

BE IT REMEMBERED THE HENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA, met via Zoom teleconferencing in lieu of the Courthouse Circuit Courtroom, in the City of New Castle, Indiana on May 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Betsy Mills, Chad Malicoat, Clay Morgan, Harold Griffin, Kenon Gray, Peggy Stefandel, Susan Huhn, Debra Walker, Henry County Auditor, and County Attorney Joel Harvey.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Clay Morgan and the pledge by Kenon Gray

Shaun Dufault gave a Chamber update.

Corey Murphy gave an EDC Update. Corey explained about the RDC Revolving Loan Fund. He is requesting an additional \$36,000 from Food & Beverage and that would give additional money for three more loans at a maximum amount of \$12,000 each.

A motion was made by Chad Malicoat and seconded by Kenon Gray to move \$36,000 from Food & Beverage to the Revolving Loan Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Carrie Barrett gave an update on the Business Resilience Grant Program. They currently have \$16,000 left in the fund. The Restaurant Resilience Grant Program will start taking applications on June 5, 2020.

Corey Murphy thanks this administration for the leadership in taking on helping the community by giving to these programs.

A motion was made by Chad Malicoat and seconded by Clay Morgan to accept the Policy Regarding Expenditure of Food and Beverage Tax Funds during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REGARDING EXPENDITURE OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX FUNDS DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION

On March 6, 2020, the Governor of Indiana declared a public health emergency as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in the closure or curtailment of numerous businesses within Henry County. The closure or curtailment of local business will have a yet undetermined economic effect on the County and its citizens.

In order to alleviate the loss of revenue suffered by businesses as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Board of Commissioners and the Henry County Council approved the expenditure of funds from the County's Food and Beverage Tax for economic development initiatives that will benefit local businesses. In particular, the Economic Development Corporation made requests for a contribution to its revolving loan fund in the sum of twenty-thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) from revenues collected from the local Food and Beverage Tax. In addition, New Castle Main Street, Inc., a local non-profit corporation, was previously awarded, by the Henry County Council, the sum of forty thousand one hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$40,157.00) to construct aesthetic improvements in New Castle. New Castle Main Street, Inc., requested that the funds previously awarded be reallocated for a grant program under which it would provide and administer grants to local businesses to assist with the loss of revenue as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

On May 20, 2020, the Henry County Council approved the expenditure of the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) from Food and Beverage Tax revenues to fund a grant program for local restaurants that will be administered by New Castle Main Street, Inc.

The Food and Beverage Tax (I.C. §6-9-25-1, et.seq.) allows for the County to collect a one percent (1%) tax on the sale of food and beverage items within Henry County. The purpose of the tax is to support economic development efforts and tourism within the County. Funds collected from the Food and Beverage Tax are more appropriately utilized for purposes of promoting economic development than are funds that are allocated to the County General Fund.

Providing funds from the Food and Beverage Tax fund for the purposes described in this policy was approved by the Henry County Council during a public meeting on April 23, 2020. The expenditures specifically detailed in this policy, and other future expenditures of Food and Beverage Tax revenues to benefit local business, are necessary to address and alleviate the negative economic effects suffered by local businesses as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

HENRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Council President

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HENRY COUNTY

President

ATTEST:

Debra G. Walker

A group was formed to look at the CARES monies the county is going to receive. The committee will be made up of Chad Malicoat, Ed Tarantino, Peggy Stefandel and Debbie Walker.

Bill Upchurch sent in an up the collection of taxes, as of May 30, 2020 we are down about \$1,000,000.00 and only 5 of the top 10 taxpayers have paid their taxes.

It was discussed if the council needs to proceed with getting the bank drawdown loan. With the shortfall not being as much as expected, the shortfall could be made up with interlocal loans. Susan Huhn has talked with the Drainage Board and they will have money for them to borrow.

Betsy Mills gave an update on the park and how all but one of their mowers are broke down and they are in desperate need of mowers. The quote they have is for 2 new mowers at the cost of \$36,512.50.

A motion was made by Clay Morgan and seconded by Betsy Mills to purchase 2 new mowers and a stump grinder to be paid out of the extra \$600,000 in the GO Bond. Clay Morgan rescinded his motion.

A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Harold Griffin to allow the Commissioners to work with the Park Board to purchase they equipment needed and to us the \$50,000 that has been allocated in the 2019 GO Bond. And to allow this money to be spent out of order. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Chad Malicoat and seconded by Kenon Gray to accept the Declaration of Fiscal Body for the Middletown Fall Creek Township Public Library. This is for the Councils status as binding review authority for the Middletown Fall Creek Township Library's annual budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Winchester requested to fill two part time positions in the Records Office at \$14.50 per hour. Linda Winchester will get a job description and recommended pay for Waggoner Irwin and Schelle.

A motion was made by Chad Malicoat and seconded by Kenon Gray to table this until the next meeting.

Angela Cox received a grant for \$49,000 to hire a nurse for 20 hours a week to work on immunizations and is requesting to hire her.

A motion was made by Clay Morgan and seconded by Kenon Gray to approve the hiring of the nurse for the Health Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Chad Malicoat gave an update on the Jail.

Kenon Gray gave an update on the Highway Department.

Kenon Gray gave an update on the Stellar Grant.

A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Kenon Gray to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Susan Huhn, President

Harold Griffin, Vice President

Kenon Gray

Chad Malicoat

Peggy Stefandel

Clay Morgan

Betsy Mills

ATTESTED:

Debra G. Walker, Henry County Auditor