

Ballard County Fiscal Court
March 19, 2024
9:00 AM

Chip Bisson

Welcome: Todd Cooper, Judge Executive
Roll Call: Chip Bisson, Nathan Whipple, Stonnie Dennis, Jody Brown, Ryan Hedrick
Prayer: Ryan Hedrick, Chaplain
Pledge: Todd Cooper

Motion made by Chip Bisson second by Jody Brown, unanimous vote to forego the public reading of the minutes and approve as presented the March 5, 2024, Fiscal Court Minutes.

Roads

Travis Holder presented to the court a bridge replacement plan for the failing bridges of the county. These replacement bridges would be steel. This appears to be the most cost effective and efficient use of County funding. The idea is that 80/20 money could be used to allow one bridge to be replaced yearly. ***Motion made by Nathan Whipple second by Ryan Hedrick to pursue bids for a \$1.5 million draw note (loan for bridge repair). Motion unanimously approved.***

Pace Lane has been completed and the load capacity is up to 22 tons.

Motion by Jody Brown second by Nathan Whipple unanimous on vote to hire JB at \$15.00 an hour with a start date of 3.19.2024. Motion Carries.

There was no update available for the solar right-of-way with Song Sparrow.

An update was given on Brooking Road Bridge: FEMA has determined it would fund the replacement of this bridge.

Sheriff

Sheriff Ronnie Giles reported that property tax collection is at approximately 94% with about 300 outstanding/unpaid bills currently.

K9 Kony has retired. A new K9 was purchased for the sheriff's department by two local residents and business persons.

Dispatch

Sheriff Giles informed the Court that the first meeting of the 911 Board took place and officers were elected. By-laws are currently being drawn up.

Ambulance

Anna Abernathy presented the monthly report. She mentioned that revenue has been halted because the company that handles that was cyber-attacked and it is unknown at this time when they will resume payments.

There was a request for an indigent settlement with the ambulance service. ***Motion by Jody Brown second by Chip Bisson unanimous vote to move SW from PT to FT and increase salary to \$22 an hour for 90 days. With satisfactory performance. SW would be increased to \$25 an hour. This promotion is being made retro-active to 3.10.24.***

Motion by Chip Bisson second by Ryan Hedrick unanimous vote to create a Full Time-floater position (non-guaranteed 48 hrs.) per week for KW.

The EMS Billing Contract expires May 1. ***Motion by Chip Bisson second by Nathan Whipple unanimous vote to approve procuring bids for this contract.***

The check for the totaled Ambulance will soon be received, there will be \$175,000 available to purchase an ambulance. ***Motion by Chip Bisson second by Ryan Hedrick and unanimous on vote to create a committee of Jody Brown, Anna Abernathy, and an individual named by Anna to search for a new ambulance to replace the wrecked unit.*** The totaled ambulance was purchased back from the insurance company for \$1250.00.

Bethany Denton gave a brief update on reimbursement for paramedic school from a previous employee.

Jail

Eric Coppess presented the monthly report. Inmate population: 100 low 108 high an average of 104.

Revenue was 82,013 for housing and 10,000 for MRT & GED. Total revenue was \$92,013.

The Score Program Resolution was presented but tabled until some additional information can be obtained.

Discussion of adding dog kennels to the Jail Location for Animal Control.

Solid Waste

Motion by Jody Brown second by Ryan Hedrick unanimous vote to hire TW as a full-time employee at \$15 an hour.

OEM

Motion by Jody Brown second by Nathan Whipple unanimous on vote to allow OEM to partner with the Sheriff to apply for a KY Homeland Security 100% reimbursable grant for a drone in the amount up to \$30,000.

Motion by Jody Brown second by Chip Bisson to allow Travis to purchase a new desktop computer for approximately \$1000.00, unanimous on vote.

Treasurer

Motion by Stonnie Dennis second by Chip Bisson and unanimous vote to approve the Annual Standing Order to pre-approve certain recurring expenses.

Motion by Chip Bisson second by Nathan Whipple unanimous on vote to approve County employee 3.4% COLA for FYE 2025.

Motion to approve monthly report pending audit made by Ryan Hedrick second by Jody Brown and unanimous on vote.

Motion to pay bills made by Chip Bisson second by Nathan Whipple and unanimous vote, pending audit.

Motion to approve cash transfers by Jody Brown second by Ryan Hedrick and unanimous vote, pending audit.

The new investment sheet was presented. Also, the \$188,000 road department KACO line of credit note was paid in full.

County Attorney

Motion by Chip Bisson second by Nathan Whipple unanimous on vote to approve the 1st Reading of the Housing Creation Ordinance Amendment 901.0.

Bethany provided some insight on dealing with open records.

Motion by Jody Brown second by Stonnie Dennis unanimous on vote to allow Bethany to hire a PT employee effective date 3.20.24 to replace K.G. who retired January 31, 2024.

County Clerk

Motion by Stonnie Dennis second by Chip Bisson unanimous on vote to accept the 2023 County Clerk's Fee Settlement.

HR

Kentucky Safe will be here next week to check safety compliance throughout the county departments.

Motion by Nathan Whipple second by Chip Bisson unanimous vote to approve adding the Blood Born Pathogen Policy to the County Policy Manual.

Projects & Properties

Motion by Nathan Whipple second by Ryan Hedrick unanimous on vote to approve Resolution 2024-03-19-001. This Resolution is allowing West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority to apply for the 2024 FYE USDOT Grant.

Motion by Nathan Whipple second by Chip Bisson unanimous vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 RDAAP Ballard IDA Authorizing & Designation of SPGE Resolution.. This Resolution allows the Ballard IDA to apply for up to \$20,000.00 for RDAAP Funds from the Department of Local Government. These funds would go the completion of MOORE BLVD engineering and base rock application.

Magistrate Comments

Magistrate Nathan Whipple wanted to commend the Departments within the County for doing a great job with a special commendation to the Road Department. Judge Executive Todd Cooper relayed to the Court from a Zoom Call with the Governor that discretionary funds have been cut down to approximately \$5Million for the state. The Governor encouraged communication with legislators to increase this amount.

Also, there are concerns about the Department of Agriculture handling grants as opposed to DLG as it currently stands, this is HB 723 and legislators need to hear communication that this is not good for County Governments.

Motion to close at Noon for the Solar Eclipse was tabled until April 2 meeting.

Community Concerns

Continued concern with accidents and Commercial Vehicles on KY 286. The County has done its due diligence and has exhausted efforts within the county. Sheriff Giles has reached out to KSP for additional help.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Chip Bisson second by Nathan Whipple and unanimous on vote.

Next Meeting is Tuesday April 2, 2024, at 5PM.