

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 February 12, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present: Kenon Gray, Chad Malicoat, Jay Davis, Michael Regner, Bobbi Plummer, Shannon Thom, Scott Koontz, Debra Walker, Henry County Auditor and Joel Harvey, County Attorney.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge led by Jay Davis and a Prayer given by Kenon Gray.

A motion was made by Bobbi Plummer and seconded by Shannon Thom to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 and February 3, 2025 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Corey Murphy gave an update on the READI 1.0 projects and where there where in the completion. They are anticipating \$4M for projects for Henry County from the READI 2.0, the submitted projects are the residential development at Washington St and Memorial drive \$3.5M and water & sewer infrastructure in Memorial Park \$500,000.

Corey Murphy, Lisa Lee from Ice Miller and Heidi Amspaugh from Baker Tilley explained the Bond Process for Sam Hall Estates. This will be at the Southeast quadrant of County Road 200 N & State Road 3 and will have 65 single family residential homes over 4 years. This will be a TIF Allocation Area. This TIF revenues will be used to pay debt service on the Bonds. IFA has agreed to buy the bonds at 3.11%, the bonds will help fund the public infrastructure for this project. The debit service for the bonds will come only from increments from new home construction pledged by the RCD and the developer guarantee. The total cost for the project \$2,187,000. The council present the Ordinance Authorizing Henry County, Indiana to issue its “[Taxable] Economic Development Revenue Bonds of 2025 (Sam Hall Estates Project)” and Approving other Actions in Respect Thereto.

Cara Huffman and Joe Copeland both expressed their interest in sitting on the Citizens Economic Development Commission. A motion was made by Bobbi Plummer and seconded by Kenon Gray to appoint Joe Copeland. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shannon Thom and seconded by Scott Koontz to approve Resolution 2025-02-12-002, Resolution Authorizing Application Submission. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2025-02-12-002
HENRY COUNTY
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION SUBMISSION

RESOLUTION OF THE HENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE CDBG OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB GRANT APPLICATION TO THE INDIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS AND ADDRESSING RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, the Henry County Council of Henry County, Indiana recognizes the need to stimulate growth and to maintain a sound economy within its corporate limits: and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, authorizes the Indiana office of Community and Rural Affairs to provide grants to local units of government to meet the housing

and community development needs of low-and moderate-income persons and/or the elimination of blight; and

WHEREAS Henry County, Indiana has conducted or will conduct public hearings prior to the submission of an application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, said public hearings to assess the housing, public facilities and economic needs of its low-and moderate-income residents:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Henry County Council members of Henry County, Indiana that:

1. The County Council President is authorized to prepare and submit an application for \$500,000.00 grant funding for an owner-occupied rehabilitation program and to execute and administer a resultant grant including requisite general administration and project management, contracts and agreements pursuant to regulations of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2. Henry County, Indiana hereby commits the requisite local funds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), in the form of cash from the County's Food & Beverage Fund for said program, such commitment to be contingent upon receipt of owner-occupied rehab funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

ADOPTED by the County Council of Henry County, Indiana this 12th day of February 2025, **EFFECTIVE** October 9, 2024.

SIGNATURE: _____
Chad Malicoat, County Council President

ATTEST: _____
Debra G. Walker, County Auditor

Steve Rust is requesting to get a 5 year loan to purchase a new vehicle to replace the one that as totaled in 2024. He has found one in Bloomington and the Commissioners signed for the dealership to hold the vehicle until funding was received. A motion was made by Bobbi Plummer and seconded by Shannon Thom to do an Additional Appropriation to purchase the vehicle instead of getting a loan. The amount of the vehicle is \$49,047. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bobbi Plummer and seconded by Kenon Gray to table the PACE report. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shannon Thom and seconded by Jay Davis to approve the revised Salary Ordinance for Derek Bertrand. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kenon Gray and seconded by Bobbi Plummer to approve the Henry County Public Library Encumbrance. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was by Kenon Gray and seconded by Bobbi Plummer to approve the PSAP Additional Appropriation for \$87,570 for the Motorola Lease Payment. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shannon Thom and seconded by Bobbi Plummer to approve Resolution 2025-02-12-003, A Joint Resolution between the Henry County Commissioners, The Henry County Council and City of New Castle Opposing Legislation That Will Have Devastating Impacts on Local Units Within the State of Indiana. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 2025-02-12(004)

A JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE HENRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE HENRY COUNTY COUNCIL, and CITY OF NEW CASTLE OPPOSING LEGISLATION THAT WILL HAVE DEVASTATING IMPACTS ON LOCAL UNITS WITHIN THE STATE OF INDIANA

WHEREAS, state leaders and lawmakers have advocated for and introduced multiple pieces of legislation in the 2025 legislative session that would cut residential and business personal property bills for homeowners and businesses and change how these tax liabilities are calculated; and

WHEREAS, homeowners deserve affordable tax bills as well as adequate public services;

WHEREAS, the proposals introduced do not provide funding for adequate public services which would have devastating impacts on the delivery of essential city county school services; and

WHEREAS, the proposals introduced would stifle economic development opportunities in city/town/county impacting future growth; and

WHEREAS, key proposals would have an impact statewide on local governments and schools exceeding \$2,000,000,000.00;

WHEREAS, the ability to adopt a local income tax option could be a helpful tool for units with this authority; however, it is not adequate to replace the magnitude of what is being eliminated, making it a necessity rather than an option; and

WHEREAS, with what amounts to a mandated income tax increase being the only alternative proposed by lawmakers, the homeowners the proposed tax cuts endeavor to assist would be among the same individuals paying the increased income tax, making businesses the only real recipient of the tax cuts; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who do not own their own home would see a tax increase;

WHEREAS, if the proposed measures are adopted across Henry County, units will be forced to make significant cuts to safety, educational; and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, although corporations would receive tax cuts, the relief would be short-lived when Indiana is unable to attract and retain an adequate and thriving workforce; and

WHEREAS, if the eliminations are to take place, school districts across Henry County would be forced to make dramatic cuts to support transportation, bus replacement, school building maintenance, and technology upgrades; and

WHEREAS, impact to Henry County, New Castle and the New Castle schools of these significant real property and business personal property tax cuts, as well as changes to how property taxes are calculated, Henry County cities and towns, county government, libraries and schools would lose an estimated \$5.8 million in tax revenues in 2026 alone.

Of the projected \$5.8 million loss, Henry Co. local government will lose \$1.06 million in 2026, Henry County schools \$2.68 million (with New Castle Schools losing an amount projected to be approximately \$950,000.00), Henry County's 16 cities and towns will lose an estimated \$1.31 million, our townships will lose an estimated \$209,000.00, and our public libraries an estimated \$203,500.00 in 2026, with amounts projected to increase by 18.5% in 2027, resulting in a total revenue loss to all Henry County units of \$6.9 mil.

WHEREAS, our county, city and school acknowledge businesses first and foremost seek a well-educated workforce, and with Indiana's 43rd ranking among *well-educated states* (National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2023) coupled with its ever-increasing teacher shortage will only be further damaged by all of these projected and significant cuts and caps in revenues present in primarily SB 1 and HB 1402. We oppose any tax policy that impacts local units of government that does not come with a corresponding replacement revenue stream implemented by the State of Indiana and does no harm to our ability to carry out the expectations of Hoosiers now and into the future.

WHEREAS, our Henry Co. government has 12 fewer F-T employees on staff today than in 2000 (when many state and federal offices have grown over the past 25 years) and has only added employees in the public health & safety areas (Sheriff, corrections, and health departments) while reducing in all other departments primarily via attrition due to diminishing funds, and since 2010, has eliminated 62 part time employees.

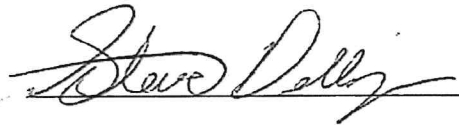
WHEREAS, over the last several years, our County Council (and Local Income Tax Council) increased has implemented a 35% percent increase to a LIT rate from 1.5% to 2.02%., by enacting a .2% jail rate in 2020, a .1% PSAP rate in 2023, a .04% EMS rate in 2024, .01% judicial salaries rate in 2024, and .17% increase to our public safety LIT rate in 2024. Henry County has done its part to partially offset inflation that will be largely negated by

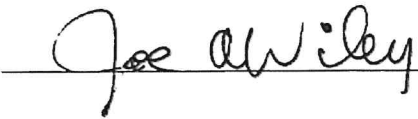
SB1 & HB 1402 provisions. New Castle's Common Council voted in favor of the LIT increase in 2024, as a member of the Local Income Tax Council.

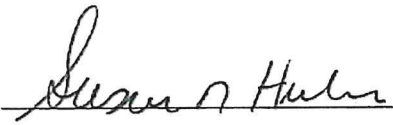
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Henry Co. Board of Commissioners, the Henry County Council, and the Common Council of the City of New Castle oppose the various tax cuts and tax caps primarily listed in SB 1 and HB 1402 among others.

This resolution shall become effective upon the date of passage.

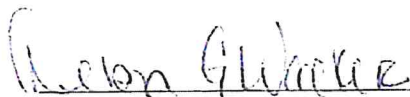
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA THIS 10th DAY OF February, 2025.







ATTEST:



County Auditor

ADOPTED by the County Council of Henry County, Indiana this 12th day of February, 2025, by a vote of _____ to _____.

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Kenon Gray
[Signature]
Michael J.
[Signature]

Attest:

Debra Walker

Debra Walker, Auditor

Kenon Gray gave an EIRPC update.

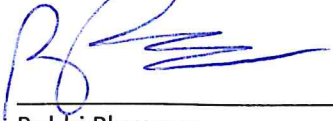
Chad Malicoat explained that any Councilman that would like can get a county cell phone can but will have to pay the cost themselves, this will be a payroll deduction. Anyone interested needs to sign the payroll deduction papers in the Auditors office and contact Brian True to get the phone.

Debbie Walker notified the Council that the DLGF has looked at the LIT modification request but has not yet acted on it.

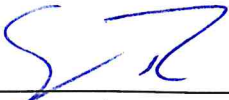
A motion was made by Jay Davis and seconded by Bobbi Plummer to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



Chad Malicoat, President



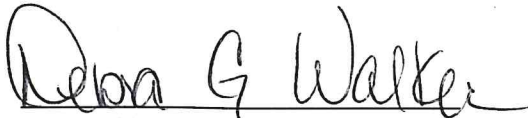
Bobbi Plummer



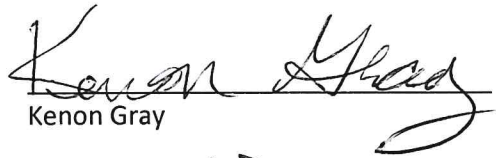
Shannon Thom



Jay Davis



Attested by: Debra G. Walker, Auditor



Kenon Gray



Michael Regner



Scott Koontz