Local News

Ambulance board moving toward a decision

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Chair Anthony Morgan called the Grant County Kentucky Ambulance Service District Board (Board) to order with a three-member quorum on Nov. 11. On the agenda were insurance policy update and discussion of request for proposal (RFP). Added to the agenda by Secretary Ashley Brinker was discussion of Board Attorney.

Treasure Brooke-Rider Cummins was held up at work and could not attend, but Morgan noted the first property taxes had been received and the balance of the bank account as of Nov. 10 was 1,556,772.00.

Morgan the board's annual insurance policy invoice of $3,533 had been received. The board unanimously approved to pay the amount, which was the same as in 2025.

The board also approved to pay $108,333.33 to the City of Dry Ridge as per the current interlocal agreement.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Morgan said he had sent out a "draft RFP" to members of the board for any additions, deletions or comments. He said this is necessary to stay compliant with their two-year contract cycle.

The final document will be approved at the next meeting and then sent out to businesses, including Dry Ridge, for responses.

He said they would "research avenues and decide which way to go."

The decision of how to proceed should be made no later than March in order to have a decision and direction by July 1.

Board member Jason Litz asked if this would be enough time; Morgan indicated it would. He said he has been talking to truck dealerships, and there could be an ambulance onsite "tomorrow."

THE DECISION ENTAILS CHOOSING WHETHER TO

· Enter into an agreement with Dry Ridge to transition their ambulance service from the city to the district

· Build a new, ground-up county ambulance service

· Enter into a contract with a private ambulance service

Asked whether he would be amenable to the board taking over the Dry Ridge EMS, Mayor Greg Brockman indicated it would depend on the contract/offer.

It was stressed the board is "doing it's due diligence for tax payers" in the decision making process.

DRY RIDGE EMS UPDATE

Kevin Stave, Dry Ridge Emergency Medical Services (EMS) director updated the board on the EMS department activities. DREMS had 245 calls for service in October for a year-to-date total of 2,423. There were 23 hours of EMS personnel training, including in-service Critical Care.

He said their Critical Care training had been put to the test over the weekend—training ended Friday; the response was on Saturday—and had succeeded.

There was no major maintenance to report, "just an alternator" that was repaired but said they are "being hammered on fuel" and are conserving as much as possible.

They have had complaints about idling the vehicles, but Stave said there are several pieces of equipment on the ambulances that require the trucks to keep idling. If they turn off the engine, that equipment will drain the battery of the vehicle.

He said they had had "73% ALS" response (Advanced Life Support).

Stave said they have "23 full-time and 20 to 25 part-time" personnel, with most being fire/EMT/paramedics.

He said in October, they had "137% billing" remitted. He said this is not unusual for some months to have this happen. He said other months may be low and during end-of-quarters many times companies will catch up and thus have higher redemption rates. He said their overall rate is "96.1% collections" with "3.9% written off."

REPORT

Brinker said the board has the opportunity to move the community forward and provide services to the citizens. She said the board is "not at square one" that they have been doing their "due diligence for the taxpayers" of the county.

Brinker noted the county has had issues with ambulance services since the 1970's and 1980's.

OTHER BUSINESS

- District 2 Magistrate-elect Jeremy Lilly asked for clarification that American Medical Response (AMR) wanted a building to move into the county.

Morgan said yes, but they would have to negotiate local municipalities and fire departments for use of existing property or a building.

AMR is part of the Global Medical Response family of companies. It operates in Grant County on a "transition (or transport) only" basis.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec.16, at 6:30 p.m. at the courthouse, 100 North Main Street, Williamstown. For meeting information, contact Chair Anthony Morgan at (859) 992-7081.

2026 GRANT COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION OFFICIAL RESULTS

The 2026 election results for Grant Countyare official.

Results in last week's paper showed absentee ballot counts instead of total results.

Countywide the vote count for Republican Andy Barr show him almost tripling the vote total for Democrat Charles Booker in the race for senator, winning 4,749 to 1,646.

Republican Ed Gallrein beat Democrat Melissa Strange 4,484 to 1,670 in the race for U.S. representative in the 4th Congressional District.

The only other contested race on the ballot in Grant County was that for judge in the 15th Judicial District. That race was essentially no contest, with John M. Smith taking a decisive win over Enguerrand Meyrat 3,322 to 808.

All other races on the 2026 General Election ballot were uncontested, however there were write-in candidates in a couple of races.

Savannah Maddox received 5,162 votes (100%) in the race for 61st District State Representative.

Amy C. Burke received 3,791 votes (100%) in the race for district judge, 15th Judicial District 2nd Division.

GRANT COUNTY

C.E. "Chuck" Dills II received 5,304 votes (100%) in the race for Grant County Judge/Executive.

J. Colton Simpson received 5,360 votes (100%) in the race for Grant County Clerk.

Peter W. "Pete" Whaley received 5,130 votes (100%) in the race for County Attorney.

Dennis A. Switzer II received 5,262 votes (100%) in the race for Grant County Sheriff.

Tonya Beagle received 5,199 votes (100%) in the race for Jailer.

Patrick Michael Stanley received 5,304 votes (100%) in the race for Coroner.

Elliott "Eli" Anderson received 5,267 votes (100%) in the race for Property Valuation Administrator.

David C. Blaker received 5,094 votes (100%) in the race for County Surveyor.

Jacqalynn M. Ammer Riley received 1,748 votes (100%) in the race for Magistrate in the 1st Magisterial District

Jeremy Lilly received 1,827 votes (98.12%) in the race for Magistrate in the 2nd Magisterial District.

Judy Gilbert, write-in, received 35 votes (1.88%) in the race for Magistrate in the 2nd Magisterial District.

Leo Lewis Saylor received 1,676 votes (100 %) in the race for Magistrate in the 3rd Magisterial District.

Steven Amorese received 1,679 votes (100%) in the race for Constable in the 1st Magisterial District.

Michael Scott Neidigh received 1,725 votes (100%) in the race for Constable in the 2nd Magisterial District.

CORINTH

Charles Delaney Bishop received 21 votes (100%) in the race for Mayor, City of Corinth.

Jessica Beach received 20 votes (27.03%) in the race for Corinth City Commissioner.

Darren Billiter received 20 votes (27.03%) in the race for Corinth City Commissioner.

Paul D. Ollberding received 17 votes (22.97%) in the race for-- Corinth City Commissioner.

Barbara Cook received 17 votes (22.97%) in the race for Corinth City Commissioner.

CRITTENDEN

James L. Purcell received 488 votes (100%) in the race for Mayor, City of Crittenden.

Michelle Bohman received 395 votes (21.80%) in the race for Crittenden City Council Member.

Bobby Newman received 372 votes (20.53%) in the race for Crittenden City Council Member

Mary "Angie" Morris received 356 votes (19.65%) in the race for Crittenden City Council Member.

Bobby Tanner, Jr. received 351 votes (19.37%) in the race for Crittenden City Council Member.

Joseph C. Dusing received 338 votes (18.65%) in the race for Crittenden City Council Member

DRY RIDGE

Greg Brockman received 379 votes (100%) in the race for Mayor, City of Dry Ridge.

Kenny Edmondson received 310 votes (22.90%) in the race for Dry Ridge City Council Member.

Jessica Pelfrey Vincent received 280 votes (20.68%) in the race for Dry Ridge City Council Member.

James "Jim" Hendy received 263 votes (19.42%) in the race for Dry Ridge City Council Member.

Brandy Jo Hall received 250 votes (18.46%) in the race for Dry Ridge City Council Member.

Jeffrey D. Becker received 233 votes (17.21%) in the race for Dry Ridge City Council Member.

Shantel Schachere, write-in, received 18 votes (1.33%) in the race for Dry Ridge City Council Member.

WILLIAMSTOWN

David A. Henson received 645 votes (100%) in the race for Mayor, City of Williamstown.

Ronnie Maines received 539 votes (20.45%) in the race for Williamstown City Council Member.

Gina Austin Smith received 532 votes (20.18%) in the race for Williamstown City Council Member.

Kim A. Crupper received 494 votes (18.74%) in the race for Williamstown City Council Member.

April Fabela received 477 votes (18.10%) in the race for Williamstown City Council Member.

Robert W. Perry received 468 votes (17.75%) in the race for Williamstown City Council Member.

Joyce Doyle, write-in, received 126 votes (4.78%) in the race for Williamstown City Council Member.

GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Loretta Flerlage received 626 votes (100%) in the race for Grant County Board of Education, 2nd Educational District.

Gene Nelson received 711 votes (100%) in the race for Grant County Board of Education, 4th Educational District.

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kristie Jo Willoby received 524 votes (35.22%) in the race for Williamstown Independent School District Board of Education.

Roy Osborne received 522 votes (35.08%) in the race for Williamstown Independent School District Board of Education.

Chris Spivey received 442 votes (29.70%) in the race for Williamstown Independent School District Board of Education.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

Yes: 4,572 (74.79%)
No: 1,541 (25.21%)

Crittenden City Council hears update on senior center

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, with all members present, Mayor Jim Purcell called the Crittenden City Council order. In addition to regular agenda issues, the council heard a report from Williamstown Senior Center director Cindy Ray.

Ray explained that although the center is located in the Williamstown City Building it is for any and all senior citizens aged 60 years and over in the Grant County area. Folks outside the county are welcomed as well.

A Grant County, Ray took the position of director after having lived elsewhere for 20 years.

The center is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Addressing misconceptions about the center, Ray said many people think of it as "just a place to play cards, drink coffee and gossip." However, there is much more to it than that.

The center offers:

· Planned medical transport for scheduled appointments. Seniors can contact the center eight days in advance to get from their home to and from the appointment at no charge. She said the service includes Northern Kentucky and even Lexington. She did note they do not have handicapped access for the vehicle.

· Field Trips, though some may have a charge. In November, for instance, the center will be offering a trip to Mustard Seed Hill in Millersburg.

· Nutrition education includes cooking for one or two and different types of cooking.

· Title 3D programs: Title III of the Older Americans Act provides federal funding to states to support essential services for older adults. Title III-D pertains to Health Promotion and Disease. Examples of these programs at Williamstown Senior Center are Bingocize (combining Bingo and exercise), Senior Medicare help and educating seniors on current scams.

Some upcoming events:

· Gate Keepers Training: learning about suicide prevention, how to recognize and talk to someone contemplating the act

· Thanksgiving Dinner: Nov. 20 at Patriots Landing, all welcome

Among those helping at or partnering with the Center are:

· Grant County Extension Services—Asa Conkwright Family and Consumer Sciences Agent leads several of the classes.

· Bluegrass Care Navigators, Hospice services for the bluegrass area

· Northern Kentucky Health Department

· Northern Kentucky Area Development, which provides grant funding of $25,000/year as well as programs.

For more information, contact Ray at the Williamstown Senior Center at (859) 824-6415 or check their Facebook Page Williamstown KY Senior Center. It is located at 400 North Main Street, Williamstown.

Other business

· The city received a request from Jeremiah Rice with the Claiborne HOA (Home Owners Association) to use the City Office for a meeting. Council decided the space is limited and it would cost to have personnel man the room after hours for a meeting. Council decided to deny the request.

· The salt barn is completed and looks good.

· Work at the Nature Park is coming along. The bridge is nearing completion, and the parking lot should be finished soon.

Cameras are working but there has been a problem with water during storms. This is being addressed by the provider.

· The City purchased the previously approved new maintenance vehicle at a cost of $45,000 on state contract. State contracts have been established by Kentucky to be lowest costs without the City having to go through the bid process.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at the City Building, 117 Main Street. For more information on the meetings or any City business, call (859) 428-2597.

Pete Whaley sworn in as county attorney six weeks early

BY DEBORAH ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Grant County Attorney Elect Pete Whaley was sworn in as Grant County County Attorney more than six weeks early.

Answering rumors about his early ascension to the office, Whaley confirmed, "Yes, Monday Nov. 16th is my first day."

He said current County Attorney Stephen Bates, III had resigned "effective as of midnight on Sunday," Nov. 15.

Whaley was sworn in Saturday, Nov. 14.

He added that Brent Threlkeld was sworn in Friday, Nov. 13, as assistant county attorney.

"A second assistant, Jeff Otis, will take office in January as the current other assistant, Todd Spurgeon, will not leave until he becomes the Owen County Attorney in January," Whaley said.

Under KRS 63.220(1), "a vacancy in the office of county attorney — along with other county officials such as sheriff, coroner, surveyor, county clerk, jailer, or constable — shall be filled by the county judge/executive (or by the mayor in a consolidated local government)."

Bates' is not the only change of officials in the past four-year cycle—far from it. In a whirlwind four-year term Grant County has had several changes in the top elected positions, including three jailers, two sheriffs, two mayors, assorted city councilmembers and now, two county attorneys.

Chipotle files site plan in Dry Ridge

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Chair Carl King called the Grant County Planning Commission's special meeting to order Nov. 9. The agenda included a site plan for a Chipotle in Dry Ridge.

Jonathan Evans, of Evans Engineering of Cincinnati, presented site plans for Chipotle at 77 Blackburn Lane in Dry Ridge. The restaurant chain was founded July 13, 1993 and is headquartered in Newport Beach, California.

The old Java Joe's building is to be torn down to make way for the approximately 2,300 square foot restaurant, which will include a patio in front. It will not have a conventional drive thru; instead, the "Habanero Flip" updated design includes customers ordering online and picking up at the drive thru.

Plans are to start construction during the first quarter 2027.

Commission unanimously approved the request with caveat for final approval based on letter of approval from Erpenbeck Engineers, the commission's engineers.

It was noted by Rebecca Ruholl, county zoning administrator, the firm has reviewed the plans and these should be approved, however, until it is in writing no construction can be done on the development.

Other actions

- Craig Adkins, Surveyor presented a map amendment request for a zone change on Folsom Jonesville Road, changing the Pettit property from Agriculture One (A-1) to Rural Residential (RR).

Adkins said the owners want to split existing acreage into two separate lots. There is an existing mobile home on one of the lots, but the intent is to remove it and build another. The second lot will have another house built on it.

Commission unanimously approved the application as long as it

SEE CHIPOTLE/PAGE A7

• GUN SHOW •
Guns, Knives & Ammo.
Buy, Sell, Trade or Look.
Cave Country Conference Center
Cave City Kentucky
Saturday, November 21st
9am - 5pm CST
Sunday, November 22nd
9am - 4pm CST
2-Day Admission $10
$5.00 Sunday only