

The Barren Fiscal Court spent the first 25 minutes of its meeting last night discussing when they were going to meet. In March Judge Davie Greer made the executive decision to only meet once per month. Kentucky Law allows her to make that determination. 59 counties in Kentucky only meet once per month. And the judge said she thought once was enough to conduct the county's business. Some magistrates think otherwise, but they have no authority to change the judge's order. They do have the authority to schedule a special called meeting, as long as the meeting is for a specific purpose and no other items are discussed. That's exactly what they are going to do on the second Tuesday of May when they will discuss the budget for the next fiscal year. Last night Judge Greer said she had gotten positive feedback from a lot of citizens who applauded her decision, because the focus of meetings in recent months has changed

{audio}<http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0417greer.mp3>{/audio}

Magistrate Chris Steward offered his opinion on the matter:

{audio}<http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0417steward.mp3>{/audio}

In recent meetings the court has been burdened with accusations about elected officials, misconduct by county employees and conducted detailed public investigations which have resulted only in the embarrassing of some and the court as a whole. No charges, reprimands, or resignations have come from the massive amount of time spent. The judge appears to have changed to meeting only once per month to simply reduce the stage on which so much of the political discourse is played out.

Another issue was the help for Recreation Director Charles Kerney for the county. In March the court voted to come up with a job description for someone to work seasonally with Kerney, but this month Judge Greer read the ordinance with the job description for the position and it was voted down, apparently not because of the added cost, but of the job description itself. Magistrate Gary Gillon questioned it this way:

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0417gillon.mp3{/audio}

The vote was 4 no's and 3 yeses. Nobody was more frustrated than Kerney himself.

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0417kerney.mp3{/audio}

The position was to have been for someone to help with summer mowing, keeping the restrooms clean and other maintenance of the parks.

The court meets again in regular session on May 21st.