

**CAMPBELL COUNTY, KY FISCAL COURT  
MINUTES**

**MAY 4, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Campbell County Fiscal Court was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at the Campbell County Courthouse, 8352 East Main Street, Alexandria, Kentucky.

In attendance were:

COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE  
STEVE PENDERY  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GEOFF BESECKER  
TOM LAMPE  
BRIAN PAINTER

County Attorney Steve Franzen,  
County Administrator Matt Elberfeld,  
Fiscal Court Clerk Paula Spicer,  
Assistant County Administrator Kim Serra,  
Finance Director/Treasurer Marie Schenkel,  
Police Chief Craig Sorrell,  
Economic & Community Development Director Justin Otto,  
Business Analyst Laura Lewis,  
Community Services Manager Allyn Reinecke

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Judge Pendery. Cable Access was present to film the meeting. The meeting was also broadcast live on the Fiscal Court Facebook Page.

Judge Pendery asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Following roll call, a quorum was declared present.

Judge Pendery requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Fiscal Court regular meeting of April 20, 2022. Motion was made by Commissioner Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Lampe to approve the minutes. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Judge Pendery introduced Zac Holtkamp, an Alexandria resident who placed first in the May 1, 2022 Flying Pig Marathon with a time of 2:27:18. Mr. Holtkamp grew up in Alexandria, began running in middle school, holds several records at Bishop Brossart High School, was named to the All Atlantic Sun Conference Team while attending Northern Kentucky University and named Northern Kentucky runner of the year. Mr. Holtkamp was coached by Campbell County Facilities and Fleet Manager Mike Braun. He resides in Alexandria with his wife Becca and 16-month old son Ben who were present. Judge Pendery read a Citation of Achievement from the

Fiscal Court. Alexandria Mayor Andy Schabell then presented Mr. Holtkamp with a proclamation from the City of Alexandria.

Jim Benton presented the Campbell County Conservation District annual report. He enumerated some of the new activities from the last year at the Conservation District including: office renovation and creation of new financial and programming document, hired a new office manager, created a new waste water cost share program to help citizens dispose of waste water with a connection to a new or existing septic system, a cost share program to assist farmers with cost of reinforcing the area where livestock is rotated from one field to another, new planting projects including a half acre native grass and pollinator habitat with signage near the Environmental Center at Jolly Park, expanded existing pollinator plantings at St. Anne's with help from a \$1,000 grant, designed a native and effective erosion control plan on a 2.5 acre site at St. Peter & Paul School, amended and created new grant opportunities, created a new adult education grant to reimburse up to \$100 to any citizen attending any conservation related seminar or field trip and amended the tree-planting grant by shifting the deadline from fall to spring. Mr. Benton advised that the District has two properties: St Anne's and Hawthorne Crossing. At Hawthorne they have developed a detailed topographic map for ease of accessing and developing the property and are negotiating with a contractor to remove invasive plants. At St. Anne's they have contracted with someone to enact a 4-year ecological plan to remove invasive plants and they are negotiating a contract to remove and replace the bridges. Also, at St. Anne's the KY Division of Fish and Wildlife is enacting a plan to rehabilitate the north wetlands, while the NKU research Education Field Station has built a bridge through the south wetlands and expanded the trail system. They are also conducting a series of Walk and Talks through the wetlands this summer and are offering week-long micro credential courses on wetlands identifications, identifying wetlands plants. He advised that new public signage was installed throughout the County. This year they have conducted educational seminars such as helping farmers preserve their lands by using trusts, developing an LLC or placing an easement. An upcoming seminar will focus on family planning/succession of land.

Judge Pendery introduced Camryn Woods, a Silver Grove resident who responded to a request for volunteers for the Silver Grove Community Garden and has since spent countless hours planting a variety of vegetables and fruit in the garden. He then presented Campbell County's Community Achievement Award to Mr. Woods. Silver Grove Mayor Neal Bedel stated that, it may be small, but the City is proud of its community garden that was started 3-4 years ago. Not much was done with the garden until Mr. Woods came along, cleared it of weeds and planted the vegetables and fruits. Mr. Woods, accompanied by his girlfriend Trinity, said that he did have some help and offered to share the garden's bounty.

Prior to calling on those who had signed in to address the Fiscal Court, Judge Pendery announced that County Attorney Franzen had a statement to make. Mr. Franzen wished to clarify the process by which the Fiscal Court hears zone change requests. The Fiscal Court must comply with County ordinances and State statutes when hearing these requests. He advised that the Planning Commission has not yet legally made a recommendation to the Fiscal Court and therefore the issue is not on the agenda. The Planning Commission will not forward its recommendation until it approves the minutes from the meeting where this was discussed. He stated that anybody may speak to this issue, but reiterated that it is not on the agenda and no

action will be taken by the Fiscal Court. Any comments made tonight will be on the record, however when the Fiscal Court does act, it will be taken on the Planning Commission record or what is heard at a hearing when it is on the Fiscal Court agenda. Judge Pendery announced that two individuals had signed in to address the Fiscal Court on different subjects and that one comment was submitted online. Mr. Elberfeld read the comment submitted online from Barb Herbst in opposition to the development due to traffic problems and overcrowded schools. Judge Pendery then called on Steve Siry who had signed in to speak. Mr. Siry, 10629 South Licking Pike, spokesperson for the group in attendance, asked if there would be an open hearing, or if the Fiscal Court would only consider the Planning Commission minutes. Mr. Franzen clarified that it is up to the Fiscal Court whether they have a hearing, but they are not going to act unless it is on the agenda. Typically, the Fiscal Court uses the record that is already established. Mr. Siry stated that they are requesting an open hearing so that they can bring their experts. According to the County's rules, a residential cluster development can only have 4 houses per acre. Maronda homes is offering 4.5 houses per acre – that is 98 homes on 18 acres. That is what they are upset about – entirely too many homes. Mr. Franzen reiterated that at the next meeting or meeting after that, whenever it is on its agenda, the Fiscal Court will consider the rezoning, but it will not be tonight. Mr. Siry again stated that they would like an open hearing because they can prove that the numbers are wrong. Judge Pendery stated that the reason Mr. Franzen has explained the procedural matters is in everyone's best interest. Mr. Siry's group may be disappointed in the outcome, the developer may be disappointed also and have the developer has recourse if the legal procedures are not followed. Mr. Siry stated that the County's comprehensive plan states 4 houses per acre – they are trying to get 98 homes on 18 acres – that's 4.5 homes. Nobody else wished to speak on this topic.

Judge Pendery then called on Jerry Gearding of Wilder who had signed in to speak about tax assessments. Mr. Gearding stated that hard-working families in Campbell County have been struggling with record high inflation, fuel costs, heating costs and food costs. It is disappointing that he and others received a letter that his taxes increased quite a bit, not as much as other communities, but it is frustrating. This not only affects property values but also affects rent. He came tonight to see what the Fiscal Court can do to help Campbell County families with a "back-door tax increase". County Attorney Franzen, who also represents the Campbell County PVA office, explained that the PVA is a State office and the Fiscal Court has no control over the PVA. Mr. Gearding is right about all of the increases; however, he did not mention the increase in the cost of real estate. He explained that the PVA is required by law to assess properties at their fair market value. The Fiscal Court can not do anything about that. Property owners can appeal the assessment through the PVA appeal process and he urges anybody who feels that the assessment is not appropriate to exercise their right to do that. He reiterated that the Fiscal Court has no authority over the PVA or how property was assessed. Judge Pendery stated that he understands that people get upset when they see the assessment and think that they'll be paying more taxes, but that is not so. The assessments are done once every four years so a cumulative effect of increases over the course of four years is applied all at once. He agreed that some properties have had high assessment increases. He believes that the average increase in Ft. Thomas was 26% and the average in Wilder less than that. The national average increase for one year this past year was over 15%. Those who have high assessments should appeal by contacting the PVA office. The Assessment Appeals Board will meet in June and will adjust the assessment if warranted. Judge Pendery added that the County tax bill has 5-7 agencies listed and none of

them but the Fire District is allowed to take over 4% more revenue in a year no matter what the assessment is. The tax rates of the agencies listed on the tax bill have to come down to compensate so that the agency gets a maximum 4% more revenue than the year before. He urged that people be patient and that the assessment is not what you're going to pay, and if you have a high assessment appeal it. Mr. Gearding stated that he talked to Daniel Braun today and Mr. Braun explained the process. He agrees that home values are artificially inflated. He understands that the Fiscal Court has nothing to do with it; the legislature dictates how things are assessed. Mr. Gearding has found that a few people haven't been assessed for 14-15 years and plans to talk to Mr. Braun about it. He hopes that the Fiscal Court could give a tax break or not raise taxes this year. Judge Pendery stated that for the average person the taxes should not go up more than 4%, most years the County does not take 4%. Mr. Gearding asked that they consider not raising taxes this year. Judge Pendery stated that the Fiscal Court gets only about 13-15% of the total tax bill depending on where you live. The Fiscal Court is not the principal tax authority in the County – schools are number one and the State of Kentucky gets more than the Fiscal Court does. Every year when setting the tax rate, the Fiscal Court considers inflation and the services it tries to provide. The Fiscal Court makes it as little as it possibly can considering that property taxes are only about 26% of its budget along with other sources of revenue very few of which can be changed because of the law.

Old business was presented beginning with a second reading of Ordinance O-04-22. O-04-22 amends Chapter 90 "Animals" of the Campbell County Code of Ordinances. Commissioner Lampe made a motion to adopt O-04-22, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Ordinance O-05-22 was also presented for a second reading. O-05-22 updates the official County maintained road list to remove Short Summer (CR 1560). Commissioner Besecker made a motion to adopt O-05-22, seconded by Commissioner Painter. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

New business was then presented beginning with Resolution R-33-22 which authorizes the Judge/Executive to execute a contract with the Campbell County Fire Protection Association for FY 2023 funding. Commissioner Lampe made a motion to adopt R-33-22, seconded by Commissioner Painter. Mr. Elberfeld advised that the Fire Protection Association (FPA) owns the fire training facility located in Highland Heights and the Fiscal Court provides \$60,000 annually on a reimbursement basis for operating expenses. This is a way for the Fiscal Court to support the fire districts throughout the County. The amount of \$60,000 has been the same for quite some time. The FPA submits receipts for expenses. The facility is also used by the Campbell County Office of Emergency Management for training classes and the Detention Center, so he thinks it is a good investment. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-34-22 was read by title. R-34-22 authorizes the Judge/Executive to execute an amendment to the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) contract for operations at the Campbell County Senior Center for FY 2022. Commissioner Painter made a motion to adopt R-34-22, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-35-22 was read by title. R-35-22 allocates Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Tax funds for FY 2023. Commissioner Lampe made a motion to adopt R-35-22, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. Commissioner Lampe thanked Allyn Reinecke for the work she does and the time she spent explaining the allocations. He appreciates her report and the services that the Fiscal Court supports. Commissioner Besecker also thanked Ms. Reinecke for her report and for working with the agencies. Judge Pendery echoed those comments adding that the Fiscal Court has to figure out the best way to spend money voted on by the public to support mental health/intellectual disabilities. All three counties have similar taxes and a staff person charged with the responsibility to see to the proper use of the funds. The Fiscal Court gets reports when needed on agencies that apply for funds that help those less fortunate in our community. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

Resolution R-36-22 was read by title. R-36-22 allocates Senior Citizens Tax funds for FY 2023. Commissioner Besecker made a motion to adopt R-36-22, seconded by Commissioner Painter. Kim Serra confirmed Commissioner Besecker’s comment that the Campbell County Senior Center is one of the most active in the area and was able to expand its hybrid programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to advance Police Officer Kristen Fischer from PO1 (\$22.30/hour or \$46,384 annually) to PO2 (\$22.97/hour or \$47,777 annually) effective April 30, 2022 in accordance with the current Fraternal Order of Police Working Agreement. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. Commissioner Besecker stated that he spoke with Officer Fischer last week and she seemed to be very excited about her work. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to advance Police Officer Aaron Hanssen from PO1 (\$22.30/hour or \$46,384 annually) to PO2 (\$22.97/hour or \$47,777 annually) effective April 30, 2022 in accordance with the current Fraternal Order of Police Working Agreement. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to advance Police Officer Alex Turner from PO7 (\$30.71/hour or \$63,876 annually) to PO8 (\$33.48/hour or \$69,638 annually) effective April 20, 2022 in accordance with the current Fraternal Order of Police Working Agreement. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to appoint Gioacchino (Joey) Cucchiara to the full-time Business Analyst position with compensation set at pay grade 6, \$73,000 annually, upon the successful completion of all background screening procedures, effective on or after May 9, 2022. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to accept the resignation of Information Technology Specialist Jared Reinecke effective May 13, 2022. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

Judge Pendery then made a motion to authorize staff to advertise, interview and make a hiring recommendation for a full-time Information Technology Specialist. Commissioner Lampe seconded the motion. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to appoint Joyce Hamburg to the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Board for a three-year term effective June 30, 2022 through June 29, 2025. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Painter. Commissioner Painter stated that he’s known Ms. Hamburg for quite a while; it will be good to have somebody with a passion for horticulture on the Board. There are some excellent people on the board and a great staff. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to reappoint Dr. Maggie Whitson to the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Board for a three-year term effective June 30, 2022 through June 29, 2025. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to reappoint Bernard Henke to the Southern Campbell County Fire District Board of Directors for a three-year term effective July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2025. Judge Pendery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lampe. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

Judge Pendery made a motion to nominate Dr. Michael Schafer, MD for appointment to the Campbell County Local Board of Health for a term effective May 4, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Commissioner Lampe seconded the motion. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

The County Administrator had no report for the meeting.

The County Attorney thanked the Fiscal Court for recognizing Zak Holtkamp – he is very proud of him.

Commissioner Besecker thanked Ms. Reinecke and her crew who worked at the County clean-up this past weekend. This event is well-received every year. There was a steady stream of vehicles going to the Police Department and Road Department. It’s wonderful to help the community and to keep debris out of ditches. He appreciates her hard work as well as those from Rumpke and other crews.

Commissioner Lampe reported on the impactful work done by the Neighborhood Foundations (f/k/a Newport Housing Authority) in Newport. They are a frequent applicant and recipient of CDBG funds from the Fiscal Court. Tom Guidugli, Sr. its President, gave him a tour of some of the facilities to see the results of what they’re doing with the funds. He was impressed with the way the homes were rehabbed and also the contagious effect that redoing some of these houses has on the rest of the neighborhood – existing neighbors spruce up their homes and it attracts outside investors. He then read from their mission statement “To provide and develop quality affordable housing opportunities, revitalizing our neighborhoods...” Tom Guidugli Sr. has a knack for it, a skill and passion for his work and serves a need in our community.

Judge Pendery announced that a Community Yard Sale will be held at A J Jolly Park on May 14, 2022 from 9am to 2pm. Vendor spaces may be reserved for \$10.

Judge Pendery advised that the Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky presented an award to him and Jailer Jim Daley earlier this evening. Due to COVID restrictions, the capacity of the Cold Shelter was reduced dramatically. Since the Jail was experiencing a reduction in the number of inmates, Jailer Daley offered use of the Restricted Custody Center to serve as a cold shelter and the City of Newport and its Police Department offered their help. The Cold Shelter now has a new larger facility in Covington. Jailer Daley richly deserved getting the award. He and his employees deserve a lot of credit.

Marie Schenkel began the Finance Director/Treasurer's report by requesting a motion to authorize entering into a support service contract with Global Business Solutions Inc. for a one-year term effective April 1, 2022 at a monthly rate of \$1,560. This is a 15% increase (\$210 monthly), however there has not been an increase in some years. Motion was made by Commissioner Lampe, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to acknowledge the Campbell County Jailer's application for House Bill 556 American Rescue Plan Act funding allocated to county jails to defray COVID-19 related expenditures. Motion was made by Commissioner Painter, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to approve interfund transfers dated April 30, 2022. Motion was made by Commissioner Painter, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

A motion was requested to approve budget transfers dated April 30, 2022. Ms. Schenkel stated that the transfers don't increase the total size of the budget, but reallocate funds to different line items. Motion was made by Commissioner Painter, seconded by Commissioner Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Ms. Schenkel then requested a motion to approve the claims and claims paid per standing order dated April 27 and 29, and May 4, 2022 and employee benefit claims dated May 2, 2022. County Attorney Steve Franzen advised that he has reviewed the claims, claims paid per standing order and employee benefit claims and determined that they all appear appropriate. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Judge Pendery. Commissioner Lampe agreed with payment of the claims however, recused himself from approving any claims related to employee benefits due to his employer's relationship with those companies. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Fiscal Court, Commissioner Besecker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Painter. All voted "Aye" and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Attachments:

- Ordinance O-04-22 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to Amend Chapter 90 “Animals”
- Ordinance O-05-22 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to Update County Maintained Road List
- Resolution R-33-22 Contract with Campbell County Fire Protection Association
- Resolution R-34-22 Amend Contract for Senior Center Operations
- Resolution R-35-22 Allocate Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Tax Funds
- Resolution R-36-22 Allocate Senior Citizens Tax Funds
- Interfund Transfers dated April 30, 2022
- Budget Transfers dated April 30, 2022
- Claims and Claims Paid Per Standing Order dated April 27 and 29, and May 4, 2022 and
- Employee Benefits Claims dated May 2, 2022

Approved:

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STEVE PENDERY  
Judge/Executive

Attest:

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Paula K. Spicer, Fiscal Court Clerk