

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
August 18, 2026

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on August 18, 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 a prayer for the evening's meeting.

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 JULY 21, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026, meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Judge Bates announced that Road Supervisor Zach Smith is with his father who has undergone a double transplant surgery and is recovering.

Judge Bates stated that the weekly rains have washed out every gravel road. At 4:45 a.m. Monday Judge Bates was called and he responded to get a tree out of one road; and the crew has been cutting many others. The bushwhacker has had a hydraulic motor issue and the part which costs \$6,400 should be in tomorrow. The hydraulic pump on one of the bush hogging tractors has been replaced, and they were able to use it today. Needed repairs are constant and the costs are very expensive. The crew is doing the best they can to stay ahead of the mowing.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee did not meet. Zach Smith will be taking the CDL Class A permit test while he is in Cincinnati with his father. He will be completing the training through JCTC in September to move from Class B which he currently has to Class A which will be a great help for the Department. Esq. Fisher continues to do research on the possibility of spraying to help maintain roadways.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 22 electrical and 43 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, at the Henry County Fairgrounds located at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 6 p.m.; however, no applications have been submitted and they will not meet.

Administrator Stanley announced that the State tire amnesty program will be on September 17, 18, and 19 at the County Road Barn. This is the opportunity for residents to get rid of unwanted extra tires. The county-wide trash pick up will be September 12 and information will be shared to warn motorists as the date nears.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that the crew has been very busy with weed eating, cutting grass, and prepping for events including the coed church league which ended with a tournament this past Saturday. They also had a 5K fundraiser on Saturday at the J. L. Brent Park on Saturday and the Harvest Showcase here at the Fairgrounds on July 25 which was well attended. The Buchanan Splash Pad is back up and running. He thanked Judge Bates and Deputy Judge Buchanan for their work in getting parts, obtaining professional help, and all the physical work they did to get all the repairs made and operational.

Director Berry also noted that the Washington Lodge 1513 held their 154th parade and picnic on Saturday. On behalf of the organization, he thanked Judge Bates for all he has done in the community and for serving as the grand marshal. He acknowledged Joe Durbin, Keith Perry, and the deputies for their help. Judge Bates said he was honored to have been invited to participate in the heritage and history and had a great experience.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft reported 8 adoptions at \$1,500, donations of \$811.40 and \$10 in other funds for a total of \$2,321.40 in receipts. There are currently 34 dogs in the shelter after 15 were taken in with 11 out--8 adoptions, 2 reclaimed by owners, and 1 other. Upcoming events include the Care-A-Van for dogs on August 20, Paws on the River on August 22, the Car Show at Harry Hill Park on September 7, the Apple Festival in Bedford on September 12-13, the Celtic Festival at the Renaissance Faire on September 19-20, the LaGrange Fall Festival on September 26, and at Cedar Lake on October 10.

2. Animal Services Board

Judge Bates announced that the Animal Services Board membership is mandated by the newly adopted Interlocal Agreement. It is to be composed of the judges from Henry and Trimble Counties and a magistrate from each. He recommended that Esq. Hartlage serve on this Board due to his involvement in the past.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered by the Court to appoint Esq. Hartlage to serve on the Animal Services Board.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: ABC QUARTERLY REPORT

ABC Director Ed Nelson reported 4th quarter fees and reports have all been filed. Fiscal year 2025/2026 is closed out with a total revenue of \$116,134.18 which is the second highest year we have had. We currently have 16 active businesses selling alcohol having lost several. Total revenue received from alcohol sales to date is \$1,102,854.55. Of the 6 package licenses issued in Henry County, we still only have 1 that is in full business operating outside of Eminence and one additional opening in Pleasureville soon.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of July: 158 KSP dispatch calls, 98 Sheriff's office calls, 64 citations/criminal summons, 26 criminal arrests, 11 warrant arrests, 99 all court paper service, 140 vehicle inspections, 4 carry conceal licenses, and 10 drug charge arrests.

RE: SHERIFF'S 2025 PROPERTY TAX SETTLEMENT

Sheriff Perry presented the Property Tax Settlement for FY 2025 showing \$13,280,182.61 due and \$13,280,175.15 with the difference of \$7.46 due to rounding. The franchise taxes due were \$2,212,500.90 due and \$2,212,500.90 paid.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered by the Court to accept the Henry County Sheriff's Department Property Tax Settlement for FY 2025 pending audit.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT 2026-2027 TAX RATE – 1ST READING

Judge Bates stated that the 1st Reading for Henry County Fiscal Court 2026-2027 tax rate would be held. Deputy Judge Buchanan stated that the rates had been received from the Department for Local Government which are as follows: current rate – 10.1 cents; compensating rate - 10.0 cents; and the allowable 4% increase – 10.4 cents. The Court must decide between taking the compensating rate or the 4% increase which would require a 2nd Reading.

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. Hartlage, it is ordered by the Court to lower the 2026-2027 tax rate to 10.0 cents which is the compensating rate.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

General Fund	\$222,728.78
Road & Bridge Fund	45,456.42
Jail Fund	43,095.38
LGEA	25,625.69
Solid Waste	56.45
ABC	12,645.77
Transient Tax	500.00
Total	\$350,108.49

<u>From:</u> 01 (General)	\$43,095.00
<u>To:</u> 03 (Jail)	\$43,095.00

<u>From:</u> 02 (Road)	\$222,000.00
<u>To:</u> 01 (General)	\$222,000.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments, and there were none.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Esq. Frederick shared the news that the Kentucky Renaissance Fair has been named as the best festival in the state for 2026. He displayed the Best of Kentucky magazine that highlights the recognitions for all types of businesses, venues, services, and products voted best in Kentucky.

Judge Bates stated that the public auction for excess property will be held August 29 at 10 a.m. at the County Road Barn. There is various miscellaneous property included, and it is open to the public for anyone interested. Timberlake Auction Service will be conducting the auction. The old EMS Building in Campbellsburg will be sold at 1 p.m. on August 29 also. The open house for potential buyers of the property is scheduled for Saturday, August 22.

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 6:20 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **September 15, 2026**