

**Minutes
Grant County Fiscal Court
Special Meeting
July 12, 2016**

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Stephen Wood called to order the Special Meeting of July 12, 2016.

Those in attendance were Judge/Executive Stephen P. Wood; Magistrates Jacquelyn Riley, Bobby Newman, and Shawna Coldiron; Sheriff Chuck Dills; County Clerk Tabatha Clemons, and Deputy Judge/Executive & Fiscal Court Clerk Scott Kimmich.

Citizens in attendance were: Chief Deputy Sheriff Brian Maines, Deputy Mike Webster, Deputy Bobby Webb, Deputy Jailer Howard and Cindy Chipman, Deputy Jailer Jason Hankins, Chief Deputy Jailer Lisa Mentrup, Brennen Dills, Steve Coldiron, Michael Robinson, and Teresa Wood.

Prerogative of the Chair

Judge Wood advised he would like to exercise the prerogative of the chair and discuss the item on the agenda, the Detention Center.

Judge Wood explained that he was deeply troubled by the recent events in which the Jailer unilaterally determined to reduce population in the detention center by 69 inmates, creating the potential for a loss of revenue in excess of \$700,000. He further explained his frustration in that the shifts in population have occurred without any rational basis and that when Magistrate Newman raised concerns the population increased dramatically. Judge Wood said Fiscal Court has no control over how it has been handled in the past or will be handled in the future, despite the reality the fiscal court is ultimately responsible for the cost of the jail.

Judge Wood also said he was concerned about the management of the detention center as it related to pharmaceuticals in that Magistrates Coldiron and Riley had raised this issue many times in the past and no action was taken despite costs that far exceeded the budgeted appropriation for prescriptions at the detention center.

Judge Wood stated the decision he had reached was one of the most difficult he has made since taking office.

Judge Wood opened the floor to the Magistrates and Magistrate Newman said he regretted the decision that had to be made, but that the numbers speak for themselves. He said the county could not continue to maintain operations with the shifting in population and increased costs of operation.

Magistrate Coldiron said she too was making this decision based strictly on the numbers. She said that 20 years ago the county had confronted jail issues and we are here now, 20 years later, still facing issues with the operation and costs of the jail. She said the court has tried to make a difference and work with the jailer but things have not gotten any better. She explained that she was aware the decision the court was going to make would be a burden for a while, but that in the long term, this action is in the county's best financial interests.

Magistrate Coldiron said in her opinion it is not fair for the other departments to continue to suffer because of the costs of operating the detention center.

Magistrate Riley said the decision was purely financial. She expressed her frustration that the population shifts will cost the county a significant amount of money and there is nothing the court can do to stabilize the revenue and expenses. She explained that having worked at the detention center for 5 years she has a unique perspective on the detention center and that when you look at the expenses, something has to be done.

Magistrate Riley explained this has been a long journey to get to this point and that the journey ahead will be a long and difficult one as well. She further explained that as the county has spent more on health care, mental health, and prescriptions in the history of the county, the United States Department of Justice maintains an ongoing investigation of the facility operations and that the county cannot afford to meet the mental health criteria being demanded by the Department of Justice.

Magistrate Riley questioned the actual acreage as defined in the resolution and it was clarified the number of 38 acres will be a plus or minus situation and that the actual land available be determined based on the aerial photo of the land.

Judge Wood asked that the Deputy Judge/Fiscal Court report Resolution 16-10:

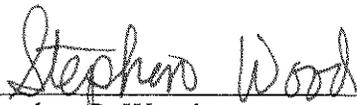
A RESOLUTION OF THE GRANT COUNTY FISCAL COURT DIRECTING THAT JUDGE/EXECUTIVE STEPHEN WOOD PROCEED IN TAKING THOSE STEPS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CLOSURE OF THE GRANT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER BASED ON THE NOTIFICATION OF THE JAILER CHRIS HANKINS OF HIS EXPRESS INTENT TO REDUCE THE POPULATION OF THE DETENTION CENTER BY AN ESTIMATED 69 INMATES AS EXPRESSED IN AN EMAIL TO THE FISCAL COURT, THUS REDUCING ANTICIPATED REVENUE BY AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF \$790,000.

Magistrate Newman said based on the financial condition of the county he would make a motion to approve Resolution 16-10 and Magistrate Riley seconded the motion. There being no further discussion Judge Wood directed the Deputy Judge/Fiscal Court Clerk to call the roll whereupon all members present voted in the affirmative.

Adjournment

Magistrate Newman moved adjournment and Magistrate Coldiron seconded the motion. Judge Wood declared the meeting adjourned on a voice vote.

Signed:



Stephen P. Wood
Grant County Judge/Executive



RESOLUTION 16-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE GRANT COUNTY FISCAL COURT DIRECTING THAT JUDGE/EXECUTIVE STEPHEN WOOD PROCEED IN TAKING THOSE STEPS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CLOSURE OF THE GRANT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER BASED ON THE NOTIFICATION OF THE JAILER CHRIS HANKINS OF HIS EXPRESS INTENT TO REDUCE THE POPULATION OF THE DETENTION CENTER BY AN ESTIMATED 69 INMATES AS EXPRESSED IN AN EMAIL TO THE FISCAL COURT, THUS REDUCING ANTICIPATED REVENUE BY AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF \$790,000.

Whereas, the Grant County Fiscal Court approved a budget predicated on a revenue estimate agreed to after a caucus meeting with the Jailer and members of his senior staff, and;

Whereas, the Grant County Fiscal Court approved a budget which provides funding for all current positions at the Grant County Detention Center, including a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment, and;

Whereas, the Grant County Fiscal Court approved a budget that provided full funding for health care and food costs as agreed to in contractual negotiations in which Jailer and or members of his senior staff were engaged, and;

Whereas, the Grant County Fiscal Court approved a budget that restored full funding for mental health services after the proposal by the Jailer reduced said funding by 11,500.00, and;

Whereas, the Grant County Jailer, in his letter explaining his personal determination to adjust the detention center population, citing "safety", referenced a letter from the Kentucky Department of Corrections recommending a staffing of 48 "in a perfect situation", but did not acknowledge a subsequent communication from the same corrections official in which he, the corrections official, advised the state mandated staffing for a facility with an approved population cap equivalent to that of Grant County's facility is in reality 3, non-communications personnel at all times. The Jailer publicly discounted an organizational chart submitted with the staffing recommendation which provided for a command staff of one chief deputy and two captains, advising the author of the report was not familiar with this facility. The Jailer also chose not to acknowledge the report was a recommendation based on 7.5 hour shifts, a management scheduling format that has never been implemented or recommended by the current jail administration, and;

Whereas, the Grant County Fiscal Court has determined that the personal actions of the Jailer to reduce the population at the detention center will result in significant and potentially irreparable

financial harm to the county.

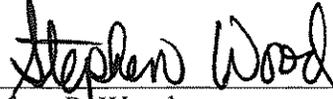
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Grant County Fiscal Court does hereby authorize and direct Judge/Executive Stephen Wood in consultation with the County Attorney to proceed in taking those preliminary steps necessary to effectuate the closure of the Grant County Detention Center based on the notification of Jailer Chris Hankins of his express intent to reduce the population of the Detention Center by an estimated 69 inmates as expressed in an email to the fiscal court, thus reducing anticipated revenue by an amount in excess of \$790,000.

The Grant County Fiscal Court does hereby direct the following actions and others determined necessary to complete this process to be taken with all due haste:

1. Communicating to the County Treasurer and Deputy Judge/Executive the responsibility to prepare for First Reading on July 18, 2016, a budget amendment and Court Order Transfer reducing the budget authorization for the Grant County Detention Center based on the anticipated closure of the facility within 90-120 days.
2. Sending a letter to the Kentucky Department of Corrections requesting the transfer of all state inmates from the Grant County Detention Center within 90 days.
3. Sending a letter to the Chief Executive Officer of each county within a 55 mile radius of the Grant County Detention Center seeking assistance in housing those individuals charged with a crime in Grant County, based on a negotiated per diem.
4. Sending a letter immediately notifying the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet that the Grant County Fiscal Court and Judge/ Executive have reversed their approval and wishes to terminate the contract for roadside clean-up.
5. Sending a letter to multiple commercial/industrial appraisers with experience in land development seeking proposals to determine the value of the 38 acre parcel of land upon which the Detention Center and old Road Department now rests.
6. Respectfully requesting the cooperation of the District and Circuit Judges in expanding the home incarceration program within the Sheriff's office to further reduce the number of county inmates for which the county would be responsible for paying a per diem.
7. Sending letters to the vendors of food and health care services notifying them of the anticipated phasing out of the corrections program in Grant County.
8. Hosting a stakeholders meeting to include the County Sheriff, representatives of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the County Attorney, the Commonwealth Attorney, and others determined essential in the final assessment of the options remaining to the county.
9. Notifying all employees of the Grant County Detention Center of the Court's decision, in writing and assuring them that the Fiscal Court will seek to work with them through the Grant County Career Services Center to seek alternative employment opportunities.

Approved in open session of the Grant County Fiscal Court, on a motion by Magistrate Bobby Newman and seconded by Magistrate Riley, this 12th day of July, 2016, at Williamstown, Kentucky.

SIGNED:



Stephen P. Wood
Grant County Judge/Executive

ATTEST:



Richard S. Kimmich
Deputy Judge & Fiscal Court Clerk