

Meeting Date: 3/26/2024

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 26th of March 2024 at 9:30 AM 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 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 Chad Snellgrove of White Oak Pond 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 3-12-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on March 12, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Abstained

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Abstained

Reagan Taylor – Yes

Treasurer's Report:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, addressed the Court to give the monthly treasurer's report (see on file). She had also provided all Court members with a draft Jail budget, per KRS.

IN RE: Proclamation—Hunger Awareness Month (Empty Bowls):

Judge Taylor proclaimed the month of March 2024 as Madison County Hunger Awareness Month and urged all citizens to support the efforts to end hunger in the County of Madison, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the United States of America, and the World.

Lora Danley, Karen Lynn, Dianna Ackerman, and Chad Snellgrove were in attendance to accept the proclamation. Lora stated that on Friday, April 5th they will be having the 25th Madison County Empty Bowls event at First Baptist Church on the Eastern Bypass. Serving will be available from 11 AM to 3 PM. with entertainment provided by the Dulcimers. The minimum donation for a bowl and vegetable soup is \$15. They will also have the soup available without purchasing a bowl for \$8, as well as soup to go.

IN RE: Proclamation— National Doctor's Day:

Judge Taylor proclaimed March 30, 2024, as National Doctor' Day and urged citizens to honor all doctors for their dedication and service to healing our communities.

Erica Gregonis, Baptist Health MD, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, was in attendance to accept the proclamation. On behalf of the physicians at Baptist Health Richmond and throughout Madison County, she thanked the Court for the recognition and appreciation.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation, stating that Madison County is very lucky to have the healthcare system that is in Berea and Richmond.

IN RE: Proclamation— Arbor Day:

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Judge Taylor proclaimed April 5, 2024, as Arbor Day in Madison County and urged all citizens to participate in the observance of this day by planting a tree to beautify Kentucky and focus attention on our great natural resource – our forests.

Philip Henderson, Ranger Technician, Kentucky Division of Forestry, was in attendance to accept the proclamation. Philip stated that the Division of Forestry would like everyone to be aware of and appreciate the value that native trees provide to us, from the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the houses we live in. He encouraged everyone to plan more trees.

Judge Taylor asked if there would be a tree planting. Philip stated that there will be one at Berea College on April 5th at 11AM.

IN RE: 1974 Tornado 50th Anniversary Documentary Premiere—Phillip Seyfrit:

Phillip Seyfrit spoke on the 1974 Tornado 50th Anniversary Documentary Premiere. He stated that on April 3, 1974, a tornado came through Garrard County, crossing into Northwestern Madison County, and then into Clark County taking 7 lives in Madison County. In honor of the 50th anniversary of that tragic event, a documentary has been put together, titled “We Didn’t Have Time to Be Scared.” It is a collection of stories and interviews from people who survived the tornado, and those that had a significant role to play in the recovery from it. The premiere of the documentary will be at the White Hall Elementary School Gymnasium on April 3rd at 7:12 PM, the time the storm hit White Hall Elementary School in 1974. The documentary will also be available on YouTube and other social media channels at a later date, as well as being shown at all elementary schools in the county.

Phillip thanked everyone that has helped in putting together this documentary.

Judge Taylor stated that as a student of White Hall Elementary, he remembers checking out books from the school library that would have little pebbles embedded into them from the tornado.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Phillip for his work on this project.

IN RE: Resolution 2024-24—Household Hazardous Waste 2024-2025 Grant Application:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2024-24— Household Hazardous Waste 2024-2025 Grant Application for the Court’s approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of 2024-2025 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Division of Waste Management Kentucky Pride Fund Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management Grant Funds.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2024-24— Household Hazardous Waste 2024-2025 Grant Application.

Judge Taylor stated that this is a great event that usually has some great participation. Shepherd stated that they had right at 300 participants last year and it will be held on October 5th of this year.

Judge Taylor stated that he is proud of this program and the fact that it has helped keep the roadways cleaner and less dumps on the side of the road.

Shepherd stated that they offer a dumpster service, as well as large item pickup, at the Road Department for anyone in the County to utilize. He encouraged anyone that is having trouble disposing of anything, to contact them and they will help in getting those items properly disposed of.

Magistrate Combs stated that he had a call on Saturday from a constituent expressing their appreciation of the dumpster service at the Road Department. He asked the public to be mindful of those services and to utilize them, stating that there is no reason to dispose of trash on the side of the road or in the creekbeds.

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

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IN RE: Resolution 2024-25— Madison County EMS Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-25— Madison County EMS Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is appointing Mark Farris to the Madison County EMS Board, with a term expiration date of April 1, 2026.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-25— Madison County EMS Board Appointment of Mark Farris to the Madison County EMS Board, with a term expiration date of April 1, 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 2024-26— Madison County EMS Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-26— Madison County EMS Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is appointing Robert Brock to the Madison County EMS Board, with a term expiration date of April 1, 2026.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-26 Madison County EMS Board Appointment of Robert Brock to the Madison County EMS Board, with a term expiration date of April 1, 2026.

Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Mr. Brock and Mr. Farris for serving on the EMS Board.

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 2024-27— Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines:

Tim Gray, EMS/CSEPP Director and Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2024-27— Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), which shall become effective April 1, 2024.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-27— Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines.

Magistrate Hughes asked if this is a new document or if it has been revised. Chief Gray stated that they never officially had one, so it is a new document that provides a description to the Fire Department on the way it should be structured.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to Chief Gray for providing these guidelines and procedures. It is very important to know the guidelines and understand where the limits are; it takes away a lot of confusion.

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:

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Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the promotion of Robert B. Foster from a Firefighter II to a Firefighter III, at a rate of \$9.74 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; the hiring Shana House as Planning and Codes Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; the hiring of Gary Tyree as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; the hiring of Maggie Ratliff as Animal Care and Control Director, at a salary of \$45,000 per year, effective May 1, 2024; the hiring of Ayden Strunk as Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; and the hiring of Aron Aldridge as Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to the promotion of Robert B. Foster from a Firefighter II to a Firefighter III, at a rate of \$9.74 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; the hiring Shana House as Planning and Codes Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$14.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; the hiring of Gary Tyree as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; the hiring of Maggie Ratliff as Animal Care and Control Director, at a salary of \$45,000 per year, effective May 1, 2024; the hiring of Ayden Strunk as Kennel Technician, at a rate of \$13.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024; and the hiring of Aron Aldridge as Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour, effective March 27, 2024.

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 Bobby Aldridge, Animal Control Officer. A colleague stated that Bobby is a team member who consistently steps up and takes on responsibilities, especially during periods of short staffing. His dedication has not gone unnoticed and deserves recognition for his commitment to Madison County.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to Bobby and thanked him for all his hard work.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- Berea Kiwanis is having their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30th from 9:00AM-11:00AM at the Berea Skate Park. Visit their Facebook page for more information.
- Richmond Parks and Recreation is hosting an Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, March 30th from 11:00AM-1:00PM at Lake Reba (softball fields). Visit their website or Facebook page for more information.
- The 2024 Empty Bowls Project will be Friday, April 5th at First Baptist Church in Richmond. Serving will begin at 11:00AM and continue until 4:00PM, with to-go orders only after 3:00PM. 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 Salvation Army of Madison County. Contact Lora Danley at 859-200-9361 for more information.
- Congressman Andy Barr's staff will be conducting in-person office hours from noon-1:00PM the second Monday of each month in meeting room 205 at the Madison County Public Library in Richmond.
- Join the Madison County Animal Shelter at the Richmond Mall on Saturday, April 13th from 11:00AM-4:00PM for their 2024 Spring Vendor & Adoption Event. They will have live music, food

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trucks, local businesses, and same day adoptions. Vendor registration ends April 1st. Please call 859-624-4744 for more information.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Bobby Aldridge for his hard work, stating that the County employees are their greatest asset. He also stated that he has been contacted by constituents who have said that the County doesn't advertise, or publicize as much for Board of Adjustment and Planning and Zoning meetings. He stated that if there were any improvements they could make on getting information for those meetings out, he would appreciate it.

Magistrate Hughes explained that the Bradford Pear trees that are currently blooming are actually an invasive species. In fact, some localities have banned or prohibited the planting of Bradford Pears. He asked Bert Thomas if that was a regulation the County could look into implementing. Thomas stated that it could be something they could add into the regulations. The regulations currently talk about the plants and vegetation that are recommended to plant, but he isn't sure if that particular tree is in there; he will check on it.

Magistrate Botkin stated that they have spent \$62,728.74 sending County prisoners to other Jails. He also commended the Sheriff's Department and SRO Charles Tinsley for his efforts and hard work as the SRO at Kirksville Elementary School by stopping a sex offender from coming onto school grounds. He expressed his appreciation to Officer Tinsley for a job well done and knows that the parents for those students at Kirksville appreciate him as well.

Magistrate Botkin also commended those that are on the Board of Adjustments. Magistrate Lochmueller and himself went to the meeting they had concerning the distillery, and they did a great job on hearing all the opinions and on having the desire to learn more about it.

Magistrate Combs thanked all the Department Heads and County employees for all their hard work. He also expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Coyle and his staff for all their hard work during the multiple swatting calls over the week at various schools.

Clerk Barger stated that they are still working on getting Election Officers for both the Primary and General Elections, explaining that they need at least 150 people to sign up. He encouraged those interested in working to go to www.madisoncountyclerk.us to sign up.

Sheriff Coyle thanked Magistrate Botkin for his comments on Officer Tinsley. The School Resource Officers take a lot of pride in their work with the schools. The swatting incidences during the past week took a lot of manpower and those types of situations can't be taken lightly. The deputies work together with the school systems and did a great job during these situations.

Sheriff Coyle also stated that next month, they will be losing another deputy, which will put them 4 deputies short, and that they are down 2 cruisers. He asked the public to be patient with them as they are working around these issues.

Judge Taylor stated that the Sheriff's Department has a bomb dog, which was utilized during the last week's swatting incidents. Sheriff Coyle said that from the time the call came in at Kingston to the time it was cleared took 38 minutes with the bomb dog. He stated that they have 4 drug dogs, the one bomb dog, and one therapy dog who is used in the schools, churches, and nursing homes. The canine program has been very beneficial to the Sheriff's Department and the community. Sheriff Coyle also bragged on officer Anthony Gatson for his work on cyber child porn cases that has resulted in many arrests over the past several weeks.

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Magistrate Botkin added that a lot of agencies practice active shooter situations during the summer months, but handling real life situations is different. He thanked all the agencies that responded to the swatting situation at Madison Southern and the great job they did.

Comments from Department Heads:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, stated that they received a PETCO Grant in the amount of \$12,000 for the Animal Shelter.

Magistrate Combs asked where they were as far as staffing is concerned at the Animal Shelter. Jill stated that with the approval of personnel today, they are still one Kennel Tech short and 2 Animal Control Officers short. They have had to adjust their hours for adoptions due to the staff shortage in getting the kennels cleaned. She expressed her appreciation to Bobby Aldridge, Leah Johnston, Aleaya Dixon, and Emily Kratochwill for their work on keeping the Animal Shelter going.

Judge Taylor stated that there have been staff in other departments who have volunteered to help at the Animal Shelter, and he expressed his appreciation to those that helped.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

Randal Curry, stated that he attended two Planning meetings last week, one on the distillery, and one on the AMCG Properties project on Tates Creek. Mr. Curry stated that he lives in the center of that project and is concerned about the traffic in that area.

No Comments from the Facebook.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

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

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for April 9, 2024, in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, KY at 9:30 AM

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Stephen Lochmueller to adjourn, seconded by Tom Botkin. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE