

**Minutes
Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting
April 9, 2024 at 3:30 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 Patsy Whitehead.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Kenny Saltsman.

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

Approve Hardin County Fiscal Court 3.26.2024 minutes

Motion to Approve by Squire Muse 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.

Motion passed.

Informational Items –

a. Court Appointed Special Advocates CASA of the Heartland – Michelle Kail

- i. Presentation
- ii. CASA Program Report 2023
- iii. CASA Infographic 2023

Public Hearing on County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance Funds –
The Public Hearing on **County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance Funds** for County Road Aid was conducted by Jenny Oldham, Hardin County Attorney. The advertisement was in the newspaper on April 2, 2024. With no discussion, hearing was closed.

Department/Office Reports

a. Presentations

- i. Animal Control –Mike McNutt
 - a. March 2024 Animal Control Power Point
 - b. 2024 Totals for Municipality Monthly Report
 - c. Fort Knox Animal Intake 2022-2025
 - d. Larue County Animal Intake 2022-2025
 - e. March 2024 Fiscal Court Report
- ii. Emergency Management – Joey Scott

b. Written Reports

- i. Public Works/Code Enforcement – Stephanie Givens
- ii. Road Department – Dwight Morgan

Citizen's Concerns or Comments

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul opened the floor for citizen comments. None were offered.

Judge/Executive's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Proposed Budget Presentation

i. Judge Comments

\$59,615,729 is the proposed budget total. The county has no debt. The net operating budget will be supplemented by the BOSK PILOT and ARPA Interest. Property taxes for 2024 tax year will increase by four percent. The industrial taxing district has an estimated net revenue of \$180,000. The 911 fee will increase. Personnel Expenses account for 46% of the county expenses.

Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements

a. First Reading of Ordinance No. 340 Series 2024 Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

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

Discussion:

Squire Yates said that he could not support the proposed budget. He did not know how the county would continue to sustain by taking 4.4 million dollars each year from reserves. Our revenue has to match our expenses. The occupational tax does not have a baseline.

Squire Clem thanked the Judge/Executive for presenting the internal components of the budget. The external components of the budget, our state legislation, we have spent 13 years going to Frankfort, trying to get them to put Hardin County on a level playing field where we can do the things that other counties can do, but they continually refuse to do that. The budget will be an issue every budget cycle. The state legislature and department of corrections have refused to address the jail issue. When a person is arrested in Hardin County, they have broken the law that was passed by the state, not by the city, not by the county. Their funding policy should be to start compensating the county jail from day one of when the person is arrested. He was in full support of the reductions in the budget.

Squire Pennington stated that he could not support the budget. The county cannot spend the money that we don't have. He supports the majority of the budget, but he cannot support the items not necessary yet.

Squire Whitehead thanked Lisa Pearman, the Hardin County Treasurer, for working diligently on the budget. She recognized Magistrate Clem for his guidance and knowledge on budgets and as chair of the finance committee. She thanked the Judge/Executive for explaining the budget. We cannot foresee what the industrial tax will bring for the future, but it will be in our favor. We are debt free. She fully supports this budget.

Squire Saltsman stated that he could not support the budget. The \$8 million dollars from BOSK was supposed to last about 15 years. We are using about half of it to balance this budget. Squire Muse stated that he concurred with some of the comments the magistrates made. He stated that the expenses needed to be reviewed again to see if more cuts can be made.

Squire Hicks stated that cuts will not be enough to balance the budget. He will support the budget.

Squire Thompson stated that the county is penalized by an old law that prevents us from receiving the same resources that other counties have. Our cities are flourishing; the county is not. The state legislature needs to correct it.

Judge/Executive Keith Taul stated that if the industrial tax had not been passed in December then the budget would have had a different look. We have reviewed all of the departments, have a high turnover rate in several departments because we do not pay them enough, and some jobs need to be compensated appropriately. There was a \$600,000 cut, but it did not help with the deficit of about five million dollars. If we remove more, then our services will suffer.

Squire Clem stated that he needed to clarify the reference to the library budget. It is a statutory payment by a court order that we cannot cut or raise. The BOSK agreement was a one-time payment. Due to the amount of contractors coming in and out, we could not assess the tax during the construction phase.

Voting:

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

b. Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 341 Series 2024 Annual Standing Order to Pre-Approved Recurring Expenses

Motion to Approve by Squire Thompson 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.
Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Treasurer's Financial Report
- b. Approve Claims – April Claims 4-9-2024, March Recurring Claims 3-2024, March Utility Claims 3-2024
- c. Approve **Resolution No. 2024-069** related to Finance Personnel
- d. Approve **Resolution No. 2024-070** related to EMS Personnel
- e. Approve **Resolution No. 2024-071** related to E-911 Personnel
- f. Approve **Resolution No. 2024-072** related to Financial Transfers
- g. Approve **Resolution No. 2024-073** related to Contract with Dirt Works Unlimited LLC for Owner/Contractor Construction of Site Development at 200 South Provident Way
- h. Approve **Emergency Services Committee Meeting Minutes 3.21.2024**
- i. Approve **Finance Committee – Special Called Meeting Minutes 3.25.2024**
- j. Approve **Finance Committee – Special Called Meeting Minutes 4.1.2024**
- k. Approve **Public Works Committee – Special Called Meeting Minutes 4.1.2024**

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

Discussion:

Squire Saltsman commented on item g; after speaking with the road supervisor, he was satisfied.

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.

Motion passed.

Concluding Comments were offered by:

Deputy Clerk Meranda Caswell (on behalf of County Clerk Brian D. Smith) announced the deadline to register to vote in the May election is April 22 at 4:00 pm. Eligible voters can begin requesting an absentee ballot April 6. You can do both at govote.ky.gov or by calling or visiting the Clerk's office.

Squire Chris Yates invited the public to the next Emergency Services Committee meeting.

Squire Patsy Whitehead thanked Michelle Kail and the CASA program for acquiring assistance from volunteers for the children on the waitlist. April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. Please donate or volunteer for the CASA program. Squire Whitehead invited the public to the next Resources and Community Support Committee meeting.

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

Squire Larry Hicks thanked Lisa Pearman and the Finance Department for preparing the budget. He asked for prayers for Lisa Pearman's upcoming surgery.

Squire Kenneth Muse invited the public to the next Public Works Committee meeting.

Judge/Executive Keith Taul thanked Lisa Pearman and the Finance Department.

Closed Session:

- 1) KRS 61.810 (1)(c) Discussion of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency
- 2) KRS 61.810 (1) (g) Discussions concerning a specific proposal, if open discussions would jeopardize the siting, retention, expansion or upgrading of a business.

Motion to Approve by Judge/Executive Keith Taul 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.

Motion passed.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul – Fiscal Court Meeting is April 23 at 3:30 pm.

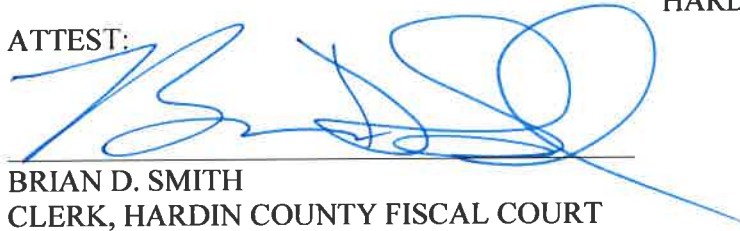
Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Squire Yates and seconded by Squire Pennington 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