

Court Improves Incentives, OKs Employees' Attendance At Conferences

Webster County Fiscal met a relatively short session on Monday with an agenda that called for the approval of business trips for several employees, and the approval of one personnel matter.

Following the approval of minutes for three court meetings held in January, magistrates Tony Felker and Chad Townsend approved

transfers, purchase orders and claims.

Although the agenda listed the appointment of a member to the Tradewater FDCP, that item was tabled while the court waits for additional information.

The court approved three requests for employees to attend conferences later this year. Those requests include

Mandy Fambrough's attendance at the Optimal Aging Conference in Louisville in April; Jeremy Moore's attendance at the Kentucky 911 Summit at Rough River in late March and the attendance of Tonia Duncan and Leesa Russell at the KACTFO Conference in Shelbyville in March.

Other business to come

before the court was the approval of training incentives for county officials who have completed forty hours of government training. County Clerk Valerie Newell, Judge/Executive Steve Henry and magistrates Chad Townsend, Tony Felker and Bob Hardison will each receive \$5445.28 for the work they completed in the incen-

tive training.

Magistrates also gave the okay for Makiya Holmes to attend dispatch academy in Richmond March 15 through April 10, 2026.

At 9:02 a.m. the court went into closed session per KRS 61.810(1)(f) to discuss a personnel issue. When they returned to open session, they had nothing to report.

Residents In Dixon Will See Water Rate Increase

The Dixon City Commission met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Terry Webb presiding and all commission members in attendance. The commissioners also welcomed Bobby Murray to his first meeting as the city's attorney.

Following approval of the minutes from the January meeting and the bills and claims, the council discussed several items, passed one ordinance and held first reading of two others, and approved appointments.

The commission passed first reading of an ordinance to increase water rates for customers of the City of Dixon water utility. That increase comes as the result of a rate hike to the city from the Webster County Water District. According to Mayor Webb, the city's cost of water from the county water district increased from \$3.70 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.92 per 1,000 gallons. The rate for the Webster County Water District is set by the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

As a result of that rate hike, the Dixon Commission approved a 37% increase for in-city residential customers, out-of-city residential customers, and commercial customers. According to Mayor Webb and City Clerk Barb Goff, the cost for an in-city residential customer will increase an additional \$9.53 to \$34.25 for the first 2,000 gallons of water. That rate increases to an additional \$12.33 per 1,000 for the next 5,000 gallons. For out-of-city residential customers, the base rate will be \$49.32 for the first 2,000 gallons. The next 5,000 gallons comes at a cost of \$16.44 per 1,000. Commer-

cial customers will pay \$45.21 for the first 2,000 gallons. The cost for the next 5,000 gallons is \$13.70 per 1,000. There is an additional increase for usage over 5,000 gallons.

The ordinance was approved on a 4-0 vote. Mayor Webb and Ms. Goff emphasized the increase has nothing to do with the water outage the county experienced the first weekend of February. They also noted there will be no increase in the sewer rate of in-city customers. Mayor Webb concluded, "We have no choice but to do this."

The commissioners also approved the renewal of a 10-year contract with the Webster County Water District.

In other business, the commission approved second reading of an ordinance concerning access to waterlines and meters for City of Dixon water customers. That ordinance requires that access to waterlines and meters be available for maintenance. If material has to be removed or demolished to gain access to those lines, the replacement or repair to that material will be absorbed by the water customer. That ordinance was approved on a 4-0 vote.

The commissioners approved first reading of an amendment to an ordinance related to the salary for the city attorney. According to that amendment, the salary for the city attorney will be changed from a set rate to a rate that is established annually by the commission. The first reading was passed on a 4-0 vote.

In other business, Dusty Heady was appointed to the city ethics committee. Brian Stull and LaDon

Mooney were appointed to the park, playground, and recreation board. Their terms will expire in 2027.

After several weeks of discussion, the commissioners approved the erection of bollards along the side and front of the city office. That work will be done by the city's public works employees. No cost of the work was presented; however, Mayor Webb stated the work could be done at a minimal cost.

Members of the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 16 calls in January.

The water report was presented by Commissioner Randy Norman. The city purchased 3,915,400 gallons of water in January. The city sold 1,631,490 gallons of water over the same time frame, and 210,000 gallons were used for flushing. The city's water loss was 52.9%.

Commissioner Robert Brown reported a pot hole near the Webster County Health Department is need of repair, and pot holes are beginning to form on College Street as a result of the recent cold weather.

Commissioner Mandee O'Leary told the board that Vicky Tillman has agreed to chair the park, playground, and recreation board. She also said the board has been very proactive in scheduling several events for 2026.

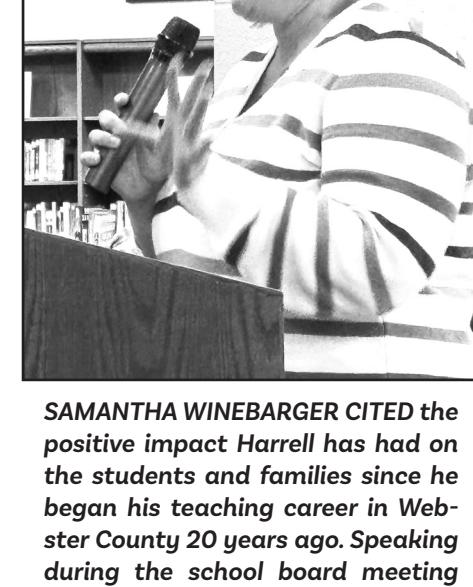
Code Enforcement Officer Chris O'Leary reported one letter of violation has been sent; one citation with a fine has been sent; and one letter with a late fee has been sent.

In final business, the commission approved the transfer of up to \$10,000 from the general fund to the operations and maintenance fund.

Mayor Webb said the transfer is necessary to make sure the city's obligations are paid by their due date.

The mayor also noted a called meeting will be scheduled Thursday, February 19, 4:30 P.M., to have second reading for the water rate increase ordinance and the presentation of the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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



SAMANTHA WINEBARGER CITED the positive impact Harrell has had on the students and families since he began his teaching career in Webster County 20 years ago. Speaking during the school board meeting on Monday night, she noted that she appreciates the initiatives he has formalized, the communication through emails and other notifications and the district's integration with other county agencies.

A Dehydrated Fish

By Van Yandell

Matthew 4: 18-20
"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

"He's like a fish out of water!" That's a saying we've heard describing a person that was out of place and at times, obviously so.

Fish need water but so do humans. The earth's surface is seventy-one percent covered with water. That water makes us the blue planet which is a color at times associated with life. We are told to drink certain amounts of water every day.

The National Academy of Science tells us to drink 3.7 liters of water per day for men; that's about one gallon. Women are advised to drink about 2.7 liters. Marigie said I should drink eight glasses of water each day. I said "Fine, what's the smallest glass we have?"

A urologist once told me to drink water with lemon every day for kidney health. I took that advice and have had no kidney problems since. I'm told kidney stone pain is equivalent to child birth. If that were true, the world population would probably be much less than eight billion."

The plant life in the oceans produces over half of the earth's oxygen. Some estimate that number may be as high as eighty percent. Definitions and descriptions vary as to exactly what seaweed includes. Phytoplankton, kelp, and algal plankton are usually included and produce tremendous amounts of oxygen.

Scuba-diving off the Florida Keys, I noticed the tremendous amount of plant life under the surface. Coral appears as a rock-like material but it is actually alive.

When shrimp are on Mosquito Lagoon by the Kennedy Space Center, our underwater lights became constantly entangled with seaweed. Plant life under the seas, considering the salinity of the water, is surprising but is there in abundance.

We know the earth's atmospheric movements circulate the produced oxygen, making it possible for us to breathe anywhere on the earth (Ecclesiastes 1: 6).

God had the essential components for the production of life at creation (Genesis 1: 1-3). A combining of carbon-based matter (the earth), light and water result in the production of chlorophyll from which a by-product is oxygen.

God not only is the first and greatest recycler (Ecclesiastes 1: 7), He is also the Great Reciprocator. Humans

and other animals breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Plant life uses the carbon to produce more oxygen.

Any way we carve this up, water is essential for life on earth. A "fish out of water" is a cliché referring to someone feeling awkward, uncomfortable or struggling. Eventually that fish will succumb to its lack of oxygen. Gills were not designed to function out of water.

Anyone that has ever wet a line (fished), has seen a fish out of water. They flop around, struggling to survive. Life becomes unbearable with their inability to breathe and swim. Eventually, death overcomes them.

A dehydrated fish and a spiritually dehydrated Christian are somewhat similar. Jesus gave us (by one source) over 1000 commandments. We are New Testament Christians yet we at times place more emphasis on the Old Testament Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

Christians are promoting the reinstatement of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, public buildings and in park areas. While this is well and good, let's not forget about the other mandates Jesus gave us.

Matthew 22: 36-38
"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt

love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

This is directly tied to the first Commandment in the Old Testament (Exodus 20: 3-5).

How many of us have priorities in our lives other than studying our Bibles or spending time with God in prayer and meditation?

Yes, we are those dehydrated fish! Is it time to re-evaluate our lives and more specifically, our priorities? The church is obviously failing to evangelize and the world is suffering because of that failure.

If the Apostle Paul were alive today, the American church would receive a letter! If John were writing Revelation chapters two and three today there would be eight churches of the Revelation rather than seven.

We are facing a situation in our world in which the negligence of the church has become apparent and shows on a monumental scale. Without the teachings/ commandments of God in the Old and New Testaments, our world will continue to degrade into a state of danger, fear and chaos.

When the world does not understand and value the differences in right and wrong, humanity deteriorates into a state of inhumanity.

Mao Zedong said "A guerrilla must move

amongst the people as a fish swims in the sea."

A guerrilla is a fighter.

We cannot become soldiers for the cross by remaining in our comfort zones with the attitude

"Let someone else tell the world about Jesus."

The last words spoken by Jesus before He ascended were Acts 1: 8 "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

We have no excuse!

The uttermost part is no longer the other side of the world; it is here.

We have the financial resources, the technology and the people.

This societal condition has reached a state of urgency. We are seeing and reading in the news every day of man's evil tendencies. How long can this last?

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

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