

Meeting Date: 1/29/2026
Meeting of: Madison County Fiscal Court
Meeting Type: Special Called

HONORABLE REAGAN TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE PRESIDING

The Madison County Fiscal Court convened in a special called session on the 29th of January 2026 at 10:30 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 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 Brandon Robbins, Revival House Ministry, to lead the Court in prayer.

Judge Taylor asked Sheriff Mike Coyle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: Approval of Special Called Work Session Minutes 1-12-2026:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by Stephen Lochmueller to approve the minutes from the special called work session on January 12, 2026.

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 1-13-2026:

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the minutes from the regularly called meeting on January 13, 2026.

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).

Judge Taylor stated that as of this morning, they used about 2,000 tons of salt at \$106/ton for a total of \$212,000, had 30 hours of overtime and 40 hours of regular time for about \$55,000 in labor, about \$10,000 in maintenance and repair costs, and \$20,000 in fuel cost for a total of approximately \$297,000 for this recent snow event so far.

Magistrate Lochmueller commended the Madison County Road Department for helping work on some state roads. He explained that the State has a process on the order of the roads they have to clear. He also thanked everyone that has helped the citizens during this snowstorm.

IN RE: Resolution 2026-006 — Petco Love Animal Welfare Grant Funds Application:

Judge Taylor presented Resolution 2026-006 — Petco Love Animal Welfare Grant Funds Application for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution relating to an application and administration of Petco Love Animal Welfare Grant Program funds.

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Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2025-006 — Petco Love Animal Welfare Grant Funds 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 2026-007 — Animal Shelter Interlocal Agreement Between City of Richmond and Madison County Fiscal Court:

Sarah Stewart, Treasurer, presented Resolution 2026-007 — Animal Shelter Interlocal Agreement Between City of Richmond and Madison County Fiscal Court for the Court's approval. This is a Resolution relating to an animal shelter interlocal agreement between the City of Richmond and the Madison County Fiscal Court.

Motion by Tom Botkin seconded by James Brian Combs to approve Resolution 2026-007 — Animal Shelter Interlocal Agreement Between City of Richmond and Madison County Fiscal Court.

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 hiring of Benjamin Gray as General Laborer, at a rate of \$16 per hour, effective January 28, 2026; the hiring of Jonathon Thompson as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective January 28, 2026; and the hiring of Ricky New as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective January 28, 2026.

Motion by Billy Ray Hughes seconded by James Brian Combs to approve the hiring of Benjamin Gray as General Laborer, at a rate of \$16 per hour, effective January 28, 2026; the hiring of Jonathon Thompson as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective January 28, 2026; and the hiring of Ricky New as CDL Truck Driver/General Laborer, at a rate of \$20 per hour, effective January 28, 2026. 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:

- I wanted to take a moment to thank some individuals in our community.
 - Ashlie Hatton and her team at Mags and Moose Pet Resort for offering pet care services to our first responders, essential personnel, and hospital staff while they worked to ensure citizens were cared for during the recent winter storm. Madison County is fortunate to have citizens like you in our community. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.
 - All of the citizens that volunteered to foster some of our shelter animals to ensure they had a warm place to stay during the storm.
 - All of the citizens that offered kind words during this challenging storm.
 - All the folks that offered equipment and services to help clear the roads.
- I also want to thank all of our employees for getting us through the storm.

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- Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc is accepting applications for crisis energy assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applications will be accepted through March 27, 2026, or until available funds are expended. Visit www.foothillscap.org 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.
- You can also visit www.madisoncountky.gov/community-resources. This page provides general community resource information for Madison County residents. While this page does not list individual programs, residents can search for services such as food assistance, housing support, healthcare, transportation, and other needs by using the **Find Help** button on the page. This button directs you to an external resource directory that offers searchable listings by need or location. The external website is not managed or endorsed by Madison County.

Comments from Magistrates:

Judge Taylor stated that this was the hardest weather event he has been through as Judge due to all the ice. He expressed his appreciation to those that helped get the County Departments opened back up after only two days off.

Magistrate Botkin thanked all the staff for their work during the snow event and commended the County Road Department for how well the county roads look. He stated that he had received several calls on state roads, particularly on Poosey Ridge past New Road, which hadn't been touched. He is talking with the State Road Department to see if they can get down there to help those that live there, if possible. The Road Departments have done a great job, working 10- and 12-hour shifts, and the salt can only do so much on ice in temperatures that stay below freezing. He also expressed his appreciation to Judge Taylor and the staff for clearing off the sidewalks of the County offices for customers.

Magistrate Combs thanked everyone that had a part in helping during this event. He encouraged the public to thank the State and County Road Departments for all their hard work. We are not used to the temperatures being so cold for so long, making it difficult for salt to penetrate through the ice.

Magistrate Lochmueller concurred with all that Magistrate's Botkin and Combs has said.

Magistrate Hughes stated that he is looking forward to the meeting with the City of Richmond and City of Berea today to brainstorm issues on bettering their communities.

Comments from Department Heads:

Chief Gray stated that at 4:00 PM on Saturday until 8:00 AM Tuesday, they declared that they were going to open their Central Riders Program through the 911 Dispatchers to dispatch out to the Sheriff's Office, Richmond Police Department, Berea Police Department, Berea Fire Department, Richmond Fire Department, Madison County Fire Department, and Madison County EMA for essential workers needing rides to work. They did a total of 247 transports of essential workers, and 325 hours of transportation time. They also had to call the National Guard to do transport requests for some of the essential workers that live out of the county, which is not included in these numbers.

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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 February 10, 2026, in 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 10:52 AM.



REAGAN TAYLOR, MADISON CO. JUDGE/EXECUTIVE