

UNION COUNTY FISCAL MEETING  
January 26, 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 Floyd, Ricketts, Byrnes and Clements.

The minutes from the January, 2021 meeting were accepted as read.

The Court welcomed Jenny Hagan, with the Union County Health Department to give an update on the Covid-19 vaccines. In December, when the vaccines were first approved for emergency use authorization, Kentucky started with Phase 1a which was for long-term care facilities residents and staff, assisted living care facilities residents and staff and healthcare personnel. They quickly moved on in January to Phase 1b, which was for people age 70 and older, first responders, law enforcement and K-12 personnel. They are hoping that in February they will move into Phase 1c. This will be for those age 60 and older, those age 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions that if they were to get Covid-19 it could make it a much more severe disease and those that the CDC has defined as essential workers who are non-health care workers, such as food and ag, grocery store personnel and restaurant employees. By spring they are hoping to start with Phase 2, which is for those that are 40 and older and by late summer into Phase 3 for those who are 16 and older. Hopefully, by the end of the year, after more studies have been done, they will be able to get those 16 and under vaccinated. Right now, with the Health Department being in the 1b phase that’s for K-12 employees and staff, there is a big push for them to get vaccinated. The state of Kentucky gets a little over 50,000 first doses per week and a large portion of those, in the last week or so, will be for those K-12 staff. Our local Health Department has given 100 doses to those in the 1A and 1B category. The demand for the vaccine is much greater than the supply and that is the situation throughout the nation. We will be seeing the supply increase as the weeks and months pass by. They will be giving their second doses the first part of February. Hopefully, in the next month, the hospitals will receive doses and will distribute them to the ones in the 1a category, who may have been sick when they were being given or that have now decided that they want them. Regionally, what they’re being told is that there will be mass vaccine clinics throughout the state. They most likely won’t be here in the County, but maybe in Henderson and Owensboro. Our Health Departments goal is to transport people to and from the mass clinics who want to receive the vaccines. She stated that Kentucky was one of the top 10 states in distributing the vaccine. Last week more than 90% of the vaccines that were allotted to Kentucky were given. They are trying to get good education out to the public in letting them know where they are in Kentucky so that they will know where they can go to get vaccinated. Anyone that has questions regarding the availability or distribution of the vaccine can go to the website, [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov) which is full of information.

Magistrate Ricketts wanted to know if there was a central reporting to where you could look and see how many doses had been administered per county? Jenny stated that she's not sure if that's available at this time but it will be eventually. The Health Department has reports that they do, some on a daily basis and some on a weekly basis of how many vaccines they have available and when they've been distributed. That is data that's collected and should be available at some time. Ricketts also wanted to know if phase 1b has to be completed before phase 1c can start. Jenny said that while administering to the 1c category, if people from the 1a or 1b category decide that they now want to be vaccinated they will be able to receive it. Jenny stated that when they receive new doses, even if they're in Phase 1b if people from the 1a category want the vaccine they start with the 1a first. They have a list of people who want to get vaccinated and after they get the 1a's taken care of they'll call from their list to get the 1b's in. After a vial has been punctured it has to be used within 6 hours, so if they don't get enough 1a's to finish the vial they will start calling from their list. Anyone who is interested in receiving the vaccine can contact their provider, the Health Department, the hospital or Health First.

Magistrate Clements wanted to know if after you received both doses of the vaccine could you still get the virus and carry it to other people. Jenny said that yes, you could still carry it to others. Until we reach herd immunity, which is 70 to 80% of the population, you are urged to continue to wear your mask, social distance and wash your hands.

County Engineer, Sean Sheffer, gave the Court an update on the Rescue Squad Building. He received an email from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday in regards to the Phase 2 study that was done in December. Seven bore samples were taken around the building and they did an x-ray of the paint to check for asbestos and to see if it was lead base paint. He received a brief summary yesterday and the report should be done Thursday. In the summary there were four sights that had an exceedance of the soil type for the test where the tank in the back of the building had oil to spill out onto the ground and also in the bay where oil had spilled out into it. This was not an unexpected finding. Sean stated that the County would be fine to go on and purchase the facility and we would need to have an environmental covenant to attach to the deed. What that needs to say is that it has to remain a Rescue Squad building, it cannot be for residential use. Sean would look the covenant over every year, sign it and renew it. This will cover the County's liability. Also, another way you can remedy the oil issue is to put a cap on it and what this means is that you put concrete over it, which it's almost all concrete anyway. Another thing that will have to be done is to get the lead base paint tested but that will take place in the construction phase. Magistrates Clements and Ricketts questioned what happens, if down the road the EPA were to change their position. Judge O'Nan stated that we could do one or two things. Sign the environmental covenant or purchase an insurance policy that shows that if the EPA were to change their position, we have it in writing that they gave us the go ahead to purchase the building. The Judge recommends that we do both. After Sean receives the final report, it will go to our County Attorney for her to look over and he will email the preliminary summary that he was referring to too the Magistrates and then on February 9<sup>th</sup> it will come before the Court and hopefully we can get the process started.

Magistrate Floyd brought before the Court a request from the Union County Volunteer Fire Department. He has been working with Josh Millikan in regards to the lighting in their building which is the original lighting from 30/35 years ago. With the other buildings in the

County going to LED, Millikan is asking that their Department be able to go with that type of lighting as well. They obtained quotes from 3 different companies:

DY Electric	\$6700
Timmons Electric	\$7875
Tom DeMar & Sons	\$8320

Magistrate Floyd made a motion for the Court to allow DY Electric to install new lighting at the Union County Volunteer Fire Department, seconded by Magistrate Clements, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan presented a Resolution for the County to purchase a CAT M316F wheeled excavator and hydraulic thumb accessory in the amount not to exceed \$215,000. Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve said Resolution, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Judge O’nan announced to the Court that Mike Schmied, Supervisor of the Road Department, will be retiring on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He will be leaving April 1<sup>st</sup> by using sick days that he’s accumulated over the years. The Judge recommended that we hire someone for his position and have them start March 1<sup>st</sup>. An advertisement for this position will be ran on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup> with a recommendation for the position brought before the Court on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Magistrate Ricketts and Magistrate Wyatt who are on the Road Department Committee will be a part of the interviewing process. All Magistrates and the Judge wished Mike the very best.

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

All claims are to be paid as presented.

Judge O’Nan received word of some CDBG COVID funds that are going to be issued. Governor Beshear made this announcement yesterday and these funds are going to be very helpful to our community. They will provide up to \$250 a month for up to 6 months to help with utility relief. As of now it is working through the AD Districts and they are trying to get Audubon Area to come on board with this, which will be helpful with administering this program. As the Judge has more information and for ways to sign up, he will pass this along, and it should be finalized in the next few days.

The Governor also announced the Broadband initiative and Judge O’Nan will link the test site to his Facebook Judge’s page. It’s a speed test and it’s a social media toolkit. What they’re wanting to do is find out where the pockets are in Kentucky that have low internet availability and Union County is right in those areas. So, we want our Citizens of Union County to participate in that because where they see the greatest need is going to be where they focus. We want to have a place at the table, so we are going to encourage our citizens to be active in this speed test. There is a way for people who are using strictly data on their phones where they can report that they have zero internet. Unfortunately, we have those pockets with no internet in Union County.

After Court, Judge O’Nan is meeting with several area Judges and Legislators to talk about what’s going on in the General Assembly and things that might be helpful for the county and our rural counties.

The Judge was invited to go to the Union County School Board meeting last night to read a Proclamation for School Board Appreciation Month, He was glad to honor Jennifer Buckman, Donnie Gatten, Evelyn Meacham, Launyai Martin and Drennan Cowan.

Judge O’Nan received a couple of checks for the County from the Jackson family in honor of Rick Jackson, that they wanted to donate both to the Senior Citizens Building and the Breckenridge Museum. Rick was an active volunteer in our community. It was the family’s wish that the checks go to these programs. The Judge wanted to thank them publicly on behalf of the Court for the donation. He then went on to read a heartfelt letter that was accompanied with the checks. The Magistrates expressed their Thanks for the donations.

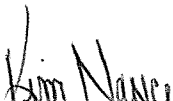
Magistrate Ricketts thanked Judge O’Nan for having Jenny Hagan at Court this morning. He said that it was very informative. He then went on to give an update on the Bunger Road bridge. He said that they are getting very close to putting the deck on.

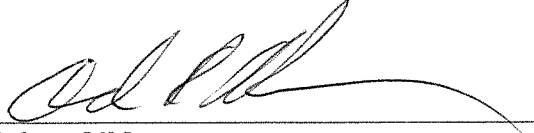
Ricketts stated that he had sent an email to the Court with a picture of the Henshaw Volunteer Fire Department building and that he would be advocating for a new building soon. He sent the picture so that if they wanted to, they could go take a look at it themselves and see what kind of condition it is in. After working with Chief Williams to work out some details, he stated that next month he should be prepared to address some of the issues and ask for the Court’s support for the construction of a new fire department. Judge O’Nan stated that he had been down there about a month ago and he fully supports a new building.

Magistrate Byrnes congratulated Mike on his retirement and hopes that we can have something before he leaves to honor him for a job well done

Magistrate Clements noted that we had many good corporate sponsors in the County and he wanted to recognize the Earle C. Clements Job Corp. In the past they have given over \$10,000 worth of food to the Senior Citizens, that was meant for the students and couldn’t be utilized. So instead of the food going to waste, they donated it. Earlier in 2020 they gave many children’s books to the Head Start Program, our local School System and to JPPII. They also made masks and distributed them to Breckinridge Place. He also thanked Mike for all of the hard work he has done for the County over the years.

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

  
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Fiscal Court Clerk  
Kim Nance

  
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Adam O’Nan  
County Judge/Executive