

**GARRARD COUNTY FISCAL COURT
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
HON. CHRISTOPHER T. ELLEMAN PRESIDING
JUNE 30, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
54 STANFORD STREET, LANCASTER, KY 40444**

The meeting was called to order by Judge/Executive Chris Elleman.

Opening prayer by Daryl Hodge.

Opening Pledge of Allegiance led by Willie Skeens.

MAGISTRATES PRESENT: Glendan Barker, Wayne Day, Bobby Preston, Chris Butner and Chris Davis.

IN RE: APPROVE COURT MINUTES

June 9, 2025, minutes were presented. A motion was made to approve by Magistrate Davis and seconded by Magistrate Preston. All in favor.

IN RE: APPROVE TRANSFERS

| From: | | To: |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| General Fund | \$92.07 | General Fund |
| 01-5005-581-0 | | 01-5005-573-0 |
| Co Attorney Water & Sewer | | Co Attorney Telephone |
| General Fund | \$65.00 | General Fund |
| 01-5015-581-0 | | 01-5015-543-0 |
| Sheriff Water & Sewer | | Sheriff License (Emails) |
| General Fund | \$886.86 | General Fund |
| 01-5015-699-0 | | 01-9200-999-0 |
| Sheriff's Debt Service | | Courthouse Reserve |
| General Fund | \$150.00 | General Fund |
| 01-5020-446-0 | | 01-5020-103-0 |
| Coroner Supplies | | Deputy Coroner Salary |

| | | |
|--|------------|--|
| General Fund 01-5030-334-0 PVA Maint & Repairs | \$63.00 | General Fund 01-5030-573-0 PVA Telephone |
| General Fund 01-9200-999-0 Courthouse Reserve | \$400.00 | General Fund 01-5035-191-0 Board of Assessment Appeals |
| General Fund 01-9200-999-0 Courthouse Reserve | \$9,940.68 | General Fund 01-5047-569-0 Tax Administrator Refunds |
| General Fund 01-5081-581-0 Judicial Water & Sewer | \$810.53 | General Fund 01-5081-333-0 Judicial Maintenance |
| General Fund 01-5135-103-0 DES Deputies | \$41.76 | General Fund 01-5135-481-0 DES Uniforms |
| General Fund 01-5135-336-0 DES Equipment Maintenance | \$281.87 | General Fund 01-5135-481-0 DES Uniforms |
| General Fund 01-5135-336-0 DES Equipment Maintenance | \$400.38 | General Fund 01-5135-569-0 DES Conferences |
| General Fund 01-5135-578-0 DES Utilities | \$183.00 | General Fund 01-5135-569-0 DES Conferences |
| General Fund 01-9200-999-0 Courthouse Reserve | \$241.62 | General Fund 01-5135-569-0 DES Conferences |
| General Fund 01-9200-999-0 Courthouse Reserve | \$6,219.00 | General Fund 01-5135-340-0 DES Vehicle Maintenance |
| General Fund 01-5140-336-0 EMS Equipment Maintenance | \$6.16 | General Fund 01-5140-137-0 Ambulance Salaries |

| | | |
|---|------------|---|
| General Fund 01-5140-336-0 EMS Equipment Maintenance | \$1,847.95 | General Fund 01-5140-334-0 Ambulance Building Maintenance |
| General Fund 01-5140-336-0 EMS Equipment Maintenance | \$95.32 | General Fund 01-5140-340-0 EMS Vehicle Maintenance |
| General Fund 01-5140-336-0 EMS Equipment Maintenance | \$733.89 | General Fund 01-5140-481-0 Ambulance Uniforms |
| General Fund 01-5140-446-0 Ambulance Medical Supplies | \$176.40 | General Fund 01-5140-521-0 Ambulance Insurance |
| General Fund 01-5140-446-0 Ambulance Medical Supplies | \$3,205.18 | General Fund 01-5140-574-0 Ambulance Training |
| General Fund 01-5140-581-0 Ambulance Water & Sewer | \$760.52 | General Fund 01-5140-578-0 Ambulance Utilities |
| General Fund 01-5205-385-0 Veterinary Services | \$11.92 | General Fund 01-5205-402-0 Animal Supplies |
| Road Fund 02-6105-340-0 Maint & Repairs - Vehicle | \$758.06 | Road Fund 02-6105-336-0 Maint & Repairs – Equipment |
| Road Fund 02-6105-573-0 Road Telephone | \$178.86 | Road Fund 02-6105-578-0 Road Utilities |
| Road Fund 02-9200-999-0 Reserve for Transfer | \$15.01 | Road Fund 02-6105-578-0 Road Utilities |
| Road Fund 02-9200-999-0 Reserve for Transfer | \$12.00 | Road Fund 02-6105-699-0 Road Debt Service |

Solid Waste Fund
13-9200-999-0
Reserve for Transfer

\$12.99

Solid Waste Fund
13-5212-366-0
Solid Waste

CSEPP Fund
80-5135-445-0
Office Supplies

\$267.04

CSEPP Fund
80-5135-339-0
Maintenance on Repeaters

A motion was made to approve the transfers by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Butner. All in favor.

IN RE: APPROVE BILLS TO BE PAID

01 – GENERAL FUND

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Ad-IOS | \$59.99 |
| Airgas USA, LLC | \$1,492.31 |
| Anglers Outpost LLC | \$9,940.68 |
| Animal Care Center | \$5.00 |
| Anthem Sports LLC | \$11,348.05 |
| Blue Moon Restrooms | \$200.00 |
| Bound Tree | \$3,279.49 |
| Chris Elleman | \$475.89 |
| Central Kentucky Sheet Metal, Inc | \$5,120.00 |
| Coaching Systems LLC | \$140.44 |
| Docubit | \$70.00 |
| Danville Office Equipment | \$155.72 |
| Elan Financial Services | \$1,105.05 |
| Garrard Co Attorney | \$4,935.84 |
| Greenscapes | \$1,160.80 |
| Jeff Burton | \$100.00 |
| Jessamine County Detention Center | \$17,782.00 |
| Joe Ball | \$100.00 |
| Johnson Controls Fire Protection LLC | \$1,367.95 |
| Justin Wilmot | \$5,000.00 |
| Kentucky Association of Counties | \$1,962.06 |
| Kentucky Uniform, Inc. | \$960.28 |
| Kentucky Emergency Services Conference | \$825.00 |
| Kevin Montgomery | \$100.00 |
| Lindsey's Garage Doors | \$35.00 |
| Logo Shack | \$180.00 |
| Pearson Education Inc. | \$2,644.74 |
| Performance Feeds LLC | \$32.97 |
| Pitney Bowes Bank Inc Purchase Power | \$1,077.10 |
| Pitney Bowes Global Financial Service | \$169.29 |
| Pitney Bowes Inc | \$91.29 |
| Quill | \$37.48 |
| Ridgenet Network Group | \$6,219.00 |
| Roy W Hunter, CPA, PLLC | \$14,900.00 |
| Rumpke | \$129.73 |
| Scarlett Murphy | \$100.00 |
| Stanford Tire Center | \$285.20 |
| Surge | \$529.48 |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Wanda Shelton | \$143.63 |
|---------------|----------|

02 – ROAD FUND

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|----------------------------------|------------|
| The Allen Company | \$1,326.38 |
| John Deere Financial | \$279.83 |
| Elan Financial Services | \$609.42 |
| Garrard Automotive Inc | \$761.37 |
| Mago Construction Company LLC | \$1,108.35 |
| Mercedes-Benz Financial Services | \$12.00 |
| Rumpke | \$90.00 |
| Stanford Tire Center | \$115.98 |
| Tim Miller Repair | \$175.00 |
| Weldquip | \$15.15 |

04 – LGEA FUND

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| Garrard County Senior Citizens | \$5,000.00 |
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13 – SOLID WASTE FUND

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Stanford Automotive LLC | \$12.99 |
|-------------------------|---------|

80 – CSEPP FUND

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|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Bluegrass 911 Central Communications | \$274.28 |
| Danville Office Equipment | \$25.00 |
| Perfection Group Inc | \$1,140.00 |
| Quill | \$283.25 |
| Rebecca Moore | \$500.00 |

A motion was made to approve the bills by Magistrate Barker and seconded by Magistrate Preston. All in favor.

IN RE: FORMAL COMPLAINT RESPONSE

On June 16, 2025, Judge/Executive Elleman received a formal complaint. He read, "I am writing this letter as a citizen of Garrard County and addressing it to you as presiding officer of the Garrard County Fiscal Court. Over the last few years under your leadership the county government has accomplished a great deal in both substance and style. You engendered a new level of trust and you brought a warmly welcomed transparency to governance in our county. I regret to say that events at the June 9th Fiscal Court meeting may have undermined your efforts. Please note that I have no personal interest or opinion regarding the content of the ordinance – this letter is strictly limited to the manner in which this action was conducted. The Kentucky Open Meetings Act (KRS 61.800) and, in general, "sunshine laws" were created to ensure that formation of public policy is public business and should not be conducted in secret. When a member of the public feels that there has been a lapse in adhering to these standards, the Open Meetings Act provides the opportunity for that citizen to "submit a written complaint to the presiding officer of the public agency suspected of a violation." For the reasons that follow, I believe that the Fiscal Court was in violation of the Open Meetings Act at its meeting on June 9, 2025 in its vote to approve replacement of the existing Solar Energy Ordinance with a new version."

According to Judge/Executive Elleman, legal counsel, the county attorney and KACo were contacted. Rich Ornstein, KACo legal counsel, was already aware of the situation as one of the members of the public had already reached out and spoken to him. According to the complaint, "Secret (non-public) conversations occurred between individual members of the Fiscal Court and people (citizens and corporate employees) who had financial motivation to change the existing ordinance. The nature and substance of these sub-quorum discussions likely included information that was critical to have been disclosed prior to a public meeting where discussion would occur. Instead, the information was never shared with the public and, in fact, was selectively shared only with certain Magistrates. The Open Meetings Act "prohibits a quorum from discussing public business in private or meeting in number less than a quorum for the express purpose of avoiding the open meeting requirement of the Act." It is unclear if the strategy of those involved was to discuss an issue of public business while deliberately keeping it hidden from the public eye. Regardless of intent or lack thereof, it can certainly be perceived by some that it was, indeed, deliberate."

KRS 61.846 requires a response within three days of receiving a complaint. Judge/Executive Elleman read his written response. "As the presiding officer of the Garrard Fiscal Court, I appreciate your formal complaint submitted to this office and thank you for wanting to make sure that county business is conducted properly and in accordance with the law. After further review of the June 9th Fiscal Court meeting and conversations with our county attorney and legal counsel for KACO, we feel that there was a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Your complaint will be placed on the June 30th agenda to be addressed by the Fiscal Court. Our legal counsel and I will present this matter to the Fiscal Court and recommend a remedy of rescinding the motion that was made on June 9th to amend the current Solar Ordinance and let the Court know that we will then put the 1st Reading of the Amended Solar Ordinance on an upcoming Regular Scheduled Fiscal Court Meeting if they see fit to do so. This will enable the public to be notified and ensure the proper procedure is followed. I strongly feel that our magistrates strive to conduct business properly and did not realize that their actions were in violation of the Open Meetings Act. Again, thank you for holding us all to accountability and transparency. This Court has accomplished many positive initiatives during our two and a half years in office. This presents an opportunity for us to regain the trust of the people and do this the right way."

Magistrate Preston apologized to Judge/Executive Elleman for what was done at the June 9th meeting. He said they didn't go through the right process and are trying to get a remedy to it. Magistrate Davis said they were surprised by the situation and how the motion happened. He said they now have the opportunity to make things right and do it the right way. He wants to do what is right and wants the public to be fully involved in decision making. Judge/Executive Elleman reassured the public that business would not be done behind closed doors.

Magistrate Butner made a motion to rescind the changes of the Ordinance (Relating to Solar Energy Systems) for the simple reason that they didn't know they were violating KACO or whatever when they actually did it. He wants to rescind it back to the original and will put it back on the docket for another day. Magistrate Preston seconded the motion. All in favor.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Joe Ball was in attendance. He is a commercial real estate appraiser and farmer. He said that he was uninterested in leasing his farm to the solar company because he thinks they will forever destroy the farmland, and he had more respect for his neighbors than to have them see unsightly solar panels. He mentioned a co-worker that had been approached to be on an advisory board for solar panels and when he mentioned having public meetings, the solar representative told him they couldn't do that because the county would find out what they were doing, and they'd change their bylaws and zoning to stop it. He also brought up the issue of mortgages, and how lending institutions have a right to take all assignments of your solar lease until your farm is paid off. As a

result, lessees could not get paid a dime until the farm is paid off. He thinks it will be the communities' kids and grandkids who will have to clean up the mess left by solar panels. He ended with a quote from the late Ward Correll, "Get the facts, or the facts will get you."

- Dave Koob was in attendance. He sold his farm for less money to ensure his neighbors got a good neighbor in return. He had several statements that he disagreed with. "Number one, everyone in Garrard County and the world has enough to eat so we can take arable land out of production. Number two, we should grandfather this project because it was started before the 2023 ordinance took effect. Number three, we should let some lawyer we don't know write a change to our county ordinance for the benefit of the company he works for." He raised questions regarding who would be in charge of the clean up after the 25-year useful life of solar panels, is there money available for cleanup, how much government money the corporation is collecting, how much income is from grants and government incentives, and the lack of longevity of batteries. He said he was immediately suspicious of full-page advertising in the local paper and said it was a sales job.
- Michael Leger was in attendance. He is the electrical inspector for Garrard County and Lincoln County. He said that in 2023 he contacted the Fiscal Court about the first solar ordinance and was assured that they would be grandfathered in by the members he talked to. He said although he's an expert on electricity, he was not contacted before the first ordinance. He thinks the Kentucky Solar Ordinance was put together by subject matter experts by the Public Service Commission who have both industry and local interest in mind. He said he is in favor of ordinances, but not ones that only protect what people don't want to see. He said it's not a public safety threat if you don't like what he has on his property. He thinks there needs to be planning and zoning in Garrard County. He says that governing by ordinance is nothing more than putting the planning and zoning in the hands of the Magistrates instead of the planning and zoning commission.
- Barry Matchett & Nick Benjamin of Clearway Energy were in attendance. They will be hosting an open meeting at 6:30 p.m. on July 1, 2025, at the Dix River Golf Club. Mr. Matchett stated that Garrard County has a very good solar ordinance. There are fantastic setbacks, a requirement for vegetative screening, and a decommissioning obligation on the solar company. He said the project is funded solely by their company and that they are required to have a bond for the extraction of the panels. He said there will be no financial obligation to the county. His main request is that Garrard County Fiscal Court amend the existing "Ordinance Relating To Solar Energy Systems". There is one sentence in Section 1: Purpose and Objectives that states "No SES considered under this ordinance shall include any prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance as defined herein." Clearway Energy would like to have that sentence modified to allow their project to be considered, as the usage of "prime farmland" is restrictive to them. Mr. Benjamin, Project Developer, said that Clearway Energy does the development in the community, they go through the state process, they raise the financing, they buy the equipment, they build the project, they oversee the project, and they operate the project for the full 35 years. He mentioned the \$1,000,000 community benefit package that they were offering to Garrard County that is available for public use.

Judge/Executive Elleman responded with the following questions/issues:

1. He said this is not an active project and asked if they were basically wanting approval to do a project. Mr. Matchett said that in order to get a project approved in Kentucky then they are required to work at the county level and at the state level. Without county approval, there's no need to go to the state.
2. He said Clearway Energy starts projects and says that they will own the project throughout the whole 30 years, but they refuse to sign paperwork stating that.
3. He asked if they would apply for federal incentives. Mr. Matchett said that Congress is right now repealing all of the federal tax credits and those would be gone once President Trump signs the bill. He said the reason that anybody would want to

continue to propose building a solar project anywhere in America is because the sun is always free.

4. He asked if they were aware that the {leased} property comes off of the county tax roll if we sign an Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB). From the \$350,000 or so in revenue that the IRB would pay each year, those funds will be split up between taxing districts, such as District 1, the Extension Office, the Library, the Health Dept, the Fiscal Court, and the school. Based off of the percentage of the last IRB with the prior solar company, the Fiscal Court would get approximately \$26,000 to \$28,000 annually. The school would get the majority of the funds. Currently the court brings in \$25,000 per year on that property from property taxes. If the property were changed to commercial, as it would be when the project becomes active, the county could then have brought in \$500,000 annually on property taxes. He said it is not true to say that the county alone would get \$350,000. Mr. Matchett apologized if he had made sort of a semantic error. He said if they do not do an IRB then the money just goes to Frankfort. Judge/Executive Elleman said he does not like IRBs.
 5. He asked about the \$1,000,000 and said he did not feel like the county is for sale. He said a lot of people have already been promised money. Mr. Matchett said Clearway Energy has not made any promises. He said they are proposing creating a Community Benefit Fund where the money is essentially put into a foundation. He recommends placing an odd number of people on the board and then they administer the fund. Judge/Executive Elleman said that he doesn't want any court members to be on the board. He said the idea of the \$1,000,000 was not brought up by Clearway Energy until they had a fourth meeting. Mr. Matchett said they came up with the voluntary donation as an idea to help the county meet some of its needs. He said if it was a bad idea then they don't have to do it.
 6. He asked if Clearway Energy was aware that the June 9, 2025, meeting was planned and that a vote was going to take place. He said they stated that they were willing to walk through this, but then it was pushed through at the last meeting. Mr. Matchett said he apologized that the court was offended. He said they had asked for guidance at the prior individual meetings and after talking to the state representative and the ag commissioner they had them come back to the court. He said there had been zero progress so that is what he suspected caused there to be some interest in moving forward. They said they were willing to have public meetings.
 7. He said his advice is that the county does not need Clearway Energy's attorneys to write our county law for our citizens. He said our elected County Attorney should do that.
- Lita Leavell was in attendance. She said that she and Joe signed up some of their land for a solar project in 2020, and there was no county ordinance at that time. She said they were getting too old to farm and didn't want to put in a subdivision. They decided to use solar because they wanted to still be able to farm the land and to be able to leave it to their children and grandchildren. The Ordinance was passed in 2023, and they contacted the court and were promised verbally that they would be grandfathered in. She said she called on Thursday afternoon prior to the June 9, 2025, meeting and asked to be put on the agenda and was told that it was too late. She said they were told they could talk at the meeting, and a motion ended up being made to amend the Ordinance to grandfather in this project only. "Only this project. No more solar ever in Garrard County. Just this one." She said if she tells someone something, that's what she does. Judge/Executive Elleman responded that he had initially met with Joe Leavell in his office and that Mr. Leavell was concerned about the Ordinance. Judge/Executive Elleman said he would have to follow the Ordinance. He said this hasn't been a problem until this new company came in. He said he asked Mr. Leavell what he would do if his next-door neighbor wanted to put in a junkyard, and he said he'd fight it tooth and nail because it would devalue his property. Judge/Executive Elleman asked why he would allow them to do their project without the

public being involved. He said that from day one that Mr. Leavell did not want the community involved, and the statement was confirmed by Magistrate Preston and Magistrate Butner. Judge/Executive Elleman said he puts every packet together and told Mrs. Leavell that he would put it on the next agenda, or that he'd call a special meeting. He said it needed to be on the agenda and presented to the citizens. Mrs. Leavell said she expects him to be honest with them. She said the project would go through, and they didn't have to worry about it. She said they were going to come in between the readings and were told that they didn't have to do that and that it was not necessary. She quoted that their project was "grandfathered in".

- Russell Ball was in attendance. He said his first observation is that a huge subdivision only takes up 100 acres, and this solar project is taking up 2,500 acres. His biggest concern is over the effects on the wildlife population. He's concerned over the fencing, the deer and the migratory game birds, and that the land would be unavailable to them. He said solar does so little for the acreage and that it's just a big tax write-off for big companies in other states. He said the debate isn't over what a person can do with their land. The landowners that leased their farms have already done what they wanted. He said the debate is with the solar company who now owns the right to that land and what they can do in the backyards of our county.
- Tim Davis was in attendance. He thinks that the people of Garrard County should not be deceived. He compared the solar panel deal to the story in the book of Genesis in which Adam and Eve were first tempted. The first job created by their sin was to be a farmer and work the soil. He said that farmers are blessed by God with the land, and the farmer should be a good steward of the land. He thinks the people are now being tempted by a wad a cash and promises. He shamed several of the Magistrates for bringing underhanded corruption back by knowing that they were doing wrong and doing it anyway. He said that Joe Leavell, former Magistrate, Amazon employee on Sunday, employee of the solar company, and future benefactor of the solar company's cash, devised a plan to circumvent rules, procedures and honest business practice and conspired with several Magistrates to get his family's way by bypassing the will of the people for their uncontrollable greed. He said Magistrate Leavell voted against junkyards and similar things when he was in office because they didn't want them beside their property. He also said Mr. Leavell would rather have attorneys for the solar company write an ordinance for our county instead of relying on our own county attorney to write it. He thinks it would be best to leave behind beautiful farmland that will still grow crops and graze livestock instead of destroyed land and soil covered with solar panels that no one would remove. He thinks the leases could be sold multiple times, even to potential foreign adversaries. He also said the power generated would not go to Garrard County. He thinks the Magistrates should vote according to the will of the people in their district, not because they've been bribed, coerced, or corrupted by rich people or companies that don't have Garrard County's best interest in mind. He ended by saying "Garrard County, aka God's country, is not to be prostituted and destroyed for dollars."
- Deonica Asbery was in attendance. She said she had personally seen and heard through social media that the \$1,000,000 was going to Garrard County Athletics, and she questioned Barry Matchett directly, who said that is not true. She expressed concern over the bypass around Lancaster. She wanted to know if the solar project would delay it or shelf it indefinitely. She mentioned a business looking into Garrard County that could bring 100 jobs. She said, "If this bypass is shelved because of something that's going to benefit a few people, and granted, people that I think the world of, I'm not okay with that, because I know what a company bringing 100-plus jobs and more following behind it can do for this county." She mentioned the precedence being set by amending the solar ordinance and how if you grandfather in one project, how can you tell the next one no. She said there is no detailed project plan. She mentioned how solar leases take away your rights to your land. She told of a farm she sold for well under market value because it had a solar lease attached to it. She was also concerned over the wildlife, particularly the deer around Dix River, and the decommissioning process. She said she's not anti-solar, but she is pro-Garrard County.

- Linda Brown was in attendance. She said she is concerned about the climate impact of solar and how it can change the weather direction, the waterfowl and wildlife, and where the energy is going. She asked what happens if the solar company goes defunct. She said that's a major concern on a 35-year project. She said that incentives are nothing more than a bribe, or money meant to bait us into thinking it's a good thing and that we're going to get all this out of it, and in the long run, it really doesn't generally benefit us any more than if we've done something better with the land than that. She questioned who would repair the land in the event of a bad tornado or a hailstorm. She reiterated that it was 2,500 acres of land that is being impacted.
- Keith Grubbs was in attendance. He and his brother purchased a farm in 1997 and have been contacted by the solar company since 2000 to lease their land. His main concern was over the bypass that could go through his property. If that happens, they'll have to split the farm in half, which would likely require them to sell it for commercial, industrial, or developmental purposes. He said if he sold his property then that would bring in a lot more tax money and revenue to this county than the \$1,000,000 will ever amount to. He agreed that it seems like a bribe. He said we don't need anything that will jeopardize the 127 bypass. He said the state transportation department would not negotiate with the solar company. He also stated that Joe Leavell expressed concern about Atmos Energy putting in a pipeline on his property and leaving behind the old one with fiberglass and asbestos. If he was concerned about Atmos Energy, then we should be concerned about the environment and the solar companies.
- Kenneth Yeakey was in attendance. He feels like everything has been laid on his son-in-law, Joe Leavell. He said there is no more honest person in this county and if anything was done crooked, then it was by mistake. He said he thought it was illegal to talk to the Magistrates separately, and that maybe the little County Attorney could tell us. He said they did not make any threats. He said he believes the Magistrates words are good. He commented that Magistrate Davis and Joe Ball both work for First Southern and wondered if the bank was against the solar project. He said the solar company was not asking for anything from the county and was not bribing them. He thinks his land is his right.
- David Tyrie was in attendance. He commented on the solar farm on Highway 39 and said when he looks out from his front porch, all he can see is black glass. He also mentioned the vegetative screening that was a part of the project but is too short to obstruct his view of the panels.
- Joe Leavell was in attendance. He said there's been a lot of half-truths flying around. He brought up the \$1,000,000 and asked if when First Southern or Whitaker Bank donates to the ballpark if they were considered as "buying Garrard County". He said he and his wife worked 14-hour days for years and years to get what they have and 90% of the people, if they got the same offer from the solar company, would jump all over it. He said the main thing is that he is disappointed. He said it's a slippery slope when you start telling people what they can and can't do with their land. He was also disappointed in the way people have stabbed him in the back and questioned his integrity. He said it makes him want to leave Garrard County.
- Amy Logan was in attendance. She expressed concern over the way people were acting regarding this solar matter and the issue of the \$1,000,000 promise. She stated she had personally seen a Facebook post where Lita Leavell had said they were going to give the money to the athletic facilities at the high school. She said not all kids go to Garrard County, and she wondered why we were being bribed with money for kids in Garrard County when the Leavell's own grandchildren don't go to school here. She noted that she didn't care where Magistrate Davis and Joe Ball worked and disapproved of the disrespect shown to County Attorney Whitworth by Kenneth Yeakey. She thinks we need to do what is best for the county as a whole and not just individuals.
- Anthony Roy was in attendance. He is the Chairman of the IDA board. His main focus was on the issue of the bypass around Lancaster. He believes the current solar leases can and will affect the bypass in some form or fashion. He also said Garrard County needs to focus on things that bring jobs to the county. As the RGL Chairman, which involves Lincoln, Rockcastle and

Garrard counties, he shared that there is a massive piece of property that was put together to bring in thousands of jobs. He said we're sitting right at the top of the list of a couple of nice places coming in that would bring in county taxes. He shared the thoughts of Nos Yusuf, who he thinks is one of the best-known electrical engineers in the world, who believed that at the end of the day solar panels and wind turbines were more for tax breaks than they were for providing what needs to be done.

- Kelly Sharon Mullins was in attendance. She said her understanding was that there was a verbal promise that the leases starting before the "Ordinance Relating To Solar Energy Systems in Garrard County" was adopted would be grandfathered in. She wants the court to honor their word by amending the Ordinance. She thinks if the restrictions on the Ordinance are not amended to allow the current landowner's leases to be honored, as they were promised, that Garrard will lose a fantastic economic opportunity that will be a win-win for everyone in the county. She said her late father, a hard-working farmer, signed the solar lease back in 2021 as a way to allow the land to stay in their family and stay relatively unscathed compared to subdivisions. She said he knew that solar panels would make good neighbors and keep the land rural and if the Ordinance is not amended then all her dad's hard work has been in vain.
- Martin Brown was in attendance. He presented several questions to the court. He wanted to know if the court would agree to show conflict of interest forms so they are not attached to the project in any way. He asked why they were doing solar instead of some fossil fuel plant. He wanted to know if they were going to use local workers to build the plant. He asked if an eco-study had been done to show what impact it's going to have on the local environment. He said that it represents a large heat sink that is known to change the temperature in the area as much as 15 degrees. He wanted to know about the cost of the project compared to natural gas. He also inquired about where the money is going to come from to fund the project.
- Linda Holtzclaw was in attendance. She expressed concern over the Ordinance and the part that eliminates prime farmland. She said to her that says the court is trying to protect farmland to keep it rural and beautiful like it is now. She said after listening to comments that she now feels like it is only being protected from solar. She said prime farmland can be sold for commercial purposes, used for the bypass, and even used for subdivisions, and that is unfair. She said the solar project will allow farmers to survive and to maintain their land. She said the whole 2,500 acres will not be gone, but portions will help the farmers survive.
- Charlie Gruen was in attendance. He came as a representative of the fire department. He wanted to voice their disapproval and disappointment in the court for their board appointments. He said the fire department submits names of individuals that they choose and then the court appoints whoever they want. He said they feel like it's a slap in their face. Judge/Executive Elleman responded that he turns to the Magistrates that represent that district to appoint the board members since they can ask members of the community who they want representing them.
- Ricky Mullins was in attendance. He wanted to hand out an email to the Magistrates that his wife, Kelly Sharon Mullins, had written.
- Leslie King was in attendance. She said farmers cannot afford machinery without working a factory job. She wondered why the court has not asked Clearway Energy for additional money to do the project. She said they signed with solar to save the farms they had and to pay the taxes and everything else to keep them running.
- Judy Mercer was in attendance. She believes that participating in the solar initiative is the best long-term use of some of their acreage. She said the solar lease provides much needed income security as senior citizens by helping them to meet their financial needs without completely stepping away from the land and lifestyle they've known for so long. She thinks it brings economic opportunity to Garrard and Lincoln, generates clean energy for the future, and contributes to responsible land stewardship. She requested the court's continued support in finalizing the steps needed to help this project come to life.

- Chris Strevels was in attendance. He stated that he had to run an ad in the paper to let the community know what he was doing with his business and give them a chance to object before he could get a permit. He doesn't like the way the last meeting was run. He doesn't understand why somebody who's worked so hard at something for so long and has spent so much dedication and time to that love of what they do wouldn't want to let their children experience the same instead of putting up eyesores. He doesn't think the money coming in from the solar project will help the county at all.
- David Meade was in attendance. He is the State Representative for Lincoln and Garrard. His involvement in the state solar panel bill tried to balance the property rights of owners while also trying to balance the rights of other folks who own property around it. He mentioned the IRB dealings on an industrial mega site. He stressed the need to come together as a community. He said they were finalizing the design on the bypass project right now and that the road has moved just a little bit from what was proposed. He recommended putting some clauses in the Ordinance to ensure that nothing goes in the roadway pathway and also to protect the values of the property so that we don't have astronomically increased values that the taxpayers are going to have to pay for when we start negotiating.
- Steven Goddard was in attendance. He wanted the community to be thankful to be able to discuss the matter because in his home state of Michigan, you cannot. He thought the court should be interested in viewing the leases to make a better judgment call. He wondered about how these leases transact to future heirs. He also asked about having to allow future exemptions under the Ordinance.
- Mitchell Lamb was in attendance. He is a member of the Paint Lick and Cartersville Fire Department and supports Bill West going back on the board. He also mentioned that he wouldn't want the court to limit the income that he could make on his property. He said the electric is going into the grid and will be sold wherever the company can get the best price for it. He didn't think that the fact that the electricity may not benefit Garrard County matters. He said his land is his and any money it generates doesn't belong to the county or the citizens of the county.
- Jonathan Rosenberry was in attendance. He said this project is affecting a large piece of property that is in turn going to affect a large portion of the county. He feels this is a short-term gain with long-term consequences. Although his farm is not affected, he can see where in the future there are business plans that are in the works that will be affected by it, and then those can affect him.

IN RE: 2ND READING OF THE AMENDED SOLAR ORDINANCE

Since there was a Formal Complaint response and the motion of the 1st reading was rescinded, there will not be a 2nd reading. The Solar Ordinance will be put back on the agenda at a later date, if the court sees fit.

IN RE: KACO COUNTY SALT AUCTION

Three bids were presented:

- IBG Magic of Kentuckiana for \$149.00 for 500 tons
- Morton Salt, Inc for \$149.50 for 500 tons
- Compass Minerals America Inc for \$160.00 for 500 tons

A motion was made to accept the top two bids by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Preston. All in favor.

IN RE: LANCASTER PARKS AND RECREATION REQUEST

Lancaster Parks and Recreation is requesting \$1,740.00 to purchase 12 youth helmets. They presented a quote from Destination Athlete. A motion was made to approve by Magistrate Preston and seconded by Magistrate Barker. All in favor.

IN RE: CAMP DICK FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025-2026 BUDGET

A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of the budget by Magistrate Barker and seconded by Magistrate Preston. All in favor.

IN RE: CAMP DICK FIRE DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT

Sammy Marsee is up for reappointment as his term ends on June 30, 2025. Chris Shelley, Vice Chairman, presented two letters of interest nominations for consideration for a Brian Butler, Jr and Anthony Blair. A motion was made to reappoint Sammy Marsee to the board by Magistrate Barker and seconded by Magistrate Butner. All in favor.

IN RE: CARTERSVILLE/PAINT LICK FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025-2026- BUDGET

A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of the budget by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Butner. All in favor.

IN RE: CARTERSVILLE/PAINT LICK FIRE DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT

Bill West has a term ending on June 30, 2025. Two letters were presented to the court, one from Chief Dean Vencill and the other from Bill West. Both letters proposed recommending Ed Brents and Bill West to the vacant position. A motion was made to put Bill West back on the board by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Preston. All in favor.

IN RE: SHERIFF DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Sheriff Willie Skeens was in attendance. His department has been able to purchase 2 Chevy Tahoes for \$45,000. These Tahoes were lease trade ins with approximately 40,000.00 miles. They are already equipped with emergency equipment such as blue lights and sirens. Judge/Executive Elleman recommends that the court give the Sheriff's Department \$30,000 toward the purchase of these vehicles. A motion was made to approve by Magistrate Davis and seconded by Magistrate Barker. All in favor.

IN RE: JULY 14TH REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

Due to a family medical situation, Judge/Executive Elleman is requesting to move the next court meeting to Friday, June 11th, at 6:00 pm. A motion was made to allow the date change by Magistrate Barker and seconded by Magistrate Day. All in favor.

IN RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge/Executive Elleman needed a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. A motion was made to enter by Magistrate Preston and seconded by Magistrate Day.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session by Magistrate Preston and seconded by Magistrate Day. No action was taken.

IN RE: ADJOURN MEETING

A motion was made to adjourn by Magistrate Butner and seconded by Magistrate Barker.

Hon _____

Garrard County Judge/Executive