

**Minutes of the August 1, 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 Mike Koger,
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.

Judge Mattingly asked the court for a motion to amend today's agenda and move the following item to the front of today's meeting:

- 2.(c). Consideration for Approval: Daviness County Sheriff's Office 2018 Tax Settlement and Quietus.

By a motion of Commissioner Koger, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval to Amend today's agenda as noted above.

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; Daviness County Sheriff's Office 2018 Tax Settlement and Quietus.

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

Sheriff Cain introduced new Sheriff's Deputies.

Daviness County Sheriff's Department Major Barry Smith presented an overview of this year's ROMP Festival. Out of the 26,000 attendees, Major Smith gladly reported that there were only minor infractions that the Sheriff's Office needed to assist with. He praised all involved county staff and his department for their commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of all festival goers. He noted that many worked in excess of 80 hours that week.

Judge Mattingly noted that no tax dollars were used to pay for Daviess County Sheriff's Office security during ROMP. All security costs related to ROMP were paid by the International Bluegrass Music Museum.

The court recognized and congratulated Kentucky Speech Competition Blue Ribbon winner Tyce Boling.

The following Proclamations were presented:

- National Farmer's Market Week Aug. 4-10, 2019
- Community Dental Clinic Day Aug. 24, 2019
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month Oct. 2019

Minutes of the July 23, 2019 meeting were submitted to fiscal court members for review prior to today's meeting and on a motion of Commissioner Koger, seconded by Commissioner Castlen with all the Court concurring said Minutes were approved and signed.

By a motion of Commissioner Wathen, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, 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 Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Wathen, the court considered for approval; Backup Ambulance Service Agreement with Deaconess Hospital.

Judge Mattingly stated, "Commissioners, I am asking your consent to allow me to move forward in negotiating the final agreement with Deaconess Hospital and give me authority to sign the final agreement. I will keep the Court informed regarding this agreement. The agreement is being made on behalf of all of Daviess County. I want to thank Nate Pagan and the elected officials of Owensboro for their hard work in resolving the ambulance issue. I have talked to the city manager, Mayor Watson and the city commissioners as well informing them the direction we have chosen regarding back up ambulance service. I will keep them in the loop also. In negotiations, the fewer entities involved, the faster a final document can be produced. I believe this is an issue best dealt with by the government that represents everyone in the county. I am not going to recount the last seven months during which the city and county chose a new ambulance provider and tried to negotiate the terms of Owensboro Health's participation in the financial cost and the provisions of a backup agreement. It became apparent that OH was choosing to relieve itself from any responsibility for the safety and welfare of the citizens in Owensboro and Daviess County when their attorney notified us that they did not believe the current agreement with the hospital were and even if they were they were notifying us of their intent not to renew the agreements. I was approached by Deaconess about providing backup service and

enter a conversation with them. They now have the latest revision of the agreement and are reviewing it. Out of courtesy to the hospital, I contacted the board chair in an attempt to work out our differences but to no avail. City Manager Pagan and I had several meetings and conversations but in the end could come to no agreement. On Tuesday, I received an email from the hospital CEO outlining the rejection of our final proposal and restating that they would participate at a \$50,000 subsidy with no comment regarding backup service. The subsidy was tied to us NOT negotiating with any of their competitors. The hospital CEO seems to have a fixation when it comes to linking issues. I must say that I am disappointed at the lack of leadership by all the board members as well as the professional staff regarding this issue. I am also disappointed at the strong arm tactics employed by the hospital leadership in trying to link a change in by-laws to the ambulance service. I guess that's what you get when there is a health care monopoly in the community. I look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship between our community, AMR and Deaconess."

Commissioner Wathen stated, "I want to reassure the citizens that we have a good ambulance service and they do a good job. We anticipate that to continue. Similar to an insurance policy, this backup agreement ensures us that if something happened with our ambulance provider that a backup is in place."

Judge Mattingly agreed with Commissioner Wathen and noted that having a backup agreement is prudent and for public safety, is in the best interest of all. Judge Mattingly also stated, "In the unlikely event of us having to call upon Deaconess to come in under the terms of this agreement, they will fall under the same terms and conditions of the current Ambulance Provider Agreement, which we have with AMR."

Commissioner Wathen recently learned of an issue where people have tried contacting Yellow Ambulance (YA) unaware that YA is no longer in business. When an ambulance is needed, he encouraged people not to contact the ambulance service provider but instead call 911.

Commissioner Castlen acknowledged and thanked AMR for their role in taking over the ambulance service in Daviess County. He stated, "The hospital's denial to be the backup ambulance provider is disappointing. The hospital merely had to have an implementation plan and the likelihood of ever needing to call upon them for this reason is almost nil. I was even more disappointed that the hospital, as the backup ambulance provider for many years, has denied their commitment and obligation as such."

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 Wathen, the court considered for approval; to appoint the following to the DC Animal Care & Control Board - Term: 08/07/19 – 08/07/2023

- Barry Smith
- Sue Smiley
- Clay Horton
- Dr. Nicki Curtis

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 advertising of the following:

- Bid No. 32-2019: Two (2) New Walking Floor Trailers (Transfer Station)
- Bid No. 33-2019: One (1) New Front End Loader (Transfer Station)

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 15th day of August 2019.

Jennifer Warren, Daviess County Fiscal Court Clerk