

**Powell County Fiscal Court
Special Called Meeting
March 20th, 2020**

3:30 p.m.

**Location: Powell County Courthouse
Main Courtroom**

A G E N D A

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Roll Call

- Bills
- Policy's – Employees
- Updates (State of Emergency)
- Jail 2020/2021 Budget Discussion

**POWELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Date: **MARCH 20th, 2020**

Time: **3:30 p.m.**

Location: **Powell County Courthouse**

(Meeting was held in big courtroom due to Covid 19)

A special meeting was held on March 23rd, 2020 in the big courthouse to discuss a few items.

Those present for the meeting were Judge Executive James Anderson, Fiscal Court Clerk Connie Crabtree, County Attorney Robert King and Clay City Times Reporter Madison Allen Fugate

Judge Anderson called the meeting to order:

Judge Anderson ask the Fiscal Court Clerk to call roll for Magistrates in attendance for the meeting:

**Magistrate Dennis Combs – Present
Magistrate Donna Gabbard – Present
Magistrate Mike Lockard – Present
Magistrate Chad Patton – Present
Magistrate Timmy Tipton – Present**

Bills Submitted for Payment:

Winchester Auto Body in the amount of \$761.46

An employee backed into Mr. Mike Spivey at the Powell County Transfer Station. Mr. Spivey turned in this estimate from Winchester Auto Body to repair of his 2007 Chevrolet Colorado. Total amount of repairs are \$761.46.

There were no objections in paying this estimate from Winchester Auto Body in the amount of \$761.46.

Judge Anderson told court members that there were a couple of culverts stopped up in the county. Magistrate Dennis Combs had got a quotes to repairs these culverts.

Aqua Jet - \$190.00 an hour with a three (3) hour minimum. Judge Anderson mentioned a couple of culverts being on George Drake Road.

He ask the court to approve up to \$1000.00 for these repairs. Magistrate Dennis Combs has agreed to meet with the guy from Aqua Jet to show him the culverts.

There were no objections in approving up to \$1,000.00 for the repairs.

Updates:

Discussion of Covid 19

State of Emergency:

Judge Anderson made court members aware that he had attended several meeting in regards to the Covid 19.

He said he would like them to be update them on what they have done thus far such as,

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Why did they did the Emergency Declaration, what polices we have taken as a county, and what other offices are currently operating at.

Last Friday Judge Anderson declared an STATE OF AN EMERGENCY. This puts us in a position to receive Federal Fund or assistance. Since this time they have met daily to discuss things. They have had Emergency Management, Powell County Health Department and himself there. They were also different groups there through the Webinar. Such as Kentucky Emergency Management Services, The White House, Congressmen, Powell County Health Department along with primary care and practitioners.

He told them that he had sent out a memo stating that all non-essential staffing or operations within the courthouse be closed. A lot of this had already been facilitated through AOC with the judicial portion of it. Currently no one has been laid off we have just re-worked what we are doing.

The County Clerk's Office is closed, The Circuit Clerk's office is open but the driver's license portion has been suspended. In both places the public cannot just walk in they will only be seen by appointment only. All doors at the courthouse has been lock but front door. It may become necessary by next week to have a bailiff be stationed at the front door to ask the individual what reason they have to want to enter the building.

Judge Anderson said he has made some changes to departments.

Road Department: No Changes as of now. There has been an employee that has had to miss a few days due to the child care facilities being closed.

Transfer Station: Having the inmates locked down has stressed our labor source so in order to keep our trailers limited from personal contact it is now closed to the public on Wednesday and Thursday and open to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. Judge Anderson he said he may look into closing on Tuesday also. He said as calls has been coming in they have been trying to encourage curb side service with Rumpke for 18.35 a month. We are going to have to look into what we are charging at the transfer station anyways.

Ambulance Service: They have acquired several times but cannot change Protocol on how they have to respond. It's hard to find enough PPE for them to be able to adequately go to a situation. Judge Anderson said they have went as high as the Attorney General and talked to the Congressmen as well. He said he has a concern if they have potentially transport someone with Covid they are risking exposure and at a bear minimum they will have to come back and disinfect van. The reality is unless they have a severe state the hospitals will not want to keep them. As of now they do not have an answer that they can change the protocol.

Judge Anderson also told court members that he didn't think people should be going to their health care providers to get a tested. They would be taking a chance on exposing those front line workers. He said he would like to see a drive through deal sit up in a separate location.

Animal Shelter: No personal contact unless it's extreme emergency.

Magistrate Chad Patton ask if Andrew would be taking the Dog Warden's position. Judge Anderson said that would be his opinion unless they thought otherwise. We are also looking into signing him up for some classes.

Judge Anderson ask court members if they had in questions regarding the Emergency Declaration. Magistrate Tipton ask him since him being the County Judge and declaring and State of Emergency what does this mean for the city. Judge Anderson told him that he had been in contact with both Mayors. One of the Mayor's has been trying to stay a little more insolated. He said if it became necessary

whoever is sitting in his position would be the supreme authority. Magistrate Tipton said he would just make sure that the Mayor's understood this protocol.

Dispatch: Open 24/7 365 days of the year

One thing Judge Anderson said they had done with their emergency medical dispatching through Power Phone. They have another range of questioning to identify someone that might be a likely candidate of having Covid 19 prior to sending our responders out there and if they had to go they would be more prepared to put on their PPE prior to. Judge Anderson said they had a meeting yesterday at the EOC with the fire departments and police services. Some of the recommendations was that if it's not an emergency would they be willing to give their contact information and let the officer call back verses sending someone out. We want to limit as much contact as we can with the first responders.

Magistrate Tipton brought up the subject of us having Fiscal Court meetings. He said he understood that we had an open record law but sometimes we have a lot of people to show up for the meetings but in light of what is going on we need to postpone regular meetings and just do bills or whatever we have to or when people come in and sit down that we ask them their business and let them get up and speak and then they need to leave. We are not supposed to have more than 10 people at one time in a room. Judge Anderson said we could talk about this more under policies. Magistrate Lockard ask Judge Anderson if he was going to make a decision next week the courthouse. He said that we scale down as much as possible about allowing people to come into the courthouse.

Policies:

Judge Anderson said he had some options they we need to explore about our meetings.

He said we can have a meeting with just members. It has to be advertised and we have to have the ability to livestream it to the public. Everyone has to be in a room and be visible. County Attorney Robert King said it's a little confusing because it talks about some of the Magistrates being allowed to be in a remote location but everyone being visible and heard on one screen.

Judge Anderson said he recommends that we rotate just to have a quorum each time and not do anything beyond our standard operations at this time.

The ZOOM app may also be an option.

Jail 2020/2021 Budget Discussion:

Judge Anderson told court members that he knew we would have to have a special meeting to present them the 2020/2021 Jail Budget. The Department for Local Government requires that we submit a proposed Jail budget to the Fiscal Court on or before April 1st.

Judge Anderson said that he had prepared his version and had ask Jailer Travis Crabtree to prepare one also. As of today Judge Anderson had not receive anything from Mr. Crabtree.

Hopefully before we have to have the special meeting we can have it by live stream. With all the technology at the EOC building we could hold the fiscal court meetings there.

Magistrate Tipton said that if we postpone the April meeting and then just have special meetings to do just what has to be done. Judge Anderson said you get into trouble with bills. Magistrate Tipton said he didn't think we had to approve the bills. The Judge told him that we still have to acknowledge them and he does not think that even under a State of an Emergency that it gives him or the Treasurer the authority to pay them without the court's acknowledgment of them.

Judge Anderson said if there is someone that we are concerned about is off for two (2) weeks he will have to clarify if they have to be laid off. He said he does not feel comfortable sending someone home and paying them but don't want to penalize them. We might have someone in a vulnerable population because of what they are doing that would put them at a greater risk. It's one thing to say we are going to change the policy to allow us to send that person home with pay for two weeks but then you have to worry about discrimination because they are a lot of others that don't. Magistrate Tipton said we need to keep track at the point that we do this of who went home and if they go home because of that they need to be off for 14 days at a minimum. Judge Anderson said he is talking about someone that might have been exposed he is talking about someone that meets the 60 plus age or has a medical condition. He said one other thing he would like to caution them on is that one employee posted something that was very troubling on Facebook about being possibly exposed to Corvid 19 which created some stress on some departments and well as the public. Judge Anderson said he would like us all to refrain from posting things. Magistrate Tipton said we need to encourage our employees to use judgment in the stuff they post.

Judge Anderson said that he had other employee had posted something insinuating that these Emergency orders was being used to disarm our citizens. Our Kentucky statues clearly authorizes people with the Judge Executive powers that he could take a car but would have to compensate that person but cannot take firearms and ammunition. He said he has no motivation nor does the Governor for that matter to do this. In the state of Kentucky you cannot cease anybody's firearms or ammunition in a State of an Emergency.

Judge Anderson told court members that they had met with all the grocery stores (Kroger, Save-A-Lot and IGA) they all agreed to allow our elders or at risk population and come in and do their shopping up to 9:00 a.m.

He also made them aware that next Tuesday they would start picking up prescriptions and grocery and deliving them to the elders or at risk people. The first half of the day on Tuesday will be dedicated to prescriptions and Wednesday will be for groceries. We will be operating out of the Powell County Public Library and there will be a number they can call. They have talked to all 5 of our pharmacies to make sure that they are comfortable with us picking up people prescriptions. We have also talked to law enforcement for people that have scheduled medication. No alcohol or tobacco products will be allowed.

Judge Anderson said he has had a lot of small businesses that is starting to show concern. We are not for sure at this time what funds will be pushed down to help out.

Stacy Crase has stepped into the roll as the Director at the Powell County Health Department. Judge Anderson said she has been wonderful to work with. He said that he along with Kevin Babcock, Steve Asbury and Mrs. Crase has been working together and met almost every day. When and if cases start to be confirmed in Powell County those will come through the Powell County Health Department and something will be set up similar to what the Governor has done to announce it.

Judge Anderson suggested that they do a group text on a daily bases to tell them what was implemented that day.

Magistrate Tipton stressed his concerns about the staff in the Judge Executive office and ask if any of them could work from home. Judge Anderson said they have talked about that and this is a prime example of why we need rural areas to have adequate internet. The issue with the school having to get tangible packages. If we had adequate internet it was be easier to isolate ourselves and conduct our business. The realty is some of our staff does not have the same access as others do.

Judge Anderson said we do have our office staff to where they can work from home with some equipment that was ordered. The County Judges office is vital to the every operation here.

Magistrate Tipton ask if we should postpone April's meeting and just have special ones as necessary. Judge Anderson told him that we would be off to stay with regular meeting and not have special ones because of the bill cycle. Magistrate Tipton said he is afraid that if we meet the regular night we will have a lot of people to show up. The Judge said hopefully before we have our next regular meeting we will hopefully be in a better position to where we can live stream the meeting and allow the public to view it from afar. We want to be transparent and the ability to interact but we need everyone to be safe.

Judge Anderson said he had no problem with the Magistrates rotating meetings just as long as there are three (3) of them present.

Judge Anderson told the court members that he had his version of the 2020/2021 Jail budget and he will ask the Jailer to present his version also.

Judge Anderson told court members that he had talked to the two (2) particular candidates for the Road Department. One of them said they couldn't do it for that salary and the other one could but Judge Anderson said he told him he would like to hold off until we get through this current situation. The Judge said he would then bring him in for the court members to ask any questions they may have for him.

In closing Judge Anderson told court members about the Powell County Covid page. It can be linked though the county Facebook page .

With no further discussion a motion was made by Magistrate Lockard seconded by Magistrate Combs to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:38.

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James Anderson

Dennis Combs

Donna Gabbard

Mike Lockard

Chad Patton

Timmy Tipton

