

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 17, 2026**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on February 17, 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 introduced Bro. Coleman Colston who said a prayer of blessing for 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 JANUARY 20, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: NEW BUSINESS**

## **RE: ROADS**

### **1. Director's Monthly Report**

Road Supervisor Zach Smith reported that the crew was busy and spent several long days plowing and salting the roads trying to keep them cleared and safe. With 2 trucks going down, they had to adjust the snow routes. They used several tons of salt and cinders and have ordered another 200 tons of cinders and 100 tons of salt to stock up for next year hopefully. They are starting to work on pothole repairs and bushwhacking. As soon as the gravel roads settle, they will start hauling gravel and grading to get them in better shape.

Judge Bates stated that we are getting some complaints on the gravel roads, but they are not thawed all the way through. They are frozen underneath and need to settle before we can grade and place more gravel. He is hopeful this will happen within a couple of days.

Esq. Hartlage inquired about the inventory of gravel roads in the County and if there is a plan to asphalt them. Esq. Fisher replied that there is not enough money to blacktop them since we cannot even keep the existing ones repaired. Judge Bates added that road funding is going down every year and costs are going up. Our second check just received is significantly lower than we were projected to receive. Rock prices went from \$14 per ton in 2017 to over \$20 a ton now, and blacktop prices have gone through the roof. Salt prices went up from \$98 a ton last year to \$121 this year. Everything has gone up except the road fund. We have to keep up with the paved roads that we already have. He advised that we have 3 roads on the list for work from discretionary funds, but we can only do blacktopping on roads that are already surfaced. He stated he would like to see them all blacktopped since they are so costly, but he is unaware of a way to do it in the near future.

### **2. Road Committee Report**

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met. He explained that a mile of blacktopping costs \$51,000, and this year we received \$250,000 which would cover about 5 miles. We have 280 miles of County roads. The committee discussed equipment with all the trucks now running. The bushwhacker is ready to go. He hopes that the roads dry quickly so they can get gravel down. He reported that Little Dixie is a disaster, and they will get on it as soon as they can. He thanked the road crew, Judge Bates, and Deputy Judge Buchanan for all their work in getting through the last snow removal.

Judge Bates thanked the road crew for their long hours, and he appreciates how difficult it is to do the work and how taxing it is.

## **RE: PLANNING & ZONING**

### **1. Administrator's Monthly Report**

Deputy Judge Travis Buchanan reported for Administrator Jason Stanley that during the previous month 16 electrical and 11 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on March 11, 2026, also at the 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds.

### **2. Approval to Apply for Rubber Tire Grant**

Deputy Judge Buchanan stated that Amy Mahoney has worked on the application for funds to apply poured-in-place rubber surfacing through the Crumb Rubber/Tire-Derived Product grant. The material would be used on the playground by the splash pad where the current wood chips get tracked. The grant requires a 25 percent match which can be monetary or in-kind. The match on the quote we received would be \$30,052. We must have County approval to submit the application. He explained that the surface is ground tires that are poured in place like a mat and not rubber chips.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the submission of an application through the Crumb Rubber/Tire-Derived Product grant to install a poured-in-place surface for the playground adjacent to the Buchanan Splash Pad.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS**

### **1. Director's Monthly Report**

Deputy Judge Buchanan reported Parks Director Toby Berry is out using comp time accrued during the busy season and will return the first of March when the parks reopen for Little League. He has been directing Daniel Brown and keeping him busy with tasks that need to be completed. The dugout block buildings on Fields B and C have been built and the concrete for the floors has been poured. Work has begun on the roofs and the fencing will then be done along with cleanup. Judge Bates added that Mr. Buchanan has been working on the scoreboards with one completed and the other ready to be tested.

## **RE: ANIMAL SERVICES**

### **1. Director's Monthly Report**

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft presented her monthly update showing 4 adoptions at \$800, donations of \$2,250, and \$120 in other funds received resulting in \$3,170 in collections. The Animal Welfare Summit will be held in Frankfort on Friday with full-time staff

attending. There are currently 19 dogs in the shelter after 31 were taken in with 37 out--6 were adopted, 26 rescued, and 5 returned to owner. They are also invited to the Louisville Adopt program on May 9 which is an honor. She stated that the Shelter is needs another vehicle since the second one is not in commission. She hopes to be able to buy a truck from the Sheriff's Department.

Esq. Hartlage stated that Esq. Tingle will be hosting the annual car show for the benefit of the Animal Shelter. It will be held on May 16 at the Fairgrounds since Harry Hill Park will be crowded with baseball games already planned. Esq. Tingle added that they are looking for sponsors if anyone would like to support it.

Judge Bates stated that in regards to the second vehicle there must be funds in the budget to cover it and discussions are on-going.

## **RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT**

### **1. Monthly Report**

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of January: 190 KSP dispatch calls, 139 Sheriff's office calls, 38 citations/criminal summons, 19 criminal arrests, 17 warrant arrests, 139 all court paper service, 2 special details/events, 52 vehicle inspections, 20 carry conceal licenses, and 2 drug charge arrests.

The Drug Task Force is operational now with approval from the Attorney General. The Board has been formed and the next meeting will be held on March 13. They are currently taking applications for the director's position. This individual will be in charge of the Task Force officers and report to the board. He has desired to do this for years and feels that it will pay off with officers from other counties working here upping our manpower and keeping our officers on the roads. Drug calls will be referred to the Task Force.

## **RE: SHERIFF'S EXCESS FEES**

Sheriff Perry informed the Court that his budget projected receipts of \$1,008,335.58 and disbursements of \$1,003,316.66 with anticipated excess fees of \$5,018.92. His reconciliation shows actual receipts of \$1,125,762.22, disbursements of \$998,573.82 with \$127,188.40 in excess fees.

Judge Bates thanked the Sheriff's Department for their frugal operation, and stated that he appreciates their work. He added that Fiscal Court does spend over \$300,000 for the benefits for the Sheriff's office so these fees do help with that cost.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to accept the 2025 Sheriff's Department excess fees in the amount of \$127,188.40

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: COUNTY CLERK EXCESS FEES**

County Clerk Shanda Archer addressed the Court to present the excess fees from her office. The reconciliation shows \$6,482,367.56 in receipts and beginning balance, \$6,252,438.47 in disbursements, leaving an excess fees amount of \$230,437.22. Fiscal Court pays \$150,000 to \$160,000 for expenses for her employees so the net benefit to the County is approximately \$70,000.

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to accept \$230,437.22 in 2025 excess fees from the County Clerk's Office.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates stated that it helps the County budget when the Clerk's Office turns over this much in excess fees. He thanked her and Sheriff Perry on behalf of the County.

## **RE: 250<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION OF AMERICA DISCUSSION**

Judge Bates announced that this year will be the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States, and he suggested that the County put together a big celebration at the new park. Ideas include fireworks, musicians, food trucks, sponsors, and other possibilities. He recommended forming a committee to plan the event and obtaining sponsors to help with the costs. He would like to include the cities, organizations, and community volunteers to make it a large county-wide celebration. After discussion among the Court members, a committee composed of Esq. Frederick, Chair; Esq. Fisher; and Esq. Tingle was selected, and they will report at the March meeting regarding the planning for the celebration.

## **RE: JUDGE/EXECUTIVE'S ASSOCIATION DONATION PRESENTATION**

Judge Bates stated that the Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association this year initiated a program to give \$1,000 to each county over the next few years. The funds will benefit a charitable 501C3 organization of the Judge's choosing. Judge Bates and Henry County were chosen to receive the first check. He announced that he has selected the Henry County Help Center who does great work within the County. Judge Bates presented the check to Joe Durbin on behalf of the Henry County Help Center.

## **RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS**

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

General Fund	\$269,731.99
Road & Bridge Fund	69,307.12
Jail Fund	42,891.06
LGEA	4,272.16
Solid Waste	35.00
ABC	1,817.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$571,044.17</b>

<b>From:</b> 01 (General)	\$43,000.00
<b>To:</b> 03 (Jail)	\$43,000.00

Motion carried unanimously

## RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Jim Marcum addressed the Court and stated that he was surprised at the previous discussion regarding funding for roads. He read a letter on behalf of residents of the Deerfield Farms subdivision citing their grievances with roads including surface degradation, hydraulic failure, public safety risks, and environmental impacts and requesting the County's attention and response regarding the condition of their gravel roads.

Judge Bates stated that he is well aware of the conditions he described. The rules for County roads are different than when their subdivision was accepted into the system. It was not built to good specs, and the County took the roads over in sub-par condition with much lower standards. Now roads must already be blacktopped. We have close to 300 miles including gravel roads, and the total road aid is approximately \$1 million. We cap about 5 miles of blacktopped roads per year with the funds received, but gravel roads to paved are about \$75,000 per mile. Our new dump truck on order is costing \$173,000 in addition to all the other equipment repair costs incurred. Judge Bates stated that we do hear the concerns and are trying. He will continue to fight for money to continue the battle to maintain the roads. There is pending legislation to set a gas tax floor at 29 cents that will probably not get traction during this election year. We did previously receive 32 cents per gallon, and we now get only 24 cents.

Olivia Herrell informed the Court that the war memorial for veterans killed in action from World War I to Desert Shield is on display by the courthouse. She requested that we consider a memorial for Revolutionary War veterans who settled in Henry County. She has a quote from Lucas Monument for a 30x36x6 inch memorial for \$2,850. It would include 3 columns for around 100 names, and a 4<sup>th</sup> column would be left blank for additional names as they are discovered. Delivery, setting, and dedication information would probably increase the cost to \$3,000 to \$3,500. The Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Sons of the American Revolution would be willing to contribute. Judge Bates stated that the Court would discuss the request to see how it could be accomplished.

Loren Powell asked if there are lessons learned assessments conducted by the County-- particularly the Road Department following the recent winter storms. Road Committee Chair Fisher responded that they meet every month and address improvements to be made. He cited the efforts in the last 3 years including 5 full-time and 1 part-time employee, maintained and operational equipment, an additional dump truck ordered, a new supervisor completing his first year, and community folks who are engaged to assist either hired or volunteering. Judge Bates added that there is continual work to determine which equipment works best in various situations and areas. Equipment included 8 trucks previously with only 2 single-axle trucks when he came into office. Funding is not available for huge improvements, but we are doing the best we can and trying to make improvements.

**RE: COURT COMMENTS**

Esq. Frederick stated that he was in Lexington on the Monday night of the last snow storm. The city has a huge fleet of trucks and manpower; however, Henry County's roads were in much better condition. Considering the budget, staff, and equipment, he feels that we did a good job. Judge Bates stated we try to do better with each storm.

**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 6:48 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry  
**DENISE PERRY**  
**FISCAL COURT CLERK**

S/ Scott Bates  
**SCOTT BATES**  
**JUDGE/EXECUTIVE**

Date Approved: **March 17, 2026**