

Minutes
Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting
November 28, 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 Aaron Pennington.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Fred Clem.

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

Approve Hardin County Fiscal Court 11.14.2023 minutes:

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

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. EMS – Mark Peterson
- ii. E-911 – Mike Leo
- iii. Detention Center – Josh Lindblom

b. Written Reports

- i. Planning – Adam King

County Judge Executive Keith Taul opened the floor for citizen comments. Ms. Bobbie Coleman of Vine Grove spoke in opposition to the tax ordinances on the agenda. She opposed the rush to pass these. Ms. Dolly Guenther also spoke in opposition to the ordinances stating she would like to see them tabled until Fiscal Court can hear from more people.

County Judge/Executive Taul explained why the ordinances are being voted on now. He also gave the history of the taxing district authority. He emphasized that this will be paid by many who work in Hardin County, but live elsewhere. He further stated that current tax revenues are inadequate to cover costs and was the responsible thing to do.

Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements

a. First Reading of **Ordinance 337, Series 2023**, Industrial Occupational Tax Ordinance Amendment.

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

Discussion:

Squire Yates stated that no one wanted to raise taxes, but everyone needs to be able to depend on 911, the Sheriff, and EMS. He said there is no price tag on the health and safety of a family. He said this was necessary and he would vote yes.

Squire Whitehead said she doesn't want a tax, but she agreed with what Yates said. She believes in being proactive in what is to come. It was a hard decision, but the right one.

Squire Thompson said he sees this as spreading the burden, rather than placing it all on Glendale. He said we are all in this together. It's better to capture revenue from those who work here, but don't live here. Hardin County has been the lowest taxed county in the state, but this puts us at a disadvantage. He said he is opposed to any unnecessary tax, but this is the responsible thing to do.

Squire Hicks said we may be forgetting how expensive it is for families to make ends meet. The cost of food is high, and this is another burden. He asked "do we do this now?" He said the timing is wrong at Christmas time and he would be voting no.

Squire Saltsman applauded the County Judge/Executive's description of what is going on. He said we are already coming up short. The sheriff has requested \$450,000 from the current budget, and other costs to government are rising. He said the funds have to come from somewhere.

Squire Hicks stated that he understood that costs are up, but wanted to see if every county department could be checked for "fat" to cut. He said maybe we have to say no to some department requests.

Squire Clem shared that they have lobbied the legislature for the last thirteen years to create a level playing field with other counties. This will give us the opportunity to take care of services. He will vote yes.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: no; 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. First Reading of **Ordinance 338, Series 2023**, Amending Creation of Industrial Tax District

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

Discussion:

Squire Pennington stated that these were not about the future, but to fund current needs. He said he would vote yes.

Squire Clem reminded folks that the BOSK folks will be using all the roads and maintaining them gets more expensive every year. He said thirteen of Hardin County's bridges were rated "fair" and are one inspection away from being closed. Those are used by ambulances and school buses. It could cost between \$250,000 and \$1 million per bridge to replace or repair.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: no; 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.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve **Treasurer's Financial Report**.
- b. Approve **November Claims Batch**.
- c. Approve **October Payroll with Registers** - 10-10-23, 10-13-23, 10-27-23.
- d. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-226** relating to approval of Road personnel.
- e. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-227** relating to approval of Solid Waste personnel.
- f. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-228** relating to approval of Finance personnel.
- g. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-229** relating to approval of E-911 personnel.
- h. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-230** relating to approval of EMS personnel.
- i. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-231** relating to approval of Building and Grounds personnel.
- j. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-232** relating to approval of Financial Transfers.
- k. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-233** relating to reappointment of Zach Heibert to the Hardin County Extension District Board.
- l. Approve **Resolution No. 2023-234** relating to appointment of Candice Moses to the Hardin County Extension District Board.
- m. **Resources and Community Support Committee Minutes 11-20-2023.**
- n. **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 11-21-2023.**
- o. **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes 11-8-2023.**
- p. **Emergency Services Committee Meeting Minutes 11-22-2023.**

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

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:

County Clerk shared that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will be shutting down the old computer system, AVIS, and replacing it with a new system, KAVIS. As a result, from January 1, 2024 to January 9, 2024, the Clerk's Office will be unable to process any vehicle work. This is happening in all 120 counties.

Squire Chris Yates stated that Santa would again be visiting Radcliff on the fire truck and invited the public to the annual Taste of Radcliff sponsored by the Radcliff Woman's Club.

Squire Patsy Whitehead reminded that today was Giving Tuesday and asked folks to think of other's needs.

Squire Fred Clem, Jr. invited the public to the next Finance Committee. He also encouraged the public to not drink and drive and to not text and drive.

Squire Larry Hicks invited the public to the December 5th Christmas Parade in Elizabethtown.

Squire Kenny Muse invited the public to the Vine Grove Light Up Christmas event on December 5, 2023.

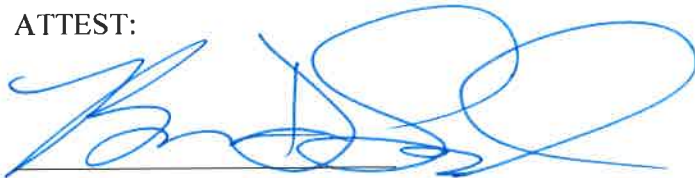
Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Squire Thompson and seconded by Squire Yates. 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