CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY
FISCAL COURT
MINUTES

May 20, 2026

The Campbell County Fiscal Court conducted a public hearing and regular meeting on May 20, 2026, at 5:30 PM ET / 4:30 PM CT at the Campbell County Administration Building, 1098 Monmouth Street, Newport, Kentucky. The public hearing and meeting were recorded by Campbell Media and broadcast on the Campbell Media Website.

Present:

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery
County Commissioner, Geoff Besecker
County Commissioner, Tom Lampe
County Commissioner, Brian Painter
County Attorney, Steve Franzen

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld
Assistant County Administrator, Kim Serra
Assistant County Administrator, Justin Otto
Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis
Police Chief, Craig Sorrell
Planning & Zoning Director, Cindy Minter
Financial Systems Analyst, Travis Lilley
Fiscal Court Clerk, Janie Patterson

Public Hearing

Possible uses of County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance Funds

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery called the Public Hearing to order at 5:30 PM.

The purpose of the hearing was to obtain comments from citizens regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) funds.

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis led the Public Hearing and asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the possible uses of County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance Funds. There were none.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 5:31 PM.

Regular Meeting

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Following the roll call, a quorum was declared present.

Minutes

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery requested a motion to approve the minutes from both the Special Mayor's Meeting held on April 28, 2026, and the Regular Fiscal Court Meeting held on May 6, 2026.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brian Painter, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Guests

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2027

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Ms. Lewis stated that the budget was developed using conservative and fiscally responsible budgeting practices, including conservative revenue projections, responsible appropriations, maintaining current service levels, funding ongoing expenditures with ongoing revenues, and maintaining contingency planning for economic uncertainties. She noted that the budget process begins in January and includes input from county departments, elected officials, and staff.

Ms. Lewis reviewed the FY 2026 budget compared to projected year-end results. While the FY 2026 adopted budget anticipated a deficit of approximately $2.601 million, current projections indicate a surplus of approximately $764,000 due primarily to expenditures coming in below budget, favorable contract pricing, operational efficiencies, unspent contingency funds, and project timing delays.

The proposed FY 2027 operating budget includes approximately $68.981 million in revenue and $71.812 million in expenditures, resulting in a budgeted deficit of approximately $2.831 million. Ms. Lewis explained that the county historically budgets conservatively and typically realizes better-than-budgeted results through revenue growth, favorable pricing, and expenditure timing differences.

Ms. Lewis reported that the county's largest revenue sources remain payroll and net profit taxes, budgeted at approximately $20.878 million (30% of revenues), and real property taxes, budgeted at approximately $13.800 million (20% of revenues). The payroll tax rate remains unchanged at 1.05%, and the projected increase in property tax revenue is growth-driven rather than rate-driven.

On the expenditure side, salaries and benefits account for approximately 39% of the budget, contracted services 21%, and capital outlay 14%. No staff additions are proposed for FY 2027, although anticipated rank advancements within the Police Department, Detention Center, and Road Department are included. Pension contribution rates for both hazardous and non-hazardous employees decreased, generating budget savings.

Ms. Lewis highlighted major capital investments planned for FY 2027, including continued work on the AJ Jolly Lake restoration and spillway repair project, as well as construction of the new Public Safety Building. She noted that $64.0 million has been budgeted within a bond-funded construction fund for major capital projects, including those large-scale initiatives.

Additional discussion included road funding, detention center operations, non-discretionary expenditures, inflationary pressures, infrastructure needs, unfunded state and federal mandates, and pension liabilities. Ms. Lewis reported that the county maintains a reserve policy consistent with Government Finance Officers Association recommendations, with approximately $18.100 million reserved for operations, representing approximately 35% of annual expenditures. As of March 31, 2026, the county reported approximately $48.129 million in unrestricted and uncommitted funds after accounting for outstanding encumbrances.

Ms. Lewis concluded by noting that the proposed FY 2027 budget would be made available for public review through the county's Government Transparency portal.

The Fiscal Court thanked Ms. Lewis and the Finance Department for their work in preparing the budget and maintaining the county's strong financial position. They commended the department's conservative budgeting practices, transparency, fiscal discipline, and long-term planning efforts. The Fiscal Court expressed their appreciation for Ms. Lewis and her staff's continued commitment to responsible stewardship of public funds, maintaining adequate reserves, securing favorable contract pricing, and positioning the county to undertake major capital projects while maintaining essential services.

Old Business

Ordinance O-03-26: Second Reading

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Ordinance O-03-26, "An Ordinance updating the Official County-Maintained Road List in Campbell County, Kentucky for Lonesome Lane, Awesome Place, Parkside Drive, Cloverleaf Court, Creekside Court, and Boyd Road."

Motion was made to adopt Ordinance O-03-26 by Commissioner Brian Painter, seconded by Commissioner Geoff Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Ordinance O-04-26: Second Reading

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Ordinance O-04-26, "An Ordinance updating the Official Zoning Map for unincorporated Campbell County to rezone 3 parcels at 27 Moreland Road, referred to as PIDNs 999-99-23-234.00, 999-99-23-242.01, and 999-99-23-233.00 spanning approximately 6.13 acres and associated rights-of-way to the centerlines of the adjacent roads for a total of

approximately 8 acres from Residential One A (R-1A), Rural Commercial (RC), and Industrial Two (I-2) Zones to Residential Three (R-3) Zone."

Planning and Zoning Director, Cindy Minter was present to answer questions and provide additional information if requested.

Motion was made to adopt Ordinance O-04-26 by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Judge/ Executive, Steve Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

New Business

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented new business.

Resolution R-27-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-27-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court authorizing the Judge/Executive to apply for funding from the Kentucky Division of Waste Management for the recycling or disposal of waste tires in Fiscal Year 2027."

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-28-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-28-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court approving the Campbell County Health Department tax rate for Fiscal Year 2027 for the Campbell County Public Health Taxing District."

Motion was made by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-29-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-29-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court updating fees for the 2026 Park Season with the addition of the Tree Frog Shelter."

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-30-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-30-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court approving funding for the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) for Fiscal Year 2027."

Motion was made by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Commissioner Tom Lampe thanked TANK General Manager Gina Douthat for meeting with him to review the agency's comprehensive plan, studies, focus groups, and public meetings. Commissioner Lampe stated that TANK is an important part of both the county budget and serving the community, and he expressed his appreciation for Ms. Douthat's hard work and efficient operation of TANK.

Resolution R-31-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-31-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court authorizing the County Judge/Executive to execute a contract with the Campbell County Fire Protection Association for Fiscal Year 2027 funding."

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Personnel

Motion

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to accept the resignation of Police Officer Aaron Hanssen of the Campbell County Police Department effective May 27, 2026.

Motion was made by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Board Appointments

Executive Order

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to reappoint Regina Clos, Vera Powell, Marsha Dufeck, and Pam Pangburn to serve on the Northern Kentucky Area Development District's Council on Aging for a two-year term effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

Motion was made by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Geoff Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

County Judge/Executive's Report

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery gave the following two event announcements.

Campbell County Community Yard Sale, "Trash to Treasures"

The Campbell County Community Yard Sale, "Trash to Treasures" will take place at AJ Jolly Park on Saturday, May 30, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Let It Grow Celebration

Also taking place at AJ Jolly Park on Saturday, May 30, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Dreamspire Creatives, in partnership with Campbell County Parks & Recreation, will host the Let It Grow Celebration.

Finance Director/Treasurer's Report

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented the Finance Director/Treasurer's Report.

O-05-26 Ordinance: First Reading

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis read the title summary for Ordinance O-05-26, "An Ordinance of the Campbell County Fiscal Court relating to the annual budget and appropriations of Campbell County, Kentucky for the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 (Fiscal Year 2027)."

A motion to adopt Ordinance O-05-26 will be requested following the second reading.

Motion

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented a motion to adopt the fiscal year 2027 Annual Standing Order pursuant to KRS 68.275 to preapprove certain recurring expenses such as payroll, benefits, utilities, contractual obligations previously approved by the Fiscal Court, election workers and expenses, grants with a disbursement requirement, banking or credit card charges, regular recurring expenses and insurance payments in a timely manner without additional Fiscal Court approval. The standing order expires on July 1 of the following year and must be adopted for each fiscal year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-32-26

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis read the title summary for Resolution R-32-26, "A Resolution adopting and approving the execution of a County Road Aid Cooperative Program contract between the Fiscal Court and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, as provided in the Kentucky Revised Statutes and accepting all roads and streets referred to therein as being a part of the county road system."

Ms. Lewis explained the estimated County Road Aid payment of $708,133.02 reflects a decrease of approximately $155,000 from the prior year's state notice, but is slightly higher than the $667,000 budgeted for Fiscal Year 2027. This amount is an estimate provided by the state and remains subject to adjustment. The state may still reduce the Fiscal Year 2027 fourth-quarter payment, which is scheduled to be received in August 2027. A similar adjustment occurred this year, as the payment is based on revenues received by the state during the applicable fiscal year. As a result, the county was notified of a reduction from the original Fiscal Year 2026 agreement amount of $863,511.

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Commissioner Geoff Besecker asked about the decrease in County Road Aid funding despite ongoing roadway maintenance needs. Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis explained that the funding reduction is tied to lower state gas tax and related revenue collections. Commissioner Besecker noted that the county would still be responsible for maintaining the roads despite the reduction in funding.

Resolution R-33-26

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis read the title summary for Resolution R-33-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court confirming that the Judge/Executive entered into a contract with the Commonwealth of Kentucky to accept Emergency Management Assistance Program grant funds to support the operations of the Office of Emergency Management."

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Motion

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented a motion to authorize staff to purchase an inmate documentation system for the Campbell County Detention Center. This system automates key operational workflows, tasks, and correctional reporting requirements as mandated by state corrections standards to ensure staff and inmate safety. It is the recommendation of Jailer Jim Daley to select the proposal from Autonomy Today, LLC at an initial, year 1 cost of $33,515, which is included in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The system's year 2 renewal cost is $13,100.

Motion was made by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Motion

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented a motion for permission to bid the fall resurfacing of Murnan Road, Ripple Creek Road, and Poplar Thicket Road.

Motion was made by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Motion

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented a motion for permission to bid the reconstruction of Mallard Drive, from the Licking Pike intersection to just past Labrador Lane, as well as a portion of Labrador Lane.

Motion was made by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Geoff Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order

Finance Director/Treasurer, Laura Lewis presented a motion to approve Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order dated:

- May 13, 2026
- May 20, 2026

County Attorney, Steve Franzen commented that the claims had been reviewed, and everything appeared appropriate.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tom Lampe, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Fiscal Court, motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Attachments

- O-03-26: Update the Official County-Maintained Road List
- O-04-26: Update the Official Zoning Map for unincorporated Campbell County at 27 Moreland Road
- R-27-26: Apply for funding for the recycling or disposal of waste tires
- R-28-26: Approve the Campbell County Health Department tax rate
- R-29-26: Approve Park fees with the addition of the Tree Frog Shelter
- R-30-26: Approve funding for the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK)
- R-31-26: Execute a contract with the Campbell County Fire Protection Association for FY 2027 funding
- O-05-26: First Reading – Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Ordinance
- R-32-26: Execute a contract with the KY Transportation Cabinet, Department of Rural and Municipal Aid
- R-33-26: Enter into a contract to accept Emergency Management Assistance Program grant funds
- Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order
  - May 13, 2026
  - May 20, 2026

Approved:

STEVE PENDERY
Judge/Executive

Attest:

JANIE PATTERSON
Fiscal Court Clerk

Date Approved: June 3, 2026