

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
May 14, 2020

The Special Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on May 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Magistrates present were Ethan Moore, Donnie Sullivan, Joel Shinkle and M. J Haddix. County Attorney John G. Wright was also present. Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Judge Morris asked the court to hold a moment of silence in honor of Mayme Walters and her contributions to the county. She was a member of the Fair Board, the first ever Gallatin County Citizen of the Year and a founding member of the Gallatin County EMS of which she was a member of 29 years.

Minutes: M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of April 9, 2020. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

Recognition of Audience: Judge Morris reported that no requests to speak were received prior to the meeting and upon a check of Facebook Live there were also no requests to speak there.

Approval of Agenda: Joel Shinkle moved to approve the meeting agenda. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval to pay with one addition, which was \$190.67 to IHS Pharmacy to cover medicine for an inmate. Ethan Moore commented that the jail bill was down. Judge Morris noted that the bill was just over \$25,000 which is a significant decrease, with the current population currently in the mid-twenties. Ethan Moore moved to approve the claims as presented. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

April 2020 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the report for the month ending April 30, 2020. Joel Shinkle moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.
2. Budget Transfers – Ethan Moore moved to approve the budget transfers for the month of April. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore moved to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month of April. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.
4. Budget Amendment #051420 #7 – Joel Shinkle moved to approve the budget amendment providing relief funds for EMS from the CARES ACT. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

M. J Haddix asked if there will be any more of these funds received. Judge Morris answered that he hoped more would be provided in Phase 2. He noted that the county has spent roughly \$13,000 in COVID response thus far.

Joel Shinkle asked how the supplies are holding up. Judge Morris answered that so far everything is fine, thanks in part to a lot of help from the community and the Health Department.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 UPDATE

Judge Morris reported that drive-thru testing has been set up and Three Rivers Health Department tested 158 Gallatin County residents this week. Two residents have tested positive. One has recovered and the other is quarantining at home.

County offices will reopen on May 18. The public is encouraged to make appointments where and when possible and to bear with the offices as they work to maintain social distancing within their spaces. Judge Morris noted that the Kentucky Supreme Court has not opened the courthouse which includes the Circuit Clerk. County Attorney Wright commented that the current plan is to reopen on June 2nd, with an announcement to that regard likely to come soon.

M. J Haddix inquired about the status of the ballot for the upcoming election. Judge Morris confirmed that the ballot is not yet complete. All voting will be done via absentee. He reported that County Clerk Miles and her staff are ready to get everyone taken care of to cast their vote. Mr. Haddix followed up questioning that final instructions and items are needed from the state. Judge Morris acknowledged that Mrs. Miles is in contact with the state and her machines are not yet ready. He added that he would encourage all citizens to log on to govoteky.com to make sure their information is correct and a ballot can be sent to them.

Magistrate Moore asked if the county will be continuing the COVID testing. Judge Morris answered that he would like to see the tests continue as tests and the Health Department are available.

Judge Morris passed along a comment from County Clerk Miles, that if anyone has questions to please call her office at 567-5411.

NEW BUSINESS

RUMPKE CONTRACT

Judge Morris informed the court that the Rumpke trash collection contract expires on 07/31/2020. The proposed contract options are for two years at a rate of \$17.25 per month which represents a 4.5% increase or a 4-year contract which increases the rate by the same 4.5% for the first 2 years then an additional increase of 2% for the final 2 years. Judge Morris noted that he would like to try and negotiate a contract with no increase. Joel Shinkle moved to table the issue in an effort to generate interest from another provider. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.

COUNTY ROAD AID RESOLUTION

Judge Morris reminded the court that the original County Road Aid Resolution that was passed was for \$509,000. Due to the impacts on driving from COVID-19 the motor fuel tax has decreased and the amount has been lowered to \$459,103.58. The court also opted to give the flex funds back to the state at that time. Judge Morris has inquired with the state to determine if the county has the option to retract that to take the issue back up for reconsideration. He noted

that those funds have been kept for the past 3 years. Ethan Moore moved to accept the new agreement. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

2020-21 BUDGET FIRST READING

Judge Morris first noted the need to approve reoccurring regular expenses such as payroll and utilities. Joel Shinkle made a motion to preapprove the regular recurring expenses. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

Judge Morris made mention that the jail bill increased \$290,000 in the last budget to \$450,000 in this one. He also noted that EMS with balanced this year with LGEA.

He further explained that the airport line of \$20,000 that was allocated will be moved to EMS, which will ensure that no Gallatin County funds are spent on the project. There is currently \$2600 in that account from the sale of three barns.

Judge Morris provided a few other highlights from the budget including:

- Any salary increases will be frozen until January 2021
- Any major expenses will also be frozen until January 2021 unless is deemed an emergency.

Mr. Morris explained that these freezes will give the county 6 months to see what affect COVID has had on the county from business closures and/or decreased hours and payrolls.

Ethan Moore asked is there are any projections on what those affects might be. Judge Morris answered that there is not at this time.

Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of the budget for 2020-2021. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held, with all Magistrates and the Judge voting yes in favor of the 1st Reading of the 2020-2021 Budget.

2020 CENSUS UPDATE

Judge Morris reported that Gallatin County is currently below the state average for participation in the 2020 Census. He explained that completing the census helps provide much needed funding to the county. Citizens have until May 27, 2020 to compete the census, then census takers will interview homes that haven't self-reported through August.

COMMENTS

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan asked about the plans for the Fair/Summerfest. Judge Morris answered that the event has been cancelled due to COVID-19. It had ben slated for June 16-17. He also asked the court to consider the date of July 25 for the Livestock auction and accompanying 4-H programs. M. J Haddix moved to accept the cancellation plans and to approve the date for the Livestock Show and Program. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

Joel Shinkle asked if there is a plan to re-hire for the position of trash pickup as the previous person has gotten another job. Judge Morris answered that he was planning on doing so. Mr. Shinkle also asked about government funding for task. Judge Morris reported that there is plenty of those funds left.

Magistrate Haddix asked when the new Planning & Zoning Board and New Nuisance Board are going to meet. Judge Morris answered that he hoped they would meet in June.

Judge Morris asked County Attorney Wright for any specifics of what the Nuisance Board can address. Mr. Wright answered that he is happy to look at the guidelines that have been laid out with the formation of the board and to talk with other counties to see what they do.

Donnie Sullivan asked about work in Ethridge. Judge Morris reported that from his conversations with Travis Noel of the State Road Department that they are cutting trees back and working on the ditching but the road work obviously needs to be done.

Ethan Moore asked if the Nuisance Board has been sworn in yet. Judge Morris reported that they have not at this time but hopes to have that happen at the first meeting.

Magistrates Haddix and Shinkle both noted that the Glencoe exit needs to be one of the first items addressed.

Judge Morris reported that negotiations are still in the works in regard to Skytech. He hopes to have that worked out by the next meeting.

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

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk