

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME EIGHTY-NINE

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JORDAN PELTON, RIGHT, an employee in the county Property Valuation Administrator's office was made a Kentucky Colonel on Monday during the Webster County Fiscal Court meeting. Pelton has been working on the aerial mapping and property identification of county properties. The presentation was made by Chad Townsend who moderated Monday's court meeting.

Primary Election Candidates To Draw For Ballot Positions

Individuals who have filed to run for county offices in the May 19, primary election will draw for ballot positions on Thursday, January 15. The filing deadline ended on Friday, January 9, at 4:00 p.m. with 22 Webster County residents filing for office.

Voters will have important decisions to make in several races that feature four candidates. Two Republicans and two Democrats will seek to fill the county judge/executive's seat, and two magisterial races have four individuals vying for a seat in Districts two and three. The jailer's race will feature two Republican and one Democrat candidate, and two individuals have filed to run for coroner.

Following are the offices, names of candidates and the candidates' political affiliation listed by office.

Magistrate District 1

Chad Townsend (R)-incumbant

Magistrate District 2

Bob Hardison (R)-incumbant
Jerry "Poogy" Brown (R)
Jimmy Ray Collins (R)
Darrin Dean Buchanan (R)

Magistrate District 3

Charles M. Syers (R)
Taryn Bailey Zaretzke (R)
Tony Felker (R)-incumbant
Ken Stuart (R)

County Judge/Executive

Ryan Morgan Hammack (R)
Stacey Britt Eliot (D)
Stephen R. Henry (R)-incumbant
Jeremy Tyler Brown (D)

County Attorney

Wm Clint Prow (R)

County Clerk

Valerie Newell (D)

Sheriff

William "Billy" Braden (R)

PVA

Jeffrey D. Kelley (D)

Jailer

Cameron Shelton (R)
Nathan Mitchell Stinchcomb (R)
Benjamin R. Chandler (D)

Coroner

Jason Todd (R)
Darin K. Townsend (R)-incumbant

Voters will cast their ballots in the primary election on May 19. The primary will also include US Senate and US House races, state Senate and House races, Supreme Court races and District Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial district election. The general election is slated for November 3, 2026. At that time voters will also choose mayors, council/commission members and school board in some districts.

WC Fiscal Court Approves Budgets, Two Fee Settlements

The Webster County Fiscal Court met Monday with magistrate Chad Townsend standing in for Judge/Executive Steve Henry. Henry did, however, attend the meeting via phone to answer questions that might arise during the meeting.

Magistrates had a heavy agenda before them that included approval of fee settlements for two offices, setting maximum amounts for sheriff and county clerk deputies and approving two documents and a resolution.

The court also heard from Property Valuation Administrator Jeff Kelley who noted that he and his office employees are assessing property in the Sebree, Slaughters and Onton areas and to date have looked at 36 properties many of which are new houses. Kelley told the court that based on the number of parcels that will be reassessed in the area the county "It looks like it will be a really good year" for the county tax base. Kelley also noted in his remarks that the county will be photographed aeri-ally twice in the next six years—once in 2026 and once in 2028. The first flight will provide aerial photos of all property with the second flight showing any updates or changes that have been made to properties. He added that the aerial photos are also helpful to law enforcement and other first responders as they try to locate specific individuals.

Kelley also recognized his staff, and Chad Townsend presented a Kentucky Colonel certificate to Jordan Pelton who works in Kelley's office. Pelton has been instrumental in working on the PVA website and working on the mapping of Webster County properties.

Following the Kentucky Colonel presentation, the court approved several personnel changes. Richard L. White, Jr and Jacqueline L. Nance were approved as part time sheriff's personnel; Thomas Stone and Chris O'Leary received a pay increase based on their work anniversary, and Isaac Farmer was moved from part time to full time at the jail.

In other business, magistrates reviewed and approved \$355,000 as the maximum amount for deputies and assistants in the clerk's office. That funding includes salaries, sick leave, retirement, insurance, FICA and other benefits. Magistrates also approved the maximum amount for sheriff's deputies and assistance in

the amount of \$985,221.25 for salaries, overtime, sick leave, retirement, insurance and other benefits.

Clerk Valerie Newell presented her 2025 budget to actual for approval in the amount of \$4,220,386.52, an increase due to 5Star relocating their fleet and an increase in recording of various documents.

In 2026, Newell anticipates about a \$13,200 increase to the 2025 budget, setting the 2026 amount at \$4,151,900. The court accepted both the 2025 actual budget and the 2026 budget. Other action taken on clerk matters included approving the 2025 fee settlement.

Magistrates also approved the 2025 fee settlement for the sheriff's department in the amount of \$574,617.74, an increase of the \$595,300 budget estimate for 2025. That budget approval is subject to audit.

Other matters to come before the court included approval of the 2026 jail policy and procedures document which has no changes according to Jailer Greg Sauls, and the approval of first reading of the county's administrative code. That document has two changes: one change is the posting of the code on the county's webpage and the second relates to employees' documentation and updates on medical condition. Second reading is expected to be held at the next court meeting.

The court also approved a resolution and road agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for use of the county's \$265,666 in flex road funds. That money will be used for resurfacing and repairs to Gish Road, Waggener-Crab Orchard Creek Road, Oscar Todd Road and Letcher Melton Road. Work is expected to begin in the spring.

The only other business to come before the court was approval of a transfer of \$30,000 from the general fund to the sanitation fund to cover the Providence bill for sewage disposal.

Before the court adjourned at 9:44 a.m. Henry did state via phone that work is expected to begin this week in the Liberty area on the Weir's Creek solar project. He cautioned residents to be aware of heavier traffic flow in the area.

The next Webster County Fiscal Court meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. January 26.

Dixon Commission Employs Attorney; Passes Ordinance

The Dixon City Commission met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Terry Webb presiding and all commission members in attendance.

Following approval of the minutes from the December meeting and the approval of bills, commissions discussed several agenda items, approved an appointment to the ethics commission and passed first reading of an ordinance concerning access to water lines and water meters.

Prior to the beginning of the business session, Mayor Webb told members the city's street certificate of deposit at United Community Bank is scheduled for renewal on January 19. He also told commissioners the city continues to await approval of CPPP/LARP funds. City Clerk Barb Goff told commissioners the CD funds would be needed when the grant funds are approved. Commissioners approved renewing the CD for six months.

Commissioners approved the employment of Bobby Murray as city attorney. He will be employed at a rate of \$175.00 per hour with a minimum of two hours per meeting. His employment was approved on a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Robert Brown expressed concern about the cost of \$350.00 per meeting night and abstained when the vote was taken. That will require an amendment to the city's current ordinance. First reading of that change will apparently be done at the February meeting.

Mack Townsend was re-appointed to the city's ethics committee. That appointment is for a four year term. Member Geraldine Rich submitted her resignation as a member of the committee. Her position will be discussed at the February meeting.

Commissioners passed first reading of an ordinance governing access to water lines and meters in the city. That ordinance states that water lines, meters, and me-

ter boxes must be accessible. If an access area is covered by gravel, concrete or some other material that would have to be removed to obtain access, the responsibility for replacement of that material is the responsibility of the water customer. Second reading of the ordinance will be held at the February meeting.

Mayor Webb told commissioners a discussion needs to be held concerning an increase in the deposit amount for water customers in the city. He recommended a minimum of \$250.00 for renters. The meter deposit currently is \$150.00. Commissioner Peggy Poole recommended contacting the Kentucky League of Cities concerning the legality of having different deposit amounts for homeowners and renters. The matter will be discussed again in February.

The Dixon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 24 incidents in December.

The City of Dixon pur-

chased 2,740,700 gallons of water in December. The city sold 1,791,900 gallons, and 326,500 gallons were used for flushing. The city's water loss in December was 22.71%.

Commissioner Brown noted that the end of Stegal Street is closed for the installation of a water line, and Commissioner Mandee Brown told the members that the parks and recreation committee is currently seeking to fill a vacancy on the board. That vacancy was created with the death of former commissioner Jeff Graham.

Chris O'Leary, the city's code enforcement officer, reported two notices of violation of been mailed; three violations have been resolved; and three violations are in the process of being resolved.

Mayor Webb voiced concern about possible damage to the city building caused by semi trucks making a short turn from KY 132 on to northbound U.A. 41-A. The commission discussed plac-

ing ballast posts at the corner in December. On Monday night, Commissioner Randy Norman stated his contact with the Kentucky Department of Transportation indicated state approval would be required before any posts could be erected at the corner. Mayor Webb responded, "This is definitely something that needs to be addressed."

In final business, Mayor Webb told members a meeting with FEMA on Monday had secured approval for the funding to make repairs to the bridges on the walking trail at Baker Park. That project is estimated to cost about \$15,000. According to the mayor, FEMA is expected to provide some \$12,000 toward the work, and the city would pay the difference.

No further business came before the commission, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Dixon City Commission will be Monday, February 9, 6:00 P.M.