

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME NINETY

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE



PATRIOTISM WAS THE theme of the day for these young ladies as they participated in one of the pageants held on Saturday morning during the annual Seebree Summerfest.

WC Fiscal Court Approves Car, Equipment Purchases

The Webster County Fiscal Court approved two resolution Monday that pave the way for the purchase of two new sheriff's department vehicles and a new grader for the road department. The vehicles and equipment will be paid for with coal severance money through the Department of Local Government per HB 500.

The cost two sheriff's vehicles cost up to \$132,936.86 which included the cost of the vehicles, radios, the vehicle wrap and other equipment. The court approved the purchase as well as a resolution related to the agreement.

Magistrates also approved a resolution and the purchase of a road grader for the county road department. The Case grader will be purchased from Diamond Equipment at the state bid list price of up to \$257,155. The HB 500 funding comes through an agreement with the Department of Local Government coal severance expenditures.

Other business to come before the court on Monday included the approval of a resolution and agreement related to state road aid. The county approved the resolution and agreement that will allow road work on Jim Villines Road, Mt. Myriah Road, Essil Mitchell Rd and Seebree Pratt Road. The funding totals \$532,000. The court's passage and approval of the resolution and agreement gives Judge/Executive Steve Henry the authority to sign the documents necessary for receiving the funding for the projects.

During Monday's meeting magistrates also approved a number of personnel actions and heard a report from deputy judge/executive Ryan Hammack.

In personnel matters Andrew Painter was hired as a part-time deputy jailer; Andrew Race was hired fulltime at the 9-1-1 center; Kris Reynolds was hired to work in the solid waste department and Phillip Hinchee was hired as a fulltime road department employee.

In his report Hammack told the court this last month of work for him has included attending the Chamber of Commerce meeting, issuing the oath of office to member of the PVA appeals committee members; attending a KACo meeting; helping prepare a lunch for county employees and visiting with delegates from the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet and visiting Green River Post Company and Pioneer Plastics with them.

Magistrates also approved a \$54,500 agreement they have with Beacon of Western Kentucky to renew their annual contract with that group.

Shawn Penrod told the court that the welcome center at Canaan Ridge Park is now under roof with the outside sealed up waiting for windows to arrive. The project was stalled temporarily when the original contractor relinquished his bond and stopped work on the center. The county then had to work with the bonding agent to clear the matter up before hiring a second contractor to complete the work. Progress is now being made on the center, Henry said.

The only other business to come before the court was approval of claim, purchase orders and transfers.

In his comments, Henry noted that the outside of the courthouse was cleaned by drones over the weekend.

Dixon Commission Meets

The Dixon City Commission met in regular session on Monday with Mayor Terry Webb presiding and all commissioners in attendance. Also present were City Clerk Barb Goff and City Attorney Bobby Murray.

Following approval of the minutes from the June meeting and the bills and claims, the members conducted a short business meeting that lasted about 10 minutes. Commissioners and the city attorney also conducted a seven minute closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Mayor Webb reported members of the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 13 incidents in June.

Commissioner Randy Norman presented the monthly water report, which showed was more positive for the city. The city purchased 2,108,700 gallons of water in June. Of that, 1,619,790 gallons were sold. The city used 210,400 gallons for flushing. The monthly water loss for June was 13.4%, a marked improvement from previous months.

Commissioner Mande O'Leary reported another member of the parks, playground, and recreation committee, Kellie Neal, has resigned. Mayor Webb read a letter from Ms. Neal, and that resignation was accepted by the commission.

Ms. O'Leary also reminded those in attendance that family night will be held at Baker Park this Saturday, July 17, 7:00 P.M. She noted there will be a movie, cornhole tournament, games, concessions, and other family activities. Those who wish to participate in the cornhole tournament need to register by 6:30 P.M.

Commissioners approved first reading amending the 2025-2026 budget from \$1,262,855 to \$1,434,785. Mayor Webb told members the additional funds come from grants and disaster payments from FEMA.

Commissioners approved two resolutions authorizing the City of Dixon to apply for grant funds from Delta Regional Authority and KYW-WATERS to be used for the Lakeview

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Webster County Grand Jury Returns Indictments Against Two

Webster County Grand Jury convened on July 8, with the honorable Judge Daniel Heady presiding. Three cases were heard with indictments returned in two of the cases and the third case passed to the next session.

The case of Jimmy Lee Clark resulted in four indictments be-

gin returned against the defendant. Clark was indicted for fourth degree assault, dating violence minor injury amended to enhanced; third degree terroristic threatening; first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia-buy/pos-

session. Brian Lee Jenkins was indicted for second degree fleeing or evading police on foot and first-degree escape amended to second degree

The case of Bradley David Rakestraw who is charged with first degree promoting contraband was passed to the next grand jury.

Board Of Education Approves Dean Of Students Positions, Policy Changes

The Webster County Board of Education met Monday night under the leadership of newly appointed superintendent Michael Gooch. Gooch was announced as superintendent at the board's final meeting of fiscal year 2026 in late May and officially began his new position on July 1. Monday night's agenda included discussions and decisions regarding additional positions principals throughout the district requested for the 2026-27 school year, a review of KSBA policy revisions, a stipend for Family Consumer Science teachers and appointment of ARC and 504 chairpersons for the coming school year.

Brandi Burnett provided the board with an updated financial report for June before Gooch presented a number of items for the board's consideration.

In a discussion regarding additional positions, the superintendent reported that he would recommend the requests from two elementary school principals for assistant principals be approved as Dean of Students positions. According to Gooch,

Dixon Elementary has a Dean of Students in place, and Providence Elementary had for the last several years an assistant principal on a year to year contract. Since last November, discussions had been ongoing concerning the need for an assistant principal at Seebree. Gooch, who said the decision to create the positions and title them is up to the board of education, recommended that three positions have a consistent title; thus, his recommendation that those positions be Dean of Students. By using the Dean of Students title, salaries for deans of students would ultimately save the district money.

The superintendent noted that depending on the rank and step of individuals hired, the two positions could increase a salary by \$5000 to \$7000 each. During discussions on the matter, Melony Hobgood said she preferred consistency in titles for the positions. Tim McCormick asked Burnett about the financial impact of adding two administrative positions, and Gooch told the board that "This is the last year I'm

probably going to request additional positions."

When the board took action on the matter at the conclusion of the meeting, Venita Murphy expressed her concern that by changing the position title to Dean of Students, an individual who has already been serving under an assistant principal title and salary will see a salary reduction of several thousand dollars, and David Asher said he preferred they all be titled assistant principals, but due to a tight budget he made a motion that dean of student positions be created for both Seebree and Providence elementary schools. His motion received a second and passed on a 4-1 vote with Murphy casting the dissenting vote. Other teaching and instructional assistant positions requested by principals will not be approved, Gooch said.

In other updates, Gooch requested that he board consider a stipend for Family Consumer Science teachers, who he said spend much of

their summer working and traveling with students. He requested the board allocate a \$1500 stipend per certified teacher. The board approved the request.

The superintendent also presented a proposal regarding Policy 03.1233 related to maternity leave. Gooch asked that the board consider a 30-day paid maternity leave that does not come out of an employee's sick leave time. First reading of the policy change was approved Monday night. The board also gave first reading to two other KSBA policy changes and the reading of KSBA Policy and Procedure updates for 2026-2027. In his comments on the KSBA updates, attorney Roy Massey urged the board to review the changes, noting that some of the biggest changes relate to school trips and work-based learning; required training for professional relationships with students; and new dyslexia legislation. The board approved first reading of the policy changes.

Superintendent Gooch also reported that new evaluation standards will be in

place for superintendents. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, superintendents will be evaluated on five standards rather than seven, Gooch said.

During their 38-minute meeting the board approved a five item consent agenda that included the certified and classified evaluation plan, board approved employee expectations for professional excellence, the superintendent evaluation standards changes; monthly reports and FMLA for one employee.

Under actions items for approval, in addition to approving the ARC and 504 chairpersons, the additional dean of students positions, the FCS stipend, and the first reading of KSBA policy updates, the board approved the superintendent's request for a computer maintenance technician.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38, with the next meeting of the board planned for Monday, August 10. Future meetings of the board of education will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the central office.