

Meeting Date: 9/23/2025
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 23rd of September 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 Matt Ellis, Pastor at White Hall 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 9-9-2025:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, addressed the Court to give the monthly treasurer's report (see on file). She stated that this report is through the Fiscal Year 2025.

IN RE: Countywide Broadband Update and Overview:

Ben U'sellis, Director, Government Affairs, Charter Communications, provided an update on the Countywide Broadband.

He explained that the last update he provided was about six months ago, and since then there have been monthly meetings with the Court, themselves, and the pole owners, which has helped move this project along. There has been a lot of movement on their pole permits over the spring and summer, and they are about 75% of the way done. He reviewed the different phases that made up this project; the RDOF (a Rural Digital Opportunity Fund) award, which is almost entirely completed; a State grant award, which is about half complete and almost all of the pole permits have been approved; and the County project where they partnered with the County to fill in any remaining holes that didn't get covered by the other two awards, and they have received a good number of permits and have started building in those areas. He stated that of the almost 11,000 poles they are trying to attach to, they have approved more than 8,000 of them. In order to get the pole permits, they initially design the project and walk it out to determine everything that needs to be done, then their engineers develop a plan, and they send all that out to the pole owners (usually utility companies, AT&T, or Windstream.) because they have to attach their lines to the poles. The pole owners then do their own engineering and surveys to confirm what needs to be done, they send out an invoice, and once that invoice is paid the pole owners have to schedule the replacement or repairs to get those poles ready. When all the work has been completed on the poles, the pole owners will then send out the approved permits, and the broadband lines are ready to be attached.

Ben went on to say that they have about 70% of the poles approved and have activated about 30% of the homes across the county. They are looking to activate over 5,100 homes across the county that haven't had high speed internet service. He stated that he feels good with the progress they are making.

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Judge Taylor asked how those homes know that they are now activated. Ben explained when they first started the construction, they set out signs saying that Spectrum is coming, and when they are done, the sign gets changed to say Spectrum is here. They distributed door hangers or flyers to those areas as well to let homeowners know that service is ready. Ben also stated that they could share the areas as they become activated with the Court, so they can have that information as well.

Magistrate Hughes asked how many homes have access to the service but aren't customers. Ben stated that when they activate an area, they may see about a 40% sign-up rate and will get to about 60-70% within the first couple of years.

Judge Taylor stated that the monthly meetings were helpful in having an opportunity to work out any issues that may arise and has helped move the progress along quickly.

Magistrate Botkin asked how they are doing with the homes that are setting off the road. Ben stated that when they made the designs, they made sure that it connected to the homes and not just stop at the road. There will be a "drop" installed at the driveway, and if the homeowner decides to have the service, then their technicians will continue the line from the "drop" to their home.

Magistrate Hughes asked if the lines could be underground. Ben stated that they follow the electrical, so if the electrical lines are on poles, then their lines will be on the poles, and the same is true if the electrical lines are underground. There may be some situations in which they can't follow the electrical lines, but in most cases they do.

IN RE: Joint Proclamation-Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

Judge Taylor, along with the City of Richmond, and the City of Berea, proclaimed October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Richmond, Berea, and all of Madison County, and urged all citizens to reach out to victims and to help end domestic violence.

Jennifer Lainhart, Executive Director, Hope's Wings Domestic Violence Program, was present to accept the proclamation. She expressed her appreciation for the Court and for their support. They will have lunch at the Richmond City Hall with the Proclamation signing on October 2, 2025, at 11:00 AM and encouraged the Court members to attend, as well as the community. They will be having a 5K on the evening of October 17th at White Hall. Also, throughout the month of October, they are having a purple heart campaign. Different businesses within the community have agreed to participate, whether it be by creating purple drinks, or having purple hearts for the public to donate and have their name put on.

Magistrate Botkin asked if they knew the number of those affected by domestic violence. Jennifer said that they are working on getting that number. They look at each county and search the records to determine the number of domestic homicides. Last year, there were 57 people in Kentucky that died due to domestic violence.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that Kentucky ranks very high in the nation for domestic violence. Jennifer agreed, stating that Kentucky is usually #2. She thanked the Court and community for their support.

IN RE: Resolution 2025-082 — Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department CDBG GRANT Program Funds Application:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2025-082 — Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department CDBG GRANT Program Funds Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorized the completion and filing of a Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program of 2024 project application for up to \$85,000 in GRANT Program of 2024 funds with the Cabinet for Economic Development (CED); authorizing and directing the Judge/Executive of Madison County to execute any documents which are deemed necessary by CED to carry out this project; and authorizing the authorized representative to act as the authorized correspondent for this project; permitting review and execution of all agreements and request of all disbursements relating to the GRANT Program of 2024.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-082 — Kirksville Volunteer Fire Department CDBG GRANT Program Funds Application.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

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

IN RE: Resolution 2025-083 — SCALE Computing Hardware and Software Maintenance Bid Award:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2025-083— SCALE Computing Hardware and Software Maintenance Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a bid award for SCALE Computing Hardware and Software Maintenance to 13 Layers, LLC, for a total of \$92,130.50. Motion by Billy Ray Hughes was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-083— SCALE Computing Hardware and Software Maintenance Bid Award.

Chris stated that the majority of nodes listed are the Kentucky Counties Government Cloud (KCGC) clusters, which are the nodes that run the services for all the other counties and cities, and are covered in full by those customers with their monthly payments to the County. The remaining five nodes are the Madison County nodes that are used by the County as well as the other departments in the county (such as the Clerk's Office, and County Attorney's Office).

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that this is a good way for the County to generate additional revenue, and it benefits the county, the citizens, and other counties.

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 2025-084 — End of CSEPP Preparedness Funding:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-084— End of CSEPP Preparedness Funding for the Court's approval. This Resolution is regarding the transition of CSEPP Preparedness Funding to County Public Safety Operations.

Motion by Tom Botkin was seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve presented Resolution 2025-084— End of CSEPP Preparedness Funding.

Magistrate Combs stated that they have been preparing for and waiting on this for a long time. The culture within Madison County for preparedness by the police departments and first responders is better today because of CSEPP.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that long before he came to the Court, the Fiscal Court had been preparing for this end.

Jill stated that this is an introductory piece, and it will allow them to get reimbursed through the closeout period.

Judge Taylor stated there is a media campaign that is part of KYEM and FEMA that has been pushed out to alert the public of the closure of CSEPP.

Jill stated that the media aspect is part of the transition campaign, to reinforce that there is life after CSEPP and what preparedness now looks like.

Magistrate Botkin stated that it is amazing that of the hundreds of thousands of hours of work that was done with the chemical decontamination, there were zero accidents.

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 2025-085 — CSEPP FY23 Grant Funding MOA Contract Modification #2:

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Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-085 — CSEPP FY23 Grant Funding MOA Contract Modification #2 for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves modification #2 to extend the FY23 CSEPP Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Grant funds contract to provide additional time for closeout completion of the grant.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2025-085 — CSEPP FY23 Grant Funding MOA Contract Modification #2.

Jill stated this Resolution extends their deadline to have everything done and closed out by December 30, 2025, and allows KYEM until March 31, 2026, to reimburse the County for the closeout expenses that will happen in October, November, and December.

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 2025-086 — Madison County Board of Adjustments Appointment:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-086 — Madison County Board of Adjustments Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment of Jason Mays to the Madison County Board of Adjustments, with an expiration date of June 20, 2028.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2025-086 — Madison County Board of Adjustments Appointment approving the appointment of Jason Mays to the Madison County Board of Adjustments, with an expiration date of June 20, 2028.

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 2025-087 — Crutcher Pike Bridge Decking and Concrete Bid

Awards:

Scott Shepherd, Road Supervisor, presented Resolution 2025-087 — Crutcher Pike Bridge Decking and Concrete Bid Awards for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve the bid awards for bridge decking and concrete for the Crutcher Pike bridge to D-MAC Industries in the amount of \$6,809.00 for the bridge decking, and to Stewart Contracting Corp in the amount of \$18,800.00 for concrete.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-087 — Crutcher Pike Bridge Decking and Concrete Bid Awards.

Judge Taylor stated that there has been a lot of work that the Road Department does themselves, like the labor of a project.

Scott stated that this quote doesn't include beams. He is having a difficult time getting quotes for the beams which is delaying the process.

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: Resolution 2025-088 — Ratify Eastern Kentucky University's Madison Airport Board, Inc. Appointment:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2025-088— Ratify Eastern Kentucky University's Madison Airport Board, Inc. Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to ratify the Eastern Kentucky University

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Appointment to the Madison Airport Board, Inc. and appointing Colleen Chaney, with an expiration date of September 14, 2029.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-088— Ratify Eastern Kentucky University's Madison Airport Board, Inc. Appointment, appointing Colleen Chaney, with an expiration date of September 14, 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 2025-089 — Ratify Eastern Kentucky University's Madison Airport Board, Inc. Appointment:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2025-089— Ratify Eastern Kentucky University's Madison Airport Board, Inc. Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to ratify the Eastern Kentucky University Appointment to the Madison Airport Board, Inc. and appointing Dr. Tim Ross, with an expiration date of September 14, 2029.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes was seconded by James Brian Combs to approve presented Resolution 2025-089— Ratify Eastern Kentucky University's Madison Airport Board, Inc. Appointment, appointing Dr. Tim Ross, with an expiration date of September 14, 2029.

Magistrate Botkin stated that they are very fortunate to have Dr. Tim Ross and Colleen Chaney on the Airport Board.

Magistrate Combs thanked those that have been appointed today for their willingness to serve and be a part of the community.

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 2025-090 — P25 Public Safety Radio System Maintenance Bid Award:

Chris Iseral, Chief Information Officer, presented Resolution 2025-090 — P25 Public Safety Radio System Maintenance Bid Award for the Court's approval. This Resolution is to approve a bid award for P25 Public Safety Radio Safety Radio System Maintenance to AMK Services.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2025-090 — P25 Public Safety Radio System Maintenance Bid Award.

Magistrate Botkin asked if there will be any flexibility in the pricing in reference to the year-by-year pricing for the warranty and maintenance in which the life cycle replacement amount is included in year seven. He asked if that replacement amount could be amortized over years one through seven. Judge Taylor stated that he believes they will take that amount and divide it over the number of years, and budget for that amount, with any excess funds going into investments. That is how the financial model in designed.

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 2025-091 — Amended Madison County Emergency Communications Center Interlocal Agreement:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-091 — Amended Madison County Emergency Communication Center Interlocal Agreement for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves an

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amended Madison County Emergency Communications Center Interlocal Agreement and supersedes Resolution 2024-131.

Motion by James Brian Combs seconded by Tom Botkin to approve Resolution 2025-091 — Amended Madison County Emergency Communication Center Interlocal Agreement.

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:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, recommended the hiring of James Berryman as Medium Duty Mechanic, at a rate of \$25 per hour, effective September 26, 2025.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Tom Botkin to approve the hiring of James Berryman as Medium Duty Mechanic, at a rate of \$25 per hour, effective September 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	

IN RE: Employee Spotlight:

Kenny Barger, Clerk, spotlighted Teresa Covington, Deputy Clerk since 2002. A colleague stated that Teresa is dedicated to serving the citizens of Madison County. She takes her job seriously and makes every effort to ensure tasks are completed to the best of her ability; the Clerk's Office is thankful to have her on their team. Clerk Barger stated that Teresa was one of the key people in the Clerk's Office when he first started that saw how the office could be and the drive to help change that culture. He stated that the Madison County Clerk's Office is the most efficient Clerk's Office in the state, and it is all due to employees like Teresa.

IN RE: Judge's Report:

- The 17th Annual Paint the Town Pink Kick-Off Celebration will be on Friday, September 26th at 10:30 AM at the Madison County Courthouse. If it rains, the event will be held in the Fiscal Courtroom.
 - There is also a Neon Night Run/Walk (a Paint the Town Pink event) on Friday, October 3rd in downtown Richmond on Water Street. The Block Party is from 7:00 – 10:00 PM. The race begins at 8:00 PM.
- Madison Central's homecoming parade will be Thursday, September 25th. The parade begins at 6:00 PM and should arrive on Main Street at 7:00 PM. The Indians will play Great Crossing on Friday, September 26th at 7:30 PM. Please be mindful of road closures and increased traffic in the area.
- Kentucky Riverkeeper's Madison County Road Clean-up Day will be on Sunday, September 28th from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Meet at the gazebo at Union City Park. There will be a picnic after the clean-up.
- 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 Solid Waste department at 859-624-4709 for more information.

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- The 2025 Millstone Festival will be on Saturday, October 4th on Main Street in downtown Richmond. Contact Richmond Parks and Recreation for more information. Please be mindful of road closures and increased traffic in the area.
- 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 asked if there was anything he could do to get signage/notification out of increased traffic or to help mitigate the traffic in the future due to the construction of the new Waco Elementary School and the Meadowbrook development. Judge Taylor stated that they have been having conversations with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet but suggested he could send an email as well to keep the conversations going. Judge Taylor stated there needs to be a planning workshop when the State is doing road projects, like the interstate re-paving or the work on Highway 25, that involves the law enforcement agencies, first responders, elected officials from the area, etc., to plan secondary routes that will be used during the road work.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he is concerned about the project on Highway 25 not being helpful for the traffic flow coming from Duncannon. He believes that now is the time they should be lobbying to get 25 fixed and have it as a 4-lane highway to Berea. He stated that he wished they had been able to have a bigger hand in the decision-making process of the Highway 25 project. Magistrate Lochmueller agreed, stating that they need to figure out how to have meaningful discussions that can be received on behalf of the State engineering staff. Magistrate Botkin stated they are finished with the blacktop in the 4th District and thanked the Road Department for all their work on that.

Magistrate Combs thanked Teresa and expressed his appreciation for all she does at the Clerk's Office, and also thanked Scott and the Road Department for all the work they did on Fentress Ln. He wished his daughter, Anna, a Happy 26th Birthday.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that they are still working in District 2. Scott and his crew are working on the Crutcher Pike bridge, and they will be working with the electrical company soon to repair the new blacktop on Lower Hines Creek that was torn up by the electrical company. There is more paving that needs to be done in District 2 and asked the public to be patient with the work. He also expressed his appreciation to Teresa.

Attorney Haymond expressed her appreciation to Teresa and stated that the recognition is well deserved.

Clerk Barger stated that they have to start forcing other agencies to work with them. He is dealing with issues in working with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to try to be a partner with the County Clerk's Offices when it comes to motor vehicle licensing and titling cars using electronic licensing. Getting the people that are closest to the problem involved in the decision-making process is important because they are the ones closest to the solution.

Comments from Department Heads:

Scott Shepherd reminded the public that the Litter Abatement Program started on the 15th of September. They have put a large orange sign at the beginning and end of each road they are working on. He asked the public if they see one of these signs to please slow down and use caution as most of the individuals that are picking up litter on these roads are teenagers.

Public Comments:

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No Public Comments.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for October 14, 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 Stephen Lochmueller. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE