

AT A RECESS MEETING OF THE LEWIS COUNTY FISCAL COURT, HELD AT THE COURTHOUSE IN VANCEBURG, KENTUCKY WITH THE HONORABLE THOMAS MASSIE PRESIDING AND WITH THE FOLLOWING MAGISTRATES IN ATTENDANCE: ESQ. MILT STANFIELD, ESQ. PAUL B. SWEARINGEN AND ESQ. JOE BENTLEY.

Johnny W. Bivens, Lewis County Sheriff, called the meeting to order.

Joe Bentley offered a prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Judge Thomas Massie.

The roll was called and all were present.

RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Lewis County Fiscal Court met to discuss a projected budget shortfall. Judge Massie informed the Fiscal Court that during the prior administration, the Fiscal Court transferred \$50,000.00 from the Road Fund to the General Fund in lieu of borrowing money from a financial institution. He informed the Magistrates that in order to comply with KRS 179.415, the funds must be returned to the Road Fund by June 30, 2011. He further stated that revenue from the E911 telephone tax cannot be used for expenditures from the General Fund. Judge Massie stated that based on projections from the Treasurer, there will a \$50,000 to \$100,000 deficit in the General Fund for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year.

The Treasurer informed the Fiscal Court that approximately \$13,000 of Litter Abatement funds from the State of Kentucky for calendar year 2010 must be returned due to insufficient work being completed to qualify for the money.

Magistrate Bentley stated that he would work with the previous county road foreman Dane Howard to see if the county can credit any administrative fees to the general fund for emergency projects that were funded by the National Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS) for 2010 flooding. Funds would be reallocated from the Road Fund to the General Fund.

The fiscal court discussed layoffs, permanent reductions in staff, furloughs, and reduction of hours for employees paid from the general fund. Magistrate Swearingen suggested that seniority should be considered if reductions in staff were to be implemented.

Magistrate Bentley asked Jailer Chris McCane if he could reduce staff at the Detention Center. Jailer McCann stated that he had already reduced full time and part time staff from 24 deputies to 19 deputies. The Jailer stated that furloughs at the jail would be counterproductive, as he would have to hire additional staff to maintain sufficient coverage at the 24 hour facility.

Magistrate Stanfield asked about acreage for sale in the Tollesboro Industrial Park. Judge Massie stated that he thought that proceeds from any acreage sold would go into the General Fund. Magistrate Stanfield suggested convening a meeting with the Tollesboro Industrial Advisory Committee in order to arrive at a price for an individual interested in approximately two acres. Judge Massie requested that Magistrate Stanfield help convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee and speak with the individual interested in the property.

Magistrate Bentley asked about selling a surplus garbage (packer) truck at the Solid Waste Department. Solid Waste Coordinator John Teager suggested that both trucks were needed in order to run the county route reliably. No action was taken.

Judge Massie stated that he had already transferred use of the County Judge/Executive's Jeep to the Road Supervisor, and that roughly \$4,000.00 should be credited to the General Fund from the Road Fund.

Magistrate Bentley asked about starting the recycling program using equipment borrowed from the city. No action was taken.

County Attorney, Tom Bertram suggested one furlough day each week (for employees paid from the general fund). The Fiscal Court discussed this suggestion at length, with input from the Treasurer, Finance Officer, Jailer, and Solid Waste employee Mike Dunigan. No Action was taken.

Magistrate Bentley asked about providing county trash service within the Road Department. Judge Massie stated that any labor or equipment directed toward trash pickup or recycling would still have to be funded from the general fund. No action was taken.

On a motion made by Joe Bentley duly seconded by Milt Stanfield with Paul Swearingen voting yes and Judge Massie abstaining, the Fiscal Court voted to increase the **county trash rate** from \$12.00 to \$13.00 a month, beginning April 1, 2011. The court will honor the rate of \$12.00 a month for any customers who have already prepaid their bills for future months.

Judge Massie stated that he abstained from the vote to increase the price of the county-provided trash service because he felt that trash pickup should be handled by private enterprise instead.

On a motion made by Joe Bentley duly seconded by Paul Swearingen with Milt Stanfield and Judge Massie voting yes to **recess** the meeting until March 3, 2011 on the 3rd floor of the Lewis County Courthouse.

Thomas Massie Lewis County Judge Executive