

**CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY
FISCAL COURT
MINUTES**

February 4, 2026

The Campbell County Fiscal Court held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 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
Assistant County Attorney, Pat Walsh

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 January 21, 2026.

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

Guests

Campbell County Police Officer Eric Surber – Officer of the Year Award

Police Chief, Craig Sorrell gave a brief background of Officer Eric Surber and presented him with the “Officer of the Year Award”.

Judge Pendery, on behalf of the Fiscal Court, congratulated and thanked Officer Surber for his service. He expressed his support and commended the high quality of the Campbell County Police Department, noting that he has never received a complaint and is proud of the Department’s professionalism and dedication.

Facilities & Fleet Director, Mike Braun – Facilities & Fleet Report 2025

Facilities & Fleet Director, Mike Braun presented the 2025 Annual Facilities & Fleet Report. He reported that the department maintains 13 County buildings and completed approximately 2,400 service work tickets in 2025, addressing routine maintenance issues. The department also responded to 45 after-hours call-outs and maintains 24-hour on-call coverage through a rotating schedule.

Mr. Braun reviewed department staffing and seasonal support for park operations and highlighted expanded safety initiatives, including employee training, compliance measures, and OSHA 10-hour certification completed by Facilities, Road Department, and Golf Course staff. He said it’s the department’s goal to work toward qualifying for the Governor’s Safety Award.

The department conducted approximately 40 surplus sales through GovDeals, generating about \$27,000 in revenue from the sale of storage containers, vehicles, equipment, and a playground unit.

Major projects completed in 2025 included full HVAC rooftop unit replacement and remote monitoring upgrades at 1098 Monmouth Street, improvements to the ADA-accessible fishing pier, installation of a firewood vending machine, flood cleanup and paving repairs at Pendery Park, building two Adirondack Chairs, installation of a new door at the Road Department salt bin, landscaping enhancements, and construction of a new park shelter, with substantial work performed in-house by Facilities staff.

Mr. Braun outlined 2026 goals, including continued emphasis on safety initiatives, installation of new playground safety surfacing, completion of the new shelter at AJ Jolly Park, tennis court upgrades and repairs, additional paving and campsite improvements, and continued enhancements to park grounds.

Mr. Braun thanked Assistant County Administrator, Kim Serra, Facilities Maintenance Lead, Dan Schnitzler, and the Fiscal Court.

Commissioner Tom Lampe thanked Mr. Braun and his crew.

Judge Pendery said Mr. Braun and his crew are always available no matter the weather condition.

Commissioner Brian Painter commended Mr. Braun and his crew for how well they maintain 30 bathrooms throughout the parks and that he appreciates how clean the bathrooms always are.

Campbell County Jailer, Jim Daley – Federal Inmate Agreement

Judge/Executive Steve Pendery acknowledged questions and concerns brought before the Fiscal Court at the previous Fiscal Court meeting, regarding the County's relationship with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the housing of federal inmates at the Campbell County Detention Center. He explained that the Fiscal Court had invited Jailer Jim Daley as a guest speaker to help answer some of those questions and concerns.

Jailer Daley explained that the County does not maintain a jail warrant service agreement with ICE and does not participate in a 287(g) program. He stated that no County personnel are deputized by federal agencies, and that ICE serves its own warrants. He further explained that the County has maintained a long-standing contract with the federal government, through the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Marshals Service, since the late 1990s, which has been amended periodically, including to house ICE detainees.

Judge Pendery noted that copies of the County's federal contract were provided to members of the public upon request.

Jailer Daley reported that the detention center is regularly inspected and meets required standards. He stated that the facility is clean, well-maintained, and supported by the Fiscal Court for necessary improvements. He also explained that federal detainees are not listed on the public jail tracking system due to applicable regulations, and that this applies to all federal inmates, not solely ICE detainees.

Jailer Daley emphasized that all inmates, including ICE detainees, are treated the same and receive appropriate care. He described the role of the jail within the justice system, explaining that the facility houses individuals as directed by the courts and is responsible for their safety, security, and medical needs, but does not determine who is incarcerated or released.

Recognition of Citizens & Public Officials

Two members of the public addressed Jailer Daley with additional questions.

James Schultz, noted his professional background is in community mental health and has prior experience conducting evaluations in county jails, asked whether the County could amend its federal contract to allow greater transparency, including identifying federal charges or listing ICE detainees on the public jail tracking system. He also inquired about detainees' ability to communicate with family members and access legal counsel.

Jailer Daley responded that he has no plans to pursue contract amendments for those purposes and does not see a demonstrated benefit. He stated that detainees are provided access to phones, mail, visitation, and

legal counsel, and are treated the same as other inmates. He further noted recent investments in enclosed, soundproof communication units to enhance privacy for court proceedings and attorney communications.

Judge Pendery reiterated that the County does not participate in a 287(g) program and does not place local law enforcement under federal direction, emphasizing the importance of maintaining local control while cooperating with federal agencies as appropriate.

Michael Hoffman, asked for clarification regarding the status and renewal of the County's contract related to housing ICE detainees.

Jailer Daley explained that the County's agreement is with the U.S. Marshals Service, with an addendum permitting the housing of ICE detainees. He stated that the contract includes an expiration date and renews automatically.

New Business

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented new business.

Ordinance O-01-26: First Reading

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Ordinance O-01-26, "An Ordinance of the Campbell County Fiscal Court enacting and adopting the S-49 Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the County of Campbell, Kentucky (January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025)."

There will be a request for a motion to adopt Ordinance O-01-26 after the second reading.

Personnel

Executive Order

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to appoint Geoffrey Lucas as a Police Officer Grade PO8 with the Campbell County Police Department effective February 5, 2026. Officer Lucas is a lateral police officer hire and as such will be granted with 16 years, 10 months and 11 days of service credit.

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 enter into a contract with Thomas Nitschke to provide School Resource Officer services for the remainder of the 2025 – 2026 School Year.

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 appoint Linda Bates to the Campbell County Cable Board effective February 5, 2026 through January 5, 2027. Ms. Bates will fill the remainder of the unexpired term of Michael Ruscher who previously stepped down from the board.

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

County Administrator’s Report

Motion

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to authorize the Campbell County Fiscal Court to hire outside counsel to represent the Campbell County Coroner in an Ethics Commission hearing. The County Attorney’s Office represents the Ethics Commission therefore the Fiscal Court needs to engage outside counsel.

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

County Commissioners’ Report

Commissioner Geoff Besecker thanked Facilities & Fleet Director, Mike Braun and his team for the hard work that they do throughout the year. He also thanked Road Supervisor, Rick Buster and Public Works Director, Luke Mantle for their leadership during the recent snow storms. Commissioner Besecker said their team put in long hours and worked through the night when needed and did an absolutely wonderful job keeping the roads cleared of snow.

Commissioner Tom Lampe thanked Brent Cooper and the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for hosting Northern Kentucky Day in Frankfort, which provided an opportunity for local leaders to meet with state legislators and discuss regional priorities. Key topics included workforce housing, childcare, and the expansion of Route 536. Commissioner Lampe noted support for Route 536 from Speaker David Osborne and Senator Chris McDaniel. He also met with Representative Mike Clines, who discussed efforts related to Route 536, and a \$60 million funding request for Reiley Elementary School and John W. Klein Elementary School, and teacher-focused legislation. Commissioner Lampe said he was encouraged by the legislature’s attention to Campbell County priorities.

Commissioner Brian Painter reported on a recent conference, hosted by BE NKY Growth Partnership, that he and Judge/Executive Steve Pendery attended. The event drew regional business leaders and highlighted advantages of locating to Northern Kentucky, including workforce development efforts at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. Commissioner Painter said a national speaker also commended the region’s collaboration and economic performance, noting Northern Kentucky has produced 62% of Greater Cincinnati’s new jobs over the past five years despite having about 20% of the population.

Commissioner Painter said that completion of Route 536 is the region's top priority, citing its importance for economic growth, improved workforce access, and relief of local traffic congestion and that securing right-of-way funding is critical to advance the project.

County Judge/Executive's Report

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, introduced Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky CEO, Kim Webb.

Ms. Webb thanked the Fiscal Court, Jailer Daley and his staff, County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld, Assistant County Administrator, Kim Serra, and Human Services Manager, Allyn Reinecke for their efforts in facilitating the ten-night emergency activation of the Campbell County Cold Shelter. During that time, the shelter served 67 adults and provided approximately 269 bed nights, with a peak of 35 individuals in one night. In addition to overnight shelter, wraparound services and transportation to daytime navigation services were provided. Ms. Webb highlighted the dedication and long hours her staff worked. She said the County's partnership is important in preventing cold-weather-related tragedies.

Finance Director/Treasurer's Report

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

Budget Transfers

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

- January 31, 2026

Motion was made by Commissioner Brian Painter, seconded by 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 28, 2026
- February 4, 2026

Assistant County Attorney, Pat Walsh commented that the claims had been reviewed, and everything appeared appropriate.

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

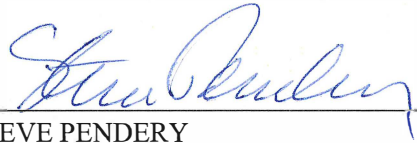
Adjournment

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 10:08 AM.

Attachments

- Budget Transfers: January 31, 2026
- Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order
 - January 28, 2026
 - February 4, 2026

Approved:


STEVE PENDERY
Judge/Executive

Attest:


JANIE PATTERSON
Fiscal Court Clerk

Date: February 18, 2026