October 13, 2026

MINUTES

Staff and Commissioners recited the pledge at 9:00. Purchase orders and bills were reviewed and signed. Pending issues were discussed with the following resolutions approved and signed:

V116-249 Minutes of October 8, 2026:
1st-Rush 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
V116-250 Indigent Defense Fees for September
1st-Striker 2nd-Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
V116-251 Additional Appropriation
1st-Rush 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Sherman-yes, Rush-yes
V116-252 Hire J. Gossard JFS Director
1st-Striker 2nd-Rush Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V116-253 Award Bid CDBG
1st-Rush 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
V116-254 Release of Funds
1st-Striker 2nd-Rush Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
Signed: 3 year contract for J. Gossard JFS Director 26-29
1st-Rush 2nd-Strike Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes

Commissioner Sherman attended the Alliance Executive Board meeting Friday morning.
Commissioner Rush will be attending the Airport Board Meeting this evening.

Richard Lawson, Maintenance Supervisor - Updates

- Guardian has begun work at the Carroll Street building, including security cameras, access control, and fire system improvements. Work is currently in its second day.
- A second vendor evaluated door locks, strikes, handicap access buttons, and related hardware, providing a quote of approximately $38,000. Additional quotes will be obtained for comparison.
- An additional quote is being requested from Lock & Key in Lima for the remaining door lock replacements.
- Fire system improvements completed by Guardian at the Annex have exceeded initial expectations and are an improvement over the previous system.
- The Annex boiler is operational; however, certification documentation has not yet been received. Richard has contacted Air Force One regarding certification and is awaiting a date.
- Air Force One is also working on the Carroll Street HVAC project but is having trouble locating a unit of the required size.
- Commissioner Sherman asked whether Waibel Energy had been contacted. Richard stated he has not received a response since requesting information.
- The courthouse basement boiler has been started and is operational.

- Commissioners requested updates if Air Force One is unable to complete the Carroll Street HVAC project so alternative options can be considered.
- Lighting upgrades are currently being evaluated, with installation anticipated to begin around November 1.

Sheriff Keith Everhart & Judge Tudor - Municipal Court Security Discussion

- Judge Tudor reviewed recommendations from a 2022 Supreme Court security assessment that identified several deficiencies. Many recommendations have already been addressed, and additional security enhancements are being considered.
- Discussion focused on improving security at the Hardin County Municipal Court, which is housed in the City of Kenton building, creating shared responsibility and funding challenges.
- The Judge and Sheriff discussed implementing a walk-through screening system and additional security measures for court operations.
- Current security staffing consists of court personnel, a bailiff, and Kenton Police presence in the building. Concerns were raised about relying on a single individual to manage screening, courtroom security, and probation responsibilities.
- The primary challenge identified is funding and staffing a dedicated security officer.
- The Sheriff indicated recruiting a part-time security officer would be difficult and suggested a full-time position that could assist the Sheriff's Office when court is not in session.
- Two potential security options were discussed:
    - Option 1: Secure the entire building with a single public entrance through the basement, with costs potentially shared between the County and City.
    - Option 2: Secure only the court area and courtroom entrance during court operations.
- Commissioners emphasized the need for formal commitment from the City of Kenton before the County assumes ongoing security expenses.
- Judge Tudor noted improved security would free court staff and probation personnel from security-related duties.
- Discussion included funding considerations, staffing requirements, equipment costs, and how costs should be allocated between the County and the City.
- No action was requested at this time. Judge Tudor and Sheriff Everhart will continue discussions with the City of Kenton and return with additional information.
- Judge Tudor emphasized the importance of enhanced court security and noted increasing concerns regarding threats and violence directed toward judicial officials.
- Commissioners expressed support for improving security while ensuring long-term funding responsibilities are clearly defined through intergovernmental agreements.

Judge Santo - Courthouse Space Needs

- Judge Santo requested an opportunity to review available courthouse space to determine whether it could accommodate additional court operations and staff.

- Judge Santo clarified that the court is seeking **additional space**, not relinquishing existing space.
- Current office areas are overcrowded, with multiple staff members working in limited office space.
- Commissioners and Judge Santo discussed electronic file storage as a possible long-term solution; however, juvenile records are not fully available through public electronic systems.
- Concerns were raised regarding the costs associated with increased electronic records management, including servers, computer systems, and continuity of operations during internet or phone outages.
- Judge Santo expressed interest in relocating clerks closer to public access areas to improve service and efficiency.
- Commissioners suggested scheduling a space review following the election to evaluate potential office configurations.
- Potential needs discussed included additional clerk workspace, an attorney conference room, and more functional office space for court operations.
- Commissioners acknowledged concerns about staff density and the need for improved working conditions within the court offices.

_____, YES/NO
President of the Board-Joseph C. Sherman

_____, YES/NO
Fred M. Rush

_____, YES/NO
Timothy L. Striker

Attest_____
Clerk of the Board