

The Gant County Fiscal Court met in Special Session on Monday, February 06, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. at the Grant County Courthouse in Williamstown, Kentucky 41097, with Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, Present; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Present; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Present, and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, Present and Presiding.

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Magistrate Austin opened in prayer. Judge Link then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were: Clark Kinman-Cable TV, and James Perkins. Judge Link updated on the six Additions to the Agenda.

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Motion of Patricia Conrad and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2006, meeting as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Claims in the General Expense Fund, Road Fund and Jail Fund for the month of February, 2006, along with the transfers needed to pay said claims. He asked if there were any questions about them. Judge Link informed the Court that Jailer Steven Kellam has signed a new contract with the Department of Justice and that the per diem rate has been increased from \$28.00 to approximately \$48.00 for housing of prisoners. He said that this is about a \$20.00 per day increase which would bring in, if the numbers remain the same, of about \$200,000.00 more in this year's revenue, and would bring in around \$500,000.00 annually for the Jail budget which is very good. He said that is probably the amount of revenue he would be looking at for the next budget.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to approve Claims No. 01-0844 thru 01-0887 in the amount of \$28,022.81 paid out of the General Expense Fund; Claims No. 02-0272 thru 02-0288 in the amount of \$5,561.60 paid out of the Road Fund; and Claims No. 03-0339 thru 03-0346 in the amount of \$22,433.82 paid out of the Jail Fund, for the month of February, 2006, along with the transfers presented to pay said claims.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell L. Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented the Building Inspector's Report for January, 2006. No action is required. It is as follows: He stated that it looked like Fairview Christian Church was building a new church, and then updated on the one permit for Co Locate which is for a Cell Tower. He also presented the Road Supervisor's Report for January. It is as follows: No action is required. He said there was no Snow Removal work showing in the Report for January, but February will be different since we had snow over the weekend. They did work over the weekend trying to make the roads passable and to make it where everyone could get around and that they do a good job as always.

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Judge Link stated that Check No. 9310 in the General Expense Fund dated 12-20-05 for the amount of \$11.50 to Brandon Marksberry needed to be voided due to the fact that said amount was paid on the Sheriff's Credit Card bill and was not due to Mr. Marksberry.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to Void Check No. 9310 in the General Expense Fund dated 12-20-05 for the amount of

\$11.50 made payable to Brandon Marksberry due to said amount being paid on the Sheriff's Credit Card account and not due Brandon Marksberry.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link updated on several roads that he would like to put out for bid and requested a Motion authorizing him to do so. He said this follows their plan as discussed earlier and these are very heavily traveled roads.

Motion of Patricia Conrad and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to authorize the County Judge/Executive to advertise for Sealed Bids for Re-surfacing Various Roads in Grant County, i.e., Dry Ridge-Mt. Zion Road, Sherman-Newton Road, Shady Lane Road, Vallandingham Road, Violet Road and Lemon-Northcutt Road with said bids to be opened during the presence of Fiscal Court on April 17, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

Judge Link also updated on the additional fifteen miles of roads that he had submitted to the State on the Discretionary Bond Fund Application and remarked that hopefully we would hear from them in the near future and would be able to bid them out in the fall.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Pauper Burial Policy which he explained to the Court. It is as follows: He said sometimes we have one or two a year, but the most that the county has ever had is three in a fiscal year, but sometimes there is a need for this assistance to someone who needs to be buried and the family has

no way of paying for the burial. This is something that is put into the county budget and it helps to know how to plan for this cost. This had been put together a while back but somehow was never submitted for approval by the Court. The funds would go to the funeral homes in the county, Elliston Stanley Funeral Home, Eckler-Hudson Funeral Home or McDaniel Funeral Home.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to adopt the Pauper Burial Policy as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented the Coroner's Report for July 2005 thru January 2006. It is as follows: No action is required. Magistrate Conrad questioned the mileage reimbursement rate paid of \$0.30 per mile and discussion was held. Judge Link will take a look at this for further discussion.

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Judge Link presented for review and action a Resolution endorsing the Adoption of the Optional Method of Financing for the Cost of Operation and Maintenance of the Grant County Law Library. It is as follows: Attached to the Resolution was a Signature Page showing several Attorneys endorsing the Fiscal Court's adoption of the Resolution.

Judge Link said that there will be no cost to the Fiscal Court and that the extra costs will be added on by way of the Circuit Clerk's fees.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to approve the Resolution endorsing the Adoption of the Optional Method of Financing for the Cost of Operation and Maintenance of the Grant County Law Library as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented Sheriff Randy Middleton's 2005 Fee Settlement for review and action. It is as follows: He explained that since Sheriff Middleton is a fee officer and his budget is included in the overall county budget no funds are returned to the county. This is a matter of reporting as required by law.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to accept the 2005 Fee Settlement of Randy Middleton, Sheriff of Grant County, Kentucky, as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented County Clerk Judy Fortner's 2005 Fee Settlement along with a check for \$46,157.05, for review and action. It is as follows: He stated that this is a more significant amount than they had anticipated in her original budget. Judy does a good job and he appreciates the amount of money that she turns back into the county.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to accept the 2005 Fee Settlement of Judy Fortner, County Clerk of Grant County, Kentucky, along with her check in the amount of \$46,157.05 as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Appointment of Amy Lynne Roe to

serve as a member of the Grant County Solid Waste Management District 109 Board for a 4 Year term beginning February 06, 2006, and to expire on February 05, 2010. It is as follows: Also attached was her Resume showing all of her credentials, and he praised her highly and said that she would serve on this Board and represent the county very well in this capacity. He also stated that there is still one Vacancy on this Board in the event that anyone knew someone who would like to serve or in the event that anyone watching the meeting would be interested. He told them to contact his office if they were interested in serving.

Motion of Patricia Conrad and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to approve the Appointment of Amy Lynne Roe to serve as a member of the Grant County Solid Waste Management District 109 Board as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link updated on a meeting of the County Judge/Executive's Association that he had attended and is the Treasurer of whereby they had discussion with Governor Fletcher and Speaker of the House Jody Richards. He said that they were not able to hear from President of the Senate David Williams due to the death of his father last week. He then expressed his sympathy and condolences to President Williams. He updated that there seems to be a growing interest in the takeover of the Jails around the 120 counties.

Governor Fletcher even asked the question to all those present "Would all the counties be willing to turn the operations of their jails to the State?". Everybody raised their hands and if not everybody raised both hands. He found out very quickly that it is a tremendous burden to all 120 counties. Judge Link said this was an issue that started in 1976 when

the Commonwealth of Kentucky did their Judicial reform and took over responsibility of almost every office and left the burden of incarceration of prisoners to county governments. At that time they also took the responsibility of prisoners away from the cities and placed the burden of city prisoners on to county government as well, and we have been struggling and meeting that obligation since 1976. We have not had a choice to do otherwise and have not had many options available to us. He is happy to report that most other counties are struggling much more than we are. We do have offsetting revenue that is generated, for instance, from the incarceration of federal prisoners and state prisoners, that offsets the county's cost. He said there are 56 other counties that do not have Jails that have to contract out for other counties to house their prisoners. They have had to pass Insurance Premium Tax and also an Occupational Tax, and it has been a real burden on those counties for the people to provide for the incarceration of prisoners even though they are housed elsewhere. They have now reached a boiling point that they have no other revenue streams to exhaust, no other options to pursue. He said that while we aren't there yet, a day will come when it will also become a burden potentially to us as well. He stated that we should support the takeover of county jails and that all 120 counties across the State will be asked to adopt a Resolution like this regarding HB 274 setting forth the takeover by the State. He then presented for review and approval a Resolution relating to the Commonwealth of Kentucky assuming full responsibility for housing all prisoners which he read in full to the Court. He also stated that he would send a copy of this Resolution if adopted to Governor Fletcher, Lt. Governor Steve Pence, Speaker of the House Jody Richards, President of the Senate David Williams, Representative Royce Adams, Senator Damon Thayer and Vince Lang-Executive

Director of the Kentucky County Judge/Executive's Association. It is as follows:

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to approve and adopt the Resolution relating to the Commonwealth of Kentucky assuming full responsibility for housing all prisoners as presented, and to further authorize the Judge/Executive to send a copy to the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, Representative Royce Adams, Senator Damon Thayer and Vince Lang, Executive Director of the Kentucky County Judge/Executive's Association.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

He also asked all those in the county who were watching the meeting on TV to contact Representative Royce Adams and Senator Damon Thayer and request them to support HB 274 as it is one of the most important bills to be passed during this Session of the General Assembly...

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Judge Link opened up discussion for the "Good of the County". He said that anyone could address the Court at this time. Judge Link updated on the Phase VIII Waterline Project. The project is quickly coming to a conclusion. Fords Mill Road is the last one being completed and this will complete the Project which is running a little ahead of schedule and coming in a little below cost. He stated that tomorrow night they were going to ask Bullock Pen Water District to consider adding on Ruark Road and Duncan Lane to their list and that they be fully completed under Phase VIII. This will accelerate the time table of those people getting water and that request will be made tomorrow evening. He said that Phase XI is a lot of roads, Harrison Road, a portion of Mann Road, a portion of Salem Creek, a portion of Flat Creek, six to seven miles remaining and

scattered here and there. Bullock Pen Water District said they will begin to hold public hearings for signups, but people on these roads have not been too quick to sign up. He asked Bullock Pen Water District to get him a list of those people on these roads and he would call them or go to see them to encourage them to sign up so this project can get underway and completed in a timely manner. He also informed the Court that he would be leaving early Wednesday morning to go to Washington D.C. to advocate and submit the Williamstown Lake Project. He said that every day we get more and more support, but we need that financial boost from the federal government and he will request a direct appropriation for this project from our Congress so we can make some progress with this lake. Pendleton County Judge Bertram and Owen County Judge O'Banion will also attend as well as a large group from the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce who recognize the importance of this Project and see it as being equally as important as to what the Airport was to Northern Kentucky. This lake project can serve as another economic stimulus to this entire region. Magistrate Messer then asked about the road which had been brought up at the Grant County High School when Governor Fletcher was in the county. Judge Link stated that this was a private road off of Hwy. 491, not a county road, and the name of it was Campbell's Drive. He said that he had talked with that lady who asked about it that day and updated on his discussion with her and explained to her what could be done to help her and others on this Road. He told her to call his office if he could assist in any way and he would try to help her if possible. Judge Link also reported that the Project Development Board will meet at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday and that Judge Bates will chair the meeting since he will be in Washington. He stated that the architects, JRA Associates, will be here to give an assessment of the sites

under consideration for the new Judicial Center if anyone would like to attend.

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Judge Link reminded Fiscal Court that the next Caucus meeting will be on February 13, 2006, at 5:30 P.M., and that the next meeting of the Fiscal Court will be on Monday, February 20, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

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Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Patricia Conrad it is hereby ordered to Adjourn until Monday, February 20, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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GRANT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE