

UNION COUNTY FISCAL MEETING
March 9, 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 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, Byrnes and Clements.

The minutes from the February 23, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Jason Greenwell, who is the NRCS Chairman of Union County, presented the Court with a yearly update and made a request for the Fiscal Court to continue supporting the Conservation District Program by allocating \$41,600 for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. Jason reported that last year over \$533,000 was brought into Union County through Federal and State Cost Share Programs. They have \$152,275 approved for this upcoming year. Their coordinator, Debbie Eubanks, who has been with the Conservation District for 20 years has submitted 31 new applications for State Cost Share and as of this morning only 3 have been approved for the County, which is down from previous years. Judge O’Nan stated that this request would be put in the 2021/2022 budget and after the budget is completed it will be brought before the Court. He thanked Jason and the NRCS for all of the good they do for the County. He noted that it wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that millions of dollars have come into the County because of these Cost Share Programs. They provide trees to the County once a year, they sponsor Safety Days for all 5th graders and they also maintain 5 watersheds in the County which are, Cypress Creek, Eagle Creek, Goose Pond, Highland Creek and Lost Creek.

The Court was then presented with an ambulance update from Amy Susott, Chief Innovation Officer and Angela Webb, EMS Manager and Transport Service Line Leader, Manager with Deaconess. Amy stated that on July 1st, Deaconess took over the County’s ambulance fleet and in October the agreement between the County and Deaconess was finalized. She noted that with rural health and EMS you have to have a good partnership between Fire, Ground EMS and Air Medical, so for the last 6/8 months they have been working on building that partnership. She stated that they are not perfect, but she feels like where they’ve come from, and the work they’ve done with the Fire Chiefs and the relationships they’ve been able to build, are really strong. She said that they have added resources to our community from an EMS perspective. Instead of having one truck with an on-call truck a lot of times, they now have 2 trucks. Additionally, the way to run EMS at the best price point is to keep it staffed all the time, but you can’t afford to do that in the real world. So how you do that is to have really good partners in the East, West, North, South (in the Air). Their partnerships on the Illinois side and the Henderson side, seem to be very good, so that allows them to be able to care for our community in a way that they were not able to prior to our agreement.

Angela then gave some data and some operational updates since July 1st. She stated that the volume in Union County has pretty much stayed the same at around 210. January was a really busy month with 250 runs. That is data for Union County alone, that doesn't include any runs made in Henderson County. The other thing that she closely tracks is their response time. The response time data is from the time the call is dropped on the ambulance, until they arrive on scene and that data cannot be manipulated. They have a device where they have to push a button when they arrive. Arrival is not manually put into the patient care record like previously. Now it is time stamped through their largest dispatch system and the average response time for the entire county is running around 12.52 minutes as of the last response time for February. January was 12.57 minutes with it gradually getting better. For the last several months, Angela has done a break down between city response time and county response time, with a goal of having a city response time of less than 10 to 12 minutes. That goal has consistently been met across the board, with an average city response time of 10.5 minutes. The county response time goal is to arrive under 15 minutes, with the consistent average being 14.5 minutes.

This is what the average response time was before they took over on July 1st. Angela also noted that she does not throw out the overs and under, it is straight data. She does pull all of the outliers. Outliers considered any response time over 15 minutes that is anywhere in the county and 94.4% of the time they responded in all areas of the county in 15 minutes or less. The number one reason for extended response times in all of the cases was due to a system overload of 911 calls. The second reason was the distance of call from truck location because of our large geographic area.

Judge O'Nan stated that even though the beginning of the transition was a little rough, they have continually answered the call when we have had issues and immediately started working to resolve them. He was very appreciative for them coming here today and stated that this is going to be a quarterly expectation where they will come before the Court with further updates. He also stated that he couldn't brag on Bobbie Brown and the dispatch of Union County, as well as our EMS enough. Our EMS has been working with AMR, who has had some dispatch system issues and they are continually working to get those ironed out. He expressed his appreciation to Deaconess for their investment in our community.

Magistrate Wyatt expressed his Thanks to Angela for her quick response and stated that on a recent call, Melissa and Casey, a couple of their employees, had done an awesome job and were very professional. Angela said that she had passed that shoutout on to the two of them and they were very appreciative. Amy, also stated that she really appreciates the shoutout as well. She said that sometimes this is really hard work and sometimes you don't see great things, so a shoutout is always appreciated.

Magistrate Byrnes expressed his Thanks to them as he had personally had to use their services and was very Grateful for their quick response.

Magistrate Ricketts had a couple of questions for clarification. He asked if on the extended response times, does the clock start when the ambulance gets the call and if the ambulance is dispatched out of Illinois or Henderson, does that still hold true on the 15 minutes? Angela replied that the 15 minutes still stands. She does not throw out the overs and under like the previous company did. She does not skew the data at all. The clock starts from the time the ambulance leaves their base, not once they get the call. Amy stated that when they get to status zero and all of their trucks in the community are being used, they pull in other resources and this is what they call "staging". An ambulance from Illinois, Henderson, or Webster County will sit

almost in the middle between the 2 counties to where they're not all the way over, but they're closer so that they respond more efficiently when they are needed. Staging is why they are able to still respond within 15 minutes. This is why she said that in order to provide EMS to rural communities, you have to have friends to make it affordable and that's what they do. They partner with the East, West and North, which is the air.

Magistrate Clements noted that it always concerns him when he hears that an ambulance has been dispatched from Harrisburg, IL because that's a long way from Union County. Is that something that only happens when your system is overwhelmed and your ambulances are in other spots? Angela stated that that was correct, but the ambulances would never come from Harrisburg, they would come from Shawneetown which is much closer. Amy stated that it may not even be as far as Shawneetown, it could be sitting in between there and Union County and that's where the "staging" comes into play. They will be ready to go either way, depending on where the call comes from.

Judge O'nan stated that what you don't want to happen is to be in a takeover or a buyout agreement and you never hear from them again. That is absolutely not the case with what's happening here. In fact, we've had meetings with some of the fire chiefs that have been and little difficult, with Angela, Amy and James standing in listening to that and then asking questions to figure out how we can make it work. Ms. White, the CEO, has met with us a time or two as well. The Judge agreed with Magistrate Wyatt in saying that they will answer their phone or email every time, promptly and we appreciate that. We appreciate their investment in our community and we are counting on them. We have got to have them. This is a relationship that we have to make work and he thinks we're well on our way to seeing that happen.

Union County Clerk, Garrick Thompson presented the Court with a check in the amount of \$132,460.92 for the Union County Clerk's 2020 Excess Fees. This is a significant increase from last year due to an increase for recording and document storage fees. Thompson said that he had to give credit where credit was due and that this was a testament to his staff for all of the hard work and dedication that they put in this past year. It was a very challenging year with the pandemic and with the election and he couldn't emphasize enough how fortunate and how blessed he is to have them as his staff. They are very knowledgeable, very efficient and this is a testament to their hard work. Magistrate Clements asked if the increase was in part due to the funds, they received from the C.A.R.E.S. Act and grant money? Garrick said that they had received around \$25,000 from the C.A.R.E.S. Act and grant funding to help with the election and that sure, it helped to boost the amount he was able to turn back in. Magistrate Floyd asked if the way the election was done last year, was it more economical or costly than the way it was done previously? Garrick answered that with the month of early voting and all the precinct workers that they had to have, it was pretty costly. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to accept the County Clerk's 2020 Excess Fees, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried, pending the Clerk's audit. Garrick said that it is prudent and wise that we continue to have the conversation about new voting machines. He said that he and Judge O'Nan had talked and he had reached out to his current vendor and had given him two court dates of March 23rd and April 13th for him to come before the Court to talk about the machines. He anticipates the vendor letting him know which of these meetings would be convenient for his schedule. Garrick understands that this is something that would have to be bid out, but he would still like to get him to come to a meeting since he's the expert and he could maybe do a demonstration on the new machine and let the Court ask any

questions they may have. Magistrate Ricketts asked if it were possible to get an independent evaluation on the machines, rather than a vendor? Garrick stated that he would check into that.

Next, Judge O’Nan presented to the Court on behalf of Sheriff, Mickey Arnold a check in the amount of \$89,426.55 for the Union County Sheriff’s 2020 Excess Fees. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to accept the 2020 Sheriff’s Excess Fees in the amount of \$89,426.55, seconded by Magistrate Clements, motion carried pending audit.

County Engineer, Sean Sheffer came before the Court asking them to approve a 2yr. contract extension for Disaster Recovery Services. This is the contract that we have with the Disaster Law Group for our FEMA mitigation projects, handled by Jeannie Devlin. They have been an excellent asset to the County, helping us recover \$900,000 from disasters and getting our money from FEMA. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to accept the 2yr. extension of said contract, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried pending County Attorney’s approval.

Judge O’Nan then addressed the Court in regards to an appeal the County is under with KYEM and FEMA over the Blackburn project down in the area of the Shawneetown Boat Ramp. Initially FEMA approved this project, so money was spent on it and work was started, but then we received a notification stating that we were not approved. Judge O’Nan stated that it is our belief of Union County, the Disaster Law belief, Jimmy Stahl and his groups belief that this is a KYEM issue that they have with Union County for some reason. They are strictly a pass thru group. They don’t make determinations and they don’t do anything other than when FEMA says your project is approved, it is their job to get us the money. For some reason they have taken it upon themselves to insert into this program their thought process. The Judge has met with Director Dossett of KYEM, with James Comer and he’s meeting with Representative Miles and Senator Mills early next week on a Zoom call with Jeannie and their attorney. County Attorney, Julie Wallace has been involved in a lot of these discussions as well. It is beyond logic of why they have withheld those monies that we are due at this time. They are statutorily required to pay, in a certain number of days, after FEMA says it’s a go and they have not done that. We have found out that we are not the only county that this has happened to. Their job is to be our advocate, and to give us money and they have appealed to FEMA to get these monies released to us, but it’s the Judge’s opinion that they are the reason we didn’t get the money. We are weighing our options, and we have done everything to a tee of what we were supposed to do. When they deemed the Blackburn Project as ineligible, a year after they said that we were eligible, they mentioned that the project may never should have been written, but they fail to realize that FEMA was the one that wrote it and Judge O’Nan doesn’t understand how they can justify this. The Judge stated that we plan to appeal as far as we need to because we are in the right on this project. The work on this boat ramp is needed and we showed them in 2018 when we took FEMA down there, that if we don’t fix and stabilize this bank, it’s going to start eating away at the parking lot and that’s exactly what’s happened. We’ve lost 10 feet of parking lot down there, possibly more, and we are just entering the flood stage now. It’ll get worse before it gets better if we don’t fix it. This place of entry into the Ohio river is critically important to Union County, in case we ever have a major earthquake and need access to the West. If our bridges are not operable this is a huge asset to us and we have to get that fixed. Judge O’Nan is going to keep the Court informed of any new information that he receives and he stated that if they don’t release our monies, there may be legal action that we will take.

Magistrate Clements asked if they are required to give a written explanation as to

why this project is not being funded? Judge O’Nan stated that KYEM is not responsible because they are not in the business of funding. They are in the business of passing money through and accounting for it. How it works is, when a project gets approved, FEMA makes the money available to KYEM and then within 45 days of that money being available it is to be paid to whatever entity that was approved. We are over 100 days behind on some of this money. They are catching up on some of the other projects that they were behind on, so now we are down \$160,000.00. The Judge stated that this is a good project and that he will stand behind it.

Next on the agenda, Judge O’Nan presented a 2021 KY Waste Tire Crumb Rubber/Tire Derived Products Grant Application, applied for by Lisa Watson. This crumb rubber will be applied out at Moffit Lake under the second playground. The total amount of the Grant for cost of materials and transportation is \$29,800 with the County’s matching part to be \$17,897. Judge O’Nan explained that labor and equipment use will go toward the County’s matching amount, so there will not be very little of cost outlay that we will have. Magistrate Byrnes made a motion to approve the 2021 KY Waste Tire Crumb Rubber/Tire Derived Products Grant Application, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan asked the Court for their approval to send \$2,500 for the Brownfield Grant Funds. This money will give the County the insulation and insurance we need in order to be able to purchase the service station for the Morganfield Rescue. County Attorney, Julie Wallace has looked over this grant and has looked over the verbiage of it and has given us the go. We should know by the next meeting whether or not we were approved. If we get approved for this grant, Judge O’Nan, at the next meeting is wanting to bring before the Court the approval to purchase this building. Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to approve paying \$2,500 for the Brownfield Grant Fund and adding it to today’s claims, seconded by Magistrate Clements, motion carried. Magistrate Wyatt abstained from voting since he is a member of the Morganfield Rescue.

Judge O’Nan presented the first reading of the 2020/2021 budget amendment in the amount of \$646,688. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to approve the first reading of the budget amendment, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion.

Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to approve the February, 2021 Treasurer Report pending audit, seconded by Magistrate Byrnes, motion carried.

All claims are to be paid.

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

Judge O’Nan stated that he wanted to give credit where credit was due in regards to the \$3million grant that we received for waste water system improvements at the Earle C. Clements Job Corp. He wanted to send his Thanks to Johanna Shake, Executive Director at the Green River Area Development District for setting up the meeting with EDA out of Atlanta, the staff at GRADD, Senator Mitch McConnell along with his office and Congressman Jamie Comer and his office. Without their help this project would not have been possible.

Judge O’Nan supplied the Court with information from the jail for the last 6 months. He asked that they all go over it and be prepared to vote at our March 23 meeting about the future of the jail. A brief summary of what’s included in the information is a spreadsheet that Treasurer Lissa Gibson set up that shows an annual decrease as of right now of about \$300,000 without the jail open and that doesn’t include any expenses that would be required to get the jail back up and running such as sewer, heating and air, a new roof and some plumbing issues that we had in the freezing weather. Jailer Elder will be at the March 23 meeting and he will give a brief update on how things are going as of now.

Magistrate Clements asked the Judge if a small portion of the jail would have to be left open if it were to close due to the Transports being done? The Judge said that we will keep the front portion open, but when the new EOC building is completed we will have a Transfer station there, where Sheriff and Jail staff can get in the same room to do the breathalyzer and even have 2 very small holding cells, in the case of inclement weather, they would be able to hold someone for 24hrs. if needed. That will have to go through Frankfort to make sure it is done correctly.

Judge O’Nan stated that he will be going to Frankfort next week to talk to some legislators about things that are happening. It appears that we will be in good shape from the Coal Severance as it comes out of the budget although nothing’s final till it’s final. There’s been a bill that has caught everybody off guard on rural broadband that Representative Brandon Reed dropped that has a good chance of passing and if it does that helps open up the co-ops of Kentucky to put them on a fairer foundation of fighting for broadband distribution to the home.

Magistrate Wyatt thanked everyone who was involved in securing the grant monies for the Job Corp project. He also stated that it was time to start thinking about purchasing some new fire trucks, especially for Union County Volunteer, Whispering Meadows and Sturgis being that they were the 3 most active. Judge O’Nan said that he has talked to GRADD about grants regarding this and that we may try to implement some funds in our own budget for these purchases. Last time we purchased all the fire trucks at once and that was great until it becomes time to replace them. He said that he would like to purchase them in stages this time so they will not have to all be replaced at once. He said that he was committed to start moving on this.

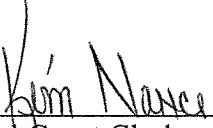
Magistrate Ricketts expressed his appreciation to all involved in securing the Job Corp grant but especially, to Judge O’Nan for all of his hard work in seeing this through. He also stated that we seemed to be trending in a positive direction with our COVID cases and everyone is excited about that but he cautioned everyone to stay diligent in our safety measures and hopefully we will get through this sooner rather than later. He also asked the Judge if he knew when we might get the road clean-up crews back out? The Judge said that it was going to be a slow process because the State is going to control the way the jail inmate population is allowed to get back out. Judge O’Nan also stated that he and Magistrate Ricketts will be talking to one of Ricketts’ constituents, Joe Greenwell, who has offered for us to use a huge pond that he owns for our fire departments to be able to draw out of. Mr. Greenwell said that he wants to do anything he can do to help us because in the recent past, the fire department in his area have had to go to Shawneetown to get water because there are no fire hydrants down there to help them. This will be brought to the Court if there are any expenses for us take care of.

Magistrate Floyd stated that since it is going to be a while before the inmates are going to be able to help with roadside clean-up, he was going to get in touch with the State and see if they had any idea on how we could get help until the inmates are available. Judge O’Nan reiterated that even though are inmates are now at Webster County, we will still be able to use them for different things once they are allowed. Magistrate Floyd also said that by the last meeting of the month he would like to have a schedule for the county clean-ups that will be held.

Magistrate Byrnes noted that he was starting to see a lot of golf carts and 4-wheelers out and about. He would like to get a county wide ordinance passed so that everyone can be on the same page as to what’s legal such as golf carts and what’s illegal such as 4-wheelers. Judge O’Nan stated the he and County Attorney, Julie Wallace have discussed how to determine what type of an ATV would be legal and what wouldn’t, as well are what the requirements would be in order to legalize their use. The Judge would like to have something to bring before the Court before summer.

Magistrate Clements wanted to publicly thank Governor Beshear and his administration for the \$21,300 they gave to the Morganfield Dunbar Park. He also stated that he had a request from the Whispering Meadows Fire Department for 4 sets of turnout gear that he wanted the Court to keep in mind. He is also going to send the Court some pictures of the fire department to show where the concrete in front of the building needs to be addressed. He personally wanted to thank the Court for their support in obtaining the building for the City of Waverly to use as their City Hall as well as for the brush truck for the Waverly Volunteer Fire Department.

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