

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
July 21, 2026

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on July 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 introduced Jakob Beckley who said a blessing over the evening's 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 JUNE 16, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2026, 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 bush hogging, bushwhacking, installing culverts, and fixing potholes and base failures around the County. They have completed bushwhacking on Yates Lane, Callis Grove Road, Elm and Walnut Drives, and Cedar Run and the front half of Flat Rock. The bushwhacker did go down with hydraulic issues that are now repaired. They are currently repairing base failures on Tatum Lane. The first round of bush hogging is completed; and they have hired contractor Dustin Smith to help with continued work on that task. They have installed 2 driveway culverts on Manor Drive to help with drainage issues. Three base failures on Bart Smith Road have been repaired, and they are moving to Stuckers Lane to prepare for blacktopping.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met and everything is going well. Work is behind and they would like to get a truck to spray roadsides. Judge Bates interjected that we would have to obtain a license to do that, and the problem is still having enough people to complete all the work. The budget does not allow us to hire more people. In the past, there was more County Road Aid money and the wages were much less. The storms in Owen County were mentioned and Judge Bates asked everyone to remember those affected.

3. LARP Resolution Approval

Judge Bates presented the resolution to join with the State to obtain funds for the pavement of roads which were already approved through the program. He read the resolution that adopts the agreement between Henry County and the Transportation Cabinet for \$167,100 for the County Priority Projects Program.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to adopt and approve the resolution and authorize Judge Bates to sign the memorandum of agreement between the Department of Highways and the County for \$167,100 for the County Priority Projects Program.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 28 electrical, 29 building, and 1 sign permit were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday,

July 27, 2026, at the Henry County Fairgrounds located at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 6 p.m., however, no applications have been submitted.

2. Update on Tire Amnesty

Administrator Stanley announced that the State tire amnesty program which is held every 3 years will be on September 17 – 19 at the County Road Barn. This is the opportunity for residents to get rid of unwanted extra tires. Businesses that charge tire disposal fees are not permitted to use the program, and there will be on site State staff to enforce that restriction.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported they have been very busy with weed eating, grass cutting, and shelter rentals. There have been 3 big events to prepare for including the Henry County Fair, the America 250 celebration, and the benefit for Parker Farm Supply. The Buchanan Splash Pad has been down due to a seized pump, but Judge Bates was able to get that replacement in only to find that there is also an electrical issue. An electrician was called and additional parts are needed. The Harvest Showcase is this Saturday, and they will be preparing for it.

Judge Bates thanked the Parks crew for all their work to make everything look great for all the events. He explained that the only splash pad companies are located in Canada requiring that all the parts have to pass customs and with shipping time requirements it takes at least 3 weeks. He was able to obtain a different pump which was installed on Saturday. Now the features are not working, and there is a transformer issue that he is hopeful can be sourced from within the U.S.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft reported 6 adoptions at \$1,029.56, donations of \$1,462 and \$21.03 in other funds. There are currently 26 dogs in the shelter after 30 intakes with 21 out--6 adoptions, 7 rescues, 7 returned to owners, and 1 other. Upcoming events include the Harvest Showcase where they will have adoptable dogs, the Care-A-Van on July 28 for a free cat clinic, Paws on the River on August 22, the Renaissance Faire in September and at Cedar Lake on October 10. There is another Care-a-Van for dogs on August 20. They are working to get outdoor kennels built and concrete pads for the runs donated by Shamrock Pet Foundation. Toby Berry is installing new water connections for grooming needs. Trimble County has hired a full-time staff member.

Esq. Hartlage inquired about the post he had seen about the Shelter being ranked 9th in Kentucky. Ms. Ashcraft responded that they received a letter stating that it was based on their Google reviews and uses a data system which recognized them as 9th out of 143 shelters in the state.

2. Animal Services Committee Report

Esq. Hartlage reported that they had their scheduled meeting on July 14 at 4 p.m. They discussed that Henry County would still like a second vehicle and a divider for the SUV so that animals are separated from the driver's area. The upcoming Paws on the River event is to be a benefit to purchase a transport van for the Shelter and that shared vehicle will be addressed with the Interlocal Agreement. Judge Bates stated that he and Trimble County Judge Ogburn will look at getting the current sign replaced.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of June: 178 KSP dispatch calls, 138 Sheriff's office calls, 39 citations/criminal summons, 31 criminal arrests, 22 warrant arrests, 76 all court paper service, 1 juvenile transport, 2 MIW transports, 89 vehicle inspections, and 14 carry conceal licenses. Judge Bates thanked Sheriff Perry and his staff for all their assistance at the July 3 event. Sheriff Perry reported that he has a new cadet who is in week 7 of the academy and will graduate on November 5. Brian Mendez will be going on night shift at that time and will be especially helpful since he is fluent in Spanish.

RE: OC JAIL RECOVERY PROGRAM/OPIOID EXPENDITURE—JEFF TINDALL

Judge Bates introduced Jeff Tindall, Oldham County Jailer, who is a Henry County native. He has had conversations with him about the issues with addicted inmates and wanted the magistrates to hear directly from him. Jailer Tindall shared information about his professional experiences, the culture change he has witnessed, and the opioid abatement funds now available. He described a program called Net Recovery that has helped 6 inmates from Oldham County. It is a non-invasive device that resets the abuser's brain in 1-10 days making their recovery possible. The cost for each person is \$5,500. Family members of Henry County inmates attended to support Jailer Tindall, and the sister of one Henry County native who lived in Oldham County spoke about the positive results their family has experienced. Jailer Tindall requested that the Fiscal Court allocate funds for Henry County residents to get the opportunity to benefit from the program.

Judge Bates stated that he was initially skeptical and waited for evidence of results from the Oldham County Jail. Even though it seems expensive, making productive citizens, reducing the costs associated with inmates, and saving lives make it worth the price. Mr. Tindall chooses those individuals who appear ready to try beating their addictions. Judge Bates recommended that Henry County allocate funding for up to 10 persons from the Opioid Abatement funds at this time. Members of the Fiscal Court expressed their support of funding this effort to help our citizens. Mr. Tindall stated that the program could be available to any residents. He recommended folks could watch a trailer entitled The Final Fix.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered by the Court to allocate up to \$55,000 from the Opioid Recovery funds for treatments for 10 residents through the Net Recovery program administered through the Oldham County Jail.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 950-09-2025-20 STRP—2ND READING

Judge Bates stated that the 1st Reading of the amendment to the STRP ordinance was held at the June meeting. There have been no changes from the 1st Reading.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered by the Court to amend Ordinance 950-09-2025-20 related to short-term rental properties and clarifying the definition.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY BOARD VACANCIES

Judge Bates announced that he received correspondence from the Department for Libraries and Archives that the terms of 2 members of the Henry County Public Library Board of Trustees will expire. He has spoken with Tony Jones, Library Director, who recommends the re-appointment of Ellen Suetholz and the appointment of Jennifer Montgomery to 4-year terms.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Frederick, it is ordered by the Court to appoint Ellen Suetholz and Jennifer Montgomery to 4-year terms on the Henry County Public Library Board of Trustees.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION UPDATE

Judge Bates thanked the magistrates for their trust in allowing the County to hold the America 250 celebration. The final numbers are not available since there are several invoices outstanding, but \$54,700 was raised from donations. The only expense to the County was the staff time expended in getting ready for the event. He thanked the community for their support and for making it such a great event. Everything went well on the evening despite the heat, and he greatly appreciates everyone involved.

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

General Fund	\$748,221.31
Road & Bridge Fund	55,595.23
Jail Fund	46,713.43
LGEA	6,626.68
E-911	9,802.53
ABC	<u>3,623.94</u>
Total	\$870,583.12

<u>From:</u> 01 (General)	\$46,713.00
<u>To:</u> 03 (Jail)	\$46,713.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Laymon Durbin addressed the Court about the growing concerns of homeless individuals living within the community. He shared scripture and his beliefs and worries based on his experiences from previous and current positions.

Olivia Herrell distributed flyers promoting the Time Capsule 250 sponsored by the Henry County Historical Society. Items as described on the flyer should be turned in by October 2.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Esq. Hartlage reported that the Economic Development Committee met at 5 p.m. on July 14 at the 4-H Building. They discussed the move to remodel starter homes which are needed. Developers are looking for large tracts of land for more subdivisions in Henry County.

Judge Bates stated that there are positive things happening and there is economic development movement in the County. He added that Henry County will have its first audit with zero findings for 2025. In 2024 we had only 1 finding and the previous we had 15. Amanda Ricketts is doing a great job working with the auditors. Small counties usually cannot get this result from their audits due to segregation of duties, but Henry County has solved that issue.

Esq. Frederick announced that the Kentucky State Fair is coming up next month. Holly Wilson of the Chamber of Commerce organizes the county's involvement. The cost to do the Pride of the Counties booth has gone up, but it seems that this promotion helps to bring folks to Henry County. He asked if Fiscal Court could help with the \$2,000 needed to participate and promote Henry County. Judge Bates stated that volunteering in the booth is interesting and a good experience. He will get in contact with Holly regarding funds for the cost. Individuals can sign up at the Renaissance Fair office and items for display must be delivered there.

Esq. Frederick stated that the funding for addiction programs is extremely important. He cited personal experiences with the problem. Judge Bates agreed that most families have someone close to them who has or is struggling with addictions, and the amount of money is not important if it helps save them.

Judge Bates asked for remembrances for the Berry family in the death of Skip Berry.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. Shain, 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 6:57 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **August 18, 2026**