

On Tuesday, February 12<sup>TH</sup>, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Powell County Fiscal Court was held with all members being present and on time.

The public comment section of our meeting is held at the beginning of the meeting and this month we had four individuals who signed in wishing to address the court. The first of these was Mr. Ernest Foster, and he came in regards to the proposed Stanton sewer expansion. He requested members of the court attend the next Stanton City Council meeting as its supposed to be an agenda item at their meeting. He still has many concerns and unanswered questions as to what is being proposed, how it would be done, and if it can be done. Mr. Foster, as well as several residents from the areas potentially effected, have attended our meetings over the last year or so with questions and concerns relating to this project.

Following Mr. Foster, Mrs. Jenell Brewer came on behalf of SPARK. She stated that the sheriff had said he would donate two of the old cruisers that they weren't using to their group. The court agreed to allow this transaction so long as there was a letter from the auditor's office saying this means of disposal was allowable. Mrs. Brewer said she would try and obtain this letter and bring it to the court.

The third member from the public was Mrs. Beckie Woods, and she came in regards to the proposed CDD landfill on Virden Ridge. She was discussing the public hearing the Division of Waste Management has scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be held at Clay City Elementary at 6:00pm and she was requesting we help with making sure as many citizens as we could are aware of this. Mrs. Woods has helped organize a group of citizens residing in that area that are opposed to the proposed operation and has been trying to make sure everyone is up on any information relating to this. The recently passed site ordinance was also discussed and how it may factor into the mix. This conversation once again turned to the necessity for us as Powell Countians to take the necessary actions to put us in a position to be able to be proactive instead of reactive in such circumstances.

The final member from the public wishing to address the court was Mr. David Neal. He came upset that he was not reappointed to the Beechfork Water Commission. He was questioning the legality of his not being reappointed and I assured him I felt the action I had taken was completely in keeping with the law but he was welcome to seek whatever legal means he felt necessary if he felt convicted otherwise. I was somewhat confused with some of his shock and questions as I had given him the courtesy of visiting with him at his home prior to making the appointment and none of these questions seemed to exist then. I assured him any of the anger and hostility he seemed to possess should be directed at myself and not the other members of the court as it was my decision.

After the public comment section, we moved onto some updates. One of the things we had received several questions about was the financial results so far to the county from the alcohol sales. I shared the information provided by our ABC Administrator from the start of sales up until January 31, 2019. To date the county has received \$18,026.42 from the license fees and regulatory fees. We have expended \$44, 775.79, granted some of this is initial expenses that won't have to be incurred again or at least as often, and also included in this is Clay City's portion. It was also pointed out that this doesn't include any sales in the incorporated area of Stanton as Powell County doesn't get any fees from this area as a result of their ordinance. This is just where the county is at with it and does not show in any way the economic impacts to the businesses.

Getting into the new business portion we started with fiscal court committee and district reports. This aspect is something new to our meetings. Part of the magistrate's duties include serving on court

committees. This term we have rearranged our committees now and every magistrate chairs one. The committees and their chairs are as follows: Donna Gabbard-administrative, Mike Lockard-building and grounds, Chad Patton-jail, Dennis Combs-emergency services and Timmy Tipton-transportation. Each of the magistrates which had meetings or activity in their committee gave a presentation on that activity as well as reports on the district they represent. I made sure to thank each of them for the amount of work each had put in the first two months of this term. These committees being active and the participation from the court has accelerated our ability to get things accomplished and making our court more effective and informed.

The next agenda item was the recently completed road audit. This item was actually covered rather thoroughly in Magistrate Tipton's committee report. We have had a third party conduct an independent audit of our county road system. This is by far the most comprehensive evaluation that has been conducted on our transportation system. Previous ones had basically included road miles. This one not only included those, but surface type, condition score of asphalt on each paved road, condition of ditches, condition of drainage structures, and other deficiencies such as slips, slides, etc. This has enabled us to get started on creating a comprehensive road plan than will prioritize work schedules according to needs to hopefully continue to improve our effectiveness and efficiency. Another result will be to establish both a four- and eight-year road plan for our whole system. With the details this audit contains it will also assist in even more accurate budget forecasting as well as enable us to be able to be more proactive with our work.

Miranda King, our Kentucky Commonwealth Attorney was the next speaker, and was present to make a presentation on the Rocket Docket. She gave the court an overview of what this program is, what it could mean financially to the jail and fiscal court. As an example, she provided court members with a hypothetical rocket docket scenario that was based on the numbers we would likely see. There appears to be an opportunity to save the tax payers thousands of dollars by more effectively moving people charged with crimes through the system. In utilizing this system, those charged with crimes could be moved either onto treatment, circuit court or state custody much quicker thus reducing the number of county inmates that not only cost us money but that take up beds that could be filled with state inmates that provide a revenue stream for the jail. The court approved a trial of this program for the remainder of this fiscal year. At this time, we will be able to evaluate what the impacts are and make a determination to if its something to continue. We appreciate Mrs. King educating us on this as well as being willing to assist us in implementing programs that could benefit Powell County.

Bids for CSEPP enclosed utility trailers was the next item attended to. In reference to the request for bids that ran in the Clay City Times for four trailers we received one bid and it was from CRS Auto and Trailer Sales. The amount for each trailer was \$\$6,990.00. The court voted to approve bids contingent they meet the parameters and price which the state had approved. Powell County will be fully reimbursed from the CSEPP program for these trailers.

The last couple of items dealt with the State Transportation System. The first was to approve the 2019-2020 Rural Secondary Recommendations. These recommendations come from the District 10 Office and are based on what they propose are in the worst condition of RS roads. They are as follows: 0.0908 of KY599, 1.5 of KY 2001, 1.0 of KY 1639, 1.5 of KY 1057, .0169 of KY 2073, and .325 of KY 1050. It's likely that they will not be able to pave the entire list this cycle as they have \$359,434 allotted and the estimates for these are at \$533,000.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and stay in touch with what's happening with the fiscal court.  
If we can be of help or you have questions feel free to call or stop by the office.