

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 March 31, 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 invocation by Clay Morgan and the pledge led by Kenon Gray.

A motion was made by Kenon Gray and seconded by Betsy Mills to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Shaun DuFault gave an update on how the Chamber is helping with the health emergency. He expressed his concern how the Emergency Order is hurting Henry County small businesses.

Corey Murphy updated how the EDC has helped to put together a resource page and thanked Betsy Mills for putting together a resource guide. Corey state there are still job opportunities in the community for those looking for employment. EDC has a pivoting loan fund, the original fund was set up by the USDA for the EDC and they are currently applying for another grant that is related to COVID-19. The EDC is partnering with New Castle Main Street to take contributions to put toward loan fund. It currently has \$50,000.00 and is opened to more requests for loans to help with small businesses. Many counties across the state are doing this.

Jason Semler, Baker Tilly spoke about looking at the counties short fall and what the county can do to help with this. He suggested filling out the anticipated loan application with the Indiana Bond Bank and also talking with the local banks about a loan. Paige Sansone explained that it will be hard to tell what the shortfall will be until after taxes have been collected, she explained that we need to look at internal loans to possibly borrow from as well, she stated that the Drain Maintenance Fund had a very healthy balance and should look at others as well. It was also explained that we could do tax advance draws to help with the current cash problem, but a lot of other entities will be requesting these as well. The county will be doing three settlements this year June, July and August because of the delay in tax penalties.

A motion was made by Chad Malicoat and seconded by Clay Morgan to allow the Auditor to work with Baker Tilly to fill out applications for loans through the Indiana Bond Bank and to work with local banks and possible loans with them. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenon Gray had a conference call with OCRA on 3/31/20 about the \$333,333.00 grant we will be receiving from OCRA for being one of the three finalist in the Stellar Grant. They discussed what projects they felt this money would be applied to. The people from OCRA explained that this money could be used to help with COVID-19 relief. If they should decide to use the money for the COVID-19 relief they would have the money by July 1, 2020. Susan Huhn suggested having Corey Murphy and Shaun DuFault reach out to Kathy Hamilton about the possibility of using this money to help with COVID-19 relief. (Kenon found out after meeting the COVID-19 relief fund is to be above and beyond the \$333,333 Henry Stellar will be receiving in July).

Mr. Gray also discussed about using \$50,000.00 of the Food & Beverage money as a match for the Stellar monies we are receiving.

A motion was made by Kenon Gray and seconded by Betsy Mills to approve a Resolution of the Henry County Council Committing Funds to Projects of Merit. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-03-31(001)

A RESOLUTION OF THE HENRY COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTING FUNDS TO PROJECTS OF MERIT

WHEREAS, Henry County, Indiana joined with the City of New Castle, Indiana and the Town of Knightstown, Indiana and applied for funding through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs's 2019 Stellar Communities Program and was named a finalist for the Stellar Community Designation; and

WHEREAS, as a finalist, Henry County and other participating communities are eligible to receive grant funds from the Stellar Communities Program in the sum of up to three hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$333,333) and as a condition of receiving the grant funds must commit to provide a matching investment toward projects; and

WHEREAS, the Henry County Council voted during its meeting on February 26, 2020, to commit to providing funds, up to the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), as a local matching investment in projects that will be funded by utilizing the Stellar Program grant funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Henry County Council that Henry County, Indiana, hereby commits the sum of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) toward designated Stellar projects, contingent upon funding from the Stellar Communities Program, to be utilized as an investment match.

Adopted by the County Council of Henry County, Indiana on this 31st day of **March, 2020**.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF HENRY COUNT, INDIANA

President

ATTEST:

Debra G. Walker, County Auditor

Betsy Mills provided a presentation on a Henry County COVID-19 Resource Guide she developed by request of Angela Cox and other members of the community, which includes relevant information on local government, food resources, business resources, and more. Betsy has shared the guide with many groups and leaders in the county, and has asked for updates or corrections to come to her for the next update. The Henry County COVID-19 Resource Guide is available on the county website.

Chad Malicoat gave an update on the jail. He has talked with Elavatus and things are moving forward. Ed Yanos explained that he has not heard if the appraisals are back yet.

Angela Cox gave an update on how the Health Department was doing handling the COVID-19 emergency.

Sherri Roginski asked Angela Cox what the community could do help. Angela explained that they are in need of masks and gowns for those who would like to make them for the Hospital.

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