

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 2026

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on March 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 offered the evening's 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 FEBRUARY 17, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Road Supervisor Zach Smith was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Judge Bates reported that the department has been very busy. The bridge on Bullitt Hill has washed out. The bridge inspector has come to look at it and will tell us what we have to do to proceed. FEMA wanted us to get it repaired a year ago, but the quote was \$315,000 compared to FEMA's estimate of \$90,000 which will not even remove the existing one. There is another program that we can pursue to replace it, and the application comes out the second week of May. After the inspector looks at it, we may be able to place concrete and get it reopened with a load limit.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met last evening. The crew is bushwhacking in the Port Royal area now. The excavator has a cylinder issue, but the part is due in tomorrow. One tractor has been returned from repair. They continue to grade the gravel roads and have gotten a new cutting bar for the grader and are getting it installed. The crew will continue to gravel and ditch and get equipment ready for mowing season. They had a guest, Mike Tomlin, at the meeting who complimented the Road Department. Operations are going well, and Esq. Fisher asked folks to be patient.

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Bates requested that Fiscal Court go into Executive Session per KRS 61.815 to discuss the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency and pending litigation.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered that Fiscal Court go into Executive Session per KRS 61.815 to discuss pending property matters.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to end the Executive Session.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to resume the Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously

County Attorney Dees stated that Fiscal Court went into Executive Session per KRS 61.815 for matters related to real estate transfer and/or acquisition and pending litigation.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. McManis, it is ordered to authorize Judge Bates to negotiate the sale of the commercial property in Campbellsburg.

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Bates explained that the property is a cul-de-sac off of Wolfpen that has been gated for years. The woman who owns 3 lots around the property has offered to purchase it. Someone has placed a building on part of her property and she wants to construct a home. It is a very small property that we would never use.

Upon motion by Esq. Tingle and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered to participate in the Remnant Defendant's Settlement Agreement which will allow for the County to receive opioid abatement funds from the companies involved with this national settlement and allow Judge Bates to sign on behalf of the County.

Motion carried unanimously

Denise Perry, Fiscal Court Clerk, provided information about the recommended participation in this latest settlement which includes 6 additional defendants. The funds will be distributed per the previously used framework. Judge Bates stated that this action gives him authority to sign for Henry County to continue to be included in the opportunity to receive these opioid abatement funds.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 26 electrical and 25 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission has nothing on the agenda for April at this time.

Esq. Shain inquired about the status of the cities' adoption of the Goals and Objectives of the Comprehensive Plan and the updated maps. Mr. Stanley responded that the cities are in the process of conducting 2nd readings at their meetings and should be finished by the second week of April. Work on the maps will commence after the final approval of the Goals and Objectives per the request of the P&Z Commission.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that youth league baseball, softball, and soccer have started. They are working the fields and getting everything opened back up for practices. The small engine class is now in its second week with 12 kids this year. They will be ready to start cutting the grass.

2. Full-Time Recommendation

Judge Bates announced that Daniel Brown has resigned from his full-time position with the parks. Zain Battis worked part-time last summer, and he recommends hiring him to fill the open full-time position.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to hire Zain Battis as the full-time Parks Department assistant.

Motion carried unanimously

3. Little League Update

Little League President J. R. Chisholm addressed the Court providing an update on all the improvements made at Harry Hill Park. The organization has used the past 5 years to raise money to place new dirt on all 4 fields for drainage, built 3 new block dugouts, and the fencing is being re-installed as of today. All of this is to make the fields more usable and was the first phase of his personal goal. In 2021, there were 350 kids involved and last year 520 participated. In addition, there are 8 church league teams, a men's team, and 4 middle school teams holding practices. Harry Hill Park is used almost every day. He expressed his pride in all the work done; and they will continue to raise money for additional improvements such as more lighting for the 2 fields without them and the concession stand and restroom building which is getting old. At some point the board composed of 15 rotating individuals would like to have an indoor building for practices.

Judge Bates thanked Mr. Chisholm for all his dedication and the work which has been done which benefits many families in Henry County. He sees the efforts as a partnership. He added that there is a grant available in August through KIPDA with which we may be able to build new restrooms and a concession stand. They are recommending that we do the entire project instead of updating. Judge Bates expressed his appreciation to J. R. and the volunteers who have accomplished so much.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft presented the February report showing 4 adoptions at \$1,000, donations of \$2,225, and \$120 in other funds received resulting in \$3,345 in receipts. There are currently 36 dogs in the shelter after 33 were taken in with 16 out--6 adoptions, 2 rescues, and 8 returned to owners. Upcoming events include the 12th annual Paws United Pet Expo in Radcliff on April 11 and Lou Adopt in Louisville on May 9. We also have the 2nd annual car show at the fairgrounds on May 16,

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

1. Monthly Report

Sheriff Keith Perry reported the following activities for the month of February: 128 KSP dispatch calls, 147 Sheriff's office calls, 39 citations/criminal summons, 24 criminal arrests, 17 warrant arrests, 79 all court paper service, 1 fugitive transport, 1 MIW transport, 2 special details/events, 60 vehicle inspections, 13 carry conceal licenses, and 1 DUI arrest.

Sheriff Perry thanked the Court for their participation in the opioid abatement settlement. He stated that the North Central Kentucky Narcotics Task Force would not be possible without those funds which all the counties are receiving and using to fund the initiative.

RE: ABC QUARTERLY REPORT

ABC Administrator Ed Nelson presented the quarterly report showing all fees and reports filed. There are 17 businesses actively selling alcohol, and the new package store in Pleasureville is making progress. Total revenue received from alcohol sales to date is \$1,051,925.37.

RE: PROPOSED FY 2027 JAIL BUDGET – 1ST READING

Judge Bates presented the Jailer's Budget for 1st Reading with comparisons to this year. He stated that the budget is increased primarily due to the medical costs which are being raised from \$20,000 to \$75,000. The 'Contracts with Other Counties' line is being left the same, but we are transferring \$75,000 from LGEA funds to make the budget work. There is one inmate who has cancer and treatments are astronomical. We will be at \$400,000 by the end of the year. The 2nd Reading will be held and any questions answered.

Esq. Tingle mentioned HB 557 and the need to contact legislators about the effects of jail budgets. Judge Bates stated it is proposed to get funding back to counties for inmates. When individuals break state laws, they are jailed but counties must pay for them. When an individual is incarcerated, all their expenses become the county's responsibility which includes daily rates, medical, dental, and anything else they need. Even if they have insurance or Medicaid, it ceases when they are jailed. Many inmates may be held for 3 years or longer on the county's dime. They are finally convicted and credited for time served which the counties have paid for. HB 557 will allow counties to be reimbursed for inmates after 60 days. Judge Bates said he has spoken with Rep. Rouborn and encouraged others to contact legislators since this would greatly help all counties' jail budgets.

Upon motion by Esq. Shain and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the 1st Reading of the FY 2027 Henry County Jail Budget totaling \$666,547.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: FY 2027 JAILER'S SALARY

Judge Bates stated that during election years fiscal courts are required to set the jailer's salary when the county has a closed jail. This requirement is to prevent judge/executives from dropping the salary for new jailers. The salary is set at \$62,977.72 which is the current rate for this year with a 3 percent cost-of-living increase.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the FY 2027 salary for the Henry County Jailer at \$62,977.72

Motion carried unanimously

RE: KIEDA UPDATE – JESSICA MOORE

Jessica Moore with KIEDA presented an update on economic development. Every county has projects on-going with no shortage of work to be completed. Locally they are working with EPA and KIPDA to file a grant for up to \$1 million for revitalization projects in the county including the old Henry County Board of Education building. KIEDA feels that the public foundation which provides governance is important, but also want a private stakeholder group for buy-in and which is engaged in the work. Their first meeting is March 24 to begin discussions on how they can help. KIEDA is initiating industry spotlight tours to create marketing products for counties. They are having workforce, housing, and landowner conversations every week to facilitate economic growth. In late 2026 they will release the Leadership 71 program for regional elected officials and business leaders to learn what is happening within the area. KIEDA has met with Sen. McConnell's field rep to address earmarking marketing dollars and what our stakeholders need. They continue writing grants and letters of support within the area. She speaks with Judge Bates regularly, but welcomed calls from others if they have questions.

Esq. Frederick inquired about whether the money for revitalization would be public/private partnerships. Ms. Moore indicated that the first stage is for assessing and planning through the federal grant, but she would expect it to be a public/private partnership if we are able to get it.

RE: MAY FISCAL COURT MEETING DATE CHANGE

Judge Bates stated that the regularly scheduled meeting falls on May 19 which is the primary election day. With Court members awaiting the results being announced during the time of the meeting, Judge Bates recommended that the meeting be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, on the small side of the 4-H Building since the large side would be set up for election voting. The Court adopted the change by consensus.

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

General Fund	\$254,713.03
Road & Bridge Fund	74,677.82
Jail Fund	54,920.34
LGEA	1,480.72
Solid Waste	70.69
ABC	<u>2,260.61</u>
Total	\$388,123.21

<u>From:</u> 019200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$7,913.47
<u>To:</u> 015001212 (J/E Fringe, Bene, Train)	\$45.28
015001445 (J/E Office Supplies)	773.57
015001571 (Renewals, Repairs-Annex)	1,512.17
015010212 (Co Clerk Fringe, Bene, Train)	142.28
015025569 (Registration, Conf & Train)	485.00
015070445 (P&Z Office Supplies)	200.00
015070539 (P&Z Legal Ads)	313.51
015401571 (Parks Repair/Maint)	1,252.63
019100307 (Auditing)	2,883.03
019100551 (Membership)	306.00

<u>From:</u> 026105723 (Vehicle/Equip Purchase)	\$11,683.26
<u>To:</u> 029200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$11,683.26

<u>From:</u> 029200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$11,683.26
<u>To:</u> 026105405 (Asphalt)	\$1,260.00
026105409 (Rock)	\$3,421.16
026105447 (Materials)	\$2,686.66
026105471 (Salt & Cinders)	\$4,315.44

<u>From:</u> 039200999 (Reserve for Transfers)	\$17,606.64
<u>To:</u> 035101549 (Medical)	\$17,606.64

<u>From:</u> 035101723 (Jailer Vehicle)	\$15,000.00
<u>To:</u> 039200999 (Reserve for Transfer)	\$15,000.00

<u>From:</u> 01 (General)	\$46,000.00
<u>To:</u> 03 (Jail)	\$46,000.00

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Rhonda Hodges asked the Court for help in getting water to Little Dixie Road. She has been trying for 3 years and done research indicating that 10 percent of folks in Henry County did not have water in 1999, and they still do not. She has gotten estimates from Shelby Co. Water for all of Flat Creek. She stated that there is no reason that anyone should not have water and would like for the County to receive grants or 1 percent loans to get water. Judge Bates and Esq. Fisher assured Mrs. Hodges that they are continually working on this issue. Judge Bates stated that Fiscal Court has nothing to do with the Henry County Water District. They are governed by their own board and get no tax dollars. Fiscal Court's role is trying to obtain grant funding and has no authority in getting the lines laid. The approach will have to be through Shelby or Franklin County due to the rock. Mrs. Hodges stated that the cost estimate for both projects is \$2.2 million. Judge Bates stated that loans are not a fair way to do this project since the other individuals in the County paid for their water.

Amy Charles addressed the Court asking that the budget be focused on needs not wants. She asked that unnecessary spending be balanced with quality-of-life decisions.

Roger Hodges stated that he moved to Little Dixie 3 years ago from Metcalfe County. He cited his experience there where he only had to pay for the meter since he was on a county road. He asked for help in getting the infrastructure for drinkable water since drilling there is not feasible.

Olivia Herrell addressed the Court to clarify that her request at last month's meeting for the Revolutionary War monument was not asking Fiscal Court for money, but only permission for somewhere to place it. Judge Bates reiterated that the request for was help in placing the monument and that the Road Department could take care of installing it.

Randy Harrod has lived on Little Dixie Highway for 20 years and stated that no one should be without water. He questioned tax raises to which Judge Bates responded that taxes have not been raised. Mr. Harrod complained about the condition of his road, and they still have to haul water on it.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Judge Bates reminded candidates that during the election year campaign signs must not be placed on the right-of-way which is 15 feet from the center line on county roads and 30 feet on state roads. He has heard complaints from the State Highway Department, and the signs will be removed or mowed over. Everyone should get the property owner's permission and be sure signs are not on the right-of-way.

Esq. Tingle stated that he had been to Little Dixie and spoke with the Hodges about getting water down there. Judge Bates declared that he would sign whatever was needed to help obtain funding to bring the requested public water. He stated that he has been informed by KIPDA that city water is available at over 98 percent of Henry County homes.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Shain 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 7:07 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **April 21, 2026**