

CALLOWAY COUNTY
FISCAL COURT MEETING
August 21, 2024, Regular Meeting

An adjourned meeting of the Calloway County Fiscal Court was held at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, in the Calloway County Court House Annex. Judge Executive Kenneth C. Imes called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. The following duly qualified members of the Court were present: Squire Don Cherry, Squire Paul Rister, Squire Larry Crutcher and Squire Ricky Stewart. Also present were County Treasurer Tonya Robinson, Deputy Judge Executive Gina Winchester, County Attorney Bryan Ernstberger was excused from the meeting due to a training event, and County Clerk Antonia Faulkner.

Judge Imes explained to the Court the procedure for taxing districts to present to the Court their current year tax rates, acknowledging that the Court only hears the rates. Stephanie Hays representing the health department stated the tax rates would remain the same as previous years (2.80) with no changes since 1987. Mignon Rutledge from the Calloway Co Library reported the library rates for 2024 were to be set at 4.90 real property, 5.55 personal property, and 3.00 motor vehicle. Squire Cherry mentioned that although he was not initially in favor of the new library, he has utilized the new facility and programs and is impressed.

Representatives Allen Renn and Oscar Salvatier with FEMA presented and updated the Court regarding the process for FEMA public and individual assistance and sequence of delivery. Squire Rister asked what the process was for debris removal from private property that might have fallen onto a county road but was pushed off the road and back into the resident's yard. Was there any assistance for the landowner to remove these trees? The answer would come after scope meetings to determine an agreement and safety issues that the debris may have caused. Judge Imes thanked the representatives for coming before the Court.

The Court then heard from Jan Jones of 527 Purdom Road with concerns regarding WK&T connection with broadband fiber. Mrs. Jones stated the need for better internet in her area. She felt that a promise was made about connecting her home to the new lines since money from the Fiscal Court and WK&T was invested to provide service in their area. Now that the fiber had been put down, she questioned the extra fee of up to \$1,000 to connect residents with odd number addresses on Purdom Road on the far side of Hwy 80, while those across Hwy 80 on Purdom with even number addresses did not pay that hookup fee. All along each side of the roads, many have terminals in their yards. Karen Furman representing WK&T came before the Court to explain based on Mrs. Jones's statements. WK&T and the County invested money to go along with a federal grant administer by the State. This grant covered a small area that was determined by the FCC maps as unserved areas in the county. This determined the homes to be serviced. Ms. Furman explained that WK&T uses the right-of-way to put in terminals not based on the locations to be hooked up. She went on to explain that those in the grant area would have the cost of hookup waived, but for those outside the project area, the actual cost of \$1300 would be offset with the customer paying \$1000 of the cost. The good news is other grants and opportunities are currently being applied for or will be applied for when made available. Ms. Furman understood the frustration and listened to comments related to the business side of allowing customers to be hooked up and the revenue to be an eventual profit of WK&T. Eddie Clyde Hale asked about reimbursement to those who paid the connection fee if/when the additional grants were awarded. The response was simply "no;" the grants restrict reimbursement. Judge Imes agreed that what the Fiscal Court approved seemed to have been misconstrued or changed as state government got involved. He also stated the

County will be hesitant to invest in the future without closer consideration. The time allowed being fulfilled the discussion was ended.

The Court then reviewed the minutes of the July 17 regular meeting. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Cherry to waive the formal reading and approve as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Motion made by Squire Crutcher seconded by Squire Rister to waive the formal reading and approve the Minutes of the July 26 Special meeting as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Treasurer Tonya Robinson presented to the Court her report. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Stewart to approve the financial statement as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Stewart to approve the payment of the bills as presented. Squire Rister questioned auto-renewal payments with Total Tech, after a discussion, a motion was approved to pay bills including Total Tech with the understanding the questioned bills would be addressed, all voted aye, and it was so ordered. A motion to approve cash transfers was made by Squire Crutcher and seconded by Squire Rister. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Mrs. Robinson asked the Court to approve the issuance of 3 additional checks. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Crutcher to approve as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Judge Imes presented, in the form of a motion, the approval of a Resolution confirming the adoption of a road name change, changing Smith Road to Brame Road. After a discussion, the motion was seconded by Squire Rister to approve resolution 24-0821-A as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Judge Imes presented to the Court a Resolution adopting a road surface rating that includes 14 criteria as created to update the current CRISP system for the County. Squire Cherry questioned if this rating would be accepted by the state for roads being considered for paving with state funds. He was told no, any request to the state would be re-rated by the state. Motion made by Squire Stewart seconded by Squire Rister to approve the resolution 24-0821-B as presented. All Voted aye and it was so ordered. The Court then reviewed a resolution regarding the matter of identifying bridges in Calloway County to be included in the Department of Rural & Municipal Aid funding. The 80/20 bridge funding list includes: Howard Road, Workman Road, Cherry Corner Road, Tobacco Road, and Beechy Road. The CCBIP funding request includes: Furches Trail, Old Shiloh Road, Van Cleave Road, Clayton Drive, and Clayton Town Road. After a discussion, a motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Cherry to approve the resolution as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

The Court began the discussion regarding 2024 tax rates. Motion made by Squire Rister to approve the 4% tax rate for real property which was calculated to be 13.60. This rate would be lower than last year's rate, but still brings in 4% more revenue than last year. For a lack of a second the motion died. When asked, Squire Crutcher favored accepting the compensating rate at 13.10 but did not put that in the form of a motion. Squire Cherry discussed the uncertainty of gas and oil prices, and the increase in expenses, he then made a motion to keep this year's tax rates the same as last year's, which was 14.00 for real property, 16.08 for personal property, and 14.00 for motor vehicles and watercraft. Squire Stewart seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, Squires Stewart, Cherry, and Judge Imes voted aye, and Squires Rister and Crutcher voted nay. The motion passed and recorded as the first reading of the County tax rates to stay the same as last year.

Judge Imes presented the resignation of Jodi Hanneman from the Tourism Commission. Judge Imes made the recommendation in the form of a motion to appoint Barb Paschall to fill the board position of Jodi Hanneman, and to reappoint Paul Rister and Pamela Guy with their terms to expire on 9-16-27.

Motion seconded by Squire Stewart. Due to Squire Rister's appointment, he abstained from voting while Squires Cherry, Crutcher, Stewart, and Judge Imes were all ayes.

The Court reviewed the personnel changes. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Crutcher to approve the changes as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

A request from the 911 center to be approved for a system upgrade in the amount of \$44,000.00 was discussed. Motion made by Squire Crutcher seconded by Squire Rister to approve the request as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

HR Manager Tori Saul asked the Court for approval to pursue a contract with Hanna Resource Group to conduct a comprehensive salary study and create a fair and competitive wage for the County. LAFTCO funds will pay the one-time fee of \$16,900. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Cherry to approve the request as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. The Court then discussed options for replacing the time clock system. Research was presented and discussed regarding the cost of approximately \$8,000 for the contract and one-time equipment fee. The implementation date goal is October 1st, all departments whose payroll is paid by the FC would be served by the new system. Motion made by Squire Rister seconded by Squire Cherry to proceed with the recommendation of Mrs. Saul and to allow Judge Imes to sign necessary documents with WorkEasy at the \$8,000 amount. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Judge Imes asked the approval of the Court, in the form of a motion, to authorize him to cancel contracts with Total Tech which had automatic annual renewals if necessary, and to move forward with canceling email services, IT services, etc. After a discussion, a motion was seconded by Squire Crutcher to approve the motion as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

The Court reviewed the request to surplus a Sheriff 2014 Ram truck and Animal Shelter 2006 GMC. Motion made by Squire Crutcher seconded by Squire Rister to surplus the vehicles as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Deputy Judge Exec. Gina Winchester presented the Admin/Ordinance Committee minutes, along with an update of the 911 Committee report. This committee would remain together for another month so that the court may review the findings. Judge Imes mentioned speaking with Debi Danielson of Murray Art Guild regarding updates on the CDGB grant and locally raised money in the amount of \$500,000 to move forward with Clark Construction on the new MAG building.

During Staff/Official reports Squire Rister suggested in the form of a motion to follow the written recommendations of Mr. Bobby Dietz (BFW & Marcum Engineering) to be able to close out the DOW permit for the 641 property. In discussion, the permit was to allow a 1.5-acre area to be leveled at a 1% grade in anticipation of placing storm debris from the Memorial Day storms. To date no debris has been taken to the area, nor did it get completely leveled out. The open permit is costing \$85 per week for inspections. The recommendation by Mr. Deitz is for a 3:1 slope and seed the area. Judge Imes mentioned that there would be more storms in the future that might require cleanup of tree debris, wondering where that will be disposed of. Rister discussed with Swift Environmental, Mr. Deitz's recommendation and being able to prepare the area as efficient and with the least cost as possible to be able to close out the permit. Mr. Swift estimated the cost for that work to be around \$15,000. Squire Cherry seconded the original motion to take the necessary steps to close out the permit. Four (4) ayes with Judge Imes nay vote it was so ordered.

Squire Rister discussed the recently purchased Radar Trailer by the Sheriff's Office using LAFTCO funds was set up for its first use on Wrather Road. He encouraged other magistrates to use the unit on roads where they have received speeding concerns. Chris Franklin, Road Dept. Supervisor expects the 10 road counters to arrive Sept. 6. Sheriff Nicky Knight took the time to brag on his deputies for their hard work as the department is currently shorthanded for different reasons. The deputies are pulling together to take care of the County. HR Manager Tori Saul stated her thanks for the Court's efforts to take care of the employees. Clerk Faulkner let the Court know of an SBE Grant and a KDLA grant the Clerk was awarded. Judge Imes recognized Ft. Donelson/Ft. Heiman Rangers and previous Squire Eddie Clyde Hale in the audience. Mr. Hale took the time to thank all county government employees for what they do, it is appreciated.

There being no further business before the Court, a motion made by Squire Crutcher and seconded by Squire Rister to adjourn. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Approved this 18th day of September 2024 by Judge Executive Kenneth C. Imes


