

UNION COUNTY FISCAL COURT MEETING
September 24, 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 a Special Called meeting with Judge Executive Adam O’Nan presiding. The Union County Fiscal Court met in the upstairs Courtroom and the meeting was livestreamed on Facebook. Magistrates present were Wyatt, Floyd, Ricketts, Byrnes, and Clements.

The minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting were accepted as read.

Judge O’Nan stated that Temple Jewitt, the Director of KACo Insurance stopped by his office to deliver our dividend from our Workers’ Compensation Fund. When the Fund makes a profit above and beyond the level needed to keep it financially sound, the benefits can be seen in the form of new programs and services, premium reductions and dividends. This year the Board of Directors voted to issue a dividend in the total amount of \$2million to qualifying members. Mr. Jewitt delivered our dividend check which represents our portion of the total dividend in the amount of \$6,570.53. Judge O’Nan expressed his appreciation for the dividend and for Mr. Jewitt’s delivery of it.

County Clerk Garrick Thompson, addressed the Court in regards to the bid from Harp Enterprises, Inc. that was opened at the last Court meeting for new election equipment and software. Judge O’Nan asked Magistrate Ricketts for his thoughts first, as he was the Court’s representative who met with the Board of Elections which consists of County Clerk Thompson, Sheriff Mickey Arnold, Jerry Manning and Pat Donahue. Magistrate Ricketts stated that he and the Board met last week to review the bid and after an extensive review, he suggested to the Board that they look into possibly purchasing new equipment on an incremental basis. He asked Garrick to check into that and to let the Court know what he had found out. Ricketts said that he had no recommendation for the Court and he then let Garrick share his information.

Garrick stated that after the Board of Election Meeting, he went to Lexington for the Kentucky County Clerk’s Association Meeting, which allowed him to talk with several Clerk’s about their thoughts on purchasing new equipment on an incremental basis. He then stated what their thoughts were:

1. Trying to do a roll out where you have 2 different types of equipment could be disastrous. You would have 2 different tallying computers and with election integrity being so imperative right now, this could cause doubt of an accurate count in the voter’s mind.

2. Integrity of machines and certification: These are being questioned by the media and the public. We may be questioned as to why we're using 2 different types of voting machines, why we don't have fluidity across the board, why aren't we using the same equipment, etc.
3. It's cleaner, easier and more efficient to run reports on the same system.
4. There would be additional programming expenses for Harp to program both types of machines to be able to tabulate the ballots.
5. The State says that if we're buying new equipment, all of the equipment, according to the new laws, has to be paper based. We would need 2 different styles of paper to run through each one of the machines.
6. Poll workers would have to be trained on 3 different types of machines: our current machines, the new machines and the handicap assessable machines.

These are just a few of the issues that could arise.

Garrick asked Rhonda Hawkins, who has been with the Clerk's office for 13/14 years to share her thoughts on using 2 different types of machines. Rhonda said that it will cause a lot of chaos as far as doing the reports. The voters aren't going to understand why 2 different machines are being used, causing doubt in the integrity of the election. With having 2 different machines, double the ballots would have to be printed, which is double the money to print the ballots and that would be a lot of money. Garrick also stated that at the end of the night, the totals from each machine would have to be added together manually, which is more cause of concern for human error. With him not being comfortable with that he said that it's all or nothing. Either keep the old or get all new, but don't combine the 2 together. Rhonda said that she felt the same.

Jerry Manning, who is on the Board of Elections spoke up and said that the State has set aside \$2million to distribute between its counties to assist with purchasing new election equipment. There are 120 counties in the State of Kentucky, 58 of those said that they are not in need of purchasing new equipment, which leaves 62 counties to divide it between. Union County will receive at a minimum \$30,000, maybe more, to put toward the purchase of the new equipment. Garrick also said that if we were to purchase the new equipment before September 30, 2021 we would receive a free additional year warranty, which is around a \$3,500 savings. That would cover us for 3 elections, through the 2023 Primary. He feels that with these incentives and with our current equipment nearing the end of its life expectancy, it's a good time to purchase new equipment.

After several suggestions of how to reduce the \$217,284.00 total price, Judge O'Nan recommended that the Court hold off on voting until Garrick can get the total amount that the State Board of Elections is going to give us to assist with the purchase, find out if Harp Enterprises, Inc. can extend the free additional year warranty until October 15, 2021 and figure what's the least amount of equipment, including spares, we would have to have for a successful election. The Court agreed that with Garrick getting the above information to them, they will be ready to vote on this matter, at the October 12, 2021 Court meeting.

Judge O’Nan presented the second reading of the Ordinance #21-02 2021/2022 Budget Amendment in the amount of \$222,000.00. Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve the second reading of the Budget Amendment, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

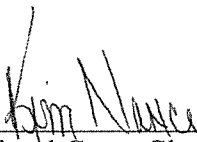
Judge O’Nan said that at the last Court meeting when they went in to Executive Session, they discussed purchasing the old French & Lyon building, in Uniontown, from the Lee Nally family in the amount of \$65,000 for the Uniontown Water Rescue and are now making it public as to what their plans are. EMA Director, Rick White and Deputy EMA Director, Sean Sheffer have spoken with the Nally family in regards to purchasing this building for the Uniontown Water Rescue, to give them a place to store their equipment. The building they are currently in is a disaster, with trees growing in it and no storage space. The Consolidated Grain and Barge Co. have expressed an interest in purchasing the current Water Rescue building for \$20,000. The Uniontown Rescue holds the title to this property and they are willing to sell the property and then donate the \$20,000 along with the \$36,000 that was received from an insurance settlement towards the purchase of the new building for \$65,000. Magistrate Floyd recommended that the Court put some money towards this, so that the building could be made more efficient to meet their needs. Judge O’Nan said that the amount the Court gives, would go toward the material list, since they are planning on doing most of the work themselves. This building will allow them ample room to have boats already hooked up to trucks so that they will be ready to go when the need arises, it will provide plenty of storage room, even for the County if they needed to access some of it. It could provide office space for the Sheriff’s office, if they wanted to have a satellite office in Uniontown, since they are the only form of law enforcement down there now and there would also be plenty of room for training. The building has a new roof on it, it appears very sound, but it does have a small lien against it that will have to be taken care of before it can be sold. He said that the Court would have to give \$9,000 towards the purchase price and if they were to set aside \$20,000, what’s left after the purchase could be used for the renovations. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to move forward in purchasing the building for the amount of \$65,000 on the contingent that the lien is cleared and that the Water Rescue donates the \$20,000 from the sale of their current building, to the purchase of the new building, seconded by Magistrate Clements, motion carried. Judge O’Nan said that the Water Rescue building will be in the Union County Fiscal Court’s name. With this being a Special Called Meeting, no excess money could be applied to the amount the Court will provide, since it’s not on the agenda. It will be put on the agenda for the October 12th meeting.

Judge O’Nan gave a quick update on the House Bridge Road Bridge. He said that he had talked to the contractor and they are hoping to have the materials in the first week of October, but until they come in, they can’t move forward.

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

County Attorney, Julie Wallace asked that an invoice in regards to an indigent evaluation be removed, because the individual was found not to be indigent. After its removal, claims are to be paid as presented.

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