

Powell County Fiscal Court

Regular Called Meeting

Date: March 12th, 2024

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Powell County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

**33 Commerce Drive
Stanton, Kentucky 40380**

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Public Comments- Janelle Brewer**
- V. Clerk's Report (Meeting Minutes) of Last Meeting**
- VI. Bills Submitted for Payment**
- VII. Approval of Treasurer's Financial Statement**
- VIII. Approval of Treasurer's Transfers/Amendments**
- IX. Old Business**
- X. Department Head Updates**
- XI. District Updates**
- XII. New Business**

Items to be Discussed:

- **Homestead Subdivision**
- **Appointment to Red River Wastewater Authority**
- **Jail Commissary**
- **2024/2025 Proposed Jail Budget KRS 441.215**

- XIII. Motion to Adjourn**
- XIV. Next Meeting April 9, 2024**

Powell County Fiscal Court

Regular Called Meeting

Date: March 12th, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Powell County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

33 Commerce Drive

Stanton, Kentucky 40380

Present: Eddie Barnes, County Judge Executive, Fiscal Court Clerk/Treasurer Connie Crabtree, County Attorney Robert King, Magistrate Dennis Combs, Magistrate J.L. Bowen, Magistrate Chad Patton, Magistrate Brian McKinney, Magistrate Mike Lockard, Asst Tax Administrator Kevin Noel, Jailer Teddy Lacy, Chief Deputy Jailer Neal Hamilton, Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden, Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy, Deputy Judge Dale Allen, CSEPP/EMA Director Kevin Babcock, Dispatch Director Larry Hall, Asst Dispatch Director/Mapping Officer Justin Rice, Jennifer and Darrell Billings, Janelle Brewer, Leandra Knox, Stacy Cane, Michael Kelso, Deputy Jailer George Nester, Steven Haddix, Brandon Farmer/Powell Patriot Newspaper, Coroner Megan Wells Curtis and Ambulance Director Nathan Hall.

County Judge Executive Eddie Barnes called the meeting to order. A quorum was established Deputy Judge Executive Dale Allen offered the prayer.

County Judge Executive Eddie Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called for the following members:

Judge Executive Eddie Barnes – Present

Magistrate J.L. Bowen – Present

Magistrate Dennis Combs – Present

Magistrate Brian McKinney – Present

Magistrate Mike Lockard – Present

Magistrate Chad Patton – Present

Public Comments:

Kyle Huff – Permission to use county ditch on Thorpe Ridge Road to run water line:

Kyle Huff was present for the meeting to ask for court's permission to use the county ditch on Thorpe Ridge Road to run a water line to his property. It would be around 3000 feet to do so. Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy told members of the court that he had gone and looked at the area. Patrick asked Kyle if he would have to cross Popular Bluff Road to get to it. Kyle told him he would not because it's on the other side of the road. Patrick told him if there was any damage done to the paved surface or infrastructure the court does require that he would make the repairs at his cost. Patrick went on to say that the area he is talking about does have little infrastructure. He asks Kyle to dig at least two feet below the infrastructure.

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Chad Patton with all members present voting in favor of approving the request for Kyle Huff to use the county ditch on

Thorpe Ridge Road to run a water line to his property contingent that if any damages is done to the paved surface or infrastructure, he would be required to make repairs at his cost.
Motion passes unanimously.

Darrell Billings:

Darrell Billings, which is currently running for State Representative in the 91st District was present for the meeting to let them know he had gotten something from Frankfort about road fund dollars being released today. He talked about how much road funding we have lost in the past years, AND because of this we need someone to go to Frankfort and fight for us.

Judge Barnes said that he totally agrees. He knows our funding has gone down to nothing.

Darrell said we have communities less than two counties away from us that got 26 million dollars in state road funding. We need to change how we are doing things. The sad part is all our efforts are vein if we don't help with other things that don't require taxpayers in our community to pay for. The public does not realize how much funding it takes to black top a road.

Members of the court thanked Darrell for coming to the meeting.

Janelle Brewer, LeAndre Knox and Stacy Cane – Situation Table:

Janelle Brewer, LeAndre Knox and Stacy Cane were present for the meeting to let members of the court know about a new program here in the county called the Situation Table. This is where all agencies come together once a week to discuss the needs of our community. Stacy had a PowerPoint presentation about data that was collected in a six-month period.

The Situation Table brings together multiple human service providers to address situations for individuals and families facing a specific threshold of elevated risks that often falls through the cracks in our system. No one agency or organization owns the table. It is driven by multiple human service providers in the community that work together.

Police, Fire, Clinics, School Systems and Homeless Coalition were there. Clay City Chief Rob Williams has brought situations that he was aware of.

The Table Chair is Janelle Brewer, her back up is Wendy which both are with Spark Miniseries and Stacy Cane is the officer manager of Clay City Pediatrics and Primary Care. She is also the primary data collector and LeAndre is her back up.

This is how a situation is presented to them. An individual or family reaches out to help which is considered Phase I. This situation is then taken to the table after getting either verbal consent or written consent from the family which is considered Phase II. If the table agrees that the situation is an acute elevated risk, then they will open a situation which is considered Phase III. Phase III is when the plan of action is determined and a leading supporting agency or multiple agencies will get as much information about the individual as possible to get them access to services.

The Situation table meets every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. It is held at the SPARK office. They do a quick response team to try and get to that individual either by phone or contacting them in person by Friday so they can be set up by the weekend. Any data that is collected is nonidentifiable so if someone was to look at a spreadsheet, they would not too able to find out who the situation is about. They have had 15 situations currently. They were able to close 12 of them and two were rejected because they did not meet the acute evaluated risk and one that was just recently opened. Most of the situations have come from SPARK.

Judge Barnes asked how much it costs to have the meeting. Janelle told him there was no cost, this is totally volunteered. Darrell Billings asked if there were funding mechanisms for it. LeAndrea told him that it was all volunteer work. They, along with agencies all work together as one. Members of the court thanked them for coming and appreciated the work they are doing for our community.

Meeting Minutes of the February 13th 2024, meeting:

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving the meeting minutes of the February 13th, 2024, regular meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting Minutes of the February 29th, 2024, meeting:

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving the meeting minutes of the February 29th, 2024, special meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting Minutes of the March 5th, 2024, meeting:

A motion was made Magistrate Mike Lockard and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving the meeting minutes of the March 5th, 2024, special meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

Bills Submitted for Payment:

All bills were submitted to members of the court for payment approval.

An additional invoice was submitted by Magistrate Brian McKinney for search and rescue equipment. A grant was received for this equipment. The invoice from Mountain Tek was for dry suits, gloves, wet shoes, knives, whistles, helmets, mesh bags, strobe lights and water rescue kits in the total amount of \$5,068.40.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor of approving payment for all bills submitted including the invoice from Mountain Tek in the amount of \$5,068.40.

Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Transfer: Cash, Budget and Interfund Transfers:

The Treasurer presented the transfers for court approval. Transfers to include interfund transfers, cash transfers and budget transfers. A list of transfers is included with the Magistrates packet for their review.

Interfund Transfers:

Transfer from General to Dispatch - \$9,000.00

Transfer from General to Ambulance - \$15,000.00

Transfer from General to Grants (DES) - \$3,000.00

A motion was made by Magistrate Mike Lockard and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor of approving all interfund transfers, cash transfers and budget transfers.

Motion passed unanimously.

Financials: Financial Statement and Cash Balance Statements:

The Treasurer presented the financials for court approval. 2/1/24 – 2/29/24 financial statement and cash balance statements.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor of approving all financials to include the 2/1/24 – 2/29/24 financial statement and cash balance statements.

Old Business:

No old business.

Coroner Megan Wells Curtis: (Reimbursing for expense of Cremation)

Coroner Megan Wells Curtis was present for the meeting to let members of the court know about more and more cases where families will not accept family members when they pass away. She had a man from South Fork that was taken to St. Joseph hospital which passed away and no family member would accept him. The hospital called her to come and get him. She tried calling his niece several times, but she would not respond to her calls. After this effort Megan asked Judge Gary Salyers to sign for him to be cremated. This cremation would be at her expense. This is the fourth situation this year, but this is the only one she is asking to be reimbursed for.

A motion was made by Magistrate J.L. Bowen and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs with all members present voting in favor of the reimbursement to Megan Wells Curtis in the amount of \$750.00 for the cremation expense.

Motion passed unanimously.

Magistrate Brian McKinney asked her why the State did not help pay for these types of situations. The State tells her they do not have funding for this, and it would be up to the county to take care of it. Judge Barnes told Megan that we could consider budgeting for contingent burial in our upcoming budget. County Attorney Robert King asked her if there was an option to donate the bodies to science. She told him they did not do this anymore.

Megan said she would like to thank Ambulance Director Nathan Hall and Dispatch Director Larry Hall for doing an outstanding job.

Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy: (approval of invoice from A&W Enterprises and the discussion of Little Brush Creek concerning an encroachment on a roadway)

Department Head Updates:

Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy let members of the court know they have been focusing on ditches since the recent rains. Patrick plans on taking some maintenance vehicles to road mechanic Ryland Ledford for repairs.

He has communicated with Magistrate Chad Patton about a ditching project and Magistrate Dennis Combs regarding Little Brush Creek concerning an encroachment on a roadway. They have identified four individuals that are in part responsible for this. County Attorney Robert King has sent them paperwork so we should know something soon whether they are going to move forward with the process of what they should do as landowners by this Friday.

We had a lady come in to pay her portion, but she was told that we cannot expect payment until we know exactly what the cost will be. They will have one week to get together to solve the issue because it is a shared entrance to three separate properties. If the issue is not resolved, then the road crew will take responsibility and then landowners will be responsible for any costs accrued. Patrick told Magistrate Mike Lockard that he talked to Clark Energy regarding their right of way that is off the county right of way on Derickson Lane. They did say they will check on removing the debris.

Patrick presented an invoice from Dukes A&W Enterprises LLC in the amount of \$3,803.12. This invoice is for lights that will be used on salt trucks and a tarp kit for their single axle dump truck. Magistrate Mike Lockard told Patrick to check and make sure that the price will remain the same as the quote.

A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by Magistrate Brian McKinney with all members present voting in favor of approving the invoice from Dukes A&W Enterprises LLC in the amount of \$3,803.12.

Motion passed unanimously.

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden:

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden let members of the court know that the transmission is going out in the purple truck. He asked for court approval for him to get a new one. Road Mechanic Ryland Ledford checked on a price for a new transmission. The price would be \$2,800.00.

A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of approving the request to purchase a new transmission in the amount of \$2,800.00.

Motion passed unanimously.

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden presented members of the court with a couple of invoices which will be paid out of the remaining monies from the recycling and compost grants.

Pro-Tainer – (14) Mini Cycler, Cardboard 9yd @ \$4,016.00 Totaling - \$56,224.00

CRS Auto & Trailer Sales Inc – (11) 2024 Gatormade Trailer 6X12 Single Axle - \$27,354.00

Tractor Supply – (11) Cages with Roof Package - \$5,543.78

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Chad Patton with all members present voting in favor to approve all invoices submitted. Pro-Tainer - \$56,224.00, CRS Auto & Trailer Sales Inc - \$27,354.00 and Tractor Supply – 5,543.78.

Motion passed unanimously.

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden presented members of the court with an invoice from ***Midnight Oil in the amount of \$14,200.00.***

2x2 square tubing frame 140 ft - \$1,400.00

4 – D – Rings - \$200.00

11 sheets metal – 1/8 in thick - \$3,300.00

Total Material: \$4,900.00

Labor/Welding: \$2,200.00

Total Per Box: \$7,100.00

Total for Two Boxes: \$14,200.00

A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by Magistrate Dennis Combs to approve the invoice submitted from Midnight Oil Co in the total amount of \$14,200.00.

Motion passed unanimously.

Solid Waste Coordinator Tim Snowden let members of the court know about the SWACK meeting being held at Natural Bridge. Tim and Judge Barnes will be speaking at this event. Tim said he would like to thank Darrell Billings for supplying their lunch that day.

Darrell Billings said Tim shared the information with him about the Kentucky Beverage Association. He took this information and shared it with the City of Ravenna and because of Tim's work they now can bring the recycling program to this small community.

Ambulance Director Nathan Hall:

Ambulance Director Nathan Hall asked for court approval to pay the Stanton Fire Department for their rent in the amount of \$1,300.00 for the month of April. The ambulance service moved over to the Stanton Fire Department during renovation of their current building. Members of the court requested that Nathan get an invoice for rent. Magistrate Brian McKinney asked if there was a contract or a gentleman's agreement for the rental. Nathan told him it was a gentleman's agreement. County Attorney Robert King said that in his opinion a verbal agreement with the people involved would be fine.

A motion was made by Magistrate Chad Patton and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of approving April's rent payment to Stanton Fire Department in the amount of \$1,300.00.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ambulance Director Nathan Hall asked for court approval for him to purchase a new computer due to his old one crashing. Nathan asked Mike with Joker Business Solutions about them being the IT for the ambulance service. Their monthly quote was \$658.00. Members of the court thought that price was too much.

It was suggested that Nathan look online for a new computer. Assistant Ambulance Director Arlene Rogers is also in need of a new one. Judge Barnes told Nathan to check with Joker Solutions on getting the new computers.

A motion was made by Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of approving up to \$2,500.00 for two new computers.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ambulance Director Nathan Hall asked for court approval to reserve 3 rooms for the Resuscitation Academy in Owensboro April 11th and 12th. The academy is free of charge. There

will be a total of three people attending this academy. Nathan will check room prices and present them at the next meeting.

Chief Deputy Neal Hamilton:

Chief Deputy Neal Hamilton made members of the court aware the jail will be starting 12-hour shifts at the jail on March 29th. This is eliminating part-time positions. There probably will be several people quitting because of 12-hour shifts. Neal said he wants to start this early so that by July 1st, they can have everything ready.

Chief Deputy Neal Hamilton made members of the court aware of the CPR training would expire on April 7th, 2024. Southern Health Partners is going to recertify employees. They do this training every two years free of charge. Neal told members of the court that they are welcome to attend this class. As of now the class is scheduled to be held on April 27th, 2024.

Chief Deputy Neal Hamilton had told members of the court about the discussion in a previous meeting concerning an employee leaving on 7/1/24 because of this position being eliminated. He said the conversation was between him, members of the court, the Jailer, Lieutenant Captain and the employee. He did not want anyone else to know about this happening but somehow a deputy found out about this and questioned the employee about them leaving July 1st. He said this deputy had been to the courthouse, but he did not know who this deputy talked with to find this out. Neal said he was trying to keep this from other employees finding out about this.

Neal showed members of the court a report that showed the jail commissary disbursements for the month of August 2023. He told them they were welcome to come look at the commissary books. Members of the court had questioned miscellaneous expenditures in the past. Magistrate Mike Lockard asked him if he knew what the commissary receipts were for a year. Neal told him he could get the total amount, but he did not know at this time. It is a requirement that they submit a report to members of the court showing receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ten days after the close of it.

Magistrate Mike Lockard asked Neal if the commissary was used for salaries. Neal told him that it was until the meeting they had on Monday. It was used for partial salaries not the whole salary. There is a person on the commissary report that gets paid to come in and talk to the SAP inmates, but they will be cancelling this service. With the jail laying off employees, they feel that this service is not needed. Neal does not want to mention this person's name publicly.

Judge Barnes asked Neal if they could look the bank statements. Neal told him he would have to get them because he does not deal with those bookkeeper Susie Combs does. Judge Barnes said they are not saying anyone is doing wrong they just want to see the books for their peace of mind. Neal also let members of the court know about the jail inspection on March 27th, 2024.

He also mentioned employee George Nester who was present at the meeting. Neal said he leans on him for several things and does a great job.

Assistant Dispatch Director/Mapping Officer Justin Rice:

Assistant Dispatch Director/Mapping Officer Justin Rice gave members of the court a quote last month he had gotten from Joker Solutions for a computer. Justin said he had talked to the 911 service board in Frankfort. They told him there was grant money to help pay for the computer,

software and a year of license fees. He is currently working on this grant. Justin was hoping to have a quote on the software but was unable to get it before the meeting. Judge Barnes told members of the court that we are supposed to be getting a cyber security grant that would help pay for an IT person.

Dispatch Director Larry Hall:

Dispatch Director Larry Hall gave members of the court an update on how many calls came into the dispatch for the month of February. There were 2,543 calls that came through the phone system.

202 calls – EMS, 208 calls– Stanton Police Department, 113 – Clay City Police Department 10 – Stanton Fire Department, 20 - Clay City and 6 calls – Middlefork Fire Department.

Connie has helped put together a list of expenditures for the fiscal year 2022-2023 for the dispatch. At a rate of \$16.00 per hour with retirement, insurance etc. it would take \$51,745.00 with no overtime to pay an employee. If each City would be willing to give a yearly contribution in the amount of \$103,490.00 to help pay for two dispatchers, this would help the county out a lot. Larry plans on taking this information to the City of Stanton's meeting on Tuesday and the City of Clay City's meeting on Thursday to see if they would be willing to do this. We could do this on a 3-year plan and then revisit after the 3 years due to raises because of the cost of living rising.

The dispatch is fully staffed with a couple of part-time employees. The contracts are in place. One employee goes to the academy March 24th. Phillip Frazier saves the county money by doing the polygraphing for free and they have talked to him about doing the drug screening.

The KLETF funding bill they were asking for has been withdrawn as of now. The funding will have to come from the county and cities to keep employees.

Larry talked briefly about the call that came in regarding a house trailer on fire. He said he took the call, and it got overwhelming. Luckily none of the new employees had to take this call. He said there were several calls requesting Eddie (Judge Barnes) to come to the scene, but he was in a meeting at the school, so Larry called there to get ahold of him. Eddie is a great asset to our county.

Larry asks for part-time employee Sherry Charles to be moved to a full-time position. She will be in contact and has already had her first screening.

A motion was made by Magistrate Brian McKinney and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of approving this request to move Sherry Charles to a full-time position with a starting rate of \$13.00 per hour, after academy a \$1.00 increase, after 6 months an additional .50 cent.

Motion passed unanimously.

Brandon Farmer's wife came and talked to Larry about working a part-time position. Larry still needs to get her paperwork finalized.

Dispatcher appreciation week is April 14th – 19th.

CSEPP/EMA Director Kevin Babcock:

CSEPP/EMA Director Kevin Babcock told members of the court that we are getting close to making some tough decisions concerning the budget due to the closing of CSEPP. Kevin gave each

member a copy of the Powell County CSEPP benchmark for 2023 budget. Some of these things on the budget can be reduced. We can reduce the club service because we will not need as many lights coming in at the EOC. Dispatch will need to maintain all of theirs. As far as the vegetation control, we can have the inmates come and pull weeds. When we start looking into the Em/CSEPP budgets, we will have to divide such things as communication and maintenance for the EOC. We will have to decide which budget to put these line items in.

In looking we go from three pages to one page in what CSEPP will pay for. This time next year will be the last check we will be receiving from CSEPP. When working on the 2024/2025 budget we need to see what the plans are going to be for the last three or four months of the fiscal year.

The handout shows a breakdown of what mission critical and other companies the FEMA has hired to see what we need to maintain the EOC as far as maintenance on the generators, Hvac system, power supply, etc. These things are critical to the infrastructure. It's good that we have spent money on communications these past few years. We should not have to worry about it for another 8 or 9 more years. If we do not get help with cities, county government or federal grants we are going to find ourselves financially burdened.

CSEPP Exercise will be June 12th. Kevin along with Judge Barnes attended a meeting in Fayette County and learned they could use Bert (Bluegrass Emergency Response Team).

SAR, Red Star, volunteer firefighters and anyone else that would like to attend an organized response. The response is going to be in Fayette County and assisting in Irvine Search and Rescue. Kevin said he would like to thank the road department. We got us first 5 sirens from Estill County and the parts are compatible with what we have. The road department tried their best to get the siren fixed at Bowen but found lots of issues. Kevin said we need to get John Koontz to look at it whenever he would be able to.

District Updates:

Magistrate Chad Patton – Has talked to Road Supervisor Patrick McCoy about a few things.

Magistrate J.L. Bowen – Hollerwood Park needs dumpster for the trail clean-up this weekend.

Magistrate Brian McKinney – Sent a list to Patrick that needs to be done in his district.

Magistrate Dennis Combs – Has talked to Patrick about a few things.

Judge Executive Eddie Barnes:

Judge Barnes spoke about the fire that took place at Van Village Trailer Park. He said that everyone did an excellent job from the time the call came in about the fire until it was over, and the victims were at the hospital. One of our Magistrate presents here this evening was with the entry team that went in and found the baby. EMS took the injured victims to the hospital.

Judge Barnes said we need to do something regarding our fire departments because we are behind time, volunteers are a thing of the past. We were very fortunate on the day of the fire to have as many people as we did. We need to see about getting these people paid. Nobody wants to hear about taxes, but it is something we may have to discuss. We have not progressed in our fire departments. We are asking people to come out and volunteer for free.

Judge Barnes said which one is best, are we going to be re-elected or are we going to put people's safety in jeopardy. We need to be proactive and worry about the safety of people.

Magistrate J.L. Bowen said we need to start going to the city meetings and explain to them what we need. Judge Barnes said we need to have open town meetings not only for fire departments but other things we do. They need to be held all around Stanton, Clay City, Bowen, Slade and Nada. The more someone is educated about these things the better off we will be. Magistrate J.L. Bowen mentioned how many more tourists we have here in the county on weekends, which makes it harder to have enough ambulances and police in case of emergencies. Judge Barnes asked why we have 3 separate fire departments. They need to be as one. This way we train together and work together. If we all train differently, it's a cluster.

New Business:

Homestead Subdivision:

Judge Executive Eddie Barnes made members of the court aware that John Brewer had signed the deeds , so everything is good to go.

A motion was made by Magistrate Brian McKinney and seconded by Magistrate J.L. Bowen with all members present voting in favor of adopting Abby Court, Homestead and Alley Lane into the county road system.

Motion passes unanimously.

No Action was taken on an appointment of Red River Wastewater due to it already being done in a previous meeting.

2024/2025 Proposed Jail Budget: KRS 441.215 – Submit Proposed Jail Fund Budget to the Fiscal Court by April 1st.

The Treasurer presented the 2024/2025 Proposed Jail Budget to members of the Fiscal Court on March 12th, 2024, for their review.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

A motion was made Magistrate Dennis Combs and seconded by Magistrate Chad Patton to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting:

Next regular meeting to be held on April 9th, 2024.

E O B S

Eddie Barnes, County Judge Executive

J.L. Bowen

Dennis Combs

Mike Lockard

Mike Lockard

Brian McKinney

Brian McKinney

Chad Patton

Chad Patton