

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2026**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on April 21, 2026, 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 prayer for blessings 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 MARCH 17, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Road Supervisor Zach Smith reported that the crew has been busy with drainage improvements, grading and rocking gravel roads, and other maintenance work. They have installed a new cross drain and ditch on Jackson Road to improve water flow and prevent it from entering the roadway. They completed ditch work, cleaning out culverts, and installed 40 tons of channel liner on Wolfpen Branch Road to help with erosion issues. They have completed bushwhacking on Bishop, Brown, and Davidson Lanes and started on New Cut Road. The water crossing on Bullitt Hill is open with no weight restrictions.

Esq. Frederick stated that on HWY 22 there was a John Deere bushwhacker left with the blinker on; and Judge Bates stated that it was state equipment. Judge Bates thanked the crew and everyone who was responsible for getting the Bullitt Hill bridge opened. Upon inspection, there was a hollow spot in the base, but it was filled with 9 yards of concrete.

Esq. Hartlage inquired about the roads being redone in District 2 and the timeline for that work. Judge Bates replied that the funds would not be available until the new budget which begins in July.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met and discussed equipment. All of the magistrates need to pick out the worst spots on their roads. Based on the funding, there will not be any long stretches done this year. When these requests are submitted, the Road Committee will go over them. There are some areas where the patching keeps popping up, and they may need to be milled. The gravel roads are much improved.

Deputy Judge Buchanan announced that the County Road Aid numbers were released and we are down \$200,000 this year from last. The preliminary budget will have to be revised. Judge Bates added that the legislature hires a company to do the projections, and he hopes the numbers will be changed; but the County cannot budget money that it does not have. Cuts will have to be made based on the projection received at 3:30 p.m. today. Last year's projection was \$1,208,000, and this year it is \$991,000.

3. Permission to Advertise for Rock, Asphalt & Salt

Judge Bates stated that advertisements for bids for the purchase of rock, asphalt, salt, and striping must be submitted, and he needs the Court's approval.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to authorize Judge Bates to advertise for bids for the County to purchase rock, asphalt, salt, and striping.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates added that they have been warned that blacktop will be higher this year. Deputy Judge Buchanan stated that we need to identify the roads to be repaired quickly so that information can be shared with contractors for their bidding.

****This question was posed later in the meeting, but refers specifically to Roads:**

Esq. McManis inquired about the county lines on Mill Creek and who is responsible for maintaining the road where the counties join. There is a very bad spot which is dangerous. Judge Bates stated that Carroll County typically does the work there; but if they do not, let him know and he and the Trimble County judge will address it.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 39 electrical, 23 building, and 2 sign permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2026, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet on May 13, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the 4-H Building. A special meeting of the P & Z Commission for the Campbellsburg warehouse project is scheduled for May 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the 4-H Building. There will be a committee meeting held on April 29 at 2 p.m. to review future land use maps in the Pendleton area. New Castle has finished with the Goals & Objectives which are now completed and must be advertised. This committee meeting is to speed up the process so that hopefully the maps can be presented at the next P & Z meeting.

Judge Bates stated that the special meeting is due to a scheduling conflict for the applicant's attorney, and they are paying extra to hold the session. Administrator Stanley added that there were already 4 or 5 items on the agenda so separating this application will be beneficial.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that they are cutting grass, weed eating, and prepping fields for youth league baseball, softball and soccer. The Buchanan Splash Pad will open on May 25, and they will be working to get the features out, installed, and tested for the season. The car show will be held at the fairgrounds on May 16.

Judge Bates thanked the Parks Department for their work on the ballfields which look really good despite all the construction.

2. Parks & Fairgrounds Committee Report

Esq. Tingle reported that the committee met prior to tonight's meeting. Everything seems to be running smoothly. There is still the need for a truck to pull the 16-foot trailer. They discussed the dilapidated buildings and their possible removal to clean up the fairgrounds.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Deputy Judge Buchanan presented the monthly report for Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft who was unable to attend. The report shows 8 adoptions at \$1,400, donations of \$1,297, and \$335.24 in other funds received resulting in \$3,032.24 in receipts. There are currently 29 dogs in the shelter after 27 were taken in with 33 out--14 adoptions, 11 rescues, and 8 returned to owners. Upcoming events include the 2nd Annual Car Show in Eminence on May 16, Lou Adopt in Louisville on May 9, 12th annual Paws United Pet Expo in Radcliff on April 11, and an event at Tractor Supply in LaGrange on May 30.

2. Animal Services Committee Report

Esq. Hartlage stated that the Animal Services Committee did meet. The general feeling is that there is much positivity and everyone is working well together. Upcoming fundraisers include Bark & Whine on October 22 and Paws on the River on August 21. Another \$10,000 grant through Verizon is on the radar. The Crafts & Dogs group from Eminence is raising funds and have donated a dog wash. The staff wants to upgrade the administrative area and needs 2 new desks and 4 chairs. Fiscal Court needs to approve the updated Interlocal Agreement. We have been invited to Isaac Hammer's Lou Adopts event at the Expo Center in Louisville. The donated pet bathing area needs to be plumbed and installed, they would like for the 4-foot fence inside the perimeter fence to be taller, and a concrete pad to place the donated kennels is needed.

The Committee will be looking at the current trailer to determine if it remains usable. The Facebook page set up by the former director has 10K followers, but access is limited. The staff will be working to get full use instead of making a new one. The 1st and 3rd Saturday adoption hours are not being as productive as hoped so they will be looking at changes to that plan. The Carl Tingle Car Show is now May 16. The next committee meeting will be July 14 at 4 p.m.

3. Animal Control Policy Approval

Judge Bates stated that the amended Interlocal Agreement for the Henry-Trimble County Animal Control amendment approval will be addressed at the special meeting to be held next week to allow the magistrates adequate time to read over the document.

RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Esq. Hartlage reported on the Economic Development Committee's quarterly meeting held on April 14. The Comprehensive Goals and Objectives should be finalized with the maps to be completed. The business in New Castle is moving forward. The money coming from Frankfort will be a boost to our economic development. The Committee discussed the problem with Facebook and misinformation.

Judge Bates stated that there is a lack of trust among the public many of whom think that data centers are coming to the County. He has no data centers contacting him. Even though he would like to respond to all the questions, it is better left unsaid. Esq. Hartlage added that Economic Development has nothing to do with data centers.

RE: BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Esq. Shain reported that the Budget Committee met and reviewed the quarterly budget report. Everything appears to be on track. Judge Bates stated that the information has already been submitted to DLG who will not accept it if everything is not balanced.

RE: HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT FY 27 BUDGET – 1ST READING

Judge Bates stated that the 1st Reading of the FY 27 budget will be held at a special meeting where it will be reviewed line-by-line and questions answered. It was agreed by consensus to hold the special meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Judge/Executive's office. The Animal Shelter Interlocal Agreement will be on the agenda also.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of March: 213 KSP dispatch calls, 147 Sheriff's office calls, 69 citations/criminal summons, 45 criminal arrests, 23 warrant arrests, 107 all court paper service, 1 fugitive transport, 2 special details/events, 81 vehicle inspections, 22 carry conceal licenses, 1 DUI arrest, and 8 drug charge arrests.

Sheriff Perry thanked Toby Berry and the Parks Department crew for their work on the landscaping at his office. He complimented the hiring of Zain Bettis who is a hard worker. He announced that the Sheriff's Department has purchased a new speed radar trailer which will help collect data and has a message board which can be used for special messaging.

RE: HENRY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER REAPPOINTMENT

Judge Bates stated that Wendell Hawkins is recommended for reappointment by COO Keith Morris as a commissioner on the Henry County Water District No. 2 Board.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to reappoint Wendell Hawkins to the position of commissioner on the Henry County Water Board No. 2.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PERMISSION SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR 250TH CELEBRATION

Judge Bates stated that he needs permission from the Court to sign agreements with entertainers and vendors for the 250th Celebration. The auditors want to have approved motions authorizing him to do so.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to authorize Judge Bates to sign agreements for Henry County's celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: DISCUSSION OF POLLING LOCATION CHANGE FOR GENERAL ELECTION

County Clerk Shanda Archer addressed the Court regarding possible changes in polling locations for the general election in November. Voting locations have changed in the past from 16 to 9 including the 4-H Building. There are concerns about a fire in the Port Royal Baptist Church although it appears it will be available for the primary. The only suitable ADA compliant alternative location would be moving to the Campbellsburg Community Center. She has heard that the KY River Fire Department would prefer not to host future elections. She has spoken with representatives from the Lockport Baptist Church as a possible option. Clerk Archer offered this information for awareness since the decisions rest with the Election Board.

There are 3 methods to vote in the primary election: May 6 - 13 voting for those who will not be in the County on Election Day; early voting at the 4-H Center on May 14-16; and election day voting. Jennifer Shannon from the Clerk's Office conducted a voter registration drive at Henry County High School in conjunction with FBLA and registered 19 voters who will be 18 before the General Election. Eminence Independent was also distributing information to students.

RE: MAY FISCAL COURT MEETING DATE CHANGE

Judge Bates reminded everyone that the date for the May meeting has been changed to Monday, May 18, to avoid conflicting with the primary election day. It will be held in the small side of the building since the larger area is used as a polling location.

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$249,744.79 |
| Road & Bridge Fund | 73,060.71 |
| Jail Fund | 47,947.19 |
| LGEA | 1,340.32 |
| Solid Waste | 70.27 |
| ABC | <u>1,532.00</u> |
| Total | \$373,695.28 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>From:</u> 01 (General) | \$50,000.00 |
| <u>To:</u> 03 (Jail) | \$50,000.00 |

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Olivia Herrell announced that the Daughters of the American Revolution is working with the Kentucky Historical Society and the Conservation District to plant liberty trees in all counties in recognition of America's 250th anniversary. Judge Bates and Deputy Buchanan have gotten and potted 2 trees for us which will be planted somewhere around the courthouse and dedicated. The Henry County Historical Society has secured donations for the Revolutionary War memorial from United Citizens Bank & Trust Co. and Ballard's Hardware and would appreciate others.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Esq. Frederick reminded everyone and encouraged them to attend the Candidate Showcase on Thursday, April 23, in Eminence at the Community Center from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. for all candidates who have opposition.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, 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 6:38 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **May 18, 2026**