

Meeting Date: 7/22/2025
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 22nd of July 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building 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 Rob Taylor, Pastor at the Tates Creek Baptist 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 7-8-2025:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on July 8, 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

Treasurer's Report:

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

Magistrate Hughes asked if this was the last report for the fiscal year and if it was final. Sarah stated that it is the last report for the fiscal year, but it is not completely reconciled.

IN RE: Liken Knowledge Community Wealth Project — Randal Caudill, Community Engagement Coordinator:

Randal Caudill, Community Engagement Coordinator with Liken Knowledge, provided information on the Liken Community Wealth's new project, Community Wealth from Healthy Rivers and Forests. This project focuses on improving watershed health while increasing household incomes. They offer tools to help landowners make the most of their land through trainings provided by experts, goal setting and land use guidance, cost-share and support program assistance, and connections to regional partners.

Liken will be offering a free Will Clinic on August 18th at 10:30 at the Russel Acton Folk Center in Berea. An attorney will be on hand to help individuals write a will if they don't have one or help with any addendums that might need to be made to existing wills. Randal stated that he is also hosting a training event tonight at the Estill County Library for landowners with a focus on habitat management for game species, with experts from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the cost-sharing involves grants landowners can apply for or is there money already set aside for such projects. Randal stated that they help individuals connect with the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), which has programs to help landowners get those Federal funds that have been set aside for such use.

Randal also informed the Court that Liken partners with the Kentucky Riverkeeper, and they will be having a tire clean-up on the Kentucky River on August 16th in Lee County and August 23rd in Leslie County.

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IN RE: Resolution 2025-066 — Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department Community Development Block Grant Application:

David Duttlinger, Executive Director of the Bluegrass Area Development District (Bluegrass ADD), explained what Bluegrass ADD does. Bluegrass ADD develops land use plans, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, hazard mitigation, transportation plans, and water and wastewater infrastructure plans, which are used to develop projects that will better the communities. They also offer programs to help the communities, like Community and Public Health Council, and the Agency for Aging Council, which provides home meal deliveries within the county.

David stated that the Bluegrass ADD Annual meeting will be held in Madison County this year at the Carl Perkins Building on the Eastern Kentucky University campus on November 5th at 5:30 PM, with Father Jim Sichko as the guest speaker. He invited the Court to attend the annual meeting.

Rolando Thacker, Business Services Manager with Bluegrass ADD, talked about the National Dislocated Worker Grant that they have been awarded to assist the individuals that are being laid off at the Blue Grass Army Depot to help them with short-term training for transitioning into other job opportunities, as well as some work-based learning internships. They have been working with employers in the community and through virtual job fairs to connect those individuals to potential employers that are hiring.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the employers they are connecting the individuals to are local employers. Rolando stated that they do try to connect them with Madison County employers first, but they do have employers that are elsewhere.

Judge Taylor asked if they were participating in the local job fairs. Rolando stated that they are, and there have been a few job fairs they have or will have at the Madison County Fairgrounds. They will be busing individuals to the job fair in August at the Fairgrounds to give the employees a chance to talk to local employers and see what job opportunities are available to them.

Logan Hart, Director of Community Planning with Bluegrass ADD, presented Resolution 2025-066 — Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department Community Development Block Grant Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorizes the submission of an application for the Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department Fire Station Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-066 — Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department Community Development Block Grant Application.

Logan Hart, Director of Community Planning with Bluegrass ADD, stated that they had applied for this grant in 2022, however at that time, it was determined that the area this Fire Department services didn't meet the qualifications of a low to moderate income community. They have since been able to survey the area again because it is a critical need for the Kirksville community to have the fire station redone.

Magistrate Botkin asked about the survey of the community in relation to the likelihood they would be able to get the grant now. Logan stated that they have to generate a randomized list of addresses from that service area, so they don't know for certain if the area would qualify but they believe there is a very good chance that it will. A benefit of applying this year compared to 2022 is that there is a new program available from the State (the Grant Program) which is a match program that they can apply for that will cover almost the entirety of the matching portion that is required by the CDBG.

Magistrate Hughes asked what the odds were of this being granted and how long it would take for a decision to be made. Logan stated that if the surveys come out the way they think they would and they get the application submitted by September 1st, they would expect to hear an answer of whether it is funded or not by early next year. He believes it is a strong application, but he doesn't know what the needs are throughout the state.

Magistrate Combs asked if the money has already been approved through legislation and been approved for this particular grant. Logan stated that the funding has been delivered to the State for this funding cycle.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes Stephen Lochmueller-Yes

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Billy Ray Hughes- Yes Tom Botkin- Yes

Reagan Taylor – Yes

IN RE: Resolution 2025-067 — County Priority Projects Program Funds MOA-Peytontown Road:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2025-067— County Priority Projects Program Funds MOA-Peytontown Road for the Court's approval. This Resolution is adopting and approving the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Madison County Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Highways for the County Priority Projects Program Funding (FD14) in the amount of \$173,000.00.

Motion by James Brian Combs was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-067— County Priority Projects Program Funds MOA-Peytontown Road.

Scott Shepherd stated that they had put in for this money for two (2) years and expressed his appreciation to have finally been awarded these funds because this road is in very bad condition.

Magistrate Combs asked if this will be enough funds to complete the 1.9 miles of blacktop needed for this road. Scott stated that it will be.

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 2025-068 — Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) Grant Program Application:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-068— Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) Grant Program Application for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court regarding the submission of an application for the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) Grant Program to support Economic Development and authorizes the Judge/Executive to represent Madison County in applying for said funding.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2025-068— Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) Grant Program 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 2025-069 — Reassignment of Potential Purchase of Property Agreement for Economic Development:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-069 — Reassignment of Potential Purchase of Property Agreement for Economic Development for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court to reassign the purchase agreement for 2494 Lexington Road to the Central Kentucky Business Park Authority (CKBPA), to authorize the County Judge/Executive to execute all necessary agreements and contracts, and to establish a reversion clause in the event the authority chooses not to proceed with purchase.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-069 — Reassignment of Potential Purchase of Property Agreement for Economic Development.

Magistrate Hughes stated that this is a significant step for this project.

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Magistrate Lochmueller stated that it is a big step which takes good leadership to get to this point, and thanked Judge Taylor for his leadership. He reminded the public that this Authority is made up of the Scott County, Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government, the City of Berea, and Madison County. He is very excited to be a part of this project.

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 2025-070 — American Battlefield Trust Agreement Third

Amendment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-070 — American Battlefield Trust Agreement Third Amendment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is authorizing the Third Agreement between the Madison County Fiscal Court, the City of Richmond, and the American Battlefield Trust.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2025-070 — American Battlefield Trust Agreement Third Amendment.

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 William G Copper from a Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter II, at a rate of \$11.33 per hour, effective July 30, 2025; and the hiring of Jaimee Rader as a 911 Telecommunicator, at a rate of \$19, effective August 6, 2025.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the status change of William G Copper from a Firefighter Recruit to Firefighter II, at a rate of \$11.33 per hour, effective July 30, 2025; and the hiring of Jaimee Rader as a 911 Telecommunicator, at a rate of \$19, effective August 6, 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 Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, who has been with the County since 2006. A colleague stated that Chris is the epitome of a dedicated employee who gives his all when serving the citizens and employees of Madison County. His diligence, innovation, and critical thinking are impressive, and he treats his team and coworkers with respect, encouraging them to strive for excellence. Chris is a team player who isn't afraid to jump in to help his team, no matter the complexity of the task; he is an incredible asset to the Madison County team.

Jill stated that the innovation that has come as a result of the IT Department benefits the taxpayers and makes Madison County better, and it is all thanks to Chris' leadership.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to Chris for choosing to service Madison County.

Magistrate Botkin stated that in the past 11 years, the services that the IT Department offer has come a long way and that is all due to Chris' hard work and leadership.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

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- Drivers using KY 52 at the Estill-Madison County line should be prepared for additional delays on Wednesday and Thursday, July 23rd – 24th, as beams will be set for one side of the new Drowning Creek bridge as part of the ongoing replacement project.

The work will require temporary traffic stoppages in both directions while equipment is in use. Law enforcement will be on-site, and electronic message boards will display updates to warn drivers of delays.

- The 4th Annual Madison Southern High School Air Force JROTC Summer Classic Golf Scramble will take place on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Battlefield Golf Course. This fundraiser directly supports the cadets of the MSHS Air Force JROTC program. All proceeds will go toward program expenses. Check-in and the opening ceremony begin at 8:00 AM, followed by a 9:00 AM shotgun start.

- 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:

Judge Taylor stated that the Central Kentucky Business Park Authority is a team effort by Scott County, Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government, the City of Berea, and Madison County, and the board which is made up of two (2) representatives from each entity. The grants that they have received will hopefully pay for the cost of the due diligence services.

Judge Taylor also talked about the traffic concerns on I-75. He stated that the Transportation Cabinet has said that the work they are doing on the interstate should be done by November 1st, and that the initial issues they have been seeing should only last for the first month.

Magistrate Hughes stated that the Madison County Fair starts this Friday night and encouraged the public to attend. He also talked about the memorial service this past week for Dr. Bill Tudor, who served on the Fiscal Court in the late ‘90’s with him.

Magistrate Botkin stated that the State is still mowing on the roadways and asked the public to be respectful of those workers. He spoke with the State concerning a couple issues on Highway 595 and Caleast Road where the brush is growing out onto the roadway, and they will be working in those areas to get the brush taken care of. He asked Sheriff Coyle if they would get with the Kentucky State Police to handle the semis that are parked on the ramps at the Buc-ee’s exit off I-75; it is a dangerous exit, and the semis are making it worse. The accident that happened over the weekend was caused by distracted driving and asked the public not to use their cell phones while driving, as well as prayers for the Brown family who lost their son in the accident.

Judge Taylor stated that Buc-ee’s is within the city limits, and suggested that the State Police, the Sheriff’s Office, and the Richmond City Police Department work together to enforce the semis not to park on the exit ramps.

Magistrate Combs thanked the County Department Heads for all they do to make the County government efficient.

Magistrate Lochmueller congratulated Chris and stated that the County has a great team who work together for the betterment of the County.

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Comments from Department Heads:

No Comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Tom Botkin to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for August 12, 2025, in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building in Richmond, Ky at 9:30 AM.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from Billy Ray Hughes to adjourn, seconded by James Brian Combs. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE