

**GARRARD COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
HON. CHRISTOPHER T. ELLEMAN PRESIDING
JULY 28, 2025 @ 4:00 PM
15 PUBLIC SQUARE, LANCASTER, KY 40444**

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

Opening prayer by J.T. Prewitt.

Opening Pledge of Allegiance led by Wanda Shelton.

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

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IN RE: OLD BUSINESS

Judge/Executive Elleman spoke to the state regarding cutting the trees on 39. The RCUT on the north end is being milled and blacktopped. The Allen Company is hoping to get to 27/52 by the middle of September.

An easement has been passed at Logan Hubble. Daryl Day will be handling the negotiation with Atmos Energy on the price of the easement. A motion was made to allow Mr. Day to handle negotiations by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Preston. All in favor.

Camille Ford was in attendance. At the July 11, 2025, meeting, Mr. Ford presented a Bridge Inspection Report on the bridge at Old Railroad Grade Rd. This bridge is in poor condition and could be replaced through a grant program. At this meeting, he presented an Engineering Services Proposal for completion and submission of the County-City Bridge Improvement Program (CCBIP) Application. He has estimated the initial application cost to be \$8,900.00 (\$2,000.00 of which is for surveying work by Optic). If the county does not get the money this time, it will roll over into the next block of money. The bridge has been listed as poor for the last 4 or 5 years. Judge/Executive Elleman would like to have the process pushed through and do the application to get the grant to replace the bridge. A motion was made to approve by Magistrate Davis and seconded by Magistrate Barker. All in favor.

IN RE: PLATS

None.

IN RE: APPROVE COURT MINUTES

July 11, 2025, minutes were presented. A motion was made to approve by Magistrate Butner and seconded by Magistrate Barker. All in favor.

IN RE: APPROVE TRANSFERS

General Fund 01-4909 Transfer Out	\$20,000.00	CSEPP Fund 80-4910 Transfer In
General Fund 01-5101-314-0 Contracts w/ Other Counties	\$277.89	General Fund 01-5101-521-0 Jailers Insurance
General Fund 01-5140-320-A APAP Billing Fee	\$5,312.35	General Fund 01-5140-521-0 Ambulance Insurance
Solid Waste Fund 13-5212-999-0 Reserve for Transfer	\$1,000.00	Solid Waste Fund 13-5212-340-0 Vehicle Maintenance (Silverado)
Solid Waste Fund 13-9200-999-0 Reserve for Transfer	\$985.05	Solid Waste Fund 13-5212-521-0 Insurance

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

IN RE: APPROVE BILLS TO BE PAID**01 – GENERAL FUND**

Ad-IOS	\$59.99
Blue Moon Restrooms	\$200.00
Bob Allen	\$2,170.30
Bound Tree	\$5,096.48
Central Record	\$806.50
Central Kentucky Sheet Metal, Inc.	\$6,390.00
Danny's Termite & Pest Control	\$275.00
Docubit	\$70.00
Elan Financial Services	\$4,442.54
Garrard Co Attorney	\$4,935.84
Greenscapes	\$1,281.00
Kentucky Association of Counties	\$213,683.58
Nuesynergy	\$150.00
Overhead Door Company of Lexington	\$336.60

Pitney Bowes Bank Inc Purchase Power	\$23.39
Seybold Electric Contracting LLC	\$431.15
Whitney Pinkney	\$622.00
Garrard County Sheriff	\$30,000.00

02 – ROAD FUND

The Allen Company	\$422.05
Bluegrass International Trucks	\$2,447.09
Kentucky Association of Counties	\$47,476.44
Mago Construction Company LLC	\$1,147.70
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services	\$1,302.15
Rumpke	\$640.83
Stanford Tire Center	\$987.19
Weldquip	\$14.75

13 – SOLID WASTE

Elan Financial Services	\$17.81
Kentucky Association of Counties	\$985.05
The R and F Shop	\$675.57

80 – CSEPP FUND

Kentucky Association of Counties	\$11,983.95
Rebecca Moore	\$500.00

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

IN RE: APPROVE LAST MONTH'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

None.

IN RE: CLEARWAY ENERGY

Barry Matchett and Anna Rodger were in attendance. They presented a list of proposed resolutions and answers from their open meetings, consisting of the following:

- HWY 27 Bypass
 - Clearway will continue communication with the Kentucky Transportation staff at District 7 to ensure that their project will avoid the planned bypass route.
- Solar Project Property Taxes
 - Proposed use of Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) and Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILOT)
- Decommissioning the Project at end of useful life
 - The decommissioning bond is administered by the Ky Energy and Environment Cabinet, and the state statute should be cited in the amended ordinance.
- Community Benefit Fund
 - Proposal of donating \$1,000,000 to a community benefit fund administered by a board of 5 Garrard County citizens who do not hold elective office.

- Project Scale
 - The final project will be significantly smaller (less than half) of the 3,500 acres that are leased. The final design is not complete.

Mr. Matchell thanked the court for hearing their update. Clearway would like consideration of an ordinance change on the prime farmland component of the ordinance, as well as the other changes they've heard the public talk about. He is requesting a meeting in the month of August to prepare for another vote on amending the ordinance. Judge/Executive Elleman said he will have conversations with the Magistrates and if they want to put it on the first meeting of August, then he'll do that.

IN RE: U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION-DISASTER RECOVERY

No representative in attendance.

IN RE: SOIL CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT/REQUEST

Jamie Barker was in attendance and presented an Annual Financial Report for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, and a packet of accomplishments of the Garrard County Conservation District. Some of the highlights include:

- Over 110 landowners came in to update Ag Water Quality Plans.
- The District secured a \$5,000.00 grant to aid in dead animal disposal.
- A \$1,500.00 agricultural scholarship was awarded to graduating senior Gwyn Johnson of Garrard County High School.
- The first Garrard County Electronic Recycling drop-off day was held on Saturday, October 19, 2024. Over eight tons of e-waste was collected.
- A new program called Backyard Conservation was instituted. Citizens of Garrard County were offered a rebate of up to \$200.00 to install raised bed gardens, pollinator/butterfly gardens, insect/bee hotels, bat/bird houses, composters and rainwater harvesting.

The Garrard County Conservation District is teaming up with the Extension Office and Kentucky Farm Bureau to have a "farm safety day" at the fairgrounds. They are accepting fencing supplies, including metal fence, barbed wire, woven wire, posts, gates, etc. They wanted to know if the Fiscal Court would donate an excavator on September 5, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to help load material into the dumpsters.

A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of the Annual Financial Report by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Barker. All in favor.

IN RE: DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Animal Control: Brittany Fain was in attendance. The shelter is still full. They have approximately 31 cats/kittens and 47 dogs/puppies, as well as one that is about to have puppies. The A/C is working now.

Road: Kenny Creech was in attendance. They have two mow trims running. They have a new hire to run the second mow trim. Locust Lane and Kemper Lane have had some road repairs. Crawford Asphalt should be working on Mt. Hebron Rd pretty soon. County roads will be marked this week to determine what will be blacktopped. The fence has been installed at Logan Hubble.

EMA/CSEPP: Wanda Shelton was in attendance. They are qualified for public assistance. Closeout is still set for November 2025. Warhead destruction is between 85 – 92%. She had to put in an extension for the close out money. Individual assistance ended on July 25th. The Fisher Ford siren should be working now. The new garage door at the EOC will be put on within the next 2 weeks. They had to have a commercial appraiser come in.

Clerk: Kevin Montgomery was in attendance. Side-by sides could be licensed on June 27, 2025, and they have licensed seven. The 2024 tax sale will be on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. There are currently 135 available as delinquents. They've had several days of internet issues and A/C issues.

Sheriff: Willie Skeens was in attendance. They are working on finishing up a firing range. Sammy Marsee's company has donated dirt. The two new Tahoes are on the road patrolling. Sheriff Skeens commended his deputies for executing a dozen or more search warrants and for having good success on drug cases.

EMS: Rebecca Sizemore was in attendance. She thanked the court for the new stretcher. They are doing an FTO Program with five staff. They have three full-time medics, one getting ready to graduate, and four that are in medic school. They are ready to do the flag ceremony at the new building. They are working at improving documentation. They are getting ready to start another EMT class. Transfers are running about the same. They have someone new hired in the education department.

A motion was made to accept the department updates by Magistrate Preston and seconded by Magistrate Day. All in favor.

IN RE: ABC FUND BANK ACCOUNT

The auditor recommended that the court open a separate bank account for the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Fund. Judge/Executive Elleman needs a motion to allow Chris Elleman and Jennifer Seagraves to be authorized signers on the account. A motion was made by Magistrate Barker and seconded by Magistrate Preston. All in favor.

IN RE: RURAL SECONDARY PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Judge/Executive Elleman requires authorization to sign the Rural Secondary Program Agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, and the Garrard County Fiscal Court. This agreement provides funding in an amount not to exceed \$488,775 for reimbursement of FLEX Fund projects. These projects relate to the following: Calico Rd, Doty Ln, Eastland Acres, Glenmore Heights and Old Lexington Rd East. The Fiscal Court must pass a resolution adopting and approving the terms of this agreement. A motion was made to allow Judge/Executive Elleman to sign the agreement by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Barker. All in favor.

IN RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING RURAL SECONDARY PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Judge/Executive Elleman is required to sign a Resolution adopting and approving the execution of a Rural Secondary Program Agreement between the Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, and the Department of Rural and Municipal Aid. The resolution accepts all roads and streets referred to therein as being a part of the County Road System. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Magistrate Davis and seconded by Magistrate Butner. All in favor.

IN RE: BUCKEYE FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025-2026 BUDGET

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

IN RE: 2025 AUDITOR REQUEST

The Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has declined to do the Fiscal Court audit for fiscal year 2025 and have given us permission to employ a private Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to conduct this audit. We are requesting Roy W. Hunter, CPA, PLLC conduct this audit, as he has done our audits in the past. A motion was made to approve the request by Magistrate Day and seconded by Magistrate Butner. All in favor.

IN RE: SET 2025 TAX RATE FOR COUNTY

Judge/Executive Elleman recommended accepting the compensating rate of 7.50% for real property. A motion was made to approve by Magistrate Barker and seconded by Magistrate Davis. All in favor.

The tax rate for watercraft and motor vehicles will remain at 10.20%. A motion was made to approve by Magistrate Butner and seconded by Magistrate Day. All in favor.

IN RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge/Executive Elleman needed a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss employment issues. A motion was made by Magistrate Preston and seconded by Magistrate Barker.

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