

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
August 10, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on August 10, 2023, 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, Donnie Sullivan and M. J Haddix. County Attorney Grant Axon was also present. Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes: Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. Ethan Moore seconded his motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.

Recognition of Audience: None.

Approval of Agenda: Judge Morris presented the agenda for approval. Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Joel Shinkle seconded his motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval, which included the added blue sheet. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.

July 2023 Financial Reporting

1. Fund Cash Statement Summary – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending July 31, 2023. Magistrate Moore made a motion to approve the report and Magistrate Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.
2. Budget Transfers – Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of July. Ethan Moore seconded. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month of July. Donnie Sullivan seconded his motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.
4. Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore moved to approve the cash transfers for the month of July. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.
5. Budget Amendment #07132023 #1 – 2nd Reading. Crumb Rubber Grant for Playground. Motion to approve the budget amendment made by Donnie Sullivan and seconded by Ethan Moore. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.
6. Budget Amendment #07132023 #2 – 2nd Reading. Fairgrounds Weather Damage. Judge Morris asked why a reference was made to sports complex for the budget amendment. Treasurer Bullard explained that it is within the same line item. Motion to approve the budget amendment made by Joel Shinkle and seconded by Ethan Moore. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.

7. Budget Amendment #07132023 #3 – 2nd Reading. Vehicle Insurance Claim, Sheriff. Motion to approve made by Donnie Sullivan and seconded by Ethan Moore. Motion passed 4-0 with Magistrate Haddix abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS APPOINTMENT

Judge Morris asked the court if there were any nominations for the board of adjustments. Magistrate Moore offered the name of Jerry Easton to fill the vacancy. With no discussion, Magistrate Moore then made a motion to appoint Jerry Easton to the board of adjustments and his motion was seconded by Magistrate Haddix. Motion passed unanimously.

REAPPORTIONMENT ORDINANCE FIRST READING

Judge Morris presented Reapportionment Ordinance #08102023 for a 1st Reading. County Attorney Axon explained to the court that the only changes from previous review are that maps have been attached for review and the document has been put in the format of an ordinance. Magistrate Haddix made a motion to approve the reapportionment ordinance. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Magistrate Shinkle noted that it appeared that some of what was his district has been moved to the Glencoe District of Magistrate Haddix and asked if some of that district was moved to his? It was explained that Magistrate Haddix's district gained some area and there was an attempt to move some to the Magistrate Sullivan due to the growth in the upper end of the county where Magistrate Shinkle is located. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

ROAD FLEX FUNDS, KEN MCCARTY

Judge Morris welcomed Ken McCarty from Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 6 to present the Rural Secondary Road Program information for Gallatin County. Mr. McCarty informed the court that the work that was proposed last year is being let to bid this month for completion in the spring expected during June. He further explained that KY-184 is in need of approximately \$1,000,000 in work. He noted that with this year's funds and some funding that is not yet available, he hopes that those can be combined to address the slide on KY-184. He added that currently they are on an eight-year cycle to have repaving completed, however at the current prices with the county retaining their allotment of flex funds annually, that cycle will be more like 12 years. He also reported that unofficially, he believes that US 42 West should be completed by the end of August prior to Labor Day. Magistrate Shinkle made a motion to retain the allotment of flex funds for Gallatin County. Magistrate Sullivan seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Magistrate Haddix then made a motion to defer funds for 2023-24 until the beginning of 2024 to address KY-184 as discussed. Magistrate Ethan Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

SET COUNTY TAX RATES

Judge Morris presented the court with the tax rate scenarios for 2023. He explained that with no change to the Real Property tax, currently set at .089 per \$100 of assessed value, there would be

an increase in revenue of \$19,036 due to changes to property values. The court discussed the county's financial standing, and a motion was made by M. J Haddix to keep the tax rate unchanged at .089 per \$100 of assessed value. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The motor vehicle and watercraft tax was also discussed, with Judge Morris noting that the current rate is set at .163 per \$100 of assessed value. Again, the court agreed no change to the tax rate was needed. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to leave the motor vehicle and watercraft at .163 per \$100 of assessed value. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

GRIDLEY HILL ROAD CLOSURE AT US HWY 42

Judge Morris provided the court with an aerial map of Gridley Hill and the surrounding area. He explained that with the completion of repairs on US HWY 42, a decision needs to be made as to whether the access where Gridley Hill and US HWY 42 meet needs to remain. He asked County Road Supervisor Brent Brown to give a report on the condition of Gridley Hill Road. Mr. Brown reported that the road condition is very poor and in need of rebuilding. Adding that the creek washes into the road in areas and that the cost to rebuild the road would be significant. He noted that the road is only 1.5 miles in its entirety and the last home on the road that is inhabited is only .3 miles from Knox Lillard Road, so it is his opinion that the citizens who use the road should not be greatly impacted. He recommended that the road be closed, or at a minimum the hill portion of the road. County Attorney Axon then explained what the process for closing a road would be. Judge Morris explained that with the construction on US HWY 42 soon to be completed a guardrail needs to be installed on the south side of the road and the connection of Gridley and 42 would be impacted. He and Ken McCarty explained that it would be more cost effective to have the guardrail placed and then removed if Gridley Hill Road's access at 42 was not closed, than to come back and add a guardrail in that spot at a later date. They further explained that the county could draft a letter stating the county's intention to move forward with the process of closing the road, instructing the guardrail to be installed with the caveat that the guardrail would be removed should the road closure not pass.

Magistrate Shinkle made a motion to proceed with the process of closing Gridley Hill Road at US HWY 42 and issue the letter to have guardrail constructed. Donnie Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Morris stated that he would search for the necessary disinterested parties needed to form a committee for road closure.

COMMENTS/UPDATES

Judge Morris turned the floor over to County Code Enforcement Officer Ryan King. Mr. King stated that there are 14 properties on his list currently and he is actively working on each of them. He noted that there is action being taken on two, one on Sayersville Road and another on Spencer Road. Both of which have been discussed as issues, at length, in previous court meetings.

Judge Morris informed the court that upon conferring with County Attorney Axon about legal needs in regard to code enforcement, he has reached out to Attorney Gary Edmonson, who has ample experience in related matters, to serve as attorney for Gallatin County Code Enforcement. He added that they have a preliminary agreement, and a contract will be drafted for approval.

Judge Morris noted that Kentucky Davis of the Gallatin County Fair Board was in attendance and asked him to provide a Fair Board update. Mr. Davis reported that the 127 Yard Sale went well with no incidents reported. He added that there is an open date on the calendar that he is

attempting to fill with the national country music act, Shenandoah. He further noted that there are other events being worked on in addition to other events that are already scheduled which include a Demolition Derby, as well as the Jr FFA and 4+H Fair that will take place on October 14.

Magistrate Joel Shinkle asked if there are any bids back for blacktop work to be completed. Just Morris answered that the bids were received yesterday and six were approved. Scheduling was also discussed.

Mr. Davis of the Fair Board also noted that they have been approved as a Harvest Host Dry Camping site. He explained that donations are permitted to be accepted, but there is no official fee.

Magistrate Donnie Shinkle expressed his thanks to the Road Department for all of their work. He commended them for each time he has called to notify them of an issue to be addressed that are quick to take care of it and do a great job. The other magistrates and Judge Morris echoed his sentiments.

Kelley Warnick of The Gallatin County News asked Judge Morris about a large property transfer on Park Ridge Road that was reported as being purchased by Gallatin County. Judge Morris explained that the purchase was for 156 acres of the O'Connor farm by the county via funding by Kentucky Department of Aviation, performing on a contract that had been executed previously.

Magistrate M. J Haddix made a motion to go into closed session to discuss property acquisition per KRS 61.810 (1) (b). Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Magistrate Haddix made a motion to come out of closed session. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

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

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk