

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
November 18, 2025

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on November 18, 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 OCTOBER 21, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Road Supervisor Zach Smith presented the monthly report indicating that the crew has been busy with various tasks. They have finished patch paving over the base failures on Carmen Creek Road and have completed bushwhacking on Radcliff Road, Dawkins Lane, and are currently on Wolfpen Branch Road. Work has continued on cleaning out ditches and culverts and cutting in new ones where needed. They are grading on gravel roads and hauling rock to get roads back in shape, filling potholes, and replacing missing signs. There are many cross pipes around the county that are too short which cause shoulder washouts. They are installing extensions when possible as they just did on Heron Creek Road.

Judge Bates added that the extensions with added channel liner are a more efficient way to repair and look good also. Esq. Tingle stated that he had received a complaint on Union Church Road where it is washing out and breaking down above the beams. Judge Bates responded that the issue will be looked into, but that will be very expensive as it was the last time it occurred.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met yesterday during which they reviewed that the equipment is presently all working. They discussed Six Mile Creek Road and whether they can get into the creek and get out rock for filling holes to save money. A permit might be needed, but there are no answers yet. The loggers have damaged the road badly. Judge Bates stated that there is about 500 feet where the logs and actual road are pushed toward the creek piling up to approximately 10 feet tall. He asked County Attorney Dees if the loggers could be held responsible for the damage. She responded that individuals have been charged with criminal mischief in the past if they can be identified. Judge Bates stated that we cannot let this continue to destroy the road. The logging operation may be finished for a while. Judge Bates said that he instructed the crew to haul rock from the quarry since there are issues with getting rock from the creek that would complicate the process even if a permit could be obtained. Supervisor Smith stated that they have already hauled 18 loads of rock at a little less than \$200 per load. Judge Bates stated that some of the holes are very deep, but the road has to be passable. Esq. Fisher asked if it would be possible to hire a full-time employee. Judge Bates stated that he would check this year's budget to see if there were adequate funds.

3. Permission to Bid for Purchase of Bushwhacker

Judge Bates stated that the County's bushwhacker is constantly causing trouble since the boom was damaged and it cannot be kept in working condition. He feels that we should get another bushwhacker and take the current tractor's boom off and use it for bushhogging which would give us two 4-wheel drive tractors. That would be safer and the best way to go. Danny Clark has one with 1,300 hours for \$79,000. Researching other options shows costs from \$149,000 to

as much as \$250,000 which are not feasible. He asked if we could bid for a bushwhacker specific to what Danny Clark has and could hopefully get other bids too. Our intentions would be to run both for a couple of months or as long as we could if possible to get more done and in the spring have equipment and be ready to run 2 bushhoggers.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve bidding for the purchase of a new bushwhacker with the specifications to match the equipment that is available locally.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates explained that the bushwhacker previously discussed that could possibly work and would be donated does not fit and would have other issues making it not a solution.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 23 electrical and 24 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2025, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on December 10, 2025, at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

2. ADU Text Amendment – 1st Reading

Administrator Stanley stated that we need to amend the language in the Planning & Zoning ordinance related to accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Attorney Dees read the amendment in its entirety which will provide for the flexible housing options while maintaining neighborhood character. The 2nd Reading will be held at the December meeting. Judge Bates stated that as our population ages this is a very important and useful change.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of the text amendment to the Planning & Zoning ordinance allowing for the addition of language for accessory dwelling units.

Motion carried unanimously

3. Arbor View Phase 2 Line of Credit Acknowledgement

Administrator Stanley presented the letter of credit for bonding for Phase 2 of the Arbor View development in Eminence which must be accepted by Fiscal Court. The bond for the work totaled \$990,365, and this letter of credit proves that there is up to \$1 million available for repair should there be a problem with the roads in this development. The document will be filed with the County Clerk's office.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to accept the \$1 million irrevocable letter of credit presented for the Phase 2 development of Arbor View.

Motion carried unanimously

4. Software Approval

Administrator Stanley presented a proposal for the iWorQ software for use in the Planning and Zoning office to help with recordkeeping. It would integrate access to building permits, violations, and inspections and manage them more efficiently and in a more organized manner. The software will store inspections and needed pictures and documents automatically to a specific case. The first year is more expensive at \$7,400, and then the price drops to \$4,500 for subsequent years. Judge Bates stated that this is similar to the FiscalSoft software on the financial side of the office. All staff can access the info regardless of who records it, and the auditors prefer this type of paper trail. Based on his research, Mr. Stanley has learned that iWorQ is the best option and the most user friendly. The company will set up all the maps specific to our County. Judge Bates stated that there is not a line item for this, but he feels that we can purchase this without a budget amendment being required.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to approve the purchase of the iWorQ software for the Planning & Zoning office.

Motion carried unanimously

Esq. Hartlage stated that at the last Planning & Zoning meeting he had asked about the Comprehensive Plan map, and it was addressed there. He wanted to clarify a matter where he understood he was advised not to speak about the zoning map and wanted clarification about how he could participate. Judge Bates explained that it was at a particular meeting, and County Attorney Dees had advised that if there was a quorum of the Fiscal Court it was not allowed. Judge Bates stated there was a misunderstanding on his part.

Esq. Hartlage stated that at the next Planning & Zoning meeting the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan would be addressed and he would appreciate the Fiscal Court members' involvement in that process. Administrator Stanley responding to the question of who had originally written the goals and objectives that it was KIPDA. Mr. Stanley was unaware of the Comprehensive Plan rewrite when he began in this position. There was a meeting when he came on board 3 years ago and he learned that a portion was completed with some minor map corrections that he made. The goals and objectives portion was actually already completed and could have been approved, but Mr. Stanley has no experience with the process and was trying to get the entire plan finished to be presented in its entirety. Judge Bates stated that

after speaking with KIPDA he has confirmed that it can be passed in sections and then get the updated maps completed for their approval. The process includes agreement by the Planning & Zoning Board and then it is brought to Fiscal Court and the cities. Judge Bates stated again that this has to be completed, and he would like for it to be voted on in January.

Mike Ray addressed the Court regarding the original work on the goals and objectives interjecting that it was before COVID when subcommittees started with the County and all the cities. There were no or very minor changes offered at that time. He recalled that the process began and KIPDA had turnover of their staff and the new staff was unaware. Mr. Stanley stated that the goals and objectives are not current and need to be redone since the individuals on the boards are all new. Esq. Hartlage stated that the goals and objectives can be brought to today's standards. Mr. Stanley will get copies to the magistrates tomorrow, and he requested that they provide input to their representatives to make any changes needed and get them ready for approval.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that the department is getting everything ready for winter. The restrooms and concession stands are shut down and lines blown out and antifreeze in place in drains and sinks. The Harry Hill Park gates are now closed. They have the railing completed for the ramp and handrails installed to the fields which they are priming and painting as weather permits. The Youth League has decided to redo dugouts on Fields B and C, and they are getting that ready. Esq. Tingle complimented the railing. Judge Bates stated that same railing will be installed at the 4-H Building and double doors installed on the small side to accommodate the commodities distribution which is held at the site.

Judge Bates reported that he had spoken with KIPDA today, and there is a matching grant that opens in March that allows for 50 percent federal funding, and Henry County would qualify for 47 percent state funding due to our income status. We could get \$250,000 for a project for only \$7,500. We will be looking at the 40-year old concession stand and restrooms at Harry Hill for replacement. We are getting cost estimates and plans, and Felicia Harper of KIPDA has committed to writing the proposal.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft provided the following report for the month of September. There were 8 adoptions totaling \$1,400 and donations of cash and food/supplies of \$1,205 resulting in \$2,605 in receipts. There are currently 23 dogs in the shelter after 44 were removed with 10 adopted, 25 rescued, 7 returned to owner, and 2 other.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

1. Monthly Report

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of October: 150 KSP dispatch calls, 105 Sheriff's office calls, 69 citations/criminal summons, 25 criminal arrests, 13 warrant arrests, 109 all court paper service, 1 MIW transport, 1 special detail/event, 81 vehicle inspections, 23 carry conceal licenses, and 8 drug charge arrests.

RE: SHERIFF'S 2026 BUDGET – 1ST READING

Motion carried unanimously

Sheriff Perry presented the proposed 2026 budget for his office for 1st Reading. The proposal estimates \$1,037,770.88 in receipts and \$1,025,173.58 disbursements with projected excess fees of \$12,596.80. Judge Bates stated that the proposed budgets are accepted as presented at the 1st Reading, and the Budget Committee will review them before the 2nd Reading to make adjustments as needed.

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of the 2026 Henry County Sheriff's Department as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Sheriff Perry shared information on the Flock Safety Camera Systems that read license plates. They do not do facial recognition. His office has been collaborating with neighboring districts and used the technology to solve crimes. This is the system that was recently installed in Eminence. He is working with the other cities to see if they can pay for them, and he can focus on coverage in the rural areas of the County. He has cited examples of crimes solved and how they can track individuals if there is a situation. He would like to have a Flock representative present at an upcoming Fiscal Court meeting and invite the mayors and city council members to learn more details and to answer questions. Law enforcement departments must have the system now to gain access to the information. The Eminence system read 18,471 vehicles in the first 3 days of use per Joe Durbin.

RE: COUNTY CLERK PRESENTATION

Henry County Clerk Shanda Archer addressed the Court regarding funds identified in their revolving tax usage accounts used when issuing refunds or transfers with dealerships. The auditors discovered that at the beginning of 2024 there were \$4,325.82 remaining in the account. Judge Bates stated that this would be excess fees, and the auditors say it must be accepted by Fiscal Court in a public meeting.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to accept the outstanding transaction funds of \$4,325.82 from the Henry County Clerk's office.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: COUNTY CLERK'S 2026 BUDGET – 1ST 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. She provided current budget status figures used in the preparation of this draft. The 1st Reading should also include the maximum order for the amount to be paid to deputies and assistants at \$265,000.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of the Henry County Clerk's Office budget for 2026.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates stated that the Budget Committee should establish a special meeting to review the proposed 2026 budgets for the Sheriff and County Clerk. After deliberating, the Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 25 at 3:30 p.m. at the Judge/Executive's office to review the County Clerk's budget and at 4 p.m. to discuss the Sheriff's.

RE: ABC QUARTERLY REPORT

ABC Administrator Ed Nelson reported that all 2025/2026 1st quarter fees have been filed. There are currently 17 active businesses. Total revenue received to date from alcohol sales is \$1,022,694.93. There is a new package liquor store approved in Pleasureville. The owners are working to restore the building which is in poor condition, but it appears they will move forward. Esq. Hartlage expounded on the success of liquor sales at the point of reaching the million-dollar mark.

RE: LIQUOR ORDINANCE UPDATE – 1ST READING

Mr. Nelson presented the updated liquor ordinance for its 1st Reading. The changes are required because during the last 5 years the state has backed down from many of their rules, and the County does not have the same enforcement power as the State. We can no longer have rules more stringent than state regulations nor enforce them. County Attorney Dees read the summary of revisions for the entire ordinance and all the insertions and deletions from the existing ordinance. Mr. Nelson stated that he has gotten repeated responses to inquiries that if businesses do not follow the rules they do not have a license. We are not fining any more, but getting tougher in many ways.

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of the amended ordinance related to the control of alcoholic beverages in Henry County as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Esq. Frederick asked about the status that we as a County can no longer make any rules that supersede the State, and Mr. Nelson affirmed that. Mr. Nelson stated that his understanding is that cities would also be required to make the same changes. He learned about the modification to the State's enforcement when he had fined a business \$250 twice for being late, and they complained to the State. He was notified that we could not do this any more and he is to refer any violations to them. The State has a team to handle these situations, and local law enforcement is not even responsible to investigate.

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

General Fund	\$245,661.19
Road & Bridge Fund	106,603.98
Jail Fund	65,365.47
LGEA	5,391.27
Solid Waste	17,030.00
ABC	14,372.86
Angel's Envy Sewer Project	26,000.00
Total	\$480,424.77

<u>From:</u> 01 General	\$66,000.00
<u>To:</u> 03 Jail	\$66,000.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

County Clerk Shanda Archer shared that the Christmas tractor parade will be held this Sunday, November 23, at 6:30 p.m. in Eminence. Individuals can sign up with Olivia Herrell.

Amy Charles announced that the Henry County Historical Society will hold a memorial dedication ceremony at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 24, at the Courthouse honoring Henry County's World War I veteran Jewell Hieatt. Refreshments will be provided and everyone is invited to attend.

Amy Charles requested that the Henry County Fiscal Court's FaceBook page be updated to include upcoming dates, agendas, and notes from all meetings and postings for any openings. This is a local government page. She stated additional that all candidates should share their visions for the County and how they plan to lead.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Esq. Tingle announced that the Parks & Fairground Committee meeting scheduled for December 11 will be cancelled.

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 7:15 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **December 16, 2025**