

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
June 11, 2020

The regular meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on June 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gallatin County Extension Office Annex, Warsaw, Kentucky. 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.

Minutes: M. J Haddix clarified that the minutes from May 14, 2020 should reflect that his question referencing New Planning & Zoning, should have a question about Planning & Zoning and the new Nuisance Board. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of May 14, 2020 with the clarification as noted. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

Recognition of Audience: Magistrate Haddix informed the court that Billy Sullivan has spoken to him about his lot and is working to get it cleaned up. He hopes to have it completed by July 1. Mr. Sullivan also asked about the zoning prior to the Glencoe Annexation. Jim Hansen reported that he is in discussing and researching with the City of Glencoe. Magistrate Shinkle and Judge Morris also reported that they fielded calls about the Nuisance Board as well. The Facebook Live was checked and there were no requests to speak there.

Approval of Agenda: Judge Morris had three additions to the agenda. He asked to include a COVID-19 update under Old Business. Under New Business, the item titled Senior Center/Concession Building Rental Fee to include Parks & Recreation Areas and also add two other separate items, Nuisance Board and Hartig Park Watershed Restoration Area. Ethan Moore moved to approve the meeting agenda with additions. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval to pay. Joel Shinkle asked about a \$10,000 item to Smuggler's Cove. He was informed that it was a contribution toward the raft up that will be held the 2nd Saturday in August.

M. J Haddix asked about three bills for prisoner medical services. Treasurer Bullard explained that they were for doctor visits of an expectant mother. Judge Morris added that he believes those bills will be covered by the state once the county has paid \$1,000.

M. J Haddix also asked about a bill from Champion Cleaning for sewer clean up. Judge Morris informed Magistrate Haddix that the bill was for Scenic View's sewer system.

Mr. Haddix also asked about the guardrail slip costs, specifically if it was known what the savings from Nucor was. Judge Morris answered that in total, the savings was about \$10,000.

Motion to pay the bills as presented made by M. J Haddix and seconded by Ethan Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

May 2020 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending May 31, 2020. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the report and Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

2. Interfund Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore moved to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month of May. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
3. Budget Transfers – Ethan Moore moved to approve the budget cash transfers for the month of May. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.
4. Budget Amendment #051420 #7 2nd Reading – M. J Haddix moved to approve the budget amendment providing relief funds for EMS from the CARES ACT. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

Comments from Audience: Comment from Facebook Live asked about the cleanup of a property on Sayersville Road. Jim Hansen reported that as of this time he is unaware of this issue but would check on it. Judge Morris answered that Code Enforcement Officer John Fuellhart is working with the owners on it currently.

OLD BUSINESS

RUMPKE CONTRACT

Judge Morris reminded the court that the Rumpke trash collection contract was tabled at the last meeting in an effort to further negotiate with them and to attempt to find other providers that may be interested in providing service to the county. Both Magistrates Shinkle and Moore gave their opinion that they did not like the idea of agreeing to a four-year contract. Magistrate Sullivan agreed. Judge Morris noted that the current contract offer expires on July 31, 2020. M. J Haddix moved to again table the issue until the next regular meeting. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

SKYTECH INTERNET

Judge Morris reported that Skytech Internet was sold to White Cloud Communications on May 29, 2020. White Cloud was the only company to make a bid. They will take over installations and service, but will halt installs for the first 60-90 days in order to upgrade equipment. The terms were as previously outlined; \$43,000 plus \$5,000 once the Indiana license is transferred. \$2.50 per customer per month for 10 years on existing and new customers. Mr. Morris noted that the county was able to retain its own 911 software and equipment with White Cloud's system able to serve as a backup.

FLOOD PLAIN UPDATE

Judge Morris reminded the court that the Flood Plain Ordinance was read in March, but since it has been changed a new first and second reading must be held and voted on. The "free board" reference must be changed. County Attorney Wright and Mr. Hansen will collaborate to draft the revised ordinance for the a 1st Reading to be held at the July meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Judge Morris reported that there has been an increase in cases, isolated primarily to a long-term care facility. As of yesterday, there were 54 positive cases with 4 more reported today, 3 positive antibody cases and a total of 6 deaths. He added that testing continues to be available on Wednesday at the Health Department. He commended the Health Care workers, EMS and Police for their tremendous effort and work during this time.

Magistrate M. J Haddix asked when are the county parks planned to be open, including basketball goals re-installed. Judge Morris answered that he would like to discuss that matter during the Parks & Recreation discussion in the New Business portion of the meeting. Mr. Morris also noted that the county offices are open.

Magistrate Haddix asked how voting was going at this point. County Clerk Miles answered that voting is going fine. She reported that folks are calling to request ballots be mailed and they may also come in to get a ballot or vote in the office. She noted that she is allowing walk-ins when social distancing can be observed but also is taking appointments for those that prefer to do so. She reminded the court that Election Day is June 23, 2020 with voting as mentioned able to be cast through the end of the day on June 22. She has opened her office by appointment on Saturday as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSERVATION DISTRICT – VIC SATCHWELL

Vic Satchwell of the Gallatin County Conservation District came before the court to present their budget for acceptance. M. J Haddix moved to accept the budget. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

GALLATIN COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS APPOINTMENT

Judge Morris informed the court that appointments for the Board of Assessment Appeals needs to be completed by July 28. There are 3 members appointed to the Board, one each from the County Judge, City of Warsaw and Fiscal Court, on a rotating basis. The current Fiscal Court appointee, David White's term has expired and needs to be replaced. The court will need to nominate a new appointee at the next meeting. The current remaining appointed members of the Board are Bill LeGrand and Barry Alexander

Magistrate Haddix asked if someone can sit on two boards. County Attorney Wright will research and report back to the court with an answer.

SENIOR CENTER/CONCESSION AREA/PARKS & FAIR GROUNDS

Judge Morris asked the court if there was any interest in making changes to the current policy to a rental fee or deposit only structure. Magistrate Shinkle expressed the opinion that he would like to see the facilities be free, but agrees that a deposit seems necessary. Magistrate Haddix asked who cleans up after the space is used. Judge Morris answered that the folks who rent the space are supposed to clean them and then they are cleaned in the regular course of business. Discussion about whether to offer the actual Fair Grounds available for rent was discussed. Magistrate Sullivan noted that when he has been involved in renting such a space, the fee is typically \$1,000 - \$1,500 per day plus amenities such as utilities and sound. It was decided that with the COVID-19 situation, the matter is not pressing at this time. Judge Morris and County Attorney Wright will reach out to Boone County to get a copy of the agreement they require to be signed to use as a guide for the county to draft its own.

Magistrate Sullivan expressed the opinion that he didn't think the county needed to be in that business right now with concerns related to COVID-19 and possible outbreaks.

Magistrate Haddix noted that the 127 Yard Sale is scheduled and asked if the county will allow the space rented in the past to be used. Treasurer Bullard informed the court that the Animal Shelter uses that as a big fundraiser.

Joel Shinkle moved to offer Concession Area and Senior Center as a free rental with a \$100 deposit. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

Discussion about whether the county is ready for Parks and Playgrounds to be opened took place. M. J Haddix moved to open the Parks and Playgrounds as of 8:00 am Monday June 15, 2020. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

CARES ACT FUNDING APPROVAL

Judge Morris reported that Kentucky received \$300 million in CARES Act Funding with Gallatin County receiving just under \$302,000. These funds can be used for unbudgeted items to fight the pandemic. He reported that the application is in the process of being submitted. The funds can cover expenses incurred from March 1 through December 31, 2020. Items that Judge Morris is recommending the funds be used for include: a new power cot system for EMS at a cost of \$50,000 which will help to limit patient contact; purchase of a Lucas Device for roughly \$17,500, a device which performs CPR; some additional items for the ambulance as well and the remainder of the funds to be used for First Responder salaries to allow for Hazard Pay. Judge Morris proposed \$2 an hour for all EMT and Paramedics and \$2 an hour for the Sheriff's Road Deputies for the months of June, July and August then revisit. Mr. Morris provided an estimate of the cost for the Hazard Pay which totaled \$31,700.

Sheriff Neale asked how the increased pay would affect his budget. Judge Morris answered that a budget amendment would have to be done monthly as the funds are drawn down. Magistrate Shinkle commented that he thought the Hazard Pay was a really good idea. Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the funding requests as presented. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

Magistrate Sullivan asked if there was anything that the county could do for the nursing home. Judge Morris answered that it was possible the county could help with PPE and have discussed that with Emergency Management Director Brandon Terrell. Mr. Morris added that the Nursing Home is doing a great job and he will keep in contact with them throughout these times.

Sheriff Neale informed the court that as court proceedings begin, there will be additional people needed with the new guidelines in place. Previously it would take 3 people on court days but it will now take 8. Judge Morris will research to see if it is admissible to use the CARES funds for court days as well.

YOUTH SPORTS

Judge Morris reported that Little League Baseball and Softball will resume on June 15 with guidelines in place. This included Tee Ball, Baseball and Fast Pitch Softball. Those who signed up have been notified. The cost is \$10 – 15 per child for a shirt and there is enough equipment to support those who cannot provide their own bat and helmet.

HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY

Judge Morris reported that upon review of the Health Insurance Benefits Summary, Section 5.4, Eligibility, Appendix A & B, he has located where what is addressed in Appendix A is in the court minutes from October 12, 2017 but cannot locate anything in regard to Appendix B, yet they were both enacted at the same time. County Attorney Wright gave the opinion that for the county to act in any way it should be done via an action of the court. It was also noted that the renewal for this year is currently set at 14%. Discussion in regard to the renewal increase and Appendixes took place.

Magistrate Haddix asked when the last time employees acknowledged the personnel policy. Judge Morris answered that currently that takes place upon initial start of employment or upon a

change or amendment to the policy. Mr. Haddix gave his opinion that the employees should be acknowledging the policy annually and to ensure they are aware of the policies and how they will be applied. Further discussion of the matter took place, then Magistrate Haddix asked for the personnel policy to be provided to him for review.

Judge Morris explained that there are employees that are in violation of the policy as it currently stands which includes himself and he will be rectifying how it applies to him immediately. He and Treasurer Bullard explained that open enrollment for 2020-21 has ended and this creates issues for other employees possibly and their main concern is to do right by the employees. Magistrate Sullivan offered his opinion that the most important aspect of the situation is to make the best decision moving forward. County Attorney Wright added that he feels the best course of action is to have a discussion with the insurance company to see how the situation can be addressed. Ethan Moore made a motion requesting the attendance of a representative from the insurance company at the court's next meeting on June 18 and the issue be addressed as an agenda item that can be acted on. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

FARMS TO FAMILIES

Mr. Morris reported that between 320 and 330 cars came to the Farm to Families event. He noted that unfortunately the supply ran out. He added that he hopes to have the event again next month. He expressed thanks and gratitude to all of the volunteers and folks that donated, including; Free Store Food Bank and Northern Kentucky Area Development District for providing the food. Gallatin County High School, Gallatin County Food Pantry, Family Resource Center (Danny and Conte Flowers) and Youth Service Center (Shannon Stephenson) for hosting the event. Volunteers from National Guard Burlington Unit, Gallatin County Road Department, Dana Justice and Jim Hamilton and the Gallatin County Food Pantry Volunteers. Also, Dorman Products for providing equipment and moving food, specifically Jimmy Dalton as Fork Lift Operator and Jama Morrison in Safety. Also, Sheep Dog Impact Assistance, Dave Jardon.

Mr. Morris added that there will be another Food Pantry distribution on June 20.

JAIL CONTRACT

Judge Morris presented the court with a cost comparison of rates for housing inmates in Grant County as opposed to Carroll County. Grant County's daily rate is ninety cents per inmate below Carroll County and is currently working on the development of a rehabilitation program which would be a great opportunity for the county. He did note the concerns with increased road time and the inability of Grant County to house female inmates, but added that any contract that would be agreed upon with Grant County would not be exclusive.

Magistrate Shinkle noted that Switzerland County had previously approached the county about housing inmates. County Attorney Wright explained that there are many things to consider when crossing state lines which could cause an issue.

It was also noted that Carroll County does not have a work release program, but Grant County does. Judge Morris gave his opinion that he would like to have the rehabilitation program at the county's disposal and be included in any contract, noting that once it is completed the rehabilitation facility will be the largest of its kind in the state. He will work with Grant County to further negotiate and see if a better agreement can be reached.

Magistrate Haddix made a motion to decline the contract as written and give Judge Morris authority to negotiate a contract further. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

NUISANCE BOARD

Judge Morris asked that the magistrates reach out to their appointees to determine their availability for the end of June in order to set a first meeting which must be advertised.

HARTIG PARK WATERSHED RESTORATION

County Attorney Wright informed the court that 71 acres have been identified as an area that can be preserved and protected but would come with restrictions. He further explained that there is a little bit of a conflict between the current restrictions and the allowable activities. The interagency agreement is a \$3+ million project that David Hull and the park board are in full support of.

Magistrate Shinkle noted his concerns about the access to the park for the project via Steele's Bottom and while he is in favor of the project he thinks the road needs to be looked at prior to such a project to make sure further road decay is not caused.

No action taken. Judge Morris will speak with David Hull to gain further information.

COMMENTS

Judge Morris reminded the court that Election Day is June 23, 2020 as previously discussed. He also mentioned the ongoing 2020 Census and its importance to Gallatin County.

Magistrate Shinkle asked about Right of Way mowing. Judge Morris informed him that it is currently underway.

Magistrate Shinkle also asked about trash pickup. Judge Morris informed him that the Boy Scouts will be doing some but that he will also look for additional opportunities for it to be taken care of.

Magistrate Haddix asked that since the playgrounds are now being opened, can the equipment at the county park be moved as previously discussed. Judge Morris answered that he thought that could be achieved and would shoot for it to be completed by Monday. Judge Morris also mentioned that 4-H may do a garden, so he will look at what would be a good spot for that.

Magistrate Haddix brought to the attention of the court some late-night ATV activity in Glencoe that has now begun during the day and early evening. Sheriff Neale will keep an eye out and attempt to further discourage the activity.

Judge Morris announced that on June 18 at 6:00 pm at the Extension Office Annex there will be a Special Meeting to conduct the 2nd Reading of the 2020-21 Budget. Mr. Morris explained that DLG did not get the budget back to his office in time for it to be held at this meeting. As with all Special Meetings, only items on the agenda will be discussed and voted on. He hopes to include insurance as an item.

With no further business before the court, Ethan Moore made a motion to adjourn. Donnie Sullivan seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk