

UNION COUNTY FISCAL MEETING
April 27, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING:

Jennifer Alvey from the Green River Area Development District was present to hold a Public Hearing before Court. Jennifer stated that the purpose of this Public Hearing is to provide information to the public concerning the proposed Union County Courthouse Elevator Community Development Block Grant Project and to obtain views on housing and Community Development needs. This Public Hearing also serves to inform low to moderate income persons that there is technical assistance available through the Green River Area Development District in developing grant proposals for the CDBG Program. CDBG funds are made available through the Housing and Urban Development Administration. There are essentially 5 types of CDBG projects: public facilities, economic development, housing, community projects and public services. The elevator project falls under a community project and \$5.8 million dollars has been set aside for community projects. The estimated cost of the elevator installation project is \$617,000, of that the county is applying for \$545,000 through the CDBG Program and the county will have to match \$96,300. The hearing was then opened up for questions with Magistrate Clements asking, if we were to qualify for the grant when would it be awarded? Jennifer stated that it could be up to 6 months until we hear something. Magistrate Ricketts asked if there was a date for approval to which she answered that applications will be accepted until August. Judge O' Nan noted that they are not going to wait until August to award this grant and that the county should know something well before then. There were no questions or comments from the public other than the ones asked by the Magistrates.

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

The meeting opened at around 9:15 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 April 13, 2021 meeting were accepted as read.

Judge O'Nan presented a Resolution for funding from the Community Development

Block Grant/Community Projects Program for the Courthouse Elevator Installation. Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to accept the said Resolution, seconded by Magistrate Byrnes, motion carried.

He then presented a proclamation, proclaiming April 2021 as Fair Housing Month in Union County. Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve said proclamation, seconded by Magistrate Wyatt, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan presented the 2020/2021 Nonpublic School Transportation Agreement and Resolution. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to approve the Nonpublic School Transportation Resolution, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to approve the Nonpublic School Transportation Agreement, seconded by Magistrate Byrnes, motion carried.

Judge O' Nan recommended that the Court hire Chase Hooper as the new full-time road hire at the rate of \$ 14.00. Magistrate Byrnes made a motion to approve the hire of Chase Hooper, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan recommended that the Court hire Larry Cheatham as the new parttime/seasonal road hire at the rate of \$13.50 with no benefits. Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve the part-time/seasonal hire of Larry Cheatham, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan stated that a couple of weeks ago, Road Supervisor Tony Ratley came to him with a request to purchase a Mini Track Hoe. Judge O' Nan stated that with the purchase of this piece of equipment it would increase efficiency and that about 80% of their culvert work could be accomplished with this track hoe. Tony obtained 3 quotes which are all state contract prices:

- • ERB Equipment
\$59,232.00
- Rudd Equipment
\$74,500.0
- Boyd CAT
\$68,093.41

Judge O'Nan stated that it was the recommendation of Tony, himself and the road committee that the County purchase the Mini Track Hoe from Boyd CAT at the price of \$68,093.41. Assuming that the Court approves this the Judge said that it can be delivered tomorrow and we do have the funds in the budget available now without having to do any amendments. Magistrates Ricketts made a motion to approve the purchase of the Mini Track Hoe from Boyd CAT in the amount of \$68,093.41, seconded by Magistrate Wyatt, motion carried.

Magistrate Floyd came before the Court asking for approval to purchase a John Deere Bunker and Field Rake for the Ballparks. He stated that we do have one at the Morganfield Ballpark that is moved between them, Uniontown and Sturgis. He obtained 3 quotes:

- \$16,500.00 - Hutson in Paducah, KY
- \$17,148.00 - Hutson in Chandler, IN
- \$14,993.36 - ERB Turf Equipment in Mitchell, IL

Magistrate Floyd made a motion to accept the quote for \$14,993.36 from ERB Turf Equipment, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan presented a Professional Services Contract. This contract comes to us from GRADD and it's part of the EDA Project 04-79-07606, the Public Works Program in which we received \$3 million dollars. This agreement sets forth the fees that will be paid to GRADD in the amount of \$35,000.00 for administering the EDA Project. These funds will come out of the grant funding. Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to approve the Professional Services Contract, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Judge O' Nan presented the 2021/2022 Budget. He stated that he had to bring this to the Court before the end of April and that it is higher than past budgets. There are several Coal Severance Projects such as, the Elevator, Museum renovations, (2) new County Volunteer Fire Trucks, which they are wanting to rotate out every 3 years between departments, 911, Rescue Building, Henshaw Volunteer Fire Building, our part of the Sewer Rehab Project, \$2.87 million that we still owe on the Uniontown, Sturgis Levee Bond. According to our Treasurer, Lissa Gibson if we were to pay this loan off with Coal Severance Funds it would save the taxpayers of the county \$1.4 million dollars in interest and will free up \$155,000 in cash per year. Also, in the budget there are upgrades for the security system at the Courthouse, Animal Control and the Senior Citizens Building. No action is required today, Judge O' Nan just wants the Magistrates to look over the budget in the next 2 weeks before our next Fiscal Court Meeting on May 11th.

Magistrate Ricketts, on behalf of the residents who aren't familiar with how the Coal Severance Funds work, asked Judge O'Nan to explain Coal Severance Projects. Judge O'Nan stated that there are 2 funds of Coal Severance money that the county receives. There's the LGEA, which is money that we can get that goes into our General Fund and that we can use. He said that next year there will be around an \$800,000 increase from what it was last year. Then there is our single county money, which is called the Economic Development Funds. Next year our single county money will be just a few dollars shy of \$4 million dollars.

Judge O'Nan called Animal Control Director, Kathy Baird up in front of the Court. He wanted to read a letter that he received commending Kathy for her exemplary efforts in providing a training in regards to the link between animal abuse, crimes against humans and animal biting to a diverse group of professionals in Union County. Kathy should be commended for her compassionate strategic planning to help victims of all species in Union County. Judge O'Nan wanted Kathy, the Court and the County to hear how this letter commends her for a job well done. Kathy stated that the training had a Great turnout with a good number of in person attendees as well as 15 Zoom attendees. She said that a lot of people don't realize that when she is called out, it's not just to take care of an animal situation. When she goes into a home, she stated that she usually has a child on her side, wanting to be with her, she has elderly people asking her how they can get help with various things, not all is just related to the animals. She tries to be a resource for the entire county. She noted that Animal Control effects all 15,000 residents of the County not just the pet owners. Those that don't have pets will ask for her help because they don't want the animals in their yards. When she is called into a situation, she not only wants to help the animal, she wants to help the kid and the elderly person asking for help. Because of this she wants to know what resources she can give to the county residents as well as to the animals. This training provided her with the information that she needed. Kathy said that it's amazing how this community comes together, she is very passionate about it and she is Blessed to have been able to give this training.

All claims were to be paid as presented.

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

Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve the March 2021 Treasurer Report, pending audit, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Magistrate Floyd made a motion to approve the Treasurer Quarterly Report, pending audit, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan stated that tomorrow he has a Regional Transportation Meeting where we will try to get our projects prioritized and ranked in the Green River Area Development District. He said that he will meet with Secretary Gray in a month or so about the importance of finishing Hwy. 56. He said that he will have a joint announcement with the Governor tomorrow in Webster County at the old Dotiki Mine, where the new Regional Training Facility will be located. They will also be announcing the \$500,000 grant that we had previously received from the Department of Local Government under another CBDG Grant. Judge O'Nan stated for accountability that we will be working on the 911 funding moving forward. Although we are not obligated by the State to provide 911 services to the County, we are obviously going to. The problem is how do we fund the \$600,000 system. We've talked about taxing water meters or electric meters and the Courts desire is to not have to tax the people any more than we have to. Ten to fifteen years ago, when everyone had landlines, Union County received \$400,000 for that program. This year we are projected to receive around \$20,000 for the landline program. Because he thinks this can be easily fixed, Judge O'Nan reached out to Shelly Hampton at 'KACo in regards to going to the State Legislature and get them to add a 911 fee in addition to what they already have, but for counties. He said he thinks .75cents a month on a cellphone bill, is a true user tax because if you're using a cellphone, you're going to participate and if you're not, you won't. He thinks that this fee funds every 911 operation in the state of Kentucky. He thinks the time to do this is now because the State Legislature has shown that their intent with HB320 is to set rural electric co-ops up to participate in broadband service to the home.

Magistrate Wyatt wanted to commend and thank the Police Departments for the great work they've done on cracking down on the drugs in the county. He asked Road Supervisor Tony Ratley, if they could put some coal patch on T.P. Luckett Road. Tony said that they would get right on it. Wyatt said that he had gone to Chalybeate Road and taken some pictures and whenever Tony and his crew could get out there, he'd appreciate it. Tony said that it is in the works.

Magistrate Ricketts wanted to know if there were any final numbers on the Census. Melissa Coker stated that she received the first overview yesterday but that it was on the

National level. Judge O' Nan stated that State and Local levels should be released shortly. Ricketts also asked if there was a Covid vaccine update. Judge O'Nan said that at this time he had not been notified by Clay Horton with the Green River District Health Department, but that he will reach out to Clay and post any information he receives on his Facebook page. Judge O' Nan said that today we only had 1 Covid case in the County.

Magistrate Floyd stated that the signs have started going up on Hwy. 130, and that work is starting and it will take place between now and August. He said that next week, starting May 3rd all the ballparks will be in full swing. If you're looking for something to do come out and show your support. He said that he is still looking at June 5th as the date for the Uniontown Cleanup. He also wanted to thank Tony and the road crew for helping to address the problem on Uniontown Road.

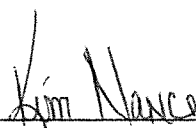
Magistrate Byrnes said that Tony had rode around with him and taught him a lot. It was a good learning experience for him and he really appreciated that. He also wanted to thank the Sturgis City Council for all that they do.

Magistrate Clements asked for an update on the Morganfield Rescue Building. Judge O'Nan stated that with the Brownfield Grant being another month-long delay, Stephen Gough, who has hung in with us for a long time, has chosen to move forward and doesn't want to wait any longer, so the project at the old Millikan building will not happen. Chief Wyatt with the Morganfield Rescue and some of those folks are going to look around for another alternative. Clements wanted to know with the tons being reduced on House Bridge Road, did we need to declare that as an emergency and get it replaced. The Judge said that he doesn't know if we have to do that just yet. We're working with Mr. Caudill at Kentucky Transportation Bridge Program and we are going through the steps that he told us too as of right now. We haven't been requested to declare an emergency yet, but it probably will happen. We are going for the 80/20 program, which is where we would get 80% of the bridge paid for and we would only have to pay for 20%, so we are walking through the steps as we have been instructed by them so far.

Judge O'Nan wanted to mention that he has been working with County Attorney, Julie Wallace in regards to a countywide ordinance that would allow side by sides on county roads traveling at a speed of at least 35m.p.h. They are starting the process of gathering information to bring before the Court. Sheriff Mickey Arnold thinks this is a good idea and his department will be in charge of inspecting and will receive a fee off of those. With there being a lot of residents who enjoy getting out and riding, Judge O'Nan thinks it a good project and he hopes that they can bring it to the Court before summertime. Magistrate Byrnes asked if golf carts were included in

this ordinance and Judge O' Nan stated that they were not because most golf carts didn't go fast enough. The ordinance will specifically read a mile per hour.

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