

UNION COUNTY FISCAL MEETING
January 12, 2021

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 Bro. Jerry Manning, 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, Byrnes and Clements.

The minutes from the December 22, 2020 meeting were accepted as read.

County Clerk, Garrick Thompson presented his 2021 budget with estimated receipts of \$4,441,200.00, estimated total disbursements of \$4,305,163.00 and estimated excess fees of \$136,037.00. Not a lot changed from last year. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to approve the County Clerk’s 2021 budget, seconded by Magistrate Clements, motion carried.

Thompson stated that the voting machines have about reached their life expectancy. He’s hoping to use some of the excess fees to purchase new ones, as well as checking into grant money to help with this. Judge O’Nan wanted to know if the machines could be phased in or if they had to be purchased all at once? He feels that it would be better if we could phase them in over a few years. He was also wondering if there was any way to combine precincts so that we wouldn’t need as many new machines? Thompson said that he thinks it would be possible to combine precincts since it worked so well with this years’ election and because of all the positive feedback he received. He thinks that it would be up to the local Board of Elections whether or not the precincts will be combined. As to whether or not the machines could be phased in, Thompson said that the vendor would be better able to answer that. Because of other questions from the Court, Thompson is going to ask the vendor to come to a meeting to answer any questions the Court may have.

Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to set the Annual order Setting the Maximum Amount for County Clerk Deputies and Assistants in the amount of \$263,463.00, seconded by Magistrate Byrnes, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan then brought before the Court the Architectural Services for the Emergency Operation Center. An Emergency Operation Center was brought up to the Court a few weeks ago, so now what we are trying to do is procure architectural services and then the management construction team services. County Attorney, Julie Wallace has been researching how we go about this and we are going to handle these on two separate occasions. We are allowed under the KRS statute the way we are set up now that we can hire the architectural service without setting bid dates. After reading a Request for Proposals statement and after its approval we can go on and get the hiring process done with the architectural service that has been involved with the elevator and the ones we’ve used for other projects. They are anxious to get started on some design work to see where we get to on the EOC Center. The contract that we had with them

before is limited to \$43,000, which will give us a cost estimate to see if we want to proceed. This keeps from roping us in a high dollar contract with someone whose services we aren't going to use. Since it's such a big project we will need a Construction Management and will bid that out. This will be for the EOC Center and the Breckinridge Museum. We have to figure out how we'll bid that project and talking with Sean Sheffer that will be a big issue. How will we put a bid spec package together that will reach our local and regional people that would bid, to where we are all looking at the same picture? That's why it's important to hire a Construction Management Company for the Architectural Service company and we will bid for those services, but for the Architectural Services that we are starting with we can move forward. The Judge then read the Request for Proposals statement. Magistrate Byrnes made a motion to accept the Request for Proposals statement, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried. Judge O'Nan went on to say the we have got to start work on the Museum quickly and that we will use Coal Severance money for the project. Because the building is of historical nature it has to be fixed just as it is now. There are several issues that have to be addressed. Magistrate Clements made a motion to advertise for bids for Construction Management of the EOC Center and the Breckinridge Museum on January 20 and the 27th and to open the bids on February 9th, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried. This will allow the Construction Management team to work with the architect and the ones who will be moving in the building to get a feel of what each department needs. Then they will work with the team that gets hired to do the job to make sure what it says on paper, is in actuality what it is in real life. Judge O'Nan wants to bid the EOC Center and the Museum separately. It is anticipated that we would hire the same people for both jobs, but we don't want to intermingle funds and we want to keep the projects completely separate. This is a huge project and we not only what the taxpayers of Union County to be proud of it but more importantly it has to be functional for the people who are going to use it.

Judge O'Nan then presented to the Court an Authorization for a Building Purchase in Waverly. A couple of meetings ago Waverly signed off their C.A.R.E.S. money to the County in the amount of \$21,212.00. Waverly's City Hall has been condemned and they have approached Stephen Gough about the building that is right beside the Waverly Fire Department. Magistrate Clements mentioned when we received the money that he would like to see it go back to Waverly and this a good way to get it back to them. The price of the building is \$25,000, which is a negotiated down price of what the original price was at \$35,000. We have a Community Development fund that we've helped various youth activities from and since Waverly doesn't have any ball teams' we have very rarely helped them. The Court would make up the balance in that, which would be \$3,788. Magistrate Clements made a motion authorizing our County Attorney to do the deed work on that property, authorize the Judge to sign and get the process going. Then the County will take possession of it and give it to the City of Waverly, with a stipulation in the deed that if they become an unincorporated city, the property reverts back to the County. It will be their responsibility to insure it and to do any upgrades that they want. Magistrate Ricketts second, motion carried.

All claims are to be paid as presented.

Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve transfers, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan then welcomed Kennedy Irene Coker to team Union County. Kennedy is the daughter of Melissa Coker with Union County First. He also talked to our Road Foreman, Mike Schmied about the arrival of our excavator. Mike said that he is hoping to have it by the end of the week and we are about two weeks out on our truck which is getting fitted for the plow and everything that goes on the bed. He has spent a lot of time talking to Senator Mills and State Representative Miles who said that they are in a short session and that is important to Union County because last year only a one-year budget was passed at the state level which is contrary to what usually happens. Usually, it’s a two-year biennium budget, but because of Covid-19 everything was cut short. The good news that we’re hearing is that coal projections are some \$7 million more than they thought they would be for the state of Kentucky. That trickles down to real life money for us. He is watching that closely and talking to them about how we can be helpful in that process and they are both very willing to help and do all they can as well.

The fuel tax is going to be introduced, we signed the resolution offering to support that and he will keep the Court posted when that comes up. He encouraged people to reach out to Senator Mills and Representative Miles, as they are our representatives and are always attentive. He shared his perspective on what went on at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 6th. He stated that if he could encourage the county and those that are listening, he was fortunate enough to go to Washington either at the end of January or the very first of February in 2019 to represent Union County with some KACo staff. They were ushered in a side door and were standing in one of the hallways when he mentioned to Judge Henry from Webster County that he couldn’t believe his life. A year ago, he was out on the farm feeding cattle and was pretty content to do that and now he’s walking by Senator Chuck Schumer office who was holding a press conference. They were able to meet with Representative Brett Guthrie, Representative James Comer and ran into Congressman Andy Barr in the hall and ultimately spent some time with Senator McConnell in his office and he was just struck in awe of the history and the reverence of that place and all that had gone on there and all that that place represents and has withstood the years that it’s been there. It grieved him to see what happened, Wednesday, that it was in chaos and turmoil. He remembered, that very same day, they had some free time and they went to Arlington and he looked back over Arlington towards the Capitol and thought “man, that’s the very best of us right there, laying in that field. There are all kinds of races, religions, political division, whatever, they’re all there for a common good for our Country,” and he hopes we can get back to that. He’s proud to represent Union County and he hopes that we see him doing that in a manner that’s distinct and different from a lot of other clutter and clatter that we see out and about. We are at a critical time in our Country and we’ve got to learn to talk to one another again and even though we might disagree, just like the ones at Arlington, there probably isn’t a lot that they agreed on, but they had a common goal, they were willing to risk it all. We have got to learn to talk to one another and just because we don’t agree doesn’t mean that we devalue one another and somewhere along the lines we’ve lost that. He hopes this is a tipping point to send us back in the other direction of being more considerate. He quoted a bible verse, “Paul tells those in Romans 12 not to think so highly of themselves” and he hopes we can start considering others more highly than ourselves.

Magistrate Wyatt wanted to know if the Judge had any updates on our elevator. Judge O’Nan stated that we have an application for a DLG grant, that’s ready to go at DLG in Frankfort. They have not been opened up to be awarded. He feels like once that happens, it will

move very quickly and we'll hear something. He checks in with Joanna Shake, our Green River Area Development District Executive Director, who is the one who put it up there and she is confident that we will get some kind of money, but because of Covid it is so hard to get anything done, with so many people at DLG working from home right now in Frankfort. They are not back in their offices yet and they are dealing with all thing Covid, since they are in charge of all the C.A.R.E.S. money and that's been their main priority and focus. Wyatt also wanted to commend all the fire departments from Sullivan, Sturgis, Henshaw, Union County and even Shawneetown with helping to fight a big house fire in Henshaw. They all put in a lot of work.

Magistrate Ricketts gave an update on the new cabins at Moffit Lake. He said that there should be advertisements this week for cabin rentals. He also gave an update on the Bunger Road Bridge, stating that they hope to be able to pour concrete for the abutment on Friday. In regards to Covid, he wanted to know if anyone was keeping stats on the number of individuals who have taken the vaccine and also the number that opted out? Judge O'Nan stated that this is going to go back to the same problem that we have with reporting, especially on the positivity rate. That's why the positivity rate is so fluctuating. Because we have lots of people who are able to give it in Union County, and so far, that information has been difficult to get about that very thing. When we have our testing, if you are tested in Illinois, we will never hear back from them on those records. One individual who tested positive, did all the right things, he quarantined and didn't infect anyone else. That has been over a month ago and Judge O'Nan said that to this date he's not sure if anyone ever contacted him from Illinois. Illinois will not report to Kentucky and Indiana is not very good about reporting to us either. Judge O'Nan is going to check into this. Ricketts also wanted to know in regards to the Museum, if there was a process to de-classify that as a historic building? The Judge said that that would be worth checking in to. Ricketts also wanted to know what the benefit is of having it classified as historical? Magistrate Clements stated that the County received a lot of money for restorations when we first purchased the building because it was classified as historical. The Judge said that with it being listed on the National History Registry it gives a little bit of profile out in the public that it is a National Historic Monument.

Magistrate Floyd wanted to thank the Judge and the Court for having a good working relationship as a Court. He wanted to publicly congratulate Melissa, Craig and Cadence Coker on the arrival of Kennedy.


Magistrate Byrnes expressed how the attack on our Nations Capitol had really gotten to him being that he's a veteran along with his father. He said that it was a disgrace to the ones who have served their country.

Magistrate Clements wanted to thank the Court for supporting the Waverly building project and for giving the City of Waverly a home for their City Hall. Thanked Mike Schmied for his quick action in getting someone down on Culvert Lane to clean up the couches and furniture that was left there. The farmer in that area said that if he received any names on who was responsible for the dumping, he would be glad to go to the County Attorney's office and file a complaint. He asked if the Road Department will do more tree trimming when we get the new excavator in? Mike state that yes, they will start trimming when it comes in. Clements also spoke of the attack on the Capitol, stating that he's a Democrat and he wants to encourage them to try


to come together, get along and try to forget about the impeachment of the President, he's going to be out of office in a few days. We have more pressing problems in the United States. He's encouraging them to dedicate their time, talent and treasure in trying to get the vaccine distributed to everybody who need it and who want it. That's serving your country and just forget about your politics.

One thing that Judge O'Nan failed to mention and wanted to make the Court aware of, is that the American Legion has met at the Griggs Alvey Post at the park for a long time and they are unable to continue to support the maintenance of that building so they are in the process of selling it. They have worked out a deal with the City, in which the City will take over a little bit of property that they needed and maintain the pump station. Judge O'Nan offered to them on behalf of the county, for them to be able to meet at the Museum. Amber and Commander Buckman have already worked out all of the logistics. They have some memorabilia that they are going to take out there to be put in the cases to show with pride. They are also bringing the canon with them. He will let the Court know when it will be coming so they can work out where the Court would like to put it.

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



Fiscal Court Clerk
Kim Nance



Adam O'Nan
County Judge/Executive