Magistrate Combs and his camaraderie during the Judge's Conference, as well as during Legislative Day with Magistrates Hughes and Combs. He announced the water line and utility reconstruction for the Kingston turning lane is going to begin on February 27th. He thanked Jailer Tussey for his assistance with the prisoners picking up trash off the roadways. Magistrate Botkin also spoke on his time in the military and how meaningful it was to receive cards and care packages from home. He urged the citizens to support projects like the Be A Battle of Richmond Lifesaver, the soldiers greatly appreciate it.

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Clerk Barger stated that there was a wet/dry petition that did pass, so the question on the ballot in May will be "Are you in favor of alcoholic sales in Madison County?" He also stated that the new Clerk's Office, located at 321 N. Madison Ave., is coming along and should be done close to the proposed deadline.

Comments from Department Heads:

Chief Gray informed the Court that February 18th through 21st, the Alert FM fliers should be going out in the mail. Starting on February 27th, the radios will start to be delivered per zone and will last until March 21st. There will be 4 dumpsters set up at 4 different locations to recycle the old radios until April 14th. Those locations will be at the EOC at 560 S Keeneland Dr., Road North at 325 N Madison Ave., Road South at 208 Clarksville Ln., and at Berea Utilities at 200 Harrison Rd.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

No Comments from Facebook.

Emerson McAfee welcomed the new Magistrates to the Court and presented a picture of the Veterans Monument that they have been working on getting for Richmond and Berea.

Kenyon Sparks spoke to the Court about his dispute with his neighbor concerning a dog barking and coyote situation at his house.

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 28, 2023, in the Richmond City Hall Commission Chambers at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Billy Ray Hughes to adjourn, seconded by James Brian Combs. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE