

# HENDERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT–MINUTE & ORDER BOOK

## *Record of Regular Meeting Minutes from 2/10/2026*

Court convened for a Regular Meeting at the Courthouse, Henderson, KY, on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. County Judge/Executive Brad Schneider presiding.

### **Call To Order**

County Judge/Executive Brad Schneider called the meeting to order.

### **Invocation**

The invocation was given by Reverend Charles Johnson of Greater Norris Chapel

### **Pledge Of Allegiance**

Judge/Executive Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

Magistrate Berry	Present
Magistrate Puttman	Present
Magistrate Southard	Present
Magistrate Starks	Present
Magistrate Tompkins	Present

### **Minutes January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting**

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 Fiscal Court minutes. Magistrate Southard seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### **Judge’s Scholar –Ruth Lawson – Niagara Elementary School**

A proclamation was read and presented to Ruth Lawson, who was named the Niagara Elementary School Judge’s Scholar.

### **Proclamation – Tiller of the Redbanks**

A proclamation was read and presented to Joanna Davis Shake, Executive Director of GRADD, in honor of her upcoming retirement. Joanna played a pivotal role in helping Henderson County receive millions of dollars in funding for various projects during her tenure.

### **Economic Development Capital Campaign Presentation – Director Missy Vanderpool**

Missy explained the EDC was starting their next 5-year capital campaign. She is requesting the county increase its pledge to \$100k a year for the next 5 years. This is a \$50k increase annually to the EDC. It is understood by the EDC that the court cannot commit itself to more than the current budget year. Judge Schneider recommended that the court consider paying half of the commitment (\$250k) out of the contingency fund leaving \$50k a year to be budgeted.

Magistrate Tompkins made a motion to fund the EDC \$250,000.00 from the contingency fund. Magistrate Puttman seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### **Planning Commission Request – Executive Director Brian Bishop**

Brian explained they have \$112,896.00 in excess revenues from the past 2 years. He would like to retain the funds and place them in the reserve account as they have done previously. Judge Schneider stated that the excess revenues were not included in the County’s budget for this year so this would not be any loss to county funds.

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to authorize the retention of excess fees by the Planning Commission to be placed in their reserve. Magistrate Berry seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### **Kentucky Pride Grant Application – Recycling Supervisor Eric Higgs**

Eric would like to apply for a Kentucky Pride Grant for the purchase of 10 Pro-lift hydraulic trailers for the recycling center.

Magistrate Southard made a motion authorizing the Judge to sign the grant agreement. Magistrate Berry seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

*Record of Regular Meeting Minutes from 2/10/2026*

**Resolution #26-02 Surplus Property – IT Director Brent Jacobs**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN COUNTY PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION THEROF**

The Fiscal Court Clerk read the resolution into record.

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to approve the resolution. Magistrate Southard seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

**Ordinance # 26-01 Insurance Premium Tax Reduction (2nd Reading)**

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 1 OF SUBSECTION 137 OF THE HENDERSON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING INSURANCE COMPANY LICENSE FEE OR TAX TO REDUCE THE LICENSE FEE OR TAX FROM 9.75% TO 4.875%**

The Fiscal Court Clerk read the ordinance into record.

On second reading of the foregoing ordinance, at the regular meeting of the Henderson Fiscal Court on February 10, 2026, it was moved by Magistrate Southard and seconded by Magistrate Berry, that the ordinance be adopted on its second reading.

A Roll Call vote was held with the voting as follows:

**Roll Call**

Magistrate Berry	Aye	Magistrate Starks	Aye
Magistrate Tompkins	Aye	Magistrate Puttman	Aye
Magistrate Southard	Aye	Judge Schneider	Aye

Motion carried and Judge Schneider declared the ordinance adopted.

**Ordinance #26-02 Small Farm Winery Farmstay (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HENDERSON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE (FOUND IN THE HENDERSON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN APPENDIX A THEREOF) TO INCLUDE SMALL FARM WINERY FARMSTAY AS A CONDITIONAL USE WITHIN AGRICULTURAL ZONES OF SAID ORDINANCE**

The Fiscal Court Clerk read the ordinance into record.

On second reading of the foregoing ordinance, at the regular meeting of the Henderson Fiscal Court on February 10, 2026 it was moved by Magistrate Southard and seconded by Magistrate Starks that the ordinance be adopted on its second reading.

A Roll Call vote was held with the voting as follows:

**Roll Call**

Magistrate Berry	Aye	Magistrate Starks	Aye
Magistrate Tompkins	Aye	Magistrate Puttman	Aye
Magistrate Southard	Aye	Judge Schneider	Aye

Motion carried and Judge Schneider declared the Ordinance adopted.

**Ordinance #25-12 - Cable Franchise (2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO CREATING A FRANCHISE FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A CABLE SYSTEM IN HENDERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY SETTING FORTH CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF FRANCHISE AND PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND USE OF SAID SYSTEM**

The Fiscal Court Clerk read the ordinance into record.

On second reading of the foregoing ordinance, at the regular meeting of the Henderson Fiscal Court on February 10, 2026, it was moved by Magistrate Southard and seconded by Magistrate Starks that the ordinance be adopted on its second reading.

A Roll Call vote was held with the voting as follows:

# HENDERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT-MINUTE & ORDER BOOK

## *Record of Regular Meeting Minutes from 2/10/2026*

### Roll Call

Magistrate Berry	<u>Aye</u>	Magistrate Starks	<u>Aye</u>
Magistrate Tompkins	<u>Aye</u>	Magistrate Puttman	<u>Aye</u>
Magistrate Southard	<u>Aye</u>	Judge Schneider	<u>Aye</u>

Motions carried and Judge Schneider declared the ordinance adopted.

### Bid Request – Cable Franchises – Deputy Judge Wiesen

With the Cable Franchise Ordinance now in place, Deputy Judge Wiesen requested to advertise for bids for cable franchises.

Magistrate Southard made a motion to authorize Deputy Judge Wiesen to advertise for bids. Magistrate Berry seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### Bid Opening – Road Department Fuel– County Engineer Nick Stallings

Six sealed bids were received and opened by the County Engineer who read the bidder margin amounts into the record. Valor Oil: .0295, Petroleum Traders: .0511, Colonial Oil: .0505, Key Oil: .0995, Home Oil: .029 and Grisham Petroleum: .0490

Nick would like to take these bids under review and return with his recommendation.

### Personnel Actions – Road Department – County Engineer Nick Stallings

Nick would like the authorization to hire Nicole Jones as a truck driver at a rate of \$22.31 per hour in order to fill a vacancy.

Magistrate Tompkins made a motion to hire Nicole Jones at \$22.31 per hour. Magistrate Southard seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all present voting in favor and the motion carried.

### Coroner's Report – Coroner Sheila Patterson

Sheila reported that they had 18 cases for January which was double from the prior year. Of those, one was a homicide and the rest were natural deaths. She said cremations are up from 4 last year to 12. Sheila noted that they have signed for 15 cremations over and above the cases they have worked. She said they had \$1,000.00 in their line item for indigent burials but have exceeded that by \$500.00.

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to move funds in the amount of \$4,000.00 from Contingency to the Indigent Burial line item. Magistrate Southard seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### Bid Request – HCDC Construction Manager – Jailer Bruce Todd

Bruce explained they are requesting to solicit for bids for a construction manager to oversee the jail expansion project.

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to authorize the Jailer to solicit for bids for a construction manager. Magistrate Southard seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### HCDC Viapath Service Agreement – Jailer Bruce Todd

Bruce told the court that there was a change at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that necessitates an amendment to the contract the Detention Center currently has with Viapath. County Attorney Gold explained that significant changes on the federal level created new rules that capped rates inmates are allowed to be charged for phone and video calls. This will mean a loss of commissions to the facility, which are about \$400k a year. County Attorney Gold said that he has reviewed the agreement and it is approved as to form and legality.

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to approve the amended contract. Magistrate Tompkins seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### HCDC Reports – Jailer Bruce Todd

Bruce presented his quarterly report, saying that they are down slightly on the number of state and federal inmates being housed at the facility. He added that they were able to purchase and

## *Record of Regular Meeting Minutes from 2/10/2026*

replace 60 outdated radios using a grant. Judge Schneider mentioned the focus of HB557 which aims to rebalance the relationship between state and county in regards to the cost of housing state inmates that have yet to be final sentenced.

### **Sheriff's Monthly Reports – Sheriff Chip Stauffer**

Chip presented the report for the record.

Magistrate Tompkins made a motion to accept the Sheriff's report. Magistrate Puttman seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### **County Attorney Report – County Attorney Steve Gold**

County Attorney Steve Gold presented a report of payments dated February 10, 2026 and turned over \$5,889.95 in various checks to the court.

Magistrate Southard made a motion to accept the County Attorney's report. Magistrate Puttman seconded the motion. A voice vote was held. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

County Attorney Gold presented an engagement letter from Harold Johns of English, Lucas, Priest and Ousley, LLC. He explained that Mr. Johns has a high degree of expertise in defending counties in regards to ordinances pertaining to renewable energy litigation. Attorney Gold said this engagement will give the county a proactive approach in dealing with upcoming renewable energy matters.

Magistrate Southard made a motion to enter into an agreement with English, Lucas, Priest and Ousley, LLC. Magistrate Tompkins seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

### **Fund Transfers – Treasurer Brenda Rider**

Treasurer Brenda Rider reported the transfers are to redistribute appropriations within the existing budget. The 1<sup>st</sup> transfer of \$1,500,000. is for the second installment to Henderson County Water District. This was approved for the current year's budget. The other 2 transfers are redistributing the existing budgeted appropriations.

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to approve the transfers. Magistrate Tompkins seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all present voting in favor. The motion carried.

### **Claims – Treasurer Brenda Rider**

Treasurer Brenda Rider presented the monthly claims and the bank balances after the claims are paid. She also presented the following additional claims for payment.

General Fund:	\$5,445.28	Magistrate Puttman (Training Incentive for 2026)
	\$5,445.28	Magistrate Southard (Training Incentive for 2026)
	\$5,445.28	Magistrate Starks (Training Incentive for 2026)
	\$5,445.28	County Clerk Renesa Abner (Training Incentive for 2026)
	\$5,445.28	Sheriff Chip Stauffer (Training Incentive for 2026)
	\$1,173.86	Magistrate Starks (Conference Meeting Expenses)
	\$623.08	Magistrate Southard (Conference Meeting Expense)
	\$623.08	Magistrate Tompkins (Conference Meeting Expenses)
	\$636.40	Brent Jacobs (Reimbursement of IT Expenses)
Jail Fund:	\$853.52	Advanced document Solutions (Copier Agreement)
	\$972.29	US Bank (Credit Card)

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to pay the claims. Magistrate Berry seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all present voting in favor and the motion carried.

### **Good of the County-**

Lisa Meyer – Inquired about whether there was a clause in contracts between landowners and renewable energy companies that would allow solar panel contracts to be converted to wind turbines contracts. County Attorney Gold explained that he would not have access to those contracts but said that the contracts would have to meet all the requirements through Planning and Zoning. She also raised a question about the recent deaths in the county that occurred at various railroad crossings. Lisa asked whether the county should look into installing crossing

# HENDERSON COUNTY FISCAL COURT-MINUTE & ORDER BOOK

## *Record of Regular Meeting Minutes from 2/10/2026*

arms. Judge Schneider explained that there has been discussion in the past about the matter but that the decision does not lie in the hands of Fiscal Court as much as it does CSX.

Recycling Supervisor Eric Higgs – Updated the court on upcoming events in the county. He announced 3 spring cleanups, Baskett – April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, Corydon - April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and Robards - May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> and added there will be a recycling trailer at each. Eric also reported that the spring Ohio River Sweep will take place at the Henderson Riverfront April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. He announced that the Recycling Center will be open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month during the hours of 8am and 12pm from March through October.

**Bid Recommendation – County Engineer Nick Stallings** - After reviewing all of the fuel bids, Nick recommended to award the fuel bid to Home Oil and Gas.

Magistrate Puttman made a motion to accept the recommendation. Magistrate Berry seconded the motion. A voice vote was held with all voting in favor and the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the court, Magistrate Puttman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Magistrate Berry. Meeting adjourned

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 Brad Schneider  
 County Judge Executive

ATTEST:  
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 Angela Comer  
 Fiscal Court Clerk

