

SEBREE BANNER



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Court Approves Resolutions; Seeks Funding For Projects

Webster County Fiscal Court met Monday for the first time in the new fiscal year. Chad Townsend presided over the meeting due to the absence of Judge/Executive Steve Henry.

During the course of the meeting, the court heard a presentation from representatives from United Way, an update on the ambulance service, and approved several resolutions and agreements related to county bridge and road improvements.

Paula Yevincy and Vikki Embry, representatives of United Way, addressed the court to provide an update on what United Way does to help the community and work in partnership with the county. United Way is a non-profit organization that helps raise funds for other non—profits who provide goods, services and resources for communities. In Webster County, they provide help to the county senior services, St. Anthony's Hospice and Oasis, an organization to build stronger families.

Funds raised through United Way may be designated for specific counties and specific programs, Embry said, noting that it is the community volunteers who decide where the community funds go. Most United Way funds come through businesses and industry that participate in the program and allow employees to make voluntary pay deductions specifically for the program. Yevincy added, "United Way really wants to focus on what the community needs. It is a great investment."

The duo also spoke about United Way's 2-1-1 call in system that provides a resource directory for community. Persons needing assistance, whether it be food, help with utilities, housing/shelter, medical help, etc. may call 2-1-1 and be put in contact with an agency that can assist. The 2-1-1 call center is open 24/7 and serves all 120 Kentucky counties.

Magistrates also heard from Donnie Cato, who provided the court with an update on the county's ambulance service. According to statistics provided by Cato, the service has responded to 431 total calls in Webster County since January 1; 408 9-1-1 calls and made 12 blood draws. They have also provided services for the county's Memorial Day program, covered the district and regional softball tournament at the high school, provided

coverage for the Baits and Badges fishing event at Canaan Ridge Park and hosted a CPR class for baby sitter through the county 4-H program. Other Deaconess resources have also responded to 166 calls between January 1 and June 30, as well as 85 9-1-1 calls. Enroute time to a call averages less than two minutes with average response time of 16.03 minutes. The average response for other Deaconess resources is about 19.25 minutes, Cato said. Cato also provided information related to outlier deployment that sometimes take extended time due to road closures, flooding, 9-1-1 system overload, road conditions or the distance from the truck location to a rural county address. The agency's stroke compliance is at 100 percent.

Following the presentations, the court moved into their business session where they approved transfers, purchase orders and claims before taking action on personnel matters. Deviray Bruce was moved from part-time to fulltime at the 9-1-1 center; Jacob Weaver was hired part-time to assist in the coroner's office; Steven Baker was hired to work part-time at the jail. Clara Russell was approved to move from full time to part time in the county attorney's office and Shana Blackburn was hired as a fulltime employee for the county attorney.

The court received just one bid each for the Fishtrap Derby Mine Road culvert and the Slaughters-Elmwood Road bridge projects.

JJ Concrete Construction, LLC submitted a bid of \$145,714.67 for a 40X19X8 precast concrete box culvert with wing walls. The bid was accepted by the court. E and H Bridge Co of Bedford, IN submitted a bid of \$151,980 for a bridge structure for the Slaughters-Elmwood bridge project. That bid was also accepted by the court. The county will soon bid the installation of the bridge on Slaughters -Elmwood Road.

Magistrates also approved a number of resolutions and agreements on Monday. The first reading of a resolution related to securing funding for bridge repairs, road repairs and other flooding issues was approved by the court. That resolution will allow the county to create a sinking fund through the Kentucky Association of Counties leasing trust, providing the county with a



MAGISTRATE CHAD TOWNSEND, center, conducted Monday's Webster County Fiscal Court meeting in the absence of County Judge/Executive Steve Henry. Also pictured are magistrate Bob Hardison and county treasurer Tonia Duncan.

line of credit should FEMA funding not be available. Approval of the resolution does not mean the county is borrowing money, rather, it allows the county to pay for services rendered at the time payment is due if grant funds have not been released by state/federal agencies. If it becomes necessary to use the funds, the line of credit is capped at \$1.2 million. Second reading of the ordinance is expected to be held at the court's next meeting on July 28.

Other resolutions and agreements approved by the court on Monday include a resolution for various roads and bridges (Fishtrap Derby Mine and Slaughters-Elmwood). That resolution authorizes Henry to sign the necessary documents to receive funding assistance through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in the amount of \$647,249 for repair/replacement of drainage structures and a bridge. The county will be responsible for any amount above the \$647,249 requested.

Magistrates also approved a resolution and agreement for resurfacing several miles of county roadway on Andy Sisk Road and Waggoner Church-Chalybeate Road. For those projects the county is seeking \$392,000 in assistance. Henry was authorized to sign the necessary documents for that funding which will provide resurfacing of 2.924 miles of Andy Sisk Road and 1.8 miles of Waggoner church

-Chalybeate Road.

A resolution for coal severance operations support projects for Fiscal Year 2025-26 was also approved on Monday. That resolution calls for the county to secure up to one million dollars in LGEDF funds through HB 6. Passage of the resolution gives Henry the authority to sign the necessary documents to secure funds to help the county offset payments for work completed before seeking re-imbursement from the state. Those funds will be used in emergency situations, Townsend told fellow magistrates.

Other business to come before the court included the approval pending audit of the 2023-2024 oil tax settlement. That money is distributed among the taxing districts with the state receiving \$18,593.62; the county receiving \$31,880.27 and other taxing districts receiving the following amounts: schools-\$95,756.23; library \$14,976.83; health department-\$8400; extension services-\$10,022.88 and ambulance service-\$10,853.09.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40. The next court meeting is July 28 at 9:00 a.m.

One Person Dies In Train, Car Collison

A man has died as the result of injuries sustained in a fatal train/vehicle crash in Sebree early Sunday morning.

According to a press release issued by Sebree Police Chief Nathan Stinchcomb the incident occurred at the CSX Jefferson Street crossing on the north side of town July 13. CSX personnel contacted Webster County Dispatch at about 12:35 a.m. to report that a vehicle had collided with a southbound train.

The vehicle was located several yards south of the initial impact still in front of the train, but straddling the tracks, Stinchcomb's report says. A search of the area

led officers to an unresponsive male who was the lone occupant of the vehicle. The 22-year old Sebree resident, identified as Jovanie Gabriel Martinez Barco, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Most of Sebree's crossings were closed for several hours to allow emergency personnel to investigate the incident.

In addition to the Sebree Police Department, other agencies responding to the accident were the Sebree Fire Department, Webster County Sheriff's Department, Providence Police Department, Poole Fire Department, Robards Fire Department, Webster County Coroner and Webster Township.

Dixon City Commission Passes Ordinance Amendment

The Dixon City Commission met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Terry Webb presiding and all commission members present. City Attorney Lindsay Durbin also was present at the meeting.

Following approval of the minutes from the June meeting and the bills and claims, commissioners dealt with a short agenda in a session that lasted about 25 minutes.

Mayor Webb told commissioners the members of the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 19 calls in June.

Commissioner Randy Norman reported the city purchased 2,347,300 gallons of water in June. The

city sold 1,659,810 gallons over the same period. The city's water loss for June was 21.8%. Mayor Webb noted that public works employees have repaired three leaks in the past few days, and it is hoped those repairs will reduce the city's water loss.

Commissioner Robert Brown told the board that one speed limit sign in the city is in need of repair or replacement, and overgrowth of weeds on College Street needs to be removed.

Commissioner Mande O'Leary told members that holes in the walking trail at Baker Park need to be repaired, and a culvert along the trail has collapsed and is in deed of repair or re-

placement. She also said a park bench near the disc golf course needs some repair work. The park board has set November 15 as the date for the annual veterans' day parade.

The park board has also requested a fence along the soccer field be extended. The cost of that work is estimated at \$1,200 to \$1,500; however, park board members apparently are seeking additional estimates. According to Mayor Webb, the cost of that extension will be paid with park board funds.

Code Enforcement Officer Chris O'Leary told members that 20 letters have been sent to property owners in violation of the city's nuisance

ordinance. Of that number, four properties have been brought into compliance, and work is underway on others. O'Leary stated three of the owners remain in violation and will be cited in the next few days.

In addressing old business, the commissioners approved an ordinance amendment allowing the city to disconnect water service when a customer has a leak that is not being addressed. The ordinance is being enacted as another step to reduce water loss. The ordinance passed on a 4-0 vote.

Commissioners also approved the transfer of funds from a maturing certificate of deposit. The commission

will purchase a \$100,000 certificate of deposit for a nine month term. The funds for that CD will come from the street fund and the street money market account.

Commissioners also approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Webb, on behalf of the City of Dixon, to apply for grant funds through the County Priority Projects Program. According to Mayor Webb, those funds will fund the resurfacing of eight streets in the city.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of Dixon City Commission is Monday, August 11, 6:00 P.M.