

## HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

### REGULAR MEETING

December 29, 2022

Judge/Executive Harry L. Berry called the Hardin County Fiscal Court meeting to order and requested a roll call vote. Voting: Judge Berry yes, Easter yes, Doug Goodman yes, Williams yes, Clem yes, Wiseman yes, Thompson yes, Ronnie Goodman yes, King yes.

The Invocation was given by Squire Easter.

Squire King led the court in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Department/Office Reports Presentations:

Coroner – Pat Elmore

Hardin County Sheriff – Activity Report – Sheriff John Ward

Hardin County Sheriff – Budget Report – Teri Bennett, CFO

Clerk – Debbie Donnelly

### Written Reports:

EMS

E-911 Dispatch Center

Detention Center

### Ordinances/Agreements/Resolutions:

Thompson moved and Williams seconded to approve **Resolution No. 2022-270** relating to YMCA project. Voting: Easter yes, Doug Goodman yes, Williams yes, Clem yes, Wiseman yes, Thompson yes, Ronnie Goodman yes, King yes, Judge Berry yes.

Easter moved and Wiseman seconded to approve **Resolution No. 2022-259** relating to an exception relating to 65% limitation from DLG on expenditures or encumbrances of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget. Voting: Doug Goodman yes, Williams yes, Clem no, Wiseman yes, Thompson yes, Ronnie Goodman yes, King no, Judge Berry yes, Easter yes.

## **Consent Agenda:**

Clem moved and Doug Goodman seconded to approve the Consent Agenda to include approving Payrolls dated 11.10.2022, 11.15.2022, and 11.25.2022 with November payroll registers, approve Dec Claims 12.29.2022, approve **Resolution No. 2022-271** relating to financial transfers, approve **Resolution No. 2022-258** relating to Whistling Oaks Subdivision, approve **Resolution No. 2022-260** relating to ARPA Internal Control and Subrecipient Selection Policy, approve **Resolution No. 2022-261** relating to HCWD No. 1 SLFRF/ARPA Expenditure Approval for Pirtle Springs Project, approve **Resolution No. 2022-262** relating to HCWD No. 2 Subaward Agreement, approve **Resolution No. 2022-263** relating to HCWD No. 2 SLFRF/ARPA Expenditure Approval, approve **Resolution No. 2022-264** relating to surplus items for Animal Care Control, approve **Resolution 2022-265** relating to EMS personnel, approve **Resolution No. 2022-266** relating to IT personnel, approve **Resolution No. 2022-267** relating to Buildings and Grounds personnel, approve **Resolution No. 2022-268** relating to Road personnel, approve **Resolution No. 2022-269** relating to Coroner personnel, approve **Resolution No. 2022-272** relating to E-911 personnel, approve **Resolution No. 2022-273** relating to Finance personnel, approve **Resolution No. 2022-274** relating to Shelter Buddy Agreement with Hardin County Animal Control, approve **Resolution No. 2022-275** relating to a Second Resolution Approving the Granting of Local Incentives to BlueOval SK LLC, approve Detention Center's November 2022 report, approve Treasurer's November 2022 report, approve Solid Waste Committee 12.19.2022, approve Resources and Community Support Committee's 12.20.2022 minutes, approve Emergency Services Committee 12.22.2022 minutes, approve Fiscal Court 12.13.2022 minutes. Voting: Williams yes, Clem yes, Wiseman yes, Thompson yes, Ronnie Goodman yes, King yes, Judge Berry yes, Easter yes, Doug Goodman yes.

## **Judge Berry Comments:**

Before this is the last meeting of this fiscal court, the majority of us won't be back for another meeting, there's a few things that though that I would like to comment on. To congratulate us, I guess, us all for being able to work together over all these years. As you saw today, we don't always agree; but we talk through all of it and work our way through it, and, sometimes, we just have to agree to disagree. We do that in a very civil manner, unlike some of our friends in some of the other locations that we hear about all the time. Some highlights that I'd like to point out over these last two decades or 20 years: The sound fiscal management that we all have been able to do here with the court with the people's resources that they entrust with us; we're able to proudly say that when as we leave the reserves for the county are larger than what we found when we came. We have lowered tax rates six times in the last two decades. We are leaving the county totally debt free that there is no outstanding debt for Hardin County government. We can be proud of our facilities; those of us that came 20 years ago, we found some facilities that were in some pretty poor shape, left a lot to be desired. We have the government center here to be able to operate out of, and we have ample land next door for future courts to be able to expand upon if they need for county needs. We have a main emergency services center that's been built during those two decades to include the coroner's office which has a morgue even which is not common throughout the state. I don't think anybody would argue with this that we have the best animal care and control facility in the state of Kentucky; that it's the envy of many. We've expanded the detention center. We've expanded the road department facilities. We've dramatically

enlarged the capacity of Pearl Hollow, the county landfill, during those years. I think we should be very much so proud of as the numerous expansions that we were able to be a part of with hmh (Hardin Memorial Hospital) for it to be able to position itself for where we are today with Baptist Health Hardin. We capitalized on the 2005 Brack and what it brought to the community and the opportunities for resources. In fact, the road Patriot Parkway out in front of us this building probably wouldn't have been here if it wasn't for our ability to be able to get that road done which connects the north end to Elizabethtown. It makes it a lot easier for people to travel back and forth. Of course, now starting the project with Blue Oval SK for the battery plant in Glendale, the opportunities that this community will experience over the next two decades probably as a result of that is something that we can reflect on and over those years of we were here at the ground floors that started. So, it's a lot has certainly happened to those years, and it's been my honor to have a ringside seat that serve it all.

### **Magistrates Comments:**

**Squire Roy Easter** - Judge, I don't think we'd be where we are today without your leadership either. So, I'm thankful for all the magistrates and county attorney and the clerk that sit around this table and all that they do and all they've contributed. I'm not as concerned about the future. I know, we have two good magistrates and a county attorney that are coming back that have all this experience from the what the judge talked about to guide and direct the new court, at least, the direction you should be headed. Sometimes you're going to come off the path, but I believe you will get back on it as soon as you need to. There's one person that I want to recognize that never gets enough credit, and usually it's behind the scenes on everything done everything from our agendas to scheduling schools or wherever we're going to go or whatever we're going to do plus tolerate the judge and all the paperwork he generates so I wanted to thank Robin (Todd) personally for everything you've done. Robin, you've been a blessing to this court. You've been a blessing to this county.

**Squire Doug Goodman** - I like to thank the residents of District 2 for electing me many terms. It's been a privilege and honor to serve. I remember walking up the steps when I was first elected. Seven terms later, I can still walk up the steps. I would like to wish the new court the very best.

**Squire Lisa Williams** - Thank you all everybody that I have served with. Doug (Goodman) has served for 29 years. I have enjoyed my 12 years and enjoyed serving the people of the Third District. Thank you all for electing me and giving me this opportunity. It's been a great court to work on with a wonderful leader. We've had a leader that makes us all look good, you know. No matter how goofy we are, he still pulls it off for us. We appreciate everything that you've done. All the department heads when that when the coroner was up here today and giving us some numbers, these numbers that you all have to deal with that have grown astronomically since I came in 12 years ago, the coroner's number, the 911 calls, the EMS runs, I mean it is crazy how much everything has increased. You all keep dealing with it and doing a great job. So, we have great department leaders and a great Treasurer. I wanted to say a special thanks to our County Clerk. Debbie Donnelly has done a wonderful job for many years in that office. I can remember Debbie from the 80s on up and you've done a great job and the people of Hardin County truly appreciate it. We do, I'm proud to say, we're leaving it better than we found it.

We're proud of many things as the judge alluded to. We're leaving it debt free. We're leaving you with health care access to excellent health care generations to come. I think that is probably going to be the legacy of this court that we are most proud of. I'll wrap it up by saying thank you. Thank you to everybody that helped me on my campaigns to be elected, especially my daughters. One is out there today, Langley. My other daughter Waverly couldn't be here, but they've always been my best walkers and campaigners along with my girlfriends. So, thank you all for helping me and again thank you all for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be a part of this court.

**Squire Fred Clem** - I am glad that the Judge went through the accomplishments of not only 20 years but during the course of the last 12 years. We have done some good work. I'm very proud to serve on the court. I'm glad that you and Roy was in the front because I never get through all the rest of it. It's a happy day and a sad day. Happy for you all's future and sad for this community. Because we're losing a leadership that I think will resonate for generations. Not only the decisions that you made before this court, but the last 12 years that the decisions that were made like Gary said about his grandchildren. Their children will benefit from the decisions they've made over the last 12 years, and it was an honor to serve with each and every one of you.

**Squire Bill Wiseman** - Thank you, Judge, for you have done. I enjoyed every minute of it. When you leave, leave it better than what you found. I think this court has done that very good. I thank all of the department heads in here especially, this one's sitting right here. If it hadn't been for them, there's no telling where I'd been because I got lost the first day and never would have found myself. I do have to say something to somebody out there: this one lady, she didn't even get to vote for me she wasn't in my district but every time she saw me at church, every time she saw me out in public, she says I watch you all on TV. So, I'm going to say hello to her today. Her name is Regina Barnes. So, Regina, goodbye. Have a good time.

**Squire E. G. Thompson** - This is truly a blessing to be a part of Hardin County. We have people in Hardin County who are special and blessed. God favors this county and his people here; there's no doubt in my mind. The people that I've had the privilege of serving with on this court are people who seek after God's will and seek for what is good and right. It's not always very clear for us to come to that conclusion but he makes a way. I want to quote Proverbs 27:17. Ladies don't take offense, but it typically is stated as iron sharpens iron so does one man sharpen another, and man is a collective term for all of us. Each of you have sharpened me in who I am and how I have able to serve God and serve this community. I praise God for the people of sixth district who have acted to place me in this position. I thank them for their confidence for the next term at this point in Hardin County and Fiscal Court. Here I see this as a time of possibilities and challenges. I'm excited about the future. We have to stay on track and always look to do the good and right thing no matter what comes our way. There are going to be challenges that we're not always going to agree on a resolution for a solution for but once that is decided and we're moving ahead as a county we need everybody to jump on board as magistrate Clem has alluded to in considering the YMCA. We all need to jump on board now and this is a good thing for everyone in Hardin County so now that we are on track for that I challenge every citizen of Hardin County to look at a way to make that come to fruition and to take advantage of all the possibilities that are out there and the opportunities. Let's make it happen by doing our part. Some of what has made this court be so effective is truly you've heard there is no party

once you're serving in this community and there is none. We must look at what is good and right and make those decisions to those things that are good and right and that has happened traditionally much of that may very well have been ironed out in our committee system which has worked very well. Judge Berry, thank you for establishing those and making them work as well as they did. There're great possibilities in that because it gives opportunity. Before you as a family, you don't want to air your dirty laundry. You want to deal with the dirty laundry, deal with it as it is, and deal with the problems that are there. In committee, everybody's welcome to come. We're not hiding anything. You're encouraged to come in and be a part of those if those continue. I'm expecting them to but at this point we will be under a plan that our newly elected judge will direct us in and it is my hope that we will establish very strong and maybe even more effective committees that we've had in the past so that issues, possibilities that come before use we can spend the time that we need to really fully understand the situation plan to meet the challenges and have them ready to come before a court that then can decide once we have reasonably come to conclusion rather than making a public spectacle in any way. That should never happen. We're civil and civilized people seeking to serve God the father through the power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. There is no room for chaos in that we must have order and we must have civility in that. I challenge us to move ahead with those possibilities as Fred and I join those newly elected people and we move into the future for being a part of what's best for Hardin County. Thank you all for making us better here in Hardin County.

**Squire Ronnie Goodman** - I wanted to thank everybody that had anything to do in this department, how good they were to me, and how smooth it run. I was low man on the totem pole. I came in, up at Hospital board, and Gary said you'll never understand all this. It's true; I was only there, part of a year or year, and then I never did understand it. I still don't. It's, I think, in the long run it's the best thing that's happened in this community. It's all this production coming to Glendale. All this it's going to have to grow, and you go out there and look it's growing. It's great! I appreciate every magistrate. I appreciate that the first time I voted against something, I told judge I said I don't know whether I'm right or not but I'm going to vote against it. He said, "Well there is no right or wrong; it's what you think is best for your people." That's what I tried to do. I try to be honest and look at it all from their point. What it had like I had a lot of calls from garbage and the roads. Dwight helped a lot. We've got, I think the judge said, almost in the four years about half the roads resurfaced. That's amazing! We went through a pandemic and everything. Dwight went through a lot, and he's still here. I appreciate all of them and the opportunity to be here. I wish you all the very best. All the guys and gals on this table, I appreciate every one of you, too.

**Squire Gary King** - I'd like to thank the people of the 8<sup>th</sup> district and of Hardin County for the honor of serving you for the last 20 years. It's been a tremendous honor to be your magistrate. The accomplishments of that period are just absolutely too many to start into with the time that we have left. I've always been told to try to leave something better than you found it. I firmly believe that when I left James T. Alton middle school in 1999, I left it for better than I found it. The kids will be very well educated and continually today I firmly believe I left it better without a family I think today after 20 years we are leaving better than the south I think. I want to talk to the new court and several of you are here right now. You have no days I know that we didn't come in with that situation you have nothing that's great I didn't think we would ever see that he served one of the lowest tax counties in the state of Kentucky I don't know if that's good or bad.

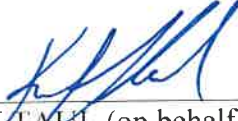
But as a taxpayer, it's pretty good for me, but there might be some things that we don't have that we could have if we had a higher taxation. I've been praying for you judge and the new magistrates. I want you to succeed. I want you to be better than we are because as I mentioned a few minutes ago, I've got grandchildren that are being raised here in Hardin County. I want you to be the best fiscal court, judge to set foot apart again you got big shoes to fill because that guy right there he's gonna be hardly but I firmly believe service will do that good luck to you magistrates' good luck to you all. Check your R's and D's at the door because once you walk in here, it doesn't matter. Never let politics keep you from doing the right thing. Don't let your party affect Hardin County's people. Your integrity is worth far more than the position you sit in. Do what's right every time. We have a seven to two vote here today. It is okay to be on the wrong end of that vote. Do what you think is right every time. Doesn't matter what the vote comes out to, be when its all said and done, get behind it and do the best job you can do. Until that the vote is taken, defend your position. Be the best you can do when we come in here every day. So, I've already talked to some of you, do your research. Don't wait till you get in this room to open your agenda and start looking through it. You're are too late then, buddy. Do Hardin County justice. Make us proud. Thank you very much, Judge. It has been a pleasure serving with you. My friends of fiscal court there is not a better than in State of Kentucky. Nowhere. You are going to find that out when you go these state meetings; you guys will be better.

**County Attorney Jenny Oldham** – I don't think there's any shame in shedding a tear for a job you love and for a community you love and people you love. So, it is bittersweet, been my honor to work with all of you. Your good people even when you disagree, your good people. That's a comfort to me. You all have made courageous votes, and I've seen you struggle with it and have the courage to do the right thing. Many times, I've been very grateful that I didn't have to cast a vote because they've been tough decisions. You all have the courage to do them. So, my English teacher mother would be glad that poetry has come to my mind at this moment. So, I'll just read a quote the best I remember it from Longfellow: "Look not more and fully to the past it comes but once but look wisely to the future to improve it because it is yours." So, I wish you all the best. I look forward to working with the new court. We have a great future, and I look forward to working with you and embracing it and improving it together.

**County Clerk Debbie Donnelly** – It is bittersweet. I love all you guys. I love Hardin County. We couldn't live in a better community. I always tell everybody that Hardin County is the best county to me throughout the state. I just want to wish all of you all well and just say I love you. To Brian, you're getting outstanding employees to the county clerk's office. They work hard each and every day. I know he's going to be good for them. So, I just want to thank you all and love you all.

Judge Berry moved and King seconded to adjourn.

Court was adjourned without objection, Judge/Executive Harry L. Berry presiding.



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KEITH TAUL (on behalf of Harry L. Berry)  
HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:



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BRIAN D. SMITH (on behalf of Debbie Donnelly)  
CLERK, HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT