

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

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 March 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 Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Sheriff Mike 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 Tim Taylor from Wayside Christian Church to lead the Court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 2-28-2023:

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on February 28, 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: Blue Grass Army Depot Chemical Stockpile Update—Craig Williams:

Craig Williams, Host Community Liaison, updated the Fiscal Court on the Blue Grass Army Depot Chemical Stockpile. He stated that they are 75% finished with all the chemical weapons destruction at the Depot, and about 50% complete with the final campaign of the GB Rockets. Williams also stated that they anticipate meeting the September 2023 deadline a month early and have already scheduled a celebration on Oct 11th to celebrate the completion of the last chemical weapon stockpile in America.

They are currently working on a plan to limit the economic downfall associated with workers leaving the area once the destruction is complete. There is a Workforce Transition team that has been set up by the Depot, the Joint Venture, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG), Battelle Labs, and Amentum to focus on how to transition the workforce into Depot jobs, into jobs in the existing economy, or into jobs that can be attracted to Madison County based on the high qualifications of the workforce. The team has also been working on establishing workforce retention incentives to retain the existing workforce through the end of their respective areas of responsibility within their contracts. There have been some new industries that have noticed the skill set of the existing workforce that have visited Madison County and met with the Kentucky Secretary of the KY Economic Development Cabinet, local Government leaders, and others in the community in late February.

Once the weapons are gone, there is at least 3-4 years of closure, which will include raising the structures that have been exposed to agent. The remaining infrastructure is under discussion between the advisory board, the Governor's commission, the Secretary of the Army, and others on what is to be done with them.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he attended a conference about hydrogen energy and asked if using the Depot as a hydrogen plant was in the discussions of the Depot's future use. Craig stated yes, that was in the discussions, along with several other possibilities.

Magistrate Botkin asked if there was a good momentum in retaining the Static Detonation Chamber's (SDC's). Craig stated that he thinks they will retain at least one of them to be able to detonate conventional weapons instead of using open air detonations. Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Craig for his work and years of services at the Depot.

Magistrate Combs thanked Craig for all of the work that he has done and his due diligence.

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Judge Taylor stated that there are two milestones with this project; one being Treaty, which is the September 2023 destruction deadline, and the second is Surety. Judge Taylor asked if the 3-4-year closure timeframe is included in the Surety milestone. Craig stated that it is; anything that is associated with these chemical weapons has to go through the process of certifying that they are cleaned correctly from a regulatory standpoint. Therefore, CSEPP will still be funded even after the September 2023 destruction deadline.

Judge Taylor also discussed a study that was done on the sustainability and impact in Pueblo after their chemical weapons destruction was completed. That base will be shut down or BRAC once the weapons are gone, and this study talked about the cost to the community to take over the radio system, etc. depending on who took over those systems. Craig stated that in the case of the Depot, it will involve another process to work with FEMA (which funds CSEPP), the community, and Government, etc. to see how they can work with the CSEPP program to make it something that would be beneficial to the community.

IN RE: Hope's Wings Jail and Bail Fundraiser Update—Jennifer Lainhart, Executive Director:

Jennifer Lainhart, Hope's Wings Executive Director, updated the Court on the Hope's Wings Jail and Bail Fundraiser. She explained that this is an important fundraiser for them since they are not State funded, so they don't have guaranteed funds coming to them each year. Each volunteer will be "arrested" and will have to raise money to "bail" them out. Hope's Wing is asking the volunteers to raise \$600 each for "bail." The funds from this fundraiser will be used to recover costs associated with a plumbing catastrophe that has recently happened. Judge Taylor stated that Hope's Wings has grown in their services in the past 2-3 years. Jennifer stated that they have expanded their shelter and have added on an educational center so the ladies that live with them can earn their GED's or certain certificates to make them employable, and providing skills that will help them be self-sustainable.

IN RE: 2st Reading Ordinance 2023-01—Road Department Budget Amendment:

Glenna Smith, Treasurer, presented the 2st Reading of Ordinance 2023-01— Road Department Budget Amendment for the Court's approval. This Ordinance is relating to the budget amendment of the Madison County Road Department budget.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-01— Road Department Budget Amendment.

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 2023-23—Household Hazardous Waste 2023-2024 Grant Application:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2023-23— Household Hazardous Waste 2023-2024 Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of 2023-2024 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Division of Waste Management Kentucky Pride Fund Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management Grant funds to cover the cost of vendor services for the collection and proper management of household hazardous waste and for advertising costs associated with the collection event.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2023-23— Household Hazardous Waste 2023-2024 Grant Application.

Shepherd stated that this event will take place the first Saturday in October.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-24—Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-24— Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for application and administration of 2023-2024 Kentucky 911 Services Board Grants to be used to provide upgrades to 911 services.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-24— Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant Application.

Judge Taylor asked if there was an estimate on how much this grant would be. Jill stated the total asked is \$150,000 with a 10% match. Judge also asked if there would be an in-kind opportunity to make up the \$15,000. Chris Iseral stated that the grant will not fund back-up equipment for the back-up site, which our 911 has currently, so potentially that equipment could be considered in-kind.

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 2023-25—Firewise USA Community Hazard Mitigation Grant Application:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2023-25— Firewise USA Community Hazard Mitigation Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of 2023-2024 Kentucky Division of Forestry and Kentucky Firewise USA Community Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds to be used to cover the cost of home wildfire risk assessments and installation of 911 signage associated with the goals of the grant.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2022-25— Firewise USA Community Hazard Mitigation Grant Application.

Magistrate Botkin asked if Shirl was writing the grant. Judge Taylor said that yes, Shirl and Jill have been working closely together on this.

Magistrate Botkin also asked if Chief Gray could tell them what this grant is for. Chief Gray explained that this is a grant that is awarded after they complete fire assessments on 40% of the homes within the County, in which they would advise homeowners on what to do to protect their house in case of a wildfire. He stated that this is the first time they have ever applied for this grant.

Judge Taylor stated that the relationships that will be built with the citizens is exciting.

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 2023-26—LFUCG/Madison County Fiscal Court Mutual Aid Agreement:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2023-26—LFUCG/Madison County Fiscal Court Mutual Aid Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is approving a mutual aid agreement between Madison County Fiscal Court and Lexington Fayette Urban County Government to provide mutual aid and assistance to each other should an emergency arise requiring fire prevention or public safety.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve presented Resolution 2023-26— LFUCG/Madison County Fiscal Court Mutual Aid Agreement.

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if this is a renewal or if it is the first time for this agreement. Chief Gray stated that it is the first time they have had this agreement. Magistrate Lochmueller stated that this will be good for the citizens in the northern part of the County where LFUCG has a Fire Station close by.

Magistrate Lochmueller also asked if there was a budget impact involved with this agreement. Chief Gray said no, there wouldn't be any additional costs associated with this agreement.

Magistrate Combs asked if this would help any citizens ISO rating. Chief Gray said that it would not since the County Fire Department would still be getting the calls and they would then contact LFUCG.

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 2023-27—Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources MOU:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-27—Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources MOU for the Court's approval. This Resolution is approving a memorandum of understanding between the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Madison County Fiscal Court to build a boat ramp, boat trailer parking area, courtesy dock, and kayak launch at Wilgreen Lake.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2023-27—Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources MOU.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Representative Frazier for her work on this. Many people are excited about and looking forward to this improvement.

Williams stated that they have already had meetings with the Fish and Wildlife on the best way to get this done and asked for the public's patience during the time it takes to make the needed improvements.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked the Court to publicly announce when the closure will take place.

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 2023-28—American Battlefield Trust Agreement:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-28—American Battlefield Trust Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is authorizing an agreement to convey 976 Battlefield Memorial Hwy to the City of Richmond, subject to a grant of Historical Conservation Easement.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-28—American Battlefield Trust Agreement.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Judge Taylor, Jill, the City of Richmond, and the American Battlefield Trust for coming to this agreement to be able to preserve this historical property for future generations.

Magistrate Hughes explained that before it was a county park, it was a citizen led endeavor to keep this property as a historical site. He is glad to see the City of Richmond is willing to take it over, and this will only improve the property.

Williams thanked Brooke for input with navigating the legal aspect of this agreement to make sure everything was done properly.

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

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

IN RE: Resolution 2023-29—Disposition 11/18 GHz Exalt Microwave to Estill County Fiscal Court:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2023-29—Disposition 11/18 GHz Exalt Microwave to Estill County Fiscal Court for the Court's approval. This Resolution is approving the disposition of 11/18 GHz Exalt Microwave from Madison County Fiscal Court to Estill County Fiscal Court, who currently maintains and utilizes the microwave for their public safety communication infrastructure.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2023-29—Disposition 11/18 GHz Exalt Microwave to Estill County Fiscal Court.

Magistrate Botkin asked if this was for equipment that was boxed up or currently in use. Chief Gray stated that it is actually already on their tower.

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 2023-30—Madison County Treasurer in Training:

Glenna Smith, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2023-30—Madison County Treasurer in Training for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve Sarah Stewart as Madison County Treasurer in Training.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2023-30—Madison County Treasurer in Training.

Smith stated that she is very comfortable turning over the reins to Sarah and believes she will do a great job.

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, Human Resources Coordinator, recommended the hiring of Peter Vicini as a Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$10.50 per hour effective March 15, 2023; and Sarah Stewart as County Treasurer, at a salary of \$75,000 effective March 22, 2023.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the hiring of Peter Vicini, and Sarah Stewart.

Judge Taylor asked Elliston if she would give an update on where they are at in regard to staffing. Morgan stated that they are still down about 3 on the seasonal grounds crew for the golf course, as well as a couple positions that are still open in other departments.

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: Gravel Road Maintenance Discussion:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, asked the Court for some guidance on the gravel roads that are in the county (there are about 60 such roads) and the cost that it is taking to maintain them each year. Shepherd explained that when there is a major rain event, the gravel roads get destroyed, they repair the road then another rain event comes and destroys the road again; he believes that repetitively doing the same thing isn't in the best interest of the taxpayers' dollars. He provided a summary of the cost of repairing some of the gravel roads for the fiscal year. He stated that the road department is being demanded more of a service than they can provide given their budget, and that he isn't sure what they have been doing is the right path they need to be taking to save costs

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

and cut expenditures. Shepherd also provided an analysis of the estimated cost of blacktopping the gravel roads, which would be well over 2 million dollars just on the small sampling of roads he provided. He explained that these roads were not engineered to last like an engineered road would be with proper drainage, and infrastructure, nor are they wide enough to get the County equipment on, so it would be almost impossible to fix these roads.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if the County doesn't maintain them then what happens. Shepherd stated that they have the option of discontinuing maintenance on them, which would become the property owner's responsible, but the County would keep the easement.

Magistrate Lochmueller also asked if Shepherd knew what other counties have had to do in this type of situation. Shepherd said that he hasn't spoken with any other counties, so he couldn't say for sure. Historically in Madison County, when looking through court records, they have discontinued roads or sections of roads, or stopped maintenance on the roads, which hasn't always been politically popular options. Shepherd also stated that a road could be abandoned, which deeds the roadway back to the property owner and typically only happens when there are one or two people who have access to that particular roadway.

Judge Taylor stated that there is statute that says roadways are supposed to have a public purpose, and there are some of these gravel roads that just have one person that needs access to it.

Magistrate Hughes stated that over the years there has been some gravel roads that have been paved based on the need, but the County can't afford to blacktop many of these gravel roads.

Shepherd believes that this situation will just keep increasing with the availability of land decreasing and people are going further out to find land because it is less expensive. It's hard for individuals in this situation to understand that the road that is there is the road that they will have to use, the County can't improve the road.

Magistrate Lochmueller also asked if there was any way for them to regulate roads in the future so that individuals who purchase such properties understand that the road that is already there won't be maintained.

Judge Taylor stated that he believed that they would need to stop maintenance on such roads.

Magistrate Hughes asked Shepherd to recommend a list of roads that he believes should be discontinued.

Magistrate Combs asked if they should have a work session. Judge Taylor suggested to have Shepherd put together a working group internally to work on recommendations.

Magistrate Lochmueller agreed with establishing a working group.

Magistrate Botkin stated that there are 20 gravel roads in the 4th District alone. He said that it is hard to justify the expense of blacktopping and continuing to maintain these roads when there is hardly any revenue that would be coming in by doing so, and they have a difficult decision to make. Magistrate Botkin also pointed out that the County received money from the Federal Government to be used on anything they wanted to use it on, but they also have to think about the upkeep on the existing blacktopped roads that service a far larger population than the gravel roads do.

Judge Taylor explained that regulations state if a developer wants to do a subdivision on a farm but the road to get to that farm is not up to County standards, the developer has to spend money to bring it up to the County's standards. It is hard to justify the County spending money on maintaining a road that wouldn't bring in much revenue when a developer, who is bringing in revenue, has to cover those costs themselves.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he understood the citizen's frustration, but their job is to make decisions for all the citizens, which can be difficult at times.

Judge Taylor stated that they would get together and strategize who needs to be included in a task force and will bring back a recommendation to Fiscal Court.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- The Madison Opioid Response and Empowerment Program (MORE) will have sessions for a Community Conversation on Stigma & Opioid Use Disorder on March 27th, 28th, & 29th. Anyone is welcome to attend. Contact Kentucky River Foothills at 859-624-2046 for registration information.

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

- The 2023 Empty Bowls project will be Friday, March 31st, at the First Baptist Church in Richmond. Serving will begin at 11:00 AM and continue until 4:00 PM, with to-go orders only after 3:00 PM. There is a minimum donation of \$15, and proceeds benefit God's Outreach Madison County Food Bank, New Liberty Family Shelter and Food Bank, Home Meals Delivery, and the Salvation Army of Madison County. Contact Lora Danley at 859-200-9361 for more information.
- Hospice Care Plus is hosting a Night of Comedy featuring That Guy Joe Deuce at ECU's Posey Theater Friday, March 31st at 7:00 PM. Visit www.hospicecareplus.org to purchase your tickets.
- Our Madison County Parks are also getting ready for warm weather. You may reserve one of the pavilions for your birthday party or family get together by contacting the Battlefield Golf Course at 624-8005.
- Road work on I-75 from Exit 83 to the Rockcastle County line is set to begin this spring. Please be mindful of delays and other road projects across Madison County.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Combs thanked Glenna for her service. He stated that from April 3rd-7th there will be a trash hopper in the Bobtown area for those that might be doing some spring cleaning and need a place to dispose of trash.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Glenna for her years of service and wished her good luck. He stated that there seemed to be a situation at 301 Jacks Creek Pike where an individual in a residential area is running a business out of their home, and it is a concern of the constituents in that neighborhood with the traffic increase that could possibly result in an accident. He has reached out to Vernon concerning this and is waiting for a response. Judge Taylor stated that he will reach out for a response as well.

Magistrate Hughes encouraged the public to go online to renew their motor vehicle registration, and explained that it is a very simple process.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Jailer Tussey and the County Attorney's Office in making efforts to decrease costs to house prisoners in other counties. He also stated that he has received calls concerning the Peytontown Rd Bridge closure. It is currently impassable, and it might be the end of April before it is repaired. The long timeframe of this road closure is resulting in an increase of time it takes for emergency personnel to reach those that live on that road because they are having to go 12 miles around to get to those houses. He has talked to the State about this concern, but the completion timeframe is still the end of April.

Comments from Department Heads:

No comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

No comments from the Audience.

Comments from Facebook

Jill Williams stated that there were a couple questions on Facebook having to do with the gravel road discussion. One was if the public could get a copy of the gravel roads that has had \$61,000 spent since 2016, in which Jill stated that she and Scott would follow up with the citizen on that. The second question was about the County roads that has and still is being used for over 30 years, which Jill stated they would follow up with that

Meeting Date; 3/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

as well. Judge Taylor also stated that it would be a good idea to put together the KRS's that the County must follow that go along with the road discussion.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for March 28, 2023, in the Richmond City Hall Chambers in Richmond, Ky 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 11:09 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE