

BE IT REMEMBERED THE HENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA, met at the Henry County Courthouse Circuit Courtroom, in the City of New Castle, Indiana on January 26, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Kenon Gray, Susan Huhn, Kyle Allen, Mike Regner, Harold Griffin, Shannon Thom, Betsy Mills, County Auditor Debbie Walker and County Attorney Joel Harvey.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge led by Betsy Mills and a Prayer by Harold Griffin.

A motion was made by Harold Griffin and seconded by Susan Huhn to appoint Kenon Gray as the 2023 Council President. Motion carried 6/1, Kenon Gray abstained.

A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Kyle Allen to appoint Susan Huhn as 2023 Council Vice President. Motion carried 6/1, Susan Huhn abstained.

A motion was made by Kyle Allen and seconded by Shannon Thom to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Corey Murphy gave an EDC/RDC update. Mr. Murphy presented each Councilman with an annual Investors Newsletter. Corey gave an overview of the expansion of the Business Retention and Expansion Project Summary and Recommendations for Legacy Feed in Millville. This a \$21 million investment and will create 20 new jobs by the end of 2024. Co-Alliance is the majority owner of legacy Feed and is a farmer owned organization. Harvest Land Co-op merged with Co-Alliance in 2021. The proposed expansion would take place at the existing Millville Co-Alliance location and would consist of a new feed mill, office and grain storage. The second phase will be the office which will allow for accurate and timely bookkeeping for a mill of this size and phase three, which is to begin in 2026 will be expanded grain storage to take in increased volumes of corn from local growers. The mill will serve a 70-mile radius. EDC is recommending a seven year traditional abatement on real property and personal property. Corey is asking to work with the County Attorney to prepare a Resolution for the February meeting and public hearing for a final vote in March.

A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Susan Huhn to allow Corey Murphy to work with Joel Harvey to work with the County Attorney to create an Abatement Resolution for the February meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Susan Huhn and seconded by Betsy Mills to approve Ordinance 2023-1 An Ordinance Amending the 2023 Salary Ordinance as to the Position of Chief Public Defender. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2023-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 SALARY ORDINANCE AS TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

WHEREAS, the Henry County Council, pursuant to Indiana Code §36-2-5-3, is required to determine the number of officers, deputies and employees of Henry County and to determine the pay of officers, deputies, and employees whose compensation is payable from the County General Fund, or any other fund from which the County Auditor issues warrants for compensation; and,

WHEREAS, the County Council has previously adopted an Ordinance establishing the salaries of officers, deputies and employees of Henry County, Indiana during the year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Public Defender entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Henry County Public Defender Board under which the Chief Public Defender will be paid a specified salary for the year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the previously adopted salary ordinance does not provide for the salary set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Henry County Council wishes to amend the salary ordinance to provide for the payment of the salary set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding effective as of January 1, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Henry County, Indiana, as follows:

Ordinance 2022-16 (2023 Salary Ordinance) is hereby amended as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Chief Public Defender	\$ 89,878.00

All other provision of Ordinance 2022-16 shall continue in effect.

REPEALER: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

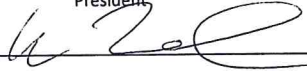
SEVERABILITY: Any provision herein contained which is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful or which by operation of law is rendered invalid, shall be deemed omitted but the rest and remainder of this ordinance, to the extent feasible, shall remain in full force and effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall become effective as of January 1, 2023.

ALL OF WHICH IS ORDAINED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

PASSED this ____ day _____, 2023, by a vote of _____ (ayes) to _____ (nays).

COUNTY COUNCIL OF HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA

President


ATTEST:


Debra G. Walker, County Auditor

A motion was made by Susan Huhn and seconded by Harold Griffin to approve the 911 Salary Ordinance for a new full time 911 employee. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Shannon Thom to approve the sick payout for retiring Mark Reece from the Henry County Sheriff Department in the amount of \$16,876.80. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Sproles gave an update on the Sheriff's Department.

- He discussed that the salary of the road deputies need to be increased to be able to compete with the State Police and the City of New Castle. The State Police is going to give a 50% raise and that is a starting salary of \$70,000 per year. New Castle Police starting pay is \$50,000 with a \$3,000 sign on bonus. He would like to see the county implement a sign on bonus.
- He is concerned about the amount of unpaid bills from last year that he is having to pay out his current budget and that is a very tight budget. Susan Huhn asked he had spoken with the Auditor to see if there was any money left from last year, the Auditor stated there was not.
- The department is short on vehicles, now that they are fully staffed there are not enough vehicles. Some are old and have a lot of miles on them and Sheriff Sproles feels that is a huge liability and he feels that the liability hasn't been taken seriously.
- Sheriff Sproles feels that building another pod at the jail needs to be discussed now rather than later.

- The commissary fund has been used for everything and so much money movement and they are working for creating more line items to help better spend this money.
- They are housing DOC inmates and they have not been billing for those for the last 11 months. They are working with DOC to recoup some of those monies, Betsy Mills asked what they have lost not billing for those and the amount is \$3,000-\$5,000 per month. They will start billing for DOC inmates from here on out.
- Blue River Schools do not have an SRO right now. They would like to model New Castle Schools and reimburse the Sheriff's Department for a full time Sheriff Deputy. They would like to hire Gary Wilson, they have the money to reimburse salary but not benefits and then next year they would then next year budget for benefits, Sheriff Sproles would like to see this happen and he will continue to work on this.
- They are needing to purchase new guns, the guns have been in service for a long time, they are 45 caliber and the ammunition is very expensive. They would like to purchase 9MM with red dot sight, the accuracy is much better and you have more magazine capacity and the ammunition expense is a lot less. This will be about a \$30,000 upgrade and would like to work on this quickly.
- They have mended fences with the New Castle on the Joint Task Force and Sheriff Sproles has been speaking with Chief Schofield and the City would like to take over the money side for the undercover task force agents. They City has been putting \$25,000 a year into the City Cash Match that and they would like to run the finance side. Sheriff Sproles has found the County does not have any Cash Match funds so they will need to cash match \$25,000 to the city and there is no line item for that.
- He would like to purchase 6-8 Flock Cameras to put around the county they cost \$2,500 per year and the cost is going up to \$3,000 in April per year. With this they will be able to access all camera in the state. Kenon Gray suggested that they get with the ARP Committee to discuss the funding.
- He presented a letter for the Council to sign for the Sheriff's Department to be able to use the commissary fund, it was given to the County Attorney for review.
- Kyle Allen asked about if Blue River Schools would help pay for the marked car, and Sheriff Sproles says that this is part of the benefit package.
- The Department is needing two more deputies, they are needing two more detective and that will take from the road deputies. Kenon Gray stated that they budgeted for 6 new road offices in this year's budget. Sheriff Sproles asked where the money went that was budgeted for Correctional Officers and he doesn't know where that money went. Auditor Walker stated that they were used for part time officers. He feels the money was used for day to day operation of the jail.

There is money left in the 2016 Go Bond and Debt Payment funds. And this money can be moved to the general fund or the Rainy Day fund by Resolution.

A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Susan Huhn to have Joel Harvey prepare a Resolution to shift the 2016 GO Bond monies into the Rainy Day fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Rust spoke with the Council about moving the GIS position from the Commissioners Budget back to the Surveyors Budget. This was discussed during budget time and was moved to the Commissioners budget. In order to move this there will need to be a reduction of the commissioner's budget and additional appropriation for the surveyor's budget. This will not be able to be done until the March or April meeting. This was discussed among the council and was decided to leave until next budget hearings.

Joe Copeland presented a letter to the Council regarding the funding commitment letter for the Community Crossing Grant, we can receive up to \$1M and the state reimburses 75%. A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Susan Huhn to approve the letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Copeland talked with the Council about adding two additional laborers to the Highway Department. There was no Job Classification meeting this month so it was decided not to take any action and let the go before the Job Classification before any decisions are made.

A motion was made by Betsy Mills and seconded by Harold Griffin to appoint David Fisher to the Job Classification Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Betsy Mills gave an update on the EIRPC meeting.

A motion was made by Susan Huhn and seconded by Betsy Mills to approve the 2023 Council Liaisons. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenon Gray talked to the Council members about having a quarterly work session with an open invite to the Commissioners and Auditor. Hopefully to start these in February, they will work on setting up a date to start.

A motion was made by Susan Huhn and seconded by Betsy Mills to have the November meeting on November 30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenon Gray suggested that the liaisons meet with their assigned offices at least quarterly.

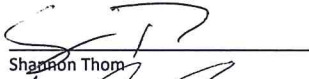
A motion was made by Susan Huhn and seconded by Betsy Mills to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

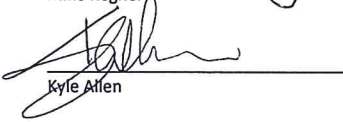

Kenon Gray, President

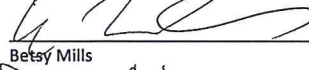

Harold Griffin

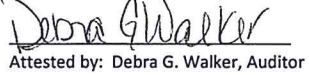

Susan Huhn


Mike Regner


Shannon Thom


Kyle Allen


Betsy Mills


Attested by: Debra G. Walker, Auditor

Below is a note that was passed during the meeting from Harold Griffin to Kenon Gray.

We need to welcome and introduce our new Council members,