

# Fiscal Court approves DARE officer

Discusses  
opioid funding  
board, roads,  
and fire  
coverage

By Charles Romans  
*Carter County Times*

The Carter County Fiscal Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday evening, and the first order of business was a public hearing on Finch Lane. No residents were present at the meeting to speak either for or against, and the court voted to extend Finch Lane, County Road CR 1540 by .206 miles.

Amber Samons provided an update from the Business Cultivation Foundation, which serves as the grant writer for Carter County. Samons also provided a report on all the opioid fund related projects to the court.

“We also wanted to

request a special meeting for the applicants for the Opioid Advisory Board,” Samons told the court.

Samons said that currently there are 19 applicants to serve on the board.

“We also have some exciting news to share,” Samons said. “We have been invited to speak at the Appalachian Regional Commission National Conference. It’s in October in Maryland, and we get to represent Carter County and share all that we do.”

The Chief of Police for the Carter County Schools Police Department, R.D. Porter, spoke to the court about the need for an additional DARE officer for the schools.

“Last year we entered into an agreement on the opioid abatement fund for a DARE officer for Carter County Schools,” Porter told the court, before requesting additional funding for a second officer.

“We have 11 schools in Carter County, and they are spread out over the county,” Porter said. “Offi-

cer Grayson worked really hard, and we got almost three hundred kids graduated through the DARE Program. I’m back this year to ask for a second DARE Officer so we can get into the high schools and middle schools as well as the grade schools.”

Porter told the court if they agreed to the additional officer that he would like to end the current contract, and place both officers on a new two-year contract. After discussion, the court voted to add another officer and a new two-year contract. The officers would cost roughly \$40,000 each per year, paid through the Opioid Abatement Fund money.

Local resident Annete Greenwald spoke to the fiscal Court about concerns of a county road leading to a family cemetery being taken off the county maintenance schedule. Greenwald said she wanted to respectfully ask the court to reconsider their intentions to remove Gimlet Creek Road, in particular



Carter County Fiscal Court had a packed house on Monday night. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

the section that leads to the Whitt Cemetery. That section of the road, she said, had been renamed Mobley Flats. After discussion, the court voted to begin the process to take the section of the road named Mobley Flats back into the county road system.

Representatives from both Webbville and Hitchens Fire Department were also present at the

fiscal court meeting to discuss coverage in the Willard area. State statutes were discussed, as was the Fire Commission, but a satisfactory agreement could not be reached as to which fire coverage map was valid. Ultimately it was suggested that a special work meeting be arranged, and the state fire commission be included to clarify the matter.

In other business, the court voted to hire Kevin Dean Hogg as a truck driver at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. The court also voted to give the county attorney the authority to opt into future class action lawsuits against opioid manufacturers.

Contact the writer at [charles@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:charles@cartercountytimes.com)

## Sports from A-6

ber of 1999.

Mike Keaton took over the business at that time, and said that he started out ‘going with the flow’ to get comfortable with the business. But only a year later the business experienced a fire that could have been an absolute catastrophe if not for some ‘benevolent vandalism.’

“This building here used to be the storehouse,” Keaton said of where the business showroom is now located. “Jane and Larris sold pool supplies, backboards, rims, football helmets, just tons of stuff.”

That, he said, was where the fire started.

“By the time I got the call and got here, the

community had broken out the front window, opened the back door, and were in a building that was on fire trying to rescue my merchandise.”

Another of Keaton’s memories, apart from the interaction with a wonderful and loyal community, was entering into the first wave of what would become the information age.

“You could call your orders in sometimes,” he said. “But then they started insisting on faxing the orders in, so I had to buy a fax machine.”

“We were really blessed,” Keaton said. “We had good customers and good employees. Jane had some good employees that I

inherited, and they stayed with me until they retired.”

Keaton also remembers changing the shirt aspect when he and one of his employees were at a trade show and he purchased a machine to cut his own letters for shirts rather than buying them pre-cut from a supplier.

Keaton sold Grayson Sporting Goods in 2021 to Chris and Brooke McFarland, who of course put their own imprint on the business while maintaining the level of quality and service the community had come to expect. Chris McFarland said one of the things he brought to

the business was newer technology in printing and designing shirts.

“Now there are direct to film transfers which have an unlimited number of colors. And that really opens the door to customizing personal apparel for the customer,” he said.

But McFarland also faced his own unique challenges.

“Coming off of COVID, inventory was a nightmare,” he said.

Supply problems were prevalent with almost every vendor, he said.

Fortunately, they were able to weather that challenge and bring their own vision

to life. And that vision still includes team apparel and sports equipment, personal apparel, footwear, and varsity jackets.

“I love the varsity jackets,” McFarland said. “They’re really cool and old school, and I’m glad the kids are still buying them.”

McFarland might enjoy ‘old school,’ but his business is definitely tech savvy. They are able to take all methods of electron payments whether they are ‘tapped, swiped, or scanned.’

“We have definitely had to evolve with the times,” he said. “You either adapt

and grow, or you get left behind.”

McFarland said that he wants to provide everything his customers might need – just like Keaton and Bush before him did. If he doesn’t have it, he can order it, and if you’re not sure what you might need, he can help you find it.

Grayson Sporting Goods has served Grayson for fifty years, and Keaton said he wants to carry on that tradition of service into the next fifty years.

Contact the writer at [charles@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:charles@cartercountytimes.com)

## Speak Louder from A-5

content, but so far his is the only submission received. We have invited La Voie – of Pactolus and Sons, Brush and Tree Work – to submit more content and hope he does so. We have also reached out to the local Republican Party offering them equal access, and hope to receive similar submissions from them.

The Carter County Times takes no official stance in regard to partisan politics. We report objectively on local government meetings and offer equal access to members of both political parties as well as independent commentators. You can send submissions to my email box at [editor@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:editor@cartercountytimes.com).

## Truth from A-5

You won’t find me waving someone else’s name on a sign. You’ll find me out here with my boys.

Working. Restoring. Teaching. Holding the line for something bigger than me.

That’s what I follow. That’s what I protect. And if we want a future worth defending, we better remember the difference.

Contact us at [news@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:news@cartercountytimes.com)

Have *big news* to share?

Call 606.225.1318 or email [advertise@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:advertise@cartercountytimes.com)

Your home of the

since 1967

YOUR VARIETY STATION  
Grayson, Kentucky

KENTUCKY CAREGIVER PROGRAM  
(GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- ✓ Kentucky residents residing in the FIVCO region
- ✓ Primary caregivers of grand children aged 18 years old or younger
- ✓ Those related by birth, marriage or adoption
- ✓ Grandparents living within the same residence as their grandchildren
- ✓ Those not receiving kinship care benefits
- ✓ Those who do not have a household income exceeding 150% of the national poverty level within the year

WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE?

- ✓ Information and Assistance
- ✓ Caregiver Support Services
- ✓ Up to \$500 per grandchild (as available) toward Supplemental Supplies such as child clothing, personal care items and more

CONTACT FIVCO ADD'S AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC) FOR MORE INFORMATION

606-929-1366

32 FIVCO COURT  
GRAYSON, KY 41143

Funding is authorized through a contractual agreement between the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and FIVCO Area Development District (State Funds)