

Meeting Date: 6/25/2024

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 25 of June 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 Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger, and Sheriff Mike Coyle were also present.

It being determined a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order.

Judge Taylor asked Pastor Jim Riggs from 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 6-11-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on June 11, 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: Approval of Meeting Minutes 6-18-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the special called meeting on June 18, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller- Yes
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).

IN RE: Amending the Agenda

Judge Taylor asked the Court to Amend the Agenda to include Resolution 2024-71— Madison County Temporary Circuit Courthouse Lease Agreement.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to amend the agenda.

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: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-08—Fiscal Court Budget for 2024-2025:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-08—Fiscal Court Budget for 2024-2025 for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance to adopt the 2024-2025 Fiscal Court Budget.

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Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-08—Fiscal Court Budget for 2024-2025 as presented.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked to clarify that just because it is in the budget, doesn't mean it has to be spent.

Judge Taylor stated that is correct. It allows the County to spend the funds but doesn't mean they have to spend it, or that they are going to spend it. As a Court, they must plan ahead and be strategic on their spending.

Magistrate Combs stated that the budget is available on their website for the public to be able to view.

Judge Taylor stated that the pre-approved expenses the State allows are part of the budget, like utilities, salaries, etc. He also thanked Sarah for her hard work on preparing the budget.

There were no public comments.

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 2024-62—House Bill 1 Jail Arraignment Equipment Grant Application, Phase II MOA:

Major Dwight David Hall, with the Madison County Jail, presented Resolution 2024-62— House Bill 1 Jail Arraignment Equipment Grant Application, Phase II MOA for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorizes the filing of a Kentucky House Bill (HB) 1 Jail Arraignment Equipment Grant application for up to \$44,018.00 in HB 1 Project Funds with the Department for Local Government (DLG); authorizing and directing the Madison County Judge Executive to execute any documents which are deemed necessary by DLG to carry out this project; and authorizing the Judge Executive to act as the authorized correspondent for this project.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2024-62— House Bill 1 Jail Arraignment Equipment Grant Application, Phase II MOA.

Magistrate Botkin asked what Phase I was for. Major Hall stated that Phase I was for equipment to use for video arraignment, like camera court, and Phase II is for the software.

Magistrate Hughes stated he believed this was a good deal for what they ought to be doing.

Judge Taylor stated that was the reason legislators provided these funds, as an incentive for the judicial branch to use video arraignment as more of a tool than what they have been. It will also save the Fiscal Court some money by cutting down on the transportation of inmates.

Major Hall stated that the AOC wants to get away from in-person court visits except during trials.

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 2024-63— Madison County Information Technology Service Agreements for 2024-2025:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2024-63— Madison County Information Technology Service Agreements for 2024-2025 for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorizes the signature of 2024-2025 Madison County Information Technology (MCIT) Service Agreements.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-63— Madison County Information Technology Service Agreements for 2024-2025.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-No Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

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Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2024-64— Adopt Title VI Implementation Plan:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-64— Adopt Title VI Implementation for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to adopt the State of Kentucky Title VI Implementation Plan.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-64— Adopt Title VI Implementation.

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 2024-65— Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board Spay & Neuter Grant Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-65— Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board Spay & Neuter Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of 2024 Kentucky Department of Agriculture Animal Control Advisory Board Spay and Neuter Grant Funds.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-65— Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board Spay & Neuter Grant Application.

Magistrate Botkin stated that his document states that it can be awarded up to \$1,500. Jill stated that it had been that amount in the past, but the new grant application was only for \$1,075. She stated that they have received this grant for the past four years and it has decreased in value each year.

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 2024-66—Professional Services Agreement for Animal Shelter Feasibility Study:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-66— Professional Services Agreement for Animal Shelter for Animal Shelter Feasibility Study for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a Professional Services Agreement for a Madison County Animal Shelter Feasibility Study with Brandstetter Carroll Inc. (BCI).

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2024-66— Professional Services Agreement for Animal Shelter for Animal Shelter Feasibility Study.

Magistrate Botkin stated this is something they have talked about needing for a long time. Judge Taylor stated that he is looking forward to the outcome of this study.

Magistrate Hughes stated that the agreement doesn't say anything about best practices or what is working in other communities and wants to make sure that is something they look at. Jill stated that they have had an introductory conversation with Brandstetter Carroll, and they have 4 or 6 animal shelters throughout the state. They have had some great results with those and great ways to incorporate best practices to be efficient. Judge

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Taylor stated that this will involve the employees at the Animal Shelter and looking at what fits their needs.

Their goal is to complete this study by the end of August.

Magistrate Combs stated that it is important for them to acknowledge that they are doing what they can to alleviate a problem in the community, but it is also important for the public to understand that owning a pet is a responsibility and it shouldn't be taken lightly.

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 2024-67— Treasurer's Request to Pre-Approve Claims and Transfers:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2024-67— Treasurer's Request to Pre-Approve Claims and Transfers for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve the Treasurer's request to pre-approve the claims and transfers through June 30, 2024.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2024-67— Treasurer's Request to Pre-Approve Claims and Transfers.

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 2024-68— Employee Classification Schedule for 2024-2025:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-68— Employee Classification Schedule for 2024-2025 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve the Madison County Annual Employee Classification Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-68— Employee Classification Schedule for 2024-2025.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the Class F Battalion Chief max salary is \$75, 070 and the Class H Fire Chief max salary is \$75,000. Jill stated that they did not make any adjustments to the Fire Chief salary. The County is privileged to have Chief Gray serving in two roles, both as a Fire Chief and as the EMA/CSEPP Director, which he is falling under the EMA/CSEPP Director category as Class 14. They currently don't have any Battalion Chief's at the max of this range due to years of service and performance evaluations. That is a modification they can make if the Court chooses to do so. Magistrate Botkin stated it will need to be something to look at in the future years.

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 2024-69— Annual Employee Rate Adjustments for 2024-2025:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-69— Annual Employee Rate Adjustments for 2024-2025 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve the Madison County annual rate adjustments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

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Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-69— Annual Employee Rate Adjustments for 2024-2025.

Magistrate Botkin asked if all of their departments participated in this. Judge Taylor stated that yes, they did this year. Jill stated that the only exception is 911 since they are a joint operational facility in which the 911 Board recommends an amount, so their raises are not based on their performance evaluations but on the Board's recommendation. In the future that will be changing due to the restructuring of 911.

Magistrate Hughes asked what the overall percent increase was. Judge Taylor stated it was 3.4%.

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 2024-70— American Battlefield Trust Agreement First Amendment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-70— American Battlefield Trust Agreement First Amendment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is authorizing the first amendment to an Agreement of Conveyance of Real Property between the Madison County Fiscal Court, the City of Richmond, and the American Battlefield Trust.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-70— American Battlefield Trust Agreement First Amendment.

Jill Williams explained that they didn't have all their grant funding paperwork because a federal budget wasn't passed so they had to extend the agreement out before they can get the rest of the federal funds to close on the property.

Magistrate Botkin asked if they had taken over the maintenance of the property. Judge Taylor stated that they have been doing that since April 2023 when they first took it over.

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 2024-71— Madison County Temporary Circuit Courthouse Lease Agreement:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-71— Madison County Temporary Circuit Courthouse Lease Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves a lease agreement between Madison County Fiscal Court and the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-71— Madison County Temporary Circuit Courthouse Lease Agreement.

Judge Taylor stated that this agreement is extending out the lease until June 30, 2025. Once they move out and into the Courthouse, the lease will expire, which is anticipated to be the end of this year or the first of next year.

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: Personnel:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of Donnie Powell as Facilities and Custodial Supervisor, at a rate of \$20.50 per hour, effective July 10, 2024; the hiring of Hannah Morgan as Director of Human Resources, at an annual salary of \$75,000, effective June 26, 2024; hiring of Delbert Isaacs as Road Department Truck Driver-General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective June 26, 2024; and the hiring of Tristen Steinmetz as Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective June 26, 2024.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the hiring of Donnie Powell as Facilities and Custodial Supervisor, at a rate of \$20.50 per hour, effective July 10, 2024; the hiring of Hannah Morgan as Director of Human Resources, at an annual salary of \$75,000, effective June 26, 2024; hiring of Delbert Isaacs as Road Department Truck Driver-General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective June 26, 2024; and the hiring of Tristen Steinmetz as Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$15 per hour, effective June 26, 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 Robyn Fayne, Executive Assistant, with the Madison County Fiscal Court since 2020. A colleague stated that Robyn consistently demonstrates professionalism and courtesy in her interactions with everyone she works with. She goes above and beyond to assist community members, employees of the Madison County Fiscal Court, and all County departments, ensuring their needs are met efficiently and effectively.

Jill stated that all the County employees benefit from Robyn's dedication and thoughtfulness on a daily basis. Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he agreed with Jill.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to Robyn in all that she does.

Judge Taylor stated that things happen for a reason and is thankful for the hard times they went through in transition to get Robyn.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- Richmond Parks and Recreation is hosting a free Movie in the Park on Friday, June 28th at Irvine-McDowell Park. The movie (The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes) begins at dusk.
- The "American Musical Salute," featuring the Madison Singers and Madison Community Band, will be at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, July 3rd at First Baptist Church (EKU Bypass) in Richmond.
- Lake Reba's 4th of July Celebration will be Thursday, July 4th at Lake Reba Park. Festivities begin at 5 PM with fireworks at 10 PM. Contact Richmond Parks and Recreation for more information.
- Berea's 4th of July Spectacular will be Thursday, July 4th at Berea City Park. Festivities begin at 6 PM with fireworks at 10 PM. Contact Berea Parks and Recreation for more information.
- The Berea Craft Festival will begin on Friday, July 5th and continue through Sunday, July 7th at Indian Fort Theater in Berea. Visit www.visitberea.com/berea-craft-festival for more information.

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- Madison County Government and its related offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4th for the Independence Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Friday, July 5th at 8 AM.
- I would like to end on a positive note with a citizen shout-out to 12-year-old Laura Jacqueline Shouse. She took the initiative to pick up trash at Wilgreen Lake. Thank you to Laura for her selfless efforts in keeping our recreation areas clean. Madison County is proud to have citizens like you in our community.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor thanked the Richmond Mayor and City Commissioner's for allowing the Court to use their chambers. He also thanked all the employees for their hard work during this Fiscal Year, and for their efficiency and dedication.

Magistrate Lochmueller recognized Clayton and his staff at the Valley View Ferry for being focused and on target in taking care of their customers going across the ferry with all the flooding during the spring and summer months. He also asked if they could have a conversation soon concerning the county roads so that he can get back with his constituents on what is or isn't going to get done this year. He also wanted the public to understand that there was not a new fire department built by the airport. Judge Taylor explained that an emergency storage facility was built there using CSEPP funds to be able to store emergency equipment in case of an emergency; it has nothing to do with fire. Magistrate Lochmueller also stated that he would love to see them work on some sort of plan for the future of a fire or EMS presence on the northern end of the county with the growth that is happening in that area. Judge Taylor stated that there have been conversations happening.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he still gets some comments on Airbnb's on occasion and asked Bert Thomas if he could get together a list of all the Airbnb's and where they are located within the county, and also asked how often they get requests for them. Bert said it wasn't very often that they get requests in. Judge Taylor suggested they put that list on a map, so it shows where they are located within the county.

Magistrate Botkin thanked the County employees, and expressed his appreciation to the Road Department, Robyn, and the Deputy Clerk's in the Berea Clerk's Office. He also thanked the Sheriff's Department for keeping semi-trucks off the ramps at Buc-ee's. Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation as well, but said he believed the semis would be a never-ending battle. They are having the same issue with semis parking in the middle to Colonel Road. When the State took out the rest areas, there is nowhere for semis to park besides on the side of the ramps and rights-of-way.

Magistrate Combs wished everyone a Happy Independence Day.

Clerk Barger piggy-backed on what Magistrate Combs said, and that it is important to remember that it is Independence Day for our nation, not just the 4th of July. Judge Taylor stated that the Berea Office seems a lot busier, and Clerk Barger agreed, stating that it is a lot busier at both locations. He explained that the county is growing, and people are not only buying vehicles, but more boats and campers. Magistrate Hughes asked how the KAVIS system was coming along. Clerk Barger stated that it is getting better, a lot of the bugs are getting worked out and now they are starting to work on the efficiencies. He stated that the online processing is working but that is dependent on the mail and right now it could take 2 weeks to get renewals delivered since all the mail in Madison County has to go to Louisville first. The Postmaster has asked the Clerk's Office to start sorting their mail out between Richmond, Berea, and out of town, and are hand carrying the mail to Berea, as

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well as presorting in Richmond. He stated that once the renewal is processed in the system, the police can see that the plate is good as well.

Sheriff Coyle advised the Court that Sergeant Paul Lay is doing well and will be back to work by the first of next week, and they have filled another vacancy, so they are getting their numbers back up. He stated that concerning the semi-trucks, they had been in contact with the State to try to get the signs back up that were knocked down stating there was no parking. They have also worked on extra patrols that has been asked of them where speed has been a problem and can see a difference in those areas. He also explained that they have not received their shipment of new cruisers yet, which is causing their vehicle maintenance to go up.

Comments from Department Heads:

No comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

No comments from the Audience.

Jill Williams read a Facebook comment from **Bee Brandy** stating that the big distillery has had an appeal filed against it by the citizens for Madison County. This area does not have the infrastructure. Fire should have been discussed before the distillery was approved. Bert Thomas stated that there have been rumors on social media of an appeal or lawsuit, but nothing has been served to the Court nor to Planning and Zoning.

Steve Durham asked about any updates on the old Clays Ferry truck stop, which has been vacant for years. Judge Taylor stated that the owner purchased that property in an auction and had been trying to do some improvements and cleaned up some. Bert Thomas stated that there has been some development across the road on Carr Ln, but no plans have been submitted for the actual truck stop.

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 July 9, 2024, in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, Ky at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from James Brian Combs to adjourn, seconded by Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE