

Meeting Date: 7/23/2024

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 23rd of July 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 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 Magistrate Billy Ray Hughes to lead the Court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 7-9-2024:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on July 9, 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

Treasurer's Report:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, addressed the Court to give the monthly treasurer's report (see on file).

IN RE: Battlefield Golf Course 5-year Review—Gary Vanderoef, Director of Golf & Recreation

Gary Vanderoef, Director of Golf & Recreation, provided a 5-year review on the Battlefield Golf Course. He started by thanking the Fiscal Court and Judge Taylor for their support and guidance over the years. He explained that at the golf course, they sell golf, and the best way to grow the golf course is through the golf course. They offer a Grab and Go Concept in which they only sell what people would need that day, i.e. golf balls, gloves, hats, towels, ball markers, drinks and snacks. In the same concept, they only order what they need and what they know moves. The golf course provides an excellent experience by overseeding bluegrass on the fairways to coexist with Bermuda grass, maintaining the course to the highest standard possible, provide excellent customer service, effective communication amongst the staff, and carefully select the vendors they deal with. Over the past 6 years, they have increased their fees but are still well below almost every course in the area and have had a 68% increase in Rounds from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024; which is well above the average within the state of Kentucky. Within the past 6 years, their expenses have increased 17.5%, but have had an increase of 100.5% in revenue, with revenue exceeding expenses for the past 2 years.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that it looked like they do a good job based on the customer experience and the growth of the golf course while keeping control of the expenses by ordering what they need. Gary stated that it is an ongoing process.

Magistrate Combs stated that he has heard nothing but good things about the course. Gary stated that it is a team effort with those at the Pro Shop and Grounds Crew to keep the course in great shape.

Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Gary for turning the golf course around. It is a testament to his leadership skills and knowledge that he has good people who want to keep coming back to work year after year. Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to Gary for his work.

IN RE: Madison County Fire Department Update—Tim Gray, Fire Chief

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Tim Gray, Fire Chief, provided an update on the Madison County Fire Department. He stated that Madison County Fire Department made a total of 2,352 calls of service from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Of those calls, they had 1,344 controlled burns (which is anyone burning campfire, brush, etc. and it gets called in, even if they don't go to the call), 310 car accidents, 4 animal rescue, 153 assist to EMS and other agencies, 2 explosions, 23 gas leaks, 62 grass and field fires, 1 Hazmat, 37 illegal burns, 53 fires, 11 power line downs, 129 fire alarms, 6 search and rescue, 23 structure fires, 24 working structure fires, 78 tree down or tree fire, 36 vehicle fires, and 2 water rescue.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the gas leaks were in a concentrated area or spread out across the county. Chief Gray stated that they were spread out across the county. Any time there is a report of a smell of gas or a gas line gets hit, they have to go out and inspect it.

Magistrate Botkin also asked what the 2 explosions were. Chief Gray stated that those could have been a controlled burn that had something in it that exploded out, it would come in as an explosion.

Magistrate Combs asked what the status of the burn ban is right now. Chief Gray stated that they don't have a burn ban right now. The county is dry, so they do advise to burn after 6 PM, to have a water hose nearby, and to keep the burn small.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation on the update.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-09—Land Use Change 1700 Red House Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-09—Land Use Change 1700 Red House Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of 1700 Red House Road, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Magistrate Hughes asked if there was any opposition on the zone change. Bert stated there were some questions on the type of development and some concerns about the traffic impact at the intersections of Three Forks and Red House where there is a hump in the road in that area. The public was directed to contact the State Highway Department on those concerns since it is a State road.

Magistrate Combs asked if there were any plans submitted yet. Bert stated that the property is about 70 acres, and the developer is proposing only 7 lots. The entrance to the development will come directly off of Three Forks, so there won't be any new roads built.

Judge Taylor stated that there was some misinformation going around about a large subdivision going in the area, but the proposed plan shows that is not the case.

Magistrate Botkin stated that approving the 1st Reading of the Ordinance gives them the opportunity to go out and view the property.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-09—Land Use Change 1700 Red House Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential as presented.

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: 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-10—Land Use Change 3907 & 3911 Irvine Road from C-7 & RC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 Commercial:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-10—Land Use Change 3907 & 3911 Irvine Road from C-7 & RC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 Commercial for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of 3907 &

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3911 Irvine Road, Waco, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 2024-10— Land Use Change 3907 & 3911 Irvine Road from C-7 & RC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 Commercial as presented.

Magistrate Hughes asked what the plans were for this property. Bert stated that he believes the property owners are unsure of what to do as of now.

Judge Taylor asked if there were any structures on these two lots. Bert stated that there is not. He also stated that they didn't have anyone attend the meeting concerning this zone change.

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 2024-75— Madison County Sheriff's 2023 Local Tax Settlement:

Mary Margaret Young, Administrative Director, presented Resolution 2024-75— Madison County Sheriff's 2023 Local Tax Settlement for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve the 2023 Madison County Sheriff's Local Tax Settlement.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-75— Madison County Sheriff's 2023 Local Tax Settlement.

Mary Margaret explained how the tax collection works. The Sheriff's Office collects the taxes and at the end of each month, they disburse them to each district. They get a commission from each district to collect the taxes of 4.25% from the County, Health Department, Extension Office, Library, and Water Shed; 4% from the ambulance; and 1.5% from the schools, which is the Madison County Board of Education and the Berea Independent School. They had 37,876 bills this year, with \$1,200,000.00 going delinquent. The Clerk's Office has been collecting a good majority of those delinquent bills, which decreases each year.

Judge Taylor asked if there is a reason why the ambulance pays 4% instead of 4.5%. She stated that she is unsure. The statute for the School District states that they can pay up to 4% but they choose to pay 1.5% even though they get 65% of the taxes.

Magistrate Lochmueller expressed his appreciation to Mary Margaret for explaining the process of tax collection, and where the funds go.

Magistrate Botkin stated that there is a picture of a dollar bill that explains where those funds go and suggested they post it in their office.

Magistrate Combs stated that they get the same comments and questions. The public needs to be educated about where these funds go and what they are used for.

Magistrate Hughes asked how the 1.5% from the schools compares to the rest of the state. Mary Margaret stated that she doesn't know the exact figures, but thinks there are no more than 15 in the state that is a 1.5%, and that the state rep had told them that they are the lowest in the surrounding counties.

Clerk Barger thanked Mary Margaret for clarifying the process. He explained that the elected officials are doing exactly what they are supposed to do by law, and they can't change the law. The collection of bills is segregated with the Clerk's Office, County Attorney's Office, and Sheriff's Office so there isn't just one group or individual handling the entire process and is safer financially.

Judge Taylor asked if there is a reason why the State isn't listed on the spreadsheet. She explained that they do a separate audit, but she can add it. Judge Taylor stated that the State is the second highest taxing district after the School District, and thought it would be good to have that number as well.

Magistrate Botkin explained that the Sheriff's Department gets audited every year, and every penny of those funds has to be accounted for. Clerk Barger stated that those audits are posted on the Treasurer's website.

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Magistrate Lochmueller explained that the County gets 7.3%, the Library gets 5.2%, the Health Department gets 4.8% of the tax collections. He believes that the County does a good job with the amount of funds they collect.

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 2024-76—City of Berea Sewer Service MOA:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-76—City of Berea Sewer Service MOA for the Court's approval. This Resolution is authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Madison County Fiscal Court and the City of Berea for sanitary sewer service to a County-owned building on Airport Road in Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-76—City of Berea Sewer Service MOA.

Magistrate Combs asked if this was CSEPP funded. Judge Taylor stated it is. They have been working on getting sewer out to the airport and needed this agreement before they can eventually get it to the airport.

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 2024-77—Updated County Road List:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2024-77— Updated County Road List for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves an updated County road list.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-77— Updated County Road List.

Magistrate Hughes asked what brought this Resolution about. Scott stated that in 2019, they did their first Resolution because a KRS was found which stated they were supposed to approve a road list every year since they are guaranteeing to the State that they have an adequate and up-to-date road list. Also, this past year, they discontinued several gravel roads and evaluated all the roads, which has led to discrepancies with the older road list. Bluegrass ADD has corrected those discrepancies on the State's website.

Judge Taylor stated that when he first came into this administration, all they had was a list of roads that had been abandoned and had no list of roads they maintained, which caused a lot of confusion. Scott stated that it is just as important to add new roads each year as it is to remove the discontinued roads.

Magistrate Combs stated that this list is also important to property owners.

Judge Taylor also stated that this list helps with clarifying what they are legally authorized to work on, as well as used in determining the funding the County is allotted.

Magistrate Botkin asked when the 2 lists of the County and State roads were merged together. Scott stated that he asked Bluegrass ADD that and was told it was in the late 70's, early 80's when the Judge Executive at the time drove the roads with them, telling them which roads were County roads and which were State roads.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he has a road on a 2015 list that isn't on the 2019 list and was wondering what happened to the road. Scott explained that road changes weren't recorded during that time until Global Search was established by the IT Department.

Magistrate Combs asked if a road is now discontinued, do they have the capability to link the Resolution number to that discontinuation so people will have a way to go back. Scott stated that it is by name search, and once they search for a particular road name, it will pull up the documents and Resolutions associated with that

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road. Judge Taylor stated that the records go back to about the 50's but the records that were kept were not detailed or in depth.

Clerk Barger explained that with Judge Taylor's administration, everything they do has a Resolution or Ordinance that ties it back, making it easier to find later, and more transparent to the citizen.

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 2024-78—Professional Services Agreement for Fiscal Courtroom Renovations:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-78— Professional Services Agreement for Fiscal Courtroom Renovations for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Integrity Architecture, PLLC for the purpose of obtaining an architectural design and bid documents for Fiscal Courtroom renovations.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2024-78— Professional Services Agreement for Fiscal Courtroom Renovations.

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 2024-79— City of Richmond MOA for Daily Animal Sheltering Fees:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-79— City of Richmond MOA for Daily Animal Sheltering Fees for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Madison County Fiscal Court and the City of Richmond for daily animal sheltering fees.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2024-79— City of Richmond MOA for Daily Animal Sheltering Fees.

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:

Hannah Morgan, HR Director, recommended the hiring of Milo Heidkamp as a Part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective August 28, 2024; the hiring of Brayden Thacker as a Part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective August 28, 2024; and the hiring of Grant Garner as a Part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective August 28, 2024.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the hiring of Milo Heidkamp as a Part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective August 28, 2024; the hiring of Brayden Thacker as a Part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective August 28, 2024; and the hiring of Grant Garner as a Part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.24 per hour, effective August 28, 2024.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller- Yes

Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

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Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Hannah Morgan, HR Director, spotlighted Esther Harris, Medical Officer with the Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)/CSEPP since 2022. A colleague stated that Esther never hesitates to offer assistance in any situation and is always polite and professional during her daily encounters with colleagues and employees at partnering agencies.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- Berea's Back to School Bash will be Friday, July 26th from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Berea City Pool. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Berea Parks & Recreation for more information.
- The 2024 Chestnut Street Pavilion Concert Series presents Country Night on Saturday, July 27th. Shane Winkler's performance will begin at 7:00 PM. Contact Berea Tourism for more information.
- Richmond Parks & Recreation and Madison County Public Library are hosting a free Movie in the Park on Tuesday, July 30th at Irvine-McDowell Park in Richmond. Little Women will begin at dusk.
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce presents Taste of Richmond on Friday, August 2nd from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM at Richmond Centre. They will have food trucks and live music. Everyone is welcome.
- The First Street Cruise (for 1987 & older pickup trucks only) will be on Saturday, August 3rd. It will be in the First Street parking lot next to the Madison County Courthouse from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Registration ends at 2:30 PM. Contact Speedy Denny at 859-661-5708 or Gayle McCord at 606-748-5253 for more information.
- Richmond's Back to School Bash will be Thursday, August 8th from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM at Irvine-McDowell Park. Approximately 750 free backpacks filled with school supplies will be given away. Donations of school supplies and promotional items are still being accepted. Contact Richmond Parks & Recreation for more information.
- The Berea Chamber of Commerce Golf Scramble will be on Friday, August 9th at 9:00 AM at Battlefield Golf Course. Registration runs through August 2nd. Contact Danelle at 859-986-9760 for more information.
- School start dates for Madison County students.
 - Berea Community Schools – August 13th
 - Madison County Schools – August 16th
 - Model Laboratory – August 26th
 - ECU – August 19th
 - Berea College – August 21st

* Please be mindful of school buses and increased traffic.
- Pops at the Park in Paradise on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Gates will open at 5:00 PM. Tickets are required. Call 859-623-1720 for more information.

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Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor thanked the Richmond Mayor and City Commissioner's for allowing the Court to use their chambers.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Gary for all his hard work and everything he and his staff are doing at the Golf Course. He also thanked the County employees who care about the service they are providing the constituents. Scott assisted him on a couple situations where there were some damages on some driveways and thanked him for his help.

Magistrate Hughes thanked a couple of his constituents for attending Court today.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the State made the repairs on the exit 87 bridge, but one side of the bridge isn't smooth. Brandon with the State Road Department stated that they didn't have a paver locally but will see if they can get a contract with the Allen Company to strip it and redo the repair to make it better. He also talked to them about patches that were done on Barnes Mill that are rough. He also said that mowing is done on the State right of ways until September or October.

Magistrate Combs asked for the Court to remember the family of Danny Brewer.

Sheriff Coyle clarified that there was an accident involving a deputy on July 20th, who had actually turned in his resignation on July 1st and was no longer working at the Sheriff's Department. He cautioned the public on the increased traffic during the fair, which starts this Friday.

Comments from Department Heads:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, provided an update on the Broadband Project. He explained that the RDOF phase is done. There are several areas that are still pending permitting, which is getting the pole permits, and this is the longest phase of the process. There are 2,583 poles that are currently awaiting permits, and only 661 of those are currently being able to rework the design and finalization, and only 366 are approved for attachment. The last part of the project, which is the local dollars that are being spent, is being submitted now, making sure no one has been left out of the project.

Judge Taylor explained that they have had monthly progress meetings with all the partners, Spectrum, Clark Energy, KU, Blue Grass Energy, since they started the project.

Magistrate Combs asked if the owners of the pole had a database of what's on those poles currently. Chris stated that they do but they have to go out and inspect the pole, and it has to go through an engineering process to allow them use of that pole.

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, stated that the waste tire collection event will be October 17th, 18th, and 19th and will be held at the Clarksville Ln. location. They will take tires on a rim and tires as large as a tractor trailer tire.

Judge Taylor stated that this tire event is a good thing because it keeps tires out of our streams, roads, and ditches.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

No comments from the Audience.

Chris Iseral read comments from Facebook.

Mike and Carolyn Lane asked if there is going to be any improvement and widening the road between Jacks's Creek and Tates Creek at Goggins Lane. There is a lot of traffic and if you meet a truck or school bus, it is

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impossible to pass. Judge Taylor stated that roadway was part of the West Richmond Traffic study that was done in the last year. There are plans that are in progress of getting a new pathway, and Richmond City's Comprehensive Plan actually identifies that route. He doesn't know when that will happen but does know that they are having those discussions.

Bee Brandy stated that based on current trends Madison County is expected to be one of the top 3 hardest hit counties in terms of farmland lost due to development from 2016 to 2040; asking officials to please give their thoughts on this.

She also commented that where 95% of the world's bourbon is manufactured, counties are revolting after the legislature voted to phase out a barrel tax, they have depended on to fund schools, roads, and utilities.

She also asked to please post the budget online, which several individuals commented that it was online and provided the link.

She also asked what is the weight limit of the bridge at the lower part of Jacks Creek Road. She stated a sign is not posted there. Judge Taylor stated that Jacks Creek is a State route, but he would be glad to call the District 7 State Transportation Cabinet to find out what the weight limit is. Magistrate Combs stated that he believed that is found on KYTC website under maps and resources. Chris stated that he would comment back with the link to that.

Debra McDaniel stated that the bridge on Duncannon needs to be repaired, it has a drop off on each end. Judge Taylor stated that is a State route, but they will pass that information on to Brandon McIntosh with District 7.

Joe Woodyard asked when any road improvement is being done; every road is falling apart. Judge Taylor asked if he could be more specific. The County only maintains County roads, so anything inside the Berea or Richmond City limits is maintained by that city, and any State road is maintained by the State. They would be willing to be a good advocate for him if he would like to provide specific roads in question.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he is one of his constituents and would be more than happy to get him any information he needs if Mr. Woodyard would reach out to him.

Dakota Rollins asked if there are any thoughts on building a new animal shelter. Judge Taylor stated they are working on it. They approved an architectural firm a couple meetings ago to provide an analysis of a new animal shelter and will hopefully be presenting it to the Court in September or October.

Bee Brandy commented back and stated that she was specifically talking about Clay Lane Bridge. Judge Taylor stated that it is a County road and will look into why a sign is not posted. He explained that if a bridge is less than 20 feet, they are not considered a super structure and are not inspected, but they will look into.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

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

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for August 13, 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 10:54 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE