

UNION COUNTY FISCAL COURT MEETING
October 8, 2024

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

Judge/Executive O’Nan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a prayer and the Pledge to the American Flag.

The Union County Fiscal Court met in a regular scheduled meeting with Judge/Executive Adam O’Nan presiding. Magistrates present were Wyatt, Floyd, Ricketts, Jones and Girten.

The minutes from the September 24, 2024, Fiscal Court Meeting were approved as presented.

Shane Barton from the University of Kentucky’s Community & Economic Development Initiative came before the Court to present to them the Brownfield Project. His role is to support downtown revitalization and Brownfield redevelopment throughout the state, mainly working with small under resourced communities that don’t necessarily get the same advantages as some of the urban centers. Brownfield redevelopment refers to buildings and property whose redevelopment is hampered negatively by real or perceived contamination, often thought of as gas stations with underground tanks, laundry mats or auto body shops who use pollutants that can harm human health. The EPA has a program to support communities and the redevelopment of those sites. As a part of the bi-partisan infrastructure law passed a couple of years ago, the EPA, like many governments federal agencies have a substantial budget that they are investing in communities right now. The 2025/2026 Fiscal Year will be the last of this influx of funds. Not only are the number of grants that they are providing more, but the value of those grants is more. The grants are from \$500,000.00 up to \$5million. One thing to consider for small and under resourced communities is that they have waived the cost share. For communities who are often facing an impediment to come up with their own sort of cost share for these programs, that is off the table. As a part of that program they host a monthly webinar, do grant writing trainings, support communities, they also launched a new program called the Brownfield Community Assistance Program. As a part of the program, his time is covered to directly support communities with his background being in urban regional planning. He helps communities identify these sites and helps them engage the communities to imagine what the reuses could be in ways that would best serve them, and finally helping the communities be as competitive as possible for these Brownfield redevelopment funds from the federal government. They are very competitive and what they really try to do is to try to make the communities as competitive as possible. He came here today to discuss an opportunity that they first started discussing nearly two months ago. He received an email and was invited to Union County to discuss what started off as vacant homes and buildings, but what that turned into was a conversation with most off the mayors in the county, fire officials and code enforcement. It was a conversation about not just the situation that the mayors expressed

but dealing with code enforcement and property owners. They soon started to imagine what it would be like for all the incorporated communities here in the county to create a coalition to really think about how we start to assess the true impact of our vacant homes, not just on our quality of life but on the impact and risk to our EMS, and about industrial attractions or other sorts of business or employment investments.

After Mr. Barton's presentation, Judge O'Nan asked the Court if they were in support of having Mr. Barton assist the communities in the county to learn more about and to apply for the Brownfield Community Assistance Program Grant. The Court made a motion to fully support Mr. Barton's assistance with the Grant, seconded by the whole Court, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan presented the Union County Sheriff 2021 Unmined Coal Tax Settlement, with a collection of 96.25%. He stated that there was a delay in the printing of un-mined coal bills for several years due to the failure of the state's software collection program. Magistrate Girten made a motion to approve the 2021 Unmined Coal Tax Settlement report, seconded by Magistrate Wyatt, motion carried.

After conducting interviews, Magistrate Ricketts and Road Supervisor Tony Ratley recommend that the Court hire Jeremy Yewell at \$20 an hour for the full-time position at the Road Department. Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to approve said recommendation, seconded by Magistrate Jones, motion carried.

Magistrate Floyd made a motion to advertise for a part-time position at the Recycle Center on October 9, 2024, and October 16, 2024, to stop accepting applications on October 18, 2024, and to have a hire recommendation at our November 12, 2024, Fiscal Court Meeting, seconded by Magistrate Girten, motion carried.

Magistrate Girten made a motion to advertise for a part-time position at Animal Control on October 9, 2024, and October 16, 2024, to stop accepting applications on October 18, 2024, and to have a hire recommendation at our November 12, 2024, Fiscal Court Meeting, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to advertise for a new Union County Rescue Truck on October 9, 2024, and October 16, 2024, to stop accepting bids October 17, 2024, and to open them in Fiscal Court on October 17, 2024, seconded by Magistrate Jones, motion carried.

Judge O'Nan presented two quotes to the Court for a bushhog. This will replace the one that was involved in the rollover accident. The State Contract quotes are as follows:

- Hutson 2024 John Deere FC15R Flex Wing \$32,441.36
- H&R Agri-Power 2022 Land Pride RC5715 \$26,900.00

Road Supervisor Tony Ratley recommended that the Court purchase the 2022 Land Pride RC5715 from H&R Agri-Power for the State Contract price of \$26,900.00. Magistrate Girten

made a motion to approve said recommendation, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan presented to the Court two fire trucks to be declared as surplus. The fire trucks are as follows:

- Whispering Meadows Engine 460 1994 International
VIN#1HTSDPCR7RH550636
- Union County Vol. Engine 565 1989 Ford F800
VIN#1FDRK84A9KVA08313

Magistrate Wyatt made a motion to approve declaring said fire trucks as surplus, seconded by Magistrate Girtten, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan presented the HB6 resolution for LGEDF Funds for Coal Severance Project Renaissance Corner Renovations-Phase 3 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Magistrate Floyd made a motion to approve said resolution, seconded by Magistrate Ricketts, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan requested the approval to pay Sheriff Jason Thomas’ training incentive in the amount of \$2,576.34. Magistrate Jones made a motion to approve the training incentive payment, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan presented the CCBIP grant funding program to the Court. This is the new grant funding that the state has put in the budget to provide funding for bridges in rural communities that are going to struggle to pay for these bridges. The county will use this program to replace a bridge on Hitesville Road estimated to cost around \$900,000.00 with the county paying \$5,000.00 in engineering fees. We must have an engineering firm to design and provide us with structural drawings, which is a little more involved than what we’ve been doing in the past. After meeting with Doug Taylor, our representative with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Judge O’Nan asked the Court to approve paying \$5,000.00 to STV Inc., for engineering costs associated with the replacement of the bridge on Hitesville Road. Magistrate Girtten made a motion to approve paying \$5,000.00 for the engineering cost, seconded by Magistrate Floyd, motion carried.

He then presented a Noncompetitive Negotiation Determination, which states that a contract for the services of a licensed professional engineer for the proposed redesign of Hitesville Road Bridge for Union County, should be obtained by the noncompetitive negotiation method and that competition is not feasible because the selection of a particular firm cannot be made based solely on matters of price, qualifications or outside the context of any given situation. Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to approve Judge O’Nan signing said contract, seconded by Magistrate Girtten, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan asked the Court for their approval to extend the Turnout Gear Bid Opening until October 22, 2024. Magistrate Jones made a motion to approve the extension, seconded by Magistrate Girtten, motion carried.

Claims are to be paid as presented.

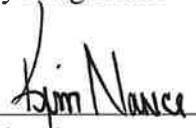
Magistrate Ricketts made a motion to approve Transfers, seconded by Magistrate Girten, motion carried.

Judge O’Nan stated that he had someone reach out to him regarding the vote that’s going to be on the ballot regarding the legalization of medical marijuana and he’s hoping to have someone at our next Fiscal Court Meeting that will explain that to us. In case he can’t find anyone that has a broader knowledge of that, he explained that we are not voting whether the authorization of medical marijuana is legal in the state of Kentucky, that’s settled by the legislature. What this vote is going to tell us is if we want to allow someone to host a dispensary or allow someone to be a grower in Union County.


Judge O’Nan and all Magistrates gave updates on their districts with nothing that required movement from the Court.

Judge O’Nan canceled our 5th Tuesday Court Meeting scheduled for October 22, 2024.

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



Fiscal Court Clerk
Kim Nance



Adam O’Nan
County Judge/Executive