

UNION COUNTY FISCAL COURT MEETING
January 11, 2022

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 regular meeting with Judge Executive Adam O’Nan presiding. The Union County Fiscal Court met in the upstairs Courtroom. Magistrates present were Wyatt, Floyd, Ricketts, Byrnes and Clements.

The minutes from the December 28, 2021 Fiscal Court meeting were accepted as read.

County Clerk, Garrick Thompson came before the Court and presented his 2022 Budget. He stated that because of the increase in vehicle valuation he increased his budget by about 5%. Receipts are expected to be around \$5,708,625, disbursements \$5,567,872, with the excess fee amount of \$140,753. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to approve the Clerk’s 2022 Budget, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Garrick also presented his Maximum Salary amount for Deputies and Assistants in the amount of \$263,463, which is the same as last year. Magistrate Clements made a motion to approve the Clerk’s 2022 Maximum Salary amount, seconded by Magistrate Byrnes, motion carried.

Garrick then gave an update on the increase in vehicle valuation. He shared a letter that he received from the Department of Revenue on his Facebook page saying, estimated upon J.D. Powers assessment, compared to this time last year, vehicle valuation has increased by 40% and because of this, motorists can expect to see an increase in their property taxes as well. He said that by the response he received from his page, people were not happy with this. To be as transparent as he can be, he wanted to clarify that his office is responsible for collecting the fees but they do not set them. He also wanted to clarify that this is not something that just affects Union County, this is a statewide increase. After several comments and shares from his page, he thought it would be wise to reach out to our State Representation and let them know that he thinks this is an over reach and is there anything that can be done about it. After talking to Suzanne Miles, a couple of days ago, she assured him that she and the House were fighting this. Judge O’Nan gave an update stating that House Bill 6 has been filed to modify the increase and reduce it from where J.D. Power uses clean, trade-in values, to go to using average trade-in values which would lower it some. Legislator’s goal is to get some relief for this year realizing that the values are inflated because of the pandemic, inflation and other things that have happened and they want this to be a one time fix not something that would carry over and could possibly hurt the counties moving on down the road.

He said the silver lining is that, although our rates will be higher, they’ll be lower than the 40%.

Garrick said that when more information is available, he will share it with the Court.

Judge O’Nan then presented a Conflict Waiver with Stites and Harbison, who are the attorney and accountant we are using to walk us through the ARPA funds and they have another division that is working on the Opioid Litigation. They are requesting a waiver of conflict-of-interest, due to there being a lady that we’re particularly working with, but she doesn’t have anything to do with the opioid side of it. County Attorney Julie Wallace has read over the waiver and is recommending that we sign it, which would mean that we are waiving our conflict-of-interest clause and that there is no problem whatsoever. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to approve Judge O’Nan signing the waiver, seconded by Magistrate Byrnes, motion carried.

Claims are to be paid as presented.

Judge O’Nan stated that work on House Bridge Road Bridge has slowed down due to flooding and that work will resume after the water recedes.

Central City Tourism has accepted our offer on the ice rink. Their attorney is drawing up an agreement stating that Union County can have one free rental of the rink for 5years. When we receive it, our County Attorney will look over it before he signs it.

He stated that the House Budget came out early and that we are good with our coal severance money.

Magistrate Wyatt stated that he has spoken with EMA Director, Rick White in regards to getting some tornado sirens and that we should be able to get two or three. He’s also going to look into a grant for some safe shelters that can be placed in different areas of the county.

He stated that something is going to have to be done about the EMS response time. He said that because of AMR Dispatch, response times are taking way too long. Judge O’Nan said that the next time this happens, to get in touch with Angela, with the ambulance service, and she can track this in “real time.” Magistrate Wyatt said that he had met with our dispatchers before the Court meeting to make them aware that the first responders are going to let them know when EMS arrives on scene so that we’ll have records of our time as well. Judge O’Nan is going to try and set up a meeting with Angela to see if there is anything that can be done about this.

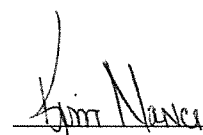
Magistrate Ricketts reported that work on the Waller Omar Bridge has begun.

He also requested a 2021 report from the Jail, Moffit Lake, the Museum and Animal Control. Judge O’Nan said that Jailer, Jason Newton would be at our next Court meeting to give a very in-depth report and that he’ll let the other departments know that at some point they’ll need to present their 2021 report to the Court, as well.


After thanking Road Foreman, Tony Ratley and his road crew for the great job they did with the snow removal, Magistrate Clements asked if there was anything the county could do to help out? Tony said that the only thing he was concerned about was the salt storage. He said that they've already gone through most of their salt with the last snow and there's more predicted for Saturday. He said that in the future we're going to have to have find something for storage and that they have to move it from where it's at now due to Riverview putting a new building up and the runoff from the salt running across the concrete, possibly causing damage. Judge O'Nan said that he and Tony have talked about this and it will be indicated in the next budget after the property is switched over, where we will have the ability to store more salt at the Riverview portal. Alliance is working on getting the paperwork complete for this to be transferred to us.

Magistrate Clements said that he had several constituents voice their concern about the hazardous driving conditions on the Union County-Henderson County bridge. He told the Court that he submitted a letter to the Kentucky Department of Highways in regards to this. In the letter he states that this bridge has always been a hazard since it's built in a curve but it's now even more hazardous due to the canopy of trees and overgrowth restricting the visibility of motorists, as well as causing snow and ice to linger longer because of shading from the canopy. He is asking the Kentucky Department of Highways and our elected officials in Frankfort to work together to rectify the dangers and safety issues as soon as possible. Judge O'Nan said that the County has made an agreement with the State and as soon as they call us to flag for Tony, we are going to trim the trees ourselves. He asked Magistrate Clements if he would like for him to get involved and help assist and Magistrate Clements said he'll take any help he could get.

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