

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
May 20, 2025

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on May 20, 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 Adam Franklin from Restoration Life Church who 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.

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

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 30, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2025, special meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Road Supervisor Zach Smith was unable to attend due to an illness in the family. Judge Bates reported that the Road Department operations are going smoothly and they are getting much work done. They have hired another Class A CDL driver, Toby Crabb, who is running the grader. They are getting rock hauled, trees cut, and cleaning waterways and culverts.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher reported that the Committee met and discussed equipment and the condition of the roads. He requested that the magistrates check on the roads in their districts to see their paving needs to be addressed. They are getting ready for bush hogging season. He requested that they be authorized to hire 2 part-time summer workers for mowing. Judge Bates stated that they will have to look at the budget, but thinks there are funds to hire them. He thanked Zach and the crew for the improvement in operations.

Esq. Tingle stated that ground under Union Church Road is washed away leaving the pavement hanging without support. Judge Bates said that the situation would be taken care of.

3. County Road Aid Resolution

Judge Bates announced that we have received the County Road Aid Cooperative Program Agreement from the Transportation Cabinet. Fiscal Court must agree to participate in the program and accept the funds for the maintenance of County roads and bridges. Judge Bates read the resolution which will adopt and approve the execution of the program contract and give him authorization to sign it.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to approve the resolution authorizing the County Road Aid Cooperative Program Agreement with the Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, accepting all roads and streets as being part of the County Road System.

Motion carried unanimously

4. Transportation Coop Agreement Public Hearing for Use of Funds

Judge Bates stated that the County is required to hold a public hearing regarding the use of the County Road Aid Coop funds. He invited those in attendance to make their suggestions on where the funds should be spent for the magistrates to consider. He opened the floor for any comments, and there were none.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 29 electrical and 29 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will be meeting at 6 p.m. on May 27, 2025, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on June 11, 2025, at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported the parks are all very busy with grass cutting and weed eating. All the parks are in full swing with sports Monday through Sunday. The Splash Pad will open on Saturday following all the prep work and an inspection set for Friday. Judge Bates stated that there is a new \$5,000 valve that went bad being installed in the next day or so.

2. Parks Committee Report

Esq. Tingle stated that the Committee did meet briefly and they feel that Toby and Daniel are doing a great job. The fair is scheduled for the last week of June. There appears to be a need for a commercial kitchen in the community, and they would like to have a car show on October 4 to raise money for the Animal Shelter.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft reported the following receipts for the month of April: 7 adoptions totaling \$1,300 and donations of cash and food/supplies of \$1,776 with a total of \$3,076 in receipts. There will be a spay and neuter clinic at the fairgrounds on May 27 and another one is scheduled next month.

2. Animal Services Committee Report

Esq. Hartlage stated that the Committee met on May 7 with the Trimble County folks. The Shelter asked us to bring to both courts the idea of offering a discount for adoption on one day monthly. The rate is \$200 currently which is the actual cost to alter the animals. Esq. Hartlage stated that if we deviate the price we would need Court approval and requested the members' thoughts on the idea of a discount. Director Ashcraft stated that they are requesting a 50 percent discount to get some of the animals back out.

Esq. Hartlage stated that he feels this should be decided by the Judge, but he needs Court input. Judge Bates responded that if this were started, folks would wait till the discounted day

to adopt, but the more animals that are adopted out the less we have to care for. He added that it might be money well spent to get the animals out of the Shelter. Esq. Hartlage stated that if it costs Henry County \$200 and we are adopting for \$100, we are giving away County money. Esq. Tingle inquired about the cost to keep a dog for 30 days to which Director Ashcraft responded probably \$50-\$60 per month per dog. They operate with donations and the Betsy Jackson Foundation for the vet services. Judge Bates asked the magistrates to provide their opinion. Trimble County is reported to have approved the proposal.

Amy Charles stated that she has done research and there are diminishing returns for keeping dogs for more than a month and you do lose money.

Esq. Hartlage added that some capital improvements are still needed amounting to \$5,000 per county to keep the maintenance done. There are insulation, windows and camera repairs that need to be addressed. Judge Bates stated that he reviewed the budget and there is \$5,000 for general needs that can be allocated for these expenditures.

RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Esq. Hartlage reported that the Committee did not meet.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of April: 177 KSP dispatch calls, 132 Sheriff's office calls, 74 citations/criminal summons, 37 criminal arrests, 18 warrant arrests, 87 all court paper service, 2 MIW transports, 2 special details, 72 vehicle inspections, 17 carry conceal licenses, and 12 drug charge arrests.

RE: ABC QUARTERLY REPORT

ABC Director Ed Nelson was unable to attend the meeting, but his report was presented by Jason Stanley. The quarterly report shows that all fees have been paid. There are now 18 active licenses. Total revenue for the third quarter is \$21,326.10. Mr. Nelson reported that total revenue from alcohol sales to date is \$947,310.07.

RE: LGEA PUBLIC HEARING

Judge Bates stated that per KAR 42.455 Fiscal Court is providing the opportunity for public input with regard to the project or projects in a public meeting for which notice was given in the *Henry County Local*. He recognized individuals who wished to share their opinions on the use of LGEA funds.

Amy Charles read letters from individuals from whom she solicited comments who could not attend the meeting. Bonnie Greenwell Morrow expressed her opinion that funds should go to EMS. Doug Stringfellow recommended that funds be used for infrastructure improvements on roads. Mrs. Charles stated that the LGEA amount is just over \$1,000 which she feels should be

used for economic development. Funds can be expended through public/private partnership for support of grants and loans to enhance economic development.

RE: COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDDING THRESHOLD DISCUSSION

Judge Bates stated the current procurement requirement for competitive sealed bids for County purchases is \$20,000. The allowable threshold in Kentucky is \$40,000. The current situation with the Road Department's skid steer which needs to be replaced is affected by this limit. He proposed that the County adopt the allowed \$40,000 threshold with the safeguard that any expenditures between \$20,000 and \$40,000 would require approval by the Budget Committee or the Court.

Esq. Frederick expressed his agreement with the proposal. Esq. Shain stated that costs have increased, and there are advertising costs for sealed bids. Judge Bates stated that this would help with purchases particularly for used equipment and would streamline the process of purchasing.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to raise the procurement threshold requiring sealed bids for County purchases to \$40,000 with Budget Committee approval required for any acquisitions over \$20,000.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

General Fund	\$275,843.92
Road & Bridge Fund	98,569.87
Jail Fund	48,007.03
LGEA	7,754.90
Solid Waste	1,078.37
ABC	2,006.82
Fair Fund	<u>1,166.36</u>
Total	\$434,427.27

<u>From:</u> 0014909 (Transfer Out General)	\$115,000.00
<u>To:</u> 034910 (Transfer In Jail)	\$115,000.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Julie Wolf addressed the Court sharing her concern for the data center proposed for HWY 53 in Oldham County which could possibly be built here. She is a resident, and knows that P&Z has the power to approve such applications. She has reached out to the Judge and magistrates and wants them to know that needed funds should be obtained without the change in the County something like a data center would bring.

Mrs. Wolf added 2 suggestions for the Court. Meetings are recorded, but the audio is poor; and she encourage all leaders to post notes and minutes from meetings and be transparent. Judge Bates stated that we are striving to improve the audio which led to the newly added PA system.

Amy Charles requested that all County government meeting recordings, agendas, and minutes be posted on the website including committees and Planning and Zoning and the Board of Adjustments. Judge Bates responded that committee meeting recordings would not be easily accomplished due to the operation of the equipment required.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Esq. Tingle stated that he had heard a suggestion that an ambulance be stationed in Eminence or Pleasureville which would reduce response times. Judge Bates stated that there are not living quarters at these other locations. The staff are on 12-hour shifts and cannot just sit in the ambulances.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Shain 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 6:39 p.m.

S/Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **June 17, 2025**