

GRANT

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\$1 million in federal funding through Congressman Andy Barr's community project funding program for the Hancock Creek Watershed Cemetery sewer project.

Martin presented a year-one overview of the city's grant efforts. "We submitted a total of 36 grant applications this year. Seventeen of those were awarded," she said. "Total dollars awarded (were) just over \$3.5 million, and we're still waiting to hear back on another \$5.2 million." She highlighted her contribution of roughly \$2 million, alongside funds secured by City Manager Mike Flynn for bridge projects and Jeannie Gwynne for police needs.

Martin detailed new operational tools: "We implemented this year a centralized grant



JOHN CHANEY

Winchester Grant Coordinator Alyshia Martin presents Year One results during the March 3, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting, highlighting 36 grant applications submitted, \$3.5 million awarded, and strategies for continued community investment.

tracking system...We also have a real-time project list...and we also have a structured grant calendar."

Martin emphasized proactive relationship-building

with funding agencies and regional partners.

For year two, she outlined priorities: leveraging past success, pursuing earmarked funding (including fire station

improvements), and layered investments. She cited the Martin Luther King Jr. Infrastructure Improvement Project, which obtained \$750,000 for the bridge and an approved \$527,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant. "Tonight, I'm going to be asking you for your approval to submit that third and final piece of this funding puzzle," Martin told the commission.

Commissioner lauded the results. Mayor Reed remarked, "It doesn't seem possible that you've been here in a year. And you brought in the dollars that you brought in. ... That's awesome." Commissioner Hannah Toole stated, "Moving from reactive to strategic is a key step ... You have very much shown that that position was worthwhile."

In other business, commissioners approved school zone

safety adjustments near a local school and reversed a prior denial of Beer Cheese Relief Fund assistance for one downtown business.

Two similar appeals were tabled for two weeks to allow additional financial documentation to be provided.

Commissioner Toole proposed pausing the Downtown Development Incentive Fund program: "I'd like the commission ... to consider perhaps in the near future ... a pause to the DDIF program ... to review the process, to possibly make any revisions."

Resolutions passed included support for Senate Bill 7 to restore local driver's license renewals—"People have had long wait times ... We're trying to get those back into the local," Reed explained—lease amendments for an industrial revenue bond project, and an appli-

cation for up to \$529,312 in economic development grant funds.

Additional approvals covered a non-sworn city safety officer ordinance for traffic collision response, surplus property, contracts, supplemental Fulton Road funding, and personnel changes, including a public works promotion.

City Manager Flynn provided updates on the nearing completion of the Main Street and Splash Park projects, upcoming budget discussions, the annual audit, and potential satellite splash pads with improved sidewalk access in underserved areas.

The meeting adjourned after routine orders, with commissioners noting upcoming community events and sustained momentum in securing external funding for Winchester's growth.

CLARK

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Thank you for your support and for the privilege of serving in this role.

Respectfully, Les Yates Clark County Judge/Executive"

At 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, the Clark County Fiscal Court held an emergency meeting.

"Based on the information I've received...the judge's office was empty

(and) there was a letter there (that) was laid on the desk (with) the judge stating that he was resigning from the position effective at 4 p.m. yesterday," said Magistrate Dan Konstantopoulos, who called the meeting to order. "My question is, 'Do we know that he has technically resigned? Has it been delivered to the proper authorities?'"

Clark County Clerk Michelle Turner confirmed that, per the governor's instructions, the letter of resignation

had been filed with the Clerk's office.

However, Clark County attorney William Elkins cautioned that he wanted to confirm evidence before moving forward with the next steps.

"It's to be recorded in the Executive Journal," he said. "Barring verification of that, I don't know where the issue of resignation stands. I think it's an open question until it's received by the governor and recorded in the Journal. All those things may have happened...I



Les Yates

(Secretary of State) Michael Adams' office...or I would have to believe that the governor's office would stand ready to verify that."

"I've got no problem with authorizing the county attorney to make those inquiries and get

back to us in the morning," responded Magistrate Robert Blanton.

A motion made by Blanton, seconded by Magistrate Steve Craycraft, was made to continue the emergency called meeting on Thursday, March 5, at 1:00 p.m.

Results were not available as of press time.

Konstantopoulos was asked if the intention of Thursday's meeting was to hire an interim Clark County Judge-Executive.

"(Yes), unless the

governor makes an appointment," he said.

Magistrate Blanton confirmed that Governor Andy Beshear has thirty days to make an appointment following the resignation.

Previously, when former Clark County Judge-Executive Chris Pace died while in office in October 2021, Konstantopoulos served as interim judge before the appointment of former Judge-Executive Henry Branham, who served until Yates won election in 2022.

GCF

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more.

To understand what actions might serve and perform well within the community, many of its actions have been grounded in research and building trust.

Johnson has seen and recognized the organization's growth in a number of thriving ways.

"We've made significant investments in what we call the built environment...just opportunities for civic engagement," he said. "A few years ago, we invested in another piece of property that the old hospital used to sit on, and really turned that into a world-class park."

The aforementioned project included a \$5 million investment from the Greater Clark Foundation.

"When I say invest, (it's) not just sort of financial investments," Johnson added. "You

subscribe to this theory of (how) there's different types of capital (from) social capital to moral capital, intellectual capital to reputational capital, and then, of course, financial capital."

With an eye for

curiosity, the organization also looks toward the future, considering what each community might look like five or ten years from now.

A portion of that comes from local consideration.

"I have been collecting some brief feedback....(asking) 'What do you think it should be if you can wave a magic wand?'" he said. "What are some things that you think we should look into in terms of partnership

opportunities or ways to invest?"

From there, Johnson notes that information is taken to a board of trustees, which considers further action.

When asked what he wanted others in the

community to know, Johnson, entering his seventh month on the job, provided a succinct answer.

"We build relationships before making the decision to invest," he said.

EICHER CONSTRUCTION advertisement listing services like Pole Barns and Reroofing Houses & Barns, with contact information 859-405-5100.

HOSPICE EAST advertisement with the tagline 'A Special Kind of Care' and contact information for palliative care services.

The Winchester Sun logo and contact information including website, phone number (859-744-3123), and address.

Publication details for The Winchester Sun, including frequency (Tuesday & Saturday), publisher (BLUEGRASS NEWSMEDIA LLC), and subscription information.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES table listing prices for in-area, out-of-area, and out-of-state delivery, along with auto-pay options.

CONTACT US information for advertising and circulation, listing contact persons like Dianna Roe and Terah Hatton.