

**Minutes of the March 5, 2024, Daviess County Fiscal Court Meeting  
Held at the Daviess County, Kentucky Courthouse  
Present elected court officials: Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen and County Commissioners  
Janie Marksberry (via video), Christopher Castlen, and Larry Conder**

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**DOCUMENTS RELATED TO TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS ARE FILED IN THE CORRESPONDING FISCAL COURT FILE.**

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The meeting opened in Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen.

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**1. Consideration for Presentation:**

**A. Owensboro Health Community Report 2024**

Owensboro Health Board of Directors Chair Gavin Roberts: Owensboro Health is a nonprofit hospital that wants everybody to feel welcome. He was proud to present the annual community report to the county and the city. Owensboro Health's mission is to heal the sick and to improve the communities that it serves. He introduced Mr. Mark Marsh, President and CEO of Owensboro Health who has been with Owensboro Health going on three years this summer. Owensboro Health is the largest employer west of Louisville with over 5,000 employees, if you consider all the different contracts.

Owensboro Health President & CEO Mark Marsh: Thanked the court for the opportunity to present the report and thanked all of the staff of Owensboro Health for their dedication. He stated their mission was to work to improve the health and the lives that they serve every day. Owensboro Health has 16 board members with 15 residing in Daviess County. The six core commitments of Owensboro Health are:

- To provide outstanding service
- Improve daily work
- Conduct themselves with a high level of responsibility, reliability and honesty
- Value and accept the unique talents and contributions
- Anticipate their needs and meeting those needs
- Overcoming obstacles, surpass goals and celebrate accomplishments

He presented a slideshow of information for the Court. There are 18 counties that are covered by Owensboro Health with roughly 600,000 lives who are touched in some capacity. Owensboro Health has grown in primary care providers by 20%. They added 49 new providers in the past year. Roughly 64% or 65% of patients are able to get into a physician within 14 days. Throughout the region they brought in \$3.2 million of economic output to the communities with \$3.2 million of that being 13 additional jobs throughout the region. Every time they add a new business they add 50 new jobs. Since 2019, payroll grew from \$358 million to roughly \$494 million which was about a 14% increase. The occupational taxes were about \$3.8 million. They launched HealthForce One in October and have collaborations with 9 universities and some high schools. There are about 1,500 high school students throughout the region that are able to advance their Healthcare skills. Also, they will be teaching math and sciences throughout the high schools at the new Innovation Center with 11 different simulation labs that will show the application in the teaching. It would provide a better experience which would produce a better healthcare worker. The high schools, superintendents, and others are so excited and energetic about the

program. They added 49 new providers over the past year including 4 individuals who are from this area and are currently in training either in a fellowship or a residency medical school who have already signed an agreement to come back to Owensboro Health. Through the Innovation Center they could start with nursing or therapy and become a physician in the future. The retention rate for physicians was at 91% and they are really proud of that number. He also mentioned community grants focused on housing and mental health. They recently gave out about \$400,000 of community grants that help and promote work on the housing partnerships. The mental health aspect has been given over a million dollars in the past two years. The technological advancements that are at the Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center have been highly recognized and they collaborated with the University of Kentucky. Patients who have gone to Nashville come back saying that the doctors thought the care being provided at Owensboro Health was exceptional. The Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center shows compassionate care. They have secured new state of the art equipment for radiation oncology which will be running by August 1<sup>st</sup>. They want to make sure that their technology stays up to date and want to ensure they have the latest and greatest technology. The electronic health record provides a number of resources. Owensboro Health is committed to bring more visibility to the community, such as participating in Friday After 5 or other community events. They plan to enter into an agreement with a company who specializes in social media around the healthcare platform which would help get their message out there so people know what services are offered and what can be provided throughout Owensboro Health.

Commissioner Conder: Asked how the cash position was going and how many days of cash they had, which indicates how well or not the hospital has been doing because there was a time that it became a little concerning.

Owensboro Health President & CEO Marsh: There are 150 days which was the same as they were pre-covid. The cost of doing business, every day supplies, and drug costs are going up. The cost per day ratio to run the health system year-over-year had a 14% increase in just payroll.

Commissioner Conder: Requested them to figure out a way where certain information would have a gatekeeper that prevents the release of test results before a doctor can tell you what it really means. Also, the nurses at the Mitchell Memorial Cancer Center are absolute angels doing an outstanding job and show a personal connection to their patients. They are fantastic when you're dealing with life and death every day. They bring a smile to so many lives.

Commissioner Castlen: Thanked Mark for being there. He informed the public that he worked for Owensboro Health for about five years and commented on the great leadership there. He expressed his appreciation to Owensboro Health for all their support in the community.

Judge/Executive Charlie Castlen: Thanked Mark for being there that day and appreciated the following of the mission for healing the sick and improving the health of the community. He mentioned that he saw the HealthForce One unit outside at Rooster Booster and said it was fascinating. He also asked Mark if there was any progress with AMR and Anthem regarding AMR coming into Anthem's network.

Owensboro Health President & CEO Marsh: Notified that AMR is currently working on a national contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

## **2. Consideration for Approval:**

A. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Minutes of the February 22, 2024, Daviess County Fiscal Court Meeting.**  
The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

B. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **All Claims for all Departments.**  
The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

C. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Accept Petition of Wesley Poole and Jennifer Poole to Discontinue a Portion of Fullenwider Road.**

County Engineer Mark Brasher: Reported that his office received a petition from the Poole's to discontinue a section of Fullenwider Road. It is approximately 410 feet near the Far East of Daviess County close to where a bridge was removed at the Hancock County line. He recommended acceptance. The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

D. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Appoint Tonya Marksberry and Larry Tinius as Viewers to View a Portion of Fullenwider Road.**

County Engineer Mark Brasher: State law requires the County appoint viewers to represent the public. The County would take those individuals to the location where they can review the site and see if there are any detrimental effects to the public network. He recommended approval. The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

E. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Sports Facilities License Agreement with Daviess County Youth Soccer Association.**

Director of Parks & Public Information Jordan Rowe: Annual agreement with the Daviess County Youth Soccer Association for the use of soccer fields at Horse Fork Creek Park. He reported that registration has been closed and there are nearly 1,200 kids participating. Field aeration started that week and goals will be set up with evening practices starting the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>. County Attorney Burlew reviewed the agreement and he recommended approval.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

F. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **Solid Waste Disposal Agreement with Regional Water Resource Agency (RWRA).**

Director of Legislative Services David Smith: Agreement was for a new rate schedule with RWRA for the Solid Waste Department. RWRA agreed for the rate change to be increased from \$16 a ton to \$20 a ton. This increase would happen by adding \$1 a ton for the next 4 years, which would bring them to \$20 a ton.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

G. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **Award Bid No. 2324-46: One (1) New Boom Mower (Road).**

Staff Accountant Kandace Sturgeon: Recommended award to the only bid submitted by Wright Implement in the amount of \$82,792.12. There were no exceptions to the specifications.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

H. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **Award Bid No. 2324-47: One (1) New Utility Cab Tractor (Road).**

Staff Accountant Sturgeon: Recommended award to the lowest and best evaluated bid submitted by Hutson, Inc. in the amount of \$103,634.37. There were no exceptions to the specifications.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

I. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Award Bid No. 2324-50: Shooting Clay Targets (Parks).**

Staff Accountant Sturgeon: Recommended award to the lowest and best evaluated bid submitted by S & S Sports, Inc. in the amount of \$21,898.10. There were no exceptions to the specifications. The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

J. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **Award RFQ No. 2324-53: Entry Fence Replacement Project (Landfill)**.

Staff Accountant Sturgeon: Recommended award to the lowest and best evaluated quote submitted by Diggers, Inc. for the replacement of the entry fence at the West Daviess County Landfill in the amount of \$14,500.00. There were no exceptions to the specifications.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

K. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Award RFQ No. 2324-55: Tree Mulching Services (Gun Club)**.

Staff Accountant Sturgeon: Recommended award to the lowest and best evaluated quote submitted by P.D. Woodland Services in the amount of \$9,050.00. There were no exceptions to the specifications.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

L. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **KYEM Areas 1 and 2 Fire/Rescue Services and Related Special Operations Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement**.

County Treasurer Jordan Johnson: The agreement described the processes for disaster/emergency assistance across KYEM Areas 1 and 2 which include 24 western Kentucky counties. The previous agreement only included the KYEM Area 2 counties. Area 1 was added in light of the December 10, 2021 tornadoes where assets were deployed outside of single areas. Joining the two areas is meant to ensure a more efficient process for asset deployment and reimbursements through FEMA. EMA, legal, and the Treasurer reviewed it, and no issues were found. He recommended approval.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

M. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **Promote Kiefer Church to Solid Waste Laborer II effective 3/4/2024**.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

N. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **Promote Jake Westerman to Solid Waste Laborer II effective 3/4/2024**.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

O. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Promote Jacob Vanover to Lieutenant with the Fire Department effective 3/4/2024**.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

P. By a motion of Commissioner Castlen, seconded by Commissioner Conder, the court considered for approval; **Hire Keely Shocklee as Temporary Veterinary Technician effective 3/4/2024**.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed**.

Q. By a motion of Commissioner Conder, seconded by Commissioner Castlen, the court considered for approval; **Hire the following as Seasonal Park Attendants effective upon successful completion of pre-employment screenings: Eric Bickett, Lori Cecil, Angela Hall, Heather Ambs, Cordel Moorman, Alfred McPherson, Braxton Clark, and Roy Miller**.

The vote was called and with all present members voting in favor, **said motion passed.**

### **3. Consideration for Discussion:**

#### **A. First Reading of KOC A.104.01 (2024) 02-2024 – Budget Amendment No. 1.**

County Treasurer Johnson: It was required to amend the budget to reflect the receipt and expenditure of funds received through a state or federal grant if it was not part of the original budget document. The amendment reflected three grants that have been approved through Court and could result in grant revenues and expenses within this fiscal year. It included the Masonville Volunteer Fire Department Backup Generator Project from Hazard Mitigation Grant funding in the amount of \$35,000, the Daviess County Fire Hydrants Project from Cleaner Water Grant funding in the amount of \$1.18M, and the Detention Center Video Arraignment Project from House Bill 1 funding in the amount of \$45,000. Amendments to the budget are ordinances, meaning there will be a second reading and adoption in accordance with publishing requirements.

#### **B. No other business was brought before the Daviess County Fiscal Court.**

#### **C. Public Comments**


Coalition for Inclusive Daviess County Member Debbie McCoy: Informed the Court that their group will continue to speak on the topic of the library. She acknowledged that the law was changed to give the Judge/Executive the sole power in appointing someone to the Library Board. She believed there was a lack of transparency from the elected officials as to why both of the first round candidates were rejected. She believed that issues started with the protest against the adults only drag shows at the Ghost Light Lounge and continued with the library book audit. There is a group rejecting LGBTQ+ rights and their acceptance within Owensboro, Daviess County. She believed that was a step backward. The Daviess County Public Library is a public service used by many walks of life, not just social or political conservatives, but for all members of the community. She reported that there was an ongoing narrative that the library has done nothing to compromise with the Daviess County Citizens for Decency (DCC4D) when the library spent thousands of dollars implementing a book audit on 248 books that the DCC4D wished to be removed from the children's and young adult sections of the library. She stated that the Coalition for an Inclusive Daviess County was formed to advocate for those who don't have a voice or who may be afraid to speak out during these hostile times.

#### **D. Comments by Daviess County Fiscal Court**

Commissioner Conder: Informed the public that it is that time of the year for budgets. Daviess County Fiscal Court is about appropriating funds for the County. He thanked the staff and those who are in charge of all of the departments for their dedication. A special thanks went to the County Treasurer who spends a significant amount of his time working for the County.

### **4. Adjournment**

Without objection, Judge/Executive Castlen adjourned the meeting.  
SO ORDERED THAT COURT STAND ADJOURNED.

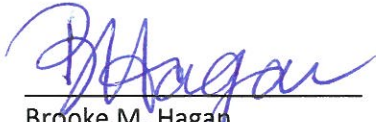
  
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Judge-Executive Charlie Castlen

  
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Commissioner Janie Marksberry

  
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Commissioner Christopher Castlen

  
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Commissioner Larry Conder

I, duly appointed Daviess County Fiscal Court Clerk Brooke M. Hagan, hereby certify that the above corresponding Order Book minutes were approved by the court on March 21, 2024.

  
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Brooke M. Hagan  
Daviess County Fiscal Court Clerk