

**CAMPBELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY
MINUTES**

JANUARY 20, 2021

A special meeting of the Campbell County Fiscal Court was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. through a live broadcast on Campbell Media and the Fiscal Court Facebook Page.

**COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE
STEVE PENDERY**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GEOFF BESECKER
TOM LAMPE
BRIAN PAINTER**

County Attorney Steve Franzen,
County Administrator Matt Elberfeld,
Assistant County Administrator Kim Serra,
Fiscal Court Clerk Paula Spicer,
Finance Director/Treasurer Marie Schenkel,
Police Chief Craig Sorrell,
Parks and Recreation Manager Larry Harrod

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Judge Pendery.

Judge Pendery asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following roll call, a quorum was declared present.

Minutes from the Fiscal Court special meeting of January 6, 2021 were presented. Motion was made by Commissioner Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Painter to approve the minutes. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Judge Pendery introduced Kim Webb, Executive Director of the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky. Ms. Webb first thanked the Fiscal Court and the entire Campbell County community for their support of the Emergency Shelter over the last several years both with the Fiscal Court funds from Mental Health and Aging tax disbursement and the recent developments this past winter since December 15. She thanked Jailer Jim Daley and his staff for being so welcoming of the shelter and its mission at the Restricted Custody facility (RCF) in Newport. She also thanked Allyn Reinecke for keeping them in line with the tax allocations from the Fiscal Court. Ms. Webb explained that the Emergency Shelter provides emergency low-barrier shelter to adult men and women. The winter cold shelter is provided from November to March for adult men and women. They also accept drug referrals from hospitals, jails and police. From May to

November they provide transitional housing, work program beds and shower/laundry outreach programs inside the shelter. The shelter has been in operation for 13 years. She hopes this is the last winter at their current location as they move to a new building at 436 West 13th Street, Covington. On December 15 the shelter both broke ground for its new facility and moved its entire winter overnight operations to the RCF. She provided some statistics to the Fiscal Court prior to the meeting describing the programs and what their role has been in the community over the last 13 years. Ms. Webb gave an overview of the FY20 funds awarded by the Fiscal Court and how they were used to serve clients from Campbell County. She talked about how the winter shelter was operated at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center for two weeks last March during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic where they sheltered 134 guests, providing 862 total nights of shelter. She stated that nearly every social service agency in northern Kentucky helped to make the project a reality. She appreciates the Fiscal Court's reimbursement for Campbell County residents during that time. On April 4, with assistance from Welcome House, they moved 39 of the most at-risk clients to a hotel in Wilder providing 1,130 nights of shelter. On May 4 they moved back into their building and started their summer programming. Facing a reduction of occupancy in their building this winter, Judge Pendery initiated a search for a place that the Emergency Shelter could move its winter operations for the entire region. This resulted in conversations with Jailer Daley who allowed them to move to the Restricted Custody Center on the Campbell County Detention Center campus since December 15, where they can provide 50 beds instead of 24 beds, and continue designating two beds for the Mental Health Court diversion program. The two men in transitional work program beds since November 1 today received the keys to a house which will open beds for that program. She recognized the Campbell County Police, Dispatch Center, Newport Police and other cities that have brought individuals to their shelter. Judge Pendery is happy that the Jail was able to help. The reaction across the community has been great. He was impressed with the police departments who were very professional and grateful that they could bring people to the shelter. Ms. Webb stated that in spite of some plumbing issues at the jail, the staff has been great and has laundered all of the linens/towels for the shelter and provide dinner Monday through Friday to the Shelter's clients. The experience at the RCF has helped them with planning for their new facility which will ultimately have 68 beds. Judge Pendery expressed his appreciation to Ms. Webb and her staff who are serving the clientele for whom this is the last resort. They could freeze to death if not for the shelter. He thanked her for the work that she and her staff do for the community and he is happy that the County was able to pitch in. Ms. Webb appreciated the comments. She stated that thankfully today the moratorium on evictions was extended although they are still seeing evictions occur. She explained that the shelter serves a wide gamut of individuals – some are there for only one night, while others may be there ten times before they move on. Ms. Webb added that the fastest growing segment of the population experiencing homelessness is senior citizens. Across the country senior citizens are losing the affordable housing that they have; the only thing that will solve homelessness is affordable housing. Commissioner Lampe told Ms. Webb she is welcome back anytime - her story is very heartwarming. There is a great need for the services that the Shelter provides. A lot of credit goes to her, her staff and also to Jailer Daley. Ms. Webb advised that many agencies across the nation are looking at doing what they have done. They work hard to educate their guests. It is working, but they need everybody's help. There is no reason anybody should suffer this winter outside.

Larry Harrod, Parks and Recreation Director, presented his annual report on the 2020 park season. He and his staff were very disappointed that they could not host the events and festivals last year because they enjoy providing those things for the community. However, they were happy to provide a place for people to come to get out of the house. The parks saw an explosion in the number of people visiting when it was safe to get out. A J Jolly Park especially saw an increase in the number of people boating, fishing, kayaking, walking and biking. The camping season was not what they expected since they opened late and had limited dates to offer, but they were sold out every night that they were opened. Mr. Harrod listed projects that were accomplished during 2020: paving of various roads in A J Jolly Park, addition of four much-needed RV camping spots, new paddle boat and several kayaks and improvements to that area for ease of use, and in conjunction with the CDC and the Campbell County Library, a storybook walk around the trail at A J Jolly Park in lieu of Jolly Thursdays. Although 2020 was not ideal, they saw a number of new patrons who now know about A J Jolly Park which will bode well for 2021. Commissioner Painter asked what kind of operational problems were experienced due to COVID-19. Mr. Harrod stated that a plan was in place before opening: the ranger station was closed to the public and they encouraged reservations or passes be purchased online or by phone to avoid as much contact as possible, rentals were made through a protective window, units were sanitized after use, camping started at 50% capacity and never exceeded 75%, they discouraged people from gathering in large groups and bathrooms were sanitized once every 1-2 hours. Judge Pendery maintained that there were a lot more uses, not just because of COVID, but because there are more attractive amenities at the park and more people knew about it this year. As a private citizen he is impressed and is grateful for the work that Mr. Harrod has accomplished. Mr. Harrod stated that he has a good staff. Commissioner Besecker thanked Mr. Harrod, his staff and Kim Serra for providing a great opportunity and ensuring that things stayed open and fluid during a difficult time.

At this time, Judge Pendery asked if any comments or questions had been submitted by the public. Ms. Serra replied that none had been submitted via email or on Facebook.

Matt Elberfeld presented old business with a second reading of Ordinance O-01-21. O-01-21 provides for a credit of Campbell County's occupational license fee for new employees as part of an economic development project by The Hillshire Brands Company under the Kentucky Business Investment Program (KRS 154.32-010 – KRS 154.32-100). This is part of a broader overall incentive package to be considered by the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) at its board meeting next week. If approved by KEDFA, there will be more information about the incentives for this project. Commissioner Lampe made a motion to adopt R-01-21, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

New business was then presented beginning with Resolution R-06-21 by title. R-06-21 approves Sukkah Properties LLC for participation in the Campbell County Property Assessment and Reassessment Moratorium Program for the property at 738 York Street in Newport, Kentucky. Sukkah Properties, owner of the York Street Café building, plans to renovate the second floor for commercial office space and the third and fourth floors for apartments. The property assessment moratorium is available for historic buildings and freezes the assessment for five years at the pre-investment value. Mr. Weber has reviewed the application and recommends approval. Commissioner Besecker made a motion to adopt R-06-21, seconded by Commissioner Lampe.

Mr. Elberfeld stated that the project has not yet started. He is unsure of the start date but will find out and follow up. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to approve the HAZMAT billing rates for 2021. Mr. Elberfeld explained that the County's HAZMAT ordinance requires periodic review of billing rates and Emergency Management Director Bill Turner recommends changes to the rates due to increased personnel and equipment costs. The rates have been the same for the last eight years and are designed to recover the costs of responding to hazmat incidents. Kenton County has taken similar action to increase its rates and Campbell's rates are about the same. Motion was made by Commissioner Painter, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-07-21 was read by title. R-07-21 sets the fees for A J Jolly Park and Penderly Park for 2021. The park admission fees, shelter reservation fees and recreational rentals (kayaks, paddle boat and bikes) will stay the same. The only increase is for camping sites. Depending on the site and whether it is a regular or holiday/festival rental, camping sites are increased \$2-3 per rental. Staff reviewed comparable rates and looked at demand before recommending the increases. Commissioner Lampe made a motion to adopt R-07-21, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to set the dates for 2021 park season, including camping, at Campbell County Parks. The dates are roughly the same as last year but could change due to COVID. Motion was made by Commissioner Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to advance Police Officer Robert Dieman from PO6 (\$27.8646/hour or \$57,958.37 annually) to PO7 (\$29.8151/hour or \$62,015.41 annually) effective January 10, 2021 in accordance with the current FOP working agreement. Motion was made by Judge Penderly, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to advance Police Officer Ashley Tate from PO2 (\$22.2917/hour or \$46,366.74 annually) to PO3 (\$22.9604/hour or \$47,757.63 annually) effective January 14, 2021 in accordance with the current FOP working agreement. Motion was made by Judge Penderly, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to appoint Ashley Murray to the full-time Payroll and Benefit Analyst position with compensation set at Pay Grade 6, \$64,000 annually. This is a new position that was recently approved. Motion was made by Judge Penderly, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

For the final item of new business, Judge Penderly made a motion to reappoint James Morgan Jr., Alisha Schweitzer and Michael Sutton to the Campbell County Ethics Commission for a one-year term effective February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Mr. Elberfeld presented Resolution R-08-21 by title. R-08-21 authorizes the Judge/Executive to execute a change order with Smith Construction for the Blangey Road project. The project is almost complete. This change order is in the amount of \$13,960 for items discovered once the project was underway: additional stone to support the new T-turnaround, removal of trees and additional asphalt. Cardinal Engineering has reviewed the necessity and pricing of these items and recommends approval. Commissioner Painter made a motion to adopt R-08-21, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. Judge Pendery stated that this project is an amazing transformation of the site. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Mr. Franzen advised that the moratorium on jury trials has been extended to April 1. Most other activity at the courthouse has resumed.

Commissioners Besecker and Lampe had no report for this meeting.

Commissioner Painter stated that he participated in a Zoom meeting with the Chamber of Commerce wherein legislators provided an update on the current session of the General Assembly which started the second week of January. Several emergency bills were passed related to the Governor's use of executive powers in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The bills modified the length of shutdowns without consulting the legislature and aligned the shutting down of schools and other public facilities and restaurants by the state with the CDC recommendations. So, schools would, at their discretion, operate in person if they kept up the CDC guidelines. There seems to be a conflict with the governor's mandates and what the legislature would allow. These bills passed were sent to the Governor who has 10 days to veto or allow them to go into law. Due to the emergency clauses in the bills, there may be changes in the next 10 days or so with how schools can operate. Judge Pendery stated that that is a good synopsis. He added that there were some other things mentioned during the meeting that he was a little discouraged with, but he will elaborate another time.

Judge Pendery announced that the Fiscal Court has teamed up with Cohen Recycling to collect old holiday lights. Now through February 1, 2021, residents may drop off holiday lights in the containers located in the first-floor lobby of the County Administration Building, 1098 Monmouth Street, Newport and at the upper level entrance of the County Clerk's office, 8330 West Main Street, Alexandria.

Judge Pendery advised that the County is in close contact at least three days a week with the Health Department and St. Elizabeth Hospital regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The frustration that people are experiencing in their effort to get vaccinated is not because of a distribution problem locally or by the State; it is because of the supply of vaccine. Kentucky consistently has only received 53,000 doses per week for the entire state. At that rate, it would take more than 80 weeks to vaccinate the people of Kentucky. The State only knows maybe a week in advance how many doses are to be delivered. Many more vaccines would be given each day if it were available. He stated that more qualified people are being brought on to do vaccinations with the hope that the State will get a greater supply. There has not been one single dose allocated to northern Kentucky that spoiled or was wasted. The State of Kentucky is number 7 among the 50 states in terms of speed with which the vaccine is being distributed. He hates to see the hard-working health care workers get blamed.

Marie Schenkel presented the Finance Director/Treasurer's report by requesting a motion to authorize staff to solicit bids to install pavement markings on the following roads: Poplar Ridge, Eight Mile, Nine Mile, Short Cut, Old US27/Alexandria Pike, Lickert and Alexandria Pike East. Motion was made by Commissioner Painter, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to enter into an agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions for support services for the new Toshiba copier in the Housing Department. A new copier will be purchased for the Housing Department with CARES Act funds and this agreement is just for service and maintenance of the machine. Motion was made by Judge Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

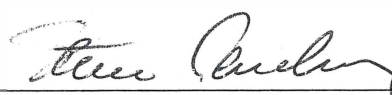
Ms. Schenkel then requested a motion to approve the claims and claims paid per standing order dated January 13 and 20, 2021. County Attorney Steve Franzen advised that he has reviewed the claims and determined that they all appear appropriate. Commissioner Lampe made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Fiscal Court, Commissioner Besecker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judge Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m. Judge Pendery thanked everybody for joining the meeting.

Attachments:

Ordinance O-01-21	Occupational License Fee Credit to Hillshire Brands
Resolution R-06-21	Approve Sukkah Properties for property Assessment/Reassessment Moratorium Program
Resolution R-07-21	Set Fees for A J Jolly and Pendery Parks for 2021
Resolution R-08-21	Approve Change Order for Blangey Road Project
Claims and Claims Paid Per Standing Order dated January 13 and 21, 2021	

Approved:


STEVE PENDERY
Judge/Executive

Attest:


Paula K. Spicer, Fiscal Court Clerk