

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2025**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on April 15, 2025, at the Henry County 4-H Building in New Castle, Kentucky, with the following in attendance:

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

**RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Judge Bates led the Court in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**RE: PRAYER & PREPARATION**

Judge Bates introduced Steve Douglas from the Franklinton Baptist Church the who offered the evening's prayer.

**RE: CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Bates called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. noting that all magistrates were in attendance.

**RE: APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: NEW BUSINESS**

## **RE: ROADS**

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

Road Supervisor Zach Smith reported that the Road Department has been ditching and working on the roads at LeCompte's Bottom, Flat Creek, Flat Rock Road, and Mt. Gilead. They have been cleaning out pipes to get the water off roadways, bushwhacking, and have begun removing mud and debris from the flood waters. He thanked all those who helped with the aftermath of the flooding. Judge Bates acknowledged Zach and all the Road Department for working on Sunday on Flat Rock where the road was splitting. They worked all day to make it passable and prevent having to close it. He added that the heavy rain washed the County's roads terribly and everyone bent over backwards to make things as good as they could be given the conditions. The extreme snow and now 2 floods have been a challenge for the Road Department.

### **2. Road Committee Report**

Esq. Fisher reported that the Committee met and discussed needed equipment purchases and the budget. They specifically talked about the skid loader which is acting up, and Esq. Fisher has tried to reach someone for repair. He thanked the Road Department staff and all the folks who helped during the flood specifically naming Judge Bates, the office staff, and the Kentucky River Fire Department for rescues.

Judge Bates thanked the magistrates who have offered help even though the problems were all in Esq. Fisher's district. He acknowledged that Esq. Fisher has worked primarily on flood issues during this time and has even allowed the Department to use his equipment to clear roads. Judge Bates stated that after receiving the report that Lockport Fallis was slick he confirmed it was worse than ice. The Fire Department could not get enough water on it so 'Road Closed' signs were placed to call attention. The Road Department worked on it again today to sweep it.

## **RE: PLANNING & ZONING**

### **1. Administrator's Monthly Report**

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 24 electrical and 43 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on April 28, 2025, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. on May 14, 2025, but there is nothing on the agenda.

## **RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS**

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

Parks Director Toby Berry reported the small engine class is completed. With all the rain they have been trying to keep everything cut. They are painting and prepping fields for all the sports. Both parks have games tonight, and opening day for Little League is Saturday. Judge Bates thanked Toby and Daniel for all their help during the flooding stating that it has been all hands on deck.

### **2. Updated Fairgrounds Rental Contract**

Deputy Judge Travis Buchanan stated that the work is continuing to complete the renovations on the 4-H Building. With the improvements, the large side of the building will no longer be available for rental. The contract for the use of the facilities at the Fairgrounds has been updated to indicate that change and to clarify the conditions for rentals.

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered that the Court adopt the new contract for the rental of the 4-H Building and the Fairgrounds.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: ANIMAL SERVICES**

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

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft reported the following receipts for the month of February: 6 adoptions totaling \$900, 2 fines/fees of \$60, donations of \$1,725, and proceeds from the vaccine clinic of \$505 generating \$3,190 in funding for the Shelter. There are 2 adoption events scheduled for this month along with the spay and neuter clinic through the Kentucky Humane Society.

### **2. Animal Services Committee Report**

Esq. Hartlage stated that the Committee did not meet.

## **RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Esq. Hartlage reported that the Committee met based on the recommendation of the Court at last month's meeting to discuss moving forward from the decision to disassociate with the Council formed that was its own entity. The Committee feels that it would be appropriate that the Fiscal Court Committee composed of the magistrates would satisfy the economic development needs of the County. County Attorney Dees commented and provided clarification that the Economic Development Committee will operate under Fiscal Court. Esq. Hartlage added that the Committee would like to be involved with the comprehensive plan in the future. P&Z Administrator Stanley stated that the work is now on the land use map and will

then focus on the Pendleton area. Judge Bates stated that the cities have been some of the holdup in the process. He stated that Esqs. Hartlage and Shain would be included when they get to the Pendleton area.

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

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of March: 289 KSP dispatch calls, 79 Sheriff's office calls, 106 citations/criminal summons, 39 criminal arrests, 26 warrant arrests, 142 all court paper service, 3 fugitive transports, 2 MIW transports, 1 special detail, 61 vehicle inspections, 25 carry conceal licenses, 2 DUI arrests, and 5 drug charge arrests.

## **RE: HISTORICAL SOCIETY MURAL APPROVAL**

Olivia Herrell of the Henry County Historical Society addressed the Court regarding the rendering they had received of the planned mural to be painted on the side of the County's building which houses their records. She introduced Greg Robinson who has prepared the rendering and will be completing the mural. He explained that what was provided is basically a stencil, not the finished product. He described the colors and design to be used which includes the river with locks. He will get started soon and will be finished before June.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered that Fiscal Court approve the rendering presented by the Henry County Historical Society for the mural to be installed on the side of the Henry County Annex Building facing Carter Alley.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT FY 26 BUDGET**

Judge Bates announced that the Court will need to meet before the end of April to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the FY 26 budget. By consensus, the Henry County Fiscal Court will hold a special meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, at the Judge/Executive's office to discuss the FY 26 budget.

## **RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Judge Bates requested that Fiscal Court go into Executive Session per KRS 61.810 to discuss pending litigation.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered that Fiscal Court go into Executive Session per KRS 61.810 to discuss pending litigation matters.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to end the Executive Session.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to resume the Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates announced that the Fiscal Court discussed matters related to the on-going opioid litigation. Court members were provided an update on the status of the pending litigation.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to ratify the action of Judge Bates to withdraw from the amended complaint to include the Pharmacy Benefit Managers in the opioid lawsuit.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: FLOOD UPDATE**

Judge Bates stated that it is hard to fully address the devastation in the eastern part of the County. Reports initially were that it would not be too bad, then a projected crest at 57 feet. We were notified on Friday that some gates would be opened on the Dix Dam. Despite some inaccurate reports, only 6 were released and the river rose to 54 feet. In the areas that were overtaken there is total loss. We are working on the situation with dumpsters for the residents to use provided by the County and the Farm Bureau Federation. A group of Seventh Day Adventists are working in the area and helping with removing everything from homes and spraying for mold so they can be salvaged. Everyone has stepped up to help including the Lake Jericho Fire Department. By the time some called for help, it was dark and the water level raised boats to the light wires. The situation was dangerous, but we did not lose any lives. Many who did not have their homes damaged were isolated on islands.

## **RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS**

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the following claims:

General Fund	\$260,076.27
Road & Bridge Fund	53,408.19
Jail Fund	50,644.89
LGEA	2,527.26
E-911	22,470.40
ABC	2,098.69
County Clerk Document Fund	5,786.25
Fair Fund	730.86
Angel's Envy Sewer Fund	<u>100,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$497,742.81</b>

## **RE: COURT COMMENTS**

Esq. Tingle stated that he had attended the Eminence City Council and heard a representative from Rep. Thomas Massey's office who offered assistance with federal programs and invited flood victims to contact them with special needs. Judge Bates added that he had spoken with Rep. Massey who had shared that he did not know when President Trump would make the necessary disaster declaration for FEMA involvement. They are here and ready to go with assistance programming when it is approved.

Judge Bates shared that the Henry County Disaster Relief Fund has been set up at the United Citizens Bank & Trust. Individuals who want to offer help can make deposits at any branch. A committee composed of 3 local pastors, Deputy Judge Buchanan, and Jakob Beckley has been formed to determine how the funds will be distributed.

Deputy Judge Buchanan offered information on the revenue effects of the Angel's Envy operations in the County. There have been questions about the barrel taxes going away, but the property taxes do make a significant difference. He cited the 2018 total property taxes on the land were \$1,704.27 as compared to \$286,447.20 in 2024. The County's share in 2018 was \$162.16 and in 2024 was \$25,606.93. He will provide information relative to the barrel taxes at the next meeting. Judge Bates stated that the rate had dropped from 11.7 percent on the first amounts to 10.3 percent in 2024. Esq. Hartlage stated that capital improvements do enhance economic development and build revenue.

## **RE: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. McManis, 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 20, 2025**