

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 29, 2024

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Special Session on April 29, 2024, at the Henry County Judge/Executive's Office in New Castle, Kentucky, with the following in attendance:

Scott Bates, Judge/Executive
Esquire Brad Fisher
Esquire Ed Frederick
Esquire Roger Hartlage
Esquire Kevin McManis
Esquire Danny Shain
Esquire Carl Tingle

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Judge Bates called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He noted that all magistrates were in attendance.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024-25 County Budget – 1st Reading

Judge Bates presented the draft 2024-2025 budget prepared for in-depth evaluation by the Fiscal Court. He began a review of the line items included in the appropriations of all funds with explanations of their relative value to the current budget. He called attention to some of the numbers due to the funds held for the construction for the Angel's Envy Sewer Project.

The County Commissioners Salaries line was discussed since there was no change in the proposed amount. The projected \$106,080 does not include the recommended State cost-of-living increase which would amount to approximately \$4,000 and become effective in January, 2025. Previous votes by Fiscal Court have been to not accept any change in compensation for the magistrates while the cost-of-living increases for other elected officials are required by the State. The funds for this change could be taken from the Reserve for Transfer line item.

Esq. Hartlage asked about funding for a proposed fence project at the Animal Shelter. The cost is estimated at \$30,000 with Henry and Trimble Counties sharing. Since it is not in the draft budget at this time and there is no confirmation of Trimble County's share, the question of allocating this \$15,000 will be raised at the 2nd Reading.

Judge Bates led the review of the projected revenues for each fund. We expect a decrease by about one-third in our Flex Funds for the Road Department.

The projected budget includes expenditures and revenues of \$11,559,690.23. The draft budget will be submitted to the Department for Local Government for State approval tomorrow. We will have the 2nd Reading at the June meeting if approval is received or hold a special meeting if necessary.

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered by the Court to approve the 2024-2025 proposed budget of \$11,559,690.23 for its 1st Reading with the addition of \$4,000 for cost-of-living adjustments for County Commissioner Salaries.

Motion carried unanimously

2. Budget Pre-Approvals

Deputy Judge Travis Buchanan explained that the 1st payment for the KACO lease obtained for the purchase of equipment for the Road Department will be due on May 20. This expenditure is not on the list of expenses approved for payment before the claims are presented to the Court. The May meeting will not occur until May 21, and he requested that since this is an on-going commitment the Court pre-approve this expenditure for the remainder of the current year's budget. He also requested that this monthly payment be added to the standing order of all recurring expenses that is submitted as part of the new budget.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered by the Court to pre-approve payments for the KACO lease for the Road Department equipment so they may be paid before the Fiscal Court's monthly meetings for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered by the Court to authorize the items listed on the standing order for pre-approval of recurring expenses in the 2024-2025 budget.

Motion carried unanimously

3. Purchase of Mower for the Parks Department

Deputy Judge Buchanan stated that the Park Department's previously discussed old Scag mower has died. A replacement motor would be almost \$4,000, and it seems unreasonable to spend that amount on a 13-year old mower. A new Grasshopper mower comparable to the others we own at the government price is currently \$13,900 and would use similar parts. The old mower can be listed on gov.deals and has some value. A new mower is needed now and can be purchased from the current year's budget and gotten in a week from Wayne's Polaris.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered by the Court to approve the purchase of a Grasshopper mower at a cost of \$13,900.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Shain, 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/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **May 21, 2024**