

**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 7th day of April 2011.
Present were Judge/Executive Al Mattingly and
County Commissioners Jim Lambert,
George Wathen and Charlie Castlen**

Charlie Castlen said the opening prayer and led the court in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Judge Mattingly presented the April 2011 Fair Housing Month proclamation.

Minutes of the March 22, 2011 meeting were submitted to the Fiscal Court members for review prior to the Fiscal Court meeting and on a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Wathen with all the Court concurring said Minutes were approved and signed, and the Court was directed to spread upon the Fiscal Court Order Book the Minutes along with any exhibits, orders, ordinances or resolutions that pertain to same.

Karen Miller, Executive Director of the Owensboro Daviess County Convention and Visitors Bureau presented the following agency update for April 2011.

The Owensboro Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau is a marketing organization. Each year we create a marketing plan to best promote Owensboro-Daviess County and to bring in visitors to stay here and play here! The mission of the Owensboro-Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau is to strengthen the positive awareness of Owensboro-Daviess County as a leisure, convention, business, and sports destination and to increase hotel revenues and stimulate economic development and growth in the community. Our 7-member board consists of three industry representatives from hotels/motels and restaurants, one Chamber of Commerce member, and two at-large appointees. Our board meets at the CVB monthly the 3rd Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. This is a big year for us – marketing our great Bluegrass events, focusing on Bill Monroe’s 100th birthday, creating a new website and promoting Owensboro-Daviess County in a way that has never been done before. Some examples include the video screen in Time Square, national press releases, magazine editorial articles, and travel writers from all over the world creating international coverage. Tourism in Owensboro-Daviess County generated \$244 million in tourism spending in 2009.

Industry and Community Involvement – The role of the CVB is important. We strive to help everyone understand what we do and how we can help promote activities, event, and attractions. In doing so, tourism brings in more dollars to the community.

We have created a list of marquees and sent businesses ideas promoting upcoming special events. Events listings are faxed to all hotels and restaurants each Friday including an extensive calendar, promotional CVB window displays, e-newsletter, Facebook pages.

Festivals and Events Meetings

Meets every 2 months and CVB explains current marketing plan and updates on festivals, events attractions. Interested parties are invited. Each person has the opportunity to discuss upcoming events and network.

Sports

We have 43 sporting events in Owensboro this year, up from 36 last year. A big accomplishment this year was the landing of the KHSAA Sweet 16 tournament for the next 5 years. This tournament has never been awarded to a community for more than 2 years straight. June 9 – 11th, this event will fill hotels and create business for the entire community. We have also scheduled new tournaments this year and creating relationships with new events, as the plan for the events center become permanent. Ideas: cheerleading, dance, ty kwan do karate, wrestling, volleyball and more.

Room Receipts

12-month state average is 54%; Daviess County is at 55.97% (Jan. – Feb. 2011) which is similar to the previous fiscal year. This fiscal year, we have budgeted to do \$385,000 in room tax receipts; our primary fund source, and my prediction, is that we will be on par with last fiscal year of \$366,000.

Budget

Because of the slow economic recovery, we have held expenses to a low, as we have for the last 3 ½ years. I feel we will come out in the black. We have consistently tweaked our budget as it relies on the ups-and-downs of the hotel industry. You all receive our monthly financial records and our board minutes and I am glad to go into further detail at any time.

Groups

We are working hard to stay viable in the meetings market and are looking to increasing that exposure. Currently, I am working with several meeting-groups; largest of which is the KY Firefighters Association hosting 500 people, of which 200+ hotel rooms will be reserved for 3 - 4 nights.

Partnerships

We understand the importance and appreciate the opportunity to work with other entities to increase business in Owensboro. We take every opportunity to work with the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, new events director for the city, planners for the new downtown developments, and our surrounding counties and cities throughout the state.

Judge Mattingly appreciates the fact that marketing strategies are currently being developed for the new convention center.

By a motion of Commissioner Lambert, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered to Hire Lee West as a part-time, seasonal Park Attendant at Yellow Creek Park.

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

By a motion of Commissioner Lambert, seconded by Commissioner Wathen, the court considered the Fund Transfer from the Solid Waste Operating Fund to the Solid Waste Debt Service Fund and from the General Fund to the Bond Fund and the Road Fund.

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

See document(s) A

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. Voting results: All members of the court voted in favor. Motion passed.

See file folder dated April 7, 2011 for said Claims.

The court received into record the Daviess County Extension and GRADD Special District Budgets. See file folder dated April 7, 2011 for said documents.

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

- By a motion of Commissioner Wathen, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered to Advertise for an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Animal Control.
Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. Voting results: All members of the court voted in favor. Motion passed.

- By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Lambert, the court considered to Approve **Resolution No. 04-2011** – Authorizing the Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Water Resource Agency to issue notes, bonds, and other forms of indebtedness to maintain wastewater facilities (as approved during the March 2011, Rate Review Board Meeting).
Without further discussion, Judge/Executive Mattingly called for a vote on the motion. Voting results: All members of the court voted in favor. Motion passed.

See Document(s) B

Public Comments:

No comments received.

Comments by Daviess County Fiscal Court:

Commissioner Wathen stated, "I want to make public some concerns I have about the convention center. Anytime I am out in the public, I am asked about this issue more than any other topic. I believe their concern centers around the fact that there is not a lot of information right now. A part of the concern is that some of the information they do have is actually reason for concern. Back when Daviess County Fiscal Court first bought-in to this project, it was an 80,000 square-foot facility and had a forecast of \$27 million for the full-project. The court made a wise decision and committed \$20 million to the project, not a penny more. I am for the building of the best convention center this community can afford. I am for this project. When I campaigned, I often said that a major problem with this project was that the project did not seem to be driven by a real business plan. Today, I believe that is still the case. We moved from an 80,000 square-foot facility with a total projected cost of \$27 million to a

140,000 square-foot facility with a total projected cost of \$30 million. The real problem here is that the \$30 million is just for the building, not for the full-project. We switched from quoting the cost of the full-project to quoting the cost of just the building. Some of the costs not included in the \$30 million quote include fixtures (estimated at \$2 million), construction manager (estimated at \$2.4 million), architect (estimated at \$3 million), land purchases (estimated at \$2.7 million). That totals approximately \$40 million that we have committed to or know about. There are a couple of large items we or I do not know the cost of - land preparation(s) and infrastructure, such as curbs, gutters, and driveways. As a result, we now have a cost of \$40 million plus. The county government is only committed to \$20 million and instead of the city needing only \$7 million to complete the project, they now need \$20 million plus. Another concern is that the convention center needs to include space for a very large number of people. I think that number depends on the style of the venue. For example, sit-down dinners will need space for about 600-650 and a large meeting will need seating for approximately 1,500. Obviously, we need to maximize the space in order to pay for this building. However, we are only going to have a 150 ~~square-foot~~ room hotel next to it, so I do not know where all of these people are going to stay. Lastly, I think that when they were discussing an 80,000 square-foot building, there was an estimated annual operating cost of \$300,000-\$400,000. With the revised square-footage, the estimated annual operating cost is around \$525,000-\$700,000. I believe we are charged with prudence in this serious matter and as county commissioner, I feel it important to address these issues. I am publically asking the city government to show us, more importantly, the citizens of Daviess County, the convention and events center's business plan. I believe before we go any further we must know that the city can afford the over \$40 million project, including the project's sustained operational maintenance expenses. The citizens of Daviess County need to see this business plan. A lot of the problem results from public unrest due to the absence of a business plan."

*Judge Mattingly, "Thank you, commissioner. I think many people share your concern. Regarding the motel, you mentioned it being 150 square-feet. I think you meant to say 150 rooms."

*Commissioner Wathen apologized as he did mean to say rooms, not square-feet.

Judge Mattingly, "When you talked about operating cost, I think you intended to say operating deficit, as opposed to cost. I am sure the cost to operate the facility will cost more. The question has always been will that facility pay for itself. I guess, one of the reasons they went to the larger form was to make sure that they could maximize its use. You are right, commissioner, there are many issues that have not been resolved. I can tell you that today, and no one knows the geo-technical costs, bank stabilization, and those kinds of things, but we will have most of those figures by the middle of May or first of June 2011, when the construction manager will provide a guaranteed maximum price. At least that is my hope."

Judge Mattingly, "I want to read a part of a letter received from the Owensboro Police Department, *I would like to advise you of the invaluable help we received on March 6, 2011 from some of the Daviess County Fire Department members. The police department had been working to locate a missing person. The Daviess County Fire Department came to aid the search and subsequently that person was found. Family members of the lost were appreciative of the respect and professionalism exhibited by our fire department and that reflects very well upon you and the Daviess County Fire Department as caring for the community and safety. Due to a sincere devotion to their jobs, your professional firefighters are an asset not only to the citizens of Daviess County and the Owensboro Police Department, but also to the community as a whole. Signed, Detective Jeff Payne, Owensboro Police Department.* I want to say a well deserved thanks to Chief Smeathers and his professional crew."

Judge Mattingly noted a compliance letter recently received in which the Daviess County Landfill was inspected and found to be in complete compliance with all regulations.

Due to a recent e-mail concerning the burning of leaves in neighborhoods, and as this is a common issue of concern received this time of year, Commissioner Lambert suggested Chief Smeathers attend the next Fiscal Court meeting to discuss burning laws.

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

Al Mattingly
Daviess County Judge/Executive