

COMMUNITY

Fiscal Court discuss a wide array of topics during August meeting

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Members of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, including Judge-Exec. Steve Hamilton and County Attorney Dawn Letcher, met on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026, at 9:00am, at the Nicholas County 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; the Pledge of Allegiance; roll call with all magistrates present; approval of the minutes from the previous monthly meeting and special-called meeting; and acknowledgment that the monthly depart-

mental reports had been received.

Representatives from the Kentucky Department of Transportation spoke to the court regarding their Rural and Secondary Roads Program for FY 2026-2027 for Nicholas County, which includes the resurfacing of portions of KY 57 (Gravel Road/Somerset Road) at a cost of \$350,000.00, and KY 1285 (East Union Road) at a cost of \$375,000.00, which the court subsequently approved.

Judge-Exec. Hamilton introduced new Nicholas County Superintendent Dr. John Derek Faulconer, who spoke to the court about the excitement of the 2026-2027 school year, and remarked how he felt after seeing the community come togeth-

er to help each other out during and following the recent heavy thunderstorm that occurred in the county on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.

Representatives from Spectrum spoke to the court regarding their ongoing fiber project being installed throughout the county, in which they hope to have completed in the next few months. Several magistrates along with members of the community brought up their numerous concerns in dealing with Spectrum's contractors / subcontractors and their rude and unacceptable behavior in dealing with the landowners / citizens. Spectrum representatives said they would be setting up an email address for residents to share their con-

cerns directly with the company, so that issues can be resolved and dealt with accordingly.

Nicholas County EMS Director Nathan Hall reports to the court that there were a total of 105 EMS runs during the month of July, which includes 84 runs in Nicholas County, 15 runs in Robertson County, 1 run in Bourbon County, and 4 runs in Harrison County. He said that the headlight on EC #5 had been fixed, and the court approved moving Paramedic Andrew Songy from part-time to full-time status.

The court approved a resolution regarding a Public Warning System software upgrades grant from Homeland Security, at an approximate cost of \$19,000.00+, which

would be fully funded through Homeland Security. The software will hook into the National Weather Service and is 98% maintenance free. Nicholas County Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief Doug French spoke about the weather sirens that were previously purchased by the county, and that two of those sirens will be placed at Law Estates and Ishmael Chapel Road in the next few weeks, which will provide even more notification for citizens of Nicholas County. The court also approved to enter into a contract with ER Assist Inc., which is a state-approved company that uses their specialty in handling claims and communications with FEMA to work on the county's behalf.

The court approved the monthly bills; and approved 101 Mathers

Fund applications for a \$300.00 allowance, which has increased from \$200.00 last year, for Nicholas County students for back-to-school clothing; and approved two 2nd readings regarding data center and windmill moratoriums.

The court approved a resolution regarding the 2024 Round 2 KDPI grant resolution per the agreement with the Bourbon County Nicholas County Joint Board; and approved to acknowledge the Sheriff quietus.

The court acknowledged the receipt of the district tax rates for the Health Department, Library, and Extension Office; and approved the 2nd reading of the tax rate ordinance, as well.

Before going into

School Board
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funds.

The board approved to pay the following pay applications, direct purchase orders, and/or invoices for the Nicholas Co. new Central Office project, at the discretion of the Superintendent: Momentum Construction, LLC - \$24,346.80; MMI of Kentucky - \$9,796.80; G. Scott & Assoc., Architects, PLC - \$15,537.23; and L.E. Gregg Associates - \$491.00.

The board proposed to approve tax rates for the Nicholas County Board of Education, including exonerations, for the 2026-2027 School Year as follows, a general fund tax levy of 42.7 cents on real property and 43.9 cents on personal property, which includes 0.2 for exonerations; and approved the motor vehicle tax levy for the Nicholas County Board of Education, including exonerations, for the 2026-2027 school year as follows, 55.5 cents per \$100 in valuation, which is the same as last year.

The board approved the

declaration of an emergency vacancy for the following certified positions, as no qualified applicants applied for the vacant position previously posted for the 2026-2027 school year, which includes 4th grade Teacher, HS Science Teacher – 2 positions, MS Math Teacher (temporary), HS Math Teacher, and Gifted and Talented Teacher; and approved to hire Emergency Substitute Teachers, on the basis of anticipated shortages of certified teachers and substitute teachers.

The board approved to pay a stipend to employees who elect to participate in Passive Restraint and De-escalation Training for the 2026-2027 school year, in the amount of \$25.00 per hour; approved the 2026-2027 Master Bell Schedules for NCMS, including the regular day schedule and shortened day schedule, as presented; and approved the 2026-2027 District Funding Assurances and District Funding Assurances Statement.

The board approved the facility use request

by the Nicholas County Little League Basketball/Cheerleading to use the NCES gym/cafeteria for practices and the NCMS gym/concession area for games in the months of Oct. 2026 through March 2027; and approved the facility use request by the Nicholas County Youth Football to use the NCHS football field for games on Aug. 22nd, Sept. 19th, Oct. 3rd, Oct. 17th, and Oct. 24th.

The board approved the NCES school-wide cookie dough fundraiser for 2026-2027, as approved by NCES SBDM; approved the travel requests by the Nicholas County FFA to attend the Kentucky State Fair on Aug. 21, 2026, in Louisville, Ky., and to attend the Rising Sun Conference on Sept. 11-12, 2026, in Hardinsburg, Ky.

The board approved to pay a stipend for the 2025-2026 school year to the Softball Concessions Coordinator, in the amount of \$1,000.00; approved to amend the 2026-2027 Extracurricular Activities and Extra Duty salary schedule, making changes/addi-

tions to concessions coordinators stipends, as presented; and approved a shortened school day for three students, due to a medical necessity, for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year.

Before adjournment, Principals Nikki Orazen and Stacey Allison spoke about how successful Redi-fest at NCES and the Open House at NC-MHS were, and that they were very well attended. Athletic Director Sara Kiskaden remarked that fall sports, including volleyball, football, middle school basketball, middle school football, and cross country are kicking off.

Supt. Faulconer remarked that the first few days of the beginning of the school year were going very well, and he spoke about the recent heavy thunderstorm that struck Nicholas County on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026, and how well everyone worked well together in keeping the students participating in sports that were still on campus or were off-campus, during the storm warning.

The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

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Traffic Safety Checkpoint
Announcement

The Kentucky State Police, Dry Ridge Post, and the Nicholas County Sheriff and City of Carlisle Police Department will be conducting periodic traffic safety checkpoints throughout the post area. These checkpoints will be conducted in an effort to enforce the traffic laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Special attention will be paid to occupant protection (seatbelt adherence), sobriety, insurance, and registration violations. A complete list of traffic safety checkpoint locations can be found at:

<http://kentuckystate-police.org/post6checkpoints/>

Traffic Safety Checkpoints are a valuable tool used to promote the safety and well-being of the public as well as providing police with visibility and interaction with the community. Checkpoints

are utilized throughout the Commonwealth to help promote highway safety. Local police and county agencies may also assist the Kentucky State Police in conducting these Traffic Safety Checkpoints. All checkpoints will be set up in accordance with state law and in compliance with Kentucky State Police policy and procedure.

TRAFFIC
SAFETY
CHECKPOINT
LOCATIONS

Below is a list of traffic safety checkpoint locations. These roadway locations include, but are not limited to:

NICHOLAS
COUNTY

- Myers Road @ Lake Road
- Concrete Road @ Jockey Park
- Moorefield Road
- Marathon Intersection

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