Minutes
Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting
October 13, 2026 at 3:30 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 Muse.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Yates.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul made opening comments welcoming those in attendance and previewing the agenda. He shared positive news that the contract for repairs on the White Mills Bridge has been signed, thanking senior engineer Mark Absher for his efforts with the contractor and the state. The contractor will have approximately 60 days to complete work, with hopes of reopening the bridge to traffic before Christmas.

Approve Hardin County Fiscal Court 09/22/2026 minutes
Motion to Approve by Squire Whitehead and seconded by Squire Yates.
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

Public Hearing
a. Request to Close – 168' Portion of "Spurrier Alley", a 15' undeveloped alley in White Mills, KY - Conducted by Jenny Oldham, County Attorney.
County Attorney Jenny Oldham opened the public hearing pursuant to KRS 178.050, stating that Fiscal Court holds the discretion to discontinue any county road. The closure request involves a 15-foot undeveloped alley in White Mills and was initiated by property owners Bobby Dodson and Jake Keplinger. Notice of the hearing was published in The News-Enterprise on September 3 and September 6, 2026. On September 22, 2026, the court appointed viewers whose written report was included in the meeting materials. As required by statute, the Planning Commission held a hearing on September 1, 2026, and forwarded recommendations. County Attorney Oldham called on Adam King to present the details. No members of the public requested to speak during the hearing.

Department/Office Reports
Presentations
i. Planning – Road Closing – Adam King
Judge Taul called to move the vote on Resolution 2026-164.

Approve **Resolution 2026-164** related to Road Closing – Spurrier Allen in White Mills.
Motion to Approve by Squire Thompson and seconded by Squire Pennington.
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.

ii. Animal Control – Mike McNutt - September 2026 Fiscal Court Report; Fort Knox Animal Intake 2026-2029; LaRue County Animal Intake 2026-2029; 2026 Totals for Municipality Monthly Report
iii. Detention Center – Josh Lindblom
Written Reports
i. Public Works – Stephanie Givens
ii. Engineering – Mark Absher
iii. Road Department – Michael Steck

Citizen's Concerns or Comments:
County Judge/Executive Keith Taul opened the floor for citizen comments. Elizabethtown Councilwoman Julia Springsteen and Radcliff Councilwoman Toshie Murrell spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 350 Series 2026.
Councilwoman Springsteen noted that the ordinance establishes a countywide ban on selling cats and dogs in parking lots and flea markets, making Hardin County only the second county in Kentucky (after Campbell County) to enact such legislation. She emphasized that the measure protects consumers and animals by curbing backyard breeders and puppy mills that travel across county and state lines. Councilwoman Murrell expressed appreciation for the countywide unity on animal welfare. County Attorney Jenny Oldham clarified that unlike most county ordinances, this ordinance applies across the entire geography of Hardin County, including incorporated cities, establishing a single uniform standard and creating property owner liability for venues such as flea markets. Squire Yates and Judge Taul were thanked for their leadership on the measure.
Judge Taul called to move the vote on Ordinance No. 350 Series 2026.
Second Reading and Adoption of **Ordinance No. 350 Series 2026** Entitled: An Ordinance Relating to the Sale of Dogs and Cats.
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.

Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements

Second Reading and Adoption of **Ordinance No. 349 Series 2026** Entitled: An Ordinance Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Rezoning and Conditional Use Permits Relating to Data Centers Pending Review and Recommended Changes by the Planning Commission.
Motion to Approve by Squire Whitehead and seconded by Squire Hicks.
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 **October Claims 10.13.26, October ACH Claims 10.13.26, September Recurring Claims, September Utility Claims**.
b. Approve **Resolution 2026-162** related to Financial Transfers.
c. Approve **Resolution 2026-163** related to FY27 Grant Pool Funds Project #21669 - Agreement for Bit Re-Surfacing.
d. Approve **Resolution 2026-165** related to Solacom Support Contract.
e. Approve **Resolution 2026-166** related to Reject Bids for 2021 Osage Super Warrior Type 1 Box Remount & 2021 Osage Warrior Type 1 Box Remount.
f. Approve **Resolution 2026-167** related to SERVS 700 MHz Radio System.
g. Approve **Resolution 2026-168** related to approve Bid for Fourteen EMS Cardiac Monitors.
Motion to Approve by Squire Pennington and seconded by Squire Yates.
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:
Clerk Smith acknowledged the passing of former Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, highlighting his deep love for the Commonwealth, Kentucky agriculture, and Western Kentucky University basketball. Provided general election updates, noting that election day polls close in exactly three weeks. The deadline to request a mail-in absentee ballot is October 20, 2026, though voters were urged not to delay. In-person excused absentee voting begins on October 21, 2026, for eligible voters (due to age, disability, illness, or travel). High voter turnout is expected; citizens with questions were encouraged to contact or visit the clerk's office.

Squire Yates invited the community on behalf of Hardin County EMS to a Trunk or Treat event on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the park. Announced that the Emergency Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. across the hall.

Squire Saltsman reminded K-8 students of the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) annual "I Love My County" art calendar contest, where children can submit original artwork showcasing local landmarks, events, or community features. Noted the entry deadline is Friday, October 16, 2026, with details and submissions available at kaco.org.

Squire Whitehead commended Library Director Laurel Tabaka for hosting a successful Fall Farm Festival at the Hardin County Public Library. Encouraged citizens to follow the library online for upcoming events and highlighted the library's shoe drop donation bin collecting gently used shoes and boots for local families in need. Announced that the Resources and Community Support Committee will meet on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. across the hall.

Squire Clem mourned the loss of former Fiscal Court Magistrate Rodman "Buster" Maffet, recognized as a driving force behind county 911 system establishment during his extensive tenure. Announced a Celebration of Life for Buster on Friday, October 16, 2026 at the E'town Country Club. Also announced the Finance Committee Meeting on October 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., and reminded the public to refrain from drinking and driving or texting and driving.

Squire Pennington invited the public to attend the Emergency Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. across the hall.

Squire Thompson announced the 47th Annual Glendale Crossing Festival taking place on Saturday, beginning at 8:00 a.m. with the parade starting at 10:00 a.m., inviting families to participate in the tradition.

Squire Hicks echoed enthusiasm for the Glendale Crossing Festival, noting favorable cool weather. Expressed deep gratitude to county staff and especially senior engineer Mark Absher for securing the White Mills Bridge repair contract, noting it resolves substantial concerns voiced by local residents.

Squire Muse congratulated local Elizabethtown resident and St. James Middle School alumna Keira Yun for becoming the Kentucky State High School Ladies Golf Champion for the second time. Reminded the court that the Public Works Committee meets on October 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

Judge Taul announced that the next regular Hardin County Fiscal Court meeting will be held in two weeks on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Squire Pennington and seconded by Squire Muse. Court was adjourned without objection, County Judge/Executive Keith Taul presiding.

KEITH L. TAUL
HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:
Miranda Caswell, DC
BRIAN D. SMITH
CLERK, HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT