

CAMPBELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT MINUTES

January 4, 2006

A special (change of time) meeting of the Campbell County Fiscal Court was held on Wednesday, January 4, 2006, at 6:00 p.m., at the Campbell County Courthouse, 8352 East Main Street, Alexandria, Kentucky.

Judge Pendery called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was called for by Judge Pendery, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Following roll call, a quorum was declared present. The meeting was covered by *Government Access*.

In attendance at the meeting were:

COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE:
STEVE PENDERY

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
DAVID OTTO
KENNETH RECHTIN
MARK HAYDEN

Justin Verst	County Attorney
Robert Horine	County Administrator
Dan McGinley	Mayor of Alexandria
Jim Seibert	Fiscal Affairs Director
Keith Hill	Chief, Campbell County Police Department
Ken Knipper	Office of Emergency Management Director
Pat Dressman	Director of Human Services
William Hofstetter	Police Department Merit Board Member
Melissa Williams	Director of Administration
Sandra Mulligan	Fiscal Court Clerk
Josh Wice	Administration Analyst
Lori Goetz	Administration Analyst

Judge Pendery presented the minutes from the Fiscal Court meeting of December 21, 2005 for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Otto and seconded by Commissioner Hayden that the minutes of December 21, 2005 be approved. All voted "AYE" and the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Pendery then introduced Joe Wind, Executive Director of Government & Community Relations and Advisor to the President of Northern Kentucky University (NKU), who was present to discuss current activities and future needs of NKU. Mr. Wind thanked the Fiscal Court for the opportunity to talk to them about the future of Campbell County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky relative to NKU. The unemployment rate for high school graduates is 5.3% and that rate for a bachelor degree graduate is 3.10%. The average earnings over a

lifetime for an individual with a high school degree are \$1.2 million and for an individual with a bachelor degree is \$2.1 million. If the goals of the Council on Post Secondary Education are able to be met, it is estimated that in 2020 they will have increased state tax revenue by \$5.3 billion and personal income by \$71 billion. Campbell County will be a significant contributor to that goal. NKU expects approximately \$170 million to be spent on construction projects between now and 2008, being the Bank of Kentucky Center, a new Student Union, a lake and amphitheater, U.S. 27 mixed use development, the I-275/AA Highway Connector, and Johns Hill Road. This is a significant amount of investment that will occur and will change Campbell County in a good way. The Bank of Kentucky Center will be a 9,000 seat facility and will host 120 events per year, is one of the first projects in Kentucky that has been built in its fashion, and it is hoped that Commencement can be held in this building in 2008; the U.S. 27 mixed use development will have office space for partnering companies that choose to work with NKU to create jobs in Campbell County, a retail and hotel component and will bridge with the Bank of Kentucky Center; the new Student Union, which will be paid for by the students rather than by the State, will be a 144,000 square foot facility with a 600-seat ballroom, and will have many popular restaurants, and retail components; the lake improvement project will be completed using all donated funds and will transform the way NKU's campus looks by building a waterfall, an amphitheater for outdoor concerts, and water amenities; the sports complex will consist of 100 acres that the new Connector Road, when built, will run on the backside of, with a baseball stadium, soccer stadium, several baseball fields, swimming facilities, ice skating facilities, and track facilities. At present there are no funds for the sports complex, at a cost of approximately \$80-\$100 million, and it is hoped that NKU may find some private partners to help make this project possible.

Mr. Wind stated that one of the biggest things to be done at NKU in addition to these investments, was to hire Bob Farrell who was one of the principals of SDRC in Milford and is one of the leaders in technology. Mr. Farrell's job is to utilize university investments to look at the intersections of companies to make sure they come to central Campbell County in the identified areas around the university where the cities have focused their open land for these kinds of tech-based or knowledge-based companies. There are currently about 18 projects that Mr. Farrell is working on.

Mr. Wind stated that one of the greatest challenges in Kentucky is whether there are enough college graduates in the State and how Kentucky looks on a national level. In the United States, the percentage of people aged 25-64 with a Baccalaureate Degree is 26.5%; in the State of Kentucky that percentage is 18.8%. If Kentucky stays at the same rate it is at today over the next twenty years, that percentage would only be 27.8%, rather than where it should be at 36.4%. This means that the State of Kentucky needs 400,000 degreed individuals to remain competitive. There are only five counties in Kentucky that meet the national average, and Boone, Kenton and Campbell are not among those five. There are 19 benchmark institutions for each Kentucky institution and NKU's funding goal is to be at 5% above the benchmark average in State dollars. NKU currently receives the fewest dollars per student than all 19 other peer institutions, and less than half than the top peer institution. NKU ranks 500th among all 633 public four-year institutions in total revenue per student and is laboring under conditions of severe limited resources. NKU ranks 523rd among U.S. public four-year institutions in State appropriations and has fewer administrative and support staff, less technical support and fewer service workers than all of its peer institutions.

Mr. Wind stated that in order to drive the economy when NKU has the least amount of funds among its peers, it looked at a recent analysis that is being done for Vision 2015, which suggests that job creation over the next decade will not be nearly what it was in the last decade, unless the talent force is built to supply companies with. NKU and Campbell County can no longer compete for jobs requiring lower skill sets because these jobs are declining rapidly.

Mr. Wind noted that the gap between NKU and its peer in-state institutions is \$22.3 million in State funds alone. The proposal is to fund the base funding gap over four years, and \$11.2 million has been recommended for NKU, which is a 24% increase. It is important to know that other regional university averages in the State is \$5,663 per student and NKU is \$4,256, which is a total gap of \$15.4 million. After they do the investment, NKU will have a gap of \$1,149 per student with \$12.6 million in a gap between NKU and the other regional universities. This will be a \$3 million move forward against the regional average and NKU is very happy with this.

Mr. Wind stated that NKU needs 473,843 square feet of additional education and general space to get to the average of regional universities in Kentucky. This equates to 6 or 7 new academic buildings the size of Landrum Hall, in addition to the Bank of Kentucky Center and the new Student Union. This shows that NKU is an underbuilt campus. Three of the top ten construction/major renovation projects are recommended for NKU, being the Founders Hall renovation project, the Health Innovations Center project, and the Center for Informatics project. A total of \$65.4 million is being requested in total bond authority. Other important road needs include the reconstruction of Johns Hill Road/University Boulevard and the I-275/AA Highway Connector, both of which will alleviate traffic congestion. All of these construction projects make for an exciting time at NKU, not only to transform the campus, but also improve the relationship between the NKU and the surrounding communities by creating job opportunities.

Commissioner Rehtin asked Mr. Wind to elaborate on the comparison of NKU students versus other students in the collegiate system as to what NKU students are paying for tuition. Mr. Wind stated that NKU students pay 63% of their education tuition and fees. Students of other institutions pay on average 40%. This is not because NKU students are paying more dollars, and their tuition rate is pretty much average with other institutions in Kentucky, but the percentage deal is a problem because the State's contribution is so low.

Judge Pendery thanked Mr. Wind for the update and offered congratulations to NKU for Dr. Votruba's inclusion of the community in determining what was needed from the University, and the conclusion, first and foremost, was economic development because it creates the wealth that creates in turn a high quality of life for everyone. The University has since tailored many, if not most, of its programs to the economic goals of our region and has developed partnerships with the economic development agencies and various governments to try to attract businesses into the area that improve the tax base.

Commissioner Rehtin asked what the Council on Postsecondary Education recommendation for an increase this year over last year was. Mr. Wind stated that the amount of increase over last year is 22%, consisting of \$11 million this year and \$11 million in 2008, over a four-year period. Commissioner Rehtin asked what the recommended increase was for the whole postsecondary system. Mr. Wind stated he believes that number is around \$200 million. Commissioner Rehtin asked if there was any indication where the State would go to for these funds, with a budget that is already strapped. Mr. Wind replied that there are some legislators who believe the

gaming issue may be an area to look to, and there is limited consideration for an increase in the tobacco tax. The State of Kentucky is a very poor State and has challenges, but will not get out of this hole without making investments throughout the State. Commissioner Rechten stated that there has been some discussion about allowing each of the Universities to proceed on their own with further capital improvements. Mr. Wind stated that a few of the projects he discussed tonight can produce revenue through parking fees and rooms in the dorms. There is also a move to pass legislation to allow universities to use their own revenues to retire debt, but this has its challenges also. Mr. Wind then stated that NKU is the national leader in the movement on regional stewardship, and is transforming the way universities are looked at through their communities.

Judge Pendery then asked if there were any other citizens or public officials present who wished to address the Court. There were none.

Judge Pendery then requested items of Old Business be brought before the Court. Ms. Williams presented Resolution R-01-06, which she read by title and provided a summary to the Court for its consideration. She stated that this Resolution approves the Kentucky Highway Department's recommendations for Fiscal Year 2007 for the Rural Secondary Road Program. She noted that this Resolution comes before the Court as a result of the presentation by Tom Schomaker of District Six, and endorsement by the Campbell County Road Supervisor and the Sanitation District. Commissioner Rechten made a motion and Commissioner Otto seconded to approve Resolution R-01-06. There being no further discussion, all voted "AYE," and the motion was unanimously approved.

Judge Pendery next requested items of New Business be brought before the Court. Ms. Williams then presented Resolution R-03-06, which she read by title and provided a summary to the Court for its consideration. She stated that this Resolution offers the County's support of the City of Alexandria's Community Economic Growth Grant Application for the Viewpoint Drive Area Sewer Project. She noted that Dan McGinley, Mayor of Alexandria, was present to answer any questions. Judge Pendery asked Mayor McGinley if he would like to address the public regarding this Resolution. Mayor McGinley stated that he would like to thank the Fiscal Court for its support of this Resolution, noting that this project is extremely important, both for the health and welfare of the community, but also for the economic growth opportunities that will modernize a stretch of U.S. 27. He stated that it is important fiscally for the City of Alexandria that they get this grant. Commissioner Rechten made a motion and Commissioner Otto seconded to approve Resolution R-03-06. There being no further discussion, all voted "AYE," and the motion was unanimously approved.

Judge Pendery then offered the Court's thanks to Mayor McGinley for 87 days of personal assistance he gave working on the Hurricane Katrina disaster. This represented a significant sacrifice to make on Mayor McGinley's part.

Ms. Williams next presented Resolution R-04-06, which she read by title and provided a summary to the Court for its consideration. She stated that this Resolution offers the County's support of the City of Bellevue's Community Economic Growth Grant Application for the Marianne Theater Project. Commissioner Otto made a motion and Commissioner Hayden seconded to approve Resolution R-04-06. There being no further discussion, all voted "AYE," and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Williams next presented Resolution R-05-06, which she read by title and provided a summary to the Court for its consideration. She stated that this Resolution approves fees for the Campbell County Senior Center Wellness Program for 2006. She noted that these fees are for out-of-county residents who use the Wellness Center, and that Pat Dressman, Director of Human Services, was present to answer any questions. Commissioner Rehtin made a motion and Commissioner Otto seconded to approve Resolution R-05-06. Commissioner Hayden congratulated Ms. Dressman on the positive press coverage that the County received for the Wellness Center. There being no further discussion, all voted “AYE,” and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Williams then called on Ms. Dressman to give an update on the White House Conference on Aging that she attended in December in Washington, D.C. Ms. Dressman stated that she was very fortunate to be appointed by Senator Jim Bunning to be one of thirteen delegates from the State of Kentucky who attended this conference. David Walker, Comptroller of the United States, gave a glum picture of what is happening financially to the aging population. On a national level, there are 78 million baby boomers who are aging. The numbers of work force who will retire and collect social security in the next ten years is very staggering. For some of the needs that will be out there, strategies needed to be developed. Senior centers and what they do in a community are a vital piece of the puzzle to devise these strategies. Campbell County is far above the game of almost any other State in the nation with the wellness component at its Senior Center. The top resolutions that came out of the Conference were (1) reauthorize the Older Americans Act, (2) develop and coordinate comprehensive long-term care strategies, (3) ensure that older Americans have transportation, (4) improve the Medicaid and Medicare programs, and (5) support geriatric education and training for all health care professionals, paraprofessionals, health professionals, students and direct care workers. NKU is developing a great facility and resource center with older adults. She stated that the mental health issue will be a great focus in the next ten years also, and that everyone needs to work together on the state, federal, local, and faith initiatives levels to get them collaboratively working out of the box if funding is not available to implement these services. She noted that additional information on the Conference can be found at www.whcoa.gov. Judge Pendery stated that it was an honor for Ms. Dressman to represent the State at this conference and she deserved to be a delegate.

Ms. Williams next requested a motion to appoint Don Girton to the Campbell County Extension District Board to fill the unexpired term of Elizabeth Herald, who passed away recently. Mr. Girton’s appointment will be effective immediately and expire on June 29, 2007, and is recommended for this appointment by the Extension Council. Judge Pendery made a motion and Commissioner Hayden seconded, to approve the motion. There being no further discussion, all voted “AYE” and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Williams next requested a motion to appoint Lawrence V. Brennan, M.D. and Beth R. Healy, RPh to the Kentucky Department for Public Health to continue to serve on the Campbell County Local Board of Health for two-year terms, effective January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007. Dr. Brennan and Ms. Healy have indicated their willingness to continue to serve on this Board. Judge Pendery made a motion and Commissioner Otto seconded, to approve the motion. There being no further discussion, all voted “AYE” and the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Pendery next requested reports from Staff. County Administrator, Robert Horine, advised that he had nothing further to report.

County Attorney Verst stated that all is going well at the County Attorney's office, and he had nothing further to report.

Commissioner Otto and Commissioner Hayden advised that they had nothing further to report.

Judge Pendery then reminded everyone that Campbell County Solid Waste division and the Cities of Campbell County are sponsoring a Christmas tree mulching program again this year. The program runs from January 1, 2006 through January 16, 2006. Trees can be dropped off at either sites throughout the County, those being the Alexandria Public Works Building, Campbell County Road Department, Dayton Public Works Garage, Ft. Thomas Highland Park, Ft. Thomas Tower Park, Highland Heights Civic Center, Newport City Garage and Southgate Public Works Garage.

Judge Pendery then asked for a report from the Fiscal Director. Mr. Seibert stated that he would like to acknowledge for the record that bonds are in place for various elected officials and staff for 2006, as required by Kentucky Revised Statutes.

Mr. Seibert next requested approval of the Claims being presented at this meeting. County Attorney Verst stated that he had reviewed the Claims, and they appear to be appropriate. Commissioner Otto made a motion that the Claims be approved and paid. Commissioner Rehtin seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, all voted "AYE" and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Commissioner Rehtin, seconded by Commissioner Hayden, that the meeting be adjourned. All voted "AYE" and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Attachments:

Resolution R-01-06: Approval of FY07 Rural Secondary Road Program

Resolution R-03-06: Support for City of Alexandria Grant

Resolution R-04-06: Support for City of Bellevue Grant

Resolution R-05-06: Approval of Wellness Center Fees for 2006

Claims: January 4, 2006

January 4, 2006 (Supplemental)

Approved:

STEVE PENDERY

Campbell County Judge/Executive

Attest:

Sandra L. Mulligan
Fiscal Court Clerk