

HENRY COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2025

The Henry County Fiscal Court met in Regular Session on September 16, 2025, at the Henry County 4-H Building in New Castle, Kentucky, with the following in attendance:

Scott Bates, Judge/Executive
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.

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Judge Bates called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. noting that all magistrates were in attendance. County Attorney Dees is out due to maternity leave.

RE: APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 19, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Esq. McManis and second by Esq. Fisher, it is ordered to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: NEW BUSINESS

RE: ROADS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Road Supervisor Zach Smith reported that the Road Department has been busy with paving, repairing base failures, bush hogging, and bush whacking. Paving projects completed are Salt Creek Road, Byers Lane, and Raisor Lane; and they have moved the blacktopping equipment to Clear Creek Road to do repairs there when the plant reopens. Base failures have been repaired on Dixie Highway and Carmen Creek Road. They have finished bushwhacking on Watkins and Bush Lanes and are moving to Radcliff Road.

Judge Bates announced that there are trees that will be cut down by David Lyons on Radcliff Road. The road will need to be shut down from Old Jericho Road to Hickory Lane for a few hours one day. People can drive around while the trees are cut and the crew does bush whacking, and it will be safer. Mr. Smith stated that they will put up a sign with the date and times for closure a week in advance of the work. Replying to Esq. Hartlage's question, Judge Bates responded that the contractor paving is finished, but the crew will continue to do in-house patching with more work to be done on Carmon Creek Road. They have started using the new milling machine, and they can lay blacktop down smoother and save us money.

2. Road Committee Report

Esq. Fisher stated that the Committee met yesterday and discussed continued paving and bush whacking as far as possible into the fall and winter. They spoke with Aaron Bruce about getting a sprayer for the JD 550. Judge Bates added that someone will have to be licensed to do the spraying. This year the Johnson grass has been so bad and spraying should help.

Judge Bates announced that there is a KACO safety grant available. He has spoken with Aaron Bruce who is getting an estimate for building protective cages for the tractors for flying debris because we cannot find any factory equipment. It is an 80/20 match so for \$2,000 we could get \$10,000. It will be submitted by the end of the week with the goal to keep the workers safer.

RE: PLANNING & ZONING

1. Administrator's Monthly Report

Administrator Jason Stanley reported that during the previous month 21 electrical and 16 building permits were issued. The Board of Adjustments will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025, at the 4-H Building at 1106 Castle Highway, Eminence. The P & Z Commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on October 8, 2025, at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

2. Flood Damage Prevention Amendment to Ordinance – 2nd Reading

Administrator Stanley informed the Court that the 1st Reading of the amendment to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was held in August and nothing has been changed. This is the State's recommendation to make residents eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program and insure that they can obtain flood insurance, and it must be submitted by the middle of October.

Upon motion by Esq. Fisher and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered to approve the 2nd Reading of the amendment to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 630-196.

Motion carried unanimously

Esq. Hartlage stated that he was glad to see at the last Planning & Zoning meeting that the old Graves Farm / Rabbit Hole property was zone changed for a subdivision of 92 lots. The taxes on that 145 acres this year was \$870. With \$350,000 houses, that would become a \$32 million tax base. The applicant submitted a very nice proposal with curbs, sidewalks, and lighting. He added that we do need to get the updated comprehensive plan for that area to make property more valuable to the County. We are operating on a 25-year-old map. It is important that we continue to grow, and this is economic development and businesses will follow. Judge Bates agreed that people in the community make purchases and utilize the amenities of the County. The increase in tax base from getting properties on the market is important to benefit the County to build tax bases and generate funds.

RE: PARKS & FAIRGROUNDS

1. Director's Monthly Report

Parks Director Toby Berry reported that the department has been working on wood fencing at the fairgrounds and new park and will be replacing and painting the old boards. They have been trimming and shaping the trees. Fall sports have started with soccer, football, Little League, and cross-country events which require prep work. The splash pad will be fully winterized with the features taken down and the water lines blown out and anti-freeze installed. Trail and Treat is coming up and they will be preparing for that; and on October 4 there is a car show at Harry Hill Park. Judge Bates stated that the parks are getting utilized tremendously, and the money spent is great for families and children.

2. Parks & Fairgrounds Committee Report

Esq. Tingle stated that the ball fields are getting a huge amount of use. He reported that the car show will be held on October 4 to raise money for the Animal Shelter's vet bills. Equipment seems to be in good shape, and they are discussing the removal of 3 buildings at the fairgrounds that are not being used and are in the way. The transmission is out of one of the parks trucks, and they hope that one can be handed down from the Road Department. They are getting bids for the railing for the handicapped ramp at Harry Hill Park. Judge Bates stated that the ramp railing should be completed soon; the lights on the ballfields are all working; and some of the football field lighting has been changed to LED to keep the breakers from tripping.

3. Trail and Treat – October 17, 2025

Judge Bates announced that Trail and Treat will be held on October 17 at the John Logan Brent Park from 5-7 p.m.

RE: ANIMAL SERVICES

1. Director's Monthly Report

Animal Services Director Danielle Ashcraft provided the following report for the month of August: 9 adoptions totaling \$1,700, donations of cash and food/supplies of \$1,747, and \$815 of fines/fees with a total of \$4,262 received by the Shelter. There are 25 dogs in custody with 23 out--9 adoptions, 8 rescues, 4 dogs returned to owner, and 1 other. Events for the month include the Trimble County Apple Festival, the Trimble County farmer's market, and the Shamrock 3rd Annual Fall Fundraiser to be held on October 18. Bark and Wine will be October 12 at Richwood on the River and the car show hold on October 4. They will be advertising for all the events on FaceBook to get the word out. They also have a local trainer who has volunteered to work with a dog to hopefully get him adopted.

Judge Bates stated that he has been meeting with Trimble County Judge John Ogburn and they are working on the agreement between the counties to improve and simplify it. The process may take a couple of months, but it will be brought back to both Fiscal Courts for approval.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

1. Monthly Report

Deputy Sheriff Josh Jamiel reported the following activities for the month of August: 289 KSP dispatch calls, 111 Sheriff's office calls, 36 citations/criminal summons, 20 criminal arrests, 8 warrant arrests, 149 all court paper service, 1 juvenile transport, 1 special detail/event, 65 vehicle inspections, 7 carry conceal licenses, 1 DUI charge arrest, and 8 drug charge arrests.

Judge Bates stated that the burn ban remains in place, and the Sheriff's Department along with the fire departments are very busy responding to fires. He asked individuals not to burn.

RE: ABC QUARTERLY REPORT

ABC Director Ed Nelson reported that all quarterly fees have been paid. There are currently 18 active licenses and total revenue for the quarter is \$30,010.30. Revenue for the fiscal year is \$113,520.88 which is down from the previous year resulting from the loss of the winery and tavern. Total revenue from alcohol sales to date is \$986,720.37. He added that Six Mile Distillery is finally opening after many years, and they have impressive advertising on FaceBook and their website. Their pre-opening tour is September 27 which he is attending, and he has great hopes for large sales which could surpass the closed businesses.

Esq. Hartlage asked about the figures presented and if that was total sales or funds received over the past 10 years. Mr. Nelson responded that it is almost \$1 million in receipts to the County over approximately 10 years. Total alcohol sales would be about \$16.5 million which would amount to about \$1.6 million per year in sales with 18 businesses. That is a great income, but there are statistics and opinions that proceeds are offset by law enforcement and social costs. People are going to drink and it is legal, and the County is making money which is a positive to our budget. Esq. Hartlage quoted a past article in the *Henry County Local* about revenue, job creation, and economic development. Distilleries are moving in and just like subdivisions they are good for the County in economic development terms. Esq. Hartlage expressed his opinion that Mr. Nelson is doing a great job.

Judge Bates concurred that Director Nelson is doing an exceptional job and is currently working on the ordinance to get it streamlined and corrected. The revisions will come to Fiscal Court for approval. Judge Bates added that the jail budget is a mess this year. The budget contains \$350,000, but it may have to be amended to \$500,000. Housing inmates is costing over \$40,000 per month, but that situation may hopefully resolve somewhat.

RE: TRANSIENT ORDINANCES AMENDMENTS—2ND READING

Judge Bates stated that the 1st Readings were held for the ordinance amendments related to the Transient Room Tax and Short-term Rental Permitting and Licensing at the past meeting. There have been no changes to the language.

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Tingle, it is ordered that the County approve the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance Establishing Transient Room Tax and Creation of the Henry County Tourist and Convention Commission.

Motion carried unanimously

Upon motion by Esq. Frederick and second by Esq. Shain, it is ordered that the County approve the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance Establishing Short-term Rental Property, Application, Permit and Licensing.

Motion carried unanimously

RE: HENRY COUNTY TOURISM & CONVENTION COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS

Judge Bates stated that the Commission was initially formed and the members were announced in June, 2024. Appointees on staggered terms included Kyle Stewart, Jess Malin, and A. J. Nelson as hotel/motel representatives; Brittany Way, restaurant rep; Holly Wilson, Chamber of Commerce member; and Jakob Beckley and Ed Frederick, Judge/Executive appointees. Judge Bates reappointed Kyle Stewart, Brittany Way, and Ed Frederick to additional 3-year terms as their initial one-year appointments are expired.

RE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VARIOUS COUNTY TAX RATES

Judge Bates stated that the Fiscal Court is responsible to notify the public regarding the tax rates for the year which have been set by their authorities. Deputy Judge Buchanan presented the rates set by each entity for 2025 in cents per hundred:

	<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>Tangible Personal Property</u>
County - Ambulance District	6.00	6.00
County - Extension Services	4.00	4.00
County – Health Department	4.00	4.00
County – Library	8.60	8.67
County – Soil Conservation	0.89	0.00
County – Fiscal Court	10.10	10.10
School – Eminence Independent	68.20	68.20
School – Henry County	71.70	71.70
Special – Little Kentucky River Shed	2.60	0.00

RE: CLAIMS & TRANSFERS

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

General Fund	\$280,797.89
Road & Bridge Fund	339,952.18
Jail Fund	56,394.86
LGEA	8,301.62
ABC	1,898.17
Total	\$687,344.72

<u>From:</u> 011000 (General)	\$16,488.36
<u>To:</u> 021000 (Jail)	\$16,488.36

Motion carried unanimously

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Bates opened the floor for public comments.

Alex Taylor lives at 1335 Russell Branch in Eminence. He complained that he generates minimal garbage and has always disposed of his trash responsibly. Rumpke charges around \$80 every 3 months for mandatory service, and he feels that they have a monopoly. He compared adjoining counties rates and complained that he is required to spend this high cost. He requested competition or other options to dispose of waste. To Mr. Taylor's question about why some of the magistrates do not have curbside pickup, Judge Bates explained that the magistrates either own businesses and have on-site dumpsters which cost more or pay for pickup services.

Paul Baxter requested that the 2 restrooms at the livestock pavilion have gender signs posted on both sides of the doors since the door are usually propped open. Deputy Judge Buchanan stated that signs would be installed this week before the Youth Livestock Sale.

RE: COURT COMMENTS

Esq. Fisher and Judge Bates both encouraged folks to attend the Youth Livestock Auction which begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 20. It is a great opportunity to help out our children and teens and get a good meal from Our Best. Individuals can offer amounts to raise money for the young people without purchasing a whole animal.

Esq. Fisher announced that cemetery fundraiser will be held at his home on October 18 at 13788 River Road starting at 12:30. They will have various food and ice cream with an auction of baked goods at 6:30. Judge Bates added that individuals can designate the money to the cemetery of their choice.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Esq. Hartlage 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 6:43 p.m.

S/ Denise Perry
DENISE PERRY
FISCAL COURT CLERK

S/ Scott Bates
SCOTT BATES
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Date Approved: **October 21, 2025**