

# Henry County Public Safety (½ of 1%) Sales Tax

## March 20, 2018

### Reasons for the Tax:

1. Increase in Inmates in Jail (1990's averaged 40 Inmates) (Now 100 Inmates)
  - A. Medical costs of Inmates- Kewanee, Geneseo, State Police or any other agency arrests a person and they become Henry County's expense. If that Inmate has medical issue (i.e.: heart attack) Henry County absorbs the cost of guarding him and Medical bills (Even though he is not our arrest). If he is found guilty and fined, money goes to the arresting agency, not the county.
  - B. Housing costs
  - C. Transport costs- If State Police arrest a man on I-80 for drugs, he comes to jail and posts bond, violates his bond and leaves the state for California and does not show up for his court date, the States Attorney then will issue a warrant. He gets picked up in California and Henry County Sheriff's Office has to pay to have him transported back (Even though it was not our arrest and we will get no fine money). This transports cost around 4 to \$5,000.00.
2. Fine Money Taken and Unfunded Mandates
  - A. Everyone from State Police to a Trauma Hospital near Chicago have had Lobbyists convince law makers to give them a piece of fine money from tickets Deputies write. Ticket fines have increased from \$75.00 (10 years) ago to \$120.00. We used to get around \$50.00 per ticket and now get around \$23.00.

- B. Federal and State Governments have imposed training standards, camera requirements based on events in places such as Ferguson, MO.
3. Services County provides for Towns:
- A. Provide Jail
  - B. Provide Attorneys for Criminal Cases
  - C. Provide Probation Services
  - D. Dispatch for Fire/Police/Ambulance for many Towns in county at no cost.
  - E. Collect fine money for all County Cases.
  - F. Collect taxes for all County Residents.
  - G. Provide elections for all residents
  - H. Man tornado sirens for several communities

#### **Sheriff's Department Needs:**

1. Staffing- In the last 10 years Henry County Sheriff's Office has suffered 11 full time position cuts in staffing. Many times, Henry County is staffed with only 2 patrol officers for 827 square miles. The Jail is often staffed with only 3 Officers for 100 inmates
2. Squad cars- are falling apart with most of the fleet having over 100,000 miles on them. They are used in emergency situations and at high speeds.
3. Equipment- With unfunded mandates from State and Federal Government for Body Cameras and other equipment.

### Information about Tax:

1. This tax is set up to tax persons traveling through our county. It would be applied to items such as: hotel stays, prepared food (not groceries), fuel. This tax will help stabilize property taxes and insure the county will be able to continue dispatching for Fire, Police and Ambulance without having to pass the costs along to those Districts or Communities (which would have to adjust or raise their tax levy).
2. This tax allows the citizens of Henry County to decide if they want to pay it or not. If you do not want to pay it, you can shop/eat/stay in another county. But if you do, you are already paying for their public safety (as almost all surrounding counties already have a public safety tax in place).
3. The tax is very minimal. Most citizens will not even notice the tax. You will pay .50 cents on \$100.00 purchase.
4. The tax would not be on Groceries, Farm Equipment, Vehicle Purchase, and Prescription Medications.

### Examples:

1. A cup of coffee and doughnut costs \$1.84 + Public Safety Tax \$0.01= \$1.85
2. Dinner for Family of 4 costs \$36.38 +Public Safety Tax \$0.18 = \$36.56
3. Hotel Stay costs \$100.00 + Public Safety Tax \$.50 = \$100.50
4. Items from Department Store cost \$57.43 + Public Safety Tax \$0.29= \$57.72