

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

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 November 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, 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 Josh Hampton, Berea United Pentecostal 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 10-24-2023:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on October 24, 2023.

Magistrate Botkin asked if anything that they had asked for in regard to the jail had been received. Judge Taylor stated that there has not been. They did receive the monthly report but none of that information they requested was in there. Judge Taylor stated that he would send out a message to Jailer Tussey to follow up with those requests.

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: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1066— Deputy Veteran Award:

Emerson McAfee, with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1066, presented their annual Deputy Veteran Award to Deputy Steven Lasslo for his outstanding support he provides to the community as the Court Security Supervisor. His military leadership and training are of great value to the Sheriff's Office as he provides structure, discipline, and mentorship. He is a great representative to the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. McAfee also provided an update to the Court on the Veterans Monument, stating that Richmond will be the next to receive the monument with Berea directly following, but he does not have a definite date.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to Lasslo and thanked him for all he does for the County.

IN RE: Proclamation-Lung Cancer Awareness Month:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the month of November 2023 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month and encouraged all citizens to learn more about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.

John Jones, Marketing, CHI Saint Joseph Berea, was in attendance to accept this Proclamation.

IN RE: Proclamation-Nurse Practitioner Week:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the week of November 12-18, 2023, as Nurse Practitioner Week and urged citizens to honor all nurse practitioners for their dedication and service to our communities.

Representatives from White House Clinics; Trina Mattingly, APRN, Berea Family Medicine; John Jones, Marketing, CHI Saint Joseph Berea; Kathy Bolton, Nurse Practitioner, BluMine Health Richmond; and Stephanie Ferrell, APRN, Baptist Health Medical Group Family Medicine in Berea were in attendance to accept this proclamation.

Judge Taylor thanked all the medical professionals for attending today, and expressed his appreciation for all they do.

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

IN RE: Madison County Election Update:

Clerk Barger provided an update to the Court on the 2023 General Election. He stated that on Thursday morning of Early Voting his office started receiving calls about the machines “switching” their votes when they would select straight party Democrat. As voters were selecting the small square instead of the larger rectangle with the party or candidate name, it was actually selecting the rectangle above it because the smaller box is only millimeters away from bottom of the Republican line. Over the course of all the voting days, there were 28 complaints to the fraud line with the Attorney General’s Office. The Clerk’s Office started working with their vendor and trying to duplicate the problem, which they couldn’t duplicate because they were selecting the center of the rectangle. Clerk Barger explained that the ExpressVote machine is just the “pencil”, it is a ballot marking device. The voter can switch their vote back and forth as many times as they wish, the machine will display an alert that they are making changes, it will have them verify their selections, and then verify those selections again before the final print button. There was no voter who called voicing their concern, that cast their ballot incorrectly; they were able to get the errors fixed with the help of the Election Officers. Clerk Barger went through the voting process and instructions on the ExpressVote machine. He stated that the instructions are confusing and don’t accurately follow the voting process, and that is one area that he and his office have failed the voter. He is working with ES&S to resolve this issue and verify that it is not just the voter’s fault. He stated that the ExpressVote machine is made for the voters and if they can’t use it comfortably and trust it, then there is something wrong with the equipment programing. That is what Clerk Barger is hoping to address on Thursday, when he meets with ES&S. He encouraged voters to watch the video his office put out on how to vote and share that with family; it is your constitutional right to vote.

Clerk Barger stated that he has been asked about going back to paper ballots. He explained that pre-printed ballots sit around for over a month before Election Day and any pen can create a ballot. This causes a lack of security when using with pre-printed ballots. By using the ExpressVote machines, a ballot cannot be created unless the seal has been broken, the password input in, and the correct activation card input in-it is not possible. Also, another factor for not using pre-printed paper ballots is because of finances. With pre-print ballots, there has to be enough for every voter in every precinct in every location to have a paper ballot. The ExpressVote machines are also more convenient than the pre-printed ballots because the voter can change their selection multiple times before they print it out, whereas with pre-printed ballots, once that oval is filled, the voter only has 2 more chances to spoil that ballot and get another one. It is harder to fill in the oval completely to mark the selections if someone has trouble seeing the ballot; ExpressVote machines can enlarge the text size to make it easier to use.

Magistrate Botkin asked if those that had the incorrect ballot had the opportunity to recast their ballot. Clerk Barger explained that if the voter needs to make a change on their ballot once it has been printed, they will take that ballot to the Clerk table, fold that ballot and put it in a Spoiled Ballot envelop, and be reissued another card to start again; voters get 3 chances to spoil ballots as well as the multiple verification screens on the ExpressVote machine during the voting process. Once the error was reported, the Clerk’s Office and Election Officers started educating voters on where to hit to make their selections and reminding voters to review their ballots before casting them. He also made a video on Sunday that went out to all their social media outlets explaining this as well. An important factor for everyone to remember is that the ExpressVote machine doesn’t count their ballot, it is just a ballot marking device.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if a voter has an issue can they ask for help. Clerk Barger stated yes, and voters did ask for help and it was corrected. The Election Officers did a great job of informing voters of the issue, where to make the selection, and if there was a problem how to walk them through correcting the issue or providing Voter Assistance if needed. They did an excellent job of being adaptable and getting the message out to the voter.

Magistrate Hughes expressed his appreciation to Clerk Barger for being transparent during the course of this issue. Clerk Barger stated that he and his office does not want to hide anything, and he is focused on getting the

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

issue corrected and fixed, not only for Madison County but also for other counties as well as the company. This was not just a Madison County issue, but every county that uses the ExpressVote machine had issues. It was more widespread in Madison County because of the demographic of voting straight party Democratic. Judge Taylor reiterated that the ExpressVote machine doesn't count votes. Clerk Barger stated that the ExpressVote is a ballot marking device. The ballot that prints out of the ExpressVote machine isn't the voter's receipt, it is their ballot that they need to review and then scan into the DS200 scanners to actually count their vote. The numbers between the voter check-ins and the DS200 scanners are checked throughout the day to make sure they match. If the ballot isn't scanned into the scanners, the voter hasn't actually cast their vote, causing the numbers to be off.

Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Clerk Barger for digging into the issue and assisting the voters on Election Day.

IN RE: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2023-15—Madison County and Jackson County Interlocal Agreement for Information Technology Services:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-15—Madison County and Jackson County Interlocal Agreement for Information Technology Services for the Court's approval. This Ordinance relates to an interlocal agreement between Madison County Fiscal Court and Jackson County Fiscal Court for the use of the Kentucky Counties Government Cloud (KCGC).

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-15—Madison County and Jackson County Interlocal Agreement for Information Technology Services.

Magistrate Botkin asked Iseral where those machines are physically located at and how the bare metal recovery and cloud outages will be addressed. When working with other county's information, he assumes there will be some liability on our behalf.

Iseral stated that a lot of counties don't have anything as far as data backups, and this is why cyber security and data recovery is a huge issue in many counties in Kentucky. The data center that Jackson County will be using is in the Emergency Operations Center inside the Data Center, which was built to withstand up to 200 mile\hour winds. The Center has a redundant generator and air conditioner behind, as well as a built-in YUBS to keep the power on in case the generator doesn't fire up, as well as being secured. That data will take a snapshot every 4 hours of that server and puts a copy of it on the hardware, and then begins a transition to the backup Data Center at 325 N. Madison Ave. The bare metal is a third level of protection they provide, which takes another copy of that server at 6:00 PM or 7:00 PM every night and moves a full copy to a third device that is in a third building. He explained that Scott County has already been utilizing this and has a great success story.

In response to the insurance liability, KACo provides cyber security insurance to counties who are members, but the insurance companies are now coming down on counties who are not meeting their minimum standards by increasing their premium to an outrageous amount. With this agreement, if there is a cyber security issue, the County will help them restore that up to their contract amount and then their cyber security insurance will kick in. This interlocal agreement is an affordable solution to those counties that can't afford cyber security through other means.

Magistrate Botkin stated that we need to make sure the counties involved are aware that they will still need to have cyber security insurance since Madison County will only be responsible up to their contract amount.

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 2023-129—Planning and Development Fee Schedule:

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-129—Planning and Development Fee Schedule for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to adopt an updated Madison County Planning and Development Fee Schedule to be consistent with the newly adopted Land-Use Regulations.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2023-129—Planning and Development Fee Schedule.

Magistrate Botkin asked about the HVAC violation fee and if they have many of those violations. Williams stated that she didn't know the answer but knows that everything in this fee schedule is the same as it was previously. She will follow up with Bert on it. Judge Taylor stated that there are some violations because HVAC contractors have to pull a permit on every install and sometimes, they may do an install without having the permit inspection when replacing a unit.

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 2023-130—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board

Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-130—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to appoint Bethany Smith to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2026.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2023-130—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment, appointing Bethany Smith to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2026.

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 2023-131—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board

Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-131—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to appoint Connie Baird to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2026.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-131—Madison County Cooperative Extension Board Appointment, appointing Connie Baird to the Madison County Cooperative Extension Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2026.

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 2023-132—Madison County Public Library Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2023-132—Madison County Public Library Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to appoint Virgil Gardner to the Madison County Public Library Board Member, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2023-132—Madison County Public Library Board Appointment, appointing Virgil Gardner to the Madison County Public Library Board Member, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Magistrate Combs stated that in the recommendation letter there are two names and asked who makes the final decision on who to appoint. Judge Taylor explained that the Library sends the 2 appointment names to Library and Archives, they approve either one of those, and then send a letter to the Judge's Office for him to choose.

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 2023-133—Proposed Discontinuance of County Road Maintenance:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2023-133—Proposed Discontinuance of County Road Maintenance for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the proposed discontinuance of the following roads without public purpose from the County Road Maintenance System:

- Copperas Branch
- Long Branch Road (off Tates Creek Road)
- Bill Eades Spur
- Woodland Cemetery Road
- Dunbar Branch Road
- Old Muddy Creek Road
- Cross Creek Road
- Gilead Branch Road
- Finney Fork

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2023-133—Proposed Discontinuance of County Road Maintenance.

Magistrate Combs stated that as far as the 1st District roads, Copperas Branch is a private drive and the constituents in that area are for discontinuance.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that as far as the 2nd District roads, they are private roads and haven't had calls on any of these roads. It is important to look at the County finances and stated that they need to start focusing more on the roads in the county.

Magistrate Hughes stated that there has been some confusion and concern from the public. He stated that there are a couple of roads on this list that may be questionable and feels that the public may need to be made aware of the reasons behind this discontinuance.

Shepherd stated that the discontinuance is based on the advice from KACo, their insurance company, stating that it should be done every year. Also, these roads are based on the recommendation of the County Road Commissioners. With the discontinuance of the roadways, it removes the County's liability if someone was to wreck on them.

Judge Taylor stated that this is a liability issue with the advice coming from KACo. They are also following the law, which states processes to discontinuing a road that doesn't have a public purpose. This action doesn't close the road, this is discontinuing the County maintenance of that road. It doesn't affect the rights-of-way or entrances to the owner's properties.

Madison County Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman wanted to make sure that the Road Commissioners reports will be part of this record of today's hearing. Judge Taylor stated that they are part of the Resolution packet.

Linda Howard, 1142 Kirksville Rd., stated that she is concerned about Gilead Branch Road, which serves several farms. Without that road being open, several farmers are unable to get to their farms. She stated that she has access that she borrows from someone else to be able to access her farm, but that could stop at any time.

Judge Taylor asked Mrs. Howard if her farm is connected continuously from Poosey Ridge Rd. She stated that there are some woods that would have to be cleared out but it is connected. Currently she is unable to get down Gilead Branch Rd. to access her property due to the condition of it. She suggested the County bring down a track hoe and sidearm bushhog to clean up and fix the road so that tractors can get down it.

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Magistrate Botkin read a letter from one of the Road Commissioners, Jimmy Parsons, stating that he doesn't see a public need being served by servicing these roads and that there is no evidence of anything but private use by the landowners. He stated that there is another letter stating the same thing from the other commissioner, Jimmy Marcum.

Gordon Cotton, 1721 Poosey Ridge Rd., spoke of his property on Duck Branch, and it not being serviced by the County. Judge Taylor stated that the State, through Bluegrass ADD, has a list of all the County roads with their measurement of linear footage of what the County is to maintain, which is what the law states they are only allowed to maintain.

Magistrate Botkin clarified that paying property taxes doesn't go toward roads; road maintenance comes from gas tax only.

Emily Jackson, 1721 Poosey Ridge Rd., stated that Gilead Branch Rd. is not just for the farmer or as a private access, but also for recreational and hunting/fishing use, and is important for people in that area. Without the County servicing these roads, it can take away from family legacies and recreational opportunities.

Edna Laura Wickersham, 2246 Catalpa Loop and has 2 properties on Kavanaugh Ln., stated that the list of roads that was read today doesn't match what was on the public notice. Judge Taylor stated that Kavanaugh Ln. and Cherokee Ln. had been taken off this list today because the Road Commissioners had never actually gone to look at those.

Sherill Bailey, 3286 Doylesville Rd., stated that her farm is affected by the maintenance of Dunbar Branch Rd. In 2005, the County discontinued maintenance of Dunbar Branch Rd., and she wants it to stay that way. She had a lot of issues on her property when the road was being maintained and wants to make sure that it won't be maintained again. Judge Taylor stated that for whatever reason, the Dunbar Branch Rd. that is on this list is just a small section that was still on the books, and they will be discontinuing maintenance on that road entirely.

Chris Sharon, 1621 Poosey Ridge Rd, stated that he believes this is the first step that is to be taken to eliminate other county roads in the future. He compared the County budget from 2012-2013 and 2022-2023 in regard to the revenue and road funds, and that it looks that there is a 5.5% budget decrease in road funds over the 10 years. He stated that without access to these roads, some properties could be landlocked. He suggested using the road fund as a whole to maintain roads that are in need, instead of basing it on how many houses are on the road.

Judge Taylor thanked Chris for looking at the budget. He informed him that the budget is inflated due to the CSEP Program as well as having looked at the total budget with all the other funds in it. He encouraged him to look at the General Fund, which is where revenue goes and helps offset costs to other funds, like the road fund. Out of the fuel tax, the County gets about \$1.4 million, and they are subsidizing from the General Fund to the Road Fund this year about \$900,000. He also asked Chris what the public purpose would be for Gilead Branch Rd. that he had referred to. Chris stated that the public purpose would be that he has memories of driving to the creek, turtle hunting, etc. Judge Taylor stated that Gilead Branch Rd. would still be open to walk down or take side-by-sides down to access the creek.

Magistrate Combs asked Chris how he would suggest the Court handle the liability they have to protect the taxpayers on that road. Chris suggested putting up signs stating they are not responsible for any accidents, or talking with Morgan and Morgan about regulations that state they aren't liable for any injuries.

Judge Taylor read an article from a KACo attorney about county roads and not maintaining them, how it makes the County liable, and they shouldn't be on their books. He also asked Sheriff Coyle if it is legal for side-by-sides to be on the roadway.

Sheriff Coyle stated that per statute, farmers are able to travel two tenths of a mile from one property to another, but that four-wheelers and side-by-sides aren't legally able to be on roadways.

Madison County Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman stated that there is a second statute besides KRS 178.116, KRS 178.070 that provides the information about public notices and hearing of discontinuing a road.

Chris Sharon proposed that the landowners of properties that border these roads have their taxes relinquished to maintain the roads if this discontinuance goes through. Judge Taylor offered to sit down with Chris to go over what Fiscal Court gets out of property taxes and what that would go toward.

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Michael Land, 1246 Poosey Ridge Rd., stated that he has a lot of road frontage on Gilead Branch Rd. and that there is a lot of history down the back roads of Poosey Ridge. He has access to his property off Gilead by other means, but using Gilead Branch makes it handy for fixing fences and other such issues. Having access to Gilead Branch Rd. allows anyone to get down to the creek to fish and hunt. For over 10 years, Gilead Branch Rd. has not been maintained which has made it difficult to get to the creek over time with damage from weather events. He believes that it should have been maintained throughout the years and would like to have it opened back up for everyone to enjoy. From a liability perspective, he believes it would be more liable for the County to quiet maintenance but still have the property in their name. He also stated that he looked at Federal money available, like the Build Back Better funding, and believes that Kentucky should take advantage of those funds.

Rob Hundley, 113 Teakwood in Lexington, stated that he bought the property at the end of Gilead Branch Rd. and that is the sole access to that property. He bought the property in 2011, which was the last time that road was maintained. He had called yearly about Gilead Branch Rd. and was told that it was on the list to maintain, but then after a number of years was told that it was no longer on the list to maintain. He agrees that currently it is a liability to the County but would not have been if it had been maintained throughout the years.

Anthony Lowery, Cross Creek Drive, stated that Cross Creek Drive is the only access they have to their property, and asked if the road isn't going to be maintained, can it be obtained by the property owner.

Judge Taylor stated that after a discontinuance of a road, property owners that use that road to access their property could petition the court and request it go to them, at which time a new plat would be drawn up and it would no longer be a county road. He cited KRS 178.116 as reference on petitioning the court after a discontinuance.

Magistrate Botkin thanked everyone that came to Court today to address the road issue. He believes that it is important to know that those gravel county roads can only be maintained as far as the State's website says the amount of footage that road is by law. He stated he drove down Gilead Branch Rd., and it would be difficult for a side-by-side to go all the way down it. He didn't believe that Mrs. Howard or Mr. Land could access their property using Gilead Branch Rd. because of the condition of the road and they hadn't been able to for a while. He is concerned about Mr. Hundley because his farm is at the end of that road and would be landlocked if Gilead Branch Rd. is closed and doesn't think they should do that. He expressed his concern about the liability of when discontinuing a road, but it is still on the books as a County road.

Madison County Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman stated that a letter from KACo attorneys expresses that when a road is discontinued, the County is absolved from liability on that road.

Judge Taylor stated that this discontinuance doesn't close the roads, it will still be open, but the County will no longer maintain them.

Magistrate Combs asked about striking Gilead Branch Rd. from this list of roads.

Judge Taylor stated that another motion would need to be made to exclude Gilead Branch Rd. If that is the course the Court wishes to go, then they would need to rework the road funds to put gravel on Gilead Branch Rd. and start maintaining it again.

Magistrate Lochmueller expressed his belief that excluding roads would be a mistake. He asked Mr. Hundley where his farm sits at the end of Gilead Branch Rd., in which he stated it is in Garrard Co. Mr. Hundley stated that if Gilead Branch Rd. is discontinued, then the next step in the process would be to petition the court to deed the road to the 6 land owners that have property before his, and he could very easily be left out of the equation because he is in Garrard Co., therefore making him landlocked.

Madison County Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman stated that the statutory subsection references to a joint petition of all private parties entitled to necessary access, it doesn't state they have to be residents of the county.

Magistrate Hughes stated that Gilead Branch Rd. is the only road on that list that has been contested.

Magistrate Botkin also asked if Woodland Cemetery Road went to a cemetery. Scott Shepherd stated that it did, but that there is a gate at the end of the blacktop with a lock on it, so it can't be accessed. Magistrate

Lochmueller stated that he hadn't received any calls concerning that road.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- No

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Personnel:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of Chris George as a CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$19 per hour effective November 29, 2023.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to the hiring of Chris George as a CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$19 per hour effective November 29, 2023.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated he was glad to see the hire of another CDL driver. Jill stated that this hire is pending pre-employment screening, but only makes them down 6 drivers now.

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: Employee Spotlight:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, spotlighted Angel Powell, Tax Administrator. Angel, who has been with the County for 19 years, is always eager to help her fellow co-workers and is a delight to be around.

Williams also stated that they received citizen praise as well, for her help in working through some situations they had.

Magistrate Botkin stated that she has been very kind and helpful to him over the last 9 years and expressed his appreciation for her work.

RE: Judge's Report:

- Please join us for a District 4 Town Hall Meeting at Kirksville Park at 9:00 AM on Saturday, November 18th. This event is open to the public for community discussion.
- Shop Small Saturday will be Saturday, November 25th. Shop Small Saturday encourages patronizing the small, locally owned shops for the Christmas season.
- Berea Tourism invites you to join them at the "Mayor's Merry Mingling" event in the Old Town Artisan Village on Saturday, November 25th from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM. In addition to the Christmas tree lighting, they will have photos with Santa, marshmallow roasting, live music, and more.
- Santa Sundays will begin at Battlefield Park on Sunday, November 26th from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.
- This year's State of the County Address will be on Friday, December 1st at 12:00 PM at the ECU Perkins Building. Tickets can be purchased online at richmondchamber.com.
- Christmas Parades – Registration is now open for both parades.
 - Richmond's Christmas parade is on Friday, December 1st at 7 PM. Contact Richmond Parks and Recreation for more information.
 - Berea's Christmas parade is on Saturday, December 2nd at 6 PM. Contact the Berea Chamber of Commerce for more information.
- Baptist Health Richmond's Behavioral Health Summit will be on Friday, December 8th at the ECU Perkins Building in Richmond. Call 859-625-3675 for more information.

Meeting Date; 11/14/2023
Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court
Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

- Madison County Government and its related offices will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. Offices will reopen on Monday, November 27th at 8 AM. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Combs wished all the County employees and community a Happy Thanksgiving.

Magistrate Lochmueller also wished the community a Happy Thanksgiving. He wanted to apologize to the citizens of District 2 during the fiber project that didn't have use of their water as intended.

Magistrate Hughes stated that College Hill Methodist Church will have their bazaar and craft show this Saturday.

Magistrate Botkin thanked everyone that came to Court and reached out to him on the road issues. He wished the Veterans a belated Happy Veterans Day.

Clerk Barger thanked the Precinct Election Officers for their work during the Election. He also thanked the citizens that called the Clerk's Office and expressed their concerns during the Election. He encouraged citizens to contact their State Legislators if they aren't happy with how things are going in County Government. There are many unfunded mandates that roll from the state to the counties, such as this road issue, and the Legislators are the only ones that can work on changing those.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

No Comments from Facebook.

Gordon Cotton, asked if there is a maintenance schedule on when certain roads are maintained. Judge Taylor stated that the State says the County is allowed to maintain 369 feet of Duck Branch, and he will research where the 369 feet came from, but he will be following what the law says he can do.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

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

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for November 28, 2023, in the Richmond City Hall Commission 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 12:06 PM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE