

Midway City Council seeks additional firefighters

By SCOTT WHITE
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Midway Mayor Grayson Vandegrift announced that the Midway Fire & Rescue Department has room for additional firefighters at the Feb. 16 Midway City Council meeting.

The force is essentially volunteer, with firefighters being paid a stipend for runs and training.

Vandegrift said though the current roster exceeds the state minimum of 15 to qualify for state funding, it would be particularly helpful if there were more Midway or Midway area firefighters in the department.

Vandegrift said neither Midway nor Woodford County residency is a requirement to be a firefighter, noting there are members from Scott and Jessamine counties.

“Local people and having more firefighters would be great,” he said. “We even have a new, first-class facility we just opened.”

Charles Logan mourned

Native and lifelong Midwegian Charles Logan died last week. A beloved figure, several councilmembers and Vandegrift gave thanks for a wonderful life well-lived.

“Charles was a lifelong Midwegian, and one of the nicest people I’ve ever met,” Vandegrift told the Sun after the meeting. “Always a smile on his face. I never heard anyone say a bad word about him.”

FEMA relief

Vandegrift reported to the City Council that the “public assistance” sought by the City of Midway as part of President Donald Trump’s declaration that the April floods were a federal disaster has been approved. He explained this meant the two impacts of the flood in Midway, which required construction projects totaling about \$20,000, will be paid by the federal government and

not the taxpayers of Midway.

The two projects involve repairing a water line near Winter Street that was knocked down by debris and damage to Newton Street.

Vandegrift said that despite Storm Fern being declared a federal disaster, the primary cost to the city—snow removal costs—is not eligible for reimbursement. The city spent \$20,000 of its \$25,000 budgeted amount for snow/ice response and removal.

Vandegrift explained that there is enough salt to handle two more snows, but if more is needed, there are sufficient unbudgeted funds that could be used.

Odd Fellows building

Councilmember Kaye Nita Gallagher reported she had received citizen complaints about siding falling off the side of the historic Odd Fellows building, which has been the subject of years of dispute between the city and the owner, which could be a public safety issue. Gallagher said she had looked over the building herself and could confirm the problems.

Councilmember Steve Simoff confirmed Gallagher’s reports and echoed the frustration that the building continues to present ongoing issues.

Vandegrift, while agreeing, said the city is limited in what it can practically do. He reported there were three current code violation fines, one relating to the facade, that the owner appealed to the Midway Code Enforcement, which denied all three.

“I encourage people to call code enforcement and the Planning Commission to report violations,” he said. “We don’t have the ability to make (the owner) finish the building. You would think he would want to earn revenue off of it, but we can’t make him. We will continue to cite him for violations, which code enforcement officers cite him for.”

Commission approves plat creating nine residential lots

Nonesuch neighbor voices concerns

By BOB VLACH
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

Before the Versailles-Midway-Woodford County Planning Commission unanimously approved a subdivision plat on Feb. 12 that creates nine residential lots, a neighbor voiced concern that the proposed lots on Fords Mill Road could increase collisions and lead to mobile homes being there.

“I’m asking the commission to think about the long-term ramifications of approving this request,” said Natalie Blake. “You’ve spent an incredible amount of time in the last year working on changes to the zoning ordinance, which I really appreciate ... focusing on preserving Woodford County land. So let’s please not take any steps back.”

The 19.96 acres at 4230 Fords Mill Road (Michael and Anna Weldi) is split-zoned (R-1B single-family residential and R-4 small community). Located in Nonesuch, the lots vary in size from .93 and 3.64 acres along Fords Mill Road and 2.4 and 2.8 acres along Patterson Road, according to the subdivision plat. The plat also shows that only the lots along Fords Mill are split-zoned, with the .93-acre lot completely in the R-1B district.

In response to Blake’s concerns, a representative of the applicants, told the commission that they are going to live on the property and want a nice development. He also pointed out that the minor plat meets all of the legal requirements for approval.

Planning Director Steve Hunter said mobile homes are prohibited in both zones. He said houses constructed on the property, manufactured and modular homes are permitted in those zones, he said.

Commissioner Randal Bohannon was absent.

Plats approved

The commission approved three other plats.

A minor subdivision plat consolidates property on the Midway University campus for a new field house, so a new athletic facility will not split lot lines.

An in-family conveyance plat for 1605 Steele Road – John Richardson (father) to Dylan Adam Reid Richardson (son) – creates a 5.066-acre tract at 1815 White Ferry Road, with a 218-acre farm remaining.

An in-family conveyance plat – Stephen H. and Virginia A. Wurzbach (parents) to Rebecca Wurzbach Music (daughter) and Nicholas Scott Music – creates a 6.542-acre tract at 83 Elliston Lane, with 15.481 acres remaining at 8090 McCowans Ferry Road.

Postponed

Action on a minor consolidation plat that will create a 37.51-acre tract of land at 208 Curd Road (William and Theresa Goodlett) was postponed at the request of the applicants.

Budget Amendments

The commission unanimously approved amendments to this fiscal year’s budget, including a decrease in the beginning balance (\$143,385 to \$138,582), and increases in revenue from building and demolition permits (\$88,000 to \$140,000) and construction review fees (\$5,000 to \$45,000).

On the expenditure side, the most significant adjustments were salary and wages (from \$221,177 to \$226,044), health insurance (from \$50,289 to \$57,396), and overtime absences and compensated absences (\$0 to \$3,500), according to the information given to the commission.

Audit contract

The commission approved a two-year extension on an audit contract with Kerbaugh,

Rodes & Butler, LLC. The fees for doing the annual audit are \$8,250 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$8,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, according to a letter to the commission.

At the end of the contract, Kerbaugh, Rodes & Butler will have done the commission’s annual audit for five years, so Hunter said he will probably recommend the commission either bid out the contract and hire a different auditing firm or use different auditors within Kerbaugh, Rodes & Butler. He agreed it is a recommended practice not to use the same auditor for more than five years.

Committees

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve committee assignments for this calendar year. Prior to the vote, Chair Whitney Stepp said anyone on the commission can attend any committee meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Committee members are Karen Isberg, Tim Middleton, Chris Sharp and Doug Curl. Commissioner Rich Schien agreed to withdraw his nomination to serve on that committee, with the assurance that any action taken by the Comp Plan Committee will come back to the commission for discussion and modification.

Bohannon, Isberg, Middleton and Sharp will serve on the Advisory Committee. Stating his preference to serve on the Comp Plan Committee, Curl withdrew his nomination from the Advisory Committee.

Middleton, Sharp and Curl will serve on the Technical Review Committee. Bohannon, Floyd Greene, Schein and Chad Wells are on the Personnel and Budget Committee. Greene and Wells are on the Zoning Administration and Legal Committee.

Revenue from fees not keeping up with expenditures, Hunter says

By BOB VLACH
WOODFORD SUN STAFF

With a carryover balance projected to decrease to less than \$85,000 next fiscal year, Planning Director Steve Hunter told members of the Planning Commission’s Personnel & Budget Committee on Feb. 12 that he will ask for slight increases in contributions from the cities of Versailles and Midway and Woodford County.

Because fees for building and other permits are not keeping pace with rising expenditures, he said, “We’ve got to have money from the city and county to make up a big chunk of that difference.” He also noted, “... the last few years we’ve not asked for more money.”

The contribution being asked from the City of Versailles would increase from \$98,277 to \$120,000, with the county also

contributing \$120,000 (up from \$112,461). The City of Midway would also contribute more (\$28,116 to \$30,000), based on the FY 2027 preliminary budget reviewed by the Budget Committee.

“We’re not looking to change any fees. We’re looking just to ask the governments for a little bit more money,” Hunter said, “and hopefully, our carryover is a little higher (than projected). We just won’t know until we get into this next quarter,” when revenue from large developments could bolster the ending balance.

The beginning balance last fiscal year was projected to be \$143,386 before the commission approved an amended budget after the committee meeting. It reduced the carryover amount to \$138,582.

The committee did not receive projected expenditures for the next fiscal year, which

begins July 1. Those projections are expected to come to the committee sometime before the next Planning Commission meeting in March.

Closed session

The Personnel & Budget Committee went into executive session to discuss a personnel

issue. No formal action was taken by the committee after a discussion, according to Hunter, about an audit finding related to personnel and a potential tweak to the personnel policy to address the audit finding.

National Career and Technical Education Month

What does this program mean for Woodford County? The country? The world?

By FAITH ANN DAVIS
WCHS STUDENT JOURNALIST

Every year, February is recognized as National Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, a time to raise awareness and celebrate the incredible impact that CTE has on students, communities, industries and the world.

CTE, formerly known as vocational education, is an educational approach that provides opportunities for students to gain real-world skills, industry-aligned training and career-focused education, all while preparing them for success in high-demand professions. CTE programs allow students to explore their passions, develop essential skills, conduct hands-on learning, gain occupational experience, prepare for the workforce or further education and become college and career ready.

This year, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the largest national education association in the US, is celebrating a century of providing educational leadership in developing a competitive workforce through CTE. The motto for this year’s CTE Month is: “Inspiring Careers for 100 Years,” and Woodford County is proud to be even a small part of ACTE’s journey over these past 100 years.

CTE at WCMS & WCHS

Woodford County public schools offer a variety of CTE courses for middle and high school students, which are all categorized into “Career Pathways.”

These pathways provide students with a focused set of courses that prepare them for their post-secondary career plans. Woodford County Middle School has added a family and consumer science pathway, as well as an engineering pathway within the past couple of years, which have joined the existing agriscience pathway.

These courses allow students to explore a variety of careers in middle school so that they can continue their education in their interests in high school.

Woodford County High School offers a wide variety of CTE pathways including: agriculture, business, education, engineering, family and consumer science, fire science, media arts, health science and law enforcement.

Through these courses, WCHS students have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to gain experience in their desired career fields to prepare them for life after graduation – whether direct to the workforce, technical college or university. They also open doors for students to secure credentials and certifications before entering the workforce or higher education, including summer and part-time jobs.

Woodford County Public Schools are shining a spotlight on CTE this month to appreciate and raise awareness for its importance and the CTE teachers who work hard and face many challenges to provide the best opportunities for students.

CTE Month is also a time to recognize the co-curricular Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) that Woodford County students participate in. CTOS are organizations for students in CTE pathways that focus on developing leadership, technical and employability skills.



WCHS STUDENTS represented numerous Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways and Career and Technical Student Organizations at the 2025 CTE Fair. Students in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); National FFA (Future Farmers of America); Future Health Professionals (HOSA); and Technology Student Association (TSA) participated in the fair by selling and giving away products and services from their CTE pathways. Students, left to right: front row, Faith Harris, Sadie Hall, Emma Roberts, Emma Napier, Kennedy Rudd and Isabella Lawson; middle row, Cara Springate, Rebecca Jetton, Casey Montgomery, Carolina Rhea, Emerson Probus, Evie House and Logan Rudd; back row: Sutton Sherrard, Faith Ann Davis, Adaline Dorsey, Austin May, Cooper Probst and Owen Warder. (Photo by Eza Gonzales)

CTSOs connect the classroom to real-world scenarios through competitions, conferences, leadership positions and networking opportunities. Woodford County CTOS include: Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA); Educators Rising; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); National FFA (Future Farmers of America); Future Health Professionals (HOSA); and Technology Student Association (TSA).

These organizations provide Woodford County students, and students across the country, with opportunities and experiences that promote leadership, career readiness, teamwork, citizenship and technical skills. Members of these organizations often compete at local, regional, state and national levels.

Just last year, WCHS had numerous state competition wins, including first, second and third place state champions

in FFA, FCCLA, DECA, HOSA and TSA. Many students moved on to compete at national competitions, and WCHS even had national finalists in DECA, TSA and FFA.

Student Leaders

This past year, the high school has produced many student leaders in CTOS at the regional, state and national levels. I am a TSA state officer, Carson Probst and Carolina Rhea have both been FFA regional officers, and Sutton Sherrard is an FCCLA national officer.

These accomplishments and successes deserve to be celebrated and supported among our school district and community and that’s what CTE Month is all about.

Editor’s Note: This story is the product of the school system’s “Portrait of a Learner” partnership between the Sun and WCHS teacher Renee Boss’ journalism class, in which the Sun works with students to write and publish news stories.