

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 29, 2019

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Special Session on April 29, 2019, at the 4-H Building in New Castle, Kentucky, with the following in attendance:

John L. Brent, Judge Executive
Esquire Scott Bates
Esquire Jerry Beasley
Esquire Mike Fisher
Esquire Roger Hartlage
Esquire Chuck Smith
Esquire Jason Stanley
County Attorney Virginia Harrod

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Judge Brent called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and noted all magistrates were present with the exception of Esq. Hartlage who joined the meeting shortly after it began.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

1st Reading of the 2018/19 Henry County Budget

Judge Brent opened the meeting with comments about the construction of the proposed budget and the review of information needed to develop it over the last months. He shared graphs depicting significant changes and factors which impacted it.

- Jail Fund Comparison—the costs compared to the funding provided by the State have doubled
- Benefit Costs—health insurance has doubled; retirement costs have almost doubled with an expected 12% increase annually
- EMS—revenues have fallen due to changes in federal health care policies and other factors while salaries have climbed. Currently a \$350,000 deficit in this service.
- Road Fund Interest—the amount earned was \$120,000 annually 12 years ago and is now under \$10,000
- Road Fund Income—licenses fee income is completely flat and gas tax income is down from the past 5-6 years
- Property Tax Revenue—the amount doubled from \$400,000 to \$800,000 from growth until 2010, but has since then has been flat
- End-of-Year Balances—the County has basically survived on savings over the last 10 years and now balances have fallen from \$2.7 million to less than \$300,000.

Judge Brent explained each fund of the budget line by line citing any deviations from the previous one and answering questions. Some noted changes were a proposed 40 cents per hour increase for full-time employees that will be decided in December based on health insurance costs and deductibles. Part-time employees will receive a 25 cents per hour raise. He plans to bid out the employee insurance contract to obtain a lower cost for 2020.

Discussion among the magistrates prompted an additional \$1,400 be added to the expense for memberships to allow their joining the Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association. Magistrates will reimburse the County from their own pockets the cost of this membership. Esq. Beasley recommended the addition of a Road Department Assistant Supervisor position with an additional \$1 per hour salary. Judge Brent stated that the budget includes the proposed sale of the cell tower for \$255,000 and the allowed 4 percent increase in property taxes. The EMS Committee is looking at options for continued funding for the service as it is the largest cost to the County.

Upon motion by Esq. Smith and second by Esq. Beasley, it is ordered by the Court to approve the sale of the cell tower located at the Recreational and Services Park to ATC Sequoia LLC for \$255,000.

Motion carried with 5 Ayes, Esq. Hartlage Abstained

Upon motion by Esq. Smith and second by Esq. Bates, it is ordered by the Court to approve the 1st Reading of the proposed 2019-20 Henry County Budget and the Budget Attachment Sheet with the additions of \$1,400 to the General Fund Memberships line and a Road Department Assistant Supervisor position.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Bates and second by Esq. Beasley, 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

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ John L. Brent
JOHN L. BRENT
JUDGE EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **May 21, 2019**