

FISCAL COURT,

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animal control with 68% of the animals coming from the City.

“So the way I figure it, if you take your \$61,000 from our \$68,000, you all owe us \$7,000,” Page said.

Page said he knew the County would have to hire all the dispatchers and that he had even spoken to the hospital about 9-1-1 doing all the dispatching and they said they couldn’t.

“We have inter-local agreements on the roads and stuff,” Page added. He pointed out that County even brought their patching machine in “to fix all ya’lls streets and you never even paid a penny for that. We’ve been really good to the City. I can’t say that they’ve paid us back none.”

Carter told Page that he should make a counter offer before the City Commission because he wasn’t authorized to negotiate.

“I’m not saying that’s a bad price, we can’t hire dispatchers and get equipment for that,” Page said.

Magistrate Mark Williams inquired about the \$25,000 figure that had been proposed two months ago to cover the dispatching service. Sheriff Lucas Gerald noted that they had been discussing the dispatching, but nothing had been agreed on at that time.

“The City has agreed to this one, you will need to discuss that with them,” Carter stated. “At the present time, we are doing it for free because we don’t have an agreement.”

Sheriff Lucas Gerald asked for, and

the Court approved, an increase in his monthly allotment \$12,220 per month to \$22,220 to allow him to hire three full-time deputies.

Of the three, two are Aaron Capshaw and David Page, who do not require insurance coverage, which would save the County almost \$24,000 a year.

He noted that they are continuously working on grants as the department needs new equipment. They have already received some approvals, he added.

“The most important thing for our county is that we need more officers,” Gerald noted. “Our call volume has been really high and we are working one officer per shift. It’s time for us to take our law enforcement forward.”

He added that at the present time, if an officer needs assistance, someone has to come from their home leading to concern for officer safety.

“We need to be — and people want to see us out there,” he added.

“I make a motion,” Page stated, noting that Gerald received 70% of the vote in the election and “I consider it a mandate by the public because you ran on this issue and they voted it, so I make the motion.”

The Court agreed and it passed unanimously, effective September 1.

Gerald noted that would put his staff at five deputies and himself. The week prior, he added, he had covered 76 hours. In one week at the end of July, one officer had 43 hours of overtime for the pay period,

with another having 27-28, so the addition of staff would save the amount of overtime being paid.

In other items of business, the Court was told that Barren County Jail was increasing the “per-day” cost from \$45 to \$50 per day.

Page told the group that last year’s jail budget was over \$650,000 and they had only \$500,000 in expenditures, so they had lowered the budget for the present year.

Magistrate Jamie Veach noted that, in speaking with other counties, they were paying \$70 per day.

“It’s a lot cheaper than running a jail,” Page added.

The group discussed the costs of ankle monitors. Jailer Bill Pickerell said it had a \$13 a day cost.

“Hopefully we could get them all on ankle bracelets,” Page said. “That could save the county a lot of money.”

The Court then turned to personnel actions and approved moving Gary Hall, James Crawford and Ron McCormick to full-time at a rate of \$18 per hour.

Page noted that Vernal Gerald was retiring and that he would be appointing Tony Scott as the Assistant Road Superintendent as he was next in line.

When Page attempted to go to another item of business, Road Superintendent Larry Graves spoke up to ask “what about David and Jimmy?” (An item listed on the agenda noted, “approve hiring Jimmy and David

Gordon full time on road department retro-active 8/3/26 “)

“I hired them part time, if they keep running their mouth, I’m going to fire ‘em tomorrow, if ya’ll want to know,” Page stated.

He continued that “they were out on the road last Friday ... and said if I named Tony Scott road supervisor, they weren’t working for him and they used the ‘F’ word and said ‘F Mitchell and Tony Scott.’”

“I’ve already addressed it with Larry and as far as I’m concerned they may be gone tomorrow, so I’m not recommending to hire them full time,” Page said.

“I’ll make a motion today if you want to fire ‘em,” Magistrate Ricky Bartley stated.

“Well I make a motion, they’re gone this evening,” Page said with Bartley quickly seconding the motion.

“I’m all for it,” added Magistrate Ronnie Page.

“I’ve already discussed it with Larry, using profane language out there on the roads is unacceptable,” Page said.

“Ok, they’re laid off this evening,” he concluded.

A vote on the matter was not officially called, with County Treasurer Renea Crowe (who was taking minutes of the meeting) asking Page to clarify who had made motions and voting.

Both Veach and Williams abstained from the vote and, although Magistrate Nathan Fox cannot be seen visibly voting during the exchange, he was contacted

following the meeting and noted that he had abstained from the vote as well.

Director of Emergency Management David Rich gave a report to the Court on the grant to build three storm shelters — one in Tompkinsville, Gamaliel and Fountain Run.

The Court approved proceeding with the projects with an increase project cost of almost \$1,000,000 with the majority of the funding from FEMA, some from state and the county’s match of \$128,187.

All three shelters have been increased from a 50-person capacity to 100-person, which could also be used for other purposes.

The Tompkinsville shelter, he noted, had originally been planned to be behind the hospital on Cap Harlan Road, but the location would be below the sewer hook ups.

Rich said that they had decided to put the shelter at the Monroe County Sports Complex near the maintenance building.

The Gamaliel shelter will be at the Fire Department and the Fountain Run shelter will be near the Community Building. Bartley questioned in there would be a shelter north of town in the area of Carter Elementary and Anderson Forest Products.

Rich noted that the areas approved were in areas more dense.

The group approved the lowered tax rate of 6.6%.

“We lower our rate and everyone else

takes the compensation rate and raises theirs and then come up here and asks for more money from us,” he added.

Due to the County’s changing to a provider who sends out tax bills for them, the County would not have time to have the public hearing in order to keep the rate at 7%, he told the group.

They approved the 6.6% for property tax, 8.3% for personal property and 8.3% for watercraft.

Representatives from the Ambulance Board/9-1-1 and the Health Department also came before the Court discussing their plans for their special taxing entities.

In other items of business, the Court;

— approved adding new roads of B&P Lane and WC Head Lane (1,600 ft. each);

— discussed that several roads were still waiting for easements and Page noted that they could look for another attorney to do the easement work if they wanted to pursue it;

— heard a request from road department concerning the need for a tractors;

— approved yearly \$3,000 donation to the Monroe County Historical Society;

— approved Tourism Board appointments Chrystena Chapman and Brylee Pickerell;

— approved Library Board appointments Judith Rowland and Marcia Rasner;

— approved budget amendments; and

— approved raising Tony Wood’s stipend as dog catcher from \$500 to \$550 to cover his cell phone bill instead of the County maintaining a line.

FOUNTAIN RUN,

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installation was bleeding through the fibers.

It appeared to have not been professionally done and they would look at possibly adding a vinyl plank flooring.

Houchens reported that she had spoken with the City of Tompkinsville regarding a bill for dispatch services. She said the contract was for \$200 per month and they had paid the January-June bill for 2026. They would be providing a report for the usage for their officer as well, Houchens noted.

“We couldn’t tell when the last time it was paid,” Houchens said.

City Attorney Richard Jackson told the group that he had spoken with Ben with Leftwich Surveyors who said the surveying the City had been waiting on had not been requested.

Both Houchens and City Clerk Wanda Anderson, noted they had spoken with Leftwich himself and even

provided the plots for the property being sold to the Allens behind old school building.

The two noted they went on and got quotes from another surveyor — Doss Land Surveying — who put them on the calendar immediately. The Commission noted they needed to have the land that Flapper’s Market uses for a parking lot surveyed, too, as they were interested in purchasing it from the City.

The land near Flappers would also be near the location of the new storm shelters, so proper property lines would be important, Houchens said.

The group went over their fund balances and then discussed the need to set a meeting up to look at setting a budget. Clerk -- noted she had been able to find budgets for 2019-2020-2021, but had been unable to find anything more recent. Jackson told the group that normally the first readings were

typically in April and the second in May or June, so the budget would take effect on July 1. The budget information will be compiled for the group for the September meeting.

“I’d like to go over the ones that we have found and start the process,” Houchens said.

“What was you doing when Gabe and them were taking the money? Sitting here with your mouth shut?” asked local citizen Abe Cross, who was present at the meeting.

“We’ve said plenty,” answered Commissioner Windy Costa. “We just can’t say publicly at this time.”

“At some point, enough information will be available and it will be published,” Mayor Houchens stated.

GAMALIEL,

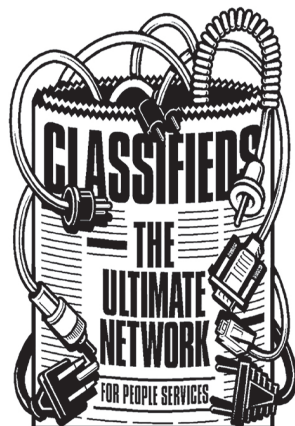
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been donated by Roy Anderson Lumber for the park playground.

He had also gotten a load of gravel spread at the park before the Fannie Gene event recently.

Mayor Bob Greer noted that the event had a great turn out and that the children had really had a great time.

The group approved the 2026 tax ordinance with the first reading (and second reading at a special called meeting the next week) with the ordinances published in this week’s edition.



FULL LENGTH VIDEOS OF EACH OF THESE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY MEETINGS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@TOMPKINSVILLENEWS](https://www.youtube.com/@TOMPKINSVILLENEWS)



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