

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
August 11, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on August 11, 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, M. J Haddix and Donnie Sullivan. County Attorney John G. Wright was also present. Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes for the regular Fiscal Court meeting of July 14, 2022 was made by Ethan Moore. Motion seconded by M. J Haddix. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Audience: None.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Judge Morris presented the agenda for approval with the addition of two items. Bud Webster - EMS Billing under Old Business and Closed Session per KRS 61.810(c) – Litigation. Motion to approve the agenda with the additional items made by M. J Haddix and seconded by Joel Shinkle. All Ayes.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval to pay which included one late addition for \$2,813.33 to Magee Mobile RV Service to repair the Emergency Management /Disaster RV. Joel Shinkle made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 – 0 with M. J Haddix abstaining from the vote due to not getting ample time to review the bills as he normally does.

July 2022 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending July 31, 2022. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the report and Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.
2. Interfund Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of July. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.
3. Budget Transfers – Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of July. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.
4. Cash Transfers – Treasurer Bullard informed the court that in order to provide a paper trail for the Airport Retainage a cash transfer was required. Motion approved by Ethan Moore and seconded by Joel Shinkle. All ayes.
5. Budget Amendment #08112022 #1 – 1st Reading. Auditor requirement for Bond Debt being paid by FAA. Motion to approve the budget amendment made by Joel Shinkle. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.
6. Budget Amendment #08112022 #2 – 1st Reading. Unbudgeted receipts including Airport Escrow Retainage, City of Warsaw Park Director Funding, Auction Surplus, Master Claim – Catalytic Converter theft. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the budget amendment. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

7. Budget Amendment #08112022 #3 – 1st Reading. County Clerk permanent document storage fees. M. J Haddix moved to approve the budget amendment. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
8. Treasurer Lesa Bullard informed the court that since the County Clerk permanent storage will be reoccurring monthly it should be added to the standing orders for payment in order to eliminate the need for a budget amendment each month. Donnie Sullivan moved to approve adding the County Clerk permanent storage payments to the monthly standing orders. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

KACO 2022-2023 SALT AUCTION

Judge Morris and Magistrate Haddix reported that no additional bid was received for the county's salt needs. Judge Morris informed the court that Compass Minerals bid \$124.50 per ton. Magic Salt also bid \$125.00 per ton. Magistrate Haddix asked if the bids were for Egyptian salt. Treasurer Bullard answered that it is road salt as per the bid request. She added that the county has used the low bidder previously with no issue. M. J Haddix moved to approve the loan bid of \$124.50 per ton from Compass Minerals. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

DUKE ENERGY FAIRGROUNDS EASEMENT

Judge Morris provided the court with an update in regard to the proposed easement that Duke Energy has requested at the fairgrounds. He explained that they have now proposed the SE corner fronting HWY 127. He noted that they have said that they will landscape and fence around the area to the court's liking and hire someone locally to perform the work. He added that even with their work to conceal the area, he is still not a fan of the location they have proposed. He explained that they plan to install a bunk bed style regulator that is easier to access and maintain. Magistrate Shinkle asked what is the footprint of the area they are proposing. Judge Morris and the Magistrates reviewed the aerial and determined that the area appears to be 30 feet by 30 feet. County Attorney Wright asked what the purpose of the easement is. Judge Morris answered that is it for easier access for monitoring. Magistrate Haddix moved to table the issue until dimensions are provided. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

BUD WEBSTER – EMS BILLING

Mr. Webster came before the court to discuss the county's current policy for refusal fees. He explained that in the last year there were 320 refusals. It is currently not being billed, as the cost would be \$15 for the billing. The proposed charge had been \$100. He noted that insurance allows for \$360 and the billing company recommends either doing away with the charge or to begin charging \$360. He further explained that no one in Gallatin County pays it so it could cost the county approximately \$4800 annually if they were billed and unpaid, but currently hard bills are not being sent. Magistrate Haddix asked if there is a legal issue with hard billing, and if there isn't then why isn't it being done. Mr. Webster explained that you can bill all or none per a policy but the county cannot pick and choose who to bill. Typically, it would be billed to the insurance company and then two bills are sent to the individual and if unpaid it just sits on a report as uncollected. County Attorney Wright proposed making a policy to state that if two or more refusals occur then a hard bill would be sent. Mr. Webster agreed that could work but would require some monitoring. Mr. Wright asked what Mr. Webster would recommend and Mr. Webster answered he would recommend raising the fee so that some expense from insurance companies could be recouped. Magistrate Shinkle asked how many of the refusals are non-residents. Mr. Webster answered that it is around 40%. Magistrate Haddix asked if it was possible to hard bill non-county residents and not for county residents. Judge Morris answered

that the process could be suspended for the time being and then write a policy to address how to proceed and approve at that point if it is legally feasible to bill non-residents and not bill residents as discussed.

Magistrate Haddix made a motion to continue the suspension of the refusal billing and continue discussion to the next meeting in order to review policy change to be drafted. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

ARPA RESOLUTION FOR 911 GENERATOR

County Attorney Wright read aloud a Resolution for a 911 Generator. Judge Morris summarized that if power is lost at the Johnson Road site, which typically occurs fairly frequently, as many as six times since the beginning of the year, the generator would keep the main repeater tower site up and running. He explained that it is an AutoStart system that runs a monthly maintenance check. Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the resolution. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ARPA RESOLUTION FOR LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

County Attorney Wright read aloud a Resolution for 1st Responder Equipment to be used in Sheriff vehicles including two defibrators and two first aid kits that would be used on each shift that would help to assist EMS in times that the Sheriff's Officers arrive to a scene first. Ethan Moore moved to approve the resolution. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bud Webster commented that he believes a medical director will be needed for the sheriff's office in order to make sure they are covered to perform these actions. He recommended that be checked into. Judge Morris answered he would check into this item and report back.

TOURISM BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Judge Morris informed the court of the resignation of Frances Bayes. He noted that she had been a Judge's appointment and he recommended the appointment of Zach Jones to fill the vacancy. He noted that Mr. Jones has been attending and active with the board but is not a current member. Ethan Moore moved to approve the appointment of Zach Jones to the Tourism Board. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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.

Judge Morris also noted that Tourism is looking into adding an alternate member who can vote in the absence of a member. Once they iron those details out and propose a member, it will be brought to the court for approval.

SET REAL PROPERTY & MOTOR VEHICLE TAX RATE

Judge Morris presented the court with the proposed tax rates for real property and motor vehicles. He explained that by keeping the real property rate the same at .089 it will add \$17,588 in revenue. He added that he believes the county is in the financial position to be able to keep the rate the same. Ethan Moore moved to approve keeping the tax rate the same at .089. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

Judge Morris informed the court that the current motor vehicle tax rate is 16.3 and he also recommended keeping that tax rate the same. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve keeping the motor vehicle tax rate the same at 16.3. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

2021 – 2022 FISCAL YEAR REVIEW

Judge Morris passed out a five-year look back illustrating payroll, real property tax and personal property tax revenue. He explained that the increase in the payroll tax is due to jobs that have been added in the county and that the county's finances are in good shape.

COMMENTS

Magistrate Ethan Moore asked about blacktopping that is to be performed in the county. Judge Morris informed his that it is set for September.

Mr. Moore also asked about the chip seal and shouldering to be performed on Knox Lillard. Mr. Morris explained that the company under contract with the state is unable to get to the job until November and thus they are allowing the county to bid out the job next week, with the hope that it will be completed in September.

Magistrate Sullivan asked if the state will move that quickly with the bidding process or will they hold the process up. Judge Morris reported that the state has told them if their provider was ready now they would have sent them. So he is under the impression that they will move forward with the project as soon as the county is ready.

The Magistrates and Judge Morris discussed the need for trimming on the State Highway right of ways. Mr. Morris will reach out to the Local State Highway Department to see if they can get the equipment to address this. He also noted that it is an option for the county to do it under contract with the state, if the manpower is available. He will investigate this option and report back.

Magistrate Shinkle asked for Judge Morris and Brent Brown to meet him to look at a culvert on Little Church Road that is in need of repair.

Judge Morris announced that Triad Health Systems' Pharmacy is set to open on September 26, 2022. He noted that individuals do not have to be a patient with them to get prescriptions there. He also added that they will begin deliveries very soon after opening.

Magistrate Joel Shinkle made a motion to go into closed session to discuss litigation per KRS 61.810 (c). Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan made a motion to come out of closed session. Ethan Moore seconded his motion. All ayes.

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