

Dear Luzerne County Council:

Thank you for reading this correspondence, in its entirety, tonight. I am keenly interested in your proceedings and recent decision-making, as it affects all of our County residents.

I have read documentation from Mark Rabo, of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, that states he has offered you, the Council, and the County several good suggestions on how you can utilize various grants like the DOT RAISE to properly fix all our county roads. By applying for DOT RAISE, and use it for the West Nanticoke bridge, you could free up other funds, as in the LSA loan, for the rest of the roads. Apparently, our County Engineer, Larry Plesh, felt the DOT RAISE grant application would be in competition for those funds to reconstruct the Luzerne County owned Water Street Bridge in Pittston.

Mr. Rabo also suggested the solution of ARP money being secured for the West Nanticoke Bridge, with LSA funds loan covering the cost of the rest of our infrastructure. I have no doubt that both the Water Street project and the West Nanticoke Bridge need funding and completion, but I feel strongly that Mr. Rabo's suggestions should be heeded, and put into action. **Mr. Rabo obviously has the most expert knowledge of these government grants and funds, and is in touch with the agencies that can offer Luzerne County the most varied solutions to our road failures. I urge you to re-think his proposals SERIOUSLY and give us safety and security on our roads for the \$54 million dollar loan you negotiated.**

When Governor Josh Shapiro recently (Jan 24, 2023) formed his Transformation and Opportunity office, he stated, "My Administration will connect our business, our workforce, our world-class universities and research institutions, and the public sector to spur economic development, particularly in communities that have too often been left behind. By helping businesses that are already here, encouraging new ones to move to Pennsylvania, and investing in our workforce, we can create real opportunity and build an economy that works for everyone." I believe Luzerne County is the perfect example of a community that has been left behind. **WE NEED BETTER ROADS, IN EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTY to be able to take part in Governor Shapiro's vision, and you are now poised to make that a reality.** Do not dig in your heels for the benefit of one or two projects. Why court just one business? Open our County and our Universities to all business opportunities!

It has come to my attention that there are several vital Luzerne County committees, including the Legislative Committee, that have become dormant or inactive under your watch. The Legislative Committee would have been responsible for communicating and working with State and Federal agencies to coordinate usage of things like DOT RAISE; to review/ implement Mr. Rabo's suggestions. **It's about time these inactive committees be revitalized and save money, time and LIVES!** This action could have averted the recent tax increase, or saved a recent suicide victim at our County Jail.

Your council is not doing a complete job; how could you think you are? Committees must function to get accurate information. ALL council members need to work on viable solutions/suggestions brought to them; job postings that are vacant need to be filled with competent/qualified workers. We need to have Luzerne County step into a new productive era, without our Council and Department heads holding us back.

Sincerely, Carol Rosser, Sweet Valley, Ross Twp