

Fiscal court business includes roads and surplus auction

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Sept. 15 meeting of the Grant County Fiscal Court agenda included surplussing items and recommending roads for repaving.

SURPLUS PROPERTIES
Items from the Road Department, Animal Shelter, Building Inspector's Office, Sheriff's Office and Detention Center were approved as surplus and will be sold at a county auction on Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. at the County Road Department Barn, 505 Hopperton Lane, Dry Ridge.
Judge/Executive Chuck Dills noted that computer items would be "destroyed and the rest ... sold at public auction."
For a list of the surplus items, contact the office of the judge/executive.

CLOSED SESSION
Council unanimously approved to move into closed session.
Moving back into the meeting, Dills said the closed session concerned a

"piece of property that is located on Keefer-Lawrenceville Road where we'll be building a bridge." He said "the property owner has offered to let us move our easement right of way (ROW) area over to the right of the [current bridge] location to make it a better location for the bridge."
He is asking the Court to approve him "to reach out to the surveyors and appraisers" per statute KRS 67.0802 where they will trade existing ROW for new ROW "right beside it."
The request was approved unanimously.
• Two special meetings held via Zoom
- The Sept. 22 meeting included approving "recommendations of the bid committee for the Grant County Road Department, (11) roads for bid" and "Resolution 2025-08, FY25 Flex Funds."
A Bid Committee meeting held earlier in the day yielded a list of 11 roads to be submitted to the state for consideration of repaving. They are being submitted for rating by the state

Transportation Department's Department of Highways. The list of recommended roads was developed by County Road Foreman Joe Gordon, Magistrates Shawna Coldiron and Jacquelyn Riley.
It was noted the roads must receive a point scale of 10 by DOT/DOH in order to be included. Bids were taken only to have a point of reference as to how much it will cost for repaving. Another bid would be let in the event a road is chosen to be paved using the state funds.
Resolution 2025-08 was to approve for Dills to sign for the funds for two roads to be repaved in the county, Sherman Newtown and a portion of Napoleon Zion Station. However, because a portion of Napoleon Zion Station is included in the FY 26 request, the DOT/DOH had requested a clarification the same portion of road was not being requested to be paved in both years.
The resolution was approved unanimously.
• A second special meeting on Sept.

26 concerned Resolution 2025-08, FY25 Flex Funds (Revised)" and "Resolution 2025-09, FY 26 Flex Funds." Updates from previous meetings were obtained and included; the resolutions were unanimously approved.
GCSAD ACTIONS
The Court reappointed David Curtis and appointed Brooke Cummins. While Curtis will have served one year on the GCSAD, Dills said this will serve to "stagger the appointments in two year" increments. Both positions are effective Oct. 1, 2025 through Sept. 30, 2027.
Both actions were approved unanimously.
MAGISTRATE UPDATE
- District 2 Magistrate Shawna Coldiron noted "advertisements in the paper right now for roads that we want to try to be resurfaced in the 2026 season." She said this is not a guarantee they will be resurfaced, as they have to go through a "formula." This will give citizens an idea of what roads are being considered.

MEETING DATE CHANGE
- Dills requested the Tuesday, Oct. 7 in person meeting be changed to the preceding Friday, Oct. 3, due to County Treasurer Peggy Updike being on vacation the week of Oct. 7.
The request was approved unanimously.
- Interfund transfers were made from the General Fund to the Jail Fund in the amounts of \$40,000 and \$140,000. According to Grant County Treasurer Peggy Updike, both transactions cover the lag between Department of Corrections payment for inmates and the payout of jail employee payroll.
She said "\$40,000 [is] to cover the payroll on Sept. 19 and the other transfer for \$140,000 is to cover payroll on Oct. 3. Neither one is due to non-payment from DOC. The Jail Fund is just short on revenue received to cover payroll."
The next meeting of the Grant County Fiscal Court is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3 at 11 a.m. at the Courthouse, 101 North Main Street Williamstown. For more information on the meeting, call (859) 823-7561.

Planning Commission approves plans for new sports grill in Dry Ridge

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Meeting Sept. 22, the Grant County Planning Commission had a site plan for Longneck Sports Grill in Dry Ridge and a text amendment for a "boutique hotel" in Williamstown on their agenda.

SITE PLAN: LONGNECKS
Site plans are detailed blueprints that highlight the key features of a proposed site for planning purposes. These must be detailed enough to be included in the planning permit from planning and zoning.

At this meeting, Longnecks Sports Grill, which has locations in Wilder, Hebron and Richwood, was applying to site a new location in Dry Ridge. They are planning to build behind Walmart in a free standing structure that will share a part of their parking with the Holiday Inn Express.
Jeff Flaherty, civil engineer presented the plans to the commissioners and owner Gary Anthonissen was available to answer questions. According to Anthonissen, the building will be approximately 5,000 square feet with occupancy

of 150 to 200.
Board engineers, Erpenbeck Consulting of Elsmere, approved the plans with the following specifications:
• Approval is valid for two years from the Grant County Planning Commission's approval date. Should construction not be begun within that time frame, the plan and approval will be deemed void.
• All signage will comply with Article 14 of Dry Ridge Zoning requirements.
• The shared parking agreement with the hotel must be adhered to, with 109 spaces at the business and 32 shared with hotel.

WILLIAMSTOWN TEXT AMENDMENT
Jayson Payne, City of Williamstown's new city zoning administrator and code enforcement officer presented a request to modify the current city zoning to include "boutique hotel" to the definitions in their requirements along with adding specifications for the modification.
The text amendment will include the term "boutique hotel" in the definitions and will be included as a "conditional use" type.

Commissioner Dan Spahr recused himself from this portion of the meeting.
The addition will allow for a hotel to have rooms to let on the ground floor and will have "sleeping accommodations for [no more than] 50 rooms."
Payne noted this particular request concerns the "Williamstown Hotel," which County Zoning Administrator Becky Ruholl clarified was the "old Hotel Donald."
It should be noted, text amendment changes will also be approved for other entities that would cite like facilities within the city limits that adhere to the location and specifications provided by this change.
Commission unanimously approved both the addition of the wording "boutique hotel" to "C-8" of the Williamstown zoning and the addition of the designation description.
The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 27, or at the call of the chair. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse, 101 North Main Street Williamstown. For more information on this meeting, call Becky Ruholl at (859) 250-3753.

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

10 YEARS AGO ... OCT. 1, 2015
- A federal highway project drew complaints of signage overkill from Paul Simpson, who lives on KY 1995. In a one-mile stretch of his road are 49 road signs, many just a few feet apart. Rep. Brian Linder said each state has to comply with federal transportation regulations by 2019 or lose federal dollars.
- Students in Grant County and Williamstown Independent Schools participated in the annual See You at the Pole prayer rally Sept. 23.

25 YEARS AGO ... OCT. 5, 2000
- Births announced this week: Janna Elizabeth Saylor was born to Leo and Pam Saylor on Sept. 2; Kay Lynn Marie Smallwood was born to Erick and Debbie Smallwood on Sept. 8.
- Williamstown will be the home of a new veterans' cemetery. The Tourism Commission and the Industrial Authority voted to donate up to 100 acres for the state project. The cost of development will be funded completely by a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- During a visit to Northern Kentucky, Gov. Paul Patton visited Williamstown Independent Schools' new school-based health center. The governor shook hands with all 38 Williamstown seniors.
- The 2000 Grant County football homecoming court includes: Tess Melton, princess; Joel Livingood,

prince; Lauren Sheffler, queen; and Corey Barnes, king.
50 YEARS AGO ... OCT. 2, 1975
- Births announced this week: Adam Wayne Gaines was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Gaines on Sept. 25; Tina Louise Herzog was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Herzog on Aug. 8; and Randy Lee Gray was born to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lee Gray on Sept. 12.
- Miss Edythe G. Harrell, longtime owner of the Grant County News, announced the sale of the paper to the Matthews brothers of Shelbyville.
- Blacktopping the entrance road and parking areas of

Webb Park has been completed.
- Lanny Sargent, of Dry Ridge, is playing trumpet in the UK Wildcat Marching Band this fall.
- Grant County basketball seniors this year are Tom Day, Rick Simpson, Jeff Caldwell, Mark Hammons and Larry Whitton.
125 YEARS AGO ... 1900
- The annual reunion of the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry was held in the woods of John H. Webb near Williamstown.
- Typhoid fever was raging again in Grant County; there is at the present time not less than 100 cases in the county.

GCKASD Board to advertise for part-time ambulance district manager

BY DEBORAH LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With Chair Anthony Morgan running late, the special session meeting on Sept. 18 of the Grant County Kentucky Ambulance Service District Board (Board) was called to order by Vice Chair David Curtis. Morgan joined shortly thereafter and took over helming the meeting. Items on the agenda included discussion of a part-time district manager and insurance for the district.
Committee members Treasurer Rodney Smith and Trustee Chad Bedard had been working on a job description for the part-time manager position. The description includes position summary, eight key responsibilities, including personnel, budgetary, leadership and training, program development and compliance. As well, it includes education and certification requirements, "typical physical demands," and "typical mental demands."
It was noted the description was patterned after other such

positions across the Northern Kentucky area. It was decided the position would, instead of the original 30 hour per week schedule, be "16 to 20" hours per week. Pay is to be \$35 per hour.
Deadline for applications will be Oct. 31, 2025.
Board decided to use Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, Inc. or "VFIS," as their insurer. The York, Pennsylvania based company has been insuring fire departments since 1969 and is used extensively by fire departments and emergency medical services both locally and nationwide. The cost will be \$3,788.45 annually.
The current treasury balance is \$150,583.32.
Smith noted as he was not asked to return, he will be leaving the Board as of Oct. 1. Apparently, Judge/Executive Chuck Dills is looking to balance out the Board with "business and emergency" personnel. As the Board currently has four members in the emergency field and only one business representative, Dills will be asking

the Fiscal Court to replace Smith with Brooke Cummins as a business member to that end.
At the August 13 meeting the City of Dry Ridge brought the Board up-to-date with the "first month into service" report as per the Inter-Local Agreement
Member terms clarified were clarified:
- One Year – Smith and Curtis

- Two years – Morgan, Bedard and Ashley Brinker
The tax rate was discussed and agreed to be "\$0.10 per one hundred dollars of full-assessed valuation for calendar year 2025."
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m. at the Courthouse unless a special meeting is called by the chair. For meeting information, contact Chair Tony Morgan at (859) 992-7081.



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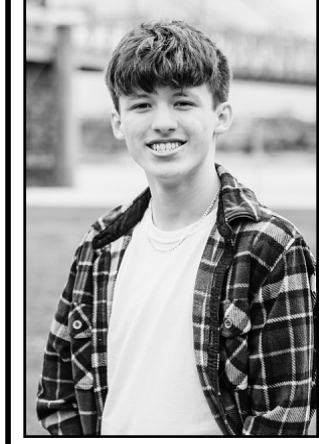
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Erikson Payne is the October 4-H Focus student. His parents are Erika and Jayson Payne. He has been involved in 4-H for 5 years. His involvement includes advanced cooking and the country ham project. He got involved in 4-H when he moved to Kentucky. 4-H was a good way to meet new friends and get involved in the community.

His favorite thing about 4-H is how it helped him get a job because of the advanced cooking. He is now a cook at Beans Cafe in Dry Ridge.

4-H taught Erikson leadership and the value of quality ingredients.

He believes 4-H will benefit him in the future by having multiple opportunities and how it helped him figure out what he is doing for his future.

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