

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 20, 2021**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on April 20, 2021, 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

**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 with the exception of Esq. Jason Stanley who was out of town on business. The meeting was conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines and with attendees required to wear face masks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**RE: APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered by the Court to approve the minutes from the March 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

**RE: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Judge Brent stated there were no items of unfinished business from the previous meeting.

## **RE: NEW BUSINESS**

## **RE: ROADS**

### **1. Supervisor's Report**

Road Supervisor Kenny Tindle reported that the crew has been working on Orem Lane which is in bad shape getting it ready for blacktopping. Cost estimating is in progress on the County roads that could be blacktopped this year. He stated that the costs for purchase of culverts and rock for new driveways have greatly increased. The County currently charges owners \$400 for the installation, and Mr. Tindle recommended an increase to \$550 which would only cover the actual costs to the County.

### **2. Road Committee Report - Esq. Beasley**

Esq. Beasley stated that the Committee did meet, and all magistrates have turned in their recommendations for roads in their districts that need blacktopping this year. The committee discussed equipment needs and the cost increases for culverts. The suggested \$550 would only cover the cost outlay for culverts and rock purchase which is now \$110 for 10 tons. The County would still be responsible for the expense of rock hauling and installing the culverts. Court members discussed that the charge to owners should be reduced if the purchase prices decrease.

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered to approve the charge of \$550 for culvert installation for new driveways.

Motion carried unanimously

### **3. 2020/2021 Flex Funds**

Judge Brent explained that the State Department of Transportation carves out an amount from the County's Rural Secondary Program that is considered Flex Funds. Fiscal Court can direct that these funds be retained for use on County roads rather than state roads. The amount for 2020/2021 is anticipated to be \$139,059.

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Smith, it is ordered to redirect the \$139,059 in Flex Funds for 2020/2021 for use on County roads.

Motion carried unanimously

### **4. Bidding of Rock & Asphalt for 2021/22**

Judge Brent stated that the County must advertise for bids for the purchase of rock, asphalt, and salt for 2021/2022.

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Beasley, it is ordered to approve the advertising for the purchase of rock, asphalt, and salt for 2021/2022.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: EMS TAXING DISTRICT REPORT**

### **1. EMS Board Report - Esq. Smith**

Esq. Smith reported that the EMS Board met on Monday evening. Baptist Health LaGrange has hired a new deputy director for the County. Abby Bailey, who is a paramedic with experience in Oldham and Jefferson Counties as well as helicopter flight service, will begin on May 24. Ed Whitaker who has been interim will stay in that role. The Board approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the 2021/2022 budget. A door repair on the EMS Building has been completed by a local contractor for \$2,950. The transfer case went out on the Med 6 ambulance, and it is currently being repaired. The equipment purchased with CARES Act funds is on board and staff have been trained to use it.

## **RE: P & Z/SOLID WASTE**

### **1. Update**

In the absence of P & Z Administrator Amanda Ricketts, Travis Buchanan reported that 28 building permits and 14 electrical permits have been issued. The Planning and Zoning Commission met via Zoom on April 14, 2021, and approved an A-1 to A2 zone change and development plan for HWY 146 and Jackson Road; approved a development plan for L'Esprit Subdivision, and approved an R-1 to R-2 change for 311 LaGrange Road. An application for an A-1 to B2 change for a diesel mechanic shop on Lake Jericho Road was tabled.

Judge Brent informed the Court that a meeting is held each Monday morning to review the status of solid waste enforcement. Steve Heffley and Ed Nelson have been performing the field work, and staff in the office process the communication in the cases. There have been 30 citations issued and 6 cases have been cleared. Vacant properties are especially difficult when owners have moved from the area. He expressed appreciation to the Sheriff's department for assistance in serving warrants. A new phenomenon is evident with people residing in storage sheds and campers which prove difficult to substantiate.

## **RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS**

Travis Buchanan, Parks & Fairgrounds Supervisor, reported that Little League has begun with games 4 days per week and Saturdays through June. Youth soccer is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> week, and the Henry County Middle School is playing their soccer games at the field. Mowing grass and field maintenance take a great deal of time. Landscaping has been completed at the 4-H Building. Little League is continuing to fund raise and look at options for the baseball infield surfaces.

## **RE: COURTHOUSE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Buchanan reported on the status of the Courthouse renovations. Work has resumed on the judges' benches, but it has been slow. Wehr Constructors are waiting until more progress is made to announce an updated schedule; however, they expect an additional month will be required after the millwork is completed.

## **RE: ANIMAL SERVICES**

### **1. Director's Report**

Director of Animal Services, Dan Flinkfelt, reported that all vehicles are now operating. Power washing capabilities at the Shelter make cleaning much faster. Pet Sense has donated food for the past 2 years, and vet services have been funded through the Betsy Jackson Memorial. The community continues to help take care of the Shelter and all the animals.

### **2. Committee Report – Esq. Fisher**

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee has not met.

## **RE: SHERIFF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of March: 245 KSP dispatch calls, 194 Sheriff's office calls, 120 citations/criminal summons, 24 criminal arrests, 26 warrant arrests, 196 all papers served, 1 fugitive transport, 1 juvenile transport, 65 vehicle inspections, 50 carry conceal licenses, 2 DUI arrest, and 22 drug charge arrests.

Sheriff Perry stated that the investigative process causes there to be spikes in the reported drug charge arrests. Judge Brent reminded the Sheriff that there is \$2,000 in the budget for his office to make buys as needed.

## **RE: 2021/2022 BUDGET MEETING**

Judge Brent informed the Court that a special meeting would be held on April 29, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the Henry County 4-H Building to prepare the 2021/2022 budget for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading to be held at the May meeting.

## **RE: RESOLUTION FOR CDBG FUNDS FOR UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

Judge Brent introduced Hayden Kandul of the Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency to explain the opportunity to submit a Community Development Block Grant through the Tri-Co Community Action Agency to provide resources to cover utility payments for residents of Henry County who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. The \$200,000

CDBG Coronavirus Utility Relief Assistance grant will be administered by KIPDA and TCCAA who will receive an 8 percent administrative fee. Funds in the amount of \$184,000 from this initial application will provide assistance for utility services for individuals in danger of being disconnected. Criteria are established for eligibility and amount limits, and the disbursements will be monitored to insure appropriate use. Funds will be drawn down in \$50,000 increments and maintained in a separate non-interest-bearing account. Based on the assessed need of \$222,711.77, an additional application can be submitted later.

Ms. Hayden conducted the public hearing as required as part of the grant application. There were no public comments or questions.

Upon motion by Esq. Smith and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered to direct Judge Brent to sign the resolution authorizing Tri-County Community Action Agency's application for a Community Development Block Grant to provide utility funding for Henry County residents who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and are in danger of having their utilities disconnected, subject to approval by the County Attorney.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: CLERK'S OFFICE/HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOINT RECORDS PROJECT**

County Clerk Shanda Archer presented information to the Court regarding historical records maintained by the County. The Henry County Historical Society has previously assumed the maintenance of the oldest records which are the responsibility of the County Clerk. They are currently stored in a building which must be vacated by the end of May. The Historical Society has offered \$45,000 from their funds to help construct an addition on the Courthouse Annex Building to permanently house these records. Clerk Archer and Judge Brent have met with representatives of the organization and are proposing approximately 350 square feet be added to the rear of the County Clerk's and Property Valuation Administrator's Offices. An architect must be hired for the design work on the approximate 32 x 12-foot room and a single restroom.

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Beasley, it is ordered to authorize Judge/Executive Brent to enter into a contract of understanding with the Henry County Historical Society for financial purposes to construct a permanent facility to maintain the County's historical records.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS**

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

General Fund	\$267,067.61
Road & Bridge Fund	70,629.32
Jail Fund	40,813.95
LGEA	1,127.17
CARES Act	48,006.43
Litter	6,756.58
911 Fund	2,959.20
ABC	3,386.98
Fair Fund	<u>984.47</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$441,731.71</b>

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Judge Brent opened the floor for public comments and there were none.

## **RE: COURT COMMENTS**

Esq. Bates expressed his desire to see the County purchase the building currently owned by the North Central District Health Department which houses the Sheriff's Office. Judge Brent approached the Health Board with an offer of \$135,000 to pursue this possibility since the rent was raised last year and the future is uncertain under the current arrangement. Health Department Director Roanya Rice responded that the building appraises for more than that amount and the Health Board took no action. Significant improvements have been made by the Sheriff to the building over the past 8 years. Sheriff Perry is hesitant to add more modifications to the building specific to the work of his office without assurance that they will be able to stay there. Esq. Bates commended Judge Brent for his work and encouraged him to continue his efforts to acquire the building.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Beasley, 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

S/ Denise Perry  
**DENISE PERRY**  
**FISCAL COURT CLERK**

S/ John L. Brent  
**JOHN L. BRENT**  
**JUDGE/EXECUTIVE**

Date Approved: **May 18, 2021**