

Meeting Date; 10/14/2025
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 14th of October 2025 at 9:30AM 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 Assistant Attorney Brooke Bowman, Madison County Sheriff Mike Coyle, 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 Jeremy Haskins, Pastor of Ashland 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 9-23-2025:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on September 23, 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: Proclamation – Kentucky Extension Homemakers Week:

Judge Taylor proclaimed October 12th through October 18, 2025, as Kentucky Extension Homemakers Week and urged all citizens to participate in Extension Homemakers activities in their communities.

Robin Harris, Homemaker President, was in attendance to accept the Proclamation.

Judge Taylor expressed his appreciation to the Homemakers and all they do for the community. Robin talked about some of the activities they do, including making bears for children that have to go to the hospital, cooking classes, sewing/quilting clubs, and even classes for mothers and their children to attend together. She invited everyone to come out to the Extension Homemakers office to see all the different activities they do. They currently have a little over 300 homemakers in the Madison County organization, and they will be having their annual Homemakers meeting in Georgetown this Friday.

IN RE: Resolution 2025-092 — General ASAP Grant FY26 Budget Amendment:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2025-092 — General ASAP Grant FY Budget Amendment for the Court's approval. This Resolution authorizes the budget amendments for the FY26 General ASAP grant per recommendation from the Madison County ASAP (Agency for Substance Abuse Policy) Board.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by Billy Ray Hughes to approve Resolution 2025-092 — General ASAP Grant FY26 Budget 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: Resolution 2025-093 — Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Fund Establishment:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2025-093 — Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Fund Establishment for the Court's approval. This Resolution establishes the Madison County Emergency Management Agency Fund and supports the interlocal agreement between Madison County, the City of

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Richmond, and the City of Berea to support emergency management services for all citizens, emergencies, and first responders.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-093 — Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Fund Establishment.

Magistrate Botkin asked what the B, R, and E stood for on the supporting documents. Judge Taylor explained that the B stands for Banking, the R stands for Revenue, and the E stands for Expenditures.

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: 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-010 — Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Fund FY26 Budget Amendment:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-010 — Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Fund FY26 Budget Amendment for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance relating to the budget amendment of the Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Fund budget.

The 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-010 — Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Fund FY26 Budget Amendment was read and acknowledged by the Court.

Magistrate Botkin asked what drove the determination for what the support would be for each entity. Judge Taylor stated that it was based on population. He went on to explain that the County had always provided the EMA services, but with the closing of CSEPP, they will now have a joint Emergency Management with both cities, so they are all sharing in the cost.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-011 — Restructuring of 911 Fee Collection for the Madison County Emergency Communications Center:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-011 — Restructuring of 911 Fee Collection for the Madison County Emergency Communications Center for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance relating to the restructuring of funding of the Emergency Communications Center/Enhanced 911 service through implementation of a water meter fee in the unincorporated areas of Madison County, Kentucky, and repealing Ordinance 07-11.

The 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-011 — Restructuring of 911 Fee Collection for the Madison County Emergency Communications Center was read and acknowledged by the Court.

Magistrate Botkin asked what the amount generated would be from each classification with the addition of an Industrial/Large Commercial classification. Jill explained that they initially had the non-commercial and commercial classifications but after talking with the utility partners to understand the difference in the different types of businesses, they were able to add the industrial/large commercial classification so the commercial businesses that are not as large as industrial businesses would pay a lower amount. Judge Taylor stated that with the addition of the industrial/large commercial classification, they were being more equitable. Jill also explained that the financial aspect was reallocated so that the amount that they needed to collect would still be the same with the Non-Commercial classification paying \$3.50 a month per meter, the Commercial classification paying \$12.50 a month per meter, and the Industrial/Large Commercial classification paying \$25.00 a month per meter. Magistrate Botkin also asked who pays the collection cost that the water companies will charge. Judge Taylor stated that it is figured into the financial model of what comes out of the collection amount.

Magistrate Lochmueller clarified that this fee structure is just for those within the unincorporated county limits. The City of Richmond and the City of Berea will be doing their own thing for their residents.

IN RE: 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-012 — Franchise for the Operations and Maintenance of a Telecommunications System in Madison County, Kentucky:

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Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-012 — Franchise for the Operations and Maintenance of a Telecommunications System in Madison County, Kentucky for the Court's approval. This is an Ordinance relating to the Madison County Fiscal Court creating a franchise for the operation and maintenance of a telecommunications (non-cable) system in the county of Madison, Kentucky, setting forth conditions accompanying the grant of franchise and providing the regulation and use of said system.

The 1st Reading Ordinance 2025-012 — Franchise for the Operations and Maintenance of a Telecommunications System in Madison County, Kentucky was read and acknowledged by the Court. Magistrate Botkin clarified that the \$5,000 application fee is non-refundable. Jill stated that it was correct. He also asked about the franchise fee not having to be paid if they are paying the excise tax to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Jill had stated that they have the choice to go one way or another in that regard. Magistrate Botkin also asked if they would have to have a new contract with Charter, who was also sold to another company, for a new franchise fee in the future or if that new company would be grandfathered in. Jill stated that it depends on the terms of the bid and award. They have sought out to update their franchise fee already, and the County has already been in contact with their representatives to discuss that process. Magistrate Botkin also commended the writer of this document. Judge Taylor stated that Linda Ain is the counsel that helps with the franchise and telecommunication agreements, and they are grateful to have her as a partner to guide them.

IN RE: Resolution 2025-094 — TC Energy Build Strong Grant Funds Application:

Tim Gray, Fire Chief and EMA Director, presented Resolution 2025-094 — TC Energy Build Strong Grant Funds Application for the Court's approval. This Resolution is for the application and administration of TC Energy Build Strong Funds for a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) compressor fill station. Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-094 — TC Energy Build Strong Grant Funds Application.

Magistrate Combs asked if this is a portable fill station or stationary. Chief Gray stated that it will go in the new station that will be built. They currently have one at Station 1, which is a stationary machine that is about 26 years old, and one on a mobile trailer at Station 2 that can be moved to any location that's about 10 years old.

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 2025-095 — Madison County Board of Health Appointment:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2025-095 — Madison County Board of Health Appointment for the Court's approval. This Resolution approves the appointment Dr. Paula Maionchi to the Madison County Board of Health, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-095 — Madison County Board of Health Appointment approving the appointment of Dr. Paula Maionchi to the Madison County Board of Health, with an expiration date of December 31, 2027.

Magistrate Combs thanked Dr. Maionchi for all she does for the community and for serving on the 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 2025-096 — American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Reallocation of Funds:

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Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-096 — American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Reallocation of Funds for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court reallocating ARPA funds from the Southern Madison Water District project to the Northern Madison County Fire Station project.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-096 — American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Reallocation of Funds.

Magistrate Botkin asked if the water district had already seized all their funds. Jill stated that it has not been to completion yet. They do payouts as those projects are completed in a reimbursement style. To date, they have been reimbursed \$340,311.54 and will use a total of \$581,842.29 for the purpose of this project.

Magistrate Combs commended the Southern Madison Water District Board for their due diligence in getting this project completed under bid.

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 2025-097 — Southern Madison Water District Project Funding:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-097 — Southern Madison Water District Project Funding for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court allocating funds to the Southern Madison Water District project for identified projects.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-097 — Southern Madison Water District Project Funding.

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 2025-098 — Amend Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2025-2026:

Jill Williams, Deputy Judge Executive, presented Resolution 2025-098 — Amend Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2025-2026 for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution of the Madison County Fiscal Court approving to amend the Employee Classification Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and supersedes Resolution 2025-059.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve Resolution 2025-098 — Amend Employee Classification Schedule for FY 2025-2026.

Magistrate Botkin stated that he understands the need for this but doesn't agree that this is right time for this change. Judge Taylor stated that he feels this is an exception, not a rule, and sometimes they need to make exceptions based on the circumstances. There was a lot of discussion with Jailer Brock, and he felt like this is something that needs to be done so they can keep making improvements at the jail.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated that they have to provide leadership, and they have someone leading the jail in a positive manner for the future. He doesn't disagree that the timing is not good but feels that they have to do what is right for the County and the jail.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows:

James Brian Combs-Yes	Stephen Lochmueller-Yes
Billy Ray Hughes- Yes	Tom Botkin- No
Reagan Taylor – Yes	

IN RE: Personnel:

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Jessica Coffey, Human Resource Director, recommended the hiring of Holly Carter as Custodial I, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective October 29, 2025; the hiring of Nathaniel Wells as a part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.25 per hour, effective October 29, 2025, and the hiring of Natasha Parsons as EMA Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$19 per hour, effective November 13, 2025.

Motion by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs the hiring of hiring of Holly Carter as Custodial I, at a rate of \$13 per hour, effective October 29, 2025; the hiring of Nathaniel Wells as a part-time Firefighter, at a rate of \$9.25 per hour, effective October 29, 2025, and the hiring of Natasha Parsons as EMA Administrative Assistant, at a rate of \$19 per hour, effective November 13, 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 Tim Gray, Fire Chief and EMA Director, who has been with the County since 2018. Multiple colleagues stated that Chief Gray is an outstanding leader, team player, and mentor, who leads by example, and with compassion and respect. He never asks his team to do any job that he wouldn't do himself and continuously encourages his employees to do their part and strive for excellence but is there to lift them up if they stumble. His colleagues expressed that they are grateful to have the opportunity to work alongside him, stating that Madison County needs more people like Chief Gray.

Jill stated that when Chief Gray was asked to add on the EMA Director responsibilities, he was willing to take on that huge undertaking without complaint, while continuing to lead the fire service and first responders. She expressed her appreciation to Chief Gray for all he has done for the County.

Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Chief Gray for the great job he does with both the EMS and Fire Department.

RE: Judge's Report:

- EKU's homecoming parade will be Friday, October 24th beginning at 6:00 PM. There will be a Block Party on Water Street after the parade. Please be mindful of road closures and pedestrians in the downtown area. Kickoff for their homecoming game is 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 25th.
- Join us for the Madison County Animal Shelter Howl-a-ween Adoption Event on Wednesday, October 29th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at White Hall Park in Richmond.
- The State of the County Address will be Thursday, October 30th at noon at the ECU Perkins Building. Visit richmondchamber.com to purchase tickets.
- Trick-or-Treat Night for Madison County, Berea, and Richmond will be Friday, October 31st from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Please be mindful of the kids that will be out trick-or-treating.
- The Farm City Banquet is on Monday, November 10th at 6:00 PM. Tickets are on sale until November 4th. Call the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office at 859-623-4072 for more information.
- 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:

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Magistrate Hughes stated that the Waco Volunteer Fire Department is having their Truck and Tractor Pull this Saturday night, and he encouraged everyone to go out to support them.

Magistrate Botkin expressed his appreciation to Scott and the Road Department for the blacktop repair work they have been doing. He stated that he agrees with what Jailer Brock is doing at the jail, the updated job description is a good thing, and he supports them 100%. He also wished his sister, Teresa, a Happy Birthday.

Magistrate Combs thanked all the County employees and Department Heads for all they do.

Magistrate Lochmueller stated the Road Department will be starting work on Simpson Lane and Three Forks Road this week, and the public is advised to use caution in these areas.

Comments from Department Heads:

No comments from Department Heads.

Public Comments:

Debbie Vescio, 204 Crimson Drive Richmond, KY, spoke on Resolution 2024-08, particularly on the discontinuation of maintenance for the gravel portion of Haden Heights. She stated that only one (1) sign was posted at the time of the discontinuation, and that the Road Department did maintain the gravel portion of Haden Heights up until August 2023. She asked the Court to introduce a new Resolution to continue the maintenance of the gravel portion of Haden Heights.

Judge Taylor thanked Debbie for the information and stated that they would look into it.

IN RE: Pay Claims and Approve Transfers:

Motion made by Stephen Lochmueller seconded by James Brian Combs to approve to pay claims and transfers.

ANNOUNCE NEXT COURT DATE:

Judge Taylor announced the next court date for October 28, 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 10:30 AM.


REAGAN TAYLOR MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE