

**GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**February 11, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on February 11, 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 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:** Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2021 was made by Joel Shinkle. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

**Recognition of Audience:** None.

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

**Vendor Claims:** Claims were presented for approval to pay, including the added blue sheet. Ethan Moore made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**January 2021 Financial Reporting**

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending January 31, 2021. Joel Shinkle asked Judge Morris about the new ambulance that is on order. Judge Morris reported that the ambulance is in process but is at least 30 to 60 days out and the county has not been billed for it yet. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the report and Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.
2. Budget Transfers – Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of January. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the interfund cash transfers. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.
4. Budget Amendment #021121 #3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Gallatin County Sheriff Excess Fees, Airport Grant and Road Assessments. Budget Amendment approved by Donnie Sullivan and seconded by Ethan Moore. All ayes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FOOD CHECK-OUT WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Judge Morris read aloud a proclamation provided by Kentucky Farm Bureau. He noted that the proclamation is very fitting as the Farm to Families distributions continue in the county.

**FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER UPDATE**

Mrs. Conte Flowers of the Family Resource Center provided her annual report to the court which was presented by Judge Morris. Mr. Morris noted that it was in the packet for the Magistrate's review.

#### **CARROLL COUNTY DETENTION CENTER CONTRACT**

Judge Morris reported to the court that nothing in the contract has changed. It is only an update and it has been reviewed by Jailer Jerry Webb. Mr. Morris further reported that the COVID-19 outbreak at the jail has been contained. There were no issues when six inmates had to be sent to Boone County due to the outbreak in Carroll County. Ethan Moore made a motion to accept the Contract with Carroll County Detention Center. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

#### **SHERIFF YEAR END STATEMENT**

Judge Morris informed the court of the Sheriff's Year End Settlement in the packet. He noted that the Sheriff turned over \$147,033.37 in Excess Fees. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the Sheriff's Settlement. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **GALLATIN COUNTY WATER BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Judge Morris informed the court of the need to make an appointment to the Gallatin County Water Board due to the untimely passing of David Easton. Upon clarification with Water Board Attorney Steve Huddleston, it was determined that Water Board Members shall reside within the service district. Mr. Morris presented Ann Webster of Glencoe as nomination for the seat. The board and Judge Morris felt it important to include a female on the board as there are currently 3 men serving. He added that Mrs. Webster is willing to serve. Judge Morris asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Motion to accept Ann Webster to fulfill the unexpired term of David Easton was made by Donnie Sullivan and seconded by Ethan Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT – NKADD & CAC UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

Judge Morris informed the court that the county can receive up to \$200,000 in funds to assist with water, sewer, gas and electricity up to \$1,500 per household, if the household can show that they are behind on utility bills for the last 6 months. Mr. Morris further explained that it will be about 60 days before the funds will be available and those that think they are eligible should apply through the Community Action Center. He also noted that should these funds run out, the county can apply for more.

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE – EMPLOYEE COL INCREASE**

Judge Morris reminded the court that raises were held off for county employees due to the pandemic in an effort to determine the impact on the county's payroll tax. He reported that in the first quarter collections were down approximately \$50,000 but those rebounded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and the county, where the county was ahead by \$60,000. He explained that the departments are operating within budget and finances are strong. He feels that the county is in the position to take care of its employees and should grant the cost of living increases. Magistrate Shinkle asked if the raises are based on merit or cost of living. Judge Morris answered that some are cost of living and some are merit. Mr. Shinkle asked how much roughly, will the raises amount to. Judge Morris estimated it to be between \$10,000 and 15,000, and excludes the offices of the Sheriff and County Clerk who have their raises included in their own budgets. He noted that the last raises given were in July of 2019. M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the raises. Joel Shinkle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Morris noted that the raises would go into affect next week and he would report back with the specific amounts that the raises represent.

## **COMMENTS**

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan asked if there was any news in regard to Cincinnati Bell Fiopitics. Judge Morris reported that there was not, but that he continues to talk with them. Judge Morris did report that White Cloud has nearly completed their upgrade and are hoping they can begin taking new customers in March. He also noted that CARES money could be used to help make further improvements where needed to expand the service they provide.

Magistrate Joel Shinkle asked about a wrecker bill that was reported to be very high. Judge Morris answered that he and the Sheriff have reviewed the fee schedule but haven't spoken to the other party (the wrecker company). He noted that he and the Sheriff haven't been able to balance back to the schedule but haven't gotten an answer of explanation yet. Mr. Shinkle responded that we have a schedule and an answer needs to be provided.

Mr. Shinkle then asked Sheriff Neale what is the average price for a pull-out generally. Sheriff Neale answered that he would say roughly \$175 but that it is a rough estimate. Mr. Neale also added that he has received a lot of complaints and he feels a thorough review is in order. Judge Morris will investigate further and report back.

Magistrate Shinkle asked about the county's salt supply. Judge Morris reported that salt was ordered on February 1 but all of it has not been received. He noted that he hoped 100 tons would arrive by tomorrow and that the county has another 250 tons committed.

Magistrate Haddix asked about a county warming shelter. Judge Morris reported that the Gallatin County Senior Center has been enacted as a warming shelter and is currently open. He added that if folks in need are in the Glencoe area, the concession stand building can possibly be opened if needed, as well as the Glencoe Fire Station. It was also noted that in Sparta, the Sparta Baptist Church has their basement available. Judge Morris announced that those in need can contact any fire department, dispatch, the Sheriff's office, Magistrates, the Judge's office or Brandon Terrell.

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan asked about clean-up on Boone Road. He was informed that final notices have been sent and citations will be the next step. It was noted the property owners have received at least three letters at this point.

Planning & Zoning Director Jim Hansen informed the court that the Code Enforcement Board will meet at 6:00 pm pm the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at the Gallatin County Extension Center. He further reported that there are currently 28 properties on their list that need to be addressed. He added that the snow is of course slowing the progress down.

County Attorney Wright asked if there are any roadside litter programs that can be participated in. Judge Morris answered that the county is participating through the litter grant and via other organizations. Mr. Wright added that 127 from 42 to the interstate needs attention. Magistrate Shinkle asked why the county is not using inmates to work on the clean-up needs of the county. Judge Morris answered that the county can only use its own inmates and the ones the county has, in general have not qualified due to their status. Magistrate Sullivan recommended advertising that funds are available for clean-up through the litter grant.

Magistrate Sullivan asked about a boat that is off its trailer and has been in the same spot for at least 3 years. Judge Morris said he will contact District 6 since the boat is in their right of way. He added that possibly the county could move the boat, take it to the county barn, advertise that it is there, then dispose of. Further discussion about the removal of the boat and the best way to handle was discussed.

Ethan Moore asked for a status update in regard to fire hydrants being added to Blue Heron. Judge Morris answered that in order to add two hydrants it would require adding 1500 feet of 8-inch line at a cost of approximately \$21,000 and noted that the Water Department cannot absorb that cost. He added that at this point the project is on hold due to cost but that work is being done to find a way to get those residents some relief on their insurance. It was noted that the area is within the Warsaw City Limits but they are on County Water. Joel Shinkle asked if possibly the City could chip in for a 3-way split. The matter will be investigated further.

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

Doug Miles  
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk