

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
August 8, 2019

The meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on August 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gallatin County Senior Center, Warsaw, Kentucky. Magistrates present were Ethan Moore, Donnie Sullivan, Joel Shinkle and M. J Haddix. County Attorney John G. Wright was also present. Everyone stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Amendment to Agenda: Judge Executive Ryan Morris brought forth three amendments to the agenda. Those being, David Hull and the Homestead Farm Program; Three Rivers Health Department Tax Rate; and Gallatin County Schools Road Movement. Ethan Moore moved to approve the agenda amendments. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the consent agenda. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

Minutes: Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2019. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

Recognition of Audience: A member of the audience asked the court when the animal shelter would start taking cats? Judge Morris answered that the issue is currently being worked on.

Approval of Agenda: Joel Shinkle moved to approve the agenda as amended. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval to pay, which included the added blue sheet. Ethan Moore moved to approve the claims as presented. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

July 2019 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the report for the month ending July 31, 2019. Mrs. Bullard explained that within LGEA there is the inclusion of a new “other checking” line which is for the Scenic View Sewer Fund. M. J Haddix moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
2. Budget Transfers – Joel Shinkle moved to approve the budget transfers for the month of July. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore moved to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month of July. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.
4. Cash Transfers – Joel Shinkle moved to approve the cash transfers. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENTS

Judge Morris lead discussion of changes and clarifications in reference to absences, vacation time, over time policy and comp time. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the Personnel Policy Amendments. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

EMS BILLING AND RATE POLICY CHANGE

Judge Morris reported to the court that the approved rate changes have been implemented and introduced the topic of a refusal charge. The fee would be for when services are requested and then are not needed or refused. He explained that he would not want the fee to be in any way a deterrent for people to call when services are needed but noted that there is a significant amount of time that services are refused. Bud Webster added that many of the refusals are repeat offenders and thought the charge could help to curtail this. County Attorney Wright added that some other counties are charging. Magistrates Shinkle and Sullivan noted their agreement that it seemed like a fee is in order, with Magistrate Shinkle adding that the distance being traveled is not insignificant and a fee of \$75-100 seems reasonable. Judge Morris informed the court that the recommended fee was \$200, but he would personally like to see the fee be lower than that. After further discussion, Magistrate Shinkle made a motion to institute a refusal fee of \$100. As the motion was on the table, Magistrate Moore noted that the county is providing a service but he did understand not wanting to throw money away. Magistrate M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 1, with Magistrate Ethan Moore voting no and Magistrates Haddix, Shinkle and Sullivan voting yes.

Judge Morris brought forth for discussion the availability of automatic annual increases to the rates without revisiting. Magistrates Shinkle and Moore both noted their objection to the need for an annual automatic increase. Ethan Moore made a motion to revisit the fees annually. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

Judge Morris then offered for discussion the option to begin hard billing of out of county residents and non-property owners, with existing property owners and residents continuing to be billed as is. County Attorney Wright expressed concern about separate billing methods and referenced issues that took place in Owen County over similar practices. Discussion took place in regard to the pros and cons of hard billing. Judge Morris recommended to not move forward with hard billing, but to review locally once bills are deemed uncollectible. Joel Shinkle moved to table the discussion to allow more time to gather additional information and form a committee to review. Donnie Sullivan seconded. Motion passed 3 to 1 with Magistrates Moore, Shinkle and Sullivan voting yes and Magistrate Haddix voting no.

NEW BUSINESS

GALLATIN COUNTY SCHOOLS ROAD MOVEMENT

Hargis Davis representing the Gallatin County Board of Education came before the court with a proposal to make adjustments to the road that runs behind the Gallatin County Elementary, known as Paw Print Path to alleviate standing water behind the school. He presented an architectural rendering showing the proposed new flow of traffic which will require 84 feet of property by the water tower owned by the county to and for the water tower fence to be moved. He explained that the school would incur the cost of moving the fence and noted that the plan had been discussed with the City of Warsaw. Both Mr. Davis and the school's architect added that the traffic flow should increase safety in the area significantly. Magistrate Ethan Moore asked for clarification that the city of Warsaw is ok with the plan and its impact to the safety concerning the water tower. Judge Morris answered that they were. Donnie Gould moved to accept the plan as presented. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 to 0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.

THREE RIVERS HEALTH DEPARTMENT TAX RATE

The Three Rivers Health Department Tax Rate was presented for acceptance. The rate remains unchanged at 5.5 cents per \$100 of property value. Joel Shinkle moved to accept the tax rate as presented. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

DAVID HULL – HOMESTEAD FARM PROGRAM

Gallatin County Extension Agent David Hull came before the court to discuss the creation of a new program recognizing farms that have been continuously farmed by the same family for 100 years or more. This program mirrors a program in the State of Indiana but does not exist on the state level in Kentucky. Mr. Hull proposed to begin the program locally in Gallatin County with the support of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court. The program will recognize each qualifying farm in the county with a heavy aluminum sign that is 2 feet by 18 inches at a cost of approximately \$85 each. He asked the court for \$25 per sign in cooperation with the Extension Office and Soil Conservation Office as co-sponsors. He noted that he knows of at least 7 farms already and believes there may be more. Joel Shinkle noted that he would like to recognize them at Fiscal Court in addition to the designation and signage. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to contribute \$25 per sign to the program. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

CASA PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Hallie Hill of Boone County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) came before the court to explain who and what they are. She explained that these advocates speak for children in court where abuse and neglect is involved. The volunteers meet with the children generally once per month in their home. The volunteers must undergo 30 hours of training. She added that there is a need for volunteers in Gallatin County, as there are 172 cases currently. County Attorney Wright noted that there were only 12 cases when he started in 1982 and offered his assessment of the importance of this program. Ms. Hill left some pamphlets and cards with her contact information for anyone interested in volunteering or learning more.

NKADD BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Judge Morris informed the court that George Zubaty term as a member of the NKADD Board of Directors is set to expire in September of 2019 and is able to be re-nominated. Judge Morris recommended Mr. Zubaty be re-appointed to another 3-year term. M. J Haddix made a motion to reappoint George Zubaty to the NKADD Board of Directors. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

RESOLUTION KACO FOR NEW AMBULANCE

Resolution No. 080819 was presented for approval. The resolution is pertaining to execution of various documents related to the lease of the previously approved ambulance purchase. Joel Shinkle moved to approve the resolution. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.

COMMENTS

Magistrate M. J Haddix asked about abandoned cars reported in the Glencoe and Napoleon area. Judge Morris and Magistrate Haddix offered for discussion the formation of a nuisance board to help speed up the process prior to court action. Judge Morris noted that currently nuisances are both complaint driven and determined via open observation by Code Enforcement Officer. County Attorney Wright noted that Officer Fuelhart does a good job of keeping up with the progress as property owners attempt to clean up.

Magistrate Haddix asked about insulation for the Napoleon Firehouse. Judge Morris answered that the money has been budgeted. Glencoe Fire Chief Bud Webster noted that there have been multiple quotes but framing and a door replacement is needed before it can be installed.

Magistrate Haddix asked if there was any update in regard to the pond issue. Judge Morris answered that there has been none yet.

Magistrate Haddix asked about the water pressure in Glencoe. Judge Morris reported that Kentucky American Water has a regulator blow and that is what was causing the issues. They report that it has been fixed.

Magistrate Haddix asked for an update in regard to the playground equipment bids. Judge Morris informed him that no bids have been received.

Magistrate Haddix asked about the slide on Jericho Road. Judge Morris reported that he and Road Supervisor Brent Brown met with them this week and are working on a plan for remediation. There has been no information from FEMA.

Magistrate Haddix asked about tires being left at the county barn. He was informed that the tires can only be accepted during the tire amnesty program which will be available next year. Mr. Haddix asked for clarification, that none should be currently dropped off. Judge Morris answered no. Magistrate Haddix noted he will provide information to Judge Morris.

Magistrate Haddix asked for a copy of the letter sent to the state about Highway 42E, 42W and Steele's Bottom and if no letter has been sent, requested that County Attorney Wright send a specific letter of concern.

Magistrate Haddix inquired about a bill for \$37,500 for the airport. Judge Morris explained that this was deemed to be the county's portion to pay and he refused to pay it as it was not in the budget, then in the last week he received clearance to use the State's Bond money to cover the invoice. Judge Morris added that anything asked to pay would have to come to the court for approval. Magistrate Shinkle commented that we continue to be told there would be no funds required from the county and we must stick to our guns and not spend our funds.

CONSENT AGENDA

SET REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

Judge Morris informed the court that Real Property assessments were up to \$423,000,000 in 2019 from \$420,000,000 in 2018. Joel Shinkle moved to leave the tax rate for Real Property the same at .89 dollars per \$100 of assessed value. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

SET MOTOR VEHICLE AND WATERCRAFT TAX RATE

Joel Shinkle moved to keep the Motor Vehicle and Watercraft tax rate the same at 16.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.

It was reported that the county's new K-9 has already helped with 3 arrests.

With no further business before the court, Joel Shinkle made a motion to adjourn. Donnie Sullivan seconded his motion. All Ayes.

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk