

REGULAR SESSION
of the Daviess County Fiscal Court
held at the Courthouse in the City of Owensboro,
County of Daviess, Commonwealth of Kentucky
on this 3rd day of February 2015
Present were Judge/Executive Al Mattingly and
County Commissioners Mike Koger,
George Wathen and Charlie Castlen

DOCUMENTS RELATED TO TODAY'S DISCUSSION
ARE FILED IN FEBRUARY 3, 2015 FISCAL COURT FILE

Judge/Executive Al Mattingly opened the meeting in prayer and led the court in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Judge Mattingly proclaimed the Kentucky Association of Master Contractors Week as February 2-8, 2015.

Casey Emmick and William Higdon presented an update concerning the East Daviess County Water Association and the West and Southeast Water Districts.

East Daviess County Water Association's General Manager Casey Emmick stated, "We have right at 4,500 customers and 350 miles of waterlines. We are in several parts of different counties including Hancock, Daviess, and Ohio. We have 10 pump stations ranging from 900 gallons per minute down to 50 gallons per minute. We also have seven storage tanks from 100,000 to 750,000 gallons. Total reserve is 1.7 million gallons. The 2015 projects include the Hancock county pump station construction, sand blasting and painting of a tank, and a few road improvement projects where waterlines need to be moved. Our water loss in 2014 was 12%. I don't like that number, but others think that it is good. Our finances are good."

West and Southeast Water Districts General Manager William Higdon stated, "The two districts have approximately 12,000 customers and 400 miles of waterlines ranging from 2 to 16 inch lines. We have approximately 1,000 fire hydrants, 10 water tanks with 4,080,000-gallon capacity, and 7 pump stations that can pump about 3,800 gallons per minute. The district's tank storage and pumping volumes should sustain us for the next 10-years. The Southeast has no known unserved areas. The West has two known unserved areas that include five residents. In 2014, the West did four projects related to unserved areas for a total of 8 miles, and that was with the financial assistance of this court. We added five natural gas generators to booster stations in 2014, and now all booster stations and our office have an alternate power source. Our combined annual budget is \$3.86 million. The districts are debt free and have 1+ years of operating revenue in reserve. It may become necessary to upgrade a waterline on Highway 54. Currently, that is the only foreseeable costly large project."

Judge Mattingly stated, "A couple of years ago, during the 2013 drought, we had some issues maintaining pressure in the west end."

Mr. Higdon stated, "Because of that issue, we put a booster pump out on Mulligan Road."

Commissioner Koger asked, "When they do the expanding on Highway 54, will the state help pay for some of that project?"

Mr. Higdon stated, "My hope is that when the state expands 54 that they will have to relocate the 12 inch line. At point, the state would have to pay for it. I would then like to pay to put up a 16-20 inch line."

Minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting were submitted to fiscal court members for review prior to today's meeting and on **a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Koger with all the Court concurring** said Minutes were approved and signed.

By a motion of Commissioner Wathen, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered approval of all Claims for all Departments.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Koger, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval of the Fund Transfers.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Wathen, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval of the 2015-2019 Sheriff's Bond.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Koger, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval to Contract with D-C Elevator Company, Inc. for the Annual Elevator Safety Test at the Daviess County Courthouse.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Wathen, the court considered for approval to Declare as surplus the FEMA Trailer and transfer the trailer to the Amateur Radio Club.

EMA Assistant Director John Clouse stated, "This trailer was received from FEMA in the mid 1990. It has served as a command vehicle. Currently, this trailer is sitting in a storage shed on Highway 81 that we do not have access to so we cannot pull it out to a scene to use it. For several years, the Amateur Radio Group used this trailer annually as a mobile command post for various events."

Bobby Spears of the Amateur Radio Club thanked the court for this transfer. He stated, "This is a good community action as we provide citizens with communications during emergencies."

Commissioner Wathen noted the importance of this Radio Club for the community during emergencies. He thanked them for what they do.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Koger, the court considered for approval to Promote Tom Hall from Service Tech. to Sign Tech., effective February 2, 2015.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Wathen, seconded by Commissioner Koger, the court considered for approval to Advertise for a Veterinary Tech. in the Dept. of Animal Control, if not filled internally.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Wathen, seconded by Commissioner Koger, the court considered for approval to Appoint Charlie Mackey (03-2015) to the **Parks Board** (*Ex-officio*) (Todd Roberts served 1 term) - TERM: 1/1/2015 – 1/1/2019.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

First Reading of KOC 560.3 (2015) – An Ordinance relating to the Equipment of Emergency Vehicles in Daviess County.

Comments:

Coroner Jeff Jones stated, "The coroner's office is requesting approval of this ordinance. I am asking that my office and deputies be allowed to utilize blue lights and sirens. Recently, a situation came up where my office needed to get to a scene, and we were delayed due to traffic. That is the purpose of this request. Also, the state statute says we are only allowed to use blue lights when responding to a death scene, and we are not authorized to exceed the speed limit."

Commissioner Castlen asked, "Jeff, do you anticipate that the blue lights would be used strictly to respond to accident scenes such as the accident that happened recently on the Natcher or every time the coroner responds to a death scene?"

Mr. Jones stated, "It will be restricted to enable the responding coroner or deputy coroner to get to the scene of a situation such as we had on the Natcher. I have discussed the possibility of my office receiving approval to use blue lights and told them that there is absolutely no need to utilize this equipment other than if traffic is blocked and to enable us to actually get to the scene."

Other business to be brought before the Daviess County Fiscal Court:

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Koger, the court considered for approval **Resolution #01-2015** Supporting Passage of Road Fund Stabilization by the 2015 Kentucky General Assembly to ensure adequate funding of the State Road Fund and County Road Aid throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and authorized the Judge/Executive to sign said resolution.

Judge/Executive Mattingly stated, "We have all recently benefitted from the dip in gasoline prices. Taxes collected from gasoline sales are collected on the average wholesale price. As that wholesale price has gone down, the amount of money available to come back to municipalities and counties to improve roads has dropped, and it looks like it could cost Daviess County as much \$250,000 in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. There is a state bill being introduced, which stabilizes the floor of the average wholesale price of gasoline. The problem we have is that the gas tax that we collect can drop very quickly. However, it can only rise at a rate of 10% for each time they figure an average wholesale price. While it could drop millions and millions of dollars in a six-month period, it could take four to six years to get back to the level it was. All Kentucky fiscal courts have been asked to approve this resolution. I think it is a wise thing to do."

Commissioner Castlen stated, "Current law is structured to have a 10% cap. As volatile as gas prices have been, all Kentucky citizens are at risk of suffering a great loss to their county's road improvement funds."

Judge Mattingly stated, "I think for every penny of lost revenue it equates to \$30 million. If the bill being introduced fails to pass then you are looking at a reduction of five cents."

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Koger, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval to Promote Keary Boone and Jarrod Heath Huff from Service Technicians to Heavy Equipment Operators, effective February 2, 2015.

Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. All members of the court voted in favor; motion passed.

Comments:

Commissioner Wathen stated, "Recently there has been a lot of discussion about the Bluegrass Music Museum. Most of the discussion has centered on the topic of where the city will get the money to build it. The second part of the question is how much public money is enough? Now, I know this is a city project, however the city has asked Daviess County Fiscal Court to help support it financially, so by default, it is a concern of mine. I have discussed the Bluegrass Museum with many people in the community, and I believe there is a consensus that it is not being discussed publically. There is a concern about whether this community can support a Convention Center, a River Park Center, and a Bluegrass Museum. The option that is being discussed privately is a plan to take the money that has been raised for the Bluegrass Museum and use it to remodel the River Park Center and create a fabulous Bluegrass Museum and Performing Arts Center. The advantages are simple:

- Less Public money used to accomplish the same goals - Less long-term financial risk for the citizens.
- Neither organization would be as likely to struggle with their operating budgets.
- There is already a parking garage in place.
- Last, but not least, I believe that the actual facility could be much nicer than either could afford individually.

Today, my recommendation is simple. I would like to publically ask the two organizations to get together and consider this option."

Judge Mattingly noted that the next court meeting will be February 16 at 10:00 a.m.

**Without objection, Judge/Executive Mattingly adjourned the meeting.
SO ORDERED THAT COURT STAND ADJOURNED.**

Al Mattingly
Daviess County Judge/Executive