

Meeting Date; 7/9/2024

Meeting of; Madison County Fiscal Court

Meeting Type; Regularly Scheduled

REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in regular session on the 9th of July 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, 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 requested a moment of silence for Wanda Pennington. Wanda was a long-time Madison County resident who served on multiple County boards.

Judge Taylor asked Greg Lakes, Director of Missions with the Bates Creek Baptist Association, to lead the Court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 6-25-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on June 25, 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: Volunteer Fire Departments Update – Tim Gray, Madison County Fire Chief:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, provided an update on the Volunteer Fire Departments from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department had a total of 157 calls for service, of those calls they had 27 calls for car accidents, 1 farm animal rescue, 24 assist EMS, 10 grass fires, 3 illegal burns, 12 fires (any calls for fire that can't be determined at the time of the call), 31 fire alarms, 17 structure fires, 14 tree down or tree fire, 3 vehicle fires, and 1 water rescue. The Red Lick Volunteer Fire Department had a total of 108 calls for service, of those calls they had 35 calls for car accidents, 1 farm animal rescue, 20 assist EMS, 3 forest fires, 4 grass fires, 3 illegal burns, 5 other fires, 1 fire alarms, 1 search and rescue, 8 structure fires, 11 tree down or tree fire, 4 vehicle fires. Union City Volunteer Fire Department had a total of 115 calls for service, of those calls they had 25 that were car accidents, 27 assist EMS, 5 grass fires, 8 illegal burns, 10 other fires, 8 fire alarms, 2 search and rescue, 10 structure fires, 11 tree down or tree fire, 2 vehicle fires. Waco Volunteer Fire Department made a total 386 call for service, of those calls they had 46 calls for car accidents, 3 farm animal rescue, 33 assist EMS, 180 coroner transport calls (which those calls are paid by the Coroner's Department), 1 forest fire, 14 grass fires, 11 illegal burns, 8 other fires, 17 fire alarms, 1 search and rescue, 12 structure fires, 10 tree down or tree fire, 3 vehicle fires, and 1 water rescue fire.

Judge Taylor asked what an assist to EMS meant. Chief Gray stated that it could be a lift assist for the EMS. Magistrate Botkin asked Chief Gray why Waco had coroner transport calls and no other Volunteer Fire Department had any. Chief Gray stated that Waco was the only one that does the coroner transport; the other Volunteer Fire Departments had the opportunity but at the time Waco was the only one with the number of people that were able and wanted to do the transport. Judge Taylor explained that they are the drivers that transport bodies to the Medical Examiner's office in Frankfort or Louisville.

Magistrate Hughes asked what the fire alarms entailed. Chief Gray stated that most are from alarm panels in homes, businesses, or schools in which the alarm company wasn't able to contact the individual, so they contact the Fire Department to respond. It might not be a fire, but it is a call to service, and they have to investigate.

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Chief Gray continued, stating that White Hall Volunteer Department made a total of 405 calls for service. Of those calls, they had 135 calls for car accidents, 52 assist EMS, 24 grass fires, 1 hazmat, 16 illegal burns, 23 other fires, 39 fire alarms, 1 search and rescue, 20 structure fires, 26 tree down or tree fire, 21 vehicle fires, and 1 water rescue fire.

Magistrate Botkin stated that looking at this information, they need to do a road analysis for the number of accidents White Hall responds to. Chief Gray explained that they cover I-75 both north and south bound from the 90 to 97 exits.

Magistrate Hughes asked if Chief Gray could provide the same breakdown for the County Fire Department.

Chief Gray stated that he could get that for them in the next few weeks. He also explained that every call the volunteer departments have been on, the County has had an apparatus along with them. Judge Taylor stated that there are times that the volunteer departments get to a call first and the County Department is no longer needed, but most of the time the County is the primary and the volunteer departments are the secondary on calls. Chief Gray stated that over the past 26 years, things have changed with volunteers having to work multiple jobs and there aren't as many individuals volunteering, so it takes a little longer for them to get to a scene.

Judge Taylor asked if these numbers are similar to previous years. Chief Gray said that the number of runs is going up a little each year, not so much in the fire categories but in the assist to EMS and car accidents.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if the data is analyzed also based on distance from the County facility as compared to the volunteer facility. Chief Gray stated that they aren't. When a call comes in and they put the address into the CAD system, it tells them what district the address is in, and they dispatch the County Department as well as the volunteer department that responds to that district.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if they knew the percentage of runs in which the volunteer departments showed up to a scene before the County Department. Chief Gray stated that he could pull that data.

Judge Taylor asked if there was ever a call in which no volunteer department showed up to and how often.

Chief Gray stated that there are times a volunteer department doesn't show up. It has been happening more than it used to, but it is about once a month.

Judge Taylor stated that they had a situation that happened a couple weeks ago that started with the Sheriff's Department and eventually led to having to dispatch the fire department in. It was good to see the volunteer fire departments working together and alongside the County and other first responders. It is unfortunate that the media portrays situations such as this as a bad thing instead of focusing on the many departments working together to keep the community safe.

Chief Gray stated that in the situation from a couple weeks ago, they had several calls asking about why the fire department didn't use the hydrants or why they allowed the house to burn. He stated that they don't rely on hydrants but establish a water source when they show up through the use of tanker trucks. This was a unique situation and until the Sheriff's Department deemed it safe for the fire department to make entry, they would not do so.

Magistrate Lochmueller commended Chief Gray for clearing up the rumors that are circulating concerning that situation.

Judge Taylor stated that he was proud of the first responders in working together to keep the community safe and preventing the neighboring houses from catching on fire during that situation.

Magistrate Combs stated that they had signed the agreement with Clark County, and they came to provide assistance. Chief Gray stated that they have a good working relationship with Clark County.

Judge Taylor stated that the prospective is that there are fire hydrants all over the county, which is not the cause, and most of the hydrants out in the county are actually flush hydrants, not fire hydrants. Chief Gray also explained that most of the water lines that are out in the county don't have enough water pressure to last through a fire.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if the Lexington-Fayette County Fire Department has provided assistance to White Hall since their operational agreement with them. Chief Gray stated that there have been a couple occasions in which they have called them in to assist.

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Sheriff Coyle stated that during the situation they had a couple weeks ago, the departments worked together in the heat to save the surrounding structures from flying embers that could potentially have started another fire. The quick response time of all the first responders and them working together, this situation came under control quickly. There was a situation several years ago at the Fayette County/Madison County line, which was similar to this situation, where one firefighter was killed and another one injured by an active shooter as they tried to put out a house fire. They have had to put a protocol in place to keep others safe, and they have to use caution when in these situations. Sheriff Coyle also thanked Laurel County for bringing a cadaver dog up to provide assistance.

IN RE: Website & Data Overview – Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, provided an overview of the new website and went over the information that is found on the website. The goals of the new website were to try to reduce the barriers between the departments and citizens, make it more user friendly, and to make the website a purposeful and useful tool for the citizens, not just static. Whether citizens are looking to file for a business license, apply for a job, look up and contact a Department Head, or look up adoptable animals at the animal shelter, it is all on the website and tracked through their TRACKS program. Each department also has Key Performance Indicators at the bottom of their home page that showcases that department's statistics and budget information. They also have available Fiscal Court, Planning Commission, and Board of Adjustments meeting information and minutes, as well as the county Ordinances and Resolutions, along with a search field to make finding information easier.

Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman asked if the search bar was able to search by keyword in the body of the document, or just in the heading. Chris stated it just searches the title.

Magistrate Hughes asked if Chris works with AI. Chris stated that the coding systems they use has AI built into them and are working through AI when they can be used efficiently.

Judge Taylor stated that the new website is a continuous work in progress, but it has come a long way from where it was. He is proud of their team for all the work they have put in.

IN RE: Resolution 2024-72—Professional Services Agreement for Liquidity Monitoring and Analysis:

Ruth Chiumia, Client Services Associate with three+one, presented, via video conference, an overview of their cashVest platform. cashVest is a proven data partner that simplifies cash, banking, and investment-management decisions, so finance officers can maximize the value of all cash with greater confidence. It saves public finance leaders time, increases interest income, provides necessary savings, and helps make the most effective use of taxpayers' dollars through view-only access. View-only access only allows three+one access to banking data and allows them to download it on an ongoing basis. With this data, they are able to identify Working Capital, as well as the Total Strategic Liquidity, and provide recommendations in a conservative manner since they are dealing with taxpayers' dollars. The advantages to cashVest are that it allows them to analyze banking services and fees to certify an equitable relationship in any market cycle, provides an advanced liquidity modeling that complements current cash flow management, provides an independent third-party certification that the County is maximizing the value of every taxpayer dollar on deposit, and helps utilize all allowable investment options and approves depositories to identify marketplace benchmarks and opportunities. By providing this information, it will help fund staffing challenges, generate new revenue back to the bottom line for initiatives/projects, etc., helps lower/maintain tax levies for constituents, increases confidence for constituents from knowing that their County is safely maximizing their taxpayer dollars, and maintains a positive return on investment (ROI).

Magistrate Botkin asked Ruth if she could go over what was meant by providing stress tests/algorithmic simulations on all cash. Ruth stated that the stress testing algorithms they use is the Monte Carlo simulation, which runs every debit and credit over 50,000 times to equip the team with the confidence to provide a report. Magistrate Botkin also asked if they negotiate with the local banks and search for the best rates of local banks. Ruth stated that was correct. They search for the best rates and are able to negotiate with local banks if they

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wish for them to. He asked Judge Taylor if they were prepared to move funds between banks for profitability purposes. Judge Taylor stated that it would ultimately be a Court decision, but as elected officials they are supposed to be maximizing their investments, and in order to do so they may have to move funds to another bank.

Magistrate Botkin asked Judge Taylor if he would explain how three+one was found. Judge Taylor stated that it was through the Kentucky Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties. Three+one has partnered with NACO, and Boone Co., Kentucky informed Judge Taylor of the success they had with the company.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that this is being progressive and smart for the County to utilize, and it is a good thing to let the taxpayer dollars that are collected generate revenue. He asked Ruth, after this 12-month agreement is up, is it a 30-day notice to terminate. Ruth stated that should they want to terminate the agreement it is a mutual 30-day notice.

Judge Taylor stated that he envisions this being a long-term partnership, and the return on investment versus what they pay three+one will be significantly different.

Magistrate Combs stated that he is glad there is no risk to the County nor the taxpayer, and they will have data to show that they are maximizing tax dollars. This is a way for the Fiscal Court to find other sources of revenue in order to keep taxes low. He expressed his appreciation to Judge Taylor for the work that has gone into this project.

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2024-72—Professional Services Agreement for Liquidity Monitoring and Analysis for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a professional services agreement for Liquidity Monitoring and Analysis.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-72—Professional Services Agreement for Liquidity Monitoring and Analysis.

Judge Taylor asked Ruth about the timeframe for when they could get a potential report to bring back to the Court. Ruth explained that once they get the agreement with all signatures and set up the initial onboarding call, the turnaround time for the report would be 2 to 4 weeks depending on how long it takes the Bank to provide the access.

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 2024-73—Battlefield Golf Course Standard Operating

Procedures:

Gary Vanderoef, Battlefield Golf Course Director, presented Resolution 2024-73—Battlefield Golf Course Standard Operating Procedures for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve Battlefield Golf Course Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-73—Battlefield Golf Course Standard Operating Procedures.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Gary for taking the time to prepare these procedures; it was a well written document.

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 2024-74—American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Plan

Recommendation:

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Jill William, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2024-74—American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Plan Recommendations for the Court's approval. This Resolution is outlining the plan for spending American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which includes infrastructure and community development through broadband expansion and water and sewer improvements, infrastructure needs to roadways and bridges, in a public sector capacity by upgrading and maintaining public facilities, and in public safety.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2024-74—American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Plan Recommendations.

Magistrate Botkin stated that this was a pretty in-depth document that had a lot of thought put into it.

Magistrate Combs stated that he was thankful that they have taken time to look into different options and not be frivolous with these funds in order to make a bigger impact. The items on the list are very much needed and is an opportunity for them to make a difference for the future.

Judge Taylor stated that they will now be able to get agreements for the items on the list to present to the Court, which has to be done by the end of this year per ARPA guidelines. The money doesn't have to be spent until the end of 2026.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the water associations understand this timeline. Judge Taylor stated that they received some ARPA funds in the past, so they are familiar with the guidelines.

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:

Hannah Morgan, Director of Human Resources, spotlighted Vernon Hubbs, Codes Enforcement Officer, who has been with the County since 2022. A colleague stated that Vernon is a top-notch professional and wonderful team player, who is always approachable, willing to lend a hand, ready to share his knowledge, and is an invaluable asset to the team.

Judge Taylor stated that Vernon is a great asset to the County.

RE: Judge's Report:

- Berea Craft Festival will be July 12th-14th at Indian Fort. The hours are 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Sunday. Visit their Facebook page for more information.
- Straight from Texas Bar-b-que would like to thank their customers by inviting them to celebrate their 10-year anniversary on Saturday, July 13th from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM at 306 North Street in Richmond. They will have food, live music, games, and much more.
- Beginning July 16, Kentucky River Foothills will accept applications for the Summer Subsidy Cooling segment of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The deadline for applications is September 13, 2024, or until funds are exhausted. The program aims to assist households in offsetting their electric expenses. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 859-544-1713.
- Richmond Area Arts Council is hosting a Blues, Soul, & Bar-b-que fundraiser on Sunday, July 21st from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Chenault Vineyards. Tickets can be purchased at www.artsinrichmond.org, under "events," or by calling 859-624-4242.
- Richmond Parks & Recreation and Madison County Public Library are hosting a free Movie in the Park on Friday, July 19th at Irvine-McDowell Park in Richmond. Jurassic Park will begin at dusk.

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- CASA of Madison and Clark Counties is hosting their fifth Annual Superhero Gala on Saturday August 3rd from 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM. The event will be held at the ECU Center of the Arts. Tickets can be purchased at www.madisoncasa.org.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Lochmueller asked Judge Taylor when he thought they would be able to identify the allocation of road funds for each district. Judge Taylor stated that it would probably be at the end of August.

Magistrate Lochmueller also asked if the Judge's Office had a conversation with one of his constituents concerning sewer availability on Riva Ridge, where it currently isn't available. Judge Taylor stated that he did speak with the constituent and that area is actually within the City of Richmond sewer boundary line, and therefore directed them to speak with the City of Richmond.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked if the Library and Library Board has provided a strategic plan or vision of what they might need in the future. Judge Taylor stated that he thought they had, but he would be glad to get with the Library Board and Director to see if they would be willing to provide an update to the Court.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he was glad to see that on the website they are able to see the information on the broadband expansion. He asked how often that map gets updated and if they are able to see progress. Jill Williams stated that they have a monthly broadband expansion progress meeting where they bring in Spectrum and all the utility companies that have a footprint in the county. About a week after that meeting, they provide the data feed to GIS to get those maps updated online to reflect the progress. She explained that citizens can go to their website, put in their address on the map, and it will show them what phase they are currently in and the progress.

Magistrate Hughes also talked about an article on the prison policy initiative. It stated the incarceration rate in the state of Kentucky is one of the highest in the nation. Studies show that incarceration isn't a deterrent to crime and could create more problems than it solves. Currently, our jail is housing 300 to 400 inmates and building more beds to house more inmates; which is not the solution to our incarceration problem. Judge Taylor stated that the data they have gives them a direction to go in, but they need help from the citizens to be able to go in that direction. It may cost money to get there, but there is a big return on investment because the inmates get the help they need and then end up becoming taxpayers. There is a lot of push to the legislative body to make some changes when it comes to incarceration and the judicial process and is providing more awareness to the problem.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he spoke to Brandon McIntosh with the State Road Department, and they will be repairing the bridges on Barnes Mill, at exit 87 within the next 2 weeks. They are hoping they can make those changes at night but if not, there will be some delays as they shut down that area in the daytime. He also asked if they would be getting an update on the broadband expansion at the next meeting, in which he was told that was correct. He stated that he recently went to a Farm Bureau meeting and that they were doing a lot of good things there. He stated that they will need to look at making a decision concerning medical marijuana.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to Chris Iseral on his presentation of the website, and he encouraged the public to go to the County website to view the data and facts that can be found there. He stated that on July 19th, the lady's GOP will be having their annual picnic at 6:00 PM at the fairgrounds for \$10 and everyone is invited.

Sheriff Coyle stated that they received 3 of their 5 new cruisers in today and will hopefully get the other 2 next week. He stated that over his 45 years in law enforcement, respect and morals have decreased, causing the

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current war on drugs they are seeing. It is important, as a government and first responders, to come together to provide help for all our citizens and support law enforcement.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

Michael Harrington, Organizer of the Madison County Tenants Union, stated that Madison County is facing an eviction crisis and wanted to extend a hand of partnership to work with and learn more about what the Tenants Union is doing. In 2023, a record was set for the highest number of evictions filed in Madison County Court, with 667 evictions. Evictions are a primary driver for homelessness, and they work with Madison Homes, Inc. and the UP Initiative of Berea to address the shelter crisis to provide shelter from the heat and cooling centers. The Madison County Tenants Union works to make sure people don't have to sleep outside at night, and that there is a way for someone facing an eviction to remain securely housed.

Magistrate Botkin asked Michael how many people they assist in a month. Michael stated that it depends on what is going on throughout the year. They have a big spike during the winter months, but on average they work with about 50 people consistently a month, with outreach being a few hundred more than that.

Jill Williams stated there were several Facebook Comments that had been answered during the discussions of the Fiscal Court meeting. There was one question that asked why build so much housing in Richmond when there are so many people being evicted. Magistrate Botkin stated that there are a lot of challenges and issues when it comes to this situation and he doesn't have an answer for it, but feels it is something they need to take a look at between all three governments.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that circumstances for an eviction are individual and there are so many data points to look at to come up with a plan or vision, which not only involves the three governments, but also churches, educational institutions, etc.

Judge Taylor also stated that making sure there is enough affordable housing within the city with close proximity to work is important. He feels like this issue is more led by the cities but is willing to partner and be a part of a conversation to work on a solution.

Magistrate Combs stated that it is not the government that can fix this issue because property rights exist, and property owners can do what they want to with their property. They can work together to help alleviate as much as possible, but it comes down to property owners and what they want to do with their property.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he has been getting complaints that there are too many apartments, so he isn't sure that there is an answer that will please everyone.

Another Facebook Comment was concerning the traffic northbound exit ramp at the Buc-ee's exit. Judge Taylor stated that Daniel Deaton, Richmond Police Officer who sits on the Transportation Committee, brought that up at a meeting recently, stating that the State is aware of the issue.

Magistrate Botkin thanked the Sheriff's Department for working to keep semi-trucks off the ramps at Buc-ee's.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for July 23, 2024, in the Richmond City Hall Commission Chambers in Richmond, Ky at 9:30 AM.

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IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from James Brian Combs to adjourn, seconded by Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE