

**CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY
FISCAL COURT
MINUTES**

February 18, 2026

The Campbell County Fiscal Court held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 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
Fiscal Court Clerk, Janie Patterson

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 presented a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Mayor's Fiscal Court Meeting on January 27, 2026 and the Regular Fiscal Court Meeting held on February 4, 2026.

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

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery stated at the Mayor's Meeting an expert presented a sobering message about hackers and the importance of cybersecurity.

Guests

Swearing-In of Police Officer Brian DeWaine

Police Chief, Craig Sorrell introduced Officer Brian DeWaine, and gave a brief summary of his background and qualifications.

Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery administered the Oath of Office to Brian DeWaine.

Judge Pendery congratulated and thanked Officer DeWaine and said that the Campbell County Fiscal Court offers him their support. Judge Pendery stated he is proud of the high quality of the Campbell County Police Department, noting that he has never received a complaint.

BE NKY President & CEO, Lee Crume – BE NKY's 2025 Annual Results and Accomplishments

BE NKY President & CEO Lee Crume presented the organization's 2025 Annual Results and Accomplishments, outlining economic development activity across Northern Kentucky and its direct impact on Campbell County. He noted that BE NKY serves as the regional economic development organization for Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Counties and works in partnership with the Fiscal Courts.

Mr. Crume reported on new and expanded company projects announced in 2025, associated job creation, and capital investment generated through BE NKY's business attraction and retention efforts. He noted that while activity was slower earlier in the year due to economic uncertainty and shifting federal policies, project announcements accelerated significantly in the fourth quarter. He reviewed BE NKY's targeted industry strategy, explaining that the organization focuses recruitment efforts on sectors where Northern Kentucky has a competitive advantage in workforce, infrastructure, logistics access, and available sites. He emphasized the importance of pursuing high-wage, high-value employers to ensure responsible use of limited community resources, including land, utilities, and workforce capacity. Mr. Crume also highlighted the work of the Northern Kentucky Port Authority, which is a managed entity of BE NKY.

Mr. Crume focused on workforce challenges and talent development. He discussed BE NKY's recent investments in career awareness and workforce pipeline initiatives, including Adopt a Class, Trades in NKY, and NaviGo. He emphasized the need to better align K-12 education, technical training, and employer needs, particularly as automation increases skill requirements and workforce growth remains limited. He noted that workforce availability, quality industrial sites, infrastructure capacity, and utilities are the primary constraints to future growth.

Mr. Crume also referenced continued strength in aviation, aerospace maintenance, and logistics operations at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, including maintenance training and repair operations that support high-wage career pathways in the region.

The Fiscal Court engaged in discussion with Mr. Crume and presented him with questions about regional competitiveness, logistics trends, aviation workforce training outcomes, housing needs, and long-term economic strategy. The Court stated they appreciated BE NKY's partnership with local governments,

utilities, educational institutions, and state partners to advance site readiness, workforce development, and sustainable economic growth.

BE NKY 2025 Results

- \$425.5 Million Capital Investment
- 15 Projects Won
- 1,914 Jobs Announced

Old Business

Ordinance O-01-26: Second 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).”

Motion was made to adopt Ordinance O-01-26 by Commissioner Tom Lampe, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

New Business

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented new business.

Resolution R-06-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-06-26, “A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court acknowledging the annual review of the Campbell County Detention Center Policy and Procedure Manual.”

Jailer Jim Daley was present to answer any questions if needed, but there were none.

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-06-26 by Commissioner Brian Painter, seconded by Commissioner Geoff Besecker. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

Resolution R-07-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-07-26, “A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court authorizing the Judge/Executive to execute an amendment to the Northern Kentucky Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) Inc. Interlocal Agreement.”

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-07-26 by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted “Aye” and the motion passed.

Resolution R-08-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-08-26, “A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court authorizing the Judge/Executive to enter into an updated lease agreement with Campbell Soccer Club, Inc. for use on certain areas of Pendery and AJ Jolly Parks.”

Mr. Elberfeld explained the updated lease agreement is for a ten-year term to support the tenant's planned investment in a new irrigation system and to ensure control of the park area during that time. The tenant will be responsible for the full cost and ongoing maintenance of the irrigation system.

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-08-26 by Commissioner Tom Lampe, seconded by Commissioner Brian Painter. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-09-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-09-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court authorizing the Judge/Executive to enter into an updated lease agreement with Campbell County Rural Knothole Baseball, Inc. for use of certain areas of the Campbell County Sports Complex at Pendery Park."

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-09-26 by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Resolution R-10-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-10-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court authorizing the Judge/Executive to enter into an updated non-exclusive lease agreement with the Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council for use of Camp Whippoorwill within AJ Jolly Park."

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-10-26 by Commissioner Tom Lampe, seconded by Commissioner Geoff Besecker. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Motion

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to transfer \$20,400 from the Fiscal Year 2025 mental health payroll tax fund rollover contingency into Fiscal Year 2026 program funds to the Northern Kentucky Area Development District for the administration of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supportive Food Program (CSFP), both funded through USDA/Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Mr. Elberfeld explained the programs are facing a \$100,000 funding shortfall due to federal funding reductions and Campbell County's pro rata share of the shortfall is \$20,353.78.

Motion was made by Commissioner Geoff Besecker, seconded by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery.

Commissioner Besecker stated his support for pursuing creative solutions for the needed program but hopes that a federal and/or state-level solution will ultimately be implemented.

All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

Personnel

Executive Order

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld presented a motion to acknowledge and accept the annual compensation for County Judge/Executive Steve Pendery and Jailer James Daley as set in accordance with KRS 64.5275 by the Kentucky Department for Local Government for the 2026 calendar year.

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 set the annual compensation for the County Commissioners as calculated by the Kentucky Department of Local Government based on the CPI rate of 2.7% over the previous twelve-month period.

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 set the annual compensation for County Attorney Steve Franzen as calculated by the Kentucky Department of Local Government based on the CPI rate of 2.7% over the previous twelve-month period.

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 set the annual compensation for County Coroner Mark Schweitzer as calculated by the Kentucky Department of Local Government based on the CPI rate of 2.7% over the previous twelve-month period.

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 advance Police Officer Paul Wagner to Police Officer 4 in accordance with the current FOP working agreement effective February 28, 2026.

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 appoint the following seasonal employees for the 2026 Facilities Maintenance, Parks and Golf season effective March 1, 2026.

- David Harris, Golf Course Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Homer Jack, Golf Course Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Joseph Koblitz, Golf Course Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Steven Teegarden, Golf Course Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Donald Thomas, Golf Course Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Amanda Herald, Parks & Recreation Assistant (SBE)
- Billie Herald, Park Attendant (SBE)
- Molly Twehues, Park Attendant (SBE)
- Steven Fields, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Terry Kramer, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- James McCafferty, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Perry Mochabee, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Jeffrey Osterhage, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- Aidan Schultz, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Worker (SBE)
- John Wieland, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Worker (SBE)

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 Laura Lewis, Cindy Minter, and Henry Pogue to the Campbell County 911 Service Fee Appeals Board for a one-year term effective December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026.

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 reappoint Richard “Hutch” Johnson to the Campbell County and Municipal Board of Adjustments for a four-year term effective March 3, 2026 through March 2, 2030.

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 Troy Styer to the Campbell County Cable Board for a three-year term effective March 19, 2026 through March 18, 2029.

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

County Administrator's Report

Resolution R-11-26

County Administrator, Matt Elberfeld read the title summary for Resolution R-11-26, "A Resolution of the Campbell County Fiscal Court pursuant to KRS 64.530 to set the compensation of County Commissioners, County Coroner, and County Attorney for the term of elected office beginning January 1, 2027." Mr. Elberfeld explained this is a state requirement that must be passed every 4 years before a new term starts.

Motion was made to adopt Resolution R-11-26 by Judge/Executive, Steve Pendery, seconded by Commissioner Tom Lampe. All voted "Aye" and the motion passed.

County Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Besecker reported that he traveled to Frankfort with Judge/Executive Steve Pendery, County Administrator Matt Elberfeld, Assistant County Administrator Justin Otto, and others to advocate on behalf of the community. They discussed the county's priorities with members of the local legislative delegation, including Representatives Mike Clines, Matt Lehman, Mark Hart, and Senator Shelley Funke-Frommeyer. Commissioner Besecker stated that the meetings were productive, and he appreciated the opportunity to represent the county and participate in discussions with state lawmakers.

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 authorize the Judge/Executive to enter into a contract with GHD Digital for website redevelopment, subject to final approval of the contract by the County Attorney's Office.

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 grant staff permission to enter into an agreement with Invoice Cloud, Inc. to allow Campbell County Planning & Zoning to accept online permitting payments. Mr. Elberfeld explained that it is essential to update the existing payment system in order to maintain compliance with modern PCI standards. The new process will place the PCI burden on the third-party vendor, similar to Campbell County Fiscal Court's other card processing sites. The one-time implementation cost of \$1,575 and annual connector cost of \$1,440 are included in the FY 2026 budget.

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

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

- February 5, 2026
- February 11, 2026
- February 16, 2026 (Employee Benefits)
- February 18, 2026

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

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

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 6:36 PM.

Attachments

- O-01-26: Adopt S-49 Supplement to the Code of Ordinances (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025)
- R-06-26: Acknowledge the annual review of the Detention Center Policy and Procedure Manual
- R-07-26: Execute an amendment to the Northern Kentucky SWAT Interlocal Agreement
- R-08-26: Enter into an updated lease with Campbell Soccer Club, Inc.
- R-09-26: Enter into an updated lease with Campbell County Rural Knothole Baseball, Inc.
- R-10-26: Enter into an updated lease with the Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road Council
- R-11-26: Set the compensation of County Commissioners, County Coroner, and County Attorney for the term of elected office beginning January 1, 2027
- Claims & Claims Paid per Standing Order:
 - February 5, 2026
 - February 11, 2026
 - February 16, 2026 (Employee Benefits)
 - February 18, 2026

Approved:



STEVE PENDERY
Judge/Executive

Attest:



JANIE PATTERSON
Fiscal Court Clerk

Date: March 4, 2026