

May 11, 2021

Honorable Bartholomew County Auditor Pia O'Conner
Honorable Bartholomew County Commissioners
Honorable Bartholomew County Council
440 Third Street
Columbus, IN 47201

Greetings:

It is my understanding that several million dollars of stimulus funds have arrived and additional funds are forthcoming. As per the information attached, it is also my understanding that some of this money is available and can be earmarked to pay essential employees who were put at "risk" coming to work during the pandemic.

As I am sure you will agree, most County employees work for wages well below that which they could receive in the public sector and I believe you have an opportunity to show your appreciation to these employees who are more than deserving for putting themselves and their families in harm's way. They deserve to know that these funds are "on the way". I am not speaking only about your Sheriff's Office employees and jail staff; I speak on behalf of the following Bartholomew County Departments:

Sheriff's Office/Jail
Bartholomew County Health Department
Youth Services
EOC
Maintenance
Animal Control
Bartholomew County Highway Department
Community Corrections
Courts
Prosecutor's Office
Clerk's Office
Critical Courthouse staff that had to interact with the public.
Any other offices that had critical staff that had to work.

All of these departments were called upon to provide essential workers during this most difficult time – and your employees came through. "County government is only as good as those employees with "boots on the ground" especially in a time of need.

Per the newspaper article, which stated that a committee was being appointed to determine how these funds are to be allocated, I would certainly like to forward this letter to their attention if I am able to obtain the names of the committee members.

I totally understand the need for investments in water, sewer and rural broadband; however, these dedicated employees were called to “show up” when others were able to stay and work safely from their homes. I strongly urge you to consider a one-time payment to show your appreciation and your respect for “essential” employees who, could never login to work via ZOOM, and who continued to show up (in person) to work each and every day to provide essential services to the citizens of Bartholomew County.

With kind regards, I remain

Matthew A. Myers

Matthew A. Myers
Sheriff

Attachments