

**CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY  
FISCAL COURT  
MINUTES**

**January 7, 2026**

The Campbell County Fiscal Court held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM, at the Campbell County Courthouse, 8352 East Main Street, Alexandria, Kentucky. Campbell Media recorded the meeting and broadcast it 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  
Police Chief, Craig Sorrell  
Fiscal Court Clerk, Janie Patterson

**Regular Meeting**

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

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 the Regular Fiscal Court Meeting held on December 17, 2025.

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

## Guests

### ***Housing Director, Sarah Collins – Retirement Recognition for Over 25 Years of Service***

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery recognized Housing Director, Sarah Collins, upon her retirement with over 25 years of service. Judge Pendery acknowledged her as one of the longest-serving county employees and noted the bittersweet nature of her retirement. He explained that the Housing Department administers a federally regulated program with little operational overlap with other county departments, requiring significant independent responsibility. Over her tenure, Ms. Collins successfully managed the program and consistently achieved high, often perfect, federal compliance review scores. Judge Pendery credited her leadership and management skills for these results and noted that her work helped provide hundreds, if not thousands, of affordable housing opportunities for residents in need. On behalf of the Fiscal Court, Judge Pendery congratulated Ms. Collins, expressed appreciation for her dedicated service, and presented her with a watch.

County Attorney Steve Franzen commended Ms. Collins for her professionalism and effective management of the federal housing program. He noted the complexity of the applicable federal statutes and regulations and stated that Ms. Collins consistently demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the program and provided clear guidance when legal issues arose. Mr. Franzen expressed appreciation for her competence, collaboration, and dedication, and stated that it was a pleasure to work with her. He congratulated her on her retirement and wished her well.

OEM Director William Turner recognized Ms. Collins for her contributions to emergency management operations. He noted that emergency management relies on interdepartmental and community support and stated that Ms. Collins played an instrumental role. She served as a member of the county's search and rescue team, completed extensive training, and participated in a successful rescue mission in the Red River Gorge involving a missing person who was found alive. Mr. Turner also noted her membership on the Northern Kentucky Incident Management Team, which requires significant training and commitment, and her deployment in 2022 to assist with flood response in Eastern Kentucky, where she worked in logistics for several weeks. He expressed appreciation for her dedication to the County and the Commonwealth and stated that her service would be greatly missed.

### ***Parks and Recreation Director, Larry Harrod***

Parks and Recreation Director, Larry Harrod presented the annual Park Report for 2025.

Mr. Harrod reported that the County experienced another strong year of park usage and programming, serving not only Campbell County residents but visitors from across the state and country. Pendery Park continued as the County's primary sports hub, with high participation in youth soccer programs and strong attendance at the Senior Picnic, which drew approximately 650 attendees and 96 vendors in attendance.

AJ Jolly Park had stable attendance despite challenging weather conditions and sold 3,963 season passes, 1,861 day passes, 3,357 camping reservations, 243 shelter rentals, and \$84,719 revenue from concessions and watercraft rentals, with 22,691 watercraft rentals reported. Major programs and events remained well

attended, including Jolly Thursdays, Festival on the Lake (approximately 2,000 attendees), Spooktacular (approximately 1,100 attendees), Bluegrass Festival, and various community partner events.

The report highlighted the importance of partnerships with the Campbell County Public Library, Jolly Community Development Council, Kentucky Thoroughbreast, FOP, Make-A-Wish, and other organizations. Several new and returning events were noted, including a Viking Festival and car show.

Significant Park improvements were completed primarily by Facilities and Fleet Director, Mike Braun and his team including:

- Addition of a firewood self-service rental kiosk at AJ Jolly Campground (Funding partner - meetNKY)
- Rebuilt the ADA-accessible fishing dock at AJ Jolly Park
- Re-paved roads to the private picnic areas and Girl Scouts camping area at AJ Jolly Park
- Addition of “big chairs” providing photo opportunities around AJ Jolly Park
- Construction of new rentable bathroom/shelter at AJ Jolly Park
- Cleared additional areas along the lake to increase bank fishing access at AJ Jolly Park
- Cleared additional areas along the river to increase riverfront accessibility at Pendery Park
- Installation of a bench swing overlooking the river at Pendery Park (donated by park patron)
- Added sidewalk to water fountain at Pendery Park
- Re-paved areas on the walking trail at Pendery Park
- Planted six new trees at Pendery Park purchased through an Environmental Stewardship grant from Campbell County Extension

Members of Fiscal Court commended Parks and Recreation staff, the Maintenance and Road Departments, and community partners for their teamwork and dedication. The Court emphasized the parks system as a valuable county asset and expressed support for continued investment to ensure long-term sustainability and quality.

### **New Business**

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented new business.

#### ***Resolution R-01-26***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-01-26, “A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court approving AJ Jolly and Pendery Park fees for the 2026 Park Season.”

Mr. Elberfeld explained that shelter prices would remain the same, camping would be closed, and daily park entrance fees would be eliminated.

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-01-26 by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

## **Personnel**

### ***Resolution R-02-26***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-02-26, “A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court authorizing an agreement with Sun Life to provide Specific Stop Loss and Aggregate Stop Loss Insurance Coverage.

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-02-26 by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter.

Commissioner Tom Lampe recused himself due to his employer having business relationships with the company.

All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

### ***Resolution R-03-26***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-03-26, “A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court adopting pay rates and authorized positions for 2026 variable staff of the Fiscal Court and authorizing corresponding amendments to the Administrative Code.”

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-03-26 by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Geoff Besecker. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

### ***Motion***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to adjust the pay rates of current variable part time staff to reflect the updated 2026 Facilities Maintenance, Parks and Golf seasonal pay rates effective January 1, 2026.

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

### ***Motion***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to authorize staff to advertise, interview, and make hiring recommendations for variable staff for the 2026 Facilities Maintenance, Parks and Golf season.

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

### ***Executive Order***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to advance Police Officer Ashley Tate to Police Officer 6 in accordance with the current FOP working agreement effective January 14, 2026.

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

***Executive Order***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to appoint Sara Hoskins as a full-time Administrative Assistant – Housing in the Campbell County Housing Department effective January 26, 2026.

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

***Executive Order***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to appoint Luke Mantle as the Judge/Executive alternate to the Northern Kentucky Solid Waste Management Area Governing Body.

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

**County Attorney’s Report**

County Attorney Steve Franzen recognized and commended the efforts of County Police, Detective Kush and County Attorney staff members Michelle Evanston and Adam Hill, for their work in partially recovering funds lost by residents in an internet cryptocurrency scam. The recovery effort spanned nearly two years and, while not all funds were recovered, resulted in meaningful restitution for the victims.

Police Chief Craig Sorrell noted the increasing prevalence and complexity of fraud and scam cases, particularly affecting elderly residents, and emphasized the importance of public awareness and continued diligence by law enforcement and county staff.

**County Commissioners’ Report**

Commissioner Geoff Besecker wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**County Judge/Executive’s Report**

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery made the following announcements:

***MH/ID/AG Payroll Tax Funds Application***

Organizations interested in receiving Campbell County Payroll Tax Funds to service the citizens of Campbell County in the areas of Mental Health, Intellectual Disabilities, or Aging Services must download, complete, and email the Fiscal Year 2027 MH/ID/AG Tax Fund Application, available on the Opportunities and Bids page at [www.campbellcountky.gov](http://www.campbellcountky.gov). Applications are due no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, January 30, 2026.

***Holiday Tree Recycling***

Solid Waste is accepting natural evergreen trees at Pendery Park during daylight hours through January 18<sup>th</sup>. Trees must be unbagged and all decorations including ornaments, tinsel, ribbons, and lights must be

removed prior to drop-off. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife will repurpose the trees to create fish habitats in lakes across the Commonwealth.

### ***Holiday Lights Recycling***

Solid Waste is collecting holiday string lights at six different locations through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Drop off locations include:

- Campbell County Administration Building, 1098 Monmouth Street, Newport
- Campbell County Clerk's Office, 8330 W Main Street, Alexandria
- Campbell County Public Library at all four branches: Alexandria, Cold Spring, Fort Thomas, Newport

## **Finance Director/Treasurer's Report**

### ***Resolution R-04-26***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-04-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court approving the County Sheriff's budget as submitted for calendar year 2026."

Sheriff Mike Jansen was present to answer any questions.

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

Sheriff Jansen said he appreciates work with the Fiscal Court. He also stated January 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and encouraged everyone to wear blue.

Judge Pendery said he appreciates working together.

### ***Resolution R-05-26***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-05-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court approving the County Clerk's budget as submitted for calendar year 2026."

County Clerk Jim Luersen was present to answer any questions

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-05-26 by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Clerk Luersen thanked the Fiscal Court and Facilities and Fleet Director, Mike Braun and his team for all the work they do within the building.

### ***Motion***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to acknowledge for the record that the 2026 bond renewals are in place for the County Judge/ Executive and the County Sheriff.

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

***Motion***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to acknowledge for the record that the 2026 bond renewals are in place for the Other Elected and Appointed County Officials and Employees of Campbell County.

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

***Motion***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to seek bids for equipment and materials for the AJ Jolly Lake Dredging Project including:

- Amphibious Excavator
- Tracked Rotating Dump Truck
- Swamp Mats & Ground Mats
- Concrete Blocks

Verdantas Engineer Frank Twehues, PE presented an engineering update regarding Flatwoods Cove in connection with the planned spillway replacement project. The spillway requires lowering the lake approximately ten feet, which has created an opportunity to address long-standing sediment buildup while the lake is drawn down and the lake is closed for the 2026 season.

Engineers reported that Flatwoods Cove functions as a sediment trap for three tributaries and has accumulated significant sediment over time, in some areas measuring up to 8–12 feet deep. Surveys and testing confirmed that sediment buildup has restricted water flow to the existing culvert, preventing full drainage of the cove and complicating dredging efforts. Historical review suggests a buried former bridge or structure may be contributing to sediment retention near the culvert.

A bathymetric and sediment survey was completed, along with geotechnical testing, which determined that the sediment lacks structural strength and cannot support standard construction equipment. As a result, traditional land-based dredging methods are not feasible without specialized approaches.

Engineers outlined and evaluated dredging options, including construction of temporary stone access paths and the use of specialized amphibious and long-reach excavating equipment. County staff recommended performing the dredging work in-house using specialized equipment, which would significantly reduce costs compared to outside contractors. It was noted that contracting the work externally could cost an estimated \$10 million, while utilizing county personnel and equipment would result in substantial savings.

The Court acknowledged the technical complexity of the project and commended county staff for developing a cost-effective, in-house solution.

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

### ***Budget Transfers***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to approve Budget Transfers dated:

- December 31 2025

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

### ***Interfund Transfers***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to approve Interfund Transfers dated:

- December 31, 2025

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

### ***Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order***

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented requested a motion to approve Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order dated:

- December 30, 2025
- January 7, 2026

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Brian Paitner.

Commissioner Tom Lampe agreed with payment of the claims however, recused himself from approving any claims related to employee benefits due to his employer’s relationship with those companies.

All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

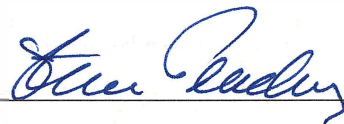
There being no further business to come before the Fiscal Court, Commissioner Geoff Besecker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted “Aye” and the meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.




## Attachments

- R-01-26: Approve AJ Jolly and Pendery Park fees for the 2026 Park Season
- R-02-26: Authorize an agreement with Sun Life to provide Specific Stop Loss and Aggregate Stop Insurance Coverage
- R-03-26: Adopt the authorized positions and pay rates for the 2026 Facilities Maintenance, Parks and Golf Season for variable staff of the Fiscal Court and further authorize corresponding amendments the Administrative Code
- R-04-26: Approve County Sheriff's Budget for Calendar Year 2026
- R-05-26: Approve County Clerk's Budget for Calendar Year 2026
- Budget Transfers: December 31, 2025
- Interfund Transfers: December 31, 2025
- Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order
  - December 30, 2025
  - January 2, 2026 (CDBG)
  - January 7, 2026

Approved:

  
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STEVE PENDERY  
Judge/Executive

Attest:

  
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JANIE PATTERSON  
Fiscal Court Clerk