

**Agenda**  
**Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting**  
**April 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul called the meeting to order and requested a roll call vote.

Answering:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: here; Squire Larry Hicks: here; Squire Kenny Muse: here; Squire Aaron Pennington: here; Squire Kenny Saltsman: here; Squire EG Thompson: here; Squire Patsy Whitehead: here; Squire Chris Yates: here; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: here.

The Invocation was given by Squire Kenny Saltsman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Kenny Muse.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul made opening comments welcoming those in attendance and previewing the agenda.

**Approve Hardin County Fiscal Court 4.11.2023 minutes**

Motion to Approve by Squire Pennington and seconded by Squire Yates.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

**Informational Items**

**Department/Office Reports**

a. Presentations

- i. Coroner – Shana Norton, Deputy Coroner
- ii. Sheriff- John Ward
- iii. County Clerk - Brian D. Smith

b. Written Reports

- i. EMS - Mark Peterson
- ii. 91 I - Mike Leo
- iii. Detention Center - Josh Lindblom
- iv. Planning - Adam King

**Judge/Executive's Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Proposal**

Judge Taul explained that he conducted the budget process in an open and transparent manner. He met with each department to discuss revenues and expenses. While the budget is approximately \$1.9 million in the red, the County is not broke and that there is \$11 million in general fund dollars. Those came from the hospital sale, the sale of county buildings, end of term monies from the Sherriff and Clerk offices and other sources.

County Judge/Executive Taul opened the floor for Citizen's Concerns or Comments. Mr. Bobby Alexander of Elizabethtown spoke about the budget and YMCA. He said the mission statement of the YMCA is not the responsibility of the taxpayers and urged a 10% cut in the budget to reduce spending. He said taxpayer dollars should not be spent on the YMCA. Squire Clem responded stating that the hospital money doesn't represent "tax dollars" and a local YMCA would be governed by a local board.

### **Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements**

a. First Reading of **Ordinance No. 254, Series 2007, Amendment #1** relating to Flood Damage Prevention (Presenter: Alex VanPelt - KY NFIP Coordinator).

Motion to Approve by Squire Thompson and seconded by Squire Saltsman.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

b. Second Reading and Adoption of **Ordinance No. 329-6, Series 2022**, relating to FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment No. 6.

Motion to Approve by Squire Whitehead and seconded by Squire Yates.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

c. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-088** amend/rescind resolution 2022-254 regarding appropriation of funds for the provision of public health facilities and services (YMCA) to Baptist Health Foundation Hardin.

Motion to Approve by Squire Yates and seconded by Squire Pennington.

During discussion on the resolution, Squire Thompson offered what he described as a friendly amendment to only rescind the funds for 2024 and leave the future dollars to be decided. No second was made.

Squire Clem explained that while he was a "no" vote on the original proposal, he was against the overturning of a prior court's decision. He will vote no on this resolution.

Squire Yates said a split decision by the court can be healthy. He will vote yes because the funds were allocated at the 12<sup>th</sup> hour with no public input and believed a YMCA would not benefit his constituents.

Squire Saltsman stated that the vote was not about a YMCA, but about the commitment of Fiscal Court. He applauded former County Judge/Executive on leaving the county with record savings

and debt-free. He believes this isn't just one mistake, and it starts Fiscal Court off on the wrong foot.

Squire Whitehead said she would speak from her heart. She sees lots of need in the county, and \$7 million is a lot of money to give away when we need to provide services today. She hopes in the future we can get a YMCA and will vote yes on the resolution.

Squire Hicks spoke to many of his constituents. He received thirty calls asking to rescind the money and only two to leave it alone. He will vote yes.

Squire Pennington said that the court members all respect different opinions. In twenty years, there has been very little change. He is not opposed to making changes because that happens on the presidential level and that its okay to question past decisions. We want a YMCA, but at what expense? We must expand our EMS, and we need better roads. He is in favor of rescinding the funds, but we must not balance the budget with the money.

Squire Muse said we have already given \$3 million and is not in favor of giving \$7 million more. Squire Clem again spoke saying that rescinding the funds would endanger the future of the YMCA, and the county gets the money and land back in five years if it doesn't come about. He said he was proud of the court today.

Judge Taul spoke saying that \$10 million would not be enough to build a YMCA and he doesn't favor using one-time revenue to pay for ongoing expense. He said the county has given \$3 million to the Baptist Health Hardin Foundation for the YMCA, acreage to build it and \$2 million for walking trails. He is not opposed to the YMCA, but we need the funds. He said he would continue to be open and transparent with the budget. He also explained the timeline required to pass the budget.

#### Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: no; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: no; Squire EG Thompson: no; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

#### Consent Agenda

- a. Approve payrolls dated 3.03.2023, 3.14.2023, 3.17.2023, 3.31.2023 with payroll registers.
- b. Approve April Claims 04.25.2023.
- c. Approve Amended **Resolution No. 2023-069** relating to appoint Greg Lowe to the Hardin County Planning Commission for a 4-year term beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2027 (changed from April 30, 2026).
- d. Approve **Amended Resolution No. 2023-070** relating to appoint Steve Steck to the Hardin County Planning Commission for a 4-year term beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2027 (changed from April 30, 2026).
- e. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-082** relating to approve EMS personnel.
- f. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-083** relating to approve financial transfers.
- g. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-084** relating to approve bid for New, Never Titled V8 4 Door 4x4 SUV.
- h. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-085** relating to approve bid for Detention Center Security Camera System.

- i. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-086** relating to approve bid for Detention Center Access Control System.
- j. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-087** relating to approve the following Pitman Green, LLC Work Order Contract No. 2: Work Order Contract No. 2 - Engineering Services - Fire & EMS Building located near Glendale.
- k. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-089** approve KY Homeland Security Grant application.
- l. Approve Resources & Community Support Committee Minutes 04.07.2023.
- m. Approve Finance Committee Minutes 04.18.2023.
- n. Approve Emergency Services Committee Minutes 04.20.2023.

Motion to Approve by Squire Hicks and seconded by Squire Yates.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

**Concluding Comments were offered by:**

Squire Chris Yates invited the public to support the North Hardin High School Marching Band at their Golden Gala to raise funds to represent Kentucky in the National Fourth of July parade in Washington, D.C. He also said he appreciated the open budget process by Fiscal Court.

Squire Kenny Saltsman commended Toshi Murrell on her recent PAWS Expo and Hardin County Animal Care and Control Director Michael McNutt on vaccinating and chipping of animals.

Squire Patsy Whitehead encouraged the public to attend the Resources and Community Support Committee on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Squire Fred Clem, Jr. said that as Finance Committee chairman this was the first time in history that anyone has inherited such large reserves and no debt. He said the Finance Committee would be meeting on May 16, 2023. He also reminded the public not to drink and drive or text and drive.

Squire Aaron Pennington said that while Fiscal Court members may disagree on some matters, they all agree to work together to serve the committee. All are working hard to try and find the best resources for our county.

Squire E.G. Thompson said it was a joy to serve the community and read the Hardin County Government mission statement into the record.

Squire Larry Hicks stated that he was honored to serve. He encouraged the public to attend the May 2, 2023 Planning and Zoning meeting that could be the biggest thing they vote on this year. He believes our county doesn't need industrial solar panels on farms in Hardin County.

Squire Kenny Muse said he planned on attending the April 26, 2023 legislative breakfast and hoped the public does as well. Opening day of the Rineyville ballpark is Saturday, April 29, 2023.

County Judge/Executive Keith L. Taul invited the public to the May 9, 2023 Fiscal Court meeting at 3:30 pm.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Squire Yates and seconded by Squire Whitehead. Court was adjourned without objection, County Judge/Executive Keith Taul presiding.



KEITH L. TAUL  
HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:



BRIAN D. SMITH  
CLERK, HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT