

CALLOWAY COUNTY  
FISCAL COURT MEETING  
July 16, 2025, Regular Meeting

An adjourned meeting of the Calloway County Fiscal Court was held at 9:00 am on Wednesday July 16, 2025, in the Calloway County Courthouse Annex. Judge Executive Kenneth C. Imes called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. The following duly qualified members of the Court were present: Squire Don Cherry, Squire Paul Rister, Squire Larry Crutcher and Squire Ricky Stewart. Also present were County Treasurer Tonya Robinson, Deputy Judge Gina Winchester, County Attorney Bryan Ernstberger, and County Clerk Antonia Faulkner.

Judge Imes introduced the Court to the new CEO of MCCH, Ms. Reba Celsor. She was welcomed by all after a brief introduction of herself.

The minutes of June 18 regular scheduled Fiscal Court meeting, were reviewed. Motion made by Squire Rister, seconded by Squire Cherry to waive the formal reading and approve the minutes as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. The minutes of the June 30 Special meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Squire Rister, seconded by Squire Cherry to waive the formal reading and approve the minutes as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Judge Imes called on County Treasurer Tonya Robinson. That report began with the approval of the financial statement. Motion made by Squire Stewart, seconded by Squire Rister to approve the statement as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. The Court then reviewed the bills. Motion made by Squire Rister, seconded by Squire Cherry to pay the bills, all voted aye, and it was so ordered. Motion made by Squire Stewart seconded by Squire Rister to approve the budget transfers as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Squire Crutcher moved, seconded by Squire Rister, to approve a \$100,000 cash transfer from the money market to the road department. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Mrs. Robinson presented to the Court the Treasurer's Final Settlement. After a discussion, a motion was made by Squire Rister, seconded by Squire Cherry to approve the settlement as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Judge Imes mentioned to the Court the request for payment regarding the Murray Art Guild block grant.

Mr. Danny Harrison presented to the Court the Fire Protection District tax rates for 2025 at (\$.09) nine cents per (\$100.00) one hundred dollars, this is the same rate since 2019 per Squire Rister.

As the first reading of the County 2025 tax rate, Judge Imes recommended to the Court to set the tax rate at 14.10, which is a 4% increase over the compensating rate presented by the Department of Local Government for 2025 ad valorem tax rates. The increase over last year's tax rate for the county of 14.0 will bring in an estimated additional \$29,000.00 to the County. Squire Rister mentioned the rate has not increased since 2021.

The Court then reviewed the second reading of Ordinance #25-0716-A authorizing Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicles (SLSPV) to operate on public roads and highways in the unincorporated areas of Calloway County. The regular meeting was suspended while a Public Hearing was called to order. Squire Rister stated he had had no comments from the public on social media for or against the ordinance, he

discussed a reciprocity law (KRS 186.140) that he was made aware of during a recent training. Squire Cherry discussed, as an owner of a SLSPV, his concern with the enforceability of the regulations and the safety of these units on the highways. Squire Crutcher, also an owner of a SLSPV, also has concerns about the safety on highways. Squire Stewart agreed with Squires Cherry and Crutcher. There was no public comment. The hearing was closed and regular session called back to order. Motion made by Judge Imes, seconded by Squire Rister to approve the second reading of the ordinance as presented. A vote of aye from Judge Imes, Squire Rister, Squire Crutcher, and Squire Stewart, and a no vote from Squire Cherry; it was so ordered.

Josh Kerr, EM Director, presented to the Court the EM State Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement and Resolution to be approved. After some discussion, Squire Rister moved, with Squire Stewart seconding, to authorize Judge Imes to sign the agreement and approve resolution #25-0716-A. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

Judge Imes requested the Court's approval to reappoint Ms. Rhonda Lamb to the Fire Protection Board. Motion made by Squire Cherry, seconded by Squire Stewart to reappoint Ms. Lamb to expire 6-30-2028. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

The Court reviewed personnel changes. Motion made by Squire Rister, seconded by Squire Crutcher to approve as presented. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

The Court discussed the bids presented to paint the Courthouse at 101 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Squire Rister had reached out to bidders with additional questions. Henry and Son responded to Mr. Rister's request. The Sherwin Williams paint used does have a warranty and will be applied so that the warranty will be upheld. Rister discussed with Henry and Sons the opportunity to clean the windows while they have a lift on site. Cleaning the windows was not in the bid but could be a change to the order. Also discussed was the pigeon issue in the porch area of each door entrance. Henry and Son suggested the use of bird netting, but this was something they were not comfortable installing. The use of the lift by the county was discussed. The company will give permission to use the lift after their workday is complete. Perseverance Painting had not yet returned Squire Rister's call. Lakeland Painting was not contacted as their bid was sent in earlier in the year and the Court was not sure that this bid was still good or acceptable for the current bid request.

County Attorney, Bryan Ernstberger did not see a problem with the Lakeland bid. He did discuss the importance of the application of the paint to be insured. The warranty will be upheld and the insurance as it relates to the use of the equipment by someone other than Henry and Son. After further discussion, a motion was made by Squire Cherry, seconded by Squire Rister, to accept the bid from Henry and Son Painting at \$73,600.00 subject to a detailed submittal by contract. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

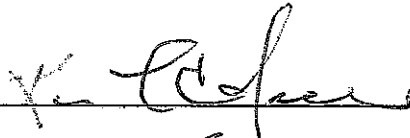
Jeremy Whitmore, Tourism Commission Director, presented the annual report for the Tourism Board. The presentation included three excellent videos marketing KY Lake, Calloway County, the City of Murray, the City of Hazel, and Murray State University, with one video partnership with Marshall County Tourism. He discussed with the Court the Tennessee RiverLine program partnership, community support, and Chandlerthinks, a brand development company for local, regional, and national brands.

Squire Stewart commented on the good and interesting experience working with Chandlerthinks. Mr. Whitmore took the time to thank the Tourism Board for their support and work.

Deputy Judge Exec. Gina Winchester presented to the Court the Admin/Ordinance committee minutes. Deputy Judge Winchester discussed with the Court the need for the Court to approve an updated contract with Tri-State for the County Drug Free testing. The contract has been in place since 2020. However, it was brought to her attention that ownership has changed. With this information, Tri-State was contacted to set up a new contract. This contract with Mr. Kyle Rietz does have cost adjustments. Squire Rister and Co Atty Ernstberger discussed the requirements to rebid every two years. After discussion, the motion made by Squire Rister to approve the contract as presented, then move forward with bid request. Co. Atty Ernstberger recommended accepting the bid and to rebid as soon as possible to stay in line with the KRS requirements to rebid every two years. Squire Rister then amended his motion to approve the contract as presented, move forward with rebid at a date to be set by HR director to maintain coverage as required. Motion was seconded by Squire Stewart. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

During staff/official comments Squire Rister updated the Court on lease agreements with the TVA and how to go forward with cleanup of the area, and the research related to HB 159 helping Counties to make mass foreclosures due to delinquent county taxes. Squire Cherry expressed his appreciation for the work Squire Rister and Representative Imes were doing for HB 159 and the facelift on the Courthouse. Judge Imes asked the Court's approval to approve the purchase of a new air unit for the EM office. Three estimates were received with the lowest from Thornton's Heating/Air. Motion made by Judge Imes, seconded by Squire Rister to have Thornton's replace the unit. All voted aye and it was so ordered. Justin Tidwell, Solid Waste Coordinator, let the Court know that the Old Salem Bridge project should be paved by Jim Smith Contracting next week. Judge Imes discussed community concerns with chemical spraying around bridges, he assured that all guidelines, certifications, etc. were met to keep the citizens, wildlife, and waterways safe. Judge Imes mentioned a scheduling issue that may arise for the next Court meeting but will advise in advance if necessary.

There being no further business before the Court a motion was made by Squire Cherry, seconded by Squire Crutcher to adjourn. All voted aye and it was so ordered.

  
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Approved this 20th day of August 2025 by County Judge Executive, Kenneth C. Imes