

**Minutes of the May 18, 2023, Daviess County Fiscal Court Meeting
Held at the Daviess County, Kentucky Courthouse
Present elected court officials: Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen and County Commissioners
Janie Marksberry, Christopher Castlen, and Larry Conder**

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

The meeting opened in Prayer by Commissioner Castlen and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Judge Castlen Proclaimed May 2023 as High School Heroes (HSH) Month and along with Vicki Ellis, Director of Communications, Development, and Recruitment for the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center recognized and expressed appreciation to the 2023 Graduating Class of HSH. She explained that HSH are graduating students who have donated blood four times or volunteered four hours (or a combination of both). She noted, Owensboro-Daviess County students, this school year, in total, donated 384 units (1,152 components) of blood and stated, "I am very proud of these guys."

Ms. Ellis called the following students by name and presented them certificates of recognition and red HSH graduation commencement cords, which she said symbolizes courage, willpower, and strength and should be worn during graduation ceremonies. She acknowledged, with great appreciation, two students who exceeded the HSH minimum requirement. Michael Lowe donated five times and Anthony Luna donated a gallon of blood.

Apollo High School:

Sierra Voyles
David Murphy
Peyton Clark
Michael Lowe
Kaelin Payne
Harrison Dillbeck
Daniel Gregg
Alexis Case

Daviess Co. High School:

Anthony Luna
Xander Brubaker
Logan Calhoun
Annah Robinson
Breonna Griffith
Austin Kellems
Nicholas Husk
Mackenzie Doyle
Isabella Hatcher
Luke Taylor

Owensboro Catholic High School:

Rachel Traylor Abby Burns
Isabella Wood

Owensboro Innovation Academy:

Easton Rowan

Owensboro High School:

Matthew Oost Lindsey Gibson
Casey Kessenger

On behalf of Judge Castlen, Commissioner Marksberry Proclaimed May 21-27, 2023, as Emergency Medical Services Week.

Owensboro Health EMS Program Coordinator James Paris thanked the court for the recognition. He stated, "I am proud to say that I work beside these individuals every day who are very dedicated in providing the emergency care that is needed. These individuals are the true heroes of our community."

Judge Castlen thanked all First Responders.

Commissioner Conder pointed out that the family members of First Responders are also appreciated as they support their work, which is so important.

Representing the Daviess County Alliance for Substance Abuse, Dr. RonSonlyn Clark presented information about drug addiction. She stated, "Our community does not have a drug problem, we have multiple drug problems. Most critical to us today is the use of methamphetamines and opiates, especially fentanyl. Approximately 69% of individuals entering treatment in Owensboro-Daviess County are there primarily for the treatment of methamphetamine. At the state level, that number is 55%. Second to the issue of meth in our community is marijuana, with a total of 64% entering treatment for marijuana. The third most used here in our area is alcohol at 42%, compared to 52% statewide. Lastly, and increasing every year, is the use of opiates and most importantly fentanyl. Opiates come in at around 35% of those who enter treatment. Methamphetamine and fentanyl, two drugs not made from plants but from chemicals are defining the new drug world and have formed an unmercifully addictive, mind-altering deadly concoction. As we navigate into the third decade of the meth epidemic, we have learned meth is not going away and we have now developed a twin epidemic of meth users also using opiates. The meth we see today in our community is not the meth of old. What we currently see is no longer made with cold medications. Individuals are not in the woods cooking meth in dangerous situations or riding around the bypass with one pot labs. The meth today is made from a variety of legal and available substances in Mexico. It is then illegally imported into the United States where it is often cut with other substances. This new meth has been around us for about 10 years. Today's meth is more powerful and has greater purity. It puts more people into deeper levels of mental illness and homelessness. More people are going to jail and having serious physical health issues. The price of meth is low. However, for the dealer, the price can be doubled if you cut it with fentanyl. We are entering the world of synthetic drugs. A few drugs, except for marijuana, will be grown. Growing requires land, cultivating, rain, a growing season, workers in the field. Synthetic drugs require chemicals and a warehouse to manufacture day and night, year-round. It makes economic sense to manufacture thousands of pills a night compared to a single harvest of a crop. Fentanyl is an immensely popular drug. Ninety percent or more of our drugs today are laced with fentanyl. It is easy to manufacture and smuggle. It is cheap and highly addictive. It is such an enticement that dealers do not, dare not mix it in. Users will come to a dealer who puts fentanyl in their drugs. If you put fentanyl in other drugs, then you will create a new opiate user who will need to buy it daily. One may need to buy meth 1 or 2 times a week. Putting fentanyl in it means you need to buy it 2-3 times a day. In the drug world, an overdose is an advertisement that this drug is very good. Many unsuspecting users do not even know there is fentanyl in the drug they are using. Today, I tell people, if you're going to use, you need to assume it has fentanyl in it. Fentanyl changes everything. In 2021, there were more than 1,791 Kentuckians killed by accidental opioid overdoses. According to the office of drug control policy, over 1,500 of those deaths involved fentanyl. I have mentioned the top drugs in our community, let us not forget that we have plenty of cocaine, benzodiazepines, sedatives, psychedelics, hallucinogens, kratom, marijuana products, dangerous over-the-counter prescriptions, drugs put into Vape devices, smoked, ingested, snorted, and used intravenously, and alcohol - we always have alcohol. What do we know? We know substance use is a public health crisis. Those using opiates and methamphetamine have entered treatment at twice the rate in the last 10 years. Treatment is necessary to reduce their depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and attempts, and family and societal violence. Treatment is necessary to reduce incarceration rates. It promotes employment and reduces the use of Social Services. For every \$1 spent

on treatment, \$4.52 is returned to the community for services that are no longer needed. Communities must come together to re-examine ideas, customs, and policies, and become willing to innovate. Let us find ways to gather the local talent, leverage their energy, and expertise, and find a way to work together. We know we are better when we work together as a community. Community involvement is imperative to the recovering individual. You protect the community best by getting addicts into sobriety. Owensboro-Daviess County is a strong community, and we are blessed to have many services that offer care to the recovering individual with many levels of care, but we still need more. An important factor in the recovery process is the presence and involvement of people who believe it is the person's ability to recover. Persons who offer hope, support, and encouragement - who also offer and suggest strategies and resources for change. Owensboro-Daviess County, the challenge is now, and it is here. What can you as an individual or you as a member of a group do to help promote recovery? We are only as strong as our weakest individuals. Our best defense against the devastation drugs have done is to bolster community involvement. Addiction thrives in isolation. Recovery thrives in a strong community. People can and do recover. The challenges that lie before us are many. Thank you."

Judge Castlen stated, "I know the words you speak are filled with truth. I am disappointed, at some level, that all the folks that left a few minutes ago left. If I had had a clue what you were going to share with us, I would have asked them to please stay because I think the more people that hear the message you just shared, the better off our community will be. So, thank you."

Commissioner Conder asked Dr. Clark about opiate settlement fund recommendations.

Dr. Clark: The Alliance is looking at strategic planning and knows that from law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and recovery, the solutions must be intentional to be sustainable. She noted that the Alliance wants these settlement dollars to last not 15 years, but 50 to 60 years. She stated, "We are going at this very systematically to try to make the best decisions we can for the use of that money."

Commissioner Conder stated, "Time is of the essence, isn't it?"

Dr. Clark replied, "Yes."

The court expressed sincere appreciation for the work Dr. Clark does for those she serves.

County Treasurer Jordan Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report for April 2023.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; Minutes of the May 4, 2023, Court Meeting.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; All Claims for All Departments.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

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

Treasurer Johnson: Annually, we transfer funds from the Solid Waste Operating Fund to the Closure and Post-Closure fund to cover future expenditures related to the ultimate closure of the Landfill. This is to transfer \$257,837 from the Solid Waste Fund, with \$218,984 going to the Closure Fund, and \$38,853 going to the Post-Closure Fund.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; Salary Schedule for FY 22/23 Amendment.

Treasurer Johnson: This amendment adds the position of Battalion Chief-Training/Safety Office, which has been approved by the Judge-Executive and is included in the FY 23/24 budget.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Marksberry, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Resolution 16-2023** Accept and Adopt Valley Brook Trace.

County Engineer Mark Brasher: **Resolutions 16-2023 - 19-2023** deal with Deer Valley Subdivision. All roads have been reviewed, inspected, and approved and qualify for county maintenance.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; **Resolution 17-2023** Accept and Adopt Bridgeview Court.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Resolution 18-2023** Accept and Adopt Blue Ridge Court.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Marksberry, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Resolution 19-2023** Accept and Adopt Augusta Way.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Resolution 20-2023** HB 1 Jail Arraignment Equipment Grant.

Treasurer Johnson: The Administrative Office of the Courts in concert with the Kentucky Jailers Association have selected a final product solution for the statewide unified virtual court system that will be rolled out next fiscal year. Each county having a jail has been directed to purchase the necessary equipment from a State Master Agreement specifically for this system, with counties being reimbursed by a state grant. This required resolution expresses our intent to apply for equipment expense reimbursement.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; Purchase Virtual Arraignment Equipment from State Master Agreement for the Detention Ctr.

Treasurer Johnson: This purchase is for \$39,790.68, which DLG will reimburse.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; Parks Special Event Rental Agreement with the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum for the 20th Annual ROMP Festival at Yellow Creek Park.

Parks Director Ross Leigh noted that this is the annual rental agreement for the ROMP festival at Yellow Creek Park.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; Renew the following Annual Bids:

Treasurer Johnson: The following annual service contract bids are available for renewal for FY 23/24 and after meeting with management from the respective departments, we are recommending renewal for each given that services have been rendered to our satisfaction and re-bidding would likely result in price increases:

- Bid No. 08-2020.3: Pavement Striping with Reynolds Sealing & Striping
- Bid No. 13-2021.2: Tire Repair and Maintenance Services with Best One Tire
- Bid No. 15-2019.4: **(Final Renewal)** Bulk Delivered Fuels with Valor Oil
- Bid No. 16-2019.4: **(Final Renewal)** Recycling Services with Dahl & Groezinger
- Bid No. 20-2022.1: Concrete Crushing Services with Complete Demolition Services
- Bid No. 30-2022.1: Wood Grinding Services with O'Bryan Grain Farms
- Bid No. 32-2022.1: Fire Rescue Uniforms with Siegel's Uniforms - *with a 5% allowable increase*

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; Award RFQ No. 2223-62: Twelve (12) A36 Steel Plates to Modern Welding.

Treasurer Johnson: These plates will be used as flooring for the mechanic's shop at the Landfill. We are recommending pursuing the lowest and best evaluated quote submitted by Modern Welding for \$11,280. There were no exceptions to our solicitation.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; Promote Jake Cox to Fire Dept. Battalion Chief-Training/Safety Officer Eff. 5/28/23.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; Promote Nick Wall to Fire Dept. Lieutenant Eff. 5/28/23.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; Promote Quinton Pence to Fire Dept. Engineer Eff. 5/28/23.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Marksberry, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; Hire Cannon LeDuff as Road Dept. Service Technician Eff. upon successful completion of pre-employment screenings.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; Appoint Commissioners to the *Reapportionment Committee, at a Rate of \$295 ea., Jim Gilles, Paula Schrecker, & Bob Whitmer (60 Day Term) Eff. 5/18/23.

Judge Castlen: Typically, reapportionment is done every 10 years and follows the U.S. Census. However, due to COVID holding up the census, this process was delayed. Now that census figures are available, we have appointed three citizens, one each from the East, West, and Central districts to serve on the Reapportionment Committee as Commissioner members.

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 67.045 and KRS Chapter 424, notice is given that the fiscal court plans to reapportion the boundary lines for the three Fiscal Court Commissioners, three Justices of the Peace, and three Constables. Boundary lines shall be laid off so that the districts are compact, contiguous, and the population of each district shall be as nearly equal as is reasonably possible. The fiscal court shall appoint three citizens as commissioners to reapportion the county into three (3) districts. The first meeting of the Reapportionment Committee is **June 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Daviess County Fiscal Court, Courtroom. A written report of such boundary lines shall be filed with the Daviess Fiscal Court and the Office of the County Clerk within 60 days of appointment of commissioners. Within 60 days of receipt of the report establishing the three districts, the fiscal court shall adopt or amend the report. As soon as the fiscal court adopts the report, any Daviess County registered voter may bring an action in Circuit Court to enforce the provisions of KRS 67.045. Any action brought to Circuit Court must be done within 20 days from fiscal court's adoption of said report. Circuit Court shall hear the action and, on a finding that provisions of KRS 67.045 have been violated, remand the matter to fiscal court.*

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; Reappoint Reid Haire (S2T) to the Ohio County Water District (4 Yr. Term) Eff. 6/15/23.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Marksberry, the court considered for approval; Appoint David Johnson to a new position on the Daviess County Convention and Visitor's Bureau (previously known as the Owensboro-Daviess County Convention and Visitor's Bureau) for a Term Eff. 4/20/23 thru 6/30/24.

Ordinance KOC 150.17 (2023) 04-2023 changed the name of the Owensboro-Daviess County Convention and Visitor's Bureau to the Daviess County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Accordingly, Section 9. states, "Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the County Judge/Executive shall fill the vacancy by following the procedure as set out in KRS 91A.360."

Judge Castlen: As the city's (Mayor) appointee to the "Owensboro-Daviess County Convention and Visitor's Bureau," Mr. Johnson has been serving the board well and I would like to allow him to remain on the board to complete his term, which ends in 2024. This is why I am recommending him to serve as the new county appointee (replacing the city's appointee) on the board.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, said motion passed.

No Other Business received.

No Public Comments received.

Comments by Daviess County Fiscal Court

Commissioner Conder sent out a happy belated Mother's Day.

Commissioner Castlen reminded all of tonight's 36th Annual Police Memorial Service at 6:30 PM at Third Baptist Church. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. He noted that there will be a 21-gun salute towards the conclusion of the ceremony. Owensboro-Daviess County Veterans committee will be properly disposing of worn and tattered American Flags on Flag Day, June 14, at 4:00 PM at Panther Creek Park. Other disposal options include on June 1st at the Chamber Rooster Booster Breakfast, a collection box will be available at the Convention Center and year-round, during operating hours at the Daviess County Courthouse, a flag disposal drop box is in the lobby.

Commissioner Marksberry thanked the High School Heroes and all First Responders.

Judge Castlen encouraged all to attend tonight's Police Memorial Service. He said, "For anyone who has never attended... once you have attended, you will be glad you did." Numerous Memorial Day services are planned between May 23 – May 29. A schedule of those services may soon be found on our website. The 11:00 AM service at the SportsCenter on Monday, May 29, is one where they remember, by name, all service men and women who have passed during the prior 12 months. He encouraged the public to attend at least one community Memorial Day service. Finally, he recognized his wife Lisa as tomorrow she officially retires following a successful 40-year teaching career. He also wished his daughter Theresa a happy birthday.

Without objection, Judge/Executive Castlen adjourned the meeting.

SO ORDERED THAT COURT STAND ADJOURNED.

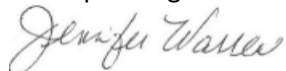
Judge-Executive Charlie Castlen

Commissioner Janie Marksberry

Commissioner Christopher Castlen

Commissioner Larry Conder

I duly appointed Daviess County Fiscal Court Clerk Jennifer Warren, hereby certify that the above corresponding Order Book minutes were approved by the court on June 1, 2023.



Jennifer Warren

Daviess County Fiscal Court Clerk