

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Luzerne County Council Members; Lawrence, Sharon](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Budget discussion item: Monetization
Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 7:56:19 AM

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PLEASE READ THIS MESSAGE INTO THE PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE NEXT LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING:

Luzerne County Council members:

From media reports, it appears that some Council members are considering reintroducing "monetization" as a budgetary practice.

While I, more than many, appreciate the difficult work for Council in finalizing a budget, I strongly urge you to reject monetization as an option.

Voters adopted Home Rule in order to fix many things in Luzerne County, and one of the most important things that needed fixing was the budgetary practices. As has been noted in the media, prior to Home Rule, monetization was a regular practice - and not a good one.

One of the first priorities for the 2012 Council and its successors was to adopt realistic, balanced budgets that included "best practices" that would ensure the ability of future Councils to continue along a strong financial path and recovers from the sins of the past. Monetization was one of the first practices to be eliminated.

Monetization, for a government, is the equivalent of a "payday loan" that individuals with poor financial management skills turn to for an immediate but short-sighted quick fix to instant problems.

Which of you, particularly those who are financial advisors or business owners, would counsel a client or adopt this practice in your own business to use a payday loan? Which of you would

Reinstating monetization will bring back and establish a bad practice that costs takes more to eliminate in future budgeting than it yields in the short term. It is nothing less than "kicking the can down the road" and creating a bigger problem for future councils.

Those who came before you most recently in Home Rule County government - both Council members and in management - moved away from monetization as quickly as possible. We committed ourselves to improving the County's financial practices and made sometimes difficult decisions to pave the way for a better financial future for this County. I urge you, as you consider the proposal to monetize, to reject it and to continue to move Luzerne County forward in a financially responsible direction.

Linda McClosky Houck
former County Council member

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