

Meeting Date: 8/22/2023

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 22nd of August 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 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 Pastor Jim Riggs of Big Hill 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 8-8-2023:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on August 8, 2023.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Passed Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

Treasurer's Report:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, addressed the Court to give the monthly treasurer's report (see on file).

IN RE: Update from Coroner Jimmy Cornelison:

Jimmy Cornelison, Coroner, provided an update on the Coroner's Office. To date, the Coroner's Office has had 47 confirmed overdose cases (there was 69 total last year), most of those from fentanyl or a combination of fentanyl, 2 pending toxicology reports, and 10 pending autopsy reports (which is the most he has had at one time in his career). He stated he gets a lot of help from the State Police Intelligence Department in finding next of kin, as well as from Rodney Davis with the County Attorney's Office.

Magistrate Combs asked if the Coroner's Office is fully staffed. Cornelison stated that statute reads that they are to get 1 Deputy Coroner for every 25,000 people; therefore, he is entitled to 4 but currently has 3 and is doing ok with those 3 Deputy Coroners. They have worked out a transportation agreement with Waco Volunteer Fire Department, which has worked out extremely well.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked about the age groups he has seen that has been affected the most by drug use. Coroner Cornelison stated that was probably 35-45 years of age.

Magistrate Hughes asked if Cornelison thought they had hit "critical mass" yet with the drug overdoses. He stated that it just continues to grow. They will mellow off a little bit then a new drug comes up and it increases again.

Judge Taylor thanked Cornelison for allowing him to ride with him. He expressed his appreciation to Cornelison and his team for what they do and deal with. Cornelison said he had a great facility, and encouraged the Court to come see the facility if they want to.

Sheriff Coyle stated that he respects Coroner Cornelison and his work that he does with the local law enforcement agencies.

Magistrate Botkin stated that drug overdoses are still an on-going battle despite that money that is being used to fight the drug epidemic. He stated that it takes an exceptional person to be a coroner or deputy coroner and expressed his appreciation to Coroner Cornelison and his staff.

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IN RE: Special Purpose Government Entities Presentation (SPGE) of Ad Valorem Rates:

Amanda Sears, Cooperative Extension Agent for Horticulture stated that the Extension Office District Board voted to levy the compensating rate for 2023 at 1.8 for Real Property, 2.83 for Personal Property, and 1.3 for Motor Vehicle. She also thanked the Court for their support throughout the year.

Toyna Donselman, EMS Director, stated they will accept the compensating rate of 4.3 for Real Property, 6 for Personal Property, and 6 for Motor Vehicles. Over the past several years they have been able to accept the compensating rates while still maintaining an excellent service to the community and have even increased the services they provide.

Nikita Vundi, Director, MC Health Department, stated they will accept the compensating rate of 4.7 cents per \$100 for Real Property, 5 cents per \$100 for Personal Property, and 5 cents per \$100 for Motor Vehicle.

Christina Cornelison, Director, Madison County Public Library stated that for the second year they have been able to lower their rates will also expanding services. The Library Board voted to adopt a lower than comp rate of real property rate of 5.1, personal property rate of 5.1 and a motor vehicle rate of 3.5.

Judge Taylor stated that the Red Lick Watershed rate will be 5 cents per \$100 for Real Property.

Magistrate Hughes expressed his appreciation to the library on lowering their rates over the past few years.

Director Cornelison stated that it is important to her that they provide excellent service and enough service without creating an additional burden. Clerk Barger stated that the county is fortunate to have a Library that shares those values.

Magistrate Hughes also expressed his appreciation to the other taxing districts for holding steady on their rates.

Judge Taylor stated that there are a lot of liabilities that some of these SPGE's have due to long-term retirement costs and have to hold money back in their reserves to cover those potential costs.

IN RE: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2023-12—District Boundaries Reapportionment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-12—District Boundaries Reapportionment for the Court's approval. This Ordinance is relating to the reapportionment of Magisterial District Boundaries located within Madison County, Kentucky, and supersedes Ordinance 11-12.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-12—District Boundaries Reapportionment.

Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to those that live in the Burnam-Highpoint precinct for their support over the past several years; they will be in good hands with Magistrate Combs and he stated that they all work together for the betterment of the County. He asked how those that live in this precinct will know that they have been moved to the 1st District. Clerk Barger stated that it will be up to the Court on how they wish to broadcast it. Judge Taylor stated they can do a social media campaign to inform the constituents of this change. Magistrate Combs stated that he looks forward to serving those that live in the Burnam-Highpoint precinct and asked to have a Town Hall meeting close to this Precinct. He also reinstated that all the Magistrates will continue to work together for the betterment of the county, regardless of what district anyone is in.

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: 1st Reading Ordinance 2023-13—Land Use and Development Regulations:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented the 1st Reading of Ordinance 2023-13—Land Use and Development Regulations for the Court's approval. This Ordinance is relating to the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, adopting New Land Development and Subdivision Regulations.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance 2023-13—Land Use and Development Regulations.

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Magistrate Botkin thanked Thomas and everyone that was involved in the development and write up of these regulations.

Thomas stated that this is a good document that is searchable online using keywords by property owners and is very user friendly. It is also editable for corrections through Thomas's Office. He stated that it was a group effort in putting together this document by his team, the steering committee, and TSW Design Group.

Judge Taylor stated that the pandemic, and changes in the laws at the state level, caused a delay in getting this document put together. He explained that the process of the Comprehensive Plan allows for citizens to participate in the discussion and encouraged citizens in the future to be involved in the Comprehensive Plan. Magistrate Hughes stated that they are fortunate in Madison County to have the structure for growth, unlike other counties in the state.

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 2023-100— Madison County 2023 Ad Valorem Rates and 2024 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-100— Madison County 2023 Ad Valorem Rates and 2024 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to adopt Madison County 2023 Ad Valorem Rates and 2024 Motor Vehicle and Watercraft Property Tax Rates at the compensating rate for Real Property at 7.1 cents per \$100.00, for Tangible Personal Property and Inventory at 9 cents per \$100.00, and for Motor Vehicle & Watercraft Property at 10 cents per \$100.00.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-100— Madison County 2023 Ad Valorem Rates and 2024 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates.

Magistrate Botkin explained that by taking the compensating rate on Real Property, they are actually lowering the rate since it was 7.3 cents per \$100.00 last year.

Judge Taylor stated that they have lowered the property taxes on Real Property \$12 since 2015 based off of \$1000 that is paid for property taxes.

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 2023-101—Litter Abatement Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2024:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2023-101— Litter Abatement Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2024 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for application and administration of Calendar Year 2024 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Division of Water Management Litter Abatement Grant Funds.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2022-101— Litter Abatement Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2024.

Magistrate Botkin stated that this was a good grant, and thanked Shepherd for everything he and his team have done for this. It helps a lot of the local communities and organizations to do fundraisers, as well as beautifying the county.

Judge Taylor stated that it is not easy work but it helps educate those volunteers and organizations the importance of not littering.

Magistrate Combs thanked Shepherd for all the work he does and for going after this grant. He also thanked the inmates and other crews for going out and picking up litter to help make the county look good.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

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James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2023-102—Sam Jones Road Bridge Beams Bid Award:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2023-102—Sam Jones Road Bridge Beams Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve a bid award for Sam Jones Road Bridge Beams to Central Kentucky Industrial, Inc., in the amount of \$53,317.00.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2023-102—Sam Jones Road Bridge Beams Bid Award.

Magistrate Hughes stated he was glad to see a local company get the job.

Judge Taylor stated this will be the Road Department's third bridge in 2 months and expressed his appreciation to the Road Department for all their hard work to get those bridges back up quickly.

Magistrate Combs stated that the other 2 bridges looked great and congratulated the team on a great job.

Judge Taylor explained that by being able to use the Road Department employees to make the repairs saves the County money and they are very fortunate to have such talented employees.

Shepherd stated that he was able to find money through grants and special project funds, making the total cost for the County to replace the 3 bridges \$40,000.

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 2023-103—Rave Mass Notification System Agreement:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2023-103—Rave Mass Notification System Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is approving an agreement with Rave Mobile Safety for a Mass Notification System.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Steven Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2023-103—Rave Mass Notification System Agreement.

Magistrate Botkin asked Iseral where he saw this heading in the future long range. Iseral stated that this is the post-CSEPP strategy the Judge's Office has been taking. In order to keep a mass notification system in the county post-CSEPP, they had to look toward other options. Rave is currently working with ECU for their mass notifications, and together will allow for a partnership and collaboration for both entities.

Magistrate Combs asked what kind of notifications this includes. Iseral explained that this is mass call downs with the option for citizens to sign-up for text or email notifications for Amber Alerts, weather warnings, CSEPP issues, or other manual updates.

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 2023-104—Emergency Operations Center UPS Replacement Bid Award:

Tim Gray, EMA/CSEPP Director and Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2023-104— Emergency Operations Center UPS Replacement Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County

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Fiscal Court to approve a bid award for Emergency Operations Center UPS Replacement to Master Electrical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$232, 581.00; as planned and budgeted through the Federal CSEPP.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2022-104— Emergency Operations Center UPS Replacement Bid Award.

Magistrate Botkin stated that this looks like it is for a 30-minute backup but that it is expandable for up to an hour. Chief Gray stated that was correct, but they are looking at going with the 30-minute backup. He explained that this is a battery system that if the power goes out, it covers that and keeps everything running until the generator power zone kicks on so 911 doesn't go down.

Magistrate Combs asked if this was an upgraded system. Chief Gray stated that the system they currently have has reached its lifespan, and this upgraded system's lifespan is about 12-15 years.

Magistrate Botkin asked how many people do they have to start those generators. Chief Gray stated they are self-start, but that everyone is trained how to operate them if they don't automatically start up.

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 2023-105—KACo 2023 Insurance Grant Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-105—KACo 2023 Insurance Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of 2023 KACo Insurance Grant Funds.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2023-105—KACo 2023 Insurance Grant Application.

Magistrate Botkin asked if this is a grant they have had in the past. Williams stated that they received this grant last year and were able to purchase back-up cameras for all the fire equipment and some of the road department equipment as part of the Safe Driving Program.

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 2023-106—Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-shared County Employees:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2023-106—Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-shared County Employees for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for Madison County Fiscal Court approving an official payroll breakdown for Madison County Cost-shared Employees to comply with Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Standard Operating Procedures.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2023-106— Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-shared County Employees.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked since some of these funds come from CSEPP, when will it end. Judge Taylor stated that employees that are working on CSEPP programs get that portion of their salary reimbursed back to the County by CSEPP, which will end when that program ends.

Jill Williams clarified that Kentucky EM identified that there is a lot of County employees that are working on CSEPP projects and advised them to get this reimbursement. The salaries for these employees have already been budgeted for in the budget, so this reimbursement is a benefit that wasn't anticipated.

Magistrate Combs asked if there is a total number of employees that can qualify for the cost-sharing. Williams explained that there is a total number of full-time employees that qualify based on the full-time staffing at

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EMA/CSEPP and the specific projects they are working on. The staff works diligently to keep a separate time keeping system to make sure they are following all the federal laws associated with it. There is a maximum number that they can get reimbursed for.

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:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of Steven Mullins as a CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour effective August 23, 2023.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the hiring of Steven Mullins.

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:

- Kentucky River Foothills have water and electric service funds available for those who need assistance. Income eligibility is 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The funds will be available through September 22nd, or until available funds have been expended. For more information visit foothillscap.org or schedule an appointment at 859-544-1713.
- The Bourbon Jam Outdoor Music Festival will be Saturday, August 26th from 9 AM -11 PM at the old Richmond Mall located at 830 Eastern Bypass in Richmond. This event benefits our local first responders. Visit www.bourbonjam.com for more information.
- The Battle of Richmond Reenactment will be Saturday, August 26th and Sunday, August 27th. Visit battleofrichmond.com or call 859-248-1974 for more information.
- The unveiling of the newest print about the Battle of Richmond entitled "Foreshadowing" will be conducted on the 161st anniversary of the battle, Wednesday, August 30th, at the Mt. Zion Christian Church beginning at 7 PM. The church is located at 830 Battlefield Memorial Highway.
- Please join us for a District 3 Town Hall Meeting at Union City Park at 5:30 PM on Thursday, September 7, 2023. This event is open to the public for community discussions.
- Madison Southern High School Band Competition and Vendor Fair will be Saturday, September 9th at 11 AM.
- Madison Southern High School Air Force JROTC Golf Scramble will be Saturday, September 9th at 9 AM. Contact Scott Clark at 503-964-3910 or Chris Mason at 606-875-1588 for more information.
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce's annual CityFest will be Thursday, September 14th from 5 PM – 8 PM at ECU's Powell Plaza. If your business or organization would like to set up a booth, contact the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

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- Madison County Government and its related offices will be closed on Monday, September 4th for the Labor Day holiday. They will re-open on Tuesday, September 5th at 8 AM.
- New outdoor warning sirens testing will be August 24th and August 31st at 10 AM. They will not sound if severe weather is expected.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Combs stated that they have had a great court today. He has seen a culture of people who want to do things efficiently, save taxpayer money, who are looking to do things better, and he expressed his appreciation for that. Anytime they are able to lower tax rates as a court or other taxing districts is applauded. No one wants to pay taxes, but taxes are needed for law enforcement, ambulance services, etc. to make our county better, and to be able to provide those same services while still lowering the tax rate is appreciated.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Landon Hanks, a 4-H student at Madison Central High School, for reaching out to him about the 2023 Madison County 4-H Country Ham Dinner and Auction on September 14th at the Madison County Fairgrounds. He also asked for an update on the wet/dry in the county.

Magistrate Hughes recognized Shelby Robbins for attending Court. He talked about the Governor's Local Issues Conference and mentioned a session he sat in on about the homelessness and affordable housing crisis in the state. The Kentucky Housing Corporation is wanting to do a state-wide study that will give an analysis by county of the housing needs, and he feels that the analysis would be something worth looking at.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the Kentucky Housing Authority was looking for contractors to build multi-unit apartments but wasn't sure if that program was still ongoing. Judge Taylor stated that there is a KHC project ongoing in Richmond for affordable family-living complexes. Magistrate Botkin stated that if there is a builder that would like to participate in that type of program, they can contact the KHC for information on those programs.

He expressed his appreciation and thanked Jailer Tussey for his due diligence at the jail for keeping the cost down on prisoners being sent to other facilities by keeping them in house. He stated that the State will be doing road repair on Peggy Flats on Thursday, and advised the public to use caution if traveling in that area.

Clerk Barger stated that they are in need of Poll Workers for the upcoming Election, and to call the Clerk's Office to volunteer.

Jailer Tussey stated they lost their main water line at the Jail this past weekend, and he thanked Scott Shepherd and his crew at the Road Department for coming out with equipment and supplies to get it working again. They were a great crew who wouldn't leave until they were certain the Jail had water and was back in operation. He also thanked Judge Taylor and his wife for bringing donuts, and for everyone's help.

Magistrate Botkin asked how the main broke. Judge Taylor stated that the water main on the street is what broke and that is the responsibility of the utility company so it wasn't fixed during the recent Jail upgrade.

Comments from Department Heads:

Tim Gray explained that the new outdoor warning sirens are not like the old ones in that they will not talk. They will have a wail or tone, but there will not be any communication that will come across. They will be testing those on August 24th and 31st. If there is a chance of severe weather on that day, they will not test the sirens.

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Magistrate Lochmueller asked what would happen with the units that are in citizens houses. Chief Gray stated that it shouldn't affect those.

Magistrate Botkin asked how the locations of the new sirens were determined because they are all not beside the old sirens. Chief Gray explained that they went from 96 down to 76 sirens and they re-strategized to get the locations that provide the same amount of coverage as previously. The radius of the new sirens is bigger than the old ones, so they provide the same coverage with less sirens.

Magistrate Botkin also asked about the tones of the new sirens. Chief Gray stated that there is no voice with these. Once the testing is done, there will be a media push and dates of testing for each of the tones, so the public can understand the meaning of each.

Bert Thomas provided an update on the wet/dry situation Magistrate Lochmueller had asked about. As of yesterday, they had 3 quota license applications and 9 non-quota applications. In order to apply for a license, they have to have the land, building, proper zoning, and have a business license. They are still processing those applications and are hopeful to have some approved this week that will then go to the State for approval. He expressed his appreciation to Chris and Morris on getting the online system established.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked how they as magistrates would find out if a license has been approved. Thomas said to call or visit the office and they can let them know of ones that are approved.

Magistrate Lochmueller also asked how would someone that is currently selling liquor but wanting to sell on Sunday would apply. Thomas stated that it is the same process just a different license.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he has seen some notices in the Richmond Register, and Thomas stated it was part of the process, per KRS.

Bert Thomas also recognized Janet Cain. She called to brag on Vernon Hubbs, who is working with her on a property maintenance issue, stating that he has been very professional and polite, following up with her to keep her informed. Thomas expressed his appreciation to Ms. Cain and her call.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

No Comments from the Audience or Facebook.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for September 12, 2023, in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, Ky at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Tom Botkin to adjourn, seconded by Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE