

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
July 14, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on July 14, 2022 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 Joel Shinkle, Ethan Moore and M. J Haddix, Magistrate Donnie Sullivan joined by Zoom Video Conference. County Attorney John G. Wright was also present. Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes: Magistrate M. J Haddix moved to approve the amended minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting. Motion was seconded by Ethan Moore. All ayes. M. J Haddix also made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 9, 2022. Motion seconded by Joel Shinkle. Motion passed unanimously. Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 23, 2022. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Audience: Judge Morris asked if there was any member of the audience requesting to appear before the court, not related to Hwy 42. There were none.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Judge Morris presented the agenda for approval with the addition of Carroll County Water District. Motion to approve the agenda with the additional item made by Joel Shinkle and seconded by Ethan Moore. All Ayes.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval to pay which included the added blue sheet. Ethan Moore made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

June 2022 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending June 30, 2022. Joel Shinkle 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 June. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month of June. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.
4. Quarterly Financial Statement – Treasurer Bullard presented the Quarterly Financial Statement for April through June 2022 and reported that it was in balance and uploaded to the Department for Local Government. Motion to approve the quarterly financial statement was made by Ethan Moore and seconded by Donnie Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Annual Financial Statement – Treasurer Bullard presented the Annual Financial Statement for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for approval. Joel Shinkle moved to approve the annual financial statement. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

MILEAGE CLARIFICATION

Judge Morris reported to the court as a point of clarification that the county will follow state guidelines for mileage reimbursement and he provided the schedule for same.

NEW BUSINESS

KYTC ROAD AID AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION

County Attorney John G. Wright read aloud the Resolution for approval of the County Road Aid Cooperative Program Agreement. Motion to approve the resolution was made by M. J Haddix and seconded by Donnie Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously.

MEDICOUNT EMS CONTRACT

Judge Morris and Treasurer Bullard reported that the only changes to the new contract appear to be the time frame being for 4 years rather than 2. Judge Morris asked Bud Webster if he saw any reason for concern of entering into a longer contract. Mr. Webster answered that he did not see any issue with a longer contract, reporting that Medicount does a great job and he felt it was a good option to extend the same price for a longer period of time. Treasurer Bullard added that the company met with her and went over the account. They provide very good support and she is very happy with them. Joel Shinkle moved to approve the new Medicount Contract. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

KACO 2022-2023 SALT AUCTION

Judge Morris reported to the court the KACO salt bid auction results. He explained that the estimate was for 450 tons, but the county is not required to purchase all of the allocation if it is not needed. Magistrate M. J Haddix motioned to table acceptance of the bid pending another bid that could come in at a lower amount. He expects that to be provided by the end of next week. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

GALLATIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TAX RATE RESOLUTION

Judge Morris presented the Gallatin County Board of Health Tax Rate Resolution for approval. He noted that the rate is remaining the same as current. Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the Tax Rate for the Gallatin County Board of Health. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

GALLATIN COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Kentucky Davis of the Gallatin County Fair Board came before the court to provide an update. He reported that the FFA & 4-H Fair was a success, with the sale of animals raising over \$51,000. He also announced that the Fair Board has purchased a large outdoor movie screen. They will set a schedule for movies to be shown and publicize that and that the concession stand will be open. He further reported that the FFA is presenting a proposal at the next meeting of the Fair Board for an FFA Fair and that the Board is also working on a professional rodeo event that is likely to take place in October. He thanked the Gallatin County News for their positive press coverage of the fair and its happenings. Judge Morris noted how great the livestock auction was and commended the efforts of all those involved and congratulated the participants.

CARROLL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Judge Morris presented a request from the Carroll County Water District to increase the fee for their board members from \$150 to \$250 and no longer offer the mileage reimbursement. He noted that the last change to their fees was in 2001. Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the change in the fee to \$250 as presented and the motion was seconded by Joel Shinkle. All ayes.

Judge Morris moved to take a five-minute recess prior to the US HWY 42 West Open Forum. Motion was seconded by M. J Haddix. Motion passed unanimously.

US HWY 42 WEST OPEN FORUM

Judge Morris introduced Bob Yager, Chief District Engineer for District 6. Mr. Yager introduced his team which included Brian Donnelly, Project Delivery and Preservation and Ken McCarty, Engineer Tech Supervisor. He also introduced Assistant State Highway Engineer James Ballinger.

Judge Morris addressed the court by saying that this is obviously a needed project that Gallatin County will eventually reap the benefits of and further detailed the stresses and challenges that have been put on the businesses and citizens of the county. Adding that he has great concern for the business of the county and the impact this project is having on them. Jim Hansen, Planning & Zoning Director and Economic Development Officer provided detailed monetary impact to the county, its businesses and its citizens, for the time and additional cost to travel the detour and for highway maintenance. He continued by stating that the businesses he surveyed have indicated an 18 to 35% decrease in their sales. Adding that calculations point to an overall impact to businesses of at least \$5 million. He posed the question to the State Officials asking what can the State do to help offset this impact and are there any penalties or incentives built into the contract?

Don Neuspickel, resident of Knox Lillard Road, came before the court to address the speed of travelers on his road. He explained that speeding is rampant. He said the signs up in the area are appreciated but that there is no patrol in the area to enforce it. He proposed that rubber temporary speed bumps be installed that could possibly help slow travelers down. He also noted that dust from the gravel shoulders due to the high-speed drivers.

Darrell Maines, owner of Maines Hardware and Building Supplies, a Warsaw business, came before the court to address the impact to his business. He explained that he has lost 90-95% of his customers from Indiana and a further 50-60% of his business from Nucor due to the road closure and detour. He asked if there is any way one lane could be opened to allow for the Warsaw businesses to recapture that Indiana and Carroll County business. He noted that as an example, in Boone County off the Richwood exit, there has never been a road closure there with the extensive work that is being done. He added that it is a matter of life and death for residents in need of emergency services and also for the Warsaw businesses. He provided further data, stating that the overall impact to his sales has been 20.4%, not counting for inflation. Over the two and half years that the project is slated for, this is over \$1.5 million in revenue, that I cannot recoup.

Justin Mylor, owner of Jewell's on main in Warsaw, came before the court to voice his concerns over the road closure. Mr. Mylor stated that in the time he opened in May of 2008, they have battled a recession, COVID and other obstacles and right now is getting killed on his lunch business. He is no longer seeing the folks in uniform that frequented the restaurant because they don't have the time to be able to take the detour. He asked, did the state consider the impact to business owners in this project and how it will impact them? He also asked what solutions can be identified to help those businesses. He added that it is not just the impact to

him as the owner, but to his employees as well. Most of which have been with him for many years. He thanked the court and officials for their consideration.

Dan Fuehner, owner of Sunset Grill came before the court to detail the impacts to his business as well. He reported to the court that his weekday business is basically gone. Customers from NAS, Nucor, Belterra, Dow are all gone. He explained that the business is down at least 25% in sales and that's before considering the impact to the bottom line due to the increase in costs. He stated that he is losing money right now this year. He added that he would love for the state to help in some way, not a hand out but being able to maintain his business and integrity.

Judge Morris provided information in regard to emergency response per research from Bud Webster's reporting. An example call to Nucor, which had the same crew and same truck was previously 7 minutes and is now 17 minutes. In an emergency situation, 10 minutes is a long time. He thanked the representatives for their time and attention and for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Yager addressed the court, detailing the phases of the project. Phase 1 was utilities removal followed by Phase 2 to then tear out the road while building a wall between the road and river. How it is being done with cranes and their location limits passage. He explained that as for the Knox Lillard detour, there is help that can be provided. He noted that the rumble strips are a good idea, along with adding additional signage. He explained that sealing the shoulder would be able to cut down on the dust. He addressed the questions about monetary aspects to be able to contribute to the businesses, stating that is not something that has ever been done although he wishes they could. Mr. Yager further added that the wall construction just started and will be completed by July of 2023. The road replacement east of Gridley will start next July and will finish by November as planned. The project is currently on schedule. He explained further that once the pavement has been cut, there would not be a way to let autos through. The area cut out has been filled with #2's and a crane cannot swing or work be done while traffic is on-going, even if it is only one lane. Mr. Yager noted that he thinks the best way that help can be provided is to beef up Knox Lillard and provide signage that the businesses are still open.

Mr. Ballinger addressed the court saying that he appreciated the input from the court and community and will certainly take the comments in consideration for whatever can be done to help. He thanked everyone on behalf of Secretary Gray.

Project Engineer Brian Donnelly noted that if a traffic light was feasible to allow for one lane of traffic to be opened, the timing would work out to be very similar to the current time traveling Knox Lillard.

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan noted that work is only being done during the day. He asked if there is the possibility to work during the day and night. Mr. Yager addressed the question, stating that as the agency/owner of the road they can request that of the contractor if it is a possibility or an option. He elaborated that it would depend on the cost and feasibility but can have those discussions with the contractor. He added that it could be certainly looked at to extend work shifts to 14-16 hours while the weather is appropriate. He stated that opening up these discussions with the contractor to see what can be done to speed up the project is something that can be done via the Transportation Cabinet and again added that as for compensating for damages from the road closure, that will not be considered.

Darrell Maines again addressed the representatives asking that they consider from the State Government standpoint, the businesses' loss of revenue is less sales tax and income for the state, so getting the project done as soon as possible benefits everyone.

Judge Morris asked about the chip seal as mentioned by Mr. Yager, as far as when it could be completed. Mr. Yager answered that he thought it could be done soon but would have to look at bidding it versus other options. Ethan Moore asked at who's cost. Mr. Yager stated that the state would cover the cost.

Jim Hansen addressed the court, saying that while Highway 42 is being discussed, we need to be planning in advance for what needs to be done from Middleton Lane to 127. It has a hill falling with not place to go but the river, so planning should be starting now. He also noted that Steel's Bottom Road needs to be considered. With the truck traffic there and what happens when that road falls into the river. Mr. Yager explained that if that were to occur with Steele's Bottom, the county would declare an emergency and other funding mechanisms would then be available.

Ethan Moore stated, I know I am reiterating a lot of what has already been said but the number one thing, in the interest of our businesses in the county is to speed this process up and what can be done to achieve that. Mr. Yager answered that they will begin opening these lines of communication as soon as possible.

Warsaw Mayor Charlie French, stated that is has, no doubt, been a big impact for the city and whatever can be done to help them is imperative.

Magistrate Joel Shinkle stated that now more than ever it is very important that we support our local businesses.

Ethan Moore asked that any updates that could be provided by the court's next meeting would be greatly appreciated.

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

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk