

**RUSSELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

The Russell County Fiscal Court held their regular monthly meeting on Monday February 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Those in attendance were County Judge Executive Randy Marcum, Magistrates Terry Waddell, Mickey Garner, Zach Wilson, Steve Richardson, Larry Skaggs, County Attorney Kevin Shearer and County Treasurer Kim Blanchet.

**WELCOME, PLEDGE & OPENING PRAYER:** Judge Marcum welcomed those present and led everyone in the pledge followed by a prayer by Brother Eric Richardson.

**MINUTES:** Judge Marcum presented the minutes from the January 9, 2023 regular meeting. Magistrate Garner made a motion to approve the minutes with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**PAY BILLS:** Judge Marcum submitted a list of regular bills to be approved along with a list of bills that came in late. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to pay the bills with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**DETENTION CENTER REPORT:** Jailer Dunbar read the jail report as follows: Local Corrections Assist \$7,519.51; Prescription Co-pay \$537.61; Nurse Visits \$171.53; HB 452 \$302.25; HB 556 (2 checks) \$4,216.00; State Inmate Housing \$85,204.74; Other County Inmate Housing \$1,122.00; Booking Fees \$1,365.29; Vending Commission \$21.41; Phone Commission \$4,087.16; Reimbursement \$666.36; Per Diem \$1,971.98; Interest \$52.50; Transfer from General to Jail \$379,478.00 for a total income of \$486,716.34. The expenses were \$160,558.75 which makes a difference of income and expenses \$326,157.59. The average inmates for the month was 116. There was 43½ hours overtime. As of today there are 68 state inmates, 2 from Clinton County and 35 from Russell County for a total of 105 inmates. Jailer Dunbar also presented his policy and procedures disc to each court member. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the detention center report and policy and procedures disc with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

Jailer Dunbar also presented the bids that had been advertised for food service and E-cigs. He stated the food service contract had increased by 7% which is what the CPI was. He also stated these bids were the only bids received. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept both bids with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Sheriff Polston provided his report for the month of January. He stated there were 296 calls for service; 21 arrests; 14 mental health transports; 9 Criminal Summons; 120 court papers served; 4,686 court security transport miles; 44 vehicle inspections and 14 CCDW Permits. He stated his office collected \$947,059.18 tax bills from January 1 through January 31. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the report with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**SHERIFF'S 2021 FINAL FEE ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT:** Sheriff Polston submitted his 2022 final fee account settlement. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to accept the 2022 final fee account settlement with Magistrate Wilson seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

Sheriff Polston also presented his 2021 tax settlement to the fiscal court. Magistrate Skaggs made a motion to accept the tax settlement account with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S MONTHLY SETTLEMENT REPORT & PRE-APPROVED MONTHLY AE TRANSFERS:** Treasurer Blanchet read the totals of each fund: General \$1,708,659.39; Road \$555,091.98; Jail \$591,023.82; LGEA \$6,693.42; ASAP \$143,235.36; Grants \$0; Emergency Shelter \$3,338.20; Tourism \$5,680.45; Dispatch \$188,821.98; Airport \$228,304.77; Airport Project \$123,572.58; DFC \$12,101.21; Airport Board \$68,802.41; Airport Terminal \$0.00; ABC \$96,555.60; ARPA \$2,055,567.44; Opioid Settlement \$256,251.35 for a total of \$6,043,699.96. Treasurer Blanchet stated all accounts were reconciled and in balance. She stated the pre-approved monthly AE transfers were also included

in the packet. Magistrate Garner made a motion to approve the monthly settlement report and accept the pre-approved AE transfers with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> READING ORDINANCE 23-01 BUDGET AMENDMENT:** Treasurer Blanchet read the ordinance which was for unbudgeted receipts. No vote is required until the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading which will be at the March 13, 2023 meeting.

**TRANSFER \$12,519.52 FROM AIRPORT PROJECT TO AIRPORT GENERAL:** Treasurer Blanchet stated we needed to transfer \$12,519.52 from the Airport Project to the Airport General. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to do the transfer with Magistrate Waddell seconding. The roll call was unanimous.

**RC CLERK – 2022 FINAL FEE SETTLEMENT:** County Clerk Patti Glover presented the court with her 2022 final fee settlement report and a check in the amount of \$18,438.77 and stated this was in addition to the \$96,171.44 already given to the court when closing out the prior clerks account, bringing the total excess fees to \$114,610.41. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the final fee report with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 23-01 – E-POLL BOOK GRANT:** Judge Marcum stated we needed to pass Resolution 23-01 in order for the clerk to apply for the E-Poll grant that is required by the state for the next election. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the resolution with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**RESCUE SQUAD AFFILIATION AGREEMENT:** Judge Marcum stated this was something we did every year which addressed the chain of command within the county. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to accept the affiliation agreement with the Rescue Squad and Magistrate Waddell seconded the motion. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**EMERGENCY SHELTER INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT:** Judge Marcum stated we had entered into this inter-local agreement with both cities to address the need in the county. He stated it had worked well in the past and if the county wanted to continue then we would sign and then send to each of the cities for their agreement to participate. Magistrate Garner made a motion to sign the agreement with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**OPIOID SETTLEMENT:** Judge Marcum stated the county was a recipient of some of the opioid settlement monies that had been awarded and stated this money would be coming in over a period of 15 years. He also stated we had already received about \$256,000.00 however the remaining funds that come in will be much lower. He asked the courts permission to appoint a committee that would assess the needs in the county on how to best utilize spending these funds. Magistrate Garner made a motion to allow Judge Marcum to appoint the committee with Magistrate Skaggs seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**OPEN NEW BANK ACCOUNT:** Judge Marcum asked Treasurer Blanchet to explain. Treasurer Blanchet stated permission had been given last September to open a new checking account for the Clerk Storage Fees, however, that account had stayed at a zero balance and when the opioid settlement money came in there had to be an account to place the funds in so she utilized the account for the storage fees for the opioid settlement funds. She went on to state now, she needed to open another account to place the storage fees into since she had checks to be deposited. She requested the court to allow her to open another account for the Clerk Storage Fees. She also stated she had been notified that the SLFRP monies were to be kept separate than the ARPA monies. She stated there was another account the fiscal court had that had been used for the Neighborhood Stabilization Project Grant but that fund had been dormant for more than 8 years and she wanted to utilize that account for the SLFRP & ARPA funds. Magistrate Skaggs made a motion to open the new checking account as well as utilize the dormant NSP account with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

Treasurer Blanchet also asked the courts permission to separate the SLFRP funds via transfer to keep those funds separate from the ARPA funds as required. Magistrate Wilson made a motion to allow the separation of funds with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**OCCUPATIONAL TAX:** Judge Marcum stated the sunset clause on the Occupational Tax ordinance for the county was coming up on April 1, 2023 and we needed to discuss any changes. He went on to explain we had looked at the data from years past as well as on income and expenses and he felt we were going to have to make some changes. There was some discussion with the court as well as from the audience regarding the dissatisfaction of most folks not wanting a tax increase which was the same view the fiscal court members had. However, the data showed something needed to be done. Magistrate Richardson made the motion to add .25% to the occupational tax making a full 1%. He also included in the motion to remove the sunset clause and raise the cap from \$2500.00 to \$4000.00. Magistrate Waddell seconded the motion. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Judge Marcum stated he would like the courts permission to apply for the county to move to the eastern time zone. He provided some statistics to support his request as well as spoke to how most folks in the county traveled to Somerset for goods and services as well as medical services. He went on to state he felt by doing this it would propel the county forward. Magistrate Garner made a motion to allow the judge to begin the application process with Magistrate Skaggs seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

Judge Marcum stated we would be starting to work on the budget and he would like to ask the court to allow a blanket CPI for the next 4 year term, meaning whatever is set as the CPI for each year would be applied to that corresponding year's budget. Treasurer Blanchet stated this would cover all the elected officials including the Coroner, his deputies, the County Attorney and all employees. Magistrate Garner made a motion to allow the blanket CPI with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor none opposed. Motion passed.

Judge Marcum stated we need to have a discussion regarding the animal shelter situation. He stated we all were aware that Pulaski County wanted to get out of the contract of accepting our dogs. He also stated he was planning on meeting with the new judge to see if a solution couldn't be found that would be agreeable to both parties. Magistrate Skaggs brought up the issue of the county having to pick up the dogs in both the cities and felt each city needed to do their fair share in the situation. No action was taken.

Judge Marcum provided the court with the alcohol sales collected. He stated sales were down and we had collected \$2,737.19 for the month of December.

**ADJOURN:** Magistrate Richardson a motion to adjourn with Magistrate Skaggs seconding. All was in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



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Randy Marcum  
County Judge Executive



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Kim Blanchet  
County Treasurer & Fiscal Court Clerk