

**GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**April 11, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on April 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gallatin County Extension Office Annex, Warsaw, Kentucky. The meeting was recorded to be uploaded to view 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. He asked to add to the Old Business Code Enforcement Update. Also asked to add to the New Business Kentucky Farm Bureau, Gallatin County Partnership with cities Glencoe and Sparta and Code Enforcement Appointment. M. J Haddix moved to approve the agenda with additions. Joel Shinkle seconded his motion. All ayes.

**Minutes:** M. J Haddix made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2024. Motion seconded by Joel Shinkle. All ayes.

**Bills:** M. J Haddix made a motion to pay the bills. Motion seconded by Ethan Moore. All ayes.

**Recognition of Audience:** None.

**March 2024 Financial Reporting**

1. Fund Cash Statement Summary – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending March 31, 2024. Magistrate Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the report and Magistrate Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.
2. Budget Transfers – Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of March. Motion seconded Donnie Sullivan. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the interfund cash transfers for the month February. Motion seconded by M. J Haddix. All ayes
4. Fund Transfers- Opened a CD with County Clerk Settlement for \$64,068.39. Magistrate Donnie Sullivan made a motion for the transfer. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.
5. Quarterly Financial Statement- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Statement January-March 2024. Magistrate M. J Haddix made a motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial statement. Magistrate Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.
6. Ordinance #031424/Budget Amendment #7 – 2nd Reading. \$3500.00 donation from Nucor to Gallatin County Fair Board. M.J Haddix made a motion to approve Amendment #7. Motion seconded by Ethan Moore. All ayes.
7. Ordinance #041124/Budget Amendment #8 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. Insurance money \$14331.03 for Emergency Management 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe damages sustained during March storm. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve Amendment #8. Motion seconded by M. J Haddix. All ayes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Surplus of Ambulance and Expedition to Lewis Co**

Judge Morris presented to the court to surplus the former Emergency Management Expedition and ambulance to Lewis County. They are trying to rebuild their department. Currently they are relying on mutual aid from surrounding areas. Magistrate M. J Haddix made the motion to surplus the two said vehicles to Lewis County. Magistrate Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

### **EMT/Paramedic Contracts**

The county will pay \$1000.00 towards the outstanding bill that that they owe to another county to new EMT or Paramedics. As long as they sign a one year contract. They would have to pay back the \$1000.00 if they left before the end of the one year contract. Magistrate M. J Haddix made a motion to pass the new contract. Magistrate Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Cindy Sullivan**

Judge Morris recognized Cindy Sullivan for her 37 years of work with the Gallatin County Extension Office. The Judge read the Proclamation. Thank you Cindy for your 37 years of dedication.

### **Gallatin County Farm Bureau**

President Brad Noel and April Wainscott County Federation Secretary and Insurance Agent of Gallatin County Farm Bureau spoke to the court about HB 418 Ag Districting. This would lower the amount of land it takes to consider it a farm. It would go from 250 acres to 50 acres to determine farm land. April addressed the court about the Ag related suicide rat. There is a 988 Hotline if there is ever a need to reach out, help is there. April advised the court the Policy Development meeting is the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Gallatin County Farm Bureau Office.

### **Gallatin County Partnership with the City of Sparta and Glencoe**

The cities of Sparta and Glencoe received Cares money from COVID. The cities did not have workers at the time. Instead of the funds going back to the state the county held the funds for the cities. These funds can go towards improvements for the cities. Glencoe received \$26,318.62 and Sparta received \$19,774.00. Magistrate M. J Haddix made motion to put the Glencoe money to help with the recreation fund of the park and playground improvements that the city is currently working on. Magistrate Donnie Sullivan Made the motion to give the City of Sparta their funds to work on improvements to the city. Magistrate M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

### **Audit**

County Treasurer reported to the court that the audit for June 2023 checked out and no issues.

### **Liter Contest Poster**

Judge Morris reported that 700 flyers were delivered to the Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary about the liter contest. The deadline to be completed is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winners will be

recognized at the May Fiscal Court Meeting. Prizes will be given 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$75.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50.00

#### **Proclamation for Arbor Day**

Judge Morris the Arbor Day Proclamation and Declared April 5th Arbor Day in Gallatin County.

#### **Conservation District Budget**

Magistrate M. J Haddix made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Magistrate Joel Shinkle seconded the budget. All ayes.

#### **National Public Works Week**

Rick Buster, APWA (American Public Works Association) spoke to the court about all the different parts of Public Works in the city and county. Public Works week is April 7-13. There are over 30,000 members.

#### **Wrecker Resolution**

Judge Morris presented to the court a resolution of the wrecker policy. We will have a special meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>. All wrecker companies will be invited to attend.

#### **Code Enforcement Appointment**

Sarah Moody-Richardson vacated her position on the board which. Renee Cozine Chairwoman was present and had a recommendation of Eddie Burgett. Eddie has shown interest to be a part of the board. Judge Morris made the motion to appoint Eddie Burgett to the vacant position. Magistrate Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion.

#### **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**

Ken McCarty informed the court Jeff Beach who was present is the new Superintendent over the Gallatin County District. Ken McCarty addressed the court about the rural secondary roads. Gallatin County has Flex Funds available of \$108,000.00. Ken asked the court to consider giving the funds back as he could double it to \$216,000.00. He advised Hwy 184 (Walnut Valley Road) is in dire need of repairs. Magistrate Donnie Sullivan made a motion to give back the Flex Funds of \$108,000.00. Magistrate Joel Shinkle seconded the motion.

#### **Fair Board Update**

Connie Davis informed the court that she applied for grant from Interact4Health. They are a program that helps communities who involve the youth. The grant amount was \$5,000.00.

#### **Code Enforcement Update**

Code Enforcement Officer Ryan King gave his report for the month of March. There were 4 citations issued, 1 contested and 2 he has not heard from.

#### **Magistrate Comments**

Magistrate Shinkle spoke about the fire on Roberts Road. The quick response and all of the equipment that responded. Along with the Sheriff's Department and their quick response.

Magistrate Haddix asked Ryan King if letters had been sent to the business owners around the Glencoe exit? Ryan responded and said letters had been sent but no response yet.

Magistrate Ethan Moore asked Judge Morris about the progress on the sports complex? Ryan advised they are waiting on permits from Frankfort and an Architect. A couple of bids have been submitted.

Jim Hansen advised a stop work letter had been sent to Nugent after causing landslides.

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan asked the Judge on progress on dispatch? Ryan said they would talk after the meeting.

Magistrate M. J Haddix made a motion to exit in to Closed Session. Magistrate Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

Magistrate Moore made a motion to exit Closed Session. Magistrate M. J Haddix seconded the motion.

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

Christina McEntire  
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk

**April 2024**

- Surplus of Ambulance and Expedition
- EMT/Paramedic Contracts
- Cindy Sullivan
- Gallatin County Farm Bureau
- Partnership with Sparta and Glencoe
- Audit
- Liter poster contest
- Arbor Day
- Conservation District Budget
- National Public Works Week
- Wrecker Resolution
- Code Enforcement Appointment
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
- Fair Board Update
- Code Enforcement Update
- Magistrate Comments

**GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**Special Meeting**  
**April 30, 2024**  
**2:00p.m.**  
**Amended**

The Special Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on April 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Gallatin County Extension Office (West Wing), 395 U.S. 42 West Warsaw, Kentucky. Magistrates present were Ethan Moore, Donnie Sullivan, Joel Shinkle and M. J Haddix. County Attorney Grant Axon present. This meeting was not recorded. Everyone stood for the pledge of allegiance.

**Financial Report**

1. Ordinance #043024/Budget Amendment #9\_- \$5,000.00 to Gallatin County Fair Board from Interact4Health. Motion made by M.J Haddix and seconded by Donnie Sullivan. All ayes.

**Wrecker Resolution**

Judge Morris informed the court that he spoke to all of the wrecker companies in the county except for Bill Sullivan of BC Towing. He gave all members of the court a copy of the new policy that he had wrote. This will amend the current policy to have 4 heavy wreckers and 4 light duty wreckers. That leaves one opening for a heavy wrecker and 1 light duty wrecker. Also there is a time frame of 30 minutes that has been added to arrive on scene from the time of call from dispatch. Magistrate Joel Shinkle asked if the time limit should be moved to 45 minutes? The court asked Sheriff Webster if he thought that was a sufficient amount of time? M. J asked about the removal from the list that was stated in the new policy? That would involve the Judge, Sheriff and Tow Company.

Magistrate M. J Haddix asked for a 10 minute recess.

Judge Ryan Morris called the meeting back to order.

County Attorney Grant Axon addressed the court that the revised version of the wrecker policy is against his legal advice. He states this policy protects the wreckers and not the county. He is here to protect the county of lawsuits, county liability and constant issues.

Judge Morris says this policy protects the people who we currently have. Limiting the number coming in to our county.

Magistrate M. J Haddix made a motion to accept the new policy presented. With option open for amendments, 30 minute on scene time from the time of dispatch during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 45 minutes on scene time from time of dispatch during the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Magistrate Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. All ayes.

## **Budget Caucus**

Budget discussion included: Options to increase revenues to cover shortfall and expenditures with Jail housing, CPI raises for all employees, rising cost of health insurance and staffing two full time squads for EMS. Revenue suggestions included: Emergency Services tax, increase the current occupational payroll tax from 1% - 1.75%, sell the Glencoe bank building as well as turn off the existing utilities, and sell the vacant 5 acres in Sparta (Hwy 35). These were all options that were discussed during the budget caucus. During the discussion. Suggestions were made such as to sell Sparta property, cut utilities at the Glencoe property, Social Media go through the Judge's office and changes at the Animal Shelter. Grant advised the court there are ways for reimbursement on the jail bill for state inmates. Magistrate Haddix asked about the budget line increase for the jail of \$150,000.00. Joel asked if the improvements to Concord Fire Station had helped and he was advised yes. Donnie Sullivan asked about the CDL training. JCTC has partnered with the county to offer a discounted rate for employees needing to obtain a CDL. A person now has to take a course through an accredited college. It was brought up to the possibility of creating an Emergency Service Tax, Discussion of the Payroll/Occupational Tax increase going from 1% to 1.75% and property tax increase all of these are possible ways to generate revenue for expenditures for the current budget. This conversation started after discussing having to give full time employees the CPI. Judge Morris had told the court there would be a cushion in the budget of approximately \$200,000.000 - \$300,000.00. County Treasurer Lesa Bullard said the cushion would be about \$70,000.00. Magistrate M. J Haddix made a statement that county personnel needs to be communicating the same thing to the Judge as they are the magistrates. County Attorney Grant Axon presented to the court a Compensation Agreement for County Attorney. This would need to be voted on by the court and would take effect in the fiscal year 2027. He asked for a cost of living raise for the 2024 and 2025 years. Magistrate Haddix asked Grant if the amount would roughly be around \$62,000.00? Grant advised that it is based on the CPI index that is calculated and determined through DLG (Department of Local Government). M. J asked Grant confirmed with Grant that he wanted the court to vote on it now and it would take effect until fiscal year 2027. He would rather it be talked about and voted on now and not closer to an election year as some will have opposition and some will not. Grant advised the court that it is statutory the raise can only be given in an election year. There are two statues. The first one is the base salary raise can only be given in an election year. The second one is how the CPI numbers are calculated by DLG.

## **ADJOURN**

Magistrate Joel Shinkle made a motion to adjourn. Magistrate Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.