

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on February 18, 2025, at the Henry County 4-H Building 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: 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 6:00 p.m. noting that all magistrates were in attendance. County Attorney Cassidy Dees was unable to attend due to illness.

RE: APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 21, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Road Supervisor Zach Smith reported that there has been more snow to be removed. The crew has also been filling potholes, installed a culvert, and have been trying to get across gravel roads and get them back in shape. They have been installing stop and speed limit signs that have been removed and will begin replacing road signs soon.

Judge Bates stated that many roads are in need of rock, but the quarry is closed. They also have the salt boxes on and cannot haul gravel on them, but have taken a few loads down to Valley View and Tatum. As soon as the weather breaks and the water is out of the quarry, gravel work can continue. The crusher also has to be back in operation since they cannot spread the large chunks of frozen rock.

Esq. Tingle stated that the state is trying to get on potholes when they can. Judge Bates added that it is hard when you put on a patch and then the blade scraping snow knocks it out. Esq. Hartlage stated that Martin Lane needs to be identified with its official name. Judge Bates responded that some refer to it as Martin Lane and other maps use Tatum Spur. The P & Z maps have been changed to Tatum Spur, but there is still a problem with GPS. This situation poses an issue in cases of emergency response where different names are used and also other addresses that use different access roads. Esq. McManis said that Powell Auctions also has a problem with Google maps misidentifying their location.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher reported that the Road Committee met and reviewed operations. All equipment last night was working, but there was an issue with a fuel filter on the Freightliner today which has been replaced. Filters will need to be changed often. Zach got the spreader box back together and it is working well. The Department will begin working on base failures as soon as they can. There is an issue on Bullitt Hill with very large potholes which may result in it having to be shut down. Esq. McManis has begun researching possible dump trucks to purchase.

3. Rural Secondary Program / Flex Funds Approval

Judge Bates stated that he had just received the letter regarding Rural Secondary Flex Funds from Frankfort. The offer this year is \$120,101 compared to \$112,000 last year. The Court can elect to use the money for County maintenance or return it to the State for their use on State roads.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to use the \$120,101 in Rural Secondary Flex funds for FY 26 for County roads.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Deputy Judge Travis Buchanan presented the P & Z/Solid Waste report for Administrator Jason Stanley. During the previous month, 15 electrical and 42 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 7 p.m. on February 24 at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on March 12, at the Henry County 4-H Building.

2. Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment for District 6

Judge Bates reported that there is a vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission for an individual representing District 6. Esq. Tingle who serves as the magistrate for the district stated that his recommendation for the position is Danny Clark.

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to appoint Danny Clark to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a 4-year term.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that the Parks Department has been scraping, shoveling, and laying salt. They have stripped the floors in the small side of the 4-H Center and will do the large side soon. On the interior of the 4-H Building, they have been painting the walls and doing trim work. The roofs of the dugouts at the new ballfield are being completed now. They have gotten a shipment of benches that will be put together and installed soon.

RE: HENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATE—ALLAN BRYANT

Judge Bates announced that Allan Bryant needed to leave the Fiscal Court meeting as early as possible. Since there was no objection, the agenda was amended for his report.

Allan Bryant with the Henry County Conservation District provided an annual update on the program's work within the community. He shared that this year's art and writing contest had 650 entries. Evan Hamilton received 2nd in the State and will be recognized at the Capitol; and

the mobile science activity center for students to learn about agriculture will be here in 2026. On a Sunday in April free tree seedlings of a wide variety will be distributed to those in the community. The date will be announced. The district still has a no-till drill and a hydraulic post driver that can be rented out.

If Henry County farmers have issues with livestock and the weather, the District is in a partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service and the KY Division of Conservation and will help with implementing conservation practices. There was \$78,000 in funding contracted in FY 24 in Henry County. He noted that there are more cattle in Henry County than persons, 22,000 to 16,000. Citizens can contact his office at 502-845-2890 for questions.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft reported the following receipts for the month of January: 5 adoptions totaling \$1,000, 5 reclaim/fines fees of \$355, and donations of \$773 resulting in a total of \$2,128. Several events are upcoming. On March 15 from 10-12:30 there will be a low-cost vaccine and microchip clinic with Dr. Luther Parker volunteering his services. The Shelter will be hosting a free spay/neuter clinic with the KY Humane Society on March 20. Individuals can make an appointment and pay the \$35 deposit which will be refunded.

2. Animal Services Committee Report

Esq. Hartlage stated that the Committee met with the Trimble County members at the conference and discussed the heating issues. They have gotten estimates within the budgeted amount. He requested that the County Judge/Executives from both counties look at the estimates to be sure the work will be satisfactory. He added that some money remaining from the fence project can be used along with funds from the budget.

RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Esq. Fisher addressed the Court citing the following motion:

"Motion to dissolve the current Henry County Economic Development Council, which includes both the voting members and the non-voting members of the Council. Purpose for dissolving the Council is that the Council has become disorganized and distractive over the last 12-18 months and does not represent the County in a positive, purposeful manner. The total monetary assets of the Council should be dispersed of in a manner defined in the Articles of Incorporation. Per the Articles of Incorporation, the Fiscal Court shall distribute assets to one

or more tax exempt non-profit organizations. During the current fiscal year, the inclusion of Henry County in the I-71 Economic Development Alliance has been funded 3/4 by the Fiscal Court, 1/8 by Campbellsburg and 1/8 by Eminence. Therefore, it is recommended that the Fiscal Court disperse 3/4 of the monetary assets to one or more tax exempt non-profit organizations of their choice. The remaining assets received should be distributed equally (1/8 each) to Campbellsburg and Eminence. The assets distributed to Campbellsburg and Eminence will be with the understanding that each city will disperse of their receipts to one or more tax exempt non-profit organizations of their respective choices. The Articles of Incorporation and By-laws for the Henry County Economic Development Council should be dissolved of as required.”

The motion was seconded by Esq. McManis.

Esq. Hartlage stated that the Economic Development Board that was established is not costing the Henry County Fiscal Court a dime. They try to solicit donations, and all Fiscal Court has to do is identify 2 people. He added that he thinks this is a bad idea.

Esq. Tingle stated that the last meeting was an embarrassment. The bickering and arguments would run people away.

Esq. McManis said that we would be better served if we hired somebody part time to drum up business because from what he has seen nothing is getting done.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to dissolve the current Henry County Economic Development Council with the stipulations as cited in the motion.

Motion carried on 4-2 vote

(Aye: Esqs. Fisher, Frederick,
McManis & Tingle

No: Esq. Hartlage, Shain)

Judge Bates stated that he will get with County Attorney Dees to determine how we proceed. We will look at how we can address economic development and revamp it.

RE: COUNTY CLERK EXCESS FEES

County Clerk Shanda Archer presented her excess fees report for 2024. She shared information on all funds received and the breakdown of where they were generated and how they were dispersed. Fiscal Court will receive \$119,781.39 in excess fees from the County Clerk’s Office.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to accept \$119,781.39 in excess fees for 2024 from the Henry County Clerk.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of January: 191 KSP dispatch calls, 96 Sheriff's office calls, 51 citations/criminal summons, 14 criminal arrests, 12 warrant arrests, 83 all court paper service, 48 vehicle inspections, and 15 carry conceal licenses.

RE: SHERIFF'S EXCESS FEES

Sheriff Keith Perry presented the Sheriff's Office excess fees report indicating \$33,114.80 for 2024. The projected amount was only \$4,499.04. He stated that the office has transitioned to a cash basis whereby any money collected after January 1 from the previous years can be expended for the current year. The result this year is that some funds have already been used for expenses. This change has caused this past year to appear lower, but we will catch up to the cash basis and stay with that accounting method.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to accept the excess fees of \$33,114.80 from the Sheriff's Office for 2024.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NORTH CENTRAL KY NARCOTICS TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Sheriff Perry addressed the Court with an update to the North Central KY Narcotics Task Force (NCKYNTF). The original plan was to include 6 counties: Henry, Carroll, Gallatin, Oldham, Owen, and Trimble. Franklin and Scott Counties have reached out to inquire about joining also. Sheriff Perry stated that he feels that 90 percent of crime is caused by drugs and feels this effort will help with many of the thefts and other offenses. He introduced Deputy Kyle Stewart who has put together the stats for a presentation on the NCKYNTF that he sharing in each of the counties.

Deputy Stewart communicated the mission of the task force which will be to focus full-time on the investigation of the sale and use of illegal drugs within the jurisdiction. He explained that the NCKYNTF will be governed by a 12-member board of directors composed of constituent members from each county in rotating terms and identified leadership positions and their responsibilities. Grants will be pursued, and asset forfeiture will help support the work. Prosecutors throughout the counties are on board, and they believe that the judges will support them.

Sheriff Perry announced that the next meeting is this Friday at 10 a.m. at the Campbellsburg Community Center. He invited the magistrates to join for more information and lunch.

RE: PENDLETON SEWER RESOLUTION

Judge Bates stated that he would be going to Washington next week and would be meeting with legislators. He wants to present a resolution showing Fiscal Court's support for sewers for the Pendleton area and soliciting their help in obtaining funding. He will present them with a packet of information including the resolution, an analysis of the area prepared by KIPDA, and details of the commitment and work to date including engineering and commitments already established. Deputy Judge Travis Buchanan read the resolution authorizing the seeking of funds for the La-Grange-Pendleton Road, I-71 Exit 28 Sewer Expansion Project which will promote economic growth in Henry County and facilitate regionalization.

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to adopt the resolution of the Fiscal Court Authorizing the Seeking of Funds for the LaGrange-Pendleton Road, I-71 Exit 28 Sewer Expansion Project hereby expressing full support for the Sewer Expansion Project and committing to providing necessary resources and seeking public and private funding at the local, state, and national levels.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: COST-OF-LIVING FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Judge Bates announced that 2.9 percent annual cost-of-living increases for the Sheriff, County Clerk, and Judge/Executive are mandated by the State this year. Fiscal Court is responsible to decide if other elected officials, including the County Attorney, Jailer, Coroner, and the magistrates will also receive these COLAs.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to accept the State cost-of-living adjustment this year and each one moving forward for the coroner, county attorney, and jailer.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered for the magistrates to take the COLA beginning with the next pay period and each year thereafter.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: SALARY SCHEDULE APPROVAL

Judge Bates stated that the County Employees Salary Schedule must be approved every year. Copies were distributed to the Court with the pay rates and salaries for each county employee.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve the 2025 Henry County Employees Salary Schedule.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve the following claims and transfers:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$240,260.31 |
| Road & Bridge Fund | 56,116.59 |
| Jail Fund | 42,538.96 |
| LGEA | 3,035.20 |
| ABC | 1,406.87 |
| Fair Fund | 1,162.61 |
| Angel's Envy Sewer Project | <u>12,495.00</u> |
| Total | \$357,015.54 |

Motion Carried Unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Robin Barmore addressed the Court and read a statement from Amy Charles stating that in her opinion Fiscal Court has no authority and cannot vote to dissolve the Economic Development Council. Ms. Barmore stated that she has been on the Council for 7 years trying to make a difference for the County and that they need people to help them and be a part of the work.

Esq. McManis stated that from his perspective he has not seen progress.

Esq. Shain said that he did not vote against the Council, but the meetings have been an embarrassment.

Judge Bates committed to speaking with County Attorney Dees for her opinion.

Mike Ray addressed the Court saying that he has worked for 30 years with counties, groups, and the I-71 Alliance. All of them are professional and know how to present. He feels this group does not represent Henry County positively.

Esq. Hartlage that Economic Development Council was looking for grant money for housing, and there was positive movement to report.

Judge Bates affirmed his belief that economic development is important and we need growth. This is why he is taking the resolution to Washington and trying to garner support. The Campbellsburg and Pendleton areas are the best places for economic development now along with some in Eminence. Economic development and tourism are going to be big drivers in the County. He cited Esq. Frederick's Renaissance Fair that brought in 68,000 people to the County last year.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

There were no additional Court comments.

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: **March 18, 2025**