

# County discusses flood damage, pushes for federal assistance

BY ROGER SMITH  
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

INEZ — The Martin County Fiscal Court discussed significant damage to roads and bridges from April storms and flash floods during an April 17 meeting.

Magistrates pointed to dozens of problem sites and the urgent need for repairs, outside contractors and federal disaster assistance.

District 1 Magistrate Cody Slone said he had submitted a list of 16 affected public sites in his district.

“I know these other guys have a lot,” Slone said. “And I think Pike County had around 1,300 FEMA applications for road and bridge repairs.”

Slone emphasized that officials are working to address the damage as quickly as possible.

“Some of these are bigger projects, and the scopes of work have to be filled out,” he said. “If there are areas that need attention, reach out to any of us. We’ll try to get out there and help.”

Before concluding, Slone also acknowledged the road and bridge department’s efforts following floods in February and

April.

Judge/Executive Lon Lafferty echoed Slone’s concerns.

“It is a tremendous amount of damage,” Lafferty said. “We have bridges, slides and drain pipes. We’re trying to get to everyone as quickly as we can.”

District 2 Magistrate Kermit Howell said he had received numerous calls from residents about road and bridge conditions.

“I want everyone to know we’re working on it,” Howell said.

Lafferty added that the county is hopeful a presidential disaster declaration will be approved, allowing for FEMA reimbursement for public infrastructure repairs.

“It will take a tremendous amount of money to fix all of this,” said Lafferty. “So we’re prayerful that that’s going to happen and FEMA will reimburse us.”

District 4 Magistrate Junior Hunt stressed the need for outside help, noting just one site—Pigeon Roost—would require about two weeks of work.

“We’ll need to bring in contractors,” Lafferty agreed, citing multiple locations where steel driv-



Martin County Fiscal Court in its April meeting.

ing is necessary.

In District 5 more than 30 sites need repair, according to Magistrate Ronald Workman.

“We’re working—starting with the most dangerous—but we can only do so much,” Workman said. “Like Junior, I’m hoping we can get some contractors in here. We’re not going to get done without help.”

## February flood

FEMA has extended the application deadline for February disaster assistance to May 25. Residents can apply for individual assistance, the FEMA home buyout program, Small Business Administration loans, file appeals, or ask questions at the Disaster Recovery Center located in the old

Martin County Library building at 180 East Main Street, Inez.

## Road aid, finances, new hire

The fiscal court advanced several measures in support of road aid from the state, budget adjustments and administrative staffing.

To strengthen infrastructure funding, magistrates approved a cooperative agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s Department of Rural and Municipal Aid. The deal enables the county to participate in the state’s County Road Aid program, which funds construction, reconstruction and maintenance of eligible roads and bridges.

This year the county will benefit from an estimated \$957,942.41 from the County Road Aid fund, which is up from \$894,644 last year.

The court has yet to announce the date of the annual public hearing, during which the public can comment on the use of the County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance funds.

The court voted to advertise for a new road grader. It declared the existing grader surplus property and put it up for sale.

In a related procurement move, magistrates agreed to advertise for proposals for grant services that could help secure additional funding for county projects.

The roadside mowing contract went to America Jude dba M&J Contracting for \$33,000. Jude submitted the only bid.

Reading of budget amendments dominated a portion of the meeting as the county made adjustments of \$3.1 million. Budget Amendment

2 increases receipts and appropriations by \$1.8 million across several funds. The second reading of that amendment will take place in the next meeting. Budget Amendment 1 adds \$1.3 million to the general fund for water system generators. The court conducted the final reading of Budget Amendment 1.

Addressing a staffing change, the court hired Christi Frazier as the county finance officer at a rate of \$22 per hour. Frazier previously held the position for 12 years. Judge Lafferty explained that the current finance officer had accepted a job elsewhere.

To close out the session, the court approved \$314,000 in vendor bills, moved \$138,116 through appropriations transfers, and authorized a \$50,000 transfer from the occupational tax fund to the jail fund.

Disaster Recovery Center - MARTIN CO.

Martin County Library  
180 E Main St., Inez, KY 41224

Operating Hours

Monday - Saturday  
7 A.M - 7 P.M.

Sunday  
1 P.M. - 7 P.M.

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- Current phone number
- Address at the time of the disaster
- Address where you are now staying
- Social Security number
- General list of damage and losses
- Banking information if you want direct deposit
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name



You can apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), call 800-621-3362, or on FEMA mobile app

From left: KSP Troopers Nicholas Howell and Timothy Fletcher.

## Post 9 troopers among grads

PIKEVILLE — The Kentucky State Police (KSP) has announced the graduation of 33 new troopers from its Training Academy, marking the beginning of their law enforcement careers across the state. Among the graduates are Timothy Fletcher of Salyersville and Nicholas Howell of Betsy Layne, who will both serve at KSP Post 9 in Pikeville.

Captain Randal Surber, commander of Post 9, welcomed the new troopers with enthusiasm.

“We are proud to welcome them not only to our agency but more specifically to our Post 9 district,” Surber said. “We look forward to the positive impact they will make in serving and protecting our communities. This marks one of many special milestones in their journey—and the beginning of what we hope will be a long, successful and rewarding career in law enforcement.”

The graduating Cadet Class 105 reported to the KSP Academy on Nov. 10, embarking on 24 weeks of rigorous academic and physical training. Their instruction included over 1,000 hours of coursework in areas such as constitutional and traffic law, weapons and defensive tactics, crim-

inal investigations, vehicle pursuit, search and seizure, crash and crowd control, hostage negotiations and handling of hazardous materials.

Trooper Timothy Fletcher also earned an associate degree in General Occupational and Technical Studies from Bluegrass Community and Technical College while at the academy. He joined 16 fellow cadets in achieving this educational milestone. This opportunity stems from a 2017 change in state hiring standards that allows candidates with a high school diploma or GED and three years of full-time work experience to pursue a trooper position and a college degree during training at the academy.

The new troopers will carry forward the KSP’s mission: to promote public safety with service, integrity and professionalism, working in partnership with communities to prevent and reduce crime, enhance highway safety, and protect the rights and property of Kentuckians.

Cadet Class 106 is on the calendar to begin training Aug. 10. Individuals interested in joining the Kentucky State Police can visit [kentuckystate-police.ky.gov/recruitment](https://kentuckystate-police.ky.gov/recruitment) for more information.

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