

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2021**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on December 21, 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
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 NOVEMBER 15TH 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 November 15th Regular Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Judge Brent stated there was one item of unfinished business from the previous meeting.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT TITLE DISCUSSION

Judge Brent explained that Henry County Attorney Virginia Harrod had been unable to certify the title on the Sheriff's Office which the County has planned to purchase from the Henry County Health Department. Sheriff Perry stated that he had been unable to locate the person who could potentially be an heir. Court members stated their hesitancy to purchase the building without a clear title. Judge Brent stated that he had notified the Health Department Director, but had received no response. No decision was made regarding the purchase, and efforts will continue to research the matter.

Later in the meeting, the Sheriff's Department received information that an individual in Jefferson County was potentially the woman in question. County Attorney Harrod will draft a letter that Sheriff Perry will hand deliver to her to resolve the matter of the title.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Supervisor's Report

Road Supervisor Kenny Tindle distributed the road grading report for all County roads. They are rated on a scale of 1 (worst condition) to 5 (best condition). All gravel roads are rated at 3 or below since they always require work. The crew has been bushwhacking, laying culverts, and readying equipment for winter. The bridge on Longbranch should be completed this week and the road reopened on Monday. A citizen has communicated with Court members about the guardrails near his home. Supervisor Tindle stated that new installations must be done professionally at several hundred dollars per foot; and his crew works to repair them as needed since replacing with new ones is not feasible.

2. Road Committee Report - Esq. Beasley

Esq. Beasley stated that the Committee did not meet.

RE: EMS TAXING DISTRICT REPORT – ESQ. SMITH

Esq. Smith reported that the EMS Taxing District Board met and received information that all is going well. Baptist Health has put on a bonus program to keep employees. They heard a several complaints which will be further investigated. The Board stated that anyone who calls and requests transport should be taken for care.

RE: P & Z/SOLID WASTE

P & Z Administrator Amanda Ricketts was unable to attend and submitted a report indicating that 10 building permits and 21 electrical permits have been issued. The P & Z Commission approved a zone change for a B-1 to B-3 in New Castle. The Board of Adjustments is not scheduled to meet in December.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

Travis Buchanan, Parks & Fairgrounds Supervisor, reported that they are completing small tasks and plan to paint and strip/wax the floors at the 4-H Building as it can be arranged with Bluewater Diagnostics who are conducting COVID-19 tests at the site. He stated that 2 mowers are in the shop for repair, and 1 of those may have to be replaced. He is also repairing the third in-house. Summer months require 3 operating mowers, and he feels that we may need to purchase a replacement. At this point, getting a new mower or parts for repair is difficult. Judge Brent stated he feels there should be enough money in this year's budget since expenses for the Splash Pad did not consume all the budget amount this year.

RE: COURTHOUSE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Buchanan stated that the open house was held on Monday, December 20, at 2 p.m. and went great. There are still a few construction kinks to be resolved. The inmate elevator was repaired yesterday, lighting diffusers will be fixed to reduce noise in the courtroom, and pews should be installed in mid-January. After those issues are resolved, construction should be completed and they will shift to maintenance.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Report

Director of Animal Services, Dan Flinkfelt, thanked all the local businesses who donated to the Betsy Jackson Memorial Foundation. Kim Lyons raised approximately \$3,000 for vet services for the Shelter. He reported that they are extremely busy and have made rescue runs to Chicago the last 3 weeks. Last week thieves stole the catalytic converter off the work truck. The theft was completed quickly in very dark conditions and no identification could be made.

2. Committee Report – Esq. Fisher

The Animal Services Committee did meet and discussed several matters. The catalytic converters must be replaced. The County's insurance has a \$500 deductible so the cost will determine whether a claim will be filed. The Shelter has 4 laptop computers which are old and need to be replaced—2 each owned by Trimble and Henry Counties. Trimble County has agreed to buy 2 new ones, and the Animal Services Committee recommends doing the same. Judge Brent stated that based on the cost, the Court did not need to approve their purchase.

There is a personnel issue with the Trimble County staff. Although it is a complicated arrangement and we do not supervise their employees, Judge Brent stated that he would discuss the matter with Judge Pollock.

RE: ABC ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ABC Administrator Ed Nelson reported that all 1st quarter fees have been paid. Revenue is up over \$4,000 from the 1st quarter last year. Of the 18 businesses licensed to sell retail alcohol, 16 are currently selling retail locally. There is 1 available quota package license still available.

RE: SHERIFF'S MONTHLY REPORT

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of November: 242 KSP dispatch calls, 178 Sheriff's office calls, 72 citations/criminal summons, 10 criminal arrests, 17 warrant arrests, 149 court processes, 1 special event/detail, 50 vehicle inspections, 25 carry conceal licenses, 3 DUI arrests, and 5 drug charge arrests.

Esq. Bates recognized Sheriff Perry and his department for the attention to patrolling on Radcliffe Road.

RE: BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT – ESQ. BATES

Esq. Bates stated that the Budget Committee met with both Sheriff Perry and County Clerk Archer to review their proposed budgets which were given 1st Reading in November. Esq. Bates explained that the Committee and Court are not trying to take funds from these offices, but they must carefully consider the budgets for everyone. He stated that we are making headway and feels good about the future of Henry County remaining solid financially.

Judge Brent provided enlightenment on the County's budget and how the totals are larger than the amount that is actually available for expenditure. The adjusted general fund expenses this year are \$1,176,529 after the pass-throughs for the County Attorney, County Clerk, and Sheriff's offices and Fiscal Court-paid benefits on the Sheriff and Clerk are deducted. Judge Brent commented that the budget for the rest of the County services is very small after these deductions making clearer the significance of each line item.

RE: SHERIFF'S 2022 BUDGET – 2ND READING

Sheriff Perry presented the proposed budget for his office for 2022. He cited estimated receipts at \$812,083.88 and disbursements at \$800,796.24 with excess fees of \$11,287.64. He cited the fact that his office is being required to pay for 3 audits this year since they were suspended during the pandemic. Retirement and benefits are higher for deputies than other classifications of employees. His office is now being asked to staff additional persons for the operations at the courthouse.

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Stanley, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the 2022 Sheriff's Office budget showing projected receipts of \$812,083.88 and disbursements at \$800,796.24 with excess fees of \$11,287.64 with the salary cap as included in the budget.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: CLERK'S 2022 BUDGET – 2ND READING

County Clerk Shanda Archer presented the proposed budget for her office for 2022. She estimates receipts at \$3,589,888 and disbursements of \$3,514,905 with excess fees projected at \$74,983 which are the same as the 1st Reading.

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the 2022 County Clerk's budget and the salary cap of \$215,000.

Clerk Archer acknowledged Olivia Herrell from her office who has been elected as the President of the Henry County Historical Society. Working in the deed room and closely with the organization results in positive synergies. Construction on the addition to the Clerk's office for housing historical documents has begun, and the first check for \$22,500 from the Historical Society has already been received. The expansion will provide additional space for maintaining records and an extra restroom for the office. She stated that the \$60,000 total will be substantially supported with the \$45,000 donation from the Historical Society.

RE: FY 22 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Judge Brent stated that the funds generated for the purchase of the Sheriff's Office have been received, and the budget must be amended to account for them.

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Smith, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of an amendment to FY 22 budget by \$135,000 for the increased funds to purchase the building from the Henry County Health Department.

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	\$197,173.07
Road & Bridge Fund	90,541.74
Jail Fund	55,154.28
LGEA	2,134.62
CARES Act	0.00
Litter	17,188.35
911 Fund	978.06
ABC	5,602.04
Fair Fund	<u>493.48</u>
	\$369,265.64

<u>From:</u> 014909	\$105,000.00
<u>To:</u> 034910	\$105,000.00

<u>From:</u> 014909	\$1,600.00
<u>To:</u> 134910	\$1,600.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SALE OF COMMERCE PARK PROPERTY

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered by the Court to go into Executive Session to discuss the sale of property.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Smith and second by Esq. Stanley, it is ordered by the Court to close the Executive Session.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Beasley and second by Esq. Smith, it is ordered by the Court to return to the Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: COMMERCE PARK PROPERTY

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Beasley, it is ordered to appoint a committee composed on Esqs. Hartlage, Smith, and Stanley to discuss the sale of the remaining lot at the Commerce Park.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Brent recognized Steve Warnersmith for comments per his request; however, he was unable to stay to speak. He left comments that he was dissatisfied with condition of the road near his home.

Judge Brent opened the floor for additional public comments.

Esq. Smith stated that the EMS Taxing District plans to purchase a new ambulance at least every 3 years to maintain the fleet in response to a question.

Hugh McBurney posed a question about the training of fire departments in regard to potential alcohol fires at the bourbon storage facilities. He cited a concern about the grade change or slant of the flooring right outside the elevator on the 2nd floor of the courthouse.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Judge Brent acknowledged the effort of Esqs. Bates, Beasley, and Fisher and all others who participated in the tornado relief effort.

Esq. Bates thanked the many who donated and worked in the physical processes of sorting, loading, and delivering supplies to Dawson Springs. The turnout was unbelievable with over 85 individuals providing their names when donating and many others who were not identified. There are still funds being collected, and they are being channeled through the church where the donations were delivered last Friday.

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: **January 21, 2022**