Fulton County Fiscal Court

Special Called Session

April 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Judge Jim Martin. The Pledge was led by Wade Adams and invocation given by Hugh Caldwell.

**Attendance:** Jim Martin, Hugh Caldwell, Wade Adams, Jim Paitsel, Shaun Parks, Naomi Jones, Leslie Woods, Barbara Atwill, J L Atwill, Derek Goodson, Steven Williams, Rick Major, Alan Coffey, Kayla Mullis, Robert Griggs, Heather Nestler and Charles Choate.

**BUSINESS**

**INRE: Consider approval of 80/20 application on Clinton-Moscow Road & Walker Road**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Jim Paitsel, carried by all members present to authorize filing the 80/20 grant application for Clinton Moscow Road for approximately $45500.00 and Walker Road for approximately $56400.00, and to advertise for bids for these projects in June 2021. Clinton Moscow Road was approved two years ago by the State for repair due to the decaying of the 9 foot culvert which has been causing the road to cave in. Walker Road was on the 80/20 plan last year, but were unable to do this project due to overrun in funds for the Long Lane project. This application is for the current year, which ends in June, but the work may not be completed until 2021/2022 FY. The Court will still be eligible to apply for the 80/20 grant again in July or thereafter for the 2021/2022 FY.

**INRE: Consider approval of Sheriff Advancement for payroll expenses for Jan-Mar 2021**

Motion made by Wade Adams, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by Wade Adams, Hugh Caldwell and Shaun Parks, with Jim Paitsel abstaining, to approve advancing the Sheriff’s Office $22364.24 from the contingency fund to pay the payroll liabilities. The Sheriff’s Office will be paying payroll liabilities monthly from this time forward. The $15000.00 advancement will be paid at a later date.

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, motion dies for lack of 2nd, to require the Sheriff to be a fee pooling office.

**INRE: Consider approval of new Sheriff Dept employees for Fiscal Court financial support (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 467)**

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve the employees. Austin Matheny will be filling the vacancy from Ryan Amberg, and Mr. Irvan will be filling the position of Court Security Officer at a rate of $9.00 per hour. The CSO will be reimbursable through AOC. Derek Goodson asked the Court to keep the seasonal clerk position until April 26, 2021. The Court agreed that the time limit for the seasonal clerk was stipulated in a previous meeting to end on April 15, 2021.

**INRE: Discussion of pay plan for Dispatch & Detention Center employees**

Robert Griggs addressed the court pertaining to the dispatch salaries. The starting salary is comparable to other dispatch centers around our area, but Fulton County falls short for salary amounts for permanent employees. Robert stated that Fulton County losses employees to other agencies due to salary rates being higher. The proposal presented to the court increases the rate of permanent employees, which will allow Fulton County to be competitive and hire qualified personnel. Wade Adams asked when the dispatchers certified training would open up and JL Atwill stated that it is already open, but the State has cancelled the classes lately with no explanation. Dispatch has one fulltime employee that is currently not certified. Fiscal Court agrees that the proposal for salary in Dispatch should be reflected in the FY 2021/2022 budget. Steven Williams stated that the proposal for the Detention Center salary only includes 50 of the 67 employees that the Detention Center usually employs. 10 employees are still on furlough, 1 is currently laid off in the Detention Center. Steven stated that the Sap program helps the Detention Center to maintain some of the inmates, but the staff issues are causing problems since Fulton County doesn’t have competitive salary wages. Steve proposed an increase in pay of $2.00 per hour for all floor employees, COLA raises for all employees, and including an Employee Recognition Award (ERA) plan. Fiscal Court agrees to use this proposal in the budget.

**INRE: Discussion of Salary Order for Fulton County Employees & FY 21/22 Budget**

Fiscal Court agrees that the presented proposal for salary of Fulton County employees should be included in the 2021/2022 budget. Jim Paitsel stated that there would be a proposal, at the next meeting, on the magistrate pay. It was determined that May 2022 was the proper time to make this motion.

**INRE: Consider approval of FAA Grant for Fulton Airport**

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Hugh Caldwell, carried by Jim Paitsel, Hugh Caldwell and Wade Adams, with Shaun Parks absent to approve the Judge Executive to sign a $9000.00 Covid Grant for the Fulton Airport. This grant will be paid over a 4 year period. This grant is for sanitation efforts and such. This money will go directly to the Airport Board.

**INRE: Consider annual approval of Detention Center Policy & Procedure Manual**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Jim Paitsel, carried by all members present to approve the Detention Center’s Policy & Procedure Manual with no new changes.

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to reconviegn at Beech Groove Road to inspect the road and determine what action needs to be taken. Court will still be in session and notes will be taken.

**INRE: Inspection of and plans for Beech Grove Road**

Motion made by Jim Paitsel, 2nd by Shaun Parks, carried by all members present to approve abandoning a portion of Beech Groove Road starting after house number 79 to just before the driveway of house number 643. This section of road does not contain any homes. Both houses are accessible from other County or State roads that remain open. This closure is due to the road caving in at several locations, and would cost over an estimated one million dollars to repair. Consideration was given to closing this road and building another road, but the Court felt this was an unnecessary expense to the tax payers, as there is still access to the only two homes that are on this road.

**INRE: Discussion of Proposed Health Insurance Program for FY 21/22 (Rec. Order BK 27 PG 470)**

Motion made by Hugh Caldwell, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to approve the health insurance premium increase for the 2021-2022. The increase is a 7.8% which comes to approximately $27000.00 more for next year. This will be absorbed by the General Fund through Fiscal Court, so that employees will not see an increase in premium on their end. This new policy contains the same coverage as the 2020-2021 plan. BMS will be the new administrator for the HRA card plan. The contribution to the HRA plan will not change to mitigate the increase for the health insurance premium increase.

Motion made by Shaun Parks, 2nd by Wade Adams, carried by all members present to adjourn at 12:20 AM.

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Naomi T. Jones, Fulton County Clerk