

GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gallatin County Extension Office (West Wing) Warsaw, Kentucky. Magistrates present were Ethan Moore, Donnie Sullivan, and Joel Shinkle. County Attorney Grant Axon present. Everyone stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes: Minutes from January 9, 2025 regular meeting was presented. Motion to approve made by Magistrate Sullivan and seconded by Magistrate Moore. All ayes.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda made by Magistrate Shinkle and seconded by Magistrate Sullivan, All ayes.

Recognition of Audience:

Bobby Nunn of 316 Hwy 465 stated that the Sheriff's Department is spying on his home and he wants to know why? He said they are spying on the house from the hotel across the road with binoculars. Judge Morris advised Mr. Nunn that he needed to discuss this situation with the Sheriff. Bobby advised the court that he has tried to make contact with the Sheriff and he has had no luck. Bobby said he has seen it on surveillance cameras. Judge Morris asked where the cameras were that he was accessing. Bobby advised he has access to the cameras at the motel. Judge Morris advised Bobby there was nothing that he or the Fiscal Court could assist with in his situation he would need to talk to the Sheriff or someone at the state. Bobby advised he knew who the deputies were that were spying on his property.

Jodie Gould of 209 West Main Street Warsaw wanted to address the court about a situation that occurred at her home on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 11:19 a.m. Her dog was picked up by Animal Control and was put to sleep within an hour and a half after it was picked up by Animal Control Officer Jeff Harper. She wants answers as to why the dog was put down and put down so quickly. Magistrate Moore asked Jodie if the dog had bit anyone on that day? Jodie advised the dog had not bit anyone on the day that this occurred. County Attorney Grant Axon advised to Jodie that Mr. Harper called him and he gave legal advice as that is what he is here to do for county officials. Magistrate asked what the phone call consisted of? Grant advised the phone call was a call that lasted 3 to 4 minutes no more. There have been multiple calls on this dog stating he is a vicious animal. When Jodie got to her house at approximately 11:50 a.m. The dog was in a box in the back of the Animal Control Officers truck. Jodie told the court she was told by Mr. Harper that her dog would be fed, watered, cared for in a warm environment. Jodie said that Officer Jake Doolin and Officer Clay Johnson were also there. On Tuesday, February 11, 2025 Jeff Harper and Jake Doolin returned to her residence to advise her that her dog was going to have to be put down. Jodie found out that her dog had actually been put down on Monday. She said Officer Doolin had no idea that the dog had already been put down. Magistrate Moore spoke up and said moving forward things need to be discussed more and more of a protocol to follow, specify the specifics in the ordinance, contact dog owner, at least a 24 hour hold. Grant advised he was unaware that the dog was in the box at the time of the call. He thought the dog was still running loose. Ethan advised he wants to sit down with the Judge and go over the ordinances. He never dreamed a situation like this would ever happen. All court members were in agreement that the ordinance needs to be looked at and go in to further detail. Magistrate Shinkle asked Jodie if the dog was picked up at her home. Jodie responded with, yes! There was no further discussion about the matter.

Monthly Bills: Magistrate Shinkle made a motion to pay the bills. Magistrate Moore seconded the motion.

January 2025 Financial Reporting

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending January, 2025. Magistrate Moore made a motion to approve the report and Magistrate Shinkle seconded. Motion passed.
2. Budget Transfers – Magistrate Sullivan made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of January. Magistrate Shinkle seconded. Motion passed.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Magistrate Moore made a motion to approve interfund cash transfers. Magistrate Sullivan seconded. Motion passed.
4. Ordinance #010925/Budget Amendment #6- Magistrate Shinkle made a motion to approve the second reading of Amendment #6 approving the Interact for Health Grant (2nd portion) in the amount of \$40,000.00. Magistrate Moore seconded. Motion passed.
5. Ordinance #021725/Budget Amendment #7-Magistrate Sullivan made a motion to approve the \$500.00 donation from NAS to the Gallatin County Fair Board for Fairground events or projects. Magistrate Moore seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NKADD ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES FOR THE COUNTY

Tara Johnson-Noem Executive Director of our 8 county region NKADD District. Representatives for Gallatin County are Judge Morris, City of Warsaw Mayor Charlie French, Brent Caldwell as an alternate and community member George Zubaty. Tara was wanting to update and inform the court of everything there is to offer for Gallatin County. They oversee water and sewer management. State contracts for aging and disabilities. There are funds available through the state for caregiver services that a lot of people are unaware of. There are many support groups and resources available to help people get the funding. Resources can be found at the Gallatin County Library or KKADD.org. There is a Workforce Development Team available for out county. They assist with transportation and childcare. If there are challenges there are usually resources to help the challenge. NKADD is over 8 counties Alley Kline will be working around our community recruiting and finding work for young adults 18-24 year olds. The DURR Foundation was created for community development Hailey Jo Kirkpatrick is part of that focus group.

HARTIG PARK UPDATES-DAVID HULL & TIM URBANSKI

David Hull and Tim Urbanski presented to the court a slideshow of the progress at Hartig Park. There are 34 hiking trails, .5 mile river frontage, primitive camping, trails are horse friendly, the park is horse friendly, mile and half of rock wall, NKY Bird Club comes to Hartig Park and there is a lot of kayaking, canoeing and paddling that starts at the park as you can get to South Fork, the Ohio River and Big Bone. The park works with the Gallatin County Fiscal Court for the hunter only days. As this gives people the opportunity to hunt on the 535 acres who may not have access to hunting land. You just have to call the Judge's Office to schedule who will be there. The park has clean up days twice a year. As there are people who volunteer to come in at all times throughout the year. A group of students from NKU and a leader are among the group of volunteers who come and assist at the park. The park

now has a website Hartigpark.org. David Hull Thanked the Fiscal Court for all of their support along with Gallatin County Road Department, Gallatin County Sheriff and Gallatin County Dispatch.

FAIR BOARD UPDATE-KENTUCKY DAVIS

Fair Board President Kentucky Davis went over all of the expenses from the year 2024. Money brought in from the fair and all the other events at the fairgrounds brought in \$211,284.79. The Fair Board ended the year with a balance of \$4114.81. Kentucky advised the court we are here to make every year better, not to sit here with money in the bank account. Fair dates have been set for 2025, June 7th to June 14th. The fair will start on Saturday, June 7th with pageants, Sunday, June 8th we will have the free chicken dinner and gospel concert, Monday, June 9th will be Family Night, Wednesday, June 11th rides will arrive, along with barrel racing, Thursday, June 12th Demo Derby, Friday, June 13th Demo Derby and Saturday, June 14th Tractor Pull and Fireworks to end the fair. The horse arena lights will be going up this year. We appreciate all donations the horse arena increases the value of the land. Lights will also be going up in the parking area. Harvest Host has also done well this year. This allows campers to come in and camp on the fairground land. The first night is free and donations can be made. Kentucky thanked the court for the continued support and Thanked County Treasurer Lesa Bullard personally for all that she does to help with paperwork and etc.

JAIL CONTRACT

Judge Morris advised the court that him and Jailer Paula Giles have been in conversation with Grant County Jailer with one change to the current contract. They will now start accepting all inmates. The previous contract stated they would only take ten of our inmates. Magistrate Moore asked Paula how many inmates are currently housed in Grant County. She advised there are currently 5 inmates housed there. Magistrate Moore asked if Grant County is better to work with than Carroll County? Giles responded with Grant County has 24 hour medical care. The cost in Carroll County is \$50.00 an hour at the hospital and \$80.00 a day for special need inmates. At Grant County it is \$36.50 an hour at the hospital and \$65.00 a day for special need inmates. Jailer Giles advised who is in Carroll County will stay in Carroll County and new inmates will start going to Grant County. Will just start fading out Carroll County. Jailer Giles advised she has herself, 1 full time deputy jailer and the rest of the deputies are part-time with full time jobs. Magistrate Shinkle made a motion to amend the current jail contract. Magistrate Moore seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passes.

COUNTY SHERIFF ANNUAL REPORT

Gallatin County Sheriff Robert "Bud" Webster presented to the court his 2024 settlement. The Sheriff advised the court that the Sheriff's office had a good year with the increase of Sheriff's Inspections, a larger amount of property taxes were collected than were expected, Service Fees were higher (serving papers). In the future the Sheriff said he is going to be working to purchases and not asking the court. Magistrate Sullivan made a motion to accept the Sheriff's Annual Report. Magistrate Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

MAGISTRATE COMMENTS

- Magistrate Shinkle asked about a screenshot that was sent to him from Facebook that was posted by a Magistrate that was not in attendance tonight. Stating that "a county building is used for a safe haven for refuge." County Attorney Grant Axon told Shinkle this should be discussed in Closed Session. Shinkle said he wants clarity as to what it is and it was posted on a social media page and was sent to him from a resident. As this has something to do with one of our magistrates and a county building. Judge Morris spoke up and said "The statement is false and that was posted without the full story!" Grant explained to Shinkle and everyone in attendance of what happened at the Gallatin County Senior Center. It was an 83 year old female that had a stay or pay fine (Bench Warrant). Grant had reached out to the District Judge Thomas to have the warrant revoked. He was never able to make contact with her. County staff spent 2 hours with the 83 year old trying to find ways to pay the fine or someone she had stayed with prior. Magistrate Moore stated that he was upset as he received a call from a county worker who was afraid he was going to lose his job over a Facebook post. Magistrate Moore commended Deputy Jailer David Roberts on how he handled the situation and paid the \$289.00 fine Audience applauded. Magistrate Shinkle thanked the fellow court members for explaining what the post was about as he stated I am not on Facebook and Magistrate Moore stated he was not either. Magistrate Shinkle said I had no idea that it was

an 83 year old woman and that is like arresting your grandma and I would have paid her fine. There was no more discussion on the situation.

- Magistrate Moore wanted some clarity on statements that were made in the Gallatin County Newspaper last week about the fire house. Ethan asked Judge Morris if he was ever asked to attend any meetings by the city to attend any meetings regarding building a new fire house? Judge Morris responded "No! No one on the Fiscal Court were ever invited to attend any meetings to discuss building a new fire house." Judge Morris said we pay all the utilities on the current fire house. Chief Barry Alexander told Ethan that the current building is in terrible shape. Ethan asked if he the court was for or against helping build a new fire house since it is in the city and they assist with fires out in the county and they are all volunteers? Judge Morris stated he has never denied a meeting but would attend. Ethan said a committee should be formed between the city and the county on building a new fire house. Judge Morris said they are not the only volunteer fire house in the county. Fire Chief Bud Webster also has Glencoe Fire Department.

ENTER CLOSED SESSION- 61.810 (1)(b) & 61.810(1)(c)

Motion to enter closed session to discuss property acquisition & litigation made by Magistrate Sullivan and seconded by Magistrate Moore. Motion passed.

EXIT CLOSED SESSION

Motion to exit closed session made by Magistrate Moore and seconded by Magistrate Sullivan. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

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

FEBRUARY 2025

- **NKADD Activities and initiatives for the county**
- **Hartig Park Update**
- **Fair Board Update**
- **Jail Contract**
- **County Sheriff Annual Report**
- **Closed Session**