

Crittenden to set property taxes

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With 2025 tax rates, a grant application and budget amendment on the agenda, Mayor Jim Purcell called the Crittenden City Council to order on Aug. 12. All members were present.

First reading of Ordinance #345-2025 was conducted. This ordinance sets the 2025 tax rates, which will go out in October. This is “an ordinance providing for and making the real property, personal property, motor vehicle and watercraft tax levy for City purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, inclusive.”

Rates are set at \$0.174/\$100 of assessed real property and \$0.467/\$100 assessed personal property; both subject to ad valorem taxation by the City of Crittenden to be placed in the City’s General Fund. With this being a first reading, no action was necessary. The second reading will take place Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. at the City Building.

Council approved Resolution 01-2025 “G.R.A.N.T. Grant Authorization.” Enacted during the regular 2023 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, House Bill 9 was signed by the Governor that same year. The act relates “to economic relief and support for priority communities in the Commonwealth designated by the Interagency Working Group on Coal and

Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization established by Presidential Executive Order 14008” of 2021.

The Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (G.R.A.N.T.) program was established in the Department for Local Government to “enable priority communities to access federal funding for projects that are in the public interest and for a public purpose.”

These grants must be used “to support a local government’s non-federal match requirement with applying for a federal government grant program.”

Crittenden will provide \$20,000 for a \$500,000 grant that will be used for the Nature Park project. Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) has assisted the City with the application and will receive a 10% stipend once funds are appropriated. This is expected within the next couple of months.

Second reading of Ordinance #344-2025 “Amending Budget FY 24-25” was conducted. This ordinance basically is “cleanup” of the last fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2025.

The next Crittenden City Council meeting will be a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m.. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. at the City Building, 117 South Main Street, Crittenden. For more information, call (859) 428-2597.

New county deputy emergency management director sworn in



Deborah Lucas Angel

Summer McDaniel was unanimously approved as county deputy Emergency Management director at the Aug. 5 meeting of the Grant County Fiscal Court. Here she is sworn in by Grant County Judge/Executive Chuck Dills. McDaniel replaces Tyler Garnett, who took over the director's position after Melissa Morgan stepped down from the leadership role.

'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' runs Aug. 13 – Sept. 1

As Labor Day approaches, Kentuckians are reminded to celebrate the end of summer safely by planning for a sober, designated driver if festivities include alcohol.

“Our top priority is keeping Kentuckians safe,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “If you are under the influence and

choose to get behind the wheel, you put everyone on the road in danger, including yourself. Let’s work together to eliminate preventable crashes by committing to celebrate responsibly.”

Although impaired driving enforcement is a year-round effort, crashes tend to

increase over holiday weekends. That’s why the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) is joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and law enforcement agencies across the country in the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”

campaign, which runs from Aug. 13 through Sept. 1, 2025.

“It is never acceptable to drive impaired,” said Kentucky Transport Cabinet (KYTC) Secretary Jim Gray. “Alcohol, drugs and even prescription medications can impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely. You may

feel ‘OK,’ but impairment slows your judgment, coordination and reaction time.”

According to the KOHS, last year in Kentucky, there were 4,260 total crashes involving an impaired driver, resulting in 2,062 injuries and 185 deaths. Last

year, 45 alcohol related crashes involving only a motorcycle were reported, resulting in 41 injuries and 6 deaths.

During the 2024 Labor Day holiday weekend, there were 76 crashes involving an impaired driver, resulting in 44 injuries and one death.

PLANT

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no infrastructure needed to be put in place, purchasing all our water may, and most likely would be, a cheaper alternative.

"However, the district would need to construct significant infrastructure to be able to purchase 100% of our water-infrastructure that is almost the same cost as constructing a new water plant. When you add in that infrastructure cost and the fact that, like most things, it is cheaper to produce water per gallon than to purchase, the new water plant is a more financially responsible path.”

Additionally, Thomas Nienaber, BPWD attorney, explained the new plant would, initially, cost more, however over the long term it would better serve the rural community to provide quality drinking water.

Williams argued the new plant could cause reduced water levels during peak fishing tournament months, loss of some fish and bird habitats as well as docks “left without compensation.”

Indeed, the Fish and Wildlife service will be building a longer boat ramp, ostensibly to compensate for any lower levels in the lake.

Citizens, including Bill Wetherington, Carla Hardy, Bobby Young, Rich Storm and Joe Dusing, spoke to the group both for and against the plant. Several said their docks would be come “mud pits.”

Conversely, Harp noted should there be a “drought year the lake, [would] be at reduced levels with or without a new treatment plant and during wet rainy season, the lake level will remain at a healthy level.”

Matt Baker, Professional Engineer and Project Manager with Kentucky Engineering Group, PLLC discussed the need for the new plant due to updated requirements for increasing amounts of chemicals in the waters including “PFAs” (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), the so-called “forever chemicals.”

Baker’s company’s focus is described on their website as “assisting the rural municipality or utility district with capital improvement projects, expansions and improvements to existing systems and compliance with

regulatory agencies.”

Baker noted to keep up with requirements the area would need a new plant to replace the aging one.

At this time, BPWD plans to move ahead with the project. Currently, they are “waiting on an independent financial analysis to be conducted by Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA).”

The KRWA is described as an organization “established in 1979 as a private, non-profit organization by a core group of utility leaders who shared the vision of building a self-governed, member-driven association.”

Addressing the concerns, Harp noted “A healthy lake level is as important to the

district as it is anyone else. With reduced water in the lake, the district wouldn’t be able to withdraw from it.” Harp said a new dam was constructed, and the “lake maintains it’s level better” in that it “isn’t losing water due to a leak in the dam,” as with the older dam.

BPWD maintains that they will monitor lake levels daily once the new plant is constructed.

Both representatives at the meeting and Harp said that “if the lake level starts to trend downward, withdrawal amounts would be reduced to help avoid significant lake level deficiencies.”

Harp said, “The water district has been a mainstay

in the community since the early 1960’s with the sole purpose to provide safe, potable drinking water to its consumers and will to continue to do so.”

The BPWD Board is comprised of five board members, many whom have

lived in the communities they serve most, if not all their lives.

The nearly 700-page plan and application for the treatment plant can be viewed at the Grant County Sanitary Sewer District offices at 1 Farrell Drive, Crittenden, during regular working hours

of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The District has regular monthly meetings the third Thursday of each month at their offices at 1 p.m. Questions can be directed to (859) 428-2112.



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