

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
May 13, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on May 13, 2021 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 Donnie Sullivan, Joel Shinkle and M. J Haddix. Judge Morris noted that Magistrate Ethan Moore was absent due to the graduation of his sister. County Attorney John G. Wright was also present. Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2021 was made by M. J Haddix. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

Recognition of Audience: None.

Approval of Agenda: Judge Morris presented the meeting agenda for approval. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval to pay, including the added blue sheet with late arriving bills. Joel Shinkle made a motion to pay the bills as presented. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

April 2021 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending April 30, 2021. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the report and Joel Shinkle seconded he motion. All ayes.
2. Budget Transfers – M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of April. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the interfund cash transfers. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

FIRST READING CODE ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT

Judge Morris noted that the amendment to the Code Enforcement Ordinance outlines the fine schedule. County Attorney Wright informed the court that there are currently 3 cases in District Court. It was also explained that the new board has yet to have a quorum at the scheduled meetings, Judge Morris will work diligently to ensure that the Board Members are able to attend, and may seek to find additional members in place of those that are unable.

Magistrate Shinkle asked once fines are levied and property owner has been informed, what's the general time frame from that point? Planning and Zoning Administrator Jim Hansen explained that from notification it should be within 21 days. He noted that in the case that the offender is a business, the business license can immediately be suspended.

Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the First Reading of the Code Enforcement Amendment. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Morris noted that the First Reading will be advertised in The Gallatin County News prior to the next reading per statute.

NEW BUSINESS

RURAL AND SECONDARY ROADS, KEN MCCARTY

Ken McCarty of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 6, came before the court to present the Rural Secondary Road Plan for 2021-2022. He explained that there are no undistributed funds this year, and that the County's allocation is \$509,666 including \$101,933 in flex funds. He reminded the court that there are approximately \$373,000 in flex funds that are carrying which can be rolled over for one more year. Judge Morris asked about HWY 1130 and Mr. McCarty answered that those projects were submitted during April and are scheduled to be completed this year. He explained that the State of Emergency and Pandemic caused the delay in their completion. He added that no traffic paint is currently available which has been the hold up on projects that have been let this year.

Judge Morris reiterated the \$373,000 in flex funds available from previous years and the \$101,933 for this year. He noted that Spencer, Roberts, Dry Creek and Jericho Roads all need addressed.

Joel Shinkle made a motion to retain the flex funds for this year. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with Magistrate M. J Haddix abstaining from the vote.

Mr. McCarty provided further updates to road projects in the county, including that the I-71 from Mile Marker 53-56 to 69 is expected to be let for bid soon. This is a \$15 million project that could be completed this year. He also informed the court that the land slide project on 42 West has bid letting set to occur this month, which is expected to be \$25 – 30 million in work. Proposed completion of that project is late 2023. He reminded the court that this has been a 10 year conversation. The further explained that he assumes it will be a total closure of the road during the project as it will be put back in the same place.

RECOGNIZE NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Proclamation recognizing National Police Week was read aloud by Judge Morris. He commented that it is his belief that the Gallatin County Fiscal Court truly supports and values the work our county's law enforcement does and thanked the Magistrates for their support as such.

EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Judge Morris read aloud a proclamation for EMS Week in Gallatin County as May 16 – 22.

NUCOR BOND RESOLUTION

County Attorney Wright read aloud the Resolution which goes with the Industrial Revenue Bond approval that is already in place. The Bond is not to exceed \$170 million for a term of 30 years. He explained that the Lease Agreement, Pilot Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement are attached and encompass the full agreement of those three, authorizing County Judge Morris to execute necessary documents. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the Nucor Bond Resolution. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Judge Morris presented Janie Stout Price to fulfill the term of Lee Mullins to the Gallatin County Library Board. He noted that this will be a new four-year term. Motion to approve the appointment of Janie Stout Price to the Gallatin County Library Board was made by Joel Shinkle and seconded by Donnie Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING OF THE 2021-22 GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT BUDGET

Judge Morris and Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the 2021-22 Budget for consideration and approval, noting that all Magistrates have met with Treasurer Bullard including Magistrate Moore. Mrs. Bullard added that the Budget will be submitted to Department for Local Government for review after the approval of the 1st Reading. M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the monthly recurring expenses and standing orders, payroll, and utilities. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Magistrate Joel Shinkle asked about an item under Road Department for \$30,000 as maintenance/repair to building. Judge Morris answered that this is an allocation to construct a salt shed at the Concord Fire House and for repairs to the roof of the existing road department building. Judge Morris also noted that equipment would be to purchase a side mower and/or a truck as has been discussed.

Magistrate Shinkle brought about the topic of increasing Soil Conservation Funding. Judge Morris commented that funding for soil conservation has continued even as funding from previous agreement with Kentucky Speedway expired in 2018. It was noted that the school is getting \$17,500 in direct support in addition to the \$10,000 in funding provided to the Family Resource Center. Mr. Shinkle added that he feels the \$250 in funding for Soil Conservation could be increased, especially in light of the on-going efforts to clean up the county and the Soil Conservation Board doing a really good job. Magistrate Haddix added that with the original Gallatin Steel bond expiring and that portion going onto the tax rolls, there will be increased funding. Judge Morris confirmed Mr. Haddix's comment and noted that Soil Conservation will increase from \$1,800 to approximately \$6,000 due to the expiring bond. Judge Morris further commented that he obviously has a high affinity and loves the school, but with the funding they are getting from other places, the \$17,500 provided from the Fiscal Court doesn't likely make a large impact to them and those funds could be better used elsewhere if needed.

Magistrate Haddix noted that \$6,000 annually is being contributed for a Tourism Advisor and the person is not from the county. He explained that he is not trying to take away from the job that is being done but feels there are plenty of folks locally that could do the job. Judge Morris explained that when he came into office, Carroll County had a full-time Tourism person that had performed tasks for Gallatin County as part-time. She retired and was replaced with the existing person. Mr. Morris added that he certainly thinks if there is someone in Gallatin County that is qualified for the position, the court should encourage that to be given a look.

Magistrate Haddix brought up the issue of air tanks for the fire department. He reminded the court, that with their first budget in 2019-20, the funding to Gallatin Co and Glencoe Fire Departments was evened out to \$35,000 each, yet the court is only receiving financials from one department and not the other. He added that the air packs are needed and he has personally seen them fail recently. But even with that stated, feels like the court needs to see the books from the department before he is willing to vote to approve to provide the funding. Mr. Haddix continued by saying, things within the two departments aren't being done the same way and feel they should be. The communication should be better before the court blindly spends. He added that they do a great job and have been doing so for years and we need them but the books need to be open and have to have better communication. Magistrate Shinkle agreed. Judge Morris commented that he agreed that when tax payer dollars are spent, those receiving the funds must be accountable as the court is the same with those funds. He echoed Magistrate Haddix's comments that the air packs are needed but the communication has to be improved. He added that he felt a twice annual review of the books is sufficient and in order. Magistrate Shinkle added that he thinks 30 days is appropriate for the books to be provided. If they cannot be by the time the second reading of the budget takes place, then he would have trouble extending the

funds. County Attorney Wright asked if auditors have ever specifically asked or noted that the county has insufficient documentation from the department. Treasurer Bullard answered that there have been mentions but she cannot specifically recall that in her time as the funding is noted as a line in the county budget. Magistrate Sullivan commented that everyone seems to be in agreement that there has to be more transparency. That one department can't do it one way and the other, another. All members of the court present agreed that the county has more professional and qualified people than any other department around. They are truly second to none. Treasurer Bullard added that for any funding provided by the county from the budget line item, a PO is required.

Magistrate Haddix made a motion to approve the 1st Reading of the 2021-22 Gallatin County Fiscal Court Budget. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Further discussion took place, resulting in an insistence that there be answers in regard to the financials prior to an approval of the 2nd reading of the budget. Motion passed unanimously.

SALT BID AWARD

Treasurer Bullard reported that the low bid from the salt auction was \$98 per ton submitted by Morton. Other bids ranged from \$99 to 180 per ton. She noted that the price was \$69.80 per ton last year, which was significantly less. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the low bid from Morton of \$98 per ton. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS

Magistrate Joel Shinkle expressed his concern about securing the concession stand at the fairgrounds since it is being rented out. Judge Morris responded by saying that the lock will be replaced so those that are renting only have access to certain areas. The court commented that the new board is doing a great job. Dates for the 2021 Gallatin County Fair were announced as July 15 to 18, which is Thursday through Saturday.

Magistrate Haddix asked about mulch at the county park. Judge Morris reported that he has not connected with them yet but had just received a call during the meeting in reference to the mulch. He will follow up.

Donnie Sullivan thanked the court for their support of the Hansel Sullivan Memorial Truck and Tractor Pull. He reported that he has not completed the final numbers yet but there should be significant funds coming back to the county.

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

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk