

From: [Mike and Cindy Brannan](#)
To: [Lawrence, Sharon](#); [Radle, Kendra](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Fwd: Proposed tax increase
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 1:04:40 PM

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Dear Madam Chair and Sharon,

Please correct date to have this read at tonight's meeting at 5pm.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike and Cindy Brannan [REDACTED]
Date: October 18, 2022 at 12:06:06 PM EDT
To: LCCMPC@luzernecounty.org
Cc: LCCM@luzernecounty.org, Kendra.Radle@luzernecounty.org, John Lombardo <john.lombardo@luzernecounty.org>, Tim McGinley <Tim.McGinley@luzernecounty.org>, Matthew.Mitchell@luzernecounty.org, carl.bienias@luzernecounty.org, Chris Perry <chris.perry@luzernecounty.org>, Lee Ann McDermott <LeeAnn.McDermott@luzernecounty.org>, kevin.lescavage@luzernecounty.org, Stephen J Urban <Stephen.Urban@luzernecounty.org>, Brian Thornton <brian.thornton@luzernecounty.org>, Gregory Wolovich <Gregory.Wolovich@luzernecounty.org>, brian.swetz@luzernecounty.org, Larry Plesh <larry.plesh@luzernecounty.org>, Randy Robertson <randy.robertson@luzernecounty.org>, Walter Griffith <Walter.Griffith@luzernecounty.org>
Subject: Proposed tax increase

Please submit to be read and entered into record at the council meeting on October 25, 2022—Cindy Brannan - Wright Township

Dear All,

Following is a post made regarding the county manager's proposed tax increase of 6.75% for 2023 and the suggestion to reinstate the \$5 vehicle registration fee. Fix Our Roads Luzerne County (FORLC) would ask that these questions be answered before a vote is taken to consider these proposed increases by our county manager. FORLC would also like to extend an invitation to each of you to join our team. Our team shares daily information, through posts and photographic evidence, of the extreme dangers travelers face on our county roads. We offer a

plethora of valuable information, such as the drainage issues on Kirby Avenue that need to be addressed to protect our tax revenue used to replace this roadway.

Here is the post:

The 6.75% increase PLUS reinstating the \$5 registration fee would generate approximately 8 million additional dollars for the county's budget. Here are some of OUR questions:

What did the million-plus in revenue get us with the last \$5 registration fee?

What is the county doing with the 3 million dollars just obtained from auctioned properties?

How much interest has been gained off the ARP funds sitting, unspent, in county bank accounts? A year with 96 million should generate approximately 6 million dollars.

The local-shared-account, or LSA grant money, is money gained through gambling/casino revenue. It generates approximately 11 million dollars each year. State reps consider grant applications and divide the funds through awards each year. The law changed in 2020 giving the first \$3 million of LSA money to the county....

What did Luzerne County do with the three million dollars in 2021?

The county has vowed to take that \$3 million and secure a \$50+ million loan for the next 25 years (the loan would end up costing the county about 75 million dollars against that loan due to interest.) This loan was proposed for ONE BRIDGE in Nanticoke. It has been argued to instead take that loan and properly replace and repair all 120+ miles of county-owned roads (address DRAINAGE problems) with reputable and service-driven contractors. (Remember, Romilda Crocarno indicated in her 2021 budget proposal as acting county manager, that it would take \$50 million, in 2021 dollar value, to properly replace our county roads.) Mr. Robertson's response to this idea when proposed by council member Kevin Lescavage?

“...EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES IN TRYING TO EXECUTE.....” It seems Mr. Robertson was using our push for SAFE roads as a reason for his 6.75% tax increase, but when Mr. Lescavage proposed a way to give the funds needed to him, he recognized Mr. Plesh (county engineer) as being in attendance at the meeting and indicated how difficult it would be to use those funds to get our roads fixed and get this done. If Mr. Plesh has rated all 120+ miles of county roadway, get the work needed out to bid and let the companies who bid handle the logistics.

Why would Mr. Robertson draft a letter, released to the media, acknowledging the hundreds of emails received regarding the dangerous state of our county roads, and then find difficulty in executing the money needed in repairing them? Why set up an email to report potholes on Luzerne County roads if you don't want to

be notified of their existence?

How much money is in the county's "slush fund," as argued between Mr. Robertson and our county controller?

What cost savings has Mr. Robertson proposed to balance his ask for a 6.75% tax increase?

Mr. Robertson has been very visible pushing his proposed tax increase. He has invited his direct reports to be included in this visible push for his proposed tax increase. Our questions need to be just as visible and the answers to them DESERVE VISIBILITY.

-END POST-

Thank you,

Cindy Brannan
FORLC-member

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