

The Booneville Sentinel

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A Message From City Hall Concerning Recent Water Lawsuit

SUBMITTED/WRITTEN BY THE CITY OF BOONEVILLE



The Booneville City Commission received news of a favorable ruling in an ongoing lawsuit during its October 14 meeting. Commissioners also heard from Jackson Energy Cooperative about improvements to the local electrical system and received updates on water projects, the Sag Hollow cabins, and other work underway in the community.

City Attorney Derrick Wright reported that Owsley Circuit Judge Michael Dean had ruled in favor of the City of Booneville and other defendants on one of the claims filed by Danny Marshall over the denial of utility services. The lawsuit involves a disagreement over utility service to property subject to licensing and permitting requirements. Marshall argued that refusing utility service violated his property rights by effectively taking something of value from him without compensation. In legal terms, this is called inverse condemnation.

In an order issued October 12, 2026, Judge Dean found that a property interest which depends entirely on regulatory licensing does not qualify as a property right for which compensation is required under the Kentucky or U.S. Constitution. Put simply, the Court determined that Marshall could not establish an unlawful taking based on a claimed property interest that depended entirely on obtaining the necessary regulatory licensing.

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Sportsman's Club to Host Annual Factory Deer Rifle Match

On Saturday November 7 Starting at 11:00 am, Owsley County Sportsman's Club will host their annual Factory Deer Rifle Match, followed by the End of Season Youth Trap Match, which will be immediately followed by a 100 Bird Open Trap Match. Wallace Thomas will be on site with Pulled Pork and possibly Brisket.

The Factory Deer Rifle Match will follow the same format as previous years. No custom Rifles, No Heavy Barrel Rifles. Sandbag Rest only. NO MECHANICAL RESTS. Participants will shoot three classes, Light Caliber (Any Centerfire up to .243) Standard Caliber (243 and up) Magnum Caliber (Any Magnum, including 7PRC, 300 PRC etc.). Entry Fee for the Deer rifle is $10 per class or $20 if to shoot all three classes. Participants will fire two shots at a 4 inch bull at 50 yds, 100 yds and 200 yds.

There is no charge for the Youth Trap Match. The entry fee for the 100 Bird Match is $40. Ladies will shoot with the men; however there will be separate trophies for men and ladies.

You must be a Club Member to shoot. Youth; a parent must be a member. Membership is $10 a year and memberships can be purchased the day of the match.

If you have any questions contact Bill Gabbard for the Deer Rifle Match or Andrew Neace for the Trap Match.

Auditor of Public Accounts releases OC Sheriff's Tax Settlement Audit

State Auditor Allison Ball released the audit of the sheriff's settlement – 2024 taxes for Owsley County Sheriff Tara Chadwell. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office. Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the sheriff's settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The sheriff's settlement is prepared on the regulatory basis, which is described in the auditor's opinion letter. Regulatory basis reporting for the sheriff's settlement is an acceptable reporting methodology, and this reporting methodology is followed for all 120 sheriff settlements in Kentucky. The sheriff's financial statement fairly presents the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Finding: The Owsley County Sheriff's Office Does Not Have Adequate Segregation Of Duties; This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2023-001. The sheriff's office does not have adequate segregation of duties. The sheriff's bookkeeper collects payments from customers, prepares deposits, writes checks, posts transactions to the receipt ledger, posts checks to the disbursement ledger, prepares monthly and quarterly reports, and prepares all reconciliations. We recommend the sheriff separate the duties of receiving, processing, recording, reconciling, and reporting financial activity to separate individuals or implement and document compensating controls to offset this weakness.

Sheriff's Response: The sheriff did not provide a response. The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement, and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties. The audit report can be found on the auditor's website: auditor.ky.gov



The staff of the Booneville Sentinel wish you happy Halloween!



- Jessica, Kara, & Lisa