

**GALLATIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**August 12, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Gallatin County Fiscal Court was called to order by Judge Ryan Morris on August 12, 2021 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 and M. J Haddix. Magistrate Donnie Sullivan joined by video conference. County Attorney John G. Wright was also present. Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2021 was made by M. J Haddix. Ethan Moore seconded the motion. All ayes.

**Recognition of Audience:** A member of the audience asked about a meeting that took place in Frankfort in regard to the issues at the mine. Judge Morris and P&Z Director Jim Hansen reported that no information has been received but will communicate any updates to the public once they have heard back from the Division of Mines.

Hargis Davis on behalf of the Gallatin County School Board thanked Judge Morris and Magistrate Haddix for the support of the school's use of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round stimulus money.

**Approval of Agenda:** Judge Morris presented the meeting agenda for approval with the addition of Gallatin County Fair Update and Water Board Appointment, both under New Business. Ethan Moore moved to approve the agenda as amended. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.

**Vendor Claims:** Claims were presented for approval to pay. M. J Haddix asked if the bill for web design of \$2,000 included Tourism. Treasurer Bullard answered that it did not, Tourism is going to do their own site, but their will be a landing page or link on the county's site to theirs. Mr. Haddix followed up by asking if they still planned to spend \$12,000 as previously mentioned. Mrs. Bullard answered that they have received a lower bid of between \$4,000 – 6,000 and will be proceeding with that. Ethan Moore asked about a bill to Goodwin Mills. Judge Morris and Treasurer Bullard explained that the bill was for engineering for the airport, which closed out the previous grant and was all FAA money. M. J Haddix asked about a bill for audio recording renewal. Mrs. Bullard explained that the bill is for dispatch recording. Mr. Haddix then asked about ambulance funds that are coming via budget amendment. He asked if those funds should just go ahead and pay the ambulance off and save on interest. Judge Morris answered that it could be considered. Donnie Sullivan made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **July 2021 Financial Reporting**

1. Treasurer Report – Treasurer Lesa Bullard presented the Fund Cash Statement Summary for the month ending July 31, 2021. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the report and M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.
2. Budget Transfers – Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the budget transfers for the month of July. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
3. Interfund Cash Transfers – Ethan Moore made a motion to approve the interfund cash transfers. M. J Haddix seconded. All ayes.

4. Budget Amendment #070821 #1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading American Rescue Plan Act Funds of 2021. M. J Haddix moved to approve the budget amendment. Ethan Moore seconded. All ayes.
5. Budget Amendment #070821 #2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Sheriff 2015 Explorer Repairs. Ethan Moore moved to approve the budget amendment. Joel Shinkle seconded. All ayes.
6. Budget Amendment #081221 #3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading House Bill 8, Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program. Joel Shinkle moved to approve the budget amendment. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.
7. Budget Amendment #081221-1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Utility Grant administered by NKAAD. Treasurer Bullard reported that it appears to be necessary to record as pass-thru to accept the funds but does not believe that it will hit the county's treasury. Motion to approve made by Ethan Moore and seconded by M. J Haddix. Motion passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **HIGHWAY 42 UPDATE**

Judge Morris reported that there is currently no update to the start date yet for the project on Highway 42 West. The contractor is working on a traffic plan and phasing the project to help with traffic concerns. He added that there will be at least one week prior notice to closure of the road.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SET PROPERTY TAX RATE**

Judge Morris informed the court that given the same rate on property taxes, there is an expected revenue increase of approximately \$16,000 and as such, feels that it is appropriate to keep the rate the same at .089. Joel Shinkle made a motion to keep the county real property tax rate at .089 cents per \$100 of assessed value. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. All ayes.

### **SET MOTOR VEHICLE & WATERCRAFT TAX RATES**

Judge Morris also recommended that the county leave Motor Vehicle and Watercraft taxes at the same rate of .1630 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Ethan Moore made a motion to keep the same tax rate on watercraft and motor vehicles at .1630. Donnie Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **GALLATIN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY TAX RATE AND BUDGET**

Gallatin County Library Director Shirley Warnick reported to the court that the Library Board voted to take the compensating tax rate which was lower than the previous year's rate. The specific rates are 10.9 for Real and Personal Property, 5.0 for Motor Vehicles and 10.9 for Watercraft, Aircraft, Inventory, etc. She also provided an update to the operations for the Library over the past year and moving forward. M. J Haddix made a motion to accept the tax rates set by the Gallatin County Library. Joel Shinkle seconded the motion. All ayes.

Judge Morris commended Mrs. Warnick and her staff for the work they have done over the past year, acknowledging their efforts in a tough time.

### **GALLATIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TAXING DISTRICT 2021 TAX RESOLUTION**

Judge Morris informed the court that the Health Department approved a tax rate of 5.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value for real property which was no increase of the previous year. Ethan

Moore made a motion to accept the Health Department's tax rate. M. J Haddix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **RURAL SECONDARY PROGRAM AGREEMENT & RESOLUTION**

Judge Morris brought before the court an agreement to provide up to \$377,000 in reimbursement for road improvements, which does not include any of the county's flex funds from 2021-22. The projects to be completed will be one and one half inch overlay on Millers Ridge, Wildwood and Lakeview. He explained that the road department is spending a large amount of time patching in these areas and the overlay will free them up to do other needed work. He added that the Rural Secondary Road Program scored these roads as a "10" indicating they are of the highest priority. Mr. Morris also noted that he and the Road Supervisor are looking at a slide on Spencer Road to address as well. Motion to approve made by M. J Haddix and seconded by Joel Shinkle. Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Morris also reported that he has confirmed via email with the Commissioner of Rural Secondary Roads that the county will not lose any of the funds that have been allocated.

Mr. Morris also reported that he should have the cost to shoulder per road mile at the next meeting. He explained that Rural Secondary Road Program funds can be used for this purpose so long as resurfacing follows. He added that he thinks the county should purchase the piece of equipment that is used for shouldering. If explained that if purchased, the company will credit the \$5,500 in rental fees toward the purchase. He expressed his thought that the county will likely get a lot of use out of the equipment to be able to improve the roads. The equipment costs about \$30,000.

Magistrate Donnie Sullivan stated that the Road Department has done an excellent job.

#### **SPAY / NEUTER GRANT**

Treasurer Bullard reported that the agreement for the grant has been signed and is awaiting the state to countersign. Once that has been done, vouchers can be issued.

#### **KY NVS RESOLUTION**

A resolution declaring Gallatin County a Vaccination by Choice County, which was spearheaded by Magistrate Haddix was read aloud by Judge Morris.

Judge Morris stated that he believes it is personal choice and added that he made the personal choice to be vaccinated based on his family situation. Both he and Magistrate Shinkle acknowledged the importance of respecting one another's choice. Magistrate Moore also added that he believes it is personal choice.

Kelley Warnick of The Gallatin County News asked if this will have any affect on employees in the county. Judge Morris answered that the resolution has no bearing on private companies but shows the Court's support for personal choice. Magistrate Haddix added that it is his feeling, if he was forced to vote, he is saying that he would not support requiring employees to get the vaccine. Motion to approve the resolution made by Joel Shinkle and second by M. J Haddix. All ayes.

#### **GALLATIN COUNTY FAIR BOARD UPDATE**

Judge Morris commended the Fair Board for all of their hard work and doing a great job with the fair. He stated that the fair went well and can't thank them enough. He asked that as a court, to stay engaged with the Fair Board and provide more help to them where they can, including more man power by getting more members on the board. He asked that the court be able to recommend committee members or board members at the next meeting. It was announced that

there will be another event on September 25 and that the next Fair Board Meeting is Tuesday at 6:00pm, following with the schedule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

#### **GALLATIN COUNTY WATER BOARD**

Judge Morris offered the name of Zach McCord as a replacement on the Water Board to fill the unexpired term of Jimmy Wilson, who very graciously stayed on the board for a few extra months as was needed. The term runs until October of 2022. Joel Shinkle made a motion to approve the nomination of Zach McCord to the Water Board. Donnie Sullivan seconded. All ayes.

#### **COMMENTS**

Magistrate Shinkle asked where the boom mower is currently located. Judge Morris answered that it is being used near Montell Haddix's place.

Magistrate Moore asked if there was any information in regard to getting fire hydrants in Blue Heron. Judge Morris reported that four hydrants have been found, which will be inspected and hope to be able to have them out there very soon.

Magistrate Shinkle asked for an update on distressed properties, highlighting a property on Miller's Ridge and if there was a time limit for living in a camper. Planning and Zoning Director Hansen answered that the owner of the property is working to get it cleaned up and that it appears the ordinance doesn't address time limits other than in an RV Park or for construction, but will review the ordinance again. He added that the terrain in the area is very rough and will make it hard to clean it up, saying also that he is in contact with her weekly. The property owner is working to evict the person in the camper.

Magistrate Haddix asked about the the case on Spencer Road. County Attorney Wright answered that they were in court this week and the case has been continued. Property owner had represented that they had cleaned it up but had not. The trail of ownership is uncertain due to the death of the owner. Mr. Wright informed the court that this was a criminal proceeding. Mr. Hansen asked if we can begin a civil complaint via code enforcement and County Attorney Wright answered that yes, you can.

Judge Morris informed the court that the next ARP Funds meeting will be to review guidelines and include the department heads. The meeting will take place on September 7, 2021 at the Gallatin County Senior Center. Judge Morris added that these meetings will continue to be separate from the Fiscal Court Meetings and will eventually ask for community members input.

Magistrate Haddix also asked about the neighbor next to Dave Bishop. Judge Morris answered that the property has not been brought to Code Enforcement Board yet. Magistrate Haddix asked if a letter had been sent yet and if not could one be sent this month. Mr. Hansen answered that a letter has not been sent but can be. Mr. Hansen noted that 38 letters have been sent, with six of those making good progress, 4-5 making some progress and no response from the others. He added that pressure is being applied.

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

Doug Miles  
Gallatin County Fiscal Court Clerk