

MINUTES
BOONE COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Boone County Administration Building
Fiscal Courtroom (1st Floor)
Burlington, Kentucky
August, August 26, 2008
5:30 P.M.

ITEM I.

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Gary W. Moore called to order the meeting of the Boone County Fiscal Court.

Present: Gary W. Moore, County Judge/Executive
Cathy Flaig, Commissioner, District 1
Charles E. Kenner, Commissioner, District 2
Terri Moore, Commissioner, District 3
Robert Neace, County Attorney

Staff: Lisa Buerkley, County Treasurer
Sgt. Mike Hall, County Sheriff
Jeffrey S. Earlywine, County Administrator/Deputy Judge/Executive
Blair G. Schroeder, Fiscal Court Clerk
Tim Williams, Assistant County Administrator
Robin D. Curry, Assistant County Administrator
Jeff Smith, Assistant County Attorney
Greg Sketch, County Engineer

ITEM II.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kenner moved, seconded by Commissioner Flaig, to approve the Minutes from the meeting of August 11, 2008. Judge Moore called for a vote on the motion, MOTION PASSES (4-0).

ITEM III.

Public Hearing

Public Hearing and first reading regarding the proposed ordinance setting the tax rates for 2008

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments regarding the Proposed 2008 Tax Rates. County Administrator Jeff Earlywine gave a brief presentation regarding the proposal.

Fiscal Court Clerk Blair Schroeder read the ordinance into the record and Judge Moore opened the floor for any public comments.

Isabel Klopsch, a Boone County Resident, noted to the Court that she is originally from New Jersey and that her son convinced her to move to Boone County because of the County's low tax rate. Isabel, a senior, further noted that she is on a fixed income and is concerned about the increased cost of living and how a higher tax rate would impact her finances.

Bernie Kunkle, Walton resident, asked the County to refrain from raising property taxes. Mr Kunkle encouraged that Court to live within its means and reduce the scope of the County's operations if necessary.

Jim Newman, Florence resident, reminded the Court that two weeks ago he stood before them supporting a proposed parks initiative based upon the potential for the new initiative being offset by other rates that would be lowered. Mr. Newman remarked that he now stood before the Court disappointed and upset because of the proposed 4% increase and he encourages the Court to be more creative in solving the County's financial woes and not settle on simply raising taxes.

Mike Moreland, a Boone County resident, stated his concern to the Court over the time limitations that the Court was placing before the residents. Mr. Moreland was referencing the Court's practice of allowing twenty minutes of discussion for each side of any given issue. Mr. Moreland remarked that he believed

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that there should be no time constraints placed on upon the residents when addressing the Court. Mr. Moreland also took this time to note that he echoed many of the previous comments regarding the proposed tax rate and that he was not in favor of any type of increase.

Judge Moore noted that this Fiscal Court has always valued and welcomed public comment. Moore noted that there are several Courts throughout the Commonwealth that require residents to notify the Court in advance of a meeting if they wish to speak. Judge Moore stated that he felt strongly that individuals have a right to be heard and that every meeting provides time for residents to address the Court.

Brett Gaspard, a Boone County resident, noted that he is concerned about the proposed tax rate increase of 4%. Mr. Gaspard cited the state audits that were available on-line and noted in increase in revenue greater than 4% over the past several years. He further noted that the County's growth rate this last year was less than 4%. Mr. Gaspard encouraged that County to practice more fiscal discipline rather than simply passing the burden on to residents.

Residents Bill Butler, Larry Kunkle, and James Lawson each echoed comments made by previous residents encouraging the Court to reduce spending and keep tax burden on residents low. Each one of these residents stated that they were opposed to any type of increase.

Joe Speier, Hebron resident, noted to the Court that he was not opposed to a tax increase, but rather he was concerned about safety. Mr. Speier referenced that the Sheriff's Department is now parking vehicles for 2 hours a day and is concerned that this policy might negatively impact services. Mr. Speier also noted that he believed that County should reconsider their take home vehicle policy. Mr. Speier further stressed to the Court that they need to practice more financial responsibility.

Kathy Biehl, a Boone County resident, wanted to remind the Court that they were all elected as republicans and should not subscribe to a tax and spend mentality.

Elden Huesen, County resident, noted to the Court that he moved to Boone County from Florida and he will support a tax increase provided that the County has done due diligence and offered up a fair accounting of the budget. He further stated that he understands costs are going up for the local governments just as they are for residents.

At this time Judge Moore opened up the floor to the Commissioners and staff for comment.

Commissioner Moore asked County Administrator Jeff Earlywine if the County maintained last year's rate of 9.9 cents as oppose to taking the proposed 10.6 rate, how much it would impact the budget.

Mr. Earlywine noted that such an action would result in a shortfall of approximately \$700,000. He further stated that the County would have to find additional revenue, reduce services, or use some of the money from the reserves. However, Mr. Earlywine strongly cautioned against using the reserves stating that this would result in affecting the County's bond rating, interest revenue further noting the County is already below their recommended standard.

Judge Moore took this time to clarify some comments from the previous Court meeting that took place on August 11th. Judge Moore wanted to note that the County did take the 4% increase last year. However, this increase did not result in a rate change from the previous year. Judge Moore further Moore stressed that keeping the tax burden low for the County's residents has been a priority for his administration and that he has demonstrated that during his tenure noting that in eight of the last ten years Boone County has taken less than the compensating rate.

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Commissioner Kenner moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore to approve Resolution 08-125, a Resolution of the Boone County Fiscal Court authorizing Gary W. Moore, County Judge Executive, appointing Brian Laws to finish the uncompleted term of James Tucker on the Point Pleasant Fire Protection District Board. Judge Moore called for a vote on the motion, ALL PRESENT VOTING AYE (4-0). (Exhibit VI A)

ITEM VII.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

There were no administrative matters before the Court at tonight's meeting.

ITEM VIII.

OLD BUSINESS

At this time Commissioner Moore noted that Assistant County Administrator Robin Curry had followed up with the members of the Court regarding whether the Salt Bid approved at the last Court (August 11th) included delivery within the bid specifications. Commissioner Moore noted to those present that the bid in question did include delivery of the salt and she thanked Mr. Curry for following up with the members of the Court.

ITEM IX.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Wall and Kevin Costello, from the Boone County Planning Commission, gave a presentation regarding the County's presentation regarding the long range Planning/Comprehensive Plan-text and map amendments to County Zoning regulations.

County Administrator Jeff Earlywine noted that this will be presented to the Court in Ordinance form, but due to the wide scope of the regulations he wanted to give the Court ample time to review the material prior to setting a time-line for first and second readings.

ITEM X.

FISCAL MATTERS

Commissioner Kenner moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve an invoice report dated 8-26-08, and pre-paid invoice reports dated 8-15-08 and 8-22-08. Judge Moore called for a vote on the motion, ALL PRESENT VOTING AYE (4-0). (Exhibit X A)

ITEM XI.

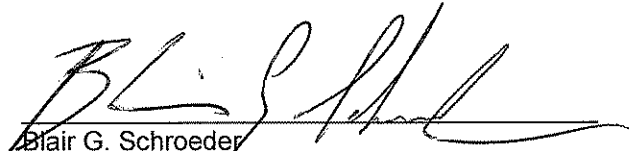
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Flaig, to adjourn the meeting, ALL PRESENT VOTING AYE (4-0).

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CLERK CERTIFICATION

I, Blair Schroeder, having been appointed to the office of Fiscal Court Clerk, do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate record of the actions taken by the Boone County Fiscal Court at the meeting of August 26, 2008.


Blair G. Schroeder
Fiscal Court Clerk

Date: 9-10-08