

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
August 13, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on August 13, 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: Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2020 and Special Meeting of June 18, 2020 were approved by Joel Shinkle via motion. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

Recognition of Audience: Ray Simpson, owner of the Glencoe General Store, inquired about the old Bank Building in Glencoe that is now owned by the county. He asked if the court had any plans to sell the property or specific plans. Judge Morris and Magistrate Shinkle informed him that the property was donated by Heritage for community use. Plans are for the Family Resource Center to use it, Student Enrichment and Tutoring. Mr. Shinkle added that he thought only flooring was needed for the building to be completed. Judge Morris noted that of course COVID has created challenges with being able to use it this year.

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

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval to pay. Magistrate Shinkle asked if 100% of the bill to Berkshire for work on the bridge was due. Judge Morris answered that it was and the bridge looks really good, is much safer and came in under budget. Motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Ethan Moore and seconded by Joel Shinkle. Motion passed unanimously.

July 2020 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending July 31, 2020. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the report and Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.
2. Budget Transfers – Treasurer Bullard noted that the Budget Transfers were related to CARES Act claims and the county is awaiting funding for these. M. J Haddix moved to approve the budget transfers for the month of July. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Joel Shinkle moved to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month of July. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.
4. Budget Amendment #081320 #1 1st Reading – COVID-19 Relief Fund. Federal reimbursement totaling \$301,956.00 for ambulance salaries and sheriff payroll and program support. Motion to approve made by M. J Haddix and seconded by Donnie Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NKU WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT SECOND READING

Judge Morris presented an ordinance for a second reading that designates 72 acres of Hartig Park for a watershed restoration project. The work on the project will be performed by and at the direction of Northern Kentucky University. Judge Morris noted that there will also be some roadwork performed upon completion of the project. Magistrate Ethan Moore asked if the county would be presented with exactly what work will be performed. Judge Morris explained that a specific plan has not been presented but they will be preserving streams and bringing in rock much like what was done on Walnut Valley.

Donnie Sullivan expressed his concern about the road and if it were to deteriorate further, who would pay for that. County Attorney Wright did not answer the question directly but explained that the main thing legally the ordinance does is to limit camping in the designated 71 acres of the park.

Magistrate Haddix asked if the road is one lane and even with loads being lighter, it is still more loads and more traffic on the road.

Sheriff Josh Neale offered up the possibility to use some of the Sterling Materials property to off load onto a gravel road to help with traffic flow.

Magistrate Shinkle moved to approve the second reading of the Watershed Restoration Project Ordinance. Ethan Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Judge Morris explained the purpose of the ordinance is to eliminate the \$50 board fee that was mentioned as it has not been budgeted for. Compensation of Board Members is addressed in Section 6. He further explained that the Board Members have taken their positions with the understanding that it is on a volunteer basis. Magistrate Haddix asked if the budget could be changed. Donnie Sullivan moved to table the discussion to give time for the budget to be looked at. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

GALLATIN COUNTY FAIR BOARD UPDATE

Judge Morris informed the court that Gallatin County Fair & Expo, Inc. has been created and currently lists Mr. Morris, Magistrate Haddix and Hargis Davis as Directors. Judge Morris will make the change to list the Members of Fiscal Court as Directors until a board can be formed. He also noted that, Gallatin County Fair Board, Inc., which is of interest to the county currently lists Robert Gould, Yolanda Gould and Melissa Phelps as officers and directors. He explained that there is work to be done to finalize having the Fair Board name, but once that is completed the county could elect to use whichever is wanted as the official name.

NEW BUSINESS

JOY WARNICK, POOCH PARADE

Joy Warnick would like to put on a Christmas Parade with animals dressed up on December 12, 2020 in conjunction with a tourism event. The parade will be in the late Mayme Walters memory, as the Mayme Walters Canine Christmas Parade and would take place at the City Park in Warsaw. Fees collected will be donated to an animal rescue. Joel Shinkle moved to approve the event. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Gallatin County Health Department Budget was presented for approval. The tax rate will remain the same. Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the budget and tax rate. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

LIBRARY BUDGET

The Gallatin County Library Budget was presented for approval. Budget was approved by Ethan Moore and seconded by Joel Shinkle. Motion passed unanimously.

SET COUNTY TAX RATE

Judge Morris and Treasurer Bullard informed the court that the PVA Settlement has not yet been certified but includes approximately \$21 million in new assessments compared to the previous year. Per Mrs. Bullard's estimate, that is an additional \$12,000 in revenue. The rate proposed is to remain unchanged at 8.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Joel Shinkle made a motion to accept the tax rate for Real Property. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

Treasurer Bullard also presented the Motor Vehicle and Watercraft tax rate for approval at a rate of 16.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which remained unchanged. Ethan Moore moved to approve the Motor Vehicle and Watercraft tax rate. Motion was seconded by M. J Haddix. All ayes.

SHERIFF SETTLEMENT STATEMENT

The Sheriff's settlement was presented for approval. Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the settlement as presented. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT

Judge Morris reported that the City of Glencoe joined via inter-local agreement by a passage of 4-2 and the City of Sparta has the item on their agenda at their next meeting. The agreement will allow for 2 appointees from each city. Motion to accept made by Joel Shinkle. Seconded by M. J Haddix. All ayes.

CARES ACT / HAZARD PAY APPROVAL

Judge Morris presented the court with a continuance of the hazard pay that was approved for First Responders in June for 2 months. This review will extend the pay for an additional 3 months, including September, October and November. The total is for the \$2 per hour hazard pay is \$10,000 for the sheriff's department and \$15,000 for EMS. Magistrate Sullivan asked to confirm that the pay is covered by CARES Act funds. He was informed that was the case. Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the hazard pay for three months. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

Jailer Jerry Webb asked why the Jailer's office was not included. Judge Morris informed Mr. Webb that the question was raised when the program was initially rolled out and the state government disallowed hazard pay for the Jailer's office.

MEDICOUNT SERVICE AGREEMENT ADDENDUM

Treasurer Bullard informed the court that the EMS Billing Company used by the county, Medicount has presented an addendum to the current agreement that would allow them to attempt to recover funds on Medicare and Medicaid runs that are not being paid as they should. She noted that this is not trying to collect from individuals. The agreement allows for a 12% collection fee to be paid to them.

Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the agreement addendum. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.

ROAD DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Judge Morris reported that Road Supervisor Brent Brown is currently identifying resurfacing needs throughout the county. He will put specs together to let out for bid. Magistrate Sullivan asked about Gridley Hill. Judge Morris answered that there is some patching scheduled but the road condition is very concerning. He further noted that the Knox Lillard Bridge and slide work is complete. The ditching work is underway. Hinkle Contracting should begin their paving projects shortly and hope to have it completed within 30 days.

COMMENTS

Magistrate Ethan Moore asked if Randy Jones has been replaced at the Road Department. Judge Morris answered that he has not been yet as of this time.

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan made a motion to go into closed session to discuss property acquisition per KRS 61.810(1) (b). Motion seconded by Joel Shinkle. All ayes.

Donnie Sullivan made a motion to come out of closed session. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.

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

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk