

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2019**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on August 20, 2019, at the Henry County 4-H Building in New Castle, Kentucky, with the following in attendance:

John L. Brent, Judge/Executive
Virginia Harrod, County Attorney
Esquire Scott Bates
Esquire Jerry Beasley
Esquire Mike Fisher
Esquire Roger Hartlage
Esquire Chuck Smith
Esquire Jason Stanley

RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Judge/Executive John L. Brent led the Court in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

RE: PRAYER & PREPARATION

Silent prayer was observed in preparation for the meeting.

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Judge Brent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that all magistrates were in attendance.

RE: APPROVAL OF THE JULY 16TH MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered by the Court to approve the minutes from the July 16th Regular Meeting as corrected.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Judge Brent stated there was no unfinished business from the previous meeting.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Supervisor's Report

Henry County Road Supervisor, Kenny Tindle, was welcomed back on the job following his illness. He reported that the Department was busy with blacktop patching, bush hogging, bushwhacking, and hauling rock throughout the County. The contract paving should begin soon.

2. Road Committee Report--Esq. Beasley

Esq. Beasley reported that the Committee did not meet this month. They will meet to discuss the proposed specifications for paving new roads and make a recommendation at the September meeting.

3. 80/20 Program Resolution – Joe's Branch

Judge Brent stated that the Fiscal Court previously chose Joe's Branch Bridge to be replaced with the allocation of 80/20 funds. Judge Brent read the resolution authorizing the agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Department of Rural and Municipal Aid and Henry County for the expenditure of \$80,000 to replace the drainage structure on Joe's Branch Road (CR 1111).

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered by the Court to approve the resolution authorizing the expenditure of 80/20 funds from the Commonwealth of Kentucky to replace the bridge on Joe's Branch Road.

Motion carried unanimously

4. Re-allocation of \$15,000 in Paving Funds to Long Branch Road

Judge Brent reported as an update on the Flex Funds that he had spoken with the Secretary of Transportation's office and was promised that the signed agreement should be back today. Work can commence after it arrives here.

Judge Brent stated that the Court had approved \$40,000 and \$15,000 for road repairs in Esq. Fisher's and Esq. Smith's districts. The bid for the work on Long Branch came in at \$52,000. Supervisor Tindle stated that Long Branch area sits in a creek bottom and desperately needs to have solid blacktop since patches wash away with any big rain. It has been repaired 3 times in the last 4 years. It is the roughest blacktopped road in the County due to the washouts.

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Smith, it is ordered by the Court to approve the re-allocation of Flex Funds to blacktop the area on Long Branch Road.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: EMS/PARAMEDICS

1. Supervisor's Update

Paige Lucas-Jamiel, Henry County EMS Supervisor, reported that she has prepared standard operating procedures for the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Henry County EMS. The plan to implement the policy requires testing for 1-7 employees monthly on a random basis, all pre-employment applicants, in all post-accident situations, and all post-injury and illness returns to work.

Supervisor Lucas-Jamiel also presented an application for employment for Laura Monroe who previously worked for the department. She has returned to the area and is seeking a part-time EMT position.

2. EMS Committee Report - Esq. Smith

Esq. Smith reported that the EMS Committee did not meet this month.

Upon motion by Esq. Smith and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered by the Court to approve the hiring of Laura Monroe to a part-time EMT position.

RE: P & Z/SOLID WASTE

1. Update

P & Z Administrator Amanda Ricketts reported that 18 building and 26 electrical permits have been issued during the month. The training held on August 8 was well attended, and the next session will be conducted on September 5. The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on September 11 to hear a zone change application and an amendment to the development plan for Angel's Envy. The Board of Adjustments met and did not take the administrative recommendation to revoke the permit for R & R Septic's operation on Robbie Lane.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Supervisor's Update

Travis Buchanan, Parks and Fairgrounds Supervisor, was unable to attend. Esq. Stanley presented his report that the mowing has slowed some, but the staff remains very busy since the last meeting with the Henry County Fair and the Harvest Showcase. Fall sports have begun with the middle and high school teams playing all soccer games at the part until the field renovation is completed at HCHS. Youth league football, soccer, baseball and softball are all

practicing and games have begun or will soon. Church league co-ed softball has finished their season. The Splash Pad is operating smoothly with the last day of operation scheduled for September 2. Thanks were given to the Eminence Pentecostal Church for their volunteer work on August 10 for picking up trash at Harry Hill Park and mulching at the Sheriff's Department.

Judge Brent stated that he and Supervisor Buchanan had reviewed statements and it appears that the cost of operating the Splash Pad will be less than \$1,000 per month for additional electrical and water expenses and the necessary chemical treatments.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Update

Director of Animal Services, Dan Flinkfelt, reported that there are 7 dogs at the shelter where all is running smoothly. The weather and school starting have led to a typical slowdown. The Trimble County employees continue to work well. There will be an Adopt-a-Thon at the Carrollton Tractor Supply on Saturday, August 24, where all the dogs will hopefully be adopted. They continue to receive donated items, and the Betsy Jackson Memorial Foundation is paying for all medical services.

2. Committee Report – Esq. Fisher

Esq. Fisher reported that the committee met and discussed the operation with Trimble County's teamwork and the current dog count.

RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Esq. Hartlage reported that the Economic Development Committee met at the Rowlett's Milkhouse Creamery, LLC, on August 15. They discussed the Comprehensive Map and the Commerce Park's growth. They will continue to touch base on the tourism ordinance and the Economic Development website.

RE: SHERIFF'S MONTHLY REPORT

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of July: 247 KSP dispatch calls, 95 Sheriff's office calls, 86 citations/criminal summons, 10 criminal arrests, 20 warrant arrests, 177 all papers served, 1 juvenile transport, 1 special detail/events, 55 vehicle inspections, 15 carry conceal licenses, 1 DUI arrest, and 24 drug charge arrests.

RE: SHERIFF'S ANNUAL TAX SETTLEMENT

Sheriff Keith Perry presented the Sheriff's Annual Tax Settlement. The report showed total tax revenues of \$820,867.13 and \$702,218.35 paid for the period ending April 30, 2019. The records remain to be audited.

Upon motion by Esq. Smith and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered by the Court to approve the Henry County Sheriff's Settlement for the period ending April 30, 2019, pending audit.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: COUNTY TREASURER'S ANNUAL SETTLEMENT

Megan Wilson, County Treasurer, presented the 2018/19 annual settlement report showing all receipts and disbursements from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. She noted that the \$100,000 from the Homeland Security grant was expended; however, the reimbursement check was not received until July and will be recorded on the new fiscal year.

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Beasley, it is ordered by the Court to approve County Treasurer's Annual Settlement.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: UPDATE OF FISCAL COURT FINANCIAL CONDITION

Judge Brent utilized displayed and distributed charts to clearly update the Fiscal Court and the public on the financial condition of Henry County. He reviewed the end-of-year balances for the general and road funds which have fallen drastically in the past 10 years. The County finished the fiscal year with only approximately \$150,000 in the general fund. The reasons for this current state include health insurance costs doubling, Frankfort raising the retirement contributions, an unfunded mandate of \$480,000 for jail expenses, rapidly rising EMS expenses, and loss of interest income on deposits. Property tax revenues were also flat from 2010 to 2018.

Judge Brent informed the Court that since 2003, the County tax rate has remained the same at 11.7 cents per \$100. To generate revenue for the current budget, Fiscal Court has voted to sell the cell tower owned by the County for \$253,000 and take a 4 percent increase resulting in \$35,000. He shared a map of 30 counties in our geographic area showing which taxes are in place in each. Henry is one of only two counties that relies solely on property taxes; and that one, Mason County, has a landfill which generates \$200,000 per year. The remaining counties all have insurance or occupational taxes or a combination of both along with other significant revenue sources.

RE: 2019/20 TAX RATE – 2ND READING

Judge Brent stated that the 1st Reading of the 2019/20 Budget was held at the July meeting. Due to an issue with the *Henry County Local* the second advertisement of the 2nd Reading for tonight did not run as required by statute. Therefore, we must re-advertise twice and the 2nd Reading will be held at 5 p.m. on September 5 at the 4-H Building.

RE: BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Esq. Bates reported the Budget Committee has met and discussed in detail the options that the County has to generate revenue. There are insurance taxes which are limited and the cities already collect those dollars. Occupational taxes are an option, but they are costly to administer, have a limit, and again Eminence has one in place. The Committee feels that the formation of an ambulance taxing district to fund the vital services they provide would be the best and would prevent cuts to EMS services. Esq. Stanley stated that no taxes are popular, but this particular one would be for a specific service and not mixed with other monies in the general fund.

RE: EMS TAXING DISTRICT ORDINANCE – 1ST READING

Judge Brent informed the Court that such a taxing district would be operated by a 5-member board of citizens approved by the Fiscal Court. The initial tax rate on property would be 6 cents per \$100 of value for the 2020 calendar year. Rates can by state law only be increased 4 percent per year and would cap at 10 cents. Esq. Bates conducted the 1st Reading of the ordinance establishing an Ambulance Taxing District.

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Smith, it is ordered by the Court to approve the 1st Reading of the Ordinance to form an Ambulance Taxing District in Henry County.

Motion carried unanimously

Esq. Bates informed the Court that the Budget Committee has also discussed the possibility of placing the operation of the EMS service with a private entity. Judge Brent has been in negotiations with Baptist Health LaGrange and is pursuing the next steps to make this transition. This change would move a few full-time employees out of the Kentucky Retirement System, but salaries would be raised to compensate for that and to attract and retain EMTs and paramedics.

RE: ANNUAL REPORT BY THE HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tony Jones, Director of the Henry County Public Library, presented the required annual report including the financial statement, information about tax rates, and an update on the new building. Their board will adopt the compensating tax rate for 2020 which does not include an increase. The estimated completion date for the new building is December with its opening scheduled for January. The new site will increase from 8,000 to 14,000 square feet with many more amenities for citizens including more programming, parking, and meeting spaces.

RE: PROPOSED SALE OF 8 ACRE TRACT AT COMMERCE PARK

Judge Brent informed the Court that Rabbit Hole Distillery was interested in purchasing the remaining 8 acres at the Commerce Park for \$60,000.

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Stanley, it is ordered by the Court to approve the sale of the remaining 8-acre tract at the Commerce Park for \$60,000 to Rabbit Hole Distillery.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered to approve the following claims and transfers:

General Fund	\$275,692.27
Road & Bridge Fund	62,530.26
Jail Fund	57,187.16
LGEA	4,901.34
Litter	1,060.25
911 Fund	2,888.10
ABC	21,496.13
Fair Fund	<u>2,377.62</u>
Total Expenditures	\$428,133.13
<u>From:</u> 024909	\$188,633.18
<u>To:</u> 014910	188,633.18
<u>From:</u> 014909	\$10,947.00
<u>To:</u> 804910	10,947.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Brent opened the floor for public comments.

A request was made that the Court delay any decision on transferring the EMS operation to Baptist Health until after the service is taken over by a taxing district. He cited a concern that employees would not be covered by the State's retirement system.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Judge Brent opened the floor for additional comments from Court members, and there were none.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Smith, it is ordered by the Court to adjourn and each Magistrate, the Judge/Executive, and the County Attorney shall receive a typed copy of these Minutes prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

John L. Brent
JOHN L. BRENT
JUDGE EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: September 17, 2019