

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
December 14, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on December 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gallatin County Extension Office Annex, Warsaw, Kentucky. The meeting was recorded to be uploaded for viewing at a later date. Magistrates present were Joel Shinkle, Ethan Moore, M. J Haddix and Donnie Sullivan. County Attorney Grant Axon was also present. Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda: Judge Morris presented the agenda for approval with the addition of Alaina Hagenseker of Northern Kentucky Area Development District in regard to Triad Pharmacy Grant. Joel Shinkle moved to approve the agenda as amended. Donnie Sullivan seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NKAAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Alaina Hagenseker, NKADD Local Government Services Manager came before the court to provide an update regarding the CBDG for TRIAD Health Systems Pharmacy project. She reported that plans have been approved and permit has been granted. Application with environmental review can now be submitted. Once the application has been approved, building can commence. She noted that the notice must be posted at the courthouse for 15 days as well as public notice in The Gallatin County News.

Minutes: M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2023. Motion seconded by Ethan Moore. All ayes.

Recognition of Audience: None.

Vendor Claims: Claims were presented for approval. M. J Haddix noted that the jail bill was roughly \$38,000 for November and asked if that amount is expected to continue to increase. He also asked if inmates are being turned quickly or being held. Sheriff Webster answered that there are approximately 40 inmates currently at Carroll County Detention Center, adding that the cost when up with the current contract but would hope that the amount of offenders does not get back up to pre-COVID levels, but that is something that cannot be predicted. M. J Haddix made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

November 2023 Financial Reporting

1. Fund Cash Statement Summary – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending November 30, 2023. Magistrate Moore made a motion to approve the report and Magistrate Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Budget Transfers – Donnie Sullivan made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of November. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month of November. Joel Shinkle seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget Amendment #111023 #4 – 2nd Reading. Northern Kentucky University (Hartig Park Conservation Easement). Treasurer Bullard noted that the amendment has been approved by the Department for Local Government. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the budget amendment. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.
5. Budget Amendment #12142023 #5 – 1st Reading. Flex Funds Reimbursement for paving work. Donnie Sullivan moved to approve the budget amendment. Ethan Moore seconded his motion. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Code Enforcement Officer Ryan King provided an update to the court of activities during the month of November, which included 13 complaints. He also noted that animal control received 30 calls, which involved 18 animals. All of which have been sent to rescues. He further reported that officers were elected at the November 30, 2023, meeting. Magistrate Haddix asked about fines that have been levied. He was answered that there has been some progress being made on the Glencoe property and also some progress on the Sayersville property. Adding that the owner of the property on Sayersville has reported that he may have the property sold. Magistrate Haddix asked if the fines were at the \$500/day level if issues aren't correct. Mr. _____ answered affirmatively, that they were.

NEW BUSINESS

SET 2023-2024 HOLIDAYS (INCLUDE NEW YEARS 2024)

Judge Morris presented the holiday schedule for 2023-2024, which is the same as the previous year, being eleven in total. M. J Haddix made a motion to accept the Holiday Schedule. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

SOLID WASTE REPORT

Brandon Terrell came before the court to provide a report about solid waste cleanup efforts in the county. He stated that approximately 50 miles of roads were worked and there were less than 100 bags collected which was a significant improvement from the past. He noted that Little Sugar and Tapering Point were both quite bad and recommended that those areas be watched more closely. He continued by acknowledging the help of the county and city guys in collecting all the bags and that overall, very good progress is being made with cleanup. Treasurer Bullard asked about the ramps to the interstate. Mr. Terrell explained that the state handles that but that the county can also address those areas with it being covered within the grant as the other areas have been. He noted that many groups helped with the project and that inmates have also been used, but they have been hit or miss, adding that he will continue to use them when he can. Magistrate Sullivan inquired about Hwy 35 past the Lewis property. Mr. Terrell answered that he did not believe that spot had been covered but would look into it. Magistrate Shinkle recommended a Littering Poster contest with prizes in an effort to encourage awareness among the youth of the county which could be impactful to their mindset. Judge Morris stated that he liked that idea and would look into it.

SHERIFF 2024 BUDGET

Judge Morris brought forth the Sheriff's 2024 budget for review, discussion and approval. He noted that there was a \$375,000 contribution budgeted from Fiscal Court in its 2023-24 budget,

of which, roughly 50% has been expended to date. He stated the budget sets the annual maximum to be paid for deputies and assistants at \$895,624.00.

Sheriff Webster added that he has the department nearly fully staffed now, with a good mix of officers. He stated that he will wait to add an additional employee until the right candidate is found. He also reported that there is a good relationship with the City of Warsaw to help one another if there are shortages when sicknesses or other issues arise. Magistrate Moore asked about the status of the School Resource Officer Program. Sheriff Webster reported that there is one currently at the academy and another he is attempting to hire. He further explained that the school agreed to adjust the contract, so that is helping to offset costs.

Magistrate Moore made a motion to approve the annual maximum for deputies and assistants of \$895,624.00. Motion was seconded by Donnie Sullivan. Motion passed unanimously.

Magistrate Shinkle moved to approve the Sheriff's 2024 Budget as presented. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY CLERK 2024 BUDGET & VEHICLE REGISTRATION UPDATE

Judge Morris presented the County Clerk's budget, as Clerk McEntire was unable to be in attendance. He explained that the budget also looked quite similar to the previous year and set the maximum amount for deputies, assistants and other employees at \$155,000, which was the same as last year.

Magistrate Haddix made a motion to approve the maximum amount for deputies, assistants and other employees of \$155,000. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Ethan Moore moved to approve the County Clerk's 2024 Budget as presented, which includes the clerk's startup cash of \$10,000 provided by Fiscal Court. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PROPOSED P & Z COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Judge Morris reported that the comprehensive plan, goals and objectives were adapted and accepted at the meeting of Planning and Zoning. He explained that this moves it to the stage of public meetings. Planning and Zoning Director Jim Hansen reported that these goals, objectives and plans could change as more specifics are determined from public input.

M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the comprehensive plan, goals and objectives. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

ANIMAL SHELTER FEES REVISION

Judge Morris presented proposed changes to the Animal Shelter Fee Schedule. He reported that the current fees are nominal, and the changes are not significant, however the proposed changes will enable us to cover the actual costs of holding and caring for animals and the shelter. He further noted that there is no change to the adoption fees. County Attorney Axon asked should there be a different fee for impounded dogs as compared to surrendered dogs. The court discussed this aspect of the fee schedule. Magistrate Haddix posed the question, does increasing fees exacerbate the problem of animals being abandoned more frequently and thus increasing calls? Magistrate Shinkle responded that he thinks a fee needs to be paid and believes that if the dog licensing was pushed or had greater enforcement, that would possibly help with the issues. Makeup of the dogs being held was also discussed.

Magistrate Shinkle made a motion to approve the fee schedule revision. Discussion was held. Points made included increasing awareness and that most surrounding counties charge higher fees than what is being proposed. Donnie Shinkle seconded the motion on the floor. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Magistrate M. J Haddix voting no.

AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Judge Morris reported that the recent airport board meeting was well attended, with approximately 20 in attendance. The meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of Month at 10:00 am at the Extension Office Annex. Mr. Morris also noted that there has been a great deal of feedback and interest.

Mr. Morris informed the court of the open seat, due to the resignation of Mark Simendinger and offered Cathy Waddell of Nucor as the replacement to be appointed. M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the appointment of Cathy Waddell to the Gallatin County Airport Board. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Morris also informed the court that he would like to create two advisory seats on the board that would be non-voting positions. One being educationally based and one for economic development. He offered for consideration the name of Tom Fitzgerald, an NKY faculty member who is very knowledgeable in the aeronautical space and Matt Atkins, Executive Director of the Kentucky I-71 Economic Development Alliance (KIEDA).

M. J Haddix made a motion to create two advisory positions on the Gallatin County Airport Board and to appoint Matt Atkins and Tom Fitzgerald to those positions. Motion was seconded by Ethan Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS/UPDATES

Magistrate Joel Shinkle commended the road work that was completed on Roberts Road. Ethan Moore also noted that Furnish Road looks good as well.

Judge Morris acknowledged appreciation of Rick Hanes for his efforts in helping to get state machinery for the county's use to complete trimming needs along some roadways.

Emergency Management Director Brandon Terrel reported that the Baby Box has been mounted at the squad station. He noted that he has visited Okolona recently and upon review of their setup with equipment readily available at the site, he will ensure that the county's location mirrors theirs.

Judge Morris informed the court that the Christmas Parade had been rescheduled from last weekend to December 16 due to weather. He hopes for a good turnout and commented that the weather for the new date looks good.

Judge Morris reported that the grant funded playground equipment has arrived and includes inclusive pieces, including a Mommy and Me Swing, as well as a swing with more safety features for those that would require that to be able to enjoy the equipment.

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan asked about the progress of the Sports Complex. Judge Morris answered that he has the plans and is working with the City of Warsaw to move this forward.

Magistrate Shinkle asked if there has been any progress at the Dispatch Building. Judge Morris answered that there has not been to date, but he is working on it. He noted that once the Glencoe building is surplus it will help with funding.

Judge Morris asked each of the Magistrates to pick up their RVP Binder from Director Hansen. Mr. Hansen informed the court that this information will go out the second week of January. He further stated that research of revenue streams has been encouraging and touched on some of his findings.

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

Doug Miles
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk