

-Ballard County Fiscal Court  
November 21, 2023  
9:00 AM

Pay/Whip

Welcome: Todd Cooper, Judge Executive

Roll Call: Ryan Hedrick, Jody Brown, Stonnie Dennis, Nathan Whipple, Chip Bisson

The court held a moment of silence to honor Joe Culver a long-time loyal ambassador for Ballard County, especially Monkey's Eyebrow.

Prayer: Ryan Hedrick, Chaplain

Pledge: Todd Cooper

***Motion to approve the November 6, 2023 Fiscal Court Minutes made by Chip Bisson second by Nathan Whipple.***

#### **Road- Tod Vance**

Quote was received to repair Pace Lane Bridge from Harper Construction for \$29,000 with the county providing Rip-Rap. The weight limit has been reduced to 3T until the project can be completed. Erosion is causing the bridge/ roadway to sink. The project will cause a two/three-week closure during which time 2 temporary culverts will have to be placed by the road department to allow the residents of the road access to their home. ***Motion made by Ryan Hedrick second by Jody Brown to accept the quote by Harper Construction to make the necessary repairs, unanimous on vote.***

C Holt Road is not currently in the County Road system even though the county has maintained it for many years. ***Motion by Nathan Whipple second by Chip Bisson and unanimous on vote to adopt C Holt Road into the County Road System.***

The Court discussed researching the cost of a 1.6 million Bond that would repair approximately 7 of the 12 bridges in need of repair in the County.

Tod mentioned that the Department is in need of another load of Sheet Piling.

#### **Sheriff-Ronnie Giles**

The 2022 Sheriff's Fee Audit was presented to the Court for inspection.

Sheriff Giles informed the court that approximately 75% of the County Property taxes have been collected.

### **Dispatch**

There was further discussion on Ballard County getting its own PSAP or if they should continue to consider the merge with Carlisle County. No definitive action was taken. There is a deadline of January 9, 2024 that a decision of some sort has to be made, this will be continued at the next Fiscal Court Meeting.

### **Ambulance**

A written monthly report was presented. The Ambulance Service wanted to know about pursuing the purchase of a CPR Device, but the Court decided they will address the CPR Device at a later time.

### **Jail-Eric Coppess**

Jail population saw a low of 88 a high of 104 with an average of 95. There were 59 bookings and 59 releases. Income was 78,013 and 22,00 MRT Program for total revenue of \$100,013.

It was noted the HB 1 Video Arraignment grant was received.

### **Solid Waste-Bryan Fondaw**

There was a 14,000 lb. intake of trash on the Free Days in October. A load of cardboard was sold at \$90/Ton.

### **EMA-Travis Holder**

The First Responders Banquet was held November 20, 2023. The hard work and planning of those putting it together made it a successful event to help applaud the hard work and dedication of the First Responders of Ballard County.

***Jody Brown made a motion and second by Ryan Hedrick to approve the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Resolution, unanimous on vote.***

The P25 Radio Upgrade has run into issues with Frequency Interference. There are two different solutions to this issue. 1) Track down the cause of the interference, which may be very time consuming and there is no guarantee to find the cause. 2) Purchase a new Frequency, this will cost approximately \$6000.00 but it will be vetted to ensure there is no interference and is clear.

***Motion by Ryan Hedrick second by Jody Brown and unanimous on vote to proceed with the purchase a new frequency thru VEI contractor not to exceed \$6000.***

### **Animal Control**

No new issues to note.

### **Treasurer-Susan Bailey**

***Motion to approve the monthly report, pending audit made by Ryan Hedrick second by Nathan Whipple and unanimous on vote.***

***Motion to pay bills with addition for Teywona Patrick \$295 for working at the Judge Executives Office last week, was made by Jody Brown second by Ryan Hedrick, unanimous on vote pending audit.***

***Motion by Jody Brown second by Ryan Hedrick and unanimous on vote, pending audit to pay additional bills from HillBoyz for 392.93 and 35.00.***

***Motion by Jody Brown and second by Chip Bisson, unanimous on vote, pending audit, to approve cash transfers.***

There were some issues with companies initiating the October 1, 2023

Occupational Tax increase of 1.5%. ***A motion made by Stonnie Dennis, second by Nathan Whipple, unanimous on vote to allow for a grace period until the end of this Quarter, to correct the payroll withholding issues.***

Susan Bailey presented two additional bills for the road department for approval to pay in the amount of \$427.93. ***Motion by Jody Brown, second by Ryan Hedrick payable to HillBoyz, pending audit.***

#### **County Attorney-Bethany Denton**

There was further discussion for the Housing Ordinance and it should be ready for a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading at the next Fiscal Court Meeting. There was also discussion if additional documents were needed to ensure what provisions will be provided to the County from Lifeline. A MOU with this information will be drafted and presented to the Court.

#### **County Clerk-Katie Mercer**

***Motion made by Jody Brown and second by Chip Bisson to approve the Annual Order for setting the Maximum amount for Deputies and Assistants, unanimous on vote.*** (This was previously approved with the County Clerks Budget, but the auditor reminded us that it needed to have its own motion)

***Motion by Stonnie Dennis second by Nathan Whipple to approve the 2023 County Clerk's Budget Amendment #1, unanimous on vote.***

#### **Projects and Properties**

The 9-million-dollar Grant was not received for the Riverport. However, the County has been made aware of different USDOT funding opportunities to pursue and how to increase the odds of receiving a Grant in the future.

The 2024 Holiday Schedule was presented. ***Motion made by Ryan Hedrick second by Nathan Whipple to approve with the exception of making Good Friday an all-day Holiday for all County Employees and not just the Road Department, motion carries on a 4(aye) to 1(nay) vote.***

Todd Cooper presented plans for 2024.

***Motion to adjourn made by Ryan Hedrick, second by Nathan Whipple and unanimous on vote.***

Next Fiscal Court Meeting will be December 5, 2023 at 5PM.