

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025  
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 26<sup>th</sup> of August 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 Mitch Brown, Interim Pastor at the Berea First 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 8-12-2025:**

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on August 12, 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: Approval of Meeting Minutes 8-21-2025:**

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the minutes from the special called work session on August 21, 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:**

Judge Taylor stated that the Treasurer's Report will be at the next Fiscal Court meeting, due to the Treasurer's Office working on reconciliation for the end of the Fiscal Year.

### **IN RE: Retirement Recognition:**

Judge Taylor provided Wendy Lynch, Madison County Emergency Communications Center (911) Director, a Certificate of Retirement, recognizing her outstanding achievement and having been dedicated to providing support and assistance for 17 years to all public safety agencies operating within Madison County. Judge Taylor stated that Wendy has been a true leader over the past 27 years in 911/Public Safety, and they would not be where they are today at 911 without Wendy's leadership. The dispatchers and 911 team are the first response with the citizens to keep them safe, but they don't get the recognition because they are behind the scenes. Wendy has meant a lot to the community over the last 27 years.

Wendy thanked the community, first responders, Fiscal Court, her family, and the family of all the first responders for their support over the years. She is very proud of the 911 mission to get the right responder to the right location at the right time and knows that Jodi and Saraya will do a great job in the Interim.

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## **IN RE: Special Purpose Government Entities (SPGE) Presentation of Ad Valorem Rates:**

Tonya Donselman, Madison County EMS Director, started her presentation by thanking Wendy for her service and inspiration on how to manage an entity, and congratulating her on her retirement. She presented an overview of what Madison County EMS does with the tax dollars they collect and the programs they are involved in. In 2024, they responded to 20,435 calls for service. They stayed active in the community with 381 public relations/community events, such as Touch-a-Truck, 5K's, July 4th, and Kid's Mall Madness; and education programs such as Hands-Only CPR and Stop the Bleed. Madison County EMS also continues to provide interfacility transports for Baptist Health Richmond and Saint Joseph Berea, as well as convalescent transports, while facing staffing shortages like other EMS Departments across the state and nation. To help address the staffing challenges, they have developed an education program within the county. They offer EMT, Advanced EMT, and a Hybrid Paramedic program, and thanks to this pipeline, they are now fully staffed. The program is not only filling their workforce, but they are also providing a resource to the community with an affordable pathway for a career in education.

Magistrate Combs asked if these programs were through the Ignite Academy's. Tonya stated that they were provided through EMS itself, but they do work with Ignite in the outreach programs, such as the Hands-Only CPR, and Stop the Bleed. They do try to navigate one class to start right after graduation, so that if any seniors want to start that process, they are able to do so.

Madison County EMS also recognizes the importance in partnerships with other agencies, and work with the Richmond Fire Department, the Berea Fire Department, and the Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department in joint protocols and training. They work with Madison County Fire Department to provide CPR/AED training and initial rescue responses, as well as the Richmond Police Department, which now has the first police paramedic. The EMS also partners with UK, KEB, and three (3) other EMS agencies in a Whole Blood Program to provide whole blood transfusions in the field, which is low waste, sustainable, cost-effective, and saves lives.

Recently, they completed the rigorous 6-month CAAS Accreditation for the third time. There are only two (2) EMS agencies in Kentucky that have this accreditation and only 2% nationally. To support their mission, they have invested in their fleet and equipment with three (3) new ambulances in service and three (3) more on the way. All ambulances are now equipped with updated auto-load stretchers and load systems.

In regard to the tax rate, Madison County EMS has approved taking the compensating rate for this year for real property, which would be a rate of 0.042, and leaving their personal property, vehicles, and watercraft rate at 0.060. Tonya thanked the community and Fiscal Court for their continued support.

Magistrate Hughes asked Tonya how many employees are with Madison County EMS. She stated that they have 104 full-time and part-time employees.

Magistrate Botkins stated that 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the Madison County population has personally dealt with EMS in 2024, and he is sure that those individuals are glad they showed up after dialing 911. He expressed his appreciation to Tonya and all of EMS for the great job they do.

Lisa Adams, Madison County Extension Director, spoke on the mission of the Cooperative Extension Service. They are one branch of the University of Kentucky that provides research-based information to the community, serving those from birth to death. They provide agriculture and horticulture resources to the community, a family and consumer sciences program that partners with UK Health Care to provide research-based information and ways to improve health, as well as pre-school and kindergarten readiness programs that partner with the public school system. They now have a Community Arts Agent and will be starting some community development and arts programs at the Extension Office.

Meredith Reed, Extension Board Secretary, presented the 2025 Ad Valorem Rates for the Extension District. The rate for real property is .0180 cents per \$100, the rate for tangible personal property is .0258 cents per \$100, and motor vehicle is 1.3 cents per \$100, all of which is reflecting the compensating rate.

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Skye Dick, Madison County Health Department Director of Administrative Services, presented the 2025 Ad Valorem rates for the Board of Health. She stated that the board recommended that they remain at the current tax rates of 4.7 cents per \$100 for real property and 5 cents per \$100 for tangible and motor vehicles tax rates. Magistrate Hughes asked how many employees are currently at the Health Department. Skye stated it was about 67.

Christina Cornelison, Madison County Library Executive Director, shared that the library has recently adopted their Fiscal Year 2026 through 2028 strategic plan. They are involved in kindergarten readiness and preschool literacy, in which they work with Kingston Elementary to determine where their impact is on those children as they grow throughout the years. They also recently became the fiscal and member agent for adult education in Madison and six other counties to provide GED testing in both Richmond and Berea. Also, they are working on taking their outreach vehicles (i.e. the Book Mobile) out into the more rural areas of the county to help provide internet access, technology assistance, and literacy resources.

Christina presented the 2025 Ad Valorem rates for the Madison County Public Library. She stated that they were able to accept a tax rate that was below the compensating rate with the real property rate being 0.047, tangible property will be at 0.047, and the motor vehicle rate doesn't change at 0.035.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he is very proud of what they are doing at the library and asked how many employees they have. Christina stated that if they don't count Adult Education, they have 59.

Magistrate Botkin stated that they don't hear of their taxes being lowered much and expressed his appreciation to Christina for being good stewards of taxpayer's funds. Christina stated that they try very hard to be really responsible with what they have.

Judge Taylor presented on behalf of the Red Lick Watershed Conservation District, saying their rate is staying at 5 cents per \$100. Judge Taylor stated that the Red Lick Watershed is for an area in District 1 that takes care of the infrastructure of the reservoir in the Owsley Fork/Red Lick area and goes to the mitigation of the four (4) retention basins there.

Judge Taylor stated that Berea Independent School District is .867 on real property, and their tangible, personal property, and inventory is .880.

Judge Taylor stated that the Madison County Board of Education's rate for motor vehicles is 55.8 per \$100. Their other rates will be approved at their Thursday board meeting.

Judge Taylor explained that if they go back and look at the tax rates 11 years ago compared to today, the majority are lower, with some being the same as they were 11 years ago. He is very proud of each of their taxing districts in keeping these rates the same or lower.

### **IN RE: Amend Agenda:**

Judge Taylor wished to amend the agenda to add Resolution 2025-079— 80-20 Bridge Funds for Crutcher Pike (CR 1354) Bridge Repairs.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve amending the agenda.

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 2025-074 — Litter Abatement Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2026:**

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2025-074 — Litter Abatement Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2026 for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of Calendar Year 2026 Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Division of Waste Management Litter Abatement grant funds.

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Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-074 — Litter Abatement Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2026.

Judge Taylor stated that this is a great program.

Magistrate Botkin stated that they got about \$60,000 last year with this program. Scott stated that it was correct and that they do it in two phases, one in the spring and one in the fall, which has helped keep the county cleaner. They use all local organizations to participate, and they get paid directly with this money.

Scott stated that they do have all the slots full and have a short waiting list, but if there's an organization that would like to participate, they can call the Road Department and get added to the waiting list.

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 2025-075 — Kentucky Transportation Cabinet FY26 Flex Funds:**

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2025-075— Kentucky Transportation Cabinet FY26 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 was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-075— Kentucky Transportation Cabinet FY26 Flex Funds.

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 2025-076 — KACo 2025-2026 Insurance Grant Program**

#### **Application:**

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-076— KACo 2025-2026 Insurance Grant Program Application for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution is for the application and administration of 2025-2026 KACo Insurance Grant Program funds.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2025-076— KACo 2025-2026 Insurance Grant Program Application.

Magistrate Botkin asked what it was that they got last year. Jill stated that they got mortuary tables for the coroner's office. Judge Taylor stated that the year before that, they got non-flammable safety cabinets and some workwear for the Road Department.

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 2025-077 — Madison County 2025 Ad Valorem Rates and 2026 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates:**

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-077 — Madison County 2025 Ad Valorem Rates and 2026 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates for the Court's approval. This Resolution is adopting the Madison County 2025 Ad Valorem Rates and 2026 Motor Vehicle and Watercraft Property Tax Rates at 6.5

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cents per \$100.00 for the compensating rate for Real Property, 7.5 cents per \$100.00 for the compensating rate for Tangible Personal Property and Inventory, and 10 cents per \$100 for the 2026 Motor Vehicle & Watercraft Property Tax rate.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-077 — Madison County 2025 Ad Valorem Rates and 2026 Motor Vehicle/Watercraft Rates.

Magistrate Botkin asked what the rate was 11 years ago. Judge Taylor stated that it was \$83 compared to \$65 this year. It has been dropped every year.

Magistrate Combs stated that it highlights the importance of growth in the county to be able to drop the rates. The burden is spread out as the county grows because there are more people paying taxes. If they take the compensating rate every year, they are taking in the same amount every year, so the County isn't collecting more but it is helping the taxpayers alleviate the burden because there's more people paying in.

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 2025-078 — Dunbar Lane Road Improvements:**

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2025-078 — Dunbar Lane Road Improvements for the Court's approval. This Resolution is authorizing the County to receive payments from Victory Lane Development, Inc. for the purpose of improving Dunbar Lane, Richmond, Kentucky, a county road, in its entirety to ensure compliance with all county regulations and standards.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-078 — Dunbar Lane Road Improvements.

Magistrate Botkin asked Scott what they are going to be doing out there. Scott explained that they are widening the entire road to a 20-foot width. They feel that the development will increase traffic on the road, and a 20-foot width on the whole road would make it safer.

Magistrate Hughes asked if Scott had an estimate on the investment required. Scott said that he did but doesn't remember what that amount is. He suggested that Magistrate Hughes stop by his office, so he could show him the estimate.

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 2025-079 — 80-20 Bridge Funds for Crutcher Pike (CR 1354) Bridge Repairs:**

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2025-079 — 80-20 Bridge Funds for Crutcher Pike (CR 1354) Bridge Repairs for the Court's approval. This Resolution is adopting and approving the execution of a rural secondary program agreement between the Madison County 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 part of the County Road System.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-079 — 80-20 Bridge Funds for Crutcher Pike (CR 1354) Bridge Repairs.

Magistrate Botkin asked Scott the location of the bridge. Scott said that it is off Tates Creek Road and the first left onto Crutcher Pike. They replaced the second one last year and after the bridge inspection this year, the tonnage was lowered to three (3) tons, which will barely support school buses. He believes if they don't repair it now, that they would close the bridge next year.

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Magistrate Botkin also asked what type of bridge they were going to put in. Scott stated that they will replace the beams, concrete decking, and guardrail.

Judge Taylor stated that they have a very talented road department crew that are able to self-perform these types of projects and are very thankful for them.

Magistrate Lochmueller asked Scott if this would start in the fall. Scott stated that this process has been quicker than he anticipated, but they still have the bid process to go, so it would probably be early fall to mid-fall.

Magistrate Lochmueller also asked how the traffic flow would go as they are making the repairs and what the time frame of completion would be. Scott stated that they would be directed to the other end and out onto Barnes Mill Road. He is hopeful that they can complete the project in three (3) weeks. He explained that they would have message boards and signs on both ends of Crutcher Pike 30 days before the start of the construction.

Motion carried on roll 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 Jodi Webb from an Assistant Director of MCECC/911 to Interim Co-Director, with a \$200 stipend per pay period, effective September 10, 2025; and the status change of Saraya N. Lakes from an Assistant Director of MCECC/911 to Interim Co-Director, with a \$200 stipend per pay period, effective September 10, 2025.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the status change of Jodi Webb from an Assistant Director of MCECC/911 to Interim Co-Director, with a \$200 stipend per pay period, effective September 10, 2025; and the status change of Saraya N. Lakes from an Assistant Director of MCECC/911 to Interim Co-Director, with a \$200 stipend per pay period, effective September 10, 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: Enter Executive Session:**

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to enter into Executive Session at 10:21 AM to discuss personnel. This Executive Session is allowable under KRS 61.810 section 1, subsection F.

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 Tom Botkin to exit Executive Session at 10:43 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: Termination:**

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to terminate Kyra Soto effective 8/21/2025, and to retroactively approve the suspension that occurred on 8/21/2025.

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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: Judge's Report:

- The Madison County Health Department is sponsoring a drive-thru vaccine clinic with Dr. Gary Short on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at 189 Rash Road in Berea from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Enter via Ellipse Street only, and please do not line up before 9:00 AM. All animals must be leashed or in carriers. Madison County Animal Shelter staff will also be on-site offering microchipping. **CASH ONLY (exact change is preferred)**. Please visit our website, or Madison County Health Department and Madison County Animal Shelter Facebook pages for more information. Thank you to Dr. Short and the Madison County Health Department for offering these services to our community.
- Kentucky River Foothills is now accepting applications for the LIHEAP Summer Subsidy Cooling Component. This program helps eligible households with electric costs by providing a one-time benefit based on your income and housing situation. Applications will be accepted through September 12<sup>th</sup>, or until funds are depleted. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling 859-544-1713.
- KACo is currently accepting submissions for their "I Love My KY County" art contest. All students from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to submit artwork depicting a scene in your county that illustrates a reason why you love your county. The top three winners will receive cash prizes. In addition, the winners will be invited to attend the KACo annual conference and will be featured in *County Line* magazine. The deadline for submissions is October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please visit [www.kaco.org](http://www.kaco.org) for more information.
- Visit our website at [www.madisoncountyky.gov/community-events](http://www.madisoncountyky.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.
- Madison County Government and its related offices will be closed on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> for the Labor Day holiday. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 AM.

### Comments from Magistrates:

**Judge Taylor** stated that Brandon with the State Transportation Cabinet wanted to inform the public that they will be replacing a cross drain this Thursday at the intersection of Kentucky 499 Crooksville Road and Kentucky 374 Speedwell Road. Speedwell Road will be closed at Crooksville Road from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM. Crooksville Road will remain open; however, Speedwell Road traffic will not be able to access Crooksville Road during this time.

**Magistrate Hughes** stated that all is well in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

**Magistrate Botkin** expressed his appreciation to Wendy for all she has done over his time of service. He also stated that if anyone is interested in attending the School Board meeting, it will be held this Thursday at 6:00 PM at 301 Highland Park Dr., Richmond, KY.

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**Magistrate Combs** stated that it has been a pleasure to get to know and work with Wendy and expressed his appreciation for the leadership of all the department heads. He also thanked the taxing districts for coming and encouraged citizens to educate themselves on all the taxing districts and what they are doing.

**Magistrate Lochmueller** stated that he has contacted Brandon, and they will begin mowing again on US 25 in September. He also congratulated Wendy, stating that her and her team have done a great job at 911 over the years. He asked Jailer Brock if he had heard anything about getting the inmate work program going again at the detention center. Jailer Brock said he had not.

Magistrate Lochmueller explained that he had been asked if the county had a noise ordinance. Judge Taylor stated that he believes they have some form of noise ordinance but isn't certain about what it says. They will research it and get back to the Court.

**Comments from Department Heads:**

No Comments from Department Heads.

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments.

**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 September 9, 2025, in the Council Chambers 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 10:56 AM.

  
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REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE