

UNION COUNTY FISCAL COURT

August 11, 2020

All supporting documents to these Minutes may be found in the office of the County Judge/Executive.

The meeting was called to order by Judge O’Nan at 9:00 a.m. with a Prayer by Bro. Jerry Manning and the Pledge to the American flag.

The Union County Fiscal Court met in regular session with Judge O’Nan presiding. The Union County Fiscal Court met in the Fiscal Courtroom but social distancing was practiced and the meeting was livestreamed on Facebook. Magistrates present were Wyatt, Floyd, Ricketts, Byrnes and Clements.

The minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting were accepted as read.

Judge O’Nan presented a report from the Surplus Auction that was held on August 1, 2020 by Red Hat Realty. He felt that the auction was a huge success, with it netting the County \$25,298.50.

At the July 28th Court meeting, the Magistrates asked the Judge if he could come up with some specific details on what the closing of a jail looks like and present it at this meeting. Judge O’Nan, Union County Attorney, Julie Wallace and Jailer, Shawn Elder worked together to come up with these details. Judge O’Nan presented the Court with a memorandum and a policy and procedure manual that the County Attorney will look over, as well. He said that Jailer Elder has provided an “extensive road map” as to how it will look moving forward. The Judge will also supply them with the proposed contract with Webster County, that is not the final contract but pretty close to the finished product for them to look over. They can address any questions that they may have to Julie, Shawn or himself. Judge O’Nan asked the Magistrates how much time they thought they would need to come up with their decisions as to one of these 3 choices:

1. Continue to operate the current jail as is
2. Build a new jail, which would probably cost in excess of over \$12 million
3. Close our jail, which would save the County money

before they were asked to cast a vote. Magistrate Ricketts said that he felt that they would be able to present their decisions and cast a vote by the first meeting in September, which will be Tuesday, September 8th.

Magistrate Byrnes asked if closing the jail would prohibit the County from ever being able to open another jail down the line. The Judge stated that it would not prevent the County from opening another jail, it would prevent them from being able to open back up in the existing building. He also said that in just a matter of his own opinion, if we were to ever open another jail, it would depend on the focus of the State and whether or not they could be helpful on that. He also said that he would want to figure out what got the inmate there so that some kind of addiction counseling and some kind of vocational training to prepare the inmates for life outside of the jail when they were released would be included, hoping that this would cut down on the repeat offenders that keep coming back again and again. Jailer Elder concurred that most of his inmates are the same ones for the same charge over and over, month after month. The Judge would not

want the County to be just punitive but helpful. He also noted that he does not see another jail in the County in the near future.

Over the weekend, Ray Steward, who is over the County's maintenance, had to work on a very serious septic issue. It is so bad that some inmates may have to be moved to Webster County until this problem can be resolved. This does not have anything to do with the closing of the jail, but strictly has to do with the health and safety concerns of the inmates until the jail is able to operate in a safe and sanitary manner.

Jailer Elder told the Court that the biggest issues that the jail is facing now is that several of his employees have sought other employment due to the discussions of closing the jail and the septic issue. He also noted that if the County is going to be a transport facility, he will need to purchase a transport vehicle and the equipment that goes with it. He talked with the State and they have approved for him to use commissary money to make the purchase which will cover about 98% of the cost with the County to cover the remaining. Judge O'Nan asked that the Court wait until they have made a decision on what's to happen with the jail before they approve the purchase. Currently the jail has 31 state inmates and 14 county inmates. Already having prices from Crittenden and Webster County on the cost of housing inmates at their facilities, Magistrate Clements asked the Judge to get prices from Henderson County, as well.

In other matters, the Court appointed Travis Neitz to a 3year term to the Assessment Board of Appeals upon the recommendation of PVA, Clay Wells. The Court also accepted a donation in the amount of \$1,217.49 to be used at the James D. Veatch Camp Breckenridge Museum and Arts Center from the Union County Quilt Trail Project. After 11 years and 121 quilts later, the Project has decided to disperse. Anna Morgan Girvin and Vicki Ricketts were said to be "The Heart and Soul of the quilt making process, having painted nearly all of them. Paul Monsour made the donation on behalf of the project. Magistrate Byres made a motion to accept the donation, seconded by Magistrate Clements, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan presented the first reading of an Ordinance Reducing the Speed Limit on Ben Shouse Road to 25mph. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to approve the first reading, seconded by Magistrate Clements. Roll was called as follows:

Magistrate Wyatt - Yes
Magistrate Floyd - Yes
Magistrate Ricketts - Yes
Magistrate Byrnes - Yes
Magistrate Clements - Yes
Judge O'Nan - Yes

Motion carried.

The District #2 Madisonville Office presented to us \$36,522 to pave the state roads in the boundary of Union County, which will be Hwy. 141 and Hwy. 758. Flex Funds were in the amount of \$138,710 for Hwy. 358, suggested by the State. The Court decided to reject the State's road suggestion and to put the funds into our inventory and use it for the roads presented:

- District 1-Ed Ricketts Rd.
- District 2-Waverly and V.T. Crawley Rd.

- District 3-Shiloh and Antioch Rd.
- District 4-Persimmon Ridge and William Ball Rd.
- District 5-Yancy Greenwell and Persimmon Rd.

Magistrate Floyd made a motion to accept these roads and present to the State for approval the use of Flex Funds to pay for it, seconded by Magistrate Byrnes, motion carried.

Magistrate Floyd made a motion to approve the July, 2020 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

All claims are to be paid as presented.

Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve the Transfers, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Sean Sheffer presented a Census report to the Court giving the following percentages:

- Kentucky - 66.1%
- Union County - 66.2%
- Morganfield - 69.5%
- Waverly - 71.1%
- Sturgis - 66.2%
- Uniontown - 52.7%

Sean said that the Census workers will start going door to door later this week. They will have identification, will practice social distancing and should only be there for 5 minutes or less.

Judge O'Nan stated that we desperately need the county to participate and to cooperate.

Judge O'Nan stated that work on Hwy. 60 was completed for now and that it was greatly improved. Rumble strips and guard rails should be installed in the next month. He expressed his Thanks to the District #2 staff, Deneatra Henderson, Ethan Johnson, Jason Ward and also to State Representative, Suzanne Miles for all their work in getting this done.

The Magistrates were made aware that work continues on the Millikan building that the County is wanting to purchase for the Rescue Squad. When the EPA came and walked through the building, they found no major concerns. They will put together a letter letting us know what our next step will be. They are working very hard to make this transaction possible. The Court also learned that the roof at the Annex building is leaking. The roof has a 20year life and it is past that. The Judge asked that Sean Sheffer get bid specs ready for a bid package to be sent out. A bid date will be set at the next Court meeting which will be August 25th.

Judge O'Nan also wanted to commend and recognize our Senior Citizen Staff who have served 15,000 meals to our seniors since the beginning of COVID-19. Because of this, they have made it possible to keep the County's most vulnerable citizens at home. The Judge said that the set up they have at the Senior Building is set up like a "well-oiled machine".

The Judge made the Court aware that we continue to meet with FEMA and the Kentucky Department of Emergency Management on our dredging projects in Uniontown and the Blackburn Boat Ramp. He is also working on getting road signs for Grangertown. He has met

with Chuck several times regarding this and with all the rain, ditching is an issue for both State and County roads. The County State road staff is always very receptive to helping the County out with different road issues.

Magistrate Wyatt wanted to know what the status was of the Grant for the Museum. Judge O’Nan had reached out to our Grant writer and she said that we should hear something from it sometime in August. The Judge stated that whether or not we receive the Grant, work on the Museum has to be done.

Magistrate Floyd wanted to Thank Greg Noel and Sean Sheffer for all the work they put into the Uniontown Dredging Project. He Thanked the First Responders for their quick response to there being a tree down over the road in Uniontown Sunday afternoon. He also wanted to remind everyone about St. Agnes’ Drive-Thru Picnic that will be held on Saturday, September 12th.

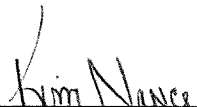
Magistrate Ricketts said that he was just wanting to get with Sean Sheffer to go out to Moffit Lake and look at the cabins. Judge O’Nan stated that they are in the process of working on the septic.

Magistrate Byrnes wanted to Thank Mike and the road crew for the work they’ve done on the ditching at Wynn Addition.


Magistrate Clements wanted to know what the status was on the damage done to Ben Ladd Road from hauling dirt on Hwy. 60. Mike Schmied said that he had not gotten a response from Road Builders and that it was going to be Road Builders responsibility to get the road back in shape.

Before Court was adjourned, Judge O’Nan told the Court that as of Tuesday, the County had one additional case of COVID-19 bringing our total to 64. With that being said, he expressed his concern with the organizers of the Sturgis Rally who are still planning to have it. He said that he personally thinks it is a bad idea to have it this year and that he would rather see the local picnics, Corn Festival and things of that nature being held, because those are all our people. He stressed that he was strictly speaking for himself, but he wanted the public to know that he didn’t think bringing in 4000 to 6000 people from other states was a good idea. With the cancellation of many other events and activities and with schools being advised to not open to in person classes, and to open virtually instead, are causes for concern to having the Rally and exposing the County to several hundred motorcyclists. He expressed his concern for the health and safety of the County’s residents.

There being no further business to come before the Court, a motion to adjourn was made by Magistrate Floyd, seconded by Magistrate Wyatt, motion carried.



Fiscal Court Clerk
Kim Nance



Adam O’Nan
County Judge/Executive