

COMMUNITY

Nicholas County Fiscal Court welcomes new EMS Director Steve Asbury at June meeting

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Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, along with Judge-Executive Steve Hamilton and County Attorney Dawn Letcher, met on Friday, June 13, 2025, at 9:00am, at the courthouse, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, which was broadcast live on the Carlisle Mercury Facebook page.

Judge-Exec. Hamilton called the meeting to order with a prayer from Mrs. Letcher, the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call with all magistrates present, approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held in April, and acknowledgment that the monthly departmental reports had been received.

The court welcomed new EMS Director Steve Asbury, who introduced himself. Mr. Asbury comes to Nicholas County with a lot of experience, and lots of plans for Nicholas County EMS. He mentioned that the service had a total of 58 runs last month, would turn in more detailed reports in the future, and that he would be appealing the fine the EMS service had received during their last inspection.

Judge-Exec. Steve Hamilton and Emergency Management Director Doug French spoke to the court about their recent meetings with FEMA, regarding the three recent weather events that affected Nicholas County. Judge-Exec. Hamilton said that it is a "long process," and that there were three road slips during one of the events, two on Mt. Zion and one on Jerdan.

The court approved the monthly bills, with additions; and discussed the Brunner subdivision plat, containing 8 lots which range from approximately 7 to 86+ acres, located on Abner's Mill and Buchanan. More details regarding the subdivision plat will be further discussed and possibly approved at next month's meeting.

The court approved several Mather's Fund requests, including 6 requests from 4-H to attend the state team conference, at \$250.00 each; 6 requests from FBLA to attend the national competition in Anaheim, Ca., at \$250.00 each; 3 requests from FCCLA to attend the national competition in Orlando, FL., at \$250.00 each; and 15 requests for NCHS band marching fee membership, at \$100.00 each. These dollar amounts are the same that were awarded the previous year.

The court accepted the resignation of David Sparks from the Water Board, and approved the appointment of Justin Massey as Mr. Sparks' replacement.

The court discussed the Flex Road Funds, approved Judge-Exec. Hamilton's recommendation to repair Collier Road. The judge spoke about how difficult it is to get blacktop money, and that it takes a lot of phone calls, paperwork, and working with legislators to get money approved. He did mention that a MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) for repairs to Locust Grove would be forthcoming, and that the county



Top to bottom, left to right: Magistrates Matt Hughes and Tommy Crawford... County Attorney Dawn Letcher and Magistrate Ross Haney... Nicholas County Sheriff Jeff Sidles, Nicholas County Judge-Executive Steve Hamilton, Magistrate Rodney Matthews, EMS Director Steve Asbury, Magistrate Kenny Holbrook, and Emergency Management Director and Nicholas County Fire Chief Doug French.

has a total of 164 miles of roadways, at an approximate cost of \$130,000.00 per mile, to blacktop.

The court approved a 2-year contract with HMC for HVAC maintenance at the Judicial Center, at a cost of \$13,160.00, which is paid quarterly.

The court approved the Nicholas County EMS job description, with adjustments, for Mr. Steve Asbury, EMT / Director of the EMS, which includes executing the plans and goals of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, and much, much more.

The court approved the reappointment of Mitch Harmon to the Nicholas County Fire Protection District Board, for a 3-year term.

The court discussed health insurance premium rates, and the rising costs, but tabled that discussion, until after closed session.

The court approved the use of the courthouse yard for Dick and Brandon Garrett, for a monthly summer car show, on June 21st, July 19th, August 16th, September 20th, and October 18th. Judge-Exec. Hamilton reiterated that these dates would not interfere with other events held on the courthouse lawn.

The court approved a motion to allow the Treasurer to transfer cost allocation funds between the road and general funds, as needed in FY 25-26; approved the appropriation transfers; approved the Treasurer to make appropriation transfers as

needed, until June 30, 2025; approved the 2nd reading of a budget amendment, with no changes; approved the 2nd reading of the budget, with no changes; approved the Treasurer's transfers; approved the Treasurer's report; and acknowledged and approved the 2024 tax settlement for the Nicholas County Sheriff's Department.

Judge-Exec. Steve Hamilton reports to the court that the first round of mowing has been completed, with assistance, and the second round of mowing is beginning. He also said that new EMS radios have been ordered from Southern Communication. He gave some updates about the nursing home, and that the building has been inspected, and that the facility has had surprise 2-week inspections, and that the facility is waiting to be supplied a number regarding Medicaid / Medicare, and that it could possibly take 8 months to receive that number, but that calls were being made to speed up the process. He also spoke about getting the driveway to the nursing home repaved and mentioned that he had received a "very generous and greatly appreciated" donation of \$8,700.00, for the community.

The judge welcomed Perry Harrison, of Harrison Harvesting who attended the meeting, and Mr. Harrison gave some updates to his facility and mentioned that everything is going well, and they recently have added

pork. He said that his facility has a staff of approximately 40 to 45 employees, and that most of them were local residents. He and the judge also spoke about traffic at his facility and Law Estates, which is across the road.

The judge spoke about the upcoming Blackberry Festival and mentioned that the Bourbon-Nicholas EDA has been awarded \$3.4 million from KPDI, in regards to the industrial park.

Before going into closed session, the court approved to open bids for the slips located on Mt. Zion and Jerdan; and approved to authorize the MOA and accept the bid for repairs to Locust Grove.

The meeting then went into closed session, and resumed some time later, with no action taken while in closed session.

When the meeting resumed the court approved salary increases for the Road Dept. Foreman, the Road Dept. Assistant Foreman, Road Dept. employees, the Administrative Secretary, the Treasurer, the Animal Control Officer (by a vote of 5-1), the Emergency Management Director (by a vote of 4-2), EMS paramedics, the EMS Deputy Director, and the EMS EMT's (A's and B's).

Before adjournment, the court discussed Health Insurance rate premiums, and approved to pay 85%, which is approximately \$34.00 of the cost.

Road Dept. Supervisor Pat Dunn thanked everyone that helped out during the heavy rains that the county received last Saturday night / early Sunday morning.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

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JUNE 29th at 3:00 P.M.
Neal Welcome Center
108 W. Main St. Carlisle
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Guest Speaker

Saturday, June 21, 2025
Please come and hear,
Dr. Wendell McChord
Speaking on
hotels of Blue Lick Springs, Kentucky before
The Arlington Hotel.
Dr. McChord will be speaking at the Worthington Center, downstairs in the Pavilion Room *
10 am – 11 am.

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