

CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY
FISCAL COURT
MINUTES

January 21, 2026

The Campbell County Fiscal Court held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 5:30 PM, at the Campbell County Administration Building, 1098 Monmouth Street, Newport, 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
Police Captain, Donald Dornheggen
Fiscal Court Clerk, Janie Patterson

Regular Meeting

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 presented a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Fiscal Court Meeting held on January 7, 2026.

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

Guests

Carl Biery, 2025 National First Responder of the Year

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery recognized Campbell County resident Carl Biery on being named the 2025 National First Responder of the Year, an award presented by the National Association of Convenience Stores Foundation, and presented him with a Citation of Achievement on behalf of the Fiscal Court. Judge Pendery stated that Mr. Biery was selected from more than 70 nominations nationwide for his extraordinary record of service as an American Red Cross volunteer for more than 55 years and responding to over 4,500 emergency situations, including:

- Assisting families during the 1977 Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in Southgate
- Providing support following the 1979 Cincinnati concert tragedy
- Aiding devastated families in the wake of the 1988 Carrollton bus crash
- Serving at the Pentagon following the attacks of September 11, 2001
- Deploying to Alabama in 2005 to organize relief operations and shelter for victims of Hurricane Katrina

Members of the Fiscal Court expressed their gratitude for Mr. Biery's lifetime of selfless service and thanked him for the honor he brings to Campbell County.

Sheriff Mike Jansen, New Chief Executive Officer of Northern Kentucky SWAT

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery recognized Campbell County Sheriff Mike Jansen on becoming the new Chief Executive Officer of Northern Kentucky SWAT and presented him with a Citation of Achievement. Judge Pendery on behalf of the Fiscal Court congratulated Sheriff Jansen for his leadership designation and thanked him for his ongoing commitment to public safety in Campbell County.

Recognition of Citizens/Public Officials

The following Campbell County residents each in turn addressed the Fiscal Court regarding their opposition to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence in Campbell County and the housing of ICE detainees at the Campbell County Detention Center:

Susan Hoffman
Martha Coffman
Sam Kreimer
Brant Owens
Jenny Brewer
Ana Butcher
Jacqueline Oka
Jeff Richardson

Judge/Executive Steve Pendery thanked the community members for attending and bringing their opinions and perspectives before the Fiscal Court. He noted that there were things said that were not in proper proportion and that all Campbell County Detention Center inmates are treated the same whether they are federal, state, or local inmates. Judge Pendery participated in a question-and-answer session with the audience and encouraged individuals to contact the Fiscal Court with specific questions to allow staff time to research and provide informed responses.

New Business

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented new business.

Personnel

Executive Order

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to appoint Rick Buster as the Campbell County Road Supervisor pursuant to KRS 179.020 effective January 25, 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 authorize staff to advertise, interview, and make a hiring recommendation for a full-time Assistant Road Supervisor to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Rick Buster.

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

Executive Order

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to accept the resignation of Police Officer Daniel Bailey of the Campbell County Police Department effective December 26, 2025.

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

Board Appointments

Executive Order

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to appoint Angela Johnson, Michael Sutton, and James Morgan, Jr. to the Campbell County Ethics Commission each for a one-year term effective February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027.

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 reappoint Justin Verst to the Campbell County and Municipal Board of Adjustments for a four-year term effective January 4, 2026 through January 3, 2030.

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 reappoint Jeff Schuchter to the Campbell County Planning & Zoning Commission for a four-year term effective January 20, 2026 through January 19, 2030.

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

County Commissioners’ Report

Commissioner Geoff Besecker said that he and the other Fiscal Court members had the opportunity to attend the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce’s Annual State of Northern Kentucky event which was held the previous morning. He stated that Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, along with Boone County Judge/Executive Gary Moore, and Kenton County Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann, presented to a full audience of several hundred people. Judge Pendery provided an overview of community developments and emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and leadership. Commissioner Besecker remarked that the unified leadership demonstrated by the three Judges was clearly evident and well received by the audience, and that the event was very well done.

Commissioner Tom Lampe said that collectively, the three counties represent a significant force within the Commonwealth of Kentucky in terms of economic development, job creation, and tourism. He emphasized that while each county operates independently and prioritizes the interests of its own residents, the counties work cooperatively and collaboratively to strengthen the region as a whole. Commissioner Lampe also noted that the Eggs and Issues event was the largest attended to date, with a capacity crowd of approximately 400 people, and said that the event was well done.

Commissioner Brian Painter said that the regional partnership referenced by his fellow commissioners has resulted in significant cost savings for the three counties over the past several years, particularly through shared investments in radio communications systems, and tower infrastructure that cross county boundaries. He explained that these cooperative efforts improved communication coverage across the region rather than limiting resources to individual counties. Commissioner Painter explained that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the three Judge/Executives identified gaps in broadband access and worked together to utilize federal grant funding and worked together and as a result every address in Campbell County now has fiber-optic infrastructure, an achievement he described as remarkable and unique nationwide. Commissioner Painter said that the exceptional level of cooperation among the three Judges and Fiscal Courts contributed to the largest audience he had seen for a local government forum.

Finance Director/Treasurer's Report

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented the Finance/Director Treasurer's Report.

Motion

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to approve acceptance of the lowest bid from Jefferson Contracting in the amount of \$84,728.02 for the Echo Hills and Midway Drive Storm Sewer Project. Mr. Elberfeld explained the Sanitation District (SD1) will reimburse 50 percent via the Cost Share Agreement.

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

Motion

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to authorize staff to bid the resurfacing of East Low Gap Road.

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

Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order

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

- January 14, 2026
- January 16, 2026 (Employee Benefits)
- January 21, 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 Painter.

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 Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery. All voted "Aye" and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Attachments

- Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order:
 - January 14, 2026
 - January 16, 2026 (Employee Benefits)
 - January 21, 2026

Approved:



STEVE PENDERY
Judge/Executive

Attest:



JANIE PATTERSON
Fiscal Court Clerk

Date: February 4, 2026