

**HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 20, 2026**

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on January 20, 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 evening's blessing on the 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 DECEMBER 16, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: NEW BUSINESS**

### **RE: ROADS**

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

Road Supervisor Zach Smith reported that when the crew has not been addressing snow issues, they have been busy installing culverts, doing shoulder work, and pot hole repairs. Culverts have been installed on Marshalls Bottom Road and Sweeney and Hieatt Lanes. On Ditto Lane, a culvert was extended 5 feet to help with washouts, and on Wolfpen the crew has laid dense grade to protect the edges of the blacktop and give drivers more room to safely pass. Base failures on Erwin Lane have been repaired so they can settle and be blacktopped in the spring.

Judge Bates stated that cinders were delivered today. It has taken 2 months, but they began delivery with 100 tons and we could get 400-500 more tons. The County has plenty of salt.

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

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met this afternoon and discussed equipment and getting ready for snow. They addressed the topic of trying to get a contract to do the first round of bushhogging so that the crew could continue to work on base failures for fall pavement. Esq. Fisher has talked to Dustin Smith and the price would be the same. Judge Bates interjected that there is money to do some of the mowing; but the new tractor purchase was not in the budget, and we would have to adjust line items. If we use all the money on mowing, a budget amendment would be necessary but remains a possibility. The newly purchased bushwhacker had some needed maintenance work, and Danny Clark is having Aaron Bruce take care of that which should be about 2 more weeks.

#### **3. Rose Hill Turnaround Approval**

Judge Bates informed the Court that at the end of Rosehill Subdivision there is no place to turn around. The landowner at the end said he would be willing to donate land as needed and a survey if necessary so that trucks do not have to back out of the road. Judge Bates requested the Court's approval to spend money for the rock for the turnaround.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the project to lay rock to create a turnaround at the end of Rosehill Lane.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: PLANNING & ZONING**

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

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month permits were issued for 24 electrical, 19 building, and 1 sign project. 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 not scheduled to meet since no applications have been received to date.

## **2. Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

P&Z Administrator Stanley stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission met and reviewed the suggested changes to the Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives. Esq. Shain reported that the P&Z Committee met on December 30 and reviewed the entire Goals & Objectives document. They agreed to changes in wording and removed some sentences, and the document is ready for approval from the Court.

County Attorney Dees read aloud all changes in the Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives since the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading which was held in December. There were no questions or comment.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the updated Goals & Objectives of the Comprehensive Plan as amended.

Motion carried unanimously

## **3. Bond Reduction for Smithfield Estates**

Administrator Stanley announced that he was contacted by Palmer Engineering with the request to reduce the bond on the Smithfield Estates project. This is typically done to allow the owners to reduce their expenses when substantial work is completed and it is only necessary to cover what remains to be completed. He visited the project manager to check to see that the percentage of work completed was as stated. The original bond was written for \$504,352, and the total remaining work for the project would require a bond of \$398,299.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the reduction in the bond for Smithfield Estates to \$398,299.

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Stanley stated that he received a call today from Smithfield Estates and the owners will be coming to Planning & Zoning in March to get final plat approval on Phases 2 and 3 of the project.

## **RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS**

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

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that they used much of their accumulated comp time during the month, but did get the sidewalk at the County Clerk's office completed and the ground filled, strawed, and seeded. At Harry Hill Park, 2 of the 4 dugouts have been blocked. Judge Bates thanked Mr. Berry, Daniel Brown, and Deputy Judge Buchanan for their work on getting this sidewalk poured and the area around it repaired where the sewer line was replaced.

## **RE: ANIMAL SERVICES**

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

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft was unable to attend due to illness, and the report was included in the meeting packet.

### **2. Animal Services Committee Report**

Esq. Hartlage reported that the committee met and the staff are requesting a 2<sup>nd</sup> vehicle and a salary increase for the part-time employee. The Humane Society is doing the vet work now. There are currently 22 dogs in the Shelter. They are requesting that the interior fence be 6 feet instead of 4 and that an additional \$1,000 be budgeted for training. The Shamrock Foundation is still considering the donation of 2 buildings. The next meeting is May 12 at 4 p.m. at the 4-H Building.

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

### **1. Monthly Report**

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of December: 140 KSP dispatch calls, 135 Sheriff's office calls, 45 citations/criminal summons, 26 criminal arrests, 14 warrant arrests, 75 all court paper service, 1 fugitive transport, 1 MIW transport, 51 vehicle inspections, 6 carry conceal licenses, and 2 drug charge arrests.

## **RE: SOIL CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT**

Allen Bryant presented his annual report including the annual distribution of tree seedlings in the spring to the public, all 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and students at the Early Childhood Center. The date when they will be available will be posted on Facebook. Over 500 students from Henry County and Eminence entered the annual poster and essay contests with Kylie Calhoun from Campbellsburg winning in art and Maximus Twilling from Henry County Middle won the writing. They hope to have a mobile science center activity coming here in the spring. This is a joint venture with the KY Department of Agriculture and KY Ag Environment in the Classroom to teach elementary children about the environment and natural resources and the conservation of them. The Conservation District has a 7-foot no-till drill and a safe hydraulic post hole driver that citizens can rent. Anyone who has interest can apply for federal, state, and local cost-share programs to improve their land at the conservation office. Local landowners can get assistance with exclusion fencing, cover crops, and a variety of other cost-share projects.

## **RE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR DISCUSSION**

Judge Bates reported that he has spoken with Trimble County about sharing the costs for the emergency management director position with them. Their Fiscal Court has an agreement for us that seems unaffordable at \$26,000. Deputy Judge Buchanan stated that \$26,000 is labor only (\$30,000 for salary, benefits, and office expenses—added for clarification) in addition to the \$13,000 in current grant funds making the actual cost \$43,000 plus mileage. The position would be based in Trimble County, and we would have to pay mileage for trips to Henry County making the total in the upper \$40,000s. Judge Bates stated that we have not explored other options since we were waiting for Trimble County to provide an offer. He stated that we do not have the budget for this. Esq. Hartlage added that a better representation from the County could be found. Judge Bates will proceed to investigate and determine how we can get the most for our money. He may have the Budget and Personnel Committee work on this since we need someone who knows the emergency management side and also knows our County. Esq. Fisher stated that we need to spend money carefully, but need to be prepared. Judge Bates stated that there is a great deal to emergency management and handling the potential situations which spread our people very thin. By general consent agreement of the Court members, Judge Bates will continue to look for the best resolution to fill this important need for the County.

## **RE: ANGEL'S ENVY ASSIGNMENT OF INTEREST**

Judge Bates stated that federal grants obtained for the Angel's Envy sewer project required pipeline ownership for the sanitary sewer extension by Henry County; and now that it is completed it needs to be turned over to Carrollton Utilities. Deputy Judge Buchanan read aloud the Assignment of Interest document between Henry County and Carrollton Utilities to the Fiscal Court. The County has expended all funds, the project is completed, and we can assign ownership to Carrollton Utilities.

Terry Roach representing Carrollton Utilities stated that they look forward to operating the system which is running great right now. Judge Bates stated that Carrollton Utilities decided to run an 8-inch pipe and paid for the difference instead of the 6-inch line required for the project showing their commitment to future use for Henry County.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the Assignment of Interest for the Angel's Envy Sanitary Sewer to Carrollton Utilities.

Motion carried unanimously

## **RE: SALARY SCHEDULE APPROVAL**

Judge Bates stated that the annual salary schedule must be approved separately from the budget in which it is included. This increase was previously adopted when the budget was approved for the year with the increase taking place at the beginning of the calendar year. The auditors specifically request this approval.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to approve the salary schedule for 2026.

Motion carried unanimously

## 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	\$332,509.92
Road & Bridge Fund	143,381.68
Jail Fund	61,976.16
LGEA	2,595.72
ABC	3,552.69
County Clerk Document Fund	12,028.00
AE Sewer Fund	<u>15,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$571,044.17</b>

<b>From:</b> 011000 (General)	\$62,000.00
<b>To:</b> 031000 (Jail)	\$62,000.00

Motion carried unanimously

## RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Amy Charles addressed the Court requesting that the Fiscal Court and its committees and commissions post all their meeting notices, agendas, and meeting notes on Facebook, video recordings to YouTube, and openings for appointed positions be advertised along with requirements. She requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Judge Bates replied that we are doing more now than has ever been done. He added that some of the things requested would be difficult to record and would be subject to controversy and accusations if something failed to record. He feels we are going above and beyond already.

Esq. Tingle stated that Facebook just twists things around anyway.

Esq. Shain stated that we are posting meetings now and what we are doing currently should be sufficient.

## RE: COURT COMMENTS

There were no additional comments.

**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 6:37 p.m.

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

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

Date Approved: **February 17, 2026**