

Meeting Date; 3/12/2024

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 12th of March 2024 at 9:30 AM 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 and Billy Ray Hughes were present. Madison County Attorney Jennie Haymond, 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 Pastor Tim Taylor, 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 2-27-2024:

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on February 27, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Not in Attendance

Reagan Taylor – Yes

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

Jennifer Lainhart, Executive Director, provided an update on the Hope's Wings Jail and Bail Fundraiser. She stated that Hope's Wings will be doing their annual Jail and Bail Fundraiser in April. Fundraising was down a little bit last year. Jennifer explained that the shelter has been staying full about all the time and she encouraged the Court to volunteer to be arrested for the fundraiser. This year, they have a marketing individual working with them to do promotional videos to help raise their bail and to get the public involved. Judge Taylor asked Jennifer when the event is taking place. She stated that it is on April 12th at Central Bank. They will be providing breakfast and lunch for those that stay there during the day or they can stop by throughout the day to drop off their bail.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to Jennifer and all she does. She thanked Magistrate Combs and invited the members of the Court to come out to the shelter if they haven't been there before. They have added an education center that provides classes by Kentucky River Foothills, New Opportunity School for Women, and ECU to the residents that stay there. She explained that this addition was built debt free, and they remain a debt free organization, which they are very proud of.

IN RE: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Update-Casey Smith, Section Supervisor:

Casey Smith, Section Supervisor; Clyde Newcomer, P.E., Richmond Section Office; and Francis McDonnell, KYTC District 7-Planning were in attendance to provide the Court with an update of the Rural Secondary Program for FY 2025.

Casey explained that the Rural Secondary Program is going to operate the same as it has done in the past. It is a KRS mandated program that allocates 22.2% motor fuel tax to address maintenance needs to rural secondary roadways. The Flex Program is a second part of the Rural Secondary Program that offers the ability to share a portion of the Rural Secondary funding in order to address County-maintained roads or if the County wishes, they can use those on State-maintained roads. He provided a breakdown of previous years funds and a map of the recommended roads to use the Rural Secondary funds on. This year, the maintenance level for Madison

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County went down from a level B to a level C, which makes the Flex percentage allocated to the County go from 20% down to 15%.

Casey stated that there are two motions presented to Court today; one being the approval of use of the recommended RS projects, and the second motion is whether or not the Court wishes to apply the Flex Funds onto a State road. The recommended Rural Secondary Projects provided by the State are resurfacing KY 1156 (Jacks Creek Rd) 3.098 miles beginning at Kentucky River Rd and ending at KY 169 for an estimated \$350,000, and KY 876 (Barnes Mill Rd) 1.484 miles beginning at the Silver Creek Bridge out to near Redwood Dr. for an estimated \$200,000.

The recommended use of Flex Funds is for KY 1156 (Jacks Creek Rd) 1.484 miles from US 25 to Boone Way. Judge Taylor asked Casey about the balance on the RS Projects having an \$81,856 difference from what was projected on the recommended RS projects, and if that carries over for the next year. Casey explained that they could go negative in the RS balance but any funds that are not utilized this year will move forward to next year. The initial distribution is 90% that is given out and there is usually a 4-10% balance that is moved forward to the next fiscal year or covers any changeovers or overruns. He did state that it is projected that this year's fuel tax revenue will be less than previous years.

Magistrate Hughes asked about the surcharge that is put on electric and hybrid vehicles and if that would help offset that decrease in fuel tax revenue. Casey stated that it will help but that the number of electric vehicles registered in the state of Kentucky is really a fraction of a percent.

Magistrate Combs asked how much of the gas tax is from out of state. Casey stated that he doesn't have numbers for that.

IN RE: Resolution 2024-20—Rural Secondary Program FY 2025 and Flex

Funding:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2024-20—Rural Secondary Program FY25 and Flex Funding for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to vote on the recommended use of FY 2025 Rural Secondary Program Funding for KY 1156 (Jacks Creek Road) and KY 876 (Barnes Mill Road) and recommended use of Flex Funds for the 2025 fiscal year is KY 1156 (Jacks Creek Road).

Judge Taylor clarified the recommendation is to accept the recommended routes for the use of the FY2025 Rural Secondary Funding, and not to apply Flex Funding to State-maintained roadways.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2024-20—Rural Secondary Program FY25 and Flex Funding as presented.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Not in Attendance

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-21—TC Energy Build Strong Grant Funds Application:

Wendy Lynch, Public Safety 911 Director, presented Resolution 2024-21—TC Energy Build Strong Grant Funds Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of TC Energy Build Strong Grant Funds for Cell Phone Sally that is used to teach the children of Madison County various 9-1-1 life saving skills.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2024-21—TC Energy Build Strong Grant Funds Application.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Not in Attendance

Reagan Taylor – Yes

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IN RE: Resolution 2024-22—Newspaper of Record for Required Advertising:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-22—Newspaper of Record for Required Advertising for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve the Newspaper for Record for required Advertising. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 2024-06

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-22—Newspaper of Record for Required Advertising.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Not in Attendance

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-23—United Spay Alliance Grant Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-23—United Spay Alliance Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of United Spay Alliance Community Cats Grants program funds to spay and neuter community cats in Madison County.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2024-23—United Spay Alliance Grant Application.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Not in Attendance

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Personnel:

Ryan Wade, Director of Human Resources, recommended the promotion of Camden T. Eubank from a Firefighter II to a Firefighter III, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective March 13, 2024; the hiring of Alexander Brown as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$10 per hour, effective March 13, 2024; and the hiring of Stephanie Jackson as Kennel Tech I, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective March 20, 2024.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to the promotion Camden T. Eubank from a Firefighter II to a Firefighter III, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective March 13, 2024; the hiring of Alexander Brown as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$10 per hour, effective March 13, 2024; and the hiring of Stephanie Jackson as Kennel Tech I, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective March 20, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Not in Attendance

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Not in Attendance

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Ryan Wade, Director of Human Resources, Major Dwight Hall, HR Liaison for the Detention Center. Major Hall has been with the County since 2022. A Colleague stated that Major Hall exemplifies leadership through his actions, setting a standard of professionalism and serving as a role model for all detention center staff.

Wade explained the Employee Spotlight process is that the employee is nominated by their peers through the Employee Portal. Anyone who works for the County can nominate any County employee that they feel has gone above and beyond their duties, so they can be recognized for their hard work.

RE: Judge's Report:

- White Hall Park Lake will be stocked with 700 catfish on Wednesday, March 13th.

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- Berea Parks and Recreation is hosting the Kent Family Circus on Saturday, March 16th from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM at the Folk Center in Berea. This is a free event that includes a magic show, daring stunts, and face painting.
- Mayor Robert Blythe's State of the City Address will be on Tuesday, March 19th at 8:30 AM at the ECU Perkins Building in Richmond. Contact the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to purchase tickets.
- Leadership Madison County and Berea Chamber of Commerce are hosting the Top 25 Madison County Leadership Awards event on Thursday, March 21st at 6:00 PM at Honeysuckle in Berea. Tickets can be purchased at www.bidpal.net.
- Now is the time to reserve a pavilion at one of our parks for birthday parties or family get-togethers. Contact Battlefield Golf Course at 624-8005 to make your reservations.
- Citizen shout-out to Betty Alexander, who sent a letter to the Letters to the Editor (Richmond Register) on a job well done by the Road Department for the exceptional service they did clearing the overgrown vegetation from the roadside at Arbuckle Road and Highway 1295, and down the bank of Silver Creek.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor thanked Mayor Fraley and the Berea City Council for allowing them the use of the Council Chambers' Courtroom.

Magistrate Hughes stated that they recently had the Magistrate Convention, and there was a discussion on Conditional Use Permits for distilleries. A Conditional Use Permit is only good for the permitted landowner. However, if there is a change in ownership for said land, then the permit is no longer valid. These distilleries involve a massive amount of construction that goes beyond the level that is considered for a Conditional Use Permit. There have been a couple of requests in Madison County recently for Conditional Use Permits for distilleries, and he had asked Judge Taylor to look into these more closely.

Judge Taylor stated that he thinks it is a valid point that they get this right. He stated that he was very proud of the Board of Adjustments for how they handled that first solar project in tabling the discussion so they could educate themselves and make sure it is a positive impact on the community. He feels like the process for the distilleries will go the same way.

Magistrate Combs expressed his thankfulness to all Department Heads and all their hard work.

Attorney Haymond talked about the Blueprint for Safety Program and the presentation she presented with Jennifer Lainhart to all Commonwealth and County Attorney's in the state. The feedback they received from those presentations was amazing, and they have received some requests from different counties to come out and help them establish a similar program for domestic violence cases in those counties.

Clerk Barger spoke on the Presidential Primary in May. He stated that they are short election officers; they currently have 100 individuals that have signed up and based on the previous elections 30 to 40 people don't show up for class. They have added 2 new locations, Ignite South in Berea and Active Living Center in Richmond, they have the equipment to run the Election, but they have to have 140 people to work. The pay for Election Day (and for attending training class) is \$250, and Early Voting is \$16 per hour.

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Currently his Office and the Marketing Liaison are talking about other options they have. They have done everything they can for free to communicate with the public that they need their help. He encouraged the public to go online and sign up at www.madisoncountyclerk.us or call the office at 859-624-4703 for the information. Magistrate Hughes asked if they had been using the old precinct model of elections, how many people would they need. Clerk Barger stated that it would have been 180 with 4 people with party parity working per precinct, and that was one of the reasons why they wanted to go toward a Vote Center model. Without that change, they would not have been able to conduct the last 2 elections.

Judge Taylor stated that as Elected Officials they could work the polls. Clerk Barger stated that yes they could, as long as they are not on the ballot.

Magistrate Combs asked if the workers had to be 18 years old. Clerk Barger stated that they had to be 18 years of age by the General Election and registered to vote in Madison County.

Sheriff Coyle stated that five of the new vehicles they had ordered have been delivered and are in Lawrenceburg, where the equipment is being installed, and should be on the road in the next 4-6 weeks. They have been very busy over the past few weeks due to several overdose deaths and accidental deaths, and they had two Court Security Officers that have just graduated from their training and are now certified.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

There was no Audience Comments.

Facebook Comments:

Deputy Judge Executive Jill Williams stated that Steve Durham asked if Independent voters could be election workers. Clerk Barger stated that it has now been changed that Independent voters could be election officers.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

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 March 26, 2024, 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 10:21 PM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE