

# SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME EIGHTY-NINE

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

NUMBER TWENTY

## Court Hears Update On Closed Bridges

Webster County Fiscal Court met for about 45 minutes Monday in a session that included hearing an update on two county bridges that are closed; a FEMA update, and the transfers of funds as well as the passage of a resolution for the 2026 lease of vehicles through the Kentucky Association of Counties Vehicle Lease Program.

Monday's meeting opened with Judge/Executive Steve Henry providing an update on replacement/repairs to two county road bridges. Henry noted that Slaughters-Elmwood Road is closed due to flood damage to a bridge on that road. According to Henry, the bridge has been inspected by the state and will remain closed until the structure which has come loose can be repaired/replaced. The

work will be done as a FEMA projects and is anticipated to cost in excess of \$100,000. The paperwork for federal funding for the project has been filed.

Failure of a drainage structure on Fish-trap-Derby Road has caused that road to be closed as well. The county has applied for emergency funds for that project which is also expected to exceed \$100,000 for repaid/replacement.

Road foreman Randy Norman told the court that the projects will be bid starting June 23, with a bid opening date set for July 14.

In his report EMA director Jeremy Moore told the court that the disaster recovery center in Onton will remain open through June 21 with the deadline to apply for assistance extended to July 25.

Moore urges anyone who has been impacted in any way—home damage, flood/wind, loss of food, hotel stays, lost wages for missing work due to high water—during the April storms should apply for FEMA assistance. To date, 71 valid registrants have applied in Webster County and approximately \$341,874.84 has been distributed to Webster County residents. FEMA workers continue to canvass the county in an effort to identify individuals who may need assistance.

In other business, magistrates approved the hiring of John Arnett at the road department and Isaac Farmer as a part-time employee at the jail. The court also approved a sanitation appropriation transfer in the amount

of \$43,879.91 and an interfund transfer totaling \$9605; both transfers relate to utility and sewer projects.

Also on the agenda for approval were the annual standing orders. The court okayed monthly payroll and utility expenses to be paid when due. Included in the standing orders is the payment of projects funded by federal grants. Second reading of a budget amendment for unanticipated revenue totaling \$60,563 was also approved.

County Attorney Clint Prow presented the county's Administrative Code for first reading and noted changes to include adding a general harassment policy, expanding the county's social media policy, and adding a policy to address salary increases on step in-

crement basis starting with an annual hourly increase at 10 years, and continuing to 15 years, 20 years, etc. The changes are being made on the recommendation of the committee that reviewed the code. The court approved first reading as presented.

Henry asked the court to approve the court facilities local government reimbursement for which reflects the amount of funds the Administrative Office of the Courts will reimbursement the county for use of the circuit court room in the courthouse and the annex. The total reimbursement is anticipated to be about \$132,015.60.

Before they went into a closed session, magistrates approved

a resolution for 2026 lease of road vehicles for the county through KACo Leasing Trust. The county will lease a 2026 Mack Granite dump truck and a 2026 Mack Granite roll-off at a total cost of \$427,922. The vehicles will replace two a dump truck and roll-off the county is selling at auction this week. Henry noted that the vehicles being sold are expected to bring about \$32,000 more than the county paid for them last year.

At 9:35, Prow asked the court to go into closed session per KRS 61.810(1)(c) to discuss pending litigation. He noted there would be nothing to report when the court returned to open session.

## Board Of Education Meets, Hears Proposal

The Webster County Board of Education met for about an hour and thirty minutes Monday night, hearing a proposal, reviewing updates for the 25-26 school year and preparing for the annual superintendent's evaluation.

Treasurer Brandi Burnett presented the May financial report and presented the fiscal year 2025-26 fee schedule for students. In reference to the fee schedule, Superintendent Aaron Harrell told the board that while the list is lengthy, by law the document must be adopted annually. He added that "there are certain fees that have to be charged--mostly consumables that are used by students and must be replaced every year"—but he reminded the board that not every fee applies to every student and that the fee list covers all grade levels. Most fees are class specific, Harrell said. The fee scheduled will be listed on the June 23 agenda for approval.

At the June 23 meeting, the board is also expected to approve the treasurer's process of needed documents required to close out the 2024-25 school year.

Harrell addressed the board on several matters. He told the board that Clay Elementary will begin the year with an interim principal while the principal Courtney Nole is on leave. The superintendent noted that at the June 23 meeting he will recommend that a \$2500 stipend be added to the salary schedule for the interim principal who will begin work July 1 and continue into the school year in that position for about three more weeks. Buffy Corbin will be filling in for Nole and will be working extra days to insure students have a smooth opening of the school year. She will be working this summer with the administrative team planning for the coming year. Corbin, who is presently a CTR coach at the Clay, holds a principal's certification, Harrell said.

The superintendent also reminded the board that it is time to renew the board attorney's contract. Roy Massey, the board attorney, will likely sign a new contract following the June 23, meeting. Harrell noted that there are a few changes to the contract including an increase to the hourly billable rate. That rate will increase to \$150 an hour per a request from the superintendent. Harrelly also noted that Massey has made some language

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## Dixon City Commission Approves Budget; Passes First Reading Of Ordinance Amendment

The Dixon City Commission met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Terry Webb presiding and all commissioners present. City Attorney Lindsey Durbin was also in attendance.

Prior to the start of the business session, Lane Davis with the Small Business Administration addressed the commissioners concerning the availability of disaster relief funds as a result of the recent tornadoes and flooding in the Tri-County area. He noted the deadline for applying for emergency relief is July 25. Low interest loans could be available for businesses, homeowners, and renters, depending on individual circumstances. Those funds are available for both physical damage and economic injury. Davis told the commissioners, "Encourage those who have suffered damage to apply and see how much could be approved." Those wishing to apply for assistance should go online to [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster) and submit and application.

Commissioners approved the minutes of the May meeting and the bills and claims.

Monthly reports show members of the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 29 calls in May. The city's water loss, according to Commissioner Randy Norman, was 21.5% for the month, and Commissioner Robert Brown noted a culvert on College Street needs some re-

pair.

Mayor Webb told commissioners there appears to be a serious leak near the Webster County Public Library; however, efforts to find and repair that leak have been unsuccessful. He added that additional equipment is being brought in as the search for the leak continues.

Commissioner Mande O'Leary reported the parks and recreation board will meet on June 17. She also noted a child recently sustained a cut while playing on the splash pad. She inspected the pad and did not find any kind of sharp edge. Ms. O'Leary also noted the injury was minor. Commissioner Peggy Poole noted that children playing on the splash pad are to be accompanied by an adult.

City Clerk Barb Goff told commissioners a summer feeding program is underway at Baker Park. Children under 18 years of age are able to participate in the program at no charge. Ms. Goff reported that the number of users has been in decline and it is important to have more participation in order to keep the program active.

Code Enforcement Officer Chris O'Leary updated the commission on efforts to reach property owners who are in violation of the city's nuisance ordinance. He reported the owners of two properties on Railroad Street have been contacted and are working to bring their properties

into code. Two other properties are in violation, and those owners are being sought. He also noted that several properties on U.S. 41-A, South are also in violation, and those owners will also be contacted. He told commissioners it is often difficult to find the proper contact information.

Commissioners approved first reading of an ordinance to amend the city's protocol for disconnecting water service for customers who may have a leak on their property. The commissioners also approved second reading of the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget in the amount of \$1,262,855.

The commission approved Public Works Director Matt Cobb as an attendee and voting delegate at the Kentucky Rural Water Administration conference later this summer. The commission also ok'd a resolution authorizing Mayor Webb to sign all paperwork with the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Assistance for Troubles or Economically Restrained Systems. That resolution is required as the first step for the City of Dixon to apply for funding to help with the Lakeview Drive line replacement water project.

No further business came before the commission, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Dixon City Commission will be Monday, July 14, 6:00 P.M.

## Cases Heard In Webster Circuit Court

A number of individuals appeared in Webster County Circuit Court before the honorable Judge Daniel Heady on June 5, where they entered pleas to charges against them.

In the case of Chasidy D. Laffoon, the defendant was granted pretrial diversion for a period of five years. Laffoon is to be supervised by the office of Probation and Parole and must abide by all conditions set forth in her diversion order including entering drug court if accepted, complete drug and alcohol assessment with MBC Outreach, P and P, SSC or DPA

ASW and complete all recommended treatment. Laffoon's charges include first degree possession of a controlled substance first offense methamphetamine. She will pay a monthly supervision fee. If she successfully completes her pretrial diversion, the charge will be designated as dismissed/diverted.

Toni N. White appeared before Judge Heady and entered a plea of guilty to multiple charges including first degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense greater than or equal to methamphetamine; first degree promoting contra-

band; possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia buy/possess. White was adjudged guilty of the charges and ordered to pay \$165 in court costs; White was also sentenced to six years incarceration on count one; five years on count two; 45 days on count three; 365 days on count four to run concurrently for a total sentence of six year to run consecutively with all other sentences.

In his case, Allen C. Hoover was granted probation/conditional discharge of charges of against him. A probation period of five years under the supervision

of probation and parole was applied. Hoover was also ordered to undergo available substance abuse or psychiatric treatment of 12 months plus six months after care in a long-term in-patient substance treatment program as recommended by the treatment facility as well as abide by all other conditions set forth in the probation order. Hoover was initially charged with first degree possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; and tampering with physical evidence and sentenced to five years incarceration probated.

In the case of Tony C. Whitmer, the defendant withdrew his not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to charges of drug paraphernalia buy/possess and first degree possession of a controlled substance, first offense, methamphetamine. Whitmer was ordered to pay court costs in the amount of \$165 and sentenced to 12 months incarceration on count one and one year on count tow with the sentences to run concurrently for a total sentence of one year but consecutively to all other charges/sentences.