

Minutes

Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting

May 26, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul called the meeting to order and requested a roll call vote.

Answering:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: here; Squire Larry Hicks: here; Squire Kenny Muse: here; Squire Aaron Pennington: here; Squire Kenny Saltsman: here; Squire EG Thompson: here; Squire Patsy Whitehead: here; Squire Chris Yates: here; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: here.

The Invocation was given by Squire Pennington.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Whitehead.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul made opening comments welcoming those in attendance and reviewing the agenda. Judge Taul noted that the statewide 988 hotline for suicide prevention, mental health, and substance abuse crises is active, with 14 Kentucky call centers and 24/7 text and chat support. He also announced that the county received approval for a 2026 Rubber-Modified Asphalt grant in the amount of \$162,624 from the state.

Approve Hardin County Fiscal Court 5/12/2026 minutes

Motion to Approve by Squire Yates and seconded by Squire Saltsman.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Motion passed.

Informational Items

a. Presentations

i. EMS – Mark Peterson

ii. E-911 – Mike Leo

b. Written Reports

i. Planning – Adam King

Citizen's Concerns or Comments:

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul opened the floor for citizen comments. No citizens came forward; no comments were offered.

Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements

a. Approve **Resolution 2026-090** related to Appointment of Michael Steck as Hardin County Road Supervisor.

Motion to Approve by Squire Thompson and seconded by Squire Pennington.

Squire Clem offered extensive remarks recognizing retiring Road Supervisor Dwight Morgan's service and attention to detail, including late-night consultations to ensure informed decisions. He highlighted Morgan's testimony in Frankfort on road funding at the invitation of the

Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association's Executive Director, and praised his leadership in the road department through staffing reductions, equipment upgrades, service improvements, and advocacy for better salaries for road employees. Clem concluded with personal appreciation: "Well done, my friend," wishing Dwight and his wife Lois a well-deserved retirement.

Squire Thompson stated it was his pleasure to serve alongside Dwight as a magistrate, noting Morgan's effective representation of Hardin County in Frankfort and mentorship of Michael Steck, expressing confidence that Steck will continue operations at a high level.

Squire Whitehead expressed appreciation for Morgan's responsiveness across communications during her first term and welcomed Michael Steck, noting his responsiveness and willingness to follow through.

Squire Pennington stated that he echoed the sentiments about Morgan saying that he cares about the employees and constituents.

Squire Saltsman agreed and wished Morgan a "happy retirement" and thanked him for being a good friend.

Squire Hicks thanked Dwight Morgan for being helpful, noting that they attend church together. He said Morgan is a great guy and will be missed.

Squire Yates also wished Morgan congratulations on his retirement.

County Judge/Executive Taul emphasized Morgan's strong Christian character, preparedness during emergencies (ice and snow events), and focus on citizens' needs. He announced plans to hold a retirement celebration for Morgan before the next fiscal court meeting, pending scheduling, and commended Steck for stepping in during Morgan's absence, working closely with staff to maintain continuity. Taul acknowledged Steck's upcoming learning curve but expressed confidence in his capabilities and appreciation for his willingness to serve.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve **Treasurer's Financial Report - April 2026.**
- b. Approve **May Claims 5.26.26, May ACH Claims 5.26.26.**
- c. Approve **April Payroll with Registers – (4.10.26, 4.14.26, 4.24.26).**
- d. Approve **Resolution 2026-085** related to Financial Transfers.
- e. Approve **Resolution 2026-089** related to Ancillary Benefit Deductions Listing.
- f. Approve **Resolution 2026-086** related to Bid for One New Type 1 Ambulance.
- g. Approve **Resolution 2026-097** related to Animal Control Personnel.
- h. Approve **Resolution 2026-091** related to Waste Tire Grant.

- i. Approve **Resolution 2026-092** related to FLOCK Group MOU.
- j. Approve **Resolution 2026-094** related to Jail – SAP Renewal.
- k. Approve **Resolution 2026-095** related to County Road Aid and Local Government Economic Assistance Funds.
- l. Approve **Resolution 2026-096** related to appointment of Mike Bell to HCWD #2 Board.
- m. Approve **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes May 13, 2026.**
- n. Approve **Emergency Services Committee Meeting Minutes May 14, 2026.**
- o. Approve **Resources & Community Support Committee Meeting Minutes May 18, 2026.**
- p. Approve **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes May 19, 2026.**

Motion to Approve by Squire Thompson and seconded by Squire Whitehead.

Voting:

Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.

Motion passed.

Concluding Comments:

County Clerk Smith reported on the May primary election turnout, noting Hardin County's upward trend across the last three primaries with a 19.24% turnout (approximately 15,800 voters). He praised poll workers and thanked Jailer Josh Lindblom's team for equipment logistics support, which saved significant costs compared to outsourcing. Smith detailed a pre-election incident where a planned Transportation Cabinet road closure threatened access to the county's busiest polling location (nearly 2,000 voters). He contacted State Senator Matt Deneen and Transportation Cabinet leadership; within approximately 15 minutes, the closure was averted, ensuring safe voter access. Smith expressed appreciation to Senator Deneen, Transportation Cabinet officials, local facilities partners (two school districts, firehouses, and a church), and emphasized maintaining open, fair, and secure elections.

Squire Yates announced the next Emergency Services Committee meeting will be Thursday, June 11 at 3:30 p.m., and congratulated Michael Steck on his promotion.

Squire Saltsman congratulated Steck, offered birthday wishes to Squire Yates, and provided a detailed update on the county's \$80,000 engineering services contract with Lincoln Trail Area Development District. Through the first six months, total billings were \$25,745.05 (approximately \$4,290 per month). For May, the county was billed \$2,607.45, including \$795 for GIS services. At the current expenditure rate, the contract remains within budget and continues to provide engineering and GIS support to the county.

Squire Whitehead congratulated Steck and publicly thanked County Clerk Smith for running a smooth election and for hands-on assistance to voters. She announced the next Resources & Community Support Committee meeting will be Monday, June 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Squire Clem congratulated Steck, wished Squire Yates a happy birthday, announced the next Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 16 at 3:30 p.m., and a Town Hall Forum on Monday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the courtroom. He noted efforts to hold future forums in

community settings when logistics allow and reminded the public not to drink and drive or text and drive.

Squire Pennington commended Clerk Smith's commitment to open and fair elections, noting he "walks the walk."

Squire Thompson praised God for the recent rain noting Hardin County was in near drought conditions.

Squire Hicks said there was a lot to be thankful for. He congratulated Steck on his appointment and Smith on the election.

Squire Muse echoed the well wishes for Dwight Morgan in his retirement and congratulated Michael Steck. He also invited the public to the next Public Works Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

County Judge/Executive Taul announced the next Fiscal Court meeting will be Tuesday, June 9 at 3:30 p.m. He reiterated appreciation for retiring Road Supervisor Dwight Morgan's service and affirmed confidence in Michael Steck's readiness to lead the road department.

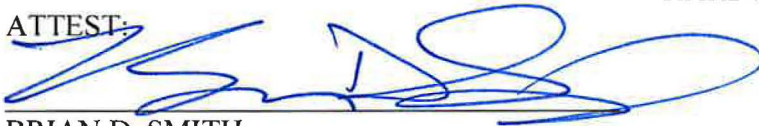
Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Squire Pennington and seconded by Squire Thompson. Court was adjourned without objection, County Judge/Executive Keith Taul presiding.



KEITH L. TAUL
HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:



BRIAN D. SMITH
CLERK, HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT