

**PROPOSED**

*Continued from 1A*

magistrate James F. Howard said that KAW claimed that BMUD cost around a dollar more than average so no increase was anticipated with the acquisition. District 3 magistrate Paul Browning said that during his conversation KAW did confirm that their pricing is consistent across the board and they often factor income into the price of service.

Mosley shared his disappointment at the change in tone.

"Kentucky-American initially said BMUD rates were higher than everywhere else and they didn't see there would be a need for a rate increase, but certainly that determination seems to be different now than what the initial conversations were," Mosley said during the meeting.

The proposed increases were unknown to officials before the legal notice was posted as a classified ad last week. Bowling and state Sen. Scott Madon met with KAW this week to voice their disappointment about the increase.

American Water is a national company spread across 14 states with a Kentucky subsidiary based in Lexington. The company has recently purchased water companies located in Bell and Hickman counties and proposed rate increases for Harlan, Bell, Hickman, Rockcastle, and Livingston counties.

In addition to the BMUD update, the fiscal court approved several items on the agenda including an agreement between Harlan County Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Department of Corrections and Multi Kentucky County & Regional Jails for program facilitator services for Jail Substance Abuse Program (SAP); an Affiliation Agreement between Harlan County

Fiscal Court and Harlan County Rescue Squad for Search and Rescue (SAR) services; Contract modification No. 1 for 2023 Emergency Management Agency (EMA) program funds; an agreement between the Administrative Office of the Courts and Harlan County Fiscal Court for reimbursement for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027); a lease agreement with GreatAmerica for a copier in the Judge Executive office; a land usage agreement with Dave Watts; a land usage agreement with Lavanda Pennington; approval to pay County Clerk for printing of 2026 motor vehicle and boat bills; standing orders for County Judge Executive and County Treasurer to pay recurring expenses (payroll, utilities, and regular bills); Local Government Economic Development (LGED) Coal Severance Projects for fiscal year 2026/2027; a resolution for LGED Coal Severance Projects for fiscal year 2026/2027 requested under House Bill 500, amount \$5,174,625; and a contract between Harlan County Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management and each one hundred nineteen local jurisdictions of the Commonwealth to establish an agreement for fiscal year 2025 EMA Program Funds.

A resolution was passed adopting and approving the execution of a County Road Aid Coop Program Contract between the Harlan County Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. An agreement between the Harlan County Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, for fiscal year 2027 County Road Aid (CRA) funding in the amount of \$1,317,271.86.

Sections of the Harlan bypass will be updated beginning July 2026.

The county also obtained permission to advertise for unclassified fill, culvert and repaving for three sites related to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Recovery (DR) 4860 located at Perkins Branch, Belcher Lane and Pine Branch, and for geotechnical boring for three slides related to FEMA DR 4860 located at Victory Road, Sellers Lane and Williams Lane. Permission was granted to advertise for road salt (reverse bidding) to prepare for this winter.

A resolution was adopted for Certification of Authority related to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cumberland Hope Community (Recovery Kentucky) Project, Grant No. 25-023. Harlan County Fiscal Court was authorized to enter into an agreement with Cumberland River Behavioral Health, Inc. for the CDBG Cumberland Hope Community project, to establish a procurement policy for the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Program, and to adopt the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant (KCDBG) Procurement Code related to the Cumberland Hope Community Project.

There is a need for cleanup of two county properties: a declared public nuisance at 15300-15924 U.S. 421, Cranks, in violation of the adopted nuisance ordinance. Demolition of the structure was authorized and a site cleanup pursuant to District Court Order for property located at 2870 KY 72, Harlan. Liens were attached to both properties for all associated costs.

The county budget was discussed and the county came in within budget once again. There will be no increase in county property taxes for the 11th consecutive year. Health insurance for county employees was discussed and renewed. The

**GOSS**

*Continued from 1A*

and Browning were followed by Alford and his 1,175 votes. Robert Crider finished fourth with 371 votes.

Goss faces Democrat Russell Huff and Independent Christopher Couch in November.

"I just put out a positive message, getting out and talking to the voters, and (I'm) thankful that they had the trust in me to elect me to be the nominee for the Republican side in this election in November," said Goss in a radio interview after the results were finalized.

In the jailer's race, incumbent B.J. Burkhart overpowered Glen Merle Hensley Jr., 3,328 votes to 1,155.

"I do this because I love Harlan County," said Burkhart, "just working at the jail, doing what I always do, you know, but working for Harlan County. I thank everybody that came out and voted, especially, you know, the ones that came out and voted for me."

The District 1 Magistrate's race was also close for nearly half the evening.

Incumbent Paul Caldwell defeated Austin Miller 403-314. Reggie Raleigh placed third with 285 votes. Matt Napier took the fourth spot with 153 votes, followed by Jason Colinger with 49 votes and Ralph Allen Turner with 34.

Toni Noe-Hall won the constable race in District 1. Hall received 374 votes, followed by Johnny Dale Joseph II with 344 votes, David "Bug" Hensley finished third with 323 votes. Juan Rivera captured 44 total votes.

Eight men were running for District 2 magistrate after current magistrate Bill Moore decided not to run.

A total of 933 votes were recorded with Derek R. Sage winning the Republican primary.

Sage collected 239 votes, followed by Milt Saylor (201), Melton Middleton (148), Burl Fee Jr. (147), Willard Wilkinson (103), Carl E. Canterbury (66), John H. Buell (26) and Mark Stewart (3).

The race for magistrate of District 3 came down to Jon Fields and Jeff Wilder to replace Browning.

Fields claimed a victory with 553 votes compared to Wilder's 166.

C. Wayne Creech won the District 3 constable

race. He defeated Isaac D. Pennington 446-242.

James F. Howard captured the District 5 magistrate race. He received 531 votes with Jack L. Simpson Jr. receiving 406 votes. Brian Hale placed third with 101 votes and Wendell Lynn Jones had 23 votes.

District 5 constable was won by incumbent Robert Haywood. He overpowered Owen E. Petrey III 701-328.

Those running unopposed included in sheriff Chris Brewer, PVA Felicia Wooten Tammie, Harlan Circuit Court Clerk Wendy Flanary, Harlan Court Clerk Ashley Powell Sullivan, Harlan County Attorney Fred Busroe, Harlan County Coroner Derrick Noe and District 4 magistrate Jim Roddy.

"A huge shoutout to my staff and all of our poll workers. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and willingness to put in a 14-plus hour day serving the people of Harlan County," said Harlan County Clerk Ashley Powell Sullivan. "Your commitment, patience and teamwork do not go unnoticed, and I am truly so grateful for all that you do."

**CITY**

*Continued from 1A*

about \$400,000 in capital funds available, of which she suggested \$160,000 be used to reimburse the district's general for recent repairs and to pay for property insurance. The board approved after Parsons' recommendation to do so.

Parsons also told the board that substitute pay would increase from \$80 to \$100 per fay for substitute teachers without a teaching certificate and from \$100

to \$120 for substitutes with a teaching certificate.

In other action, the board approved hiring the architectural firm of Sherman Carter and Barnhart for the Phase IV of the district's athletics renovation plan, which focuses on improved baseball facilities.

The board approved the appointments of Virgil Eversole and Colby Goss as community leaders on the district's local facilities planning committee to replace Scott Parsons

and the late Darlene Lemarr.

Parsons also noted the district's attendance numbers had increased from 91.9 to 92.3 over the recently concluded school year and praised district official Cathy Thomas for her work with attendance.

The board also approved seeking bids for vending after Parsons was contacted by Pepsi officials. Coke currently serves the district, but Parsons noted that competitive pricing could help the district save money.

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