

Meeting Date; 9/9/2025
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 9th of September 2025 at 9:30AM in the Council Chambers' Courtroom in Berea, 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 Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Sheriff's Patrol Lieutenant Derek Thomas, 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 Kevin Slemp, Pastor of Berea Baptist Church, to lead the Court in prayer.

Judge Taylor asked Magistrate Botkin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Meeting Minutes 8-26-2025:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on August 26, 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	

Music Performance by Bobby James:

Judge Taylor introduced Bobby Fugate (Bobby James), who is a Madison County resident, singer, and song writer. Bobby James preformed his song "Madison" which he wrote about Madison County, KY.

Magistrate Combs expressed his appreciation to Bobby.

Judge Taylor stated that the meaning of the song is remarkable and also expressed his appreciation to Bobby for his performance.

IN RE: Madison County Fire Department and Volunteer Fire Department Update – Tim Gray, Fire Chief:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief, provided an update on the Madison County Fire Department and Volunteer Fire Departments from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and compared them to last year's numbers.

The Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department made a total of 180 calls for service, whereas they had 157 calls last fiscal year. Out of those calls, 43 calls were for car accidents, 27 assists to EMS or other agencies, 6 grass fires, 5 illegal burns, 4 fires, 9 line down calls, 5 fires public relations, 17 fire alarms, 5 structure fires, 32 tree down/fire, 2 vehicle fires, and 2 water rescues.

Judge Taylor stated that Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department is working on a CGBD Grant for a new station. The Red Lick Volunteer Fire Department made a total of 136 calls for service, whereas they had 108 calls for service last fiscal year. Of those calls of service, 36 were for car accidents, 2 farm animal rescues, 16 assists to EMS or other agencies, 1 forest fire, 9 grass fires, 5 illegal burns, 10 fires, 7 line down calls, 3 fires public relations, 4 fire alarms, 1 search and rescue, 3 structure fires, 18 tree down/fire, 4 vehicle fires, and 1 water rescue.

The Union City Volunteer Fire Department made a total of 138 calls for service, whereas they had 115 calls for service last fiscal year. Of those service calls, 34 were car accidents, 10 were assists to EMS or other agencies, 6 grass fires, 5 illegal burns, 8 fires, 7 line down calls, 4 fires public relations, 13 fire alarms, 1 search and rescue, 5 structure fires, 19 tree down/fire, and 5 vehicle fires.

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Judge Taylor asked if the assists to EMS are strictly lift assists or could they assist them in other ways. Chief Gray stated that it could be lift assists or it could be a medical emergency that the fire department got called out for in which they were the first responders on scene. It is categorized through 911's call data based on how the 911 call comes in. All this data is actually from the 911 CAD entries.

The Waco Volunteer Fire Department made a total of 364 calls for service, of which 126 were coroner transport, leaving 238 other calls. Last fiscal year, they had 386 calls for service with 206 of those being coroner transport. Of the 238 remaining calls, 60 were for car accidents, 32 assists to EMS or other agencies, 1 forest fire, 10 grass fires, 3 illegal burns, 14 fires, 12 line down calls, 21 fires public relations, 14 fire alarms, 7 structure fires, 22 tree down/fire, and 6 vehicle fires.

Judge Taylor asked if the public relation calls would be when they go out to the schools. Chief Gray stated that those are any time in which they call out of service to do something that is not fire related, i.e. going to the Fair Grounds to cover parking.

The White Hall Volunteer Fire Department made a total of 462 calls for service, whereas they had 405 calls for service last fiscal year. Of those calls of service, 140 were car accidents, 1 animal rescue, 88 assists to EMS or other agencies, 18 grass fires, 1 Haz-mat, 9 illegal burns, 16 fires, 8 line down calls, 37 fire alarms, 3 search and rescue, 12 structure fires, 44 tree down/fire, 25 vehicle fires, and 7 water rescues.

Judge Taylor stated that White Hall Volunteer Fire Department is remodeling and upgrading their station. Chief Gray stated that they are currently stationed at Station 3 on Keeneland Dr until the remodel is completed.

The Madison County Fire Department made a total of 2,316 calls for service, of which 1,143 were calls for control burns, leaving a total of 1,173 calls that averaged out to 3 calls per day. Last fiscal year, they had 2,352 calls of service, with 1,344 of those calls being control burns. Of those 1,173 calls of service, 336 were car accidents, 3 animal rescues, 190 assists to EMS or other agencies, 2 explosions, 1 forest fire, 27 gas leaks, 45 grass/field fires, 2 Haz-mat, 27 illegal burns, 53 fires, 46 power line down calls, 6 lock outs, 4 fires public relations, 126 fire alarms, 6 search and rescue, 42 smoke/odor of smoke, 24 structure fires, 27 working structure fires, 129 tree fire/tree down, 43 vehicle fires, and 9 water rescues.

Magistrate Botkin asked what the explosions were. Chief Gray stated that they came in as an explosion when the call initially came in because someone might have heard a loud boom, but there were no major explosions that occurred during this time frame.

Magistrate Botkin also asked what is involved with the water rescues. Chief Gray explained that the one with the Red Lick Volunteer Fire Department was due to a vehicle that tried to cross a creek and was swept down the creek due to heavy rainfall, so the passengers had to be rescued. Most of the rescues are when the water gets over the roadway, cars stall out while trying to cross and they have to be rescued. There could also have been a boating accident in which they had to go out and rescue them out of the river.

Magistrate Hughes asked about the control burns. Chief Gray explained that if anyone wants to do a controlled burn, they are asked to call in to the non-emergency 911 number at 859-624-4776 to give them that information so that they know they are burning brush in case someone sees the smoke and calls it in.

Magistrate Combs asked where they were at concerning a burn ban. Chief Gray stated that they don't currently have a burn ban but are getting ready to get into the Fall State Forestry Ban.

Magistrate Hughes stated that it looks like they work more vehicle accidents than actual fires. Chief Gray agreed that they do quite a few vehicle extractions and auto accidents.

Chief Gray expressed his appreciation to the Court for the support they provide the fire departments.

IN RE: Proclamation – Constitution Week:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the week of September 14-20, 2025, as Constitution Week and urged all citizens to study the Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

Kathy Moats, Regent, 5th District DAR State Officer; Debra Parsons, Jemima Boone Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; Susie Durr, Regent, Jemima Boone Chapter, DAR; Joan Keith, Berea-Laurel Ridges Chapter, National Society DAR; Sharon Graves, Boonesborough DAR; Lynn Black, Boonesborough DAR; Debbie Frazier, Boonesborough DAR; and Mary Lois Kearns, Boonesborough DAR were in attendance to accept the Proclamation.

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Kathy Moats thanked the Fiscal Court for recognizing the importance of the Constitution of the United States with the issuance of this Proclamation.

IN RE: Proclamation – National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week:

Judge Taylor proclaimed the week of September 14-20, 2025, as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Brandy Maggard, Data & Assessment Specialist, Madison County Adult Education; and Anastasia Langford, Volunteer, were in attendance to accept the Proclamation.

Brandy explained that education is more than a diploma, it is confidence, opportunity, and a pathway to a brighter future. In the past year, 54 adults in the community have earned their high school equivalent diploma. Brandy explained that they have partnered with the Madison County Public Library as their fiscal agent to strengthen resources and connections. They have expanded their GED testing in both Richmond and Berea and will be launching a new family literacy program.

Magistrate Botkin thanked Brandy and Anastasia from coming today and expressed his appreciation for everything they do. He stated that he was shocked to see that 1/7th of our population can't read or write.

IN RE: Resolution 2025-080 — Decommission of CSEPP Property:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-080—Decommission of CSEPP Property for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorizes the Judge/Executive to execute documents required for the decommission of CSEPP property and transfer of same to the County.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-080—Decommission of CSEPP Property.

Judge Taylor stated that now that CSEPP will be over, there has to be an inventory and record of where all the infrastructure is. Some of them are being transitioned to other agencies that then have to follow the same 2CFR rules that the Federal Government puts out.

Jill explained that a lot of the public safety infrastructure that was purchased through the Federal CSEPP program over the last 30 years has to be accounted for based on the guidelines of the Grant through FEMA to the Kentucky Emergency Management and then Madison County as sub-recipient. These guidelines state how the equipment shall be used, maintained, and disposed of or decommissioned. The records are contained in a Federal Property Book that will be audited for the life of the equipment or infrastructure. She stated that everything that has been purchased with CSEPP funds has to be decommissioned to the County or to another governmental agency, it can't be given to a private entity. Nothing can be disposed of until it has less than \$5,000 in value or the money that the item was sold for will have to be returned to the US Treasury and FEMA. Jill explained that they are not responsible for the other agencies' audits on maintaining their own inventory of the items that are decommissioned to them.

Magistrate Botkin asked who maintains the property books. Jill stated that they do electronically under the Emergency Management Agency. They have to maintain all County property and equipment through the County Policies and Procedures outlined in the Administrative Code.

Magistrate Botkin also asked about the chemical antidote. Jill stated that it has been disposed of through a medical clearing house that does that type of disposal.

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 2025-081 — Professional Services Agreement for Advocacy Services:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-081 — Professional Services Agreement for Advocacy Services for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorizes the County Judge/Executive to enter into a Professional Services Agreement for advocacy services.

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Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2025-081 — Professional Services Agreement for Advocacy Services.

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, Human Resource Director, recommended the hiring of Stephanie Riley as Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective September 17, 2025; the hiring of Brandon Greer as Custodial I, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective September 17, 2025; the hiring of Steve Asbury as Assistant Fire Chief/Deputy Emergency Management/Training Officer, as a salary of \$72,000 per year, effective October 1, 2025; the hiring of Catherine Rosas as 911 Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$14 per hour, effective September 17, 2025; and the hiring of Rick Brammer as Seasonal Outside Cart Attendant, at a rate of \$10, effective September 17, 2025.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs the hiring of Stephanie Riley as Animal Control Officer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective September 17, 2025; the hiring of Brandon Greer as Custodial I, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective September 17, 2025; the hiring of Steve Asbury as Assistant Fire Chief/Deputy Emergency Management/Training Officer, as a salary of \$72,000 per year, effective October 1, 2025; the hiring of Catherine Rosas as 911 Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$14 per hour, effective September 17, 2025; and the hiring of Rick Brammer as Seasonal Outside Cart Attendant, at a rate of \$10, effective September 17, 2025; all pending successful pre-employment screenings.

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:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, spotlighted Elizabeth Cordle, Finance Clerk-Accounts Payable, who has been with the County since 2020. A colleague stated that Liz is great to work with and goes out of her way to help others. She is a valuable part of the team, and her role is incredibly important to the County.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to Liz.

RE: Judge's Report:

- Madison Southern's homecoming parade will be Thursday, September 11th beginning at 6:00 PM. The Eagles will play Wayne County on Friday, September 12th at 7:30 PM. Please be mindful of road closures and increased traffic in the area.
- Adams Buick GMC's First Responder Day will be on Saturday, September 13th from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. They will have fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, and a live helicopter landing.
- Berea's annual Spoonbread Festival will be on Friday through Saturday, September 19th – 21st at Memorial Park and the Russel Acton Folk Center. Please be mindful of road closures and increased traffic in the area.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Tox Away Day will be on Saturday, October 4th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Madison County Road Department South located at 208 Clarksville Lane in Richmond. Visit Madison County, KY's Facebook page, or call the Solid Waste department at 859-624-4709 for more information.

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- Visit our website at 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.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor informed the Court that the Madison County School Board voted on their 2025 tax rate since the last court meeting of 61.8. The real property rate last year was 62.6.

Magistrate Hughes recognized several community members that passed away this past week; Evan McCord, Harold Richardson, and George Hill.

Magistrate Botkin stated that last week, several court members had the opportunity to attend the dedication ceremony of the World War I, World War II, and Korean War Memorial outside of the Courthouse. He expressed what a great job they had done with the memorial and his appreciation for all the sacrifices that were made by those that served. He also attended a Leadership Madison County Board panel this morning and was grateful for being able to speak with future leaders of Madison County.

Magistrate Combs thanked all the community members that have volunteered their services, as well as the veterans that have given the ultimate sacrifice. He stated that all the road repairs for this year in District 1 have been completed and thanked the Road Department for all their work.

Magistrate Lochmueller thanked Scott and the Road Department for their work on paving. The State Highway Department should continue to do additional mowing and for the public to be mindful of those out. He also reminded those that live on Crutcher Pike of the bridge construction that will be taking place soon.

Clerk Barger commented on those that have passed away this past week, particularly the work that Harold Richardson was involved in throughout the community.

Comments from Department Heads:

Jill Williams informed the Court that there will be a soldier that will be returning home from missing in action from Vietnam on September 18, 2025. There will be a proper escort to Lakes Funeral Home in Berea and wanted to make the public aware in order to pay their respects. There will also be a unified bell ringing ceremony in honor of Constitution Week on September 17th at 4:00 PM, which is the time of the signing of the Constitution. She explained that Clerk Barger will assist them in the ringing of the Courthouse bell; the First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, the Hall of Justice, and other facilities that have community bells will also be participating.

Public Comments:

No Comments from the Public.

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 23, 2025, in the Fiscal Courtroom of the Courthouse Annex Building in Richmond, Ky at 9:30 AM.

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IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion from James Brian Combs to adjourn, seconded by Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE