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EDITOR'S PICK

Fiscal court handles range of topics

BY MELINDA J. OVERSTREET moverstreet@glasgowdailytimes.com 12 hrs ago



GLASGOW – Barren County Fiscal Court addressed a wide variety of items – from grant-fund purchases to the waste tire collection that comes around every three years – during its regular meeting Tuesday.

Aside from approving \$30,000 toward the cost of a training program for development of computer mobile applications, on which the Glasgow Daily Times reported separately, the agenda included the following:

- County Clerk Joanne London received unanimous approval to hire two extra poll workers for each of Glasgow's 12 voting precincts for the fall general election, and the court unanimously acknowledged receipt of her annual report. She said this is the normal number she requests.

She reported that a new statewide computer system was launched Tuesday morning and at that point it was working well. She asked for patience from members of the public doing business in her office while the staff get used to it, but once they do, she said, it will make several processes faster.

- Jailer Tracy Bellamy reported the Barren County Detention Center is averaging 170 to 180 “paying customers” a day – the ones for whose housing the county gets reimbursed by the state or another county. It had a total census of nearly 250 Tuesday, he said.

The Western Kentucky University mobile dental lab was back at the jail, he said, and planting for the garden on the jail grounds has begun with a goal of tripling output this year.

- Sheriff Kent Keen said he has spoken with state officials and believes he can use alcoholic beverage control revenue to purchase a transport vehicle, so he asked to advertise for bids, and the court unanimously authorized it. It also unanimously approved using grant funds for the purchase of tasers and bullet-resistant vests for the sheriff's office and acknowledged receipt of the audit for the sheriff's 2016 tax settlement, on which the Daily Times has reported separately.

- Magistrate Trent Riddle, chair of the Transportation Committee, reported that group had opened bids for surplus equipment that was offered in nine lots that ranged from miscellaneous tools and equipment to vehicles. He read the high-bid amount and bidder for each lot, and the fiscal court unanimously agreed to approve those bids, which totaled \$18,505.

- Tracy Shirley, director of Glasgow-Barren County Emergency Management got unanimous approval to accept a grant of approximately \$6,000 and get a purchase order to be used for equipment for the Barren County Search and Rescue Team. He also received unanimous approval to repair and bring to Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards a bucket truck that is used by multiple departments, including the sheriff's office and road department as well as emergency management. He said the cost of \$8,553.64 would be shared by those departments and is in the budget.

The vote was 7-1, with Riddle opposing, for a lease agreement for a sonar device the SAR dive team uses. The device was obtained through a regional grant and is used to help multiple counties, but it stays in the possession of the dive team, so this county has the \$5 million liability insurance for it. Riddle said he felt the other counties that may be assisted by it should share in that cost, so he would like to see the agreement revised. The lease itself is a five-year agreement with Warren County Fiscal Court for \$1 per year, and it renews automatically unless other action is taken.

“I think it's a good deal, and I'm down with it, I just don't like the wording of the agreement,” Riddle said.

- John Stephens, solid waste coordinator, said it's Barren River District Area Development District's turn, among others', this year for the tire amnesty program that is provided on a three-year rotation. He said Barren County's will take place May 31-June 2. The county has no cost except that it has to provide three workers at the site.

In 2015, the average for all 26 counties in the three ADDs that participated was 17,000 tires per county. Barren County alone had more than 34,000.

“It's a pretty big three days for us, a pretty busy three days,” Stephens said.

The court unanimously approved the agreement with the state for the program.

Also, the county's spring cleanup program will take place the third week of March.

- Sandra Ross, a member of the Hiseville Cemetery board of directors spoke about the fact that the fees that BB&T charges to be the trustee for the perpetual fund are higher than any interest income, so the board requested to make its eight members the trustees, so there would be no fee, and the fund would be moved to a certificate of deposit at a local financial institution. Magistrate Jack London, who chairs that board, made the motion to move forward with that plan, which was approved unanimously.

County Attorney Jeff Sharp said the board members had talked with him about it in the past, “and I believe we concluded that would be the best course of action.”

- Hiseville volunteer fire department Chief Danny Sexton, who was accompanied by Haywood volunteer fire department Chief Mike Hatcher, requested and was unanimously approved for a purchase order for a radio repeater for the fire departments, saying the court would be reimbursed for that amount out of grant funds the departments received.

- The court unanimously approved an agreement with Sustainable Glasgow for the use of the Barren County Courthouse lawn for the Bounty of the Barrens farmers market for Saturday mornings April 28 through Oct. 27, with the exception of dates when certain other special events are scheduled around the Public Square. Jerry Ralston, who was making the request, noted that the Shindigs on the Square this year will be the fourth Tuesdays in May, July and September.

- The court unanimously approved a resolution in favor of Kentucky legislation that would allow a larger portion of the in-lieu-of-tax payments from the Tennessee Valley Authority to go to local schools and governments in which the TVA properties exist rather than to the commonwealth's general fund.

- The court unanimously approved Judge-Executive Micheal Hale's nomination of Fay Neal to the board of directors for Barren-Metcalfe County Ambulance Service. Neal is filling a seat previously held by Magistrate Carl Dickerson, and has traditionally been a magistrate, but the ambulance center bylaws do not clearly state that one of the county's three appointees has to be a magistrate. The judge-executive is one of the other members, and the third is currently Joe Middleton.

- The court also approved several routine financial actions.

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