

# FROM THE FRONT

## LANDFILL

from A8

ence to Safety-Kleen. Without specifically saying so, Horner seemed to indicate that his group is prepared to pursue the lawsuit Scott County Mayor Jeffers said earlier in the meeting that needs to be avoided.

"This permit has been issued," Horner said. "It's just going through recertification. There was a lawsuit and it was appealed back in 2010 and then the permit was issued. I just want to make sure everybody is aware, we've invested a lot of time and several years up here, and a whole lot of money, so understand ... we plan on starting construction in September."

Huntsville Mayor Jeffers questioned whether permitting issues in 2014, 2015 and 2016 would constitute violations that void the original permit.

"Here's the problem we're getting into," Jeffers said. "We're calling plays here and the opposition is listening. I don't want to talk about it anymore. It's obvious that we have a difference of opinion. And I don't know — we may be throwing money into the wind. But we're gonna throw it."

That point of contention — Horner's presence — was a major one, with a citizen who was present later saying that he should not be allowed to be there. Mayor Phillips-Jones pointed out that public meetings mean any

member of the public can show up — in other words, if they're closed for one, they're closed for all. However, she also said she intends to discuss with Helton, the attorney being retained by the group, whether the coalition's meetings fall under the state's open meetings requirement.

"At some point in time, the public is going to have to let us govern," Huntsville Mayor Jeffers said. He added: "This coalition was formed as a result of the public's outcry. So we have heard, loud and clear. To go back and rehash it over and over and over again ... we need time to be constructive, not hear the same complaints."

Phillips-Jones asked Horner if he would consider a new way into the property he intends to build the landfill on. Currently, commercial traffic into the property is using an easement through property owned by Timber Rock Lodge. An easement was granted through that property to reach a house on the property being purchased by Horner's group.

"It would go a long way with a lot of folks in the room if you all would find an alternate way to access that property," Phillips-Jones said. "It's a pretty big imposition on Timber Rock Lodge, which has put a lot of time and money into developing a facility in Scott County. That is one of my significant concerns."

Horner indicated that he would be "more than happy" to pursue that request.

## FIGHT

from A1

Stephen Whitaker represent McCreary County on the Scott County-McCreary County Environmental Coalition.

During the Coalition's inaugural meeting held in Oneida, TN, on Wednesday (7-9-25), the day before McCreary's Fiscal Court met (7-10-25), McCreary County Judge Executive Jimmie "Bevo" Greene committed McCreary County to pay the 1/5 total cost payment contingent on Fiscal Court's approval. During that same Oneida meeting, members of the Coalition agreed to enter into a retainer agreement with attorney Lisa Helton of the Nashville law firm Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harbison. Helton is the attorney who prevailed for the City of Murfreesboro in their fight against an expansion of the Middle Point Landfill earlier this decade.

Helton is retained at a billable rate of \$640 per hour, while two associates who will also work on the case will bill at \$500 per hour. One of Helton's first tasks is to work with Oneida's mayor, Lorie Phillips-Jones, on a letter drafted by McCreary County Water Superintendent Stephen Whitaker to submit to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

At the time of the



Photo By: Eugenia Jones

McCreary County Fiscal Court approved paying 1/5 of the cost to retain an attorney with a proven track record in environmental law.

July 9 Coalition meeting, there was no estimate for the total cost of legal representation. During McCreary County's Fiscal Court meeting, no estimate for the total cost was mentioned.

In the original agenda for McCreary County's Fiscal Court meeting, the agenda item concerning the landfill called for the Fiscal Court

to..."Approve setting a limit on the amount of money to spend on the legal fees for the Coalition between Scott and McCreary County, KY. This will cover the costs for the lawyer approved by the Coalition. The town of Oneida will bill the Fiscal Court for its part of the fees."

After going into executive (closed) session, the

Court returned to open session and approved paying the 1/5 cost without setting a limit.

*(For more details about the Coalition's first meeting, see "Horner Plans Landfill Construction" by September" from the Independent Herald, reprinted on page 1 of this issue of the McCreary Journal.)*

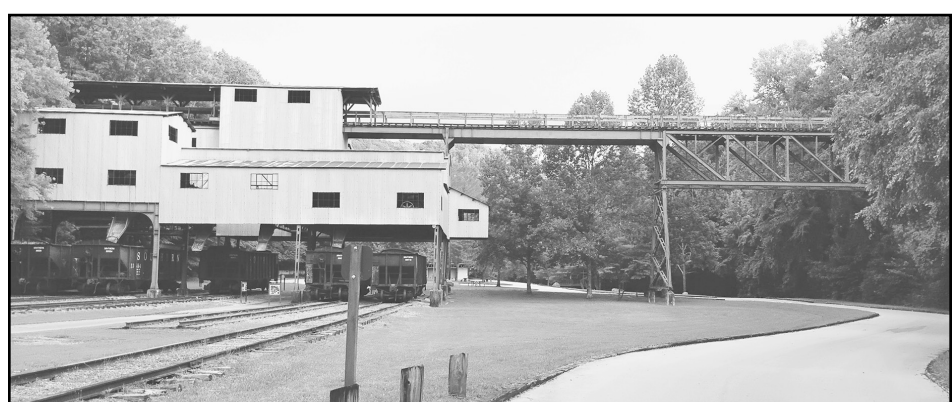


Photo By: Eugenia Jones

The Blue Heron Tipple Bridge remains closed after an inspection revealed safety concerns.

## SLOW

from A1

local history.

"We want it to be open," Nicholas commented. "But when you are talking about millions of dollars, it takes time."

Nicholas explained

that the bridge is failing on the west side.

"That makes it even more expensive to get equipment over there to repair it," Nicholas said. "We'll have to float equipment down. But regardless, we are committed to getting the Tipple Bridge fixed."

Constructed in 1938, the Blue Heron Tipple, a steel and wood frame building clad in grooved sheet metal panels, was a technological marvel in its initial operation due to its ability to screen, separate, and load over 400 tons of coal an hour.

# Notice to McCreary County Taxpayers

Eric Haynes, McCreary County Clerk pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2024 Delinquent Real Property Tax Bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the McCreary Journal on August 23, 2025. The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm at the County Clerk's Office located at 1 North Main St. Room 139, Whitley City, KY 42653. This list may also be inspected on the McCreary County Clerk website. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the website is <https://kydtax.smllc.us> and [mccreary.countyclerk.us](https://mccreary.countyclerk.us). The tax sale will be held on August 26, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am. All interested participants must register with the County Clerk's office by the close of business on August 15, 2025. Please contact the County Clerk's office if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office anytime prior to the tax sale. **Please Note: All payments must be received in the County Clerk's office prior to the tax sale date listed in this advertisement. Payments received after the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.** Some delinquencies - although they have been advertised - will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 134.504(10)(b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk's office at (606) 376-2411.