

**Minutes of the May 2, 2019
Daviness County Fiscal Court Meeting
Held at the Daviness County, Kentucky Courthouse
Present elected court officials included
Judge/Executive Al Mattingly and
County Commissioners George Wathen and Charlie Castlen**

**DOCUMENTS RELATED TO TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS
ARE FILED IN THE CORRESPONDING FISCAL COURT FILE**

The meeting opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet West Kentucky Field Rep. Mark Welch, on behalf of the Governor and State Transportation Secretary, announced that Daviness County will receive \$651,619 in state discretionary road improvement money. This money will be used to improve the majority, if not all of, Lake Forest Drive, and Steven School House, Grandview, and Greenbriar Roads.

Fiscal court members expressed their deepest appreciation for this money to improve these local roads.

Minutes of the April 18 and 24, 2019 court meetings were submitted to fiscal court members for review prior to today's meeting and on a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Wathen with all the Court concurring said Minutes were approved and signed.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Wathen, the court considered for approval; 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 Wathen, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; Award Bid No. 08-2019: Drury Road Bridge Replacement to Scott & Murphy, Inc. for \$196,360.

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; Second Reading KOC 921.674 (2019) 08-2019 – An Ordinance Amending Text in Articles 3, 8, 14, 20, and 22 of the Owensboro Metropolitan Zoning Ordinance.

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; Second Reading KOC 860.8 (2019) 09-2019 – An Ordinance Approving an Emergency Medical Service and Ambulance Agreement by and between the City of Owensboro, Daviess County and Mercy Ambulance of Evansville, Inc. d/b/a AMR Ambulance, the Exclusive County-wide Provider of Emergency Ambulance Services for the 9-1-1 Dispatch Systems.

As recorded in last week's meeting minutes, County Attorney restated the changes between the current agreement with Yellow Ambulance and this new agreement with Mercy Ambulance.

Judge Mattingly noted the long process it has taken to reach today's proposed agreement. The process began the first week of this year and discussions have, at times, been contentious and heated, Judge Mattingly said. He expressed frustration with the hospital's lack of participation during these discussions as well as an unwillingness to pay the \$150,000 subsidy for the new ambulance service. He stated, "The reason it drug on so long is that we waited for the hospital to bring their decision makers to the table, but they never did." He noted, as July 1 was fast approaching, local government was not going to forego citizen safety to wait for the hospital to participate in the decision making process. Judge Mattingly has not been private about his belief that the hospital, not local government, should be responsible for providing ambulance service to those they serve, and their name should be reflected within this ambulance contract. They should also pay the full amount of the subsidy. He stated, "Who better to provide ambulance service than the hospital as they are the area's local healthcare provider? Local government is not and should not be in the healthcare/ambulance business. I agree with a recent comment by City Commissioner Larry Conder who stated, "I know of no other business where local government foots the bill to pick up and transport customers to their front door"." Judge Mattingly confirmed a meeting with the hospital's CEO Greg Strahan following Mr. Strahan's invitation during last week's joint special session to discuss healthcare needs in the county. This meeting took place early this week but Judge Mattingly had nothing of significance to report following that meeting. Judge Mattingly stated, "The ambulance service is as much a part of public safety as police and fire". He called on the hospital to, as soon as possible, make public what they wish local governments to do that will effect and improve healthcare in this community. He stated, "I would absolutely be willing to have that conversation at a public meeting and not behind closed doors. The majority of citizens believe the hospital is not public, it is a private hospital. Mr. Porter, we need a back-up agreement."

Mr. Porter replied, "Yes, Judge, we need a back-up agreement. We already have a written agreement but it has not been executed."

Judge Mattingly stated, "I ask that if we do nothing else, we do a friendly lawsuit to find out exactly who is responsible for what relative to the 1978 and 2008 agreements. I believe the city and county commissions would agree with that. We don't need our public to be left in the dark or this uncertainty when it comes to public safety."

Commissioners Castlen and Wathen support the lawsuit.

Commissioner Castlen thanked Judge Mattingly and County Attorney Claud Porter for their hard work and time to bring this agreement to the county. He also thanked Mercy Ambulance and Yellow Ambulance.

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; Daviess County Deputy Alcohol and Beverage Control Administrator David Smith - Term 1/1/19 – 1/1/2023.

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

Comments:

Judge Mattingly announced the closing of the courthouse on May 10, 2019 as nearby streets will be closed for the BBQ Festival.

Following a recent letter to Governor Bevin, Judge Mattingly is hopeful that state or federal financial assistance will be available to the residents of Cedar Hills to offset the cost of the area's sewers extension project.

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

Judge/Executive:  Commissioner: 

Commissioner:  Commissioner: 

I, duly appointed Clerk of the Daviess County Fiscal Court, do hereby certify that the above Minutes for the corresponding Order Book were approved by the members of the Daviess County Fiscal Court at the regular session of said Court on this 16th day May 2019.

Jennifer Warren, Daviess County Fiscal Court Clerk