

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 2025

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on August 19, 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 offered the evening's prayer.

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Judge Bates called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. noting that all magistrates were in attendance.

RE: APPROVAL OF THE JULY 15, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 7, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2025, special meeting which was called for approval to sign the Flex Funds agreement.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Judge Bates announced that the Flex Funds expenditures have been approved by the State. He has communicated with Mago Construction Company, and they will begin Friday on Cherry Lane and other roads in that area.

Road Supervisor Zach Smith reported that the Road Department has been busy with various tasks including hauling rock to gravel roads and grading and smoothing it. They have bushwhacked on Giltner Road, Bates Lane on the Smithfield side, and are moving to Watkins and Bush Lanes next. Both bushhogs went down and they waited on parts for about 2 weeks, but they are both operating now. When not paving, they will be bushhogging. They repaired the base failure on Carmen Creek so it can be paved. They did 21 loads of blacktop on Albert Moore finishing today and will be moving to Salt Creek and Byers Lane.

Judge Bates thanked the crew for their work in the extreme heat. The complaints about bushhogging are mostly due to Johnson grass. They are discussing plans to spray for the Johnson grass like the State does. Even with 2 bushhogs and a contractor, it is difficult to stay caught up.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met yesterday and all is going well. He visited Albert Moore where they were blacktopping, and it must have been 105 degrees. The contractor for bushhogging will begin again tomorrow. They are talking about getting a tank to put on one of the 550s to spray which will not cost much. This fall they have culverts to install, but will continue to bush whack and get the roads pushed back as far as possible. The crew of only 4-5 workers is doing a great job.

Judge Bates stated that we have hired another full-time CDL driver and another person who will bushhog part-time. The crew is cutting over 500 miles of road to get both sides of the roadways while trying to keep the equipment together and dealing with parts order delays. Esq. Fisher said that we are 10-12 years behind in getting roads repaired like they should be. Judge Bates added that we have spent \$10,000 on blacktop on Albert Moore Road alone. The costs are expensive, but we have to keep the roads repaired as much as possible for the citizens.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 28 electrical and 55 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2025, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on September 10, 2025, at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

2. Board of Adjustments Vacancy

Judge Bates stated that he has had calls and texts regarding the open position on the Board of Adjustments. There have been very qualified candidates, and he has conferred with the magistrates. He announced that his appointment for this vacancy is Jeremy Chilton who he feels will do a very good job being open minded about what the County needs and understands about the regulations that are in place.

3. Flood Damage Prevention Amendment to Ordinance – 1st Reading

Administrator Stanley informed the Court that he was notified by the State that the Planning & Zoning Ordinance related to flood damage prevention must be amended. The County will only do the minimum required by the State which will allow people to be eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program. The State supplied this recommendation so that residents will be eligible to obtain flood insurance. County Attorney Dees read the ordinance.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of the amendment to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 630-196.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that they have been very busy cutting grass, weed eating, and getting the parks and fairgrounds ready for events. They have prepared for the Henry County Strong fundraiser, Harvest Showcase, and a truck and tractor pull this weekend. The Buchanan Splash Pad has been very busy all year and will close on September 1. The co-ed church league ended their season with a 2-day tournament this past weekend. Youth football has started and held their first game last Saturday. Soccer and Little League baseball have begun practices. Parks upgrades include getting the second batting cage up yesterday. The concrete side of the wheelchair ramp has been completed. Mr. Berry thanked Sheriff Perry and the deputies for their crowd control for the Oddfellows parade last Saturday.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft provided the following report for the month of July: 11 adoptions totaling \$1,700, donations of cash and food/supplies of \$1,503, and \$644 of other receipts with a total of \$3,847 received by the Shelter. There were 10 adoptions, 11 rescues, 3 dogs returned to owner, and 3 other dispositions resulting in 27 animals out of the Shelter with 27 remaining in custody. The Trap, Neuter, Return Program for feral cats has been booked for each clinic so far.

2. Committee Report

Esq. Hartlage stated that Animal Control is running smoothly and the Committee did not meet.

RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Esq. Hartlage stated that there was no report.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

1. Monthly Report

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of July: 257 KSP dispatch calls, 142 Sheriff's office calls, 31 citations/criminal summons, 45 criminal arrests, 24 warrant arrests, 122 all court paper service, 1 MIW transport, 1 special detail/event, 81 vehicle inspections, 13 carry conceal licenses, and 7 DUI charge arrests.

Sheriff Perry responded to an inquiry about the increase in vehicle inspections. He stated that it was due to Glenn Chevrolet and added that the State allowed charge that is retained by his office has increased from \$5 to \$15.

2. 2024 Property Tax Settlement

Sheriff Perry presented the 2024 Property Tax Settlement showing \$12,159,902.95 due and \$12,159,933.16 paid for property taxes. The difference was a cold check that was later paid by credit card. The franchise taxes due and paid were \$1,755,906.91. The report will be audited for accuracy.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve the Henry County Sheriff's Department Property Tax Settlement for FY 2024 pending audit.

Motion carried unanimously

Esq. Frederick asked for an update on the Multi-County Drug Task Force. Sheriff Perry stated that as of now Henry, Trimble, Carroll, and Oldham Counties as well as the KY State Police are committed. The Attorney General's approval has been obtained and even included guidance on how the Opioid Abatement money can be used to fund a director. He is working with Commonwealth Attorney Courtney Baxter on establishing the Board and would like to get everyone included at the start. Once the Task Force is operating, others could still join but it seems best to get most of the representatives on the Board at the onset. He feels it will not be much longer.

RE: TRANSIENT ORDINANCES AMENDMENTS—1ST READING

Judge Bates informed the Court that the Tourism & Convention Commission has begun meeting and preparing to implement the transient room tax. As part of their work, they have reviewed the previously passed ordinances setting up their Commission and the governing document for the tax. The proposed changes to those documents would be more suited to Henry County and improve the process. The permitting process will require a checklist that will be automatic if applicants have everything requested. Fiscal Court Clerk Denise Perry read a summary of all the changes included in the amendment. She stated that many of the edited portions relate to removing the Board of Adjustments from the administration of the process and changed the tax reporting to quarterly from monthly.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered that the County approve the 1st Reading of the Ordinance Establishing Transient Room Tax and Creation of the Henry County Tourist and Convention Commission.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered that the County approve the 1st Reading of the Ordinance Establishing Short-term Rental Property, Application, Permit and Licensing.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates stated that even though it seems this has taken some time, the County wants to get it right before implementing. Esq. Frederick added that the Commission worked hard to make it as attractive as possible for short-term rentals to come to Henry County.

RE: HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT 2025-2026 TAX RATE – 2ND READING

Judge Bates stated that the 1st Reading for the new tax rate was presented at the July meeting. The Court approved taking the compensating rate for real property which would lower it from 10.3 cents to 10.1 cents per hundred. A 2nd Reading is not required for the adoption of the compensating rate, but for clarification purposes a vote will be held tonight. Esq. Hartlage confirmed that we would be voting to lower the rate and that he was confused when he did not vote in favor previously. Judge Bates affirmed that the rate would drop to 10.1 for real and personal property and the motor vehicles and watercraft rate would remain at 11.9 cents.

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Real Property	10.5 cents	10. cents	10.1 cents
Personal Property	13.1 cents	10.7 cents	10.1 cents
Motor Vehicles	11.9 cents	11.9 cents	11.9 cents

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the 2025-2026 tax rates with the compensating rate of 10.1 cents per hundred for real estate and property and 11.9 cents for motor vehicles and watercraft.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

General Fund	\$359,026.54
Road & Bridge Fund	66,311.63
Jail Fund	59,243.74
LGEA	18,938.34
ABC	13,417.43
Total	\$516,937.68

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Olivia Herrell announced that she distributes books at the Trail or Treat which will be happening soon. She requested that if anyone has gently loved or new books to donate or would like to help that she would appreciate it.

Staci Rockaway representing Congressman Thomas Massey's office addressed those in attendance offering their assistance for individuals who need help with Federal agencies. She stated citizens can contact their office and an inquiry will be opened. The Congressman wants to hear of support or opposition to proposed bills. Also, if anyone needs help with a grant, they can provide a letter of support. She distributed printed information for those who would like to receive it. Ms. Rockaway added that if anyone had been denied FEMA assistance from the flood damage, please contact them and they will try to help work through the issues with the agency.

Jakob Beckley spoke on behalf of the Harvest Showcase Committee thanking the Parks Department and the Fiscal Court for their support. It takes a tremendous amount of work, and it would not be possible with the work that Toby Berry and Daniel Brown did.

Amy Charles thanked everyone who supported the Community Appreciation event at the Animal Shelter. It was a huge success with 85 attendees and over \$700 in donations and 3 dogs ultimately adopted. She requested that County meetings and documents related to them and job openings be posted on the FaceBook page. She questioned the Tourism Commission's existence and the status of the Tourism Commissioner.

Doug Watts acknowledged a job well done by EMS when he suffered a fall. His wife reported that the EMT arrived and was very professional and knowledgeable.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Esq. Fisher announced that on October 18 the Rally for Cemeteries will again be held this year at his home. Last year over \$16,000 was raised, and all the funds go to the local cemetery the donor designates. There will be homemade ice cream, food, and a live auction.

Judge Bates reported that the pole for the emergency siren in Port Royal has been moved. The wiring was connected on Friday. Staff will insure that it is operating during the next test.

Judge Bates stated that he will be running for re-election as Judge/Executive. There has been a report that he has gotten someone to run against sitting magistrates. He appreciates all they are doing and will not be promoting anyone to run in opposition to the current magistrates.

There is a fish fry on Friday, August 22, at the Restoration Life Church for lunch and dinner to raise funds for the new blacktop.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, 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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

_S/ Denise Perry
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **September 16, 2025**