

UNION COUNTY FISCAL MEETING

September 8, 2020

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

The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. with a Prayer by Judge O’Nan, and the Pledge to the American flag.

The Union County Fiscal Court met in regular session with the Honorable Adam O’Nan presiding. Due to the Corona Virus the Union County Fiscal Court met in the upstairs Courtroom so that social distancing could be practiced and the meeting was livestreamed on Facebook. Magistrates present were Wyatt, Floyd, Ricketts and Clements.

The minutes from the August 25, 2020 meeting were accepted as read.

Debbie McClanahan, with the Union County Library presented the 2020 tax rates that were set by the Library Board of Trustees:

- Real Property tax rate is 6.6 cents per hundred which is down from last year’s rate of 8.1 cents per hundred.
- Personal Property tax rate is 6.6 cents per hundred which is down from last year’s rate of 8.3 per cents per hundred.

The Board felt that with the way the economy is and the way the virus is that these rates would be the most appropriate at this time. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to accept the Union County Library’s tax rates as presented, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Debbie updated the Court about a few safety measures the library is taking in order to operate the best that it can throughout this pandemic. They are still offering curbside service, which is where you call in your order, they get the books together for you, they call and let you know they’re ready, then you call and let them know when you’re there and they bring them to your vehicle and put them in your trunk or back seat. You can also put the books you want in the card catalog and when they receive them, they will get the books together, then call and let you know they are ready for curbside pickup. You can also come to the door if you need faxes or copies. They will meet you at the door, take your papers, do what needs to be done and bring them back to you. Computers are available by appointment only, so you can just call to set up an appointment. All of their programs have gone virtual and they are really pushing the E-books. Books are also sanitized. They are quarantined for two days, wiped down with Clorox wipes and then stood up and sprayed. The Court expressed their Thanks for all of the precautions the Library is taking to help ensure the safety of the County.

Union County Clerk, Garrick Thompson came before the Court to give us the latest updates in regards to voting in the General election. October 5th is the deadline to register to vote. You can register online at elect.ky.gov or you can give his office a call. As with the Primary election, mail in voting is an option. You can make a request for a mail in ballot online or once again, call their office. Garrick and Judge O’Nan, will both share the link for mail in voting on their Facebook page. The deadline to make an online portal request is October 9th. After this, the only way to request an absentee ballot is by calling his office. According to the Emergency

Administrative Regulation, requests made after October 9th, can only be made through the Clerk's office and can only be made by those with a medical emergency. The Clerk's Office will not have the ballots from the State until late September. Your return postage will be paid for and you can send the ballot back through the mail or put it in the drop box that is inside the Courthouse. The drop box is checked every day. Subject to approval by the Secretary of State's office and the Governor, they plan to start early voting no later than Tuesday, October 13th. He's hoping that can be moved up, but as of right now, October 13th is the earliest. Early voting will be hosted at the Camp Breckenridge Museum, from October 13 thru November 2, Monday thru Friday from 8:00a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Any registered Union County voter can vote early at the Museum, regardless of where you live in the County. Voters will need to wear a mask and bring a photo id. Each Saturday, beginning October 17th early voting will be offered at various locations from 8:00a.m. till 12:00p.m. October 17th will be at a Sturgis location that has yet to be named, October 24th will be at a Waverly location that has yet to be named, and October 31st will be at the Museum. On Election Day, November 3rd, there will be three voting centers in Union County and you can go to any of these three. Normal precincts will not be open on Election Day. Location, parking, handicap accessibility, the ability to social distance and limited availability of poll workers are a few of the factors that led the Board in deciding where voting is to be held. The three places where voting will be on Election Day are the Museum, the Sturgis Elementary cafeteria, this may have to be changed to the gym and the Turner Building in Uniontown. They are working to have a ramp installed for the proposed exit at the Museum and the Sturgis Fire Department has agreed to decontaminate the Sturgis Elementary School cafeteria or gym after Election Day, before school starts the next day. Each site will have two wheelchairs and thanks to Jerry Manning, GRITS will have three buses circulating Union County to take voters to and from election sites. Prior to the election, Garrick will post a number that you can call if you want to take advantage of the GRITS bus. He also stressed that regardless of where you vote, each voting place will have all 13 of the ballot faces. The board, which consists of, Jerry Manning, Mickey Arnold, Pat Donahue and Clerk Thompson, worked very hard on these plans and feel that they have made voting accessible to both the vulnerable and those who wish to vote in person. He plans to give another update at a Fiscal Court Meeting in the near future.

Judge O'Nan presented the second reading of Ordinance 20-04 reducing the speed limit on Ben Shouse Road to 25 m.p.h. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to approve the second reading, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts. Where upon roll was called:

Magistrate Wyatt	-	Yes
Magistrate Floyd	-	Yes
Magistrate Ricketts	-	Yes
Magistrate Byrnes	-	Absent
Magistrate Clements	-	Yes
Judge Executive	-	Yes

Motion was carried. Magistrate Wyatt expressed his thanks to the Court for their support in getting this Ordinance passed.

Judge O'Nan then presented to the Court a MOA for the CARES Act money. We were allotted \$489,618 but at this time we are just requesting a partial amount of \$300,000. This includes reimbursement of expenses and supplies for the Sheriff's Department. Magistrate Floyd

made a motion, allowing the Judge to sign the MOA and send it to DLG, seconded by Magistrate Clements, motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the long, awaited jail decision. The Judge said that he thought it had been talked about for quite a while, and that it had been on his radar for a couple of years. He and Jailer Elder have had discussions about this numerous of times. What Judge O’Nan had originally planned for today was that the Court would vote yes or no on whether or not to close the jail. But because of some good council and a great idea, over the past week, he asked the Court to redirect a little bit. Magistrate Ricketts came in to talk to the Judge earlier in the week and stated the obvious, “we have already virtually closed the jail, because of the sewer issues.” Ricketts wanted to know if we could run a test for the next six months, because we are basing all of our facts and figures on projections on what we think will happen with closing the jail. The jail committee had a meeting, which consists of Magistrate Wyatt, Magistrate Floyd, Judge O’Nan and Jailer Elder, and they called the Justice Department and spoke with Kirstie Willard, who is in charge of facilities. We were very up front with our plan, stating that we are going to quote unquote, “close our jail” but are not wanting to go on record just yet of closing our jail, is this acceptable? Kirstie said that she thought it was a great idea, and that it would be easier for us to reopen at the end of six months if we don’t like the way this is headed. We could reopen, reevaluate our plans and do what might need to be done. Judge O’Nan was under the impression that once a jail was closed, it was closed forever. If we were to close our jail voluntarily, it can be reopened, but if Justice pulls our license, because of inspections or any other reason, then that building is done, never to be reopened again. This plan is going to give us the opportunity to see what it’s really going to look like, if we go forward with closing the jail. Six months coincides with our next budget. In six months, we will be in the process of planning a new budget. Judge O’Nan thinks running a test is a really good idea and thanked Magistrate Ricketts for coming to him, and having a real thoughtful conversation about how we can move forward.

After the jail meeting, Jailer Elder created a breakdown of the cost by line item and presented it to the Court, letting them know that since we have a transport plan, we are no longer shooting in the dark about expenses. After his presentation, Judge O’Nan told the Court what he would like to see us do, is enter an agreement for six months with Webster County, with the contract terms that the Court has been provided, to give us a chance to see what the trend on inmates is and if the trend on State prisoners changes. The jail committee and Webster County are both in agreement with this. The Judge, once again, expressed his thanks to Jailer Elder for all of the work that he’s done and for being so helpful on this matter. All of the Magistrates, expressed their appreciation to the Jailer, his staff and the Jail Committee for a job well done. Magistrate Clements wanted to know how long the contract was for, that was drawn up? Judge O’Nan said that it was a three-year contract. He also wanted to know how closing was going to work on the medical aspect for the prisoners? Elder said that there was no way to predict that. Clements asked if there was any advantage to keeping the jail open with the inmates already being in Webster County, could we utilize it? Elder said that it could be utilized in the case of inclement weather and they were unable to transport. The inmates could be held there for up to ninety-six hours. Clements also wanted to know if Webster County was available to hold Court appearances by video and Jailer Elder said that they were. Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to progress with the six-month trial run with Webster County according to the contract presented,

with the option to renew with the same conditions, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan noted that the jail needs a transport vehicle. Elder has approximately \$34,000 in commissary funds that the State is allowing him to use for this expense. But because they have already started transports, he needs something right now. He and Sheriff Arnold have worked out an agreement to where Elder is going to take Sheriff Arnold’s Tahoe as is because it already has the equipment on it that they will need. This will put him on the road immediately. He also has another vehicle coming to him this week or next week, that’s one of the used patrol trucks, from the Sheriff’s Department. It will be used as a jail transfer vehicle, as well. This will give him two reliable vehicles. They also worked out an agreement, since Sheriff Arnold received a grant where they received new fire arms, and they still have their old ones, they are going to surplus those to the jail and there will be no expenses for that. With Sheriff Arnold letting the jail have his Tahoe for transport, he is going to be short a vehicle. So, Jailer Elder is going to give his commissary money, to the Sheriff, for him to purchase a new vehicle, at the state contract price of around \$37,000 from Bachman Chevrolet, which will leave him around \$3,000 short. The 2018 Sheriff’s vehicle that was just totaled, that we kept ownership of to be able to use, has a lot of the equipment that Sheriff Arnold will need for his new Tahoe. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to purchase a Tahoe, at the state contract price from Bachman Chevrolet for Sheriff Arnold, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Claims are to be paid as presented.

Judge O’Nan commended Candy and Will Reburn on the great job they’ve done with the gardens at the Senior Citizens Center. To date, they have 1208 ½lbs. of vegetables and produce. The 1/2lb made them exceed last years total. All of this goes to the Seniors that have lunch at the center. They do this almost completely on their own, with very little money from the Court for seeds & supplies. Also, the Judge, Magistrate Wyatt, Chief Millikan and Russell Wyatt have been working on the ambulance change over. Our First Responders are having issues with the wait time for an ambulance when they are on calls. The Judge feels that this is still growing pains of the transition from Methodist to Deaconess. Since the ambulances are being dispatched from AMR out of Evansville, that could be where there is a little bit of breakdown in communication. Our dispatch is not at fault. He also wanted to report that Deaconess has presented a 10year contract for us sign and that he told them, that we are not going to do that right away. County Attorney, Julie Wallace is looking over the contract regarding the length of term we would do and obviously that would be decided upon by the Court to be approved. They are also preparing a list of the items that they would like to purchase from the Court. County Attorney, Wallace is working with us on this as well. They want to take over our ambulance service in its entirety. Judge O’Nan is hoping to have this done in the next sixty days.

Magistrate Wyatt asked everyone to please stay safe and mask up.

Magistrate Ricketts reported that one of the two playgrounds at Moffit Lake had the rubber mulch added over the weekend and they did a really good job. He encouraged anyone who hasn’t been out and seen the changes and how busy it is, to do so. He also wanted to acknowledge the local law enforcement, as well. With all of the issues we’ve heard or read


about, regarding law enforcement, he wanted all of them to know that they have his support, appreciation and gratitude for putting themselves out there in order to protect our community. In regards to COVID-19, he asked the community to please not get caught up in the political bantering that we are all inundated with daily, to please do the right thing, think of your neighbor in helping to keep them safe and to look out for one another.

Magistrate Floyd reported that final arrangements have been made for the Drive-Thru St. Agnes picnic. It is this Saturday, with rib sales starting at 9a.m, all other meat will start at 11a.m., the raffle ticket sale is still going on and there will be a live feed of the drawings on Facebook. He commended the Moffit Lake committee and the workers for the Wonderful job they are doing. He gets compliments on it quite a bit. He also wanted to know how often the lake is restocked with fish? Judge O’Nan said that we asked KY. Fish & Wildlife to come out there and do an inventory because he had gotten complaints that there’s not any fish. After the inventory, they reported that the lake is abundantly stocked.


Magistrate Clements inquired whether or not the concrete foundations for the pre-built cabins had been completed? The Judge said that the contractor has a couple of things to do to finish them up and that we’ve gotten two quotes on the septic and are ready to move with that. He anticipated that within the next couple of weeks we would be ready to go.

Melissa Coker gave an update on the Census, stating that the National Self Response Rate is at 65.3%, Kentucky is at 67.3%, Union County is at 68%, Morganfield is at 70.6%, Sturgis is at 63.3%, Uniontown is at 54.4% and Waverly is at 72.6%. Each city is continuing to climb since our last Fiscal Court Meeting. The last day to get your survey in is September, 30th and the Census workers will quit visiting in late October.

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



Fiscal Court Clerk
Kim Nance



Adam O’Nan
County Judge/Executive