A regular meeting of the Bracken County Fiscal Court was held Wednesday, October 8, 2025, for the purpose of transacting any business properly presented by the established agenda.

Presiding: Tina K. Teegarden,
Judge Executive

Present: David Kelsch, Danny Holleran, Debbie Mayfield, John Scott, Craig Miller, Sandy Ruf, Kevin Jarrells, Heather Brumley

Let the record reflect that the Court Members received a copy of any Transfers and Vendor Claims and a copy of the Financial Statement.

Upon Motion of Debbie Mayfield, second by Sandy Ruf, that the court approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025, meeting.

Road Department Update
Road Supervisor Stacey Florer gave an update. They had 3 days of the tire amnesty at the state barn. They have been cleaning up around the shop. There were a few trees that had to be cleaned up from that last storm that went through. They have still been bushhogging but the 3 side mowers are done for the year.

Animal Shelter Expansion Update
Tabled

Judicial Center Contract Employee Maintenance
County Attorney Moore and Judge Teegarden met with 4 individuals from AOC. They are getting some questions answered for them and will hopefully get back to them by the end of the week.

Ordinance 15-05 Re: Encroachment Permit
The court was given an updated ordinance for the encroachment permits for county roads. County Attorney Moore stated there were a few spelling errors noticed after she printed them out as well as some formatting. That has all been corrected. Judge Teegarden stated the only change is what is underlined on the first page. Magistrate Kelsch asked what the reasoning was for the change. Judge Teegarden stated the change is because the previous Judge had verbal agreements in place for the Bracken County Water District doing their daily repairs that could potentially affect the structure of county roads. They were stated as exempt in the 2015 ordinance. The BCWD, currently, is supposed to notify Stacey and fill out and get a permit issued at no cost. It was a verbal agreement and with changeover of employees at the water district new employees were unaware. The only person that was there before and still there now is Chairman Anthony Habermehl. Returning to the BCWD Board after 2 years of being off of it. Anthony reached out to Judge Teegarden a few months ago and asked what they are supposed to do for a call at 2 am. Judge Teegarden stated they are to come in the next morning and fill out the paperwork but are to send her or Stacey Florer a text letting her know what road they are working on, as always in the past. Magistrate Kelsch asked if this included something residential or something small? Judge Teegarden stated this is only for repairs that could potentialoly affect/damage a county road or the ditch line on right of way. Magistrate Kelsch asked if there has been any damage done to the county roads previously. Judge Teegarden stated there was in 2015, so this is why this ordinance was created by Earl. There were some issues on Feagan Ridge and there was a gas line that went through that caused issues. The entire permit process is required for large water projects and regulations have been followed through on those, working with their engineer Pal Reynolds. Road Supervisor Stacey approves these and has the 1-page form to fill out for the repairs handled by BCWD employees. The larger projects where they have an engineer and contractors, they will send maps with markings on them that they will actually go out and look at it but for the smaller things they don't. Magistrate Kelsch asked Stacey if he had a problem with them calling him if it's the middle of the night and there's an emergency situation where they have to go under a road. Stacey stated no, they have always called him in the past. County Attorney Moore stated there is a section in the ordinance that covers emergencies at night. This was in the ordinance prior as well, there has been no change on that. County Attorney Moore stated when she found out that there was a verbal agreement, she is the one that suggested there need to be something in writing. Judge Tegarden stated this includes all utilities, not just the

water. All other municipal and local utilities have been following this since 2015. BCWD was the only one exempt with verbal agreement. Magistrate Holleran stated he received a text message from Derrick Bach at the water district. Derrick stated the water district is already a state regulated public utility covered by the psc, he thinks it's redundant to go through the county to get the same things done. It directly conflicts with the statute. It delays or restricts their ability to perform those psc mandated duties. Judge Teegarden stated she is not sure how it would delay it as it is 1 piece of paper and there's no money exchange and we are not telling them how to install their water lines. We are asking for one page of information to be sent to the county as notification. Derrick states this creates more paperwork; more delay and more expense for their rate payers. Judge Teegarden reminds them there is no expense. He would like to remind the court that under KRS 278.040 the public service commission has exclusive justifications over how utilities operate, rebuild and maintain their systems. The county can not legally impose additional restrictions that interfere with psc oversight. KRS 74.110 already authorizes water districts to construct and maintain lines along public roads. We believe this ordinance is being rewritten to target specific utilities for politically motivated reasons. We ask that the Fiscal Court table or withdrawal this proposal and instead sit down with all local utilities to work out a practical coordination plan that doesn't violate state law or burden taxpayers. Judge Teegarden stated she is not requiring drawings; she is just requiring a 1-page document be filed out and filed in a binder so that there is documentation of what is done so that in years to come you can go back and find something if need be. All other local utilities have been following this ordinance since 2015. The drawings are only required if it's a larger project with contractor or engineer. Judge Teegarden stated the county has the right to know if a local utility is going under a county road. Prior Judge Earl addressed the court. He stated he wrote that ordinance a number of years ago and the reason it came to play was they were putting major water lines through the county, the gas line was going through as well. He and Stacey spent a lot of time with them on that and they were told, don't worry about it, we will take care of it when it's all done. Talking to other counties things like this would be done and then they would be gone, and the county would be left with a mess. He took the state procedure but simplified it to just protect the county. He stated that worked for a while, there were others that would call and fill out the forms but then they got away from that. He stated the state requires documentation. He feels there is nothing wrong with requiring documentation by any department when they are going out and doing things on county roads. There's been more than once that Windstream has tried to put a line right in the drain ditch or run a line buried just below the surface on the side of the road. His message back to Derrick respectfully, would be that this is being misread. This is simply a matter of letting the county know when you run a line and where you are doing it. Nothing on maintenance as long as they're not digging under or on the road. They'll need this same documentation on their end somewhere so that they know where they're putting lines, this is just a matter of making a copy of that and forwarding it to the county as well. County Attorney Moore stated she looked up KRS 278.040 which states in paragraph 2, "nothing in this chapter is intended to limit or restrict the police jurisdiction, contract right or powers of cities or political subdivisions". She stated the county is a public/political subdivision. Magistrate Ruf stated years a go there was a man by the name of Smitty, he worked there his whole life, and nothing was written down but gone is the day of, you know so and so, ask him where that was. You simply need a paper trail of things. When he retired, she told them they better be getting him to write things down so they would know where things were in the future. Judge Teegarden stated a lot of county road projects are planned 1-2 years in advance and it's very helpful to be able to grab that binder and see what they are dealing with. For example, for new water lines that are being put in, if you can see that a county road is coming up to be black topped, she can say, let's get that water line dug before all this new blacktop goes down so that it doesn't have to be redone. Stacey stated Doyles Ln was done for about 4 months when some pushes had to be put in. Magistrate Holleran asked Judge Teegarden if she was opposed to sitting down with the BCWD and talking it out. Magistrate Brumley stated she's not sure what there even is to talk about because the bottom line is if they are going under county roads they are just asking that they ne mad aware of it. It's just a piece of paper that says where they're going under the road. Judge Teegarden stated she will invite the BCWD to the next meeting, she is not comfortable meeting one on one at the BCWD after being directly accused of amending the ordinance only by political motivation. Judge Teegarden feels that their concerns should be heard at the Fiscal Court meeting as all magistrates will be voting on this not just the Judge. First reading died for lack of motion. Magistrate Miller requested they invite those with concerns to the next meeting and the first reading can be done at that meeting as well.

Discussion of county owned lots that have been donated over the years

There is 1 lot in particular that the court has a copy of, it is at the end of Kabler Mill Rd. PVA Florer addressed the court. He stated the first page is the tract of land in question, the owner owns lot 19, 20 and 21 that butt up to the lot in question. There is also a copy of the deed that tells how Bracken County came to own that lot. Judge Teegarden stated the gentleman that owns it has been in the office several times over the last year asking her what they do with the county

lots and if he would be able to buy it. Judge Teegarden stated it is not as easy as just buying it. It would possibly have to be up for surplus. She has to go through and make sure there is updated statute on it and give County Attorney Moore time to look at the deed and see what she comes up on it. She just wanted to give out the information to the magistrates to look at as well. Magistrate Brumley asked if this was possibly a turning area. PVA Florer stated he is not sure but that could have been the case. Magistrate Jarrells asked how big the lot was, PVA Florer stated it does not say but he would guess about an acre as that is what the other lots there typically run. Magistrate Ruf asked if the county lets go of this will the buses lose their ability to turn around there. PVA Florer stated if you look the black top ends before so this would not affect that. The road does not even go there. Magistrate Mayfield said she assumes if the county were to offer this piece of property, it would need to be offered to everyone equally. Judge Teegarden stated yes. Magistrate Mayfield stated if someone else were to purchase this to build a home on it, is there even access to this lot without going on someone else's property? PVA Florer stated he does not know for sure. According to the map you can't tell exactly where the road ends, that would have to be determined. PVA Florer made the disclaimer, these maps are not true and correct and would not hold up in a court of law. The maps could be shifted a bit. You would probably want to have a surveyor come out and survey this lot ahead of time. Magistrate Kelsch asked if there have been any recent sales on the adjoining properties recently. PVA Florer stated he believes there are a few down there on that road that have sold recently but they are not adjoining properties. He stated if the county chooses to sell the property, they can look at getting a value on it. Magistrate Brumley stated this is only a ½ acre lot and according to the health department you have to have at least an acre lot to put something in so really the county is landlocked on this in the sense that someone would have to let them buy some of the adjoining lot if they were to put something on this lot. Magistrate Jarrells asked what fair market value is on land today. PVA Florer stated the easy answer to that would be farmland is going anywhere from $4,000-$5,000 an acre and that's not on land that is buildable. He believes lots 9,10,11 sold for around $10,000 but that is up where it is level and right off the road. PVA Florer stated he would look up the sales of the adjoining lots and have those numbers for the court at the next meeting. Magistrate Ruf stated to make it fair, whoever owns the lots on both sides should be notified, correct? Attorney Moore stated everyone in the county would have to be notified because it is an open bid, that's the counties rules. It will get advertised as surplus property just like any other bid.

Animal Shelter Report

Erin and Heather gave a report. They gave out an annual report with all the numbers. She did point out that their longest resident is on the list for a foster so she will be moving on shortly. Judge Teegarden pointed out the vet bills at the bottom of the report, this does not however, include the donations made directly to the vet's offices. Erin stated there is not an exact number as Town & Country did not get back to them and Ewing just marks as bill paid, it is not marked as donations so it's hard to say an exact amount on them. As of June 30th, the county only had a vet cost of $5,632.25. Erin stated the community is the heart of the shelter. They have gotten a grant for spay and neuter again this year. BCAIN has offered to spay and neuter all current and future shelter dogs, that is all thanks to the animal allies store. There have been some changes done to the shelter in the last few months. All the pulls on the doors have been changed out so that they can all be opened safely now. They've updated the room that used to be the office to make it into the meet and greet area. Cleaned, painted, just updated things to make it more efficient. The future plans that they are starting to put into place are things like the Facebook update. This update helps keep the community in tuned with what's going on at the shelter. How many dogs they've had brought in, how many are in foster, how many have been adopted etc. They are working on applying for a grant for psychological health of the dogs. They would like to get more fencing in the back so that more dogs can be outside at one time. They've made changes to the intake procedures, and everything is documented in one place. They have a waitlist for owner surrenders, strays are obviously the priority, but they have a waitlist they can use to call people if they have any openings for owner surrenders. They are hoping that this helps with the drop-offs that are happening after hours. Magistrate Kelsch asked if they are still having a lot of drop offs. Heather stated yes but this waitlist was just started in the last few months. They have seen the drop offs go down a little bit but are hoping to see that number go down even more as this program goes on. He asked if there are cameras. Judge stated she just got a quote yesterday but had a few questions so she will be going over that soon. Judge Teegarden asked Stacey to get some road signage put up that states you are on camera. Heather and Erin agreed this would help with after hours drop offs. Erin stated they have gotten some microchips in so all dogs that leave the shelter will be spayed/neutered and microchipped. Magistrate Miller asked if they could talk on the 2 events they have that are coming up. They stated both of those fundraisers are for BCAIN who will be speaking next. Magistrate Mayfield stated she had some people in the county asking why we don't use the Fleming County vet. Heather stated they do use Ewing but sometimes the extra gas and time it takes to get there doesn't help much. Several magistrates stated when they were on a listening tour last week there were others that stated they may want to look into Fleming County Animal hospital as they have pretty good rates. Heather

stated she will definitely make some calls and look into them as well. They stated Town & Country is expensive. Heather stated she does try to only use Town & Country for emergency visits. Heather stated she will get back to the court on the price differences she finds after talking to Fleming. Judge Teegarden stated certain vets used to contract with the counties for a year, but they don't do that anymore so since 2019 they've just been going wherever. Judge Teegarden stated Erin has been working on some grants. Sheriff Boody commended Heather and Erin on the job they are doing, they have relieved his office from a lot of animal calls, and they have a very good working relationship. Heather stated she appreciates the Sheriffs offices help on this as well.

BCAIN Report

Shannon Smith the president of Bracken County Animals in need, a nonprofit here in the community, came to update the court. BCAIN started in November of 2021, and they are a 501 3c. They are 100% volunteer based, and all the money is fundraised. Their mission is that no animal endures the pain of a life of abandonment and neglect. They are here to give these animals a voice and to be their advocate. They meet every other month, they have about 13 members. They have 3 keys areas. One is to support their local animal shelter to help fill the gaps, help take care of the stray cat population, and to assist with other animals out in the community. Some of the fundraiser events they do are Jordan's Way, they have been part of that event twice. They sell t-shirts and calendars, host quarter auctions, UK ticket raffle, spayghetti luncheon and most recently they opened the animal allies thrift store and that is ran solely off volunteers and donations. She looked back at 2024 to see some totals of what they spent. They spent $2600 in supplies for the animal shelter. They paid $13,000 towards vet bills for shelter dogs. They paid $8,000 to spay and neuter 77 cats and helped them find homes outside the county. They have helped with repairs to the sheds, have replaced kennel roofs and helped with the doors. They donated air conditioners and secured a donation of a washer and dryer through one of their members. They also purchased 80 blankets and beds for the shelter last December. They have covered some emergency vet bills for animals in need. They try to fulfill some of their items from the shelter's amazon Wishlist. Going forward they have some events coming up. They have a Ky humane society caravan coming to the Bracken County Extension office. This is a mobile clinic, and they will perform spay and neuter services on site. They have arranged for the shelter dogs to be groomed by Happy Hounds. They voted at their last meeting to cover the spay and neutering of the shelter dogs. October 25th there is a fundraiser at the Augusta Distillery. There will be a signature cocktail there and BCAIN will receive 100% of the profits from that signature cocktail. There will be food and music and possibly a raffle for a bottle of Buckners. More information will come on that. Shannon stated they recently partnered with the cat adoption team out of Northern Ky as well as the League of Animals in Batavia and they are helping find homes for cats that are homeless in the county. There are only 3 fosters in the county. Shannon has taken 22 cats in the last month up to the League to foster.

Bid award for mowing, weed eating, landscaping-Judicial Center and snow removal-all county buildings

Judge Teegarden stated if she needs to get answers on some of these bids just let her know and she will make the calls. Magistrate Mayfield stated if you look at the sheet with synopsis, Precision Properties for the Judicial Center is $350 per plow, $150 for salt. All Around Lawncare and Landscape should be $140 salt application. Judge Teegarden stated it looks like everyone bid on everything even though it got a little complicated letting everyone bid however they wanted. On the All Around Lawn care bid, where it talks about snow removal, per service is for plowing and salting and then if they had to come back and do another round of salt later that night, they would just charge the $150. Magistrate Mayfield asked what if it didn't snow but there was just ice. So, they didn't have to plow, they just salted, what would the charge be for that? Judge Teegarden stated she didn't know but she could find out. Magistrate Mayfield stated that would be a good question for either of the companies since they all break it down similarly. Judge Teegarden asked the court if they looked at the other bids to see if anyone had questions on those. She stated the mowing is sperate from the landscaping on the Judicial Center. Magistrate Miller stated that looking at the individual estimates. The mowing and the landscaping are the only 2 that are apples to apples as far as knowing what they are looking at. There are 3 specific comparable prices. Mowing 4 mows per month for 7 months there are 3 specific totals. Precision Landscaping is $11,00, All Around Lawn and Landscape is $4,200 and RK Lawncare and excavating is $3,000. For mowing, if they go by 4 times a month for 7 months, Precision is $4200, All Around Lawncare is $4620 and RK is $3500. This is for Judicial Center mowing only. Snow removal however does not look to be able to compare apples to apples on the quotes. Judge Teegarden will ask for clarification on the snow removal from all bidders as well as how many mows per month. Magistrate Miller stated they also need to decide if they are bidding everything out separately or going with one contractor for all 3. This is tabled to come back with some clarification on the 22nd.

Dispatch 911 Fund Transfer
It is in the amount of $4,650. It's building maintenance and repairs. Magistrate Kelsch asked if this was for dispatch. Judge Teegarden stated yes.
Motion for approval made by Sandy Ruf, second by Heather Brumley

General Fund Vendor Claims
Motion for approval made by John Scott, second by Kevin Jarrells
Vote being unanimous

Road Fund Vendor Claims
The blacktop bill for Grovers Run came in last minute. The cost was $129,984.72
Motion for approval with addition of Grovers Run made by Sandy Ruf, second by Debbie Mayfield

Jail Fund Vendor Claims
Motion for approval made by David Kelsch, second by Danny Holleran.
Vote being unanimous

Senior Citizens Fund Vendor Claims
Motion for approval made by Debbie Mayfield, second by Sandy Ruf
Vote being unanimous

Dispatch 911 Fund Vendor Claims
Motion for approval made by Danny Holleran, second by Kevin Jarrells
Vote being unanimous

Dispatch Fund-Change Order for office room renovation
This is for the change order in the renovation of the dispatch building. John Scott has been working with the general contractor. John explained that when the plaster was taken off the water damage was terrible. The baseboards were completely rotted. There were cracks all the way up the walls and across the doors. They had to replace bricks and everything. They bought a special mortar to use on the extra bricks they found there. Even if the brick wasn't being sealed and they would have gone with drywall, these are structural damages that need to be fixed regardless. There is a quote coming for duct work and the heat and air unit. The change order is in the amount of $4,650.
Motion for approval made by John Scott, second by Craig Miller
Vote being unanimous

Other Business:

Judge Teegarden wanted to remind everyone that they will be talking about surveillance at the animal shelter at the next meeting.

The joint sidewalk project that is in the feasibility study phase right now is moving forward, they are waiting on final design with a cost estimate.

Magistrate Brumley asked if there was any update on the senior citizens center. Judge Teegarden stated they are working through losing some of the funding for the hot meals. They said it would take 5 days of meals to 3 meals. It's a funding issue and now that there's a shutdown and its federal, they are just kind of waiting to see. Judge Teegarden stated she will update the court as she finds things out.

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Jarrells, second by Danny Holleran.
Vote being unanimous.

S/_____ S/_____
Jennifer Free, Fiscal Court Clerk Tina K. Teegarden, Co Judge Executive