

The Booneville Sentinel

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OC Fiscal Court News for October

By Lisa Robinson

The Owsley County Fiscal Court met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2026. The meeting was called to order by County Judge Executive Zeke Little. Magistrate Alan Taylor was unable to attend the meeting. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. An Invocation was given. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes from the last meeting.

Linda Thomas, Secretary, gave the Treasurer's Report. "The General Fund has a cash balance of $31,929.88, the Road Fund has a cash balance of $1,472,476.08, the Jail Fund has a cash balance of $24,006.63 and the LGEA Fund has a cash balance of $38,358.38. The Solid Waste Fund has a cash balance of $19,822.32, the Parks & Rec Fund has a cash balance of $4,724.35, the LGEDF (Coal Severance) Fund has a cash balance of $4,936.70 and the Clerk Storage Fund has a cash balance of $8,089.01. The Opioid Fund has a cash balance of $133,183.98, the Car Wash Fund has a cash Balance of $16,042.62, the Land Acquisition CD Fund has a cash balance of $92,282.19 and the Bridge CD Fund has a cash balance of $1,080,026.23. The Land Acquisition Fund has a cash balance of $7,940.07 and the EKYSAFE Fund has a cash balance of 271,650.19." A motion was made and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Sandy Gay from the Conservation Office said, "I am sorry that Holly Wilder was unable to be here today. She is the Chairman of the Conservation Board. I have the newest employee, Tonya Tirey, with me. She has been involved with the schools. I am going to talk about something that I had to get help with. I sent some material to the Fiscal Court. It is about an Agricultural District. There are a bunch of them across the state (605 Agricultural Districts – 80 counties, we could be 81). Four hundred thirty-one thousand (431,000) acres in the state of Kentucky are involved in agricultural districts. There aren't any in Lee and Owsley Counties. It keeps our land involved in agriculture. One of the positives for the landowner is that you get an agricultural tax rate when you are in an ag district. I have also checked with Mike Reynolds and it turns out the 1,605.65 acres that they are wanting to put into the ag district is already at an agricultural rate. I know there was a concern about that when I mentioned it to the judge. The judge thought that it might be less tax income for the county and it might affect us but thankfully that is not going to be an issue. Also, one of the benefits is the tax rate and another thing that can only be signed up for through the conservation office is the state cost share program. The State Cost Share Program is a 75/25 program that helps individuals. The individuals involved in this didn't get funded last time. It is very competitive because it is statewide. Every single county is vying for this same pot of money. This can be as small as 50 acres of agricultural land, continuous or adjoining and it can be several people. The minimum is 10 acres per person. This is in 5-year increments. They have to reapply every 5 years. It will help keep the land involved in agriculture and then we will have to reapply again. I believe this is a good thing." There was some discussion about having a fall cleanup. They are looking at having a one-day event. It will be on a Saturday from 8-4. Judge Little said that they will figure out when they want to have it and announce it on Facebook.

A motion was made and carried to approve the Final Adoption of the Bridge and Land Acquisition Budget Amendments. A motion was made and carried to approve the Resolution to Relocate the beginning of Roger Wilson Road. "We purchased some property from Etta Lamb and fixed it so that they would not be flooded in or out each year," said Judge Little. The Road Foreman's Report was included in the magistrate's packets. "The roads are almost finished and the ditches are in good shape. We still don't have our other tractor back. We have been trying to patch some potholes," said Judge Little.

"Solid Waste is about the same. We do have some issues with the weight of the garbage bags. The guys are having trouble getting them out of the garbage cans and into the trucks. If the guys are leaving the bags, then you need to lighten up on the bags. If your garbage is not being picked up and you are paying your bill, then call us and we will take care of you," said Linda. A motion was made and carried to do Transfers as needed. A motion was made and carried to pay all legally incurred bills.

Virgie from the County Clerk's Office told the court "we have 2 important dates. This Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 10 am at the Clerk's Office will be our Delinquent Tax Sale. The office will be closed for all other business until the tax sale is complete. October 20, 2026 at 11:59 pm, the absentee request portal closes. Those have to be returned by November 3rd at 6:00 pm to the Clerk's Office in order to be counted for the voting. Excused In Person Absentee Voting will Be October 21st – 23rd, October 26th – 28th from 8 am to 4 pm in the Clerk's Office. The No Excuse Early Voting will be October 29th – 31st from 10 am to 6 pm upstairs in the courthouse at the grand jury room. Actual Election Day, November 3rd, 6 am to 6 pm at either the Rec Center or the high school gym lobby. Bring an ID when you come to vote."

The first food giveaway is going to be on November 16th at the Rec Center. Jerry McIntosh said, "we are just waiting on the permit for the Rescue Squad Building." Judge Little explained what kind of building that they are going to be building in town. "I have had a time with that permit; I put everything in. When the original building was built, they wanted me to move the new building forward six feet. I sent that in and then they said it had to be ten feet out. I sent that back in and then they wanted the electrical floor plans. I sent that in. Hopefully we will get the permit back soon. The new building is there but we need to pour a new floor. It is 32x50 with a four-car garage for the Rescue Squad. It will be just a garage with no plumbing. We will probably have gas heat to keep the trucks from freezing up. It will probably be next year before they start on the new fire department."

1.64 Million to City of Booneville for Sag Hollow Cabins/Lodging



At the Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) Summit (10/9/26), Gov. Andy Beshear and U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-05) announced more than $22 million to help support healthcare, emergency services, infrastructure, energy, education, tourism and economic development in Eastern Kentucky.

"The people of Eastern Kentucky have supported this country through two world wars, our Industrial Revolution and by building the greatest middle class in the history of the world. These hardworking families deserve to know there is a bright future ahead of them and the investments we announced today will help make that possible," said Gov. Beshear. "By focusing these dollars on healthcare, infrastructure and ongoing economic growth, we are making sure everyone across this important region has a chance to live out the American Dream."

The funding announced today comes through the Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program, established by Congressman Rogers in 2016. More than $1.3 billion in federal funding has gone toward AMLER since the program's founding, of which more than $280 million has been awarded for 120 projects in Kentucky.

"Over the past decade, the bipartisan AMLER grant program has helped our coal-producing counties pursue new opportunities to revitalize our region through stronger infrastructure, workforce development, adventure tourism, advancing access to healthcare and education, expanding broadband and much more," said Congressman Rogers. "These new grants continue our work to create new jobs and opportunities where we need them most."

the Governor and Congressman awarded $1.64 million to the City of Booneville in Owsley County for the Sag Hollow Business Development Phase II, which will expand overnight lodging at the Sag Hollow area through the construction of three executive cabins. The project anticipates 2,800 visitors and the creation of two new jobs within the first year, with an expected revenue increase of over $150,000 by the second year of operation.

Senator Robert Stivers with Owsley County FFA students attending the Speed KY ribbon cutting last week in Booneville.

