### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FAYETTE CIRCUIT COURT FOURTH DIVISION

Civil Action No. 20-CI-00332

filed electronically

### HAYNES PROPERTIES, LLC, et al.

v.

# BURLEY TOBACCO GROWERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, *et al.*

PLAINTIFFS

DEFENDANTS

## Settlement Class Counsel's Response to Graddy CR 59.05 Motion re Denial of an Attorney-Fee Award

Settlement Class Counsel, Katherine K. Yunker and Jason R. Hollon, hereby respond to the CR 59 Motion filed April 17, 2023, by W.H. Graddy & Associates ("Graddy"), asking this Court to alter, amend, or vacate its final and appealable 4/5/23 Order denying Graddy's Renewed Motion for an award of attorney's fees. Class Counsel will appear at and participate in the CR 59 Motion hearing noticed for the Court's motion hour on April 28, 2023, but note here that they do not agree with all the positions taken or statements made in the CR 59 Motion. Class Counsel also express their position that:

1. Like the Renewed Graddy Motion, the CR 59 Motion does not present any reason for a different result from the Court's 8/24/21 Order denying the <u>initial</u> Graddy motion for an attorney-fee award.

2. A motion to alter, amend, or vacate a judgment requests an "extraordinary remedy which should be used sparingly." *Gullion v. Gullion*, 163S.W.3d 888, 893 (Ky. 2005). Graddy does not cite or establish any of the cognizable grounds for CR 59.05 relief.

3. As an alternative to the reiterated assertion that a fee award is "authorized by law" (CR 23.08) Graddy asks for "leave of this Court to attempt to reach an agreement with Class Counsel and the attorneys of record regarding attorney's fees." CR 59 Motion pp. 5-6.

a. Court leave has not been required for Graddy "to attempt to reach an agreement" with other parties in this case about payment or reimbursement of attorney fees, yet Class Counsel are unaware that Graddy has attempted or proposed such an agreement. What Graddy apparently seeks is Court leave for a <u>delay</u> in the proceedings or the finality of the 4/5/23 Order. Class Counsel are opposed to any delay in resolution of the Co-op's dissolution, the disposition of the \$1.5 million Fund, and appropriate distributions to eligible Settlement Class members.

b. Any attempt at such an agreement would be futile. Graddy invokes the CR 23.08 language about "reasonable attorney's fees that are authorized ... by agreement among the parties" as a (hoped-for) basis for an award; however, even if achieved, an agreement by Graddy "with Class Counsel and the attorneys of record" does not meet that standard. Furthermore, any attorney-fee award to Graddy will be borne by Settlement Class members, whether through a further diminution of Co-op net dissolution proceeds or a charge against proportionate shares of the Fund. Class Counsel will not voluntarily agree to such payment.

WHERFORE, Settlement Class Counsel respectfully suggest that the Graddy 59 motion be DENIED.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Katherine K. Yunker</u> Katherine K. Yunker (KBA # 79592) <u>/s/ Jason R. Hollon</u> Jason R. Hollon (KBA # 96148) MCBRAYER PLLC 201 E. Main Street, Suite 900 Lexington, KY 40507-1361 (859) 231-8780 Settlement Class Counsel

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served this <u>25th</u> day of April 2023, upon counsel *via* the e-filing system and electronic mail and upon unrepresented persons *via* first class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, as shown on the attached Service List.

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