

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2025**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on December 16, 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 blessing on the meeting.

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 NOVEMBER 18, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Judge Bates reported that Road Supervisor Zach Smith is ill and unable to attend. The crew really came through working all day Sunday and Monday trying to get the roads clear. They did some touch-up spots today that the schools needed. The 5 trucks are all running and covered both lanes of 250 miles which is about 100 miles per truck. We have already used approximately 30 percent of the salt purchased for the year, and it is very expensive. We are waiting on the first shipment of cinders which will hopefully be next week, but have hauled some from Shelby County to use.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee did not meet due to illness. He has spoken with Zach Smith and all the equipment is running. He thanked the crew and Scott Bates for all their work. Judge Bates stated that the crew all shows up for work and gets it done.

3. Opening of Bids for Purchase of Bushwhacker

Judge Bates stated that bids have been received for the bushwhacker. Deputy Judge Buchanan will open those and report the numbers. There were 3 bids as follows:

Hutson John Deere—JD 6110 cab tractor with 60" boom, 1,823 hours--\$106,300

Hutson John Deere—JD 6110 cab tractor with 60" boom, 2,841 hours--\$91,850

Clark Heavy Equipment—2011 JD 7130 tractor with side boom, 1,356 hours--\$69,000

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to accept the bid from Clark Heavy Equipment for the purchase of the JD 7130 at \$69,000.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates stated that we will contact Mr. Clark tomorrow and get the bushwhacker so we can work this winter on getting trees cut back while there are no leaves.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 10 electrical and 19 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2025, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on January 14, 2026, at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

2. Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives – 1st Reading

P&Z Administrator Stanley stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission met and reviewed the suggested changes to the Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives. The Court members received copies of the document which they are presenting for approval by the Fiscal Court and the 5 incorporated cities. County Attorney Dees read aloud Chapter II, Goals & Objectives, in its entirety. Tonight, is the 1st Reading of the proposed Goals & Objectives.

Esq. Hartlage addressed the Court with his concerns over the objectives included. He stated that he feels that public opinion was not encouraged at the Commission meeting. He suggested that in his opinion these objectives are not good for businesses and developers. This important document is the guideline for Henry County and is only done every 5 years. He delineated the wording of specific objectives and feels that it needs to be streamlined drastically.

Esq. Shain asked for clarification on the word insure as used in the document. County Attorney Dees stated that it is not a mandate since something that is legally required would include the word "shall."

Judge Bates interjected that suggestions will not be followed and requirements may be necessary. Esq. Hartlage stated that requirements can be stipulated on zone changes with conditions. Administrator Stanley responded that he conferred with KIPDA today asking how we should proceed. There have been advertised public meetings and many individuals have worked for years to get to this point. He was advised that this is an on-going process, and we need to approve something since it has been so long. He suggested that we let the Planning & Zoning Committee meet and continue to revise as is needed. There was one concern related to low and moderate housing that was brought up at the Commission meeting, and it was removed.

Judge Bates stated that this is the 1st Reading and it can be changed. If it is amended, it must be returned to all the cities for their approval.

Esq. Shain said that we do not want to overload the potential buyers; and Judge Bates said that we should not loosen it so much that we cannot stop something that we want to prevent. Esq. Hartlage wants the public to be offered the opportunity for more input. Administrator Stanley said the public involvement was stressed as it was originally done in 2020, but the document was not adopted because the maps were not ready. The Goals & Objectives were completed when he came on board and the only remaining component was the updated maps which he is trying to complete. Esq. Frederick said he feels the streamlining can be accomplished with wording. He questioned that new businesses would even receive a copy of the Comprehensive Plan.

Administrator Stanley stated that while this can be looked at purely from an economic development standpoint, it is also to protect the community and current residents and businesses with buffering from the cities out.

Mike Ray addressed the Court stating that the County has had a Comprehensive Plan since 1990. It was originally done and has been redone since then by KIPDA with different personnel. It was always passed as a general complete document. In March, 2020, a group was formed and began looking at the Plan. Mr. Stanley was advised that he could now get some of the work done and was directed to pass the Goals & Objectives separately. This document is general in nature as compared to the zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations which are what buyers would want.

Administrator Stanley restated that he had provided the Goals & Objectives and asked that magistrates get with their representatives so that any concerns could be addressed at the P & Z meeting. That did not happen and no one could explain why.

Esq. Frederick asked if significant changes were made would the Goals and Objectives have to undergo 1st and 2nd Readings again at each city council and the Fiscal Court. County Attorney Dees advised that it would be necessary.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of the updated Goals & Objectives of the Comprehensive Plan and that the Planning & Zoning Committee meet to discuss the document.

Motion carried on 5-1 vote
(Aye: Esqs. Fisher, Frederick,
McManis, Shain & Tingle
No: Esq. Hartlage)

ADU Text Amendment – 2nd Reading

Administrator Stanley stated that the 1st Reading of the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) amendment to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance was held at the November meeting. County Attorney Dees stated that there have been no changes since the 1st Reading and pursuant to statute she will read the title and introduction only. The amendment would add Article XVIII to establish regulations governing the creation and use of accessory dwelling units within the County.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the text amendment to the Planning & Zoning ordinance which will allow for accessory dwelling units.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that they have been doing much shoveling and salting. They added new thicker insulation and painted the ceiling at the 4-H Building to help with sound concerns. He provided an update on the dugouts on Fields B and C at Hill Park where 3 of the 4 have been dug and poured in concrete. Judge Bates thanked the crew for their work.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft provided the following report for the month of November. There were 8 adoptions totaling \$1,000, donations of cash and food/supplies of \$2,940, and \$50 from other receipts resulting in \$3,990 in revenues. There are currently 24 dogs in the shelter after 23 were removed with 8 adopted, 8 rescued, and 7 returned to owner. For the month of November, the total intake was 312 animals. There is a Christmas dinner for dogs scheduled for 5 – 7 p.m. on December 23 if anyone would like to bring gifts, help, or adopt.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

1. Monthly Report

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of November: 132 KSP dispatch calls, 115 Sheriff's office calls, 22 citations/criminal summons, 10 criminal arrests, 9 warrant arrests, 68 all court paper service, 1 fugitive transport, 47 vehicle inspections, and 7 carry conceal licenses.

RE: SHERIFF'S 2026 BUDGET – 2ND READING

Motion carried unanimously

Sheriff Perry presented the proposed 2026 budget for his office for 2nd Reading. The proposal estimates \$1,037,770.38 in receipts and \$1,025,173.58 in disbursements with projected excess fees of \$12,596.80. There were no changes since the 1st Reading after meeting with the Budget Committee.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the 2026 Henry County Sheriff's Department as presented which includes the salary cap for deputies.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: COUNTY CLERK'S 2026 BUDGET – 2ND READING

County Clerk Archer presented her 2026 proposed budget indicating estimated receipts of \$5,812,282 and disbursements of \$5,653,850 with resulting excess fees of \$158,432. There was a change from the 1st Reading to correct the Housing Trust Fund receipt to \$15,500 from \$1,500. The current budget projects revenues of \$5,826,232 and expenses of \$5,653,850 with an estimated excess fees amount of \$172,382. The maximum amount which may be expended for deputies and assistants is set at \$265,000.

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the Henry County Clerk's Office budget for 2026 as presented including the salary cap for deputies and assistants.

Motion carried unanimously

Clerk Archer stated that the septic line was replaced at her office which required mud clean up. She complimented Judge Bates and Deputy Judge Buchanan for their assistance in helping to get the job done.

RE: LIQUOR ORDINANCE UPDATE – 2ND READING

ABC Administrator Ed Nelson stated that the 1st Reading for the proposed liquor ordinance was presented in November. County Attorney Dees stated that there were no changes made since the 1st Reading of the amendment related to the regulation of the sale of alcoholic beverages. She read the title and introductory statements of the ordinance as covered under Section 4 of the ordinance and KRS 243.060.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the amended ordinance related to the control of alcoholic beverages in Henry County as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates thanked Mr. Nelson for his time and work to get the ordinance updated to meet current ABC regulations.

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Bates requested that Fiscal Court go into Executive Session per KRS 61.810 to discuss the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates announced that the Fiscal Court discussed matters related to the sale of property owned by the County and located in Campbellsburg.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to approve the hiring of an appraiser to determine the fair market value of the commercial property in Campbellsburg.
 Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to authorize Judge Bates to negotiate the sale of the commercial property in Campbellsburg with the matter to be brought to the Budget Committee.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

Deputy Judge Travis Buchanan stated that an invoice from KIPDA needs to be included in the claims which cannot be paid yet. It is for \$15,000 for administrative costs on the Angel’s Envy project. The money will be received from CDBG and must be submitted to them for review and then paid within 5 days.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the following claims and transfers and the addition of \$15,000 payable to KIPDA:

General Fund	\$272,956.75
Road & Bridge Fund	78,162.48
Jail Fund	50,816.78
LGEA	1,619.12
E-911	15,910.97
ABC	<u>1,615.12</u>
Total	\$421,081.22

From: 015080107 (Courthouse Supt. Half) \$35,850.00
To: 015001103 (Co JE-Deputy JE) \$35,850.00

From: 019200999 (Reserve for Transfers) \$5,814.01
To: 015070445 (P&Z Office Supplies) \$5,814.01

From: 785050106 (ABC Personnel) \$12,000.00
 789300999 (Transfer to Other Funds) 12,000.00
 019300999 (Transfer to Other Funds) 12,000.00
 019200999 (Reserve for Transfers) 12,000.00
To: 789300999 (Transfer to Other Funds) 12,000.00
 019300999 (Transfer to Other Funds) 12,000.00
 019200999 (Reserve for Transfers) 12,000.00
 015001107 (Fiscal Court Clerk) 12,000.00

From: 019200999 (Reserve for Transfers) \$7,663.78
To: 019100521 (Insurance Expense) \$7,663.78

<u>From:</u> 019200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$4,751.37
<u>To:</u> 019100531 (Officials' Bonds)	\$4,751.37
<u>From:</u> 026105447 (Materials)	\$16,950.28
<u>To:</u> 029200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$16,950.28
<u>From:</u> 029200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$91,471.05
<u>To:</u> 029105311 (Contracted Highways)	\$26,080.88
026105405 (Asphalt)	18,459.91
026105602 (KACO Lease)	46,930.26
<u>From:</u> 049200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$52.00
<u>To:</u> 045150513 (Forest Fire Contribution)	\$52.00
<u>From:</u> 139200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$61.50
<u>To:</u> 135212445 (Solid Waste Off Supplies)	\$61.50
<u>From:</u> 011000 (Transfer to Jail)	\$51,000.00
<u>To:</u> 014909 (Transfer to Jail)	\$51,000.00
<u>From:</u> 034910 (Reserve from General)	\$51,000.00
<u>To:</u> 031000 (Transfer from General)	\$51,000.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Jakob Beckley addressed the Court asking about the property in Campbellsburg in question for sale. Judge Bates responded that it is the old EMS building that has not housed an ambulance for years and is deteriorating. The City of Campbellsburg has approached the County about purchasing it.

Adrienne Southworth addressed the Court in regard to Henry County looking at the Flock cameras as related to Senate Bill 380 which she introduced. She has prepared information on the ideal policies and procedures as it is considered.

Olivia Herrell reminded everyone that the Bethlehem Living Nativity will be held December 22 - 25 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. She encouraged everyone to attend, and they could still use help with refreshments on the 25th.

Destiny Kelley expressed her concerns about Flock cameras in Eminence and her rights being violated.

Sheriff Keith Perry spoke in regard to the Flock cameras. He has seen crimes solved with their use, and they are no different than other areas where we do not claim 4th Amendment violations. The cameras are not unconstitutional, and they are vital to law enforcement.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Judge Bates wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and asked them not to forget the true meaning of the season. He stated that he was glad to live where people can discuss and disagree without being disagreeable.

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 7:23 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **January 20, 2026**