

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
September 7, 2021

The Special Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on September 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Gallatin County Senior Center, Warsaw, Kentucky. Magistrates present were Ethan Moore, Donnie Sullivan, Joel Shinkle and M. J Haddix. County Attorney John G. Wright was also present. Everyone stood for the pledge of allegiance.

The Special Meeting was published at the Gallatin County Courthouse, Gallatin County Judge/Executive's office and the Gallatin County Senior Center on September 2, 2021. The Special Meeting date was also given at the Regular Fiscal Court Meeting on August 12, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

The American Rescue Plan Act

The Judge explained that today's purpose is to receive ideas, items that your department needs or is struggling with, items to make the jobs easier and fall in compliance with the guidelines and rules relating to Covid. As a Fiscal Court we need to bring items that will be an investment in compliance and the safety of our staff and departments where we can reap the benefits of those items we choose that best benefit our departments and our community.

The Judge opened the meeting to each department supervisor to share with the court their needs and concerns and then the court will take those suggestions and compare to the final guidelines (which come out in October) to what qualifies and tie back to Covid. The Judge informed the court that every dollar spent will be in a form of a Resolution that will be brought before the fiscal court for approval.

Sheriff – Number one concern is the safety of the staff and the community. We need to renovate our building. Biohazards seep into the floating floor and cannot be removed. We need ventilation system. We are bringing prisoners into the building along with the community who pay their tax bills. We do the best we can with the PPE equipment and sanitize all areas the best we can.

Senior Center – Brenda explained the Seniors are limited inside and what they can do now to keep safe distance. We really need a good working bus to take the seniors to outing and trips that they enjoy for social interaction which is healthy for them especially for those who have been in their homes the past year with Covid restrictions and not being at the Senior Center. We currently have a 2009 bus that has a few mechanical issues and can only hold 12 and two wheel chair clients. Currently our driver is picking up meals at the Carroll Co Jail and has no lift system to handle the meals and they are heavy. We would also like to add on a Larger room (Exercise Room) or a Sun Room to space our participants and keep them active.

Gallatin Co Fire Dept.-Chief Barry Alexander and Assitant Chief Alexander spoke of an outdated building that has no hot water for their volunteers to wash with, any showers to de-con after incidents on the interstate or fires. We currently have 32 members and the building is no handicap accessible. The building was built in 1962. Assistance Chief Alexander also said the TEI program was not continued- they had 52 calls and no medical direction with any training and our fire volunteers have no background. This needs to be reinstated.

Glencoe Fire Department-Chief Webster also stated his facility has no access to showers but houses one EMS Squad and fire trucks and they too have no way to de-con the volunteers. He suggested converting a current hazmat/EM trailer into a Cascade system to fill our air packs. He said we are one of the only counties that do not offer a stipend program for volunteers who are essential and have been during this pandemic. Many times volunteer's firemen are called for lift assistance with our EMS service and have no formal training but have the Covid exposure. Volunteerism goes above and beyond for each department. These stipend programs are paid out mid December. Many times our volunteers can't make it to the fire house because they don't have enough gas money.

EMS – Director Ken McCarty stated the need for a new four wheel drive squad to provide a primary way to transport covid patients. We need a satellite building to house a squad in the Sparta area. This could be a multi-purpose use of EMS, Fire, and EM and community safe location in the case of a Tornado and a place for the residents of Sparta to come to. The county owns 5 acres at the crossroads of Boone Rd and Hwy 465. The EMS station only has one shower; sleeping quarters are an issue if you have two men and one woman, no way to quarantine with employees. A fairground is an option to build on. Premium pay is essential as we are losing employees to other agencies offering more pay per hour. We are having trouble staffing squad 1 and Squad 2 is only being staffed at about 20 percent – which means we have to request mutual aid.

Coroner – Ken Lafferty said he is thankful for his office the Sheriff provides and he is grateful for the 2009 Squad that he received from EMS. He really needs a refurbished power lift system – estimated cost of \$30,000. He said if we are talking wish list he would like an exam room to do blood draws and toxicology. He also said having the bodies in the EMS garage is not appropriate when a family member requests to see the body of a loved one.

Jailer – Jailer Webb requested another cruiser. He said the 2006 Crown Vi as 230,000 miles; 2010 Crown Vic has 112,000 miles, 2013 Ford Taurus is in good condition and we have the 2018 Van with only 11,000 miles. His deputies did not receive much of a raise as did he himself. He currently has six people and he said if we don't pay people we will eventually lose them.

Road – Brent said we need some work on our building. Our main need is fencing, security and a camera system as our road property is getting broken into by young people cutting through the fence and vandalizing cars that have been impounded by the Sheriff.

Dispatch – Director Giles mentioned they have limited exposure but only one very small bathroom that they use to wash their dishes because they don't have the option to leave for lunch or supper. The building has bricks falling off on both sides of the building. The only community interaction with the public is when they pick up the keys to the shelter - this can be a simple solution of keyless entry and would eliminate exposure to the public and the risks to the employee working alone. There is also the safety issue to EMS and Sheriff Deputies where we need a tower (requires Broadband) on Knox Lillard for Radio Infrastructure.

EMA – Dwayne Baum, Assistant EM said they don't have much exposure just need safe, efficient equipment for the staff. They are in good shape and have a separate office to work from at Warsaw City Hall. It would be nice to be located in one building with EMS, Fire and EM for spills on the interstate and a community section to store supplies for flood areas in our community.

In closing, Magistrate Haddix said we began office talking about Facilities and now it is a priority for all departments. We wanted to eliminate paying rent and saving money and we are still discussing this issue.

The Judge said these are all good items that have been brought to our attention and we need to process this information and see how it fits with the guidelines and ask ourselves if we built a combination building for several departments, what we would do with our existing buildings.

The Fiscal Court will set another planning date at the Regular Fiscal Court Meeting on September 9, 2021. Date, Time and Location will be determined and advertised.

ADJOURN

Magistrate Moore made a motion to adjourn. Magistrate Haddix seconded. All ayes