



The Adair County Fiscal Court addressed important county issues in a end-of-p.m. meeting on February 25.

Fiscal Court Mulls Free Tipping

By Dennis Crump, Editor

The Adair County Fiscal Court met in regular session at 6 p.m. CT on Tuesday, February 25 in the basement of the Adair County Annex building located at 424 Public Square, Columbia, Kentucky. The meeting began with a pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag, a brief prayer and a call to order. In its first actions, the court approved the evening's agenda and the minutes of their previous January 28 meeting.

The court heard the treasurer's report which cited a current unencumbered ending balance of \$3,906,188.73 and a total ending balance of all funds of \$390,336.23 as of February 25, 2024. The court voted to accept the report. After a brief discussion of disbursements, the court voted to pay the month's bills.

Then they turned its attention to the sheriff's report for the previous month. Sheriff Jamie Richard reported that the 728 emergency 911 calls, opened two new cases, worked nine accidents, served 60 subpoenas, provided 21 out-of-county transports and responded to 17 requests for assistance

by motorists. The fiscal court voted to approve the Sheriff's Report.

The road department report noted that most of their work recently had been related to inclement weather and its potential effect on roadways (flooding, downed trees, etc.). The court approved the report and asked to hear committee reports and the jail report. The jail reported that the Adair County restricted custody detail had provided about 1,677 hours for the county providing about \$16,770 of free labor. The jail report was also approved by the court.

The court decided to ask for written consent of the owner before designating a small portion of Hunting House Lane as a public road. This road would be maintained by the city rather than the county.

Next the court passed a number of action items, approving a five-year extension to the contract with Waste Connections with a slight increase in costs, beginning in January 2026. The court also granted permission to apply for a Crumb Rubber Grant to get benches and picnic tables for the Jim Blair Center. Also, the court awarded a bid for heating and air conditioning/boiler work to Alpha Energy Solutions.

The court approved a final settlement to the Clerk's 2024 Budget and agreed to refund the license fee of a business owner who had been forced by medical issues to dissolve their business. The court also decided to amend an administrative code policy allowing "per day" pay for overnight stays only.

Permission was granted from the court to have free tipping days in the month of May. However, no specific dates were set for this.

A motion was made to set a payscale for a Finance Officer at \$15 per hour. This position would be appointed by the County Judge Executive.

The court voted to designate a 1996 Chevrolet truck owned by the Crooner's Department as "surplus." The truck was subsequently reassigned to the Breeding Fire Department.

A motion requesting permission to a conservation district technician on county health insurance and a motion related to the appointment of a candidate to the Appeals Board were both tabled.

After discussion of an agreement to provide "tire amnesty," (for which no date was decided), the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 25 at 6 p.m.

Summit Manor receives transport van

By Cathy Hoots Abell

Raysean Hughes, Activities Director at Signature HealthCARE at Summit Manor Rehab & Wellness Center, was eager to show off the facility's new transport van. Mr. Hughes said he feels "blessed" that their facility received the van which can accommodate up to 14 residents. He said the van will help facilitate residents' engagement in

the community.

With the addition of the van, residents will be able to participate in more activities outside of the facility. For the first group outing using the van, residents were taken to Pizza Hut for lunch. In addition to group events, the van can also be used for specific individual resident's needs.

Misty Morgeson, Nursing Home Administrator, said that the addition of the van to the facility's amenities

is "life changing" for some residents. She said that one resident that participated in the first outing had previously been an employee at the local Pizza Hut. This trip brought back many memories.

According to Ms. Morgeson, Signature HealthCARE at Summit Manor Rehab & Wellness Center is a 104-bed licensed nursing facility with both skilled and long-term care beds that serves Adair and surrounding counties.



Raysean Hughes showing off the new van.



Mayor Pam Hoots (right) signs a proclamation to recognize the month of March as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness month. Along with Mayor Hoots is Jennifer Sebastian (left). Photo by Cathy Hoots Abell.

Coleman and Shell Call on EPA to Stop California's Regulatory Takeover

Attorney General Russell Coleman and Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell took a strong stand for Kentucky agriculture against California's attempt to dictate what pesticides farm families can use thousands of miles away. General Coleman and Commissioner Shell sent comment letters to the Trump Administration's new EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin in support of nationwide consistency in pesticide labeling

requirements.

Currently, states can set their own requirements for health information on pesticide labels. Shockingly, California's Proposition 65 requires manufacturers to label products containing glyphosate as "likely carcinogenic," even after the EPA concluded the herbicide does not present a risk to human health.

"California bureaucrats are once again trying to force their will onto Kentucky's farmers,

families, and businesses—costing millions and causing confusion for producers and consumers," said Attorney General Coleman. "Commissioner Shell and I, along with our partners across the country, support a clear national standard that will let Kentucky farmers get back to what they do best: feeding the Commonwealth and the country."

The current system of patchwork labeling requirements has led

to needless, years-long litigation. It has also left manufacturers and farmers unsure about their legal obligations and the health effects of certain products. Since the states proposed the uniform labeling rule last summer, the federal courts of appeals have reached different conclusions about how manufacturers are required to label their products. The states' proposed rule would clear up the confusion around labeling

requirements and help keep the costs of farming down.

"Kentucky farmers deserve clarity, not confusion, when it comes to the tools they rely on to feed our communities. A uniform national standard for pesticide labeling ensures that science—not political agendas—guides our agricultural policies," said Commissioner Shell. "I stand with Attorney General Coleman and our partners across the country in fighting against

California's overreach and protecting the ability of our farm families to do their jobs without unnecessary regulatory burdens."

Attorney General Coleman joined the Nebraska-led comment letter with attorneys general from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

Over 225,000 Ineligible Voters Purged from Rolls

The Kentucky State Board of Elections announced today that pursuant to both state and federal law, 225,311 ineligible registrations have been purged from the Commonwealth's voter rolls. The removed registrations were confirmed to have been inactive for at least two federal elections.

"The State Board of Elections is required by

statute to continuously conduct voter list maintenance in the state and we take this responsibility extremely seriously," said Karen Sellers, Executive Director of the State Board of Elections. "Voters should know that as we conduct these processes, we do so while following strict guidelines established in state and federal law; no voter is ever removed for simply not voting, we are

careful not to remove any eligible voters."

States must gather change-of-address information and then conduct a series of postcard mailings to contact voters to confirm their most up-to-date information. If, for a period of two federal elections, a contacted voter does not respond to one of the multiple postcards they are sent, does not show up to vote or does not otherwise

confirm their information, their registration is purged.

The statutory purge process resulted in the removal of ineligible voter registrations from across party lines. Of those removed, 99,168 were Democrats (44 percent), 95,732 were Republicans (42.5 percent), and 30,411 (13.5 percent) came from all other registrant types.

"Strong voter turnout depends on public

confidence in our removal process. The removal of an additional 225,000 individuals from the voter rolls – Republicans, Democrats and Independents – in compliance with federal and state law should hearten every proponent of fair elections" said Secretary of State Michael Adams, who serves as the chair of the State Board of Elections. Including today's

announced purge of inactive voters, the State Board of Elections has removed over 734,000 total voter registrations for all ineligibility reasons since January 2019.

Voters can always check their current registration status at the State Board of Elections' website, www.elect.ky.gov.

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