

Meeting Date: 8/27/2024

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 27th of August 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 Chief Deputy Sheriff Anthony Terry 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 Magistrate Tom Botkin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 8-13-2024:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on August 13, 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: Special Purpose Government Entities (SPGE) Presentation of AD Valorem Rates:

Tonya Donselman, Madison County EMS Director, presented the 2024 Ad Valorem Rates for EMS. She stated that last year, when they looked at the tax rates, they had a rate of 4.3. The compensating rate for this year would be a rate of 4.1, and their tax on personal property, vehicles, and watercraft would be 6, which is unchanged from last year. After speaking with their directors, they feel that they can easily manage their budget this year by taking the compensating rate at 4.1%.

Nikita Vundi, Madison County Health Department Director, presented the 2024 Ad Valorem rates for the Board of Health. She stated that they are doing 4.7 for real property and 5 cents per \$100 for motor vehicles and personal property, which is the same as last year. Judge Taylor explained that the Health Department falls in a different statute as the other entities. However, they did lower it a couple years ago because it was 5 across the board.

Gus LaFontaine, Library Board Chairman, presented the 2024 Ad Valorem rates for the Madison County Public Library. He stated that their tax rates for real property will be 4.9, tangible property will be at 4.9, and a tax rate for motor vehicle will be 3.5. That is a reduction from 5.1 for real and tangible taxes last year. Since 2019, there has been a reduction from 5.9 for real and tangible, which is credited to both Madison County's growth and the efficiency of Christina Cornelison. Magistrate Lochmueller stated that they had talked some time back about having the library do a presentation on what their vision is of their future. He would still like to understand what their vision would be and what to expect in the future. Gus stated that he would get that back to the Board.

Judge Taylor presented on behalf of the Madison County Extension Office. Their real property rate was 1.8, which is taking the compensating rate, their tangibles is 2.24, and their motor vehicles is 1.3.

Judge Taylor also presented on behalf of the Red Lick Watershed Conservation District. Their rate is .5.

Magistrate Hughes wanted to clarify that even though the forms state .5% for every \$100, it actually means .05 cents for every \$100. Judge Taylor stated that it does look confusing, but the rates do get carried over correctly.

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Judge Taylor stated that the Madison County Board of Education's rate is 62.6, with their tangibles at 62.6, and their motor vehicles is 55.8. Magistrate Hughes asked what it was last year. Judge Taylor stated that he didn't have that information with him, but he could get that. He believes that it is more than it was last year.

Judge Taylor stated that Berea Independent School District is .845 on real property, and their tangible personal property is .878.

IN RE: Blue Grass Army Depot Chemical Stockpile Update—Craig Williams, BGAD Host Community Liaison:

Craig Williams, Host Community Liaison with the Blue Grass Army Depot, provided a presentation on the Chemical Weapons Disposal. They are currently in the middle of the Closure Phase of the project with piping and instrumentation being removed from the Agent Neutralization System, a Protective Coating is being removed from concrete floors, un-ventilated air monitoring is in progress to confirm no agent vapors remain, and Hydrolysate Storage Area Tanks cleaning has begun.

Safety has been an incredible accomplishment; this has been the disposal of some of the most hazardous chemicals ever made on the plant. The Bechtel Parsons team, along with the chemical activity and support of the Depot have done a remarkable job. There wasn't a single agent contaminated accident over the entire operational period. The lost-time accident rate at this facility was 100% lower than the industry average; it was actually equivalent or lower to that of a bank teller or accountant. As of June 30th, the project has completed 14,671,943 hours without a lost-time accident (almost 5 years).

The economic impact continues to assist in the tax base here in Madison County and the region. They currently employ 1,189, with close to 50% of the workforce being local hires. Through July, over \$240 Million has been spent on Kentucky Companies, with \$119.7 Million within the Blue Grass Area Development District. Through August, there has been \$1.360 Billion in payroll that has been disbursed.

There has been a lot of discussion about what is going to be reused and what is going to be torn down. Any infrastructure that has been in contact with agents during the entire process will be demolished. The utilities, including sub-station and generators, will remain for BGAD's continuing/new missions, and non-contaminated buildings will remain at BGAD's discretion. The Supercritical Water Oxidation units (SCWO) will be slated for disposal. However, there is an effort under way to see if they can't be repurposed particularly for the disposal of forever chemicals (PFAS chemicals). They are working with various entities to see if those units could be disassembled, removed, and sent to a place where there is a significant amount of PFAS that needs to be treated. The Static Detonation Chambers (SDC) will be removed and disposed of. Their lifecycle will have been expended by the time the agent contaminated rocket warheads have finished being processed.

Judge Taylor asked if the SDC's lifecycle was originally much longer. Craig stated that they hadn't anticipated the wear and tear that the processing has had on them. He stated that the agent contamination that is being processed in the SDC is a small amount of agent that contaminated the rocket motors; there is no real agent as was in the munitions themselves, just some residue.

Magistrate Botkin stated that there will be no opportunity to use the SDC's for the conventional, in which Craig stated that was correct. They are also trying to work with JMC and others to try to find alternatives to the open burn/open detonation activities to mitigate the environmental impact.

New opportunities are happening at the Depot. The Feasibility Study by the JMC Headquarters in August 2023 identified 14 opportunities that they said were potentially possible to be moved into the Depot once the Chemical Weapons were gone. Because the Chemical Weapons were there, there are restrictions on having tenants move in and performing operations that are connected to the Army's mission. There were 3 opportunities that were named the top potential operations to come into the depot; Production of Metal Shipping Containers, Production of Critical Chemicals, and a Security Guard Academy. There is a lot of interest in keeping the Depot viable and in a position where it will not be on a base realignment or closure list.

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Magistrate Botkin asked what the Production of Critical Chemicals could be. Craig stated that it could be TNT or propellants for 155-millimeter shells; something that would be associated with the conventional munitions mission at the depot.

The current end date for complete closure of the safe chemical weapons destruction is August 2027. However, all of the operations that are associated with the agent will end in May 2025.

Magistrate Lochmueller clarified that CSEPP (Blue Grass) is being decommissioned with the destruction of the chemical weapons, however the Army Depot will still remain, but it won't be as robust in terms of funding that it will be able to provide to the county; these are two different missions. However, there are plans for the depot to be used in the future. Craig stated that Magistrate Lochmueller is correct in that assessment. The number of parties that are interested in keeping the depot operations viable is encouraging, however, it won't be in chemical weapons. Once the SDC's finish their mission, the chemical surety part is over and that is when the indictment of locating new opportunities onto the depot will be in full swing.

Magistrate Hughes asked if the interest in using the depot is robust. Craig said that is a good word for it.

Magistrate Combs asked where we were internationally in regard to chemical weapons, is this the last place that has them. Craig stated that yes, this is the last place that has signed the treaty that still has chemical weapons. There are several countries that haven't signed the treaty that have chemical weapons that are not obligated to get rid of them. Out of the 194 countries that signed the treaty, Blue Grass Army Depot is the last one to complete the destruction, as well as the last one in the States.

Magistrate Combs asked as far as disposal goes, where does it go to be disposed of. Craig stated that it depends on the material. Some of it will go to landfills because it has heavy metals in it and heavy metals can't be disposed of in any way besides burying them in landfills made for that purpose. Other materials will be recycled.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he is hopeful that they will get the opportunity again to publicly acknowledge Craig's participation in this project. He has been a big help in keeping the Court informed on what is going on at the depot and Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Craig for all his work.

IN RE: Solid Waste Department Update—Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor & Solid Waste Coordinator:

Scott Shepherd stated that the Judge had asked during the last court if he could provide an update on what solid waste is and the programs they are providing. The dead livestock removal program is a program where they provide pick-up service from any local farm in the county that has deceased livestock to be disposed of properly. Last year, they collected 1,078 animals with a disposal cost of \$25,860.73. They have 2 supporters, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Development Fund which provides \$10,000, and the Conservation District which was giving \$7,500 but will be \$10,000 for 2025. This program provides an environmental impact because if not disposed of properly, the disease that is spread can get into the watershed.

They also provide a loan-a-dumpster program. In the past, they had 3 loaner trucks in which they would bring out to a residence for a 2- or 3-day period to be filled, then they would pick it up, and dispose of the trash at no cost to the homeowners. Once those trucks reached their end of life, they were able to purchase one roll off truck and several dumpsters, which has allowed them to service more people. Last year they were able to set 212 dumpsters at residences, with a disposal cost of \$14,322.26. Judge Taylor stated that they do this in the unincorporated county limits, not within the city limits of Richmond or Berea, because they have franchise agreements, and the County is not allowed to provide this service in those areas.

Another service they provide is a large item pick-up program. If someone has a large TV or piece of furniture, they can call the Road Department to schedule a pick-up. They are about a week behind, but they will pick up the item from the curbside and dispose of it properly.

They have also started a metal recycle program. They collect any type of metals, electronics, appliances, etc. Through this program, they have been able to generate \$14,336.22 worth of revenue, which has basically offset the disposal fee of the dumpster loaner program.

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So far for Fiscal Year 2025, they have collected 68 dead animals, set 44 loaner dumpsters, had 240 large item pick-ups, and created \$819.63 in revenue from scrap metal. They have two big events that are coming up; the Household Hazardous Waste event will be Oct. 5th at 208 Clarksville Ln. from 9AM to 3PM, and the Tire Collection Event will be Oct. 17th -19th from 8am-4pm and on Sat. from 8am to noon at 208 Clarksville Ln. Magistrate Combs asked how recycling was trending. Scott stated that he believes it will be going up this year because more people know about it. Judge Taylor stated since he has been here, you can see that the roadways are a lot cleaner, and they are getting less calls about trash and items being dumped on the side of the road. Scott also stated that they keep two 40-yard dumpsters on their lot for those that have trash that their trash pick-up can't take. They don't want anyone to have to figure out a way to dispose of something; just call them and they will help with the disposal.

Magistrate Combs encouraged everyone to take advantage of these programs.

IN RE: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-11—Jail Fund Budget Amendment:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-11—Jail Fund Budget Amendment for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance relating to the budget amendment of the Madison County Jail Fund Budget by \$44,018.00.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-11—Jail Fund Budget Amendment as presented.

There were no public or email 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: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-12—Property Assessment Moratorium to SOCA YR Inc. and Madison Avenue Associates LLLP:

Judge Taylor presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-12—Property Assessment Moratorium to SOCA YR Inc. and Madison Avenue Associates LLLP for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance conditionally approving a property assessment and reassessment moratorium for five years to SOCA YR Inc. and Madison Avenue Associates LLLP.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-12—Property Assessment Moratorium to SOCA YR Inc. and Madison Avenue Associates LLLP as presented.

There were no public or email 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: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-13—Land Use Change 1377 Boonesborough Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-13—Land Use Change 1377 Boonesborough 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 1377 Boonesborough Road, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-13—Land Use Change 1377 Boonesborough Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-1 Single-Family Residential as presented.

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The applicant was in attendance for any questions. However, Bert stated that they had not had any calls or concerns, and it was a unanimous recommendation.

There were no public or email 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: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-14—Land Use Change 2021 Berea Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 General Commercial:

Bert Thomas, Planning and Development Director, presented 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-14—Land Use Change 2021 Berea Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 General Commercial for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance of the Madison County Fiscal Court, Kentucky, approving the zone change of 2021 Berea Road, Richmond, Kentucky, and authorizing the amendment of the official zoning map of Madison County, Kentucky.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve 2nd Reading Ordinance 2024-14—Land Use Change 2021 Berea Road from UC-7 Agriculture to UC-4 General Commercial as presented.

Magistrate Botkin asked if there were any objections. Bert stated that there were some neighbors that had some concerns on how the property is currently being utilized. However, since this was a sale and the new owner would have to go through a site development plan process to bring it up to current standards, he believes that they will see an improvement with this new owner.

There were no public or email 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 2024-85—KACo 2024 Insurance Grant Application:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2024-85— KACo 2024 Insurance Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of 2024

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-85— KACo 2024 Insurance Grant Application.

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 2024-86—Kentucky Transportation Cabinet FY25 Flex Funds:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2024-86—Kentucky Transportation Cabinet FY25 Flex Funds for the Court's approval. This Resolution is adopting and approving the execution of a rural secondary program agreement between the Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, and accepting all roads and streets referred to therein as being a part of the County Road System.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-86—Kentucky Transportation Cabinet FY25 Flex Funds.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated it is great they are able to do this but is very happy about Wilgreen Road. With all the work that they have done with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife on getting the ramp and

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docks built, getting the road repaired will make it even better for the citizens. He expressed his appreciation to Scott. Judge Taylor stated that it will also help the slide that they had on that road a couple years ago. Magistrate Botkin stated that it will be good because they are also paving Taylors Fork, which is the neighborhood that connects to Wilgreen Road.

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 2024-87—Madison County 2024 Ad Valorem Rates and 2025 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2024-87—Madison County 2024 Ad Valorem Rates and 2025 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates for the Court's approval. This Resolution is adopting the Madison County 2024 Ad Valorem Rates and 2025 Motor Vehicle and Watercraft Property Tax Rates at 6.8 cents per \$100.00 for the compensating rate for Real Property, 6.8 cents per \$100.00 for the compensating rate for Tangible Personal Property and Inventory, and 10 cents per \$100 for the 2025 Motor Vehicle & Watercraft Property Tax rate. Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-87—Madison County 2024 Ad Valorem Rates and 2025 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates.

Magistrate Hughes asked what the rate was last year. Judge Taylor stated it was 7.1 cents per \$100, which is a \$3 reduction in the rate.

Magistrate Botkin asked what it was 10 years ago. Judge Taylor stated it was 8.3 cents per \$100. Magistrate Botkin pointed out that they have dropped the rate every year since then. Judge Taylor stated that there were a few years in which it stayed the same, but it has lowered \$15 over the 10 years.

Magistrate Combs stated that many people in the public sector don't expect to get the same amount of money for the same amount of work or more work. It is not heard of. They are basically accepting the same amount of money they have operated on previously without any raises but with the help of department heads, they have been able to be more efficient to do more with less. He expressed his appreciation to all those that work hard in the County Government.

Judge Taylor explained that when the compensating rate is set each year, it is based on the value of the properties, but does not include new constructions.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he believes that all the taxing districts besides the County School Board took the compensating rate this year.

Judge Taylor stated that percentage wise, the School Board gets about 65%, the State lowered their rate so they get about 12%, the Fiscal Court (rounding up) gets 7%, the Public Library is around 5%, EMS is around 4%, Extension is around 2%, and the Health Department is around 5%.

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 2024-88—Establish Venmo Account for Animal Shelter Fundraising Campaign:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2024-88— Establish Venmo Account for Animal Shelter Fundraising Campaign for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the establishment of a Venmo account for the Madison County Animal Shelter Fundraising Campaign, which will allow the County to conveniently accept donations from citizens.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2024-88— Establish Venmo Account for Animal Shelter Fundraising Campaign.

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Magistrate Lochmueller asked how this came about. Judge Taylor stated that it was through the discussions of talking about building a new shelter and it will make it easier get donations; it is more convenient for people to make donations than writing a check or using a debit or credit card online. He also asked if it was tax deductible or if it was just a donation. Judge Taylor stated that since they are a non-profit, he would assume it would be tax deductible. Magistrate Lochmueller also asked what the percentage was that Venmo took. Sarah stated that they do not take a percentage. Chris Iseral explained that if they wanted the money the next day, then there would be a fee, but if they waited 3-5 business days to move the money out of Venmo there is not a cost. At events, they can have a QR code that the public can scan and will be much faster to make a donation than going online, filling out a form, and inputting in the payment information.

Ryan Whitt, an audience member, stated that Venmo does keep track of the donation history, and will tell them who sent it, how much was sent, what it was for, and the date it was sent.

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 2024-89— KCGC Managed Services Provider and Managed Security Services Provider Bid Award:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2024-89— KCGC Managed Services Provider and Managed Security Services Provider Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve a bid award for Kentucky Counties Government Cloud (KCGC) managed services provider and managed security services provider to provide cyber security tools and services. Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2024-89— KCGC Managed Services Provider and Managed Security Services Provider Bid Award.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he met with Chris this morning and they went over this document and he expressed his appreciation to Chris.

Chris stated that this is specifically for the customers of the KCGC. These costs are what the County pays for the service, then they in turn re-sell it to the KCGC making a little profit. When a new county comes on board for these services, Chris doesn't have to go out and gets bids, he already has a negotiated price for 3 years, so it makes it more streamlined.

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 2024-90— KCGC Equipment & Licenses - SCG/JC Bid Award:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2024-90— KCGC Equipment & Licenses – SCG/JC Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve a bid award for Kentucky Counties Government Cloud (KCGC) end user equipment and licenses- SCG/JC.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2024-90— KCGC Equipment & Licenses – SCG/JC Bid Award.

Chris explained that this is specifically for Scott County and Jackson County.

Magistrate Botkin stated that most of the equipment quantities is 140, and asked if they will be placed in user remote locations. Chris stated that 120 of them will be sent to Scott County and 20 to Jackson County. They won't buy any of the equipment until they receive a check from those entities.

Magistrate Combs asked since they are using 2 contracts if there would be any type of conflict. Chris stated that there would not be. He explained that all the equipment would be with CDW and the licenses with 13 Layers.

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Judge Taylor explained that this is a little revenue stream that helps the County, and Chris has been active in helping these other counties get grant funding.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked Chris what his vision was in the long term for this project. Chris stated that currently they have 2 “customers” and are getting emails and calls from others that are interested. What they are seeing is that most counties don’t have an IT Department, but yet they have to have cyber security rules and insurance that KACo has put into place. His final business plan would be to build this up to pass it along to KACo or someone of that sort to provide this service they provide the insurance on it.

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 Timothy Madden as a Road Department Truck Driver-General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective August 28, 2024.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve the hiring of Timothy Madden as a Road Department Truck Driver-General Laborer, at a rate of \$18 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

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Hannah Morgan, HR Director, spotlighted Shane Poff, Heavy Duty Mechanic with the Madison County Road Department since 2000. A colleague stated that Shane works tirelessly to maintain the County vehicles and equipment. His efforts not only help extend the life of each machine, but ensures the machines are working properly and efficiently. He never hesitates to jump in and help at any given time and is a great asset to Madison County.

Judge Taylor stated Shane is a blessing to the Road Department and provides a wealth of knowledge. He expressed his appreciation to him for all his work.

IN RE: Judge’s Report:

- The 4-H Country Ham Dinner and Auction will be Thursday, August 29th beginning at 5 PM at the Madison County Fairgrounds.
- The Hope’s Wings Fundraiser Event “An Evening for Hope: The Purple Gala” will be on Friday, September 6th from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the Stone House at Silver Creek in Richmond. Visit www.hopeswings.org to purchase required tickets.
- Richmond Parks & Recreation and Madison County Public Library are hosting a free Movie in the Park on Friday, September 6th at Irvine-McDowell Park in Richmond. The movie will begin at dusk.
- Madison County Health Department is having a Rabies Vaccination Drive-thru Clinic (sponsored by Dr. Gary Short) on Saturday, September 7th. The event will be held at 216 Boggs Lane in Richmond from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. All animals should be on a leash or in a crate. The fee is \$10.00 per vaccination (CASH ONLY).

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- Richmond Chamber of Commerce's annual CityFest will be Thursday, September 12th from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM ECU's Powell Plaza. If your business or organization would like to set up a booth, contact the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Registration ends today.
- Adams Buick GMC in Richmond is having a First Responders Day on Saturday, September 14th at 11:00 AM. Join them for food, fun, and toys for the kids.
- Madison County Government and its related offices will be closed on Monday, September 2nd for the Labor Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, September 3rd at 8:00 AM.
- The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet advises motorists of scheduled Continuous Friction Testing operations on Saturday, Sept. 9 through Thursday, Sept. 19 from 7 AM until 6 PM on 1,471 miles of interstate, parkway, state primary and secondary routes. Motorists should be aware of the time frame for testing and utilize caution when driving near survey vehicles.
- The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet advises motorists of a temporary ramp closure on Interstate 75 Northbound Exit 99 from Monday August 26 at 6 AM through 12 AM (midnight) Tuesday August 27. Motorists can utilize Exit 95 or Exit 104 during this time frame.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to the Richmond Mayor and Richmond Commission for allowing them to use their space while the courthouse is under construction.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that District 2 has started having more issues with the tractor trailers parking on the exit ramps to rest, and asked what they can do as a county to work on a solution to this problem. The Sheriff's Department can have them move but that doesn't keep them off the ramps for long. He understands the situation the truck drivers are in when there is nowhere to pull off when they have reached their mileage limit but feels that the Department of Transportation needs to step up.

Judge Taylor stated that a lot of their problem is also that the Love's Truck Stop won't expand to meet the needs of their customer base. He encouraged the Court members to speak with the Legislative members that represent Madison County.

Magistrate Lochmueller also stated that there will be more paving done this year than in the past and expressed his appreciation to the staff and Judge Taylor on the work they have done to get these roads scheduled for paving.

Also, has a board member on the Valley View Ferry Board, he is concerned about the future of the ferry, and would like to pull together people from Jessamine and Fayette Counties, and the Department of Transportation to talk about a long-term plan and vision of the ferry.

Magistrate Hughes stated that all is well in his District.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he has had some calls about the City's proposed development on Hampton Way and Congleton, and advised those with concerns to attend the City's meeting tonight.

Magistrate Combs stated that there is mowing going on and paving that will be starting and asked the public to use caution around those workers. He expressed his appreciation to those that are willing to donate to the animal shelter.

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Clerk Barger stated they are still looking for election workers. Those that are interested in signing up to work the General Election can go to www.madisoncountyclerk.us or the Secretary of States website at www.govote.ky.gov to sign up.

Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Comments from the Audience and Facebook Comments:

Kayla Rose Daniel, 85 Maupin Hill, Irvine, KY (Madison Co. born & raised) spoke on behalf of Katie Stewart. A letter was read from a citizen of Madison County, as well as a previous Animal Shelter employee, and stated that she wanted to advocate for the best practices and decision making with the animal's and community's best interest in mind. She has noticed some changes in the operations of the shelter in recent months and provided a list of problems she hopes they can address as a community and attempt to solve over time.

- Hours open to the public not meeting the state required 24 hours a week minimum to allow the public to reclaim and view animals.
- Dogs being surrendered, impounded, then euthanized and no real records of these dogs even exist when an open record is filed.
- Dogs being picked up and transported to rescue with obvious, serious health ailments that were either entirely missed or simply overlooked for weeks.
- A director who uses euthanasia as a threat against staff or to staff that are too slow with their cleaning duties.
- Community members being manipulated into holding strays because the shelter does not have the space, or financial resources to treat and then being told after treating the dogs that the shelter then cannot take because the finder agreed to hold them.
- Rescues and volunteers being openly lied to and told dogs were either already claimed by their owners or found rescues, when they in fact were still in the shelter, just out of the public eye and removed from the website.
- New policies that force an already overburdened, underfunded shelter and staff to hold dogs an extra two weeks despite rescues being able and willing to help.

Casey Potter, 100 Trey Ln, Berea, KY, Founder and Director of Black Cat Animal Rescue, Copper Creek Rd, Berea, KY (Garrard Co.), She had questions on the prosecution of animal abuse, neglect, and abandonment. County Attorney Jennie Haymond stated that she deals with the prosecution. The policy of the initial calls is between animal control and the police. Casey asked if a meeting could be set up between animal control, the police department, and rescue groups because when she gets calls, she is unsure of who to contact and how they can work together. Judge Taylor explained that there are three different law enforcement agencies within the county, two animal control agencies (Madison County provides animal control for the County and for the City of Berea, and the City of Richmond provides their own animal control), but the animal shelter, per statute, is provided for all of Madison County. Animal Control laws are set by legislation, but he would be happy to meet and discuss any ideas or concerns she has and pass those on to Madison County's local representatives, as well as meeting with local law enforcement.

Casey also asked how often they see animal related charges. County Attorney Jennie Haymond stated that she doesn't have a mechanism to track the number of those types of cases. Law enforcement has two options depending on the charges, they can do citations in which they don't see her until they go to court, or they can do criminal complaint process where they go the attorney's office to swear out a complaint to be processed. They do get animal cruelty cases, but they don't get a lot.

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Judge Taylor asked if Casey had reached out to the Animal Control Officer. She stated that she had not as of yet. He stated that he would be glad to coordinate that for her.

Erica Coffey, 108 Overland Dr., Richmond, KY, stated that she wanted to address an issue on returning calls and who to call. She stated that she lives within the city limits of Richmond and wanted to know what the time frame is for returning a call. Judge Taylor explained that if it is anything concerning Fiscal Court, the return call should be within 24 hours, but from what he understands, the responsibility of her situation comes from the City of Richmond, which is addressed by the Mayor and City Commissioners. He will make sure that his team does respond to voicemails within a 24-hour period.

County Attorney Jennie Haymond stated that if the Richmond Police went out to investigate a particular situation that was called about, she could call and follow-up on what their decision was.

Magistrate Botkin stated that Rodney Richardson is the Chief of Police at the Richmond Police Department and would be a good contact for her.

Dakota Rollins, 1796 Poosey Ridge Rd, Richmond, KY, stated that in the last 6 months, the conditions of the animal shelter have become unfathomable. She explained that she has been working behind the scenes for months on all kinds of shelter things and the records are incorrect or missing, with a 40% deaths or euthanasia rate of dogs on record since March. She asked if there has to be an audit of the records of the Animal Shelter. Judge Taylor stated that he isn't aware of a requirement for an audit. He asked where she got her numbers from. Dakota stated she got them from the records that were pulled by Leigh Miller, and she then created a spreadsheet to make the information easier to look at, because the numbers they were given from the official documents were choppy.

She went on to state that dogs are being given intake numbers months after they arrive, and then are being put into the system and backdated. When that happens, information gets missing. Leigh Miller requested a second set of official documents to see where the missing information was, which appeared to be on hand-typed sheets instead of official document pages.

She believes the shelter needs to be audited and needs to be ran like a business.

Judge Taylor asked how long Dakota had been involved with the shelter. She stated that she had been on the sidelines for a while, but she is not a volunteer since volunteers are denied at the shelter. She has been working with rescues for 16 years.

She stated that she believes the employees of the animal shelter need to be reevaluated, and that the social media for the animal shelter needs to be looked at because it has been minimal. She would like to have a special meeting to figure out what is going on and to how help.

Leigh Miller, 1358 Red Lick Rd., Berea, KY, is a local dog foster. She provided some suggestions for solutions for the rapid growing strays in Richmond and Berea that came from a social media post recently that included a larger facility, provide proper vaccinations at the shelter, spay and neutering provided at the shelter, more active social media use, more rescue networking at the shelter, weekend hours, proper cleaning to prevent consistent parvo outbreaks, accepting volunteers at the shelter, more adoption events at the shelter, and a higher budget to properly care for the increasing amount of animals that need help.

She has created a Facebook page, Pinnacle Pups, after finding 4 puppies on the new bypass in Berea and after the shelter stating that they were unable to take them due to them being too sick, no budget for medical expenses, no space, and her being encouraged to keep them. She believes there needs to be more transparency with every part of the situation. She stated that even the Berea Police officer was disappointed with how the animal control officer handled the situation and was told that it wasn't an emergency. She stated that she did have a meeting with Judge Taylor and the Animal Shelter Director recently and had requested some open record documents. She is hopeful that this can get better and that it can change. She isn't sure what is qualified as an emergency and what is not but feels that these puppies should not have been turned away by the shelter.

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She also stated that she has received several calls from the Berea Police Department when animal control cannot be reached; this is not her job, she is just a volunteer. Leigh believes that the animal crisis can be fixed but that it starts with stronger state and federal laws, great leaders, and animal advocates that are heard.

Judge Taylor stated that they did have several meetings with Leigh and Mary Pat to work through some of these concerns. They did take some information from March 1st through August 1st and converted that information into their own spreadsheet. From that meeting, he wanted to find out where the animals are that they were saying are missing, and provided that information to them within the last few days. From those meetings, they have started implementing some things, and started having some conversations internally on time limits making sure that they are following the law. He was under the impression that they would be having a good working relationship to work through some of these concerns. They will be taking these statements that were made today and presenting the answers at the next Fiscal Court meeting.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he has some questions about understanding the record keeping. Judge Taylor stated that they will present that at next Fiscal Court meeting. He also asked if they had presented the future of the shelter. Judge Taylor stated that they would be doing that in October.

Chris Iseral read comments from Facebook.

Joe Woodyard asked about batteries for the Household Hazardous Waste event. Scott stated that they would be accepted.

Bee Brandy stated that there are some wonderful programs with the Solid Waste Department.

Steve Durham asked if the amendment passes to allow charter schools, do they think that the school board would ask for their rates to be raised to make up the difference. Magistrate Combs stated that would be a question for the school board during their meetings.

Paul Sowers, asked what the status was of the Veterans Park at White Hall Park that was announced a couple years ago. Judge Taylor stated that project is on the back burner due to a lack of funding. Some of the volunteers that were behind that raised some of the funds but had a hard time raising the rest.

Debra Fennel made a comment agreeing with some of the comments concerning malpractice and the lack of care for the animals.

Pam Tillery Combs asked what was wrong with volunteers helping. Judge Taylor stated that is a comment that they will ask the shelter and will answer at the next meeting.

Tiffany Church stated that people need to pay attention to what is being said at the next meeting.

Tina Martin asked the same question about volunteering at the shelter. Judge Taylor stated that it comes from recommendations from the leadership at the animal shelter so they will address that at the next meeting.

Magistrate Botkin stated that as pet owners, you are taking on the responsibility of feeding them, providing the grooming if necessary, taking care of the vet bill, and taking on all the responsibilities of that decision. Unfortunately, once some people get the animals and realized the cost and dedication it takes, they don't want the responsibility of taking care of the animals. He stated that they will look into the issues that were addressed, but a lot of the issues go back to the individual making the choice to not take care of their pets.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that they have had some challenges in the past and are working on making the shelter better. He expressed his appreciation to those that came today to express their opinions, and as a transparent court, they will get to bottom of the issues and bring it back to the Fiscal Court.

Magistrate Combs thanked those for coming today and doing their civic duty by bringing this to their attention. He stated that he doesn't ever want to get into a situation where they tell people what kinds of animals they can or can't have, but they have to find a balance. He is hopeful that they understand what has been done over the

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last few months is to try to improve at the animal shelter. He also expressed his appreciation for what they do as rescues and fosters and stepping up to take care of these animals.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

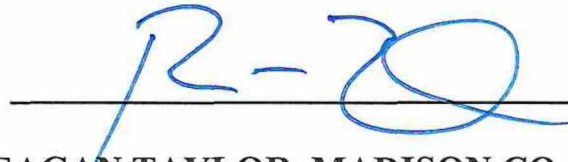
Motion made by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve to pay the claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for September 10, 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 12:02 PM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE