

Fiscal court removes road, gives raises

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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The Casey County Fiscal Court on Feb. 17 removed Shannon Drive from the county road inventory and gave county employees a 2.9% pay increase, among other business.

Prior to the regular meeting, in a public hearing, the fiscal court heard testimony regarding the road from Bryan Carman, who was one of three

members of a committee tasked with ascertaining whether there was a public need for the road. Carman said that the committee found no public use for it, and recommended it be removed from the inventory.

There was no other public comment regarding the road.

The three-member committee consisted of Carman, Mike Hale, of the Road Department, and Matt Murphy, a local realtor.

Judge/Executive Randy Dial said that Shannon Drive was a dead-end road off of Patterson Road, which had two residences on it, with both residences owned by the same family.

“That family has requested that we remove that road from the county inventory,” he said.

He added that he had checked the property records to make sure that the same family owned all the property abutting the road.

“Nobody requires to use that road to access any properties, so removal would not affect anyone other than the family that lives there,” Dial said.

In a prior meeting, Dial said that mapping programs, like Google Maps, could sometimes divert drivers up roads where they have no business going, because any road in the county

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Health board sets tax rate in annual meeting

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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The Casey County Board of Health in its annual meeting Feb. 21 left its tax rate the same for fiscal year 2025-26, and created a committee to explore construction costs to expand the existing Casey County Health Department building.

The Casey County Health Department has outgrown its current building, according to Lake Cumberland District Health Department Director Amy Tomlinson. The discussion on what to do about it has been ongoing for at least six years.

As previously reported, the current Casey County Health Department building, on Whipp Avenue, was purchased from Dentist Michelle Beeler for approximately \$350,000 in 2019. At the time of the purchase, the board also approved approximately \$400,000 in renovations. The total price spent on the building was \$389,000 by Feb. 11, 2021.

In the 2023 meeting, Tomlinson asked for and received permission to seek a proposal for a ball-park figure to expand the building.

Owens Construction Incorporated, of Windsor, provided the board with a proposal, dated Jan. 9, 2024, which only included the construction, at \$200 per square foot. The proposed construction would be 40-feet-by-40-feet, or 1,600 square feet. The proposed building cost would then be \$320,000.

At the end of the February 2024 meeting, the board asked for drawings to get a more precise estimate, including earth work, paving, utilities, and other expenses.

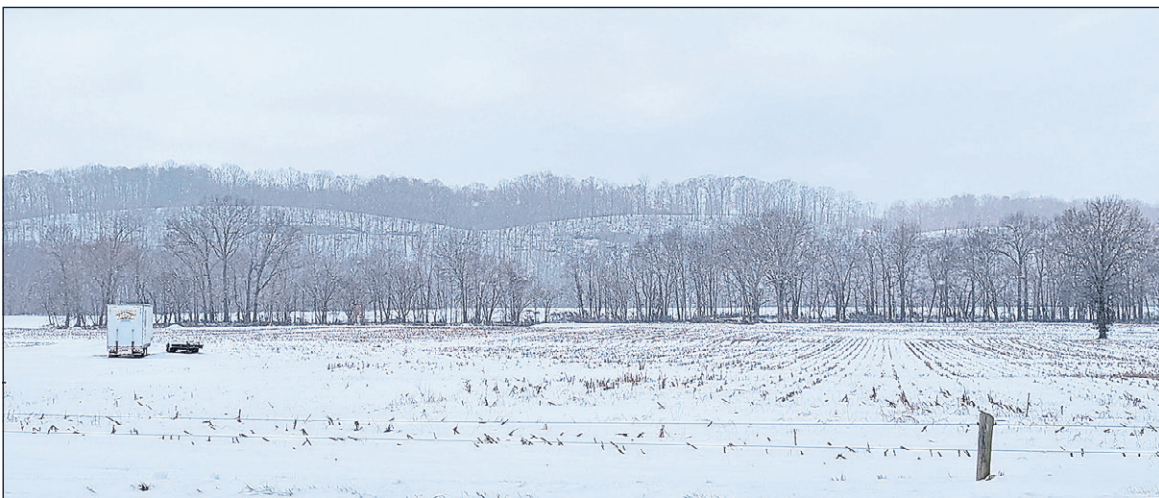
Last week, upstairs in the Village Restaurant, Tomlinson told the board of health that they had been informed that a survey must be complete prior to getting a price from the architect.

“It’s been determined that we need to do an official survey and have the lot surveyed, and do some additional things that were not included in what we authorized last time (in February 2024),” Tomlinson said.

Included in the packet was an estimate for \$10,500 to do survey work.

Board member and Casey County Judge/

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By Charlie VanLeuven/cvanleuven@caseynews.net

Snow falls Feb. 20 on Morris Farms directly across from the Bread of Life Café. A winter storm came through the area last week, dropping nearly 4 inches total of snow, and shutting schools down (again). Road conditions were very slippery and some didn’t get much better until the weekend.

FROM FLOOD TO FROST

Inches of snow continues bad weather trend

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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Winter 2025 has been memorable for its bad weather. The bad weather streak continued last week as inches of snow shut businesses and schools, and then polar air poured into the county.

A winter storm last week blew through the county, on the heels of a big rain storm which brought nearly five inches of rain on Feb. 15. Approximately three inches of snow fell overnight on Feb. 18 through Feb. 19, prompting Casey County Schools Superintendent Barry Lee to call off classes on Tuesday night.

“Due to inclement weather forecast, Casey County Schools will be closed on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. This will

be NTI DAY #10 for students. Please stay safe and warm,” Lee wrote in his alert.

This was the ninth NTI day for bad weather, with the other one issued for widespread reparatory illness. The statutory limit of NTI Days is 10 total.

Then, on Wednesday, with another inch of snow falling, and cold temperatures keeping ice on roads, Lee announced that schools would be cancelled also on Thursday and Friday.

Instead of NTI, the days were classified as “traditional snow days.”

“Due to continued impact of inclement weather, Casey County Schools will be closed on Thursday, February 20th, and Friday, February 21st, 2025,” Lee wrote.

He then issued a clarification on whether the district would get additional NTI days.

He said that there would be no further NTI days, at this time, although the legislature has presented a bill, HB 241, which would grant an additional

five disaster relief student attendance days.

The two additional “traditional snow days” means that there will be a modified district calendar to make up the days missed.

“We will update everyone on the school calendar at a later date,” Lee wrote. “But again, at this time we have minimal impact to our school calendar. My goal is for us to provide our students with as many face-to-face educational opportunities that we can possibly make happen.”

Meanwhile, temperatures plummeted from 62 degrees as a high on Sunday, down to negative -2 degrees as a low on Friday, Feb. 21, according to Kentucky Mesonet.

This was the second time temperatures had gone below zero, as the temperatures were at -4 degrees on Jan. 22.

Road were in bad shape throughout the county, with many people staying home

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Library board hears audit and program news

BY CHARLIE VANLEUVEN
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The Casey County Public Library District Board heard an audit report and programming updates, among other business Feb. 12.

Ryan R. Laski, a CPA with Summers, McCrary & Sparks, P.S.C., presented the audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. He said it was a clean audit without findings, and no material weaknesses in internal controls. However, he said that there were opportunities to improve the bookkeeping, including passing an amended budget later in the fiscal year to reflect actual revenue and spending.

Laski read a portion of the independent auditor’s report, which states that the financial statements “present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities” and funds of the library district.

“It is a clean audit report,” he said.

Turning to the library’s net position, the audit showed it had declined from \$2 million at the end fiscal year 2023 down to \$1.94 million at the end of fiscal year 2024. This was a net change

of negative \$43,497.

Revenue was at \$734,539, up from \$734,156 the prior year. The most significant revenue source for the library is local taxes, which generated \$612,589 in 2024, down from \$613,718 the year prior.

Expenditures increased from \$863,192 to \$878,519.

Laski said that program expenses increased from \$461,451, up to \$499,010, mostly related to employee expenses, such as salaries and benefits. Administration expenses increased from \$269,407 up to \$292,721, mostly related to an increase in repairs and maintenance for the library.

A comparison of final budget versus actual showed that salaries came over budget, but as a whole the actual was under budget.

Long term debt related to the library’s 2016 expansion will decline from a \$126,110 payment in 2025, down to a \$91,035 in 2035, when the debt will be paid off.

Laski said that there were two opportunities to strengthen internal controls. One was that sales tax had been paid twice, and the other was that the actual expenses exceeded the budget. He suggested that there be an amend-

ed budget approved when there are needs to spend outside the approved budget.

Also in the meeting:

- Director Sammie Betler announced that the HVAC repairs had been completed, but she had not gotten a bill just yet on the total cost for the repair.

- The library’s new logo has a new tagline. It is “Imagine, discover, connect.” The library is creating a new logo for its 50th anniversary, which will be in 2026.

- The library will partner with the Casey County Extension Office to create a new community garden near the library’s entrance. Ideas of what to grow include a “pizza garden” which will grow all the vegetable toppings for a pizza.

- The library will celebrate Earth Day on April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- According to the treasurer’s report, the library held \$263,026 in its general fund, including \$200,000 in CDs, and \$14,367 in encumbered funds. There was \$85,635 in emergency funds, with all of it held in two separate CDs which will mature in six month increments.

The next meeting of the Casey County Library District Board would be at 10:30 a.m. March 12 in the community room.

BRIEFS

Happenings

- The South Fork Produce Spring Consignment auction on South Fork Creek Road will be held March 8 at 9 a.m.
- The Dunnville Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Chili Dinner & Auction fundraiser at 6 p.m. March 8. Auction at 7 p.m. There will be a 50/50 raffle. Dinner is \$10 per person. Kids aged 5 or under eat free.
- Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. March 9.
- The Forkland Community Center Old Fashioned Pie Supper will be March 15.

Public meetings

- The Casey County ASAP will meet at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 27 in the Casey County Extension Office’s Education Building.
- The Liberty Tourism and Convention Commission will meet at 5 p.m. March 6. Location is to be determined.

OBITUARIES

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Luke Daniel, 67
John Hendren, 61
Gary Monday, 73

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WEATHER

	TODAY Mostly cloudy High: 65 Low: 47
	THURSDAY Rain chance High: 51 Low: 33
	FRIDAY Mostly sunny High: 55 Low: 41
	SATURDAY Partly cloudy High: 56 Low: 32
	SUNDAY Mostly sunny High: 50 Low: 33
	MONDAY Partly cloudy High: 62 Low: 62
	TUESDAY Rain chance High: 63 Low: 51



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