

Meeting Date: 3/25/2025
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 25th of March 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Emergency Operations Center Training Rooms A & B in Richmond, Ky. Present was the Honorable Reagan Taylor in the chair presiding and the following members of the Fiscal Court: James Brian Combs, Stephen Lochmueller, Billy Ray Hughes, and Tom Botkin were present. Madison County Attorney Jennie Haymond, Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, Jailer Larry Brock, and Madison County Clerk Kenny Barger were also present.

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

Judge Taylor asked Brandon Bunch, Student Ministry at Eastside Community Church, to lead the Court in prayer. Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 3-11-2025:

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on March 11, 2025.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Not in Attendance	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).

Sarah stated in order to comply with KRS and DLG, the Fiscal Court members will receive the Jail Draft Budget in their email by April 1st.

IN RE: Proclamation— National Doctors' Day:

Judge Taylor proclaimed March 30, 2025, as National Doctors' Day and urge citizens to honor all doctors for their dedication and service to healing our communities.

Dr. Alison Moncayo, Pediatrician at the White House Clinics; Dr. Daniel Gaspar, Chief of Staff at Saint Joseph Berea Hospital; and Dr. Morgan Blanton, Hospitalist at Baptist Health Richmond were present to accept the proclamation and thanked the Court for the recognition and honor.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he recently spent some time in the Berea Emergency Room and expressed his appreciation to them for the outstanding care he received.

IN RE: Proclamation— Arbor Day:

Judge Taylor proclaimed April 4, 2025, as Arbor Day in Madison County and urged all citizens to participate in the observance of this day by planting a tree to beautify Kentucky and focus attention on our great natural resource – our forests.

Philip Henderson, Ranger Technician, Kentucky Division of Forestry; Jacob Fogle, Forester, Kentucky Division of Forestry; Jimmy Marcum, Education Liaison, Madison County Conservation District; and Mike Parke, Madison County Conservation District Chairman were in attendance to accept the proclamation.

Mike Parke stated that Madison County is rich in natural resources and beauty, and they are glad to promote that. He expressed his appreciation for the Court in promoting the conservation district through this proclamation.

Jimmy Marcum stated that it is exciting to see people interested in preserving our natural resources and thanked the Court for their help.

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Jacob Fogle, Forester for Madison and Surrounding Counties, thanked the Court for recognizing the importance of one of Kentucky's natural resources.

IN RE: Enter Executive Session:

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to enter into Executive Session at 9:43 AM. This Executive Session is allowable under KRS 61.810 subsection 1, subsection C to discuss proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the Madison County Fiscal Court.

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: Exit Executive Session:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to exit Executive Session at 10:36 AM.

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: Multi-use Trails Presentation— Beth Jenkins:

The Richmond/Madison Multi-Use Trails Alliance provided a presentation on a multi-use trail and the benefits of it within the county. The board members of the Alliance in attendance included Alice Jones, an ECU Retiree; Bruce Withers; Author Yin, Retired Physician; Malcom Frisbee; Doug Bagby; and Beth Jenkins. Beth stated that there have been multiple efforts over the years to encourage bike/pedestrian activities within the county, with some success, particularly in Berea, but they would like to see that extended throughout the rest of the county. The health benefits of active transportation and the community benefits of showing off the county's beautiful natural resources both dovetail in what they are trying to do as an organization.

The current Comprehensive Plan recognizes a bike pedestrian organization, but one doesn't exist. As an organization, they are seeking to support the county and be involved so they can have an impact on the community. Active transportation can benefit the mobility of all ages, the health and livability of the community, enhance tourism, and increase property values, as well as decrease the reliance on automobiles and reduce congestion.

The Richmond/Madison Multi-Use Trails Alliance can work to identify funds to develop, build, and maintain the trails, but a process is needed to anticipate a need and designate land that would be available for paths and connectivity within the County's development plan. Beth stated, with over 80 historic sites within the county, there are opportunities all over the county to connect historic sites, parks, points of interest and residential communities for pathways. Some of the recent or planned residential and business developments overlap with destinations people would be interested in visiting, like White Hall, and Fort Boonesborough.

Based on the Kentucky Association of Counties, Madison County is the 3rd fastest growing county and the 8th largest county in the state. As the county grows, this is the perfect opportunity to plan for these trails, and work together to come up with a cohesive recreation trail comprehensive plan across all three county governments.

Magistrate Botkin asked if anyone on the Alliance Board was a member on the last Comprehensive Planning Board. Beth stated that this Alliance didn't exist at that time, but there was a prior group that has some conversations with those on the Planning Board. Magistrate Botkin stated that with the Comprehensive Plan coming up for renewal, it would be a good idea for them to work together on that planning process.

Magistrate Combs thanked the group for the presentation and believes it is something they should think about.

At an economic development standpoint, companies are looking to retain and maintain employees, and these are the type of things they are looking for because people are looking for more than just work when they move into an area.

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Judge Taylor stated that several years ago, they passed an initiative through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to support the design of a multi-use path next to any road improvements they do. Beth stated there was a resolution passed in 2024 called Resolution 2024-101: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), but Judge Taylor stated it was before that and asked Jill if she would to look into it.

IN RE: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-003— General Fund Budget Amendment:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-003— General Fund Budget Amendment for the Court's approval. This Ordinance is related to the budget amendment of the Madison County General Fund Budget.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-003— General Fund Budget Amendment.

There were no public comments.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: 2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-004— Road Department Budget Amendment:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-004— Road Department Budget Amendment for the Court's approval. This Ordinance is related to the budget amendment of the Madison County Road Department Budget.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2025-004— Road Department Budget Amendment.

There were no public comments.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Resolution 2025-019—Household Hazardous Waste 2025-2026 Grant Application:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor and Solid Waste Coordinator, presented Resolution 2025-019— Household Hazardous Waste 2025-2026 Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of the 2025-2026 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Division of Waste Management Kentucky Pride Fund Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management Grant Funds.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2025-019— Household Hazardous Waste 2025-2026 Grant Application.

Magistrate Combs stated that this is a great opportunity to help the community that allows them to get rid of waste in their homes, so it doesn't end up somewhere it doesn't belong.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that this program is getting bigger each year.

Scott provided some figures from last year's Household Hazardous Waste event. The total grant request was \$37,630.57, the project total cost \$47,038.21, with the County match being \$9,407.64. Last year was a record year as far as the number of those that participated in the event and the amount of waste they collected.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

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IN RE: Resolution 2025-020— Sale of Surplus Real Property:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-020— Sale of Surplus Real Property for the Court's approval. This Resolution is approving the sale of surplus real property of the Madison County Fiscal Court being a vacant lot on Berea Rd (US-25) and the Old School Building on New Road.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-020— Sale of Surplus Real Property.

Judge Taylor stated that the vacant lot is 2.49 acres of land (Lot E-1, Parcel 11) located on US-25 (Berea Road) and the +/- .50 acres of land (the Old School Building lot on New Road). The surplus real property will be sold by electronic auction, following publication of the auction, including the uniform resource link (URL) of www.govdeals.commadisoncountkyky for the site of the auction. There will be a reserve that both of these properties will start at based on the appraised value per KRS.

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 2025-021—Madison County Utilities District Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-021— Madison County Utilities District Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of John Thomas to the Madison County Utilities District Board, with an expiration date of March 30, 2029.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-021— Madison County Utilities District Board Appointment, approving the appointment of John Thomas to the Madison County Utilities District Board, with an expiration date of March 30, 2029.

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 2025-022— Madison County EMS Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-022— Madison County EMS Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of Jill Cornelison to the Madison County EMS Board, with an expiration date of April 1, 2027.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-022— Madison County EMS Board Appointment, approving the appointment of Jill Cornelison to the Madison County EMS Board, with an expiration date of April 1, 2027.

Magistrate Combs thanked all those that are willing to serve on the County Boards.

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 2025-023—Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, presented Resolution 2025-023— Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).

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Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2025-023— Madison County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines. Chief Gray stated that there was one major update to these guidelines and that was to 454, the Alert Notification App, which was a new one that was brought to their attention and put into the guidelines this year.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Resolution 2025-024— Valley View Ferry Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-024— Valley View Ferry Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of Tom D. Thomas to the Valley View Ferry Board, with an expiration date of May 9, 2029.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-024— Valley View Ferry Board Appointment, approving the appointment of Tom D. Thomas to the Valley View Ferry Board, with an expiration date of May 9, 2029.

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 2025-025— Valley View Ferry Board Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-025— Valley View Ferry Board Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of James Laird to the Valley View Ferry Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2026.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-025— Valley View Ferry Board Appointment, approving the appointment of James Laird to the Valley View Ferry Board, with an expiration date of December 31, 2026.

Magistrate Botkin asked if this is all the members that are needed on the Valley View Ferry Board. Judge Taylor stated that it does for the Fiscal Court, but he is not sure about the other counties. He also stated that James Laird is actually a retiree from the US Coast Guard who moved to the Baldwin area and had reached out to the Court about the Ferry. Magistrate Botkin thanked Magistrate Lochmueller for his service on the Valley View Ferry Board.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Resolution 2025-026— Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-shared Employees:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2025-026— Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-shared Employees for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves an Official Payroll Breakdown for Madison County Cost-shared Employees to comply with Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Standard Operating Procedures.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-026— Official Payroll Breakdown for Cost-shared Employees.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

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Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Order 2025-001— Extend Tax Deadlines for Filing Year 2024:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Order 2025-001— Extend Tax Deadlines for Filing Year 2024 for the Court's approval. This Order is for the Madison County Fiscal Court to approve an extension of tax deadlines for filing year 2024.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Order 2025-001— Extend Tax Deadlines for Filing Year 2024.

Magistrate Hughes asked if the State has applied to move their deadline as well. Sarah stated that yes, this is for the entire State of Kentucky. Judge Taylor stated that the reason they are applying to extend the deadline is because they have been asked to in order to be consistent with the State, as well as the other local governments.

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:

Jessica Coffey, HR Director, recommended the status change of Anthony R. Ciambro from a Seasonal Snow Removal CDL Truck Driver to a CDL Truck Driver/Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective April 2, 2025; the status change of Jakob Tharp from a Firefighter II to Lieutenant, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Levi S. Taylor from Seasonal to Lieutenant, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Saraya N. Lakes from Shift Supervisor to Assistant Director of Operations, at a salary of \$60,840.00 per year, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Joy Lowery from Dispatcher to Shift Supervisor, at a rate of \$25.13 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Sahara Hardy from Dispatcher to Shift Supervisor, at a rate of \$23.07 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; and the hiring of Jerry Causey as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective April 9, 2025.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the status change of Anthony R. Ciambro from a Seasonal Snow Removal CDL Truck Driver to a CDL Truck Driver/Laborer, at a rate of \$18 per hour, effective April 2, 2025; the status change of Jakob Tharp from a Firefighter II to Lieutenant, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Levi S. Taylor from Seasonal to Lieutenant, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Saraya N. Lakes from Shift Supervisor to Assistant Director of Operations, at a salary of \$60,840.00 per year, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Joy Lowery from Dispatcher to Shift Supervisor, at a rate of \$25.13 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; the status change of Sahara Hardy from Dispatcher to Shift Supervisor, at a rate of \$23.07 per hour, effective March 26, 2025; and the hiring of Jerry Causey as Seasonal Grounds Maintenance, at a rate of \$12 per hour, effective April 9, 2025.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes
Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, spotlighted Donnie Powell, Facilities and Custodial Supervisor, who has served since 2024. A colleague stated that Donnie is always on the go and works hard, trying his best to make sure the needs of each department are met each day. He is polite, respectful, takes pride in his work, has a friendly personality, and a positivity that can make a long workday seem a little brighter.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to Donnie.

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Magistrate Lochmueller stated that he always has a very pleasant personality and greets everyone that comes into the Annex building.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- Effective April 1, 2025, the intersection of Moberly Road and Charlie Norris Road will become a 4-way stop. Message boards have been placed in the area to notify citizens of the upcoming change to this intersection.
- The Berea Chamber of Commerce is proud to offer two \$1,000 Future Leaders Scholarships-one for a Berea Community School senior and one for a Madison Southern High School senior. Applications will be accepted until April 18th and can be submitted via email to info@bereakychamber.org, dropped off in person at 304 A Chestnut St., Berea, or mailed to P.O. Box 1954, Berea, KY 40403. All eligible seniors are encouraged to apply.
- Join us for a District 1 Town Hall Meeting at 5:30 PM on Thursday, April 10th, at the Central KY Regional Airport. This event is open to the public for community discussions.
- Visit our website at www.madisoncountky.gov/community-events to see a list of some of the events happening throughout our community. If you have an event you would like to feature on this page, simply click on the "Submit an Event" button and complete the form.

Comments from Magistrates:

Magistrate Hughes stated that the County is about a year out from updating the Comprehensive Plan and encouraged all the local governments and citizens to continue to work together with the updated plan.

Magistrate Botkin stated that as a member of the initial Comprehensive Plan Board, they had a good diversity of members across the community on the board that came to the meetings and provided a good representation of the citizens within the county. He stated that there has been an increase in the number of scammers, and encouraged the public to be aware, double-check the facts, and not just give people information just because they have asked for it.

Magistrate Combs didn't have anything to report.

Magistrate Lochmueller didn't have anything to report.

Comments from Department Heads:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, provided an update on the Home Incarceration Program cost analysis. She explained that they transitioned to a contract basis for the Home Incarceration Program in the 2023-2024 budget year. The last year that they had the program run by the Detention Center, they paid out \$172,963.70 in total expenses, generating a revenue of \$24,955 for a net loss of \$148,007.81. In 2023-2024, once they contracted out the program, they experienced a financial loss of \$47,639, and so far for this year, they are looking at a loss of \$26,448. Also looking into this is the number of days that the inmate is not in the jail. Now, the Fiscal Court only pays for the inmates that have a court appointed defender. When taking those numbers into account, during the first contract year, the total number of inmate days of 14,973, which equates to jail cost avoidance of \$524,055. For this year, so far, they are at a jail cost avoidance of \$249,690.

Public Comments:

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Shelby Rawlins stated that he attends both Fiscal Court meetings and the Richmond City Commissioner meetings, and wanted to let them know that they are doing a good job. He doesn't feel that people should go on social media, stating lies about what is going on within the local government and is glad to see that the County is refuting some of those misconceptions.

Judge Taylor thanked him for his words of encouragement.

Magistrate Combs thanked him for attending the Court meetings and encouraged others to do the same.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

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

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for April 8, 2025, in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, Ky, at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Billy Ray Hughes to adjourn, seconded by Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE