



# Lobbyists for Citizens



Fall 2019

LobbyistsForCitizens.com

FREE

**News Others Will Not Print**

## Port Authority...Budget?.... we don't need no 'stinkin' budget

By Brian Massie

The more we "peel back the onion" on the Port Authority's 'Better Flip' project the more it stinks.....I tell ya, we are running out of air freshener dealing with this mess....

We sent a records request for to the Port Authority. Here is the request, their reply, and the Board minutes for their meeting held on December 20, 2017: LFC PORT RR FOR BETTER FLIP – NO BUDGET (1)

One of the items (#3) requested was a budget for their 'Better Flip' project. Why would we ask for budget?

Their minutes of their December 20, 2017 Board minutes tells us that Board members Art Lindrose , and Bill Martin "would collaborate on the project to put together a budget, i.e. what it would take to bring the house to the point of resale to a millennial, should the board choose to take the project on. He noted that it is important



Home remodeled by Lake County Port Authority at 557 E 305 Street in Willowick

that the Board understands everything up front before the LCOPEDA receives the home from the Lake County Land Bank."

Resolution 2017-46 was passed at the same meeting authorizing the Port to accept the home from the Land Bank.

To our utter amazement, Mark Rantala, Executive Director, admits in his reply to us that there "no such document(s) exist." NO

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## Board of Election's Trustees...Who Are They, What Do They Get Paid?

BY BRIAN MASSIE

Dale Fellows is the current leader of the Lake County Republican Party, and one of four appointees to the Board of Elections. He stated that he did not mind that this conversation is "on the record".

We also received emails from Ross McDonald, Director of the Lake County Board of Elections, and Mike Matas, Lake County Finance Director, confirming the compensation and benefits received by the four appointees to the Board of Elections.

We have not heard at all from ANYONE in the Democrat Party, and we welcome their input.

As we have said before, we are apolitical and non-partisan on issues.

The Board of Elections operates under the Ohio Revised Code 3501.06 – (LFC Comment: If anyone has read the Ohio Revised Code, they realize it can be a bit convoluted, and sections can be superseded by other sections. It is in English – but barely

comprehensible to the average citizen)

Dale Fellows and David A. Vitaz are appointed to the Elections Board by the Lake County Republican Party Executive Committee. Thomas A. Tagliamonte and Robert G. Schiebli are appointed by the Lake County Democratic Party Executive Committee.

The four appointed board members get paid \$15,915.12 per year, and they hold monthly meetings. [\$15,915.12 / 12 = \$1,326.26

per meeting] All four members receive life insurance.

However, only Thomas Tagliamonte and David Vitaz have health coverage. The total cost to the taxpayers for of all the fringe benefits is \$2,591.12 per month. We can therefore say that the four appointees to the Board of Elections cost the Lake County

See ELECTIONS.... Page 2



## Who is "Lobbyists for Citizens"



Brian Massie, Executive Director, of LobbyistsforCitizens.com, attending Lake County Commissioners meeting

Lobbyists for Citizens is an apolitical, grassroots citizens' group, registered with the State of Ohio as a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation. Our primary mission is to ensure that all Lake County, Ohio officials are honest and transparent in the execution of their duties; that all political sub-divisions are good stewards of the taxpayers' money, and that they are accountable to Lake County citizens.

On the local level, we are extremely concerned that our ever-increasing real estate taxes will start to price many of our seniors, and others living on fixed incomes out of their homes that they have worked all their lives to achieve. Our seniors deserve our respect, are entitled to live in a safe community, and must have the security to know that they will not be forced out of their homes because they cannot pay their real estate taxes. We believe that they should be a "protected class", and we will fight for their rights!

On the national level, we firmly believe that the United States is a constitutional Republic, a nation of laws, and a sovereign nation. The first amendment to the U.S. Constitution is sacrosanct in preserving the individual rights and liberties of the U.S. citizens. The freedom of religion, speech, press, to peaceably assemble, and the right to

petition our government for any redress of grievances are paramount for a free society.

We believe in the principles of the assumption of innocence until proven guilty, property rights, and the right to the protection of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all human beings.

Any public official that acts counter to these basic principles by wielding the power of their office to the detriment of the citizens, either by their words or actions, will be exposed to the general public with documentation of their words or actions.

LFC will not endorse or support any candidate running for elected office. However, we will only support nominees to any appointed position that believe in the sovereignty of the United States, the U.S. Constitution, and the rule of law.

Our primary focus will deal with any Federal, State or local issues that impact our country, the State of Ohio, or the Lake County, Ohio citizens.

We will follow the Biblical principles of being kind, tolerant and patient with other human beings, but we will **NEVER BE SILENT!**

Brian can be contacted at Brian@lobbyistforcitizens.com

# Continuous Levies....read "FOREVER"

By Brian Massie

My oh my, our politicians love to sneak the "continuous levies" by the voters. A little sleight of hand trick, hoping that the un-knowlegeable voter will not see the deception. A particular Concord Trustee apparently is very fond of them since he has his "fingerprints" all over at least three that we experienced in the last few years. He is so enamored by them we have dubbed him "Mr. Continuous"..... gee. maybe we should not "judge" him, but we hear that he wants to "judge" us in the future.

Here is an article that we wrote in 2018, and was published in the News-Herald regarding "Continuous Levies".

It is important that taxpayers understand the terms used to describe a property tax levy that will surely appear on a future ballot. Each property tax levy must state the millage, that is the tax rate to be charged, and the period of time that the tax will be collected.

There is a disturbing trend in our communities with the political subdivisions adding the term "continuing period of time" to their renewal levies, or using "continuous" even with their brand new levies. We highly recommend that

## "FOREVER"

It the tax levy uses the phrase for a "continuing period of time", "CPT", or "continuous", that means that the tax levy has no expiration date. The property tax will be collected FOREVER, and the voters will be giving up their right to hold the political sub-division accountable for their actions with the taxpayers' money.

taxpayers not give up their right to future votes on property tax levies.

If we stay on our current path of ever-increasing property tax levies, we will price seniors and those living on fixed incomes out of their homes that they have worked all their lives to achieve.



# ELECTIONS..... From Page 1

taxpayers \$94,753.92 annually. [(\$15,915.12 x 4) + (\$2,591.12 x 12) = \$94,753.92]

Fellows believes that appointing the board members is a better alternative rather than electing the board members. In his opinion, the citizens will get better qualified board members with appointees. He reminded me that the Election Board members in Broward County, Florida were elected by the citizens; the policy of having equal representation of the two major parties ensures that elections are fair, honest, and transparent. (LFC Comment: We are assuming that his point is that by appointing someone currently involved in the daily politics is better than electing a citizen that may not have the experience in the election process).

We have been told that there is an effort by the State to ensure that all minor parties (those that get a small percentage of the votes) have representation on the ballot. (LFC Comment: The Libertarian party may take issue with that statement) (LFC Comment: Unfortunately, a great

deal of the Lake County taxpayers, the independents and those with other party affiliations, are not represented with our current system of using appointed officials. We support the need for greater representation, and not just accepting that the 'party bosses' are looking out for the best interests of the taxpayers.)

Regarding the issue with the political parties paying for the primary election of their candidates, it would not happen because of the costs. It cost approximately \$1,000 - \$1,500 per precinct to place an issue on the ballot. It would mean that the political parties would by-pass the electorate and select their own candidates by a vote of their precinct representatives, and that individual would then appear on the ballot in the general election. (LFC Comment: Some would argue that without the financial backing of the party it is VERY difficult for candidates to mount a serious campaign against an entrenched party favorite or incumbent - so in many cases the primaries are merely

formalities; the voters are led to believe that they have a choice, when, in reality, it is just another illusion foisted on the uninformed taxpayer.)

Fellows does not know if the political parties at the National level are corporations, but the local Lake County Republican party is not a corporation. (LFC Comment: we still need to find out what type of entity they are)☐

Compensation for county commissioners along with other elected and appointed officials was included in the state fiscal year 2016-2017 budget bill (HB 64 of the 131st General Assembly).

Board of elections' members also receive 5 percent increases in 2016 and 2017. Pursuant to ORC Section 3501.12, members of boards of elections are deemed to be appointed and not elected, and therefore not subject to Section 20 of Article II of the Ohio Constitution. Thus, they are able to receive the increases during those calendar years

# BUDGET.....From Page 1

BUDGET WAS EVER PREPARED!..Or was there one, and they do not want to admit it? There is a State of Ohio rule that says that all projects over \$150,000 are subject to competitive bidding. Their initial resolution authorizing the project just happened to be \$150,000.....what a coincidence!

We thought that we should bring the "no budget" fact to the attention of the Lake County Board of Commissioners. because we thought it to be a significant turn of events. We were really surprised with their reactions when we mentioned this in the public meeting.

Commissioner Hamercheck took exception to our statement of no budget because he had been told directly by Rantala that there definitely was a budget in place before the projected started, and Hamercheck vehemently questioned our comments.

When we told Hamercheck that we have the documentation to prove our statements he asked if he could have a copy. At that point Commissioner Cirino said that we were to give everything to the clerk. [the Leg Lamp incident must be still in his head] Hamercheck insisted that he see the copies and we gave him the copies. He proceeded to read our proof, and he was shocked to learn that was a huge "inconsistency" with what Rantala had told him and our documentation. At that point, a very gracious Commissioner Hamercheck apologized for his prior statement, and we accepted his apologies.

Commissioner Cirino then chimed in by stating that it appears that LFC is trying to eliminate the Lake County Port Authority, when they are an important part of future growth of the community. Our response to Commissioner Cirino was all we wanted was the truth.

We had no hope of convincing Commissioner Cirino on anything, and we are resigned to the fact that Commissioner Cirino and LFC will never see "eye to eye" on the 'Better Flip' project. It appears that he has bought into the idea that spending \$299,000 is no big deal.

Commissioner Young was very quiet during this whole ordeal, so we thought that we would send him an email and ask for his comments on the record. Here is the email

that we sent to him and his reply:

Commissioner Young: Attached are the documents that I gave to Commissioner Hamercheck at the meeting yesterday. (to see documents, go to this article at Lobbyistforcitizens.com)

In the December 20, 2017 Port Board minutes, Board members Lindrose and Martin stated that they "would collaborate on a budget should the Board choose to take on the project."

Commissioner Hamercheck verbally attacked us by stating in the meeting that he was told by Mr. Rantala that a budget was prepared. However, Mr. Rantala's written reply, dated May 28, 2019, to LFC was that no budget document exists. Upon seeing these documents, Commissioner Hamercheck offered us an apology since the documents clearly show an "inconsistency" in what he had been told by Mr. Rantala.

LFC would be interested in reading your comments, for the record, on whether this matter is of any concern to you since this project is now at least \$149,000 (~100%) over the initial \$150,000 approved in their resolution. If it is a concern, what do you plan to do about it?

Thank you in advance for your written response.

Here is Mr. Young's response: Brian, I'll be out of state till June 12th and in the air today. However, this is an important matter and I'll get back to soon. Before I give you an answer I want to speak with the Port.

In summary, we have Commissioner Cirino that will ride this dying horse to the bitter end, Commissioner Hamercheck that WILL DEFINITELY find out why there is an inconsistency in Rantala's previous statement to him, and Commissioner Young will get back to us.

Why would Commissioner Cirino not be concerned about a project not having a budget and then spending \$299,000 of the peoples' money? Something is up.....they must be working on some big deals, and Commissioner Cirino does not want this little distraction from muddying the waters.....so how good is our guess Commissioner [Blank]?

# RSVP...our final chapter

By Brian Massie

We have been quite critical of the Retired Volunteer Service Program and Willoughby-Eastlake schools for their lack of candor when answering our questions about their program. Our questions started last year when we discovered that RSVP had received \$744,000 over six years from the Lake County Senior Levy. We wanted to be sure that they were being good stewards of the taxpayers' money. Let us tell you what we have discovered, without the assistance of Steve Thompson, the Willoughby-Eastlake school superintendent and Cristen Kane, Director of RSVP. We will then let Lake County taxpayers decide if they are being good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

What is RSVP? I was told by Cristen Kane that they are an employment agency for seniors in Lake County. If a Senior citizen wants to volunteer, then RSVP will try to match their talents and interests with the needs of "non-profits" in the area. They provide a great deal of help to the Lake County Council on Aging, but although we have asked for statistics, we have never been told how many hours they provide.

In 1974, the Willoughby-Eastlake school system applied for a federal grant and have maintained the RSVP program since that time. (Comment: **We have yet to have anyone justify why this, in any way, is the responsibility of the W-E school system.** It seems to us that they have exceeded their mission of educating the children of their district.)

RSVP receives funding from federal government grants, state subsidies, and the Lake County Senior Levy. They receive more funding from the Senior Levy than all of the senior centers except for the Mentor Senior Center. We had asked RSVP for a complete accounting of the \$744,000 received from the Senior Levy, but we never received that information. What was initially sent to us by Cristen Kane, was viewed by me as a "total lack of candor" by Ms. Kane. Mr. Steve Thompson did leave a voice mail message indicating that he would meet with me, but when I

returned his call and asked for a meeting date and time, he never returned my call. When I tried to reach out to a W-E school board member, the initial enthusiasm to help arrange a meeting, suddenly, and quite unexpectedly, dried up. (Comment: We are not really free when our voices are silenced. Willoughby-Eastlake school's unwillingness to provide the taxpayers with a complete accounting for the money received from the federal, state and local governments should concern all taxpayers. Lake County citizens should be outraged by a political subdivision that thumbs their nose at taxpayers.)

## RSVP?

After months of asking, we finally did get an accounting for the years 2016 and 2017 from the Lake County commissioners for reimbursements made from the Senior Levy. However, we cannot be sure that there has been a total accounting for ALL funds received since RSVP would not share that information with the taxpayers. The following information was gleaned from the reports received from the County Administrator:

**There are two full-time employees at RSVP, and both are employed by the Willoughby-Eastlake school system and are eligible for a teacher's pension, and receive medical insurance.** (Comment: Why are they eligible for a school employee's pension?)

There is also one part-time employee. Here is a copy of a partial payroll report given to us by the Lake County Administrator. RSVP Payroll, (Go to [LobbyisyforCitizens.com](http://LobbyisyforCitizens.com) web site and refer to this article for details)

Here are schedules showing payments made for retirement and medical insurance to the employees. (Go to LFC web site)

RSVP 2016 partial payroll and benefits report (Go LFC web site)

So what does the school

get out of this? Well, without reports from the school, it is really difficult to say.

We can say that on 3/29/16 the Willoughby-Eastlake school district was paid \$7,640.00 as an "administrative fiscal fee" from RSVP. We were told by the County Administrator that the school waived the fee in 2018.

We noticed that **each year there is over \$5,000 paid for an annual party at the LaMalfa Party Center.** Although it is a nice gesture, it really becomes a photo op for certain Lake County politicians. **That \$5,000 would pay for 1,000 meals with the County Meals-on Wheels program.**

(Comment: If this program has been in existence since 1974, how many administrative fees" have been paid to the Willoughby-Eastlake school district? This is a prime example of federal spending run amok, with little or no accountability. It is only in the last two years that the County Commissioners have insisted on a "reimbursement" system, where RSVP must turn in receipts to get reimbursed by the County out of the Senior Levy funds.

We have made the following suggestions to the Lake County Commissioners and County Administrator: 1. A volunteer program could be managed by a volunteer. No need to pay wages, pensions, medical insurance for a select few. 2. **The volunteer program could be folded into the existing volunteer program currently operated by the Lake County Council on Aging.**

They are already set up to handle volunteers and, no doubt, many of RSVP volunteers are also working with the Council on Aging. The Council's website should be able to display the volunteer positions needed to be filled.

If the Willoughby-Eastlake school district

# Losing the American Dream... One Tax Levy at a Time

By Brian Massie

We have been asked to recycle this article that was published in the News-Herald. We are even more convinced that we are correct in our assessment of the run-a-way property taxes. People are unwittingly evicting themselves out of their homes. Losing the American Dream.....One Tax Levy at a Time

I have come to the conclusion that the American dream of home ownership is really just an illusion. We are merely renters that possess a home, but never truly own it.

When comparing the Lake County real estate taxes billed for 2008 versus 2018, it is obvious that the ever-increasing real estate taxes is pricing seniors and those living on fixed incomes out of their homes that they have worked all their lives to achieve.

It is inevitable because of the government model for financing public schools. It is simply not sustainable since expenditures will continue to increase annually, either due to inflation, new school buildings or increasing operational expenses. For those living on fixed incomes, the reasons for the increases are irrelevant.

In 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in the DeRolph versus State of Ohio lawsuit that the use of real estate taxes for school funding was unconstitutional. After twelve years the Supreme Court yielded their authority over this issue back to the legislative branch. However, the legislators have simply 'kicked the can' down the road, unwilling to address or solve the problem.

The Center for Community Studies, a 100+ year old think tank, stated that the generally accepted Housing Affordability Threshold is 30% of a taxpayer's annual

income. If homeowners spend more than 30% of their annual income on their mortgage, utilities, and real estate taxes (monthly rent and utilities for renters), then their home is deemed unaffordable.

In a 2013 study, the Center found that 28% of Lake County homeowners and 55% of renters paid more than 30% of their annual income. Their study also showed that 26% of Lake County residents were 60 years of age or older, and by the year 2030 that age group will grow to 34% of the population.

The statistics get even more alarming when you consider that in the same study only 49% of seniors have retirement savings, and 78% only have social security paying them on average \$18,488 per year. It is estimated that 14% of the Lake County population lives at or near the poverty line – \$15,510 in 2013. If we assume that the current population is 235,000, that means approximately 32,900 live in poverty.

We, as Lobbyists for Citizens, are trying to raise the alarm to the residents of Lake County. Unless something is done to significantly reduce the real estate tax impact on seniors, they will eventually decide that either they can no longer afford their home, or other daily necessities may not be met. The problem is where do they go when taxes continue to escalate in all communities.

A review of the Board of Election's statistics indicates that 67% of the registered voters in Lake County are 50 years of age or older. I contend nothing should happen in Lake County without this voting bloc wanting it to happen. They just have to wake up to the deception being thrust upon us.

still wishes to eat at the federal and state government trough, then we suggest that they forgo the local funds that they receive from the Senior Levy. In our opinion, they have not been honest or transparent with taxpayers of Lake County. This falls in line with their approach of

using emergency levies for their school funding. Taxpayers do not realize that emergency funding may result in automatic increases in their property taxes, if funding should decrease from other sources, such as the Perry Plant devaluation.

## Help us Build an Ohio TEA Party Radio Network

By Tom Zawistowski

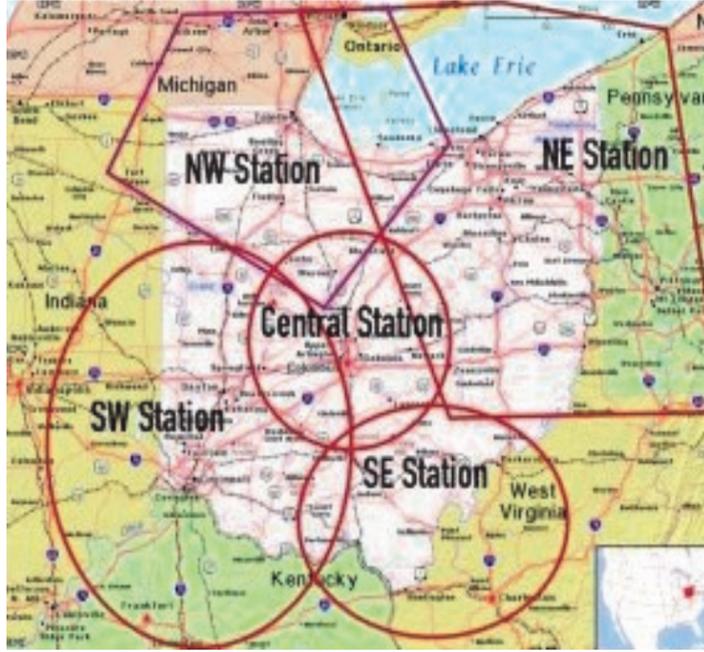
In 2016, the Ohio TEA Party used Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and the general media, to get its conservative, pro-Trump message out to Ohio Voters. That is how Trump was elected President.

Their plan is to "disarm right-wing misinformation" by making it impossible for conservatives to use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Google or be featured accurately in "traditional" newspapers and news channels. Their plan is to silence YOU and US and they are doing it! Everyday, you read about conservatives being "banned" by Facebook, thrown off of YouTube and "shadow banned" on Twitter.

The bottom line is that the left does not intend to defeat us in the marketplace of ideas, because they can't! They intend to make sure that no one in Ohio hears our conservative ideas or knows about the incredible success of the Trump Presidency!

Based on this reality, we must develop new methods of communications for the 2020 election. Furthermore, we must be able to talk to people outside of our "silo" by not just "preaching to the choir" using our web pages and email blasts. We must have a communications

### Ohio TEA Party Radio Network



method that can potentially reach everyone in the state of Ohio.

The best way to do that is to create a statewide conservative radio network, where every week, in every part of the state of Ohio, the public can get "real" news about what is going on in the world, our nation and our state. They can then take action to elect those candidates who will protect and defend our individual freedom and liberty and our beloved Constitution. To win in 2020 we MUST be able to message our fellow conservative citizens with the truth, on a consistent basis, in a world where the rest of the media is just putting out socialist/Democrat propaganda and outright

lies. In order to do that we need to raise a minimum of \$80,000 to launch and run a statewide radio network for the entire year of 2020. We need to raise that money in small amounts from a wide base of supporters like you, not from one or two large donors, because pressure can be brought to bear on those large donors by the left and the political establishment of both parties to get them to defund our network. They can't pressure thousands of you and if they can't pressure you, they can't pressure us. For more information and to donate to the Radio Network go to, [WethePeopleConvention.org](http://WethePeopleConvention.org).

## Housing Affordability Threshold... what is it?

By Brian Massie

It is generally accepted that if a homeowner spends more than 30% of more of their annual income on their (1) monthly mortgage, (2) utilities, and (3) property taxes, then their house is deemed unaffordable to them. For those that rent, they would add their (1) monthly rent, and (2) utilities to determine their HAT %.

They may not have to move out of their house, but they will have less disposable income to spend on the other necessities of life. We are extremely concerned that the ever increasing property taxes are going to price seniors and those living on fixed incomes out of their homes that they have worked all their lives to achieve.

For example: Monthly mortgage = \$1,000 + Utilities = \$500 + Property Taxes = \$500 = Total is \$2,000 per month.

Annual income needed to meet the housing affordability threshold = \$80,000 (\$2,000 x 12 / .30)

issue that will "only" cost you \$50 per year in additional taxes, you should divide that number by 30% to determine how much



You will need to earn at least \$80,000 annually +1 to ensure you do not reach the HAT % of 30%.

When you are asked to vote on a property tax

more in annual income you have to earn to avoid pricing yourself out of your home. (\$50 / .30 = #166,67)

## Concord Trustees...taxing seniors out of their homes

by Brian Massie

It is this writer's opinion that the Concord Trustees should build one fire station at a time to prove to the taxpayers that they can build something on time and within budget. In addition, we do not believe that there is a need to build a fire station that is four times the size of the existing station. The main fire station is 6,000 square feet, and the proposed replacement will be 25,000 square feet!

The following article is from a Concord Township lobbyist....We are in complete agreement with this lobbyist's statements. Fellow residents, here is a report from the Concord Trustee meeting on July 17, 2019:

The Trustees passed bond levy ballot language for the November, 2019 election:

Details: \$10 MM bond for constructing, furnishing and equipping just one new Fire Station, resulting in a 0.83 mill bond levy for 28 years!

Rather than replacing the existing fire stations in a phased way using existing Township tax revenue, the Trustees want more of your hard earned money.

The Trustees' strategy put residents on the hook to waste up to \$7 MM just for the interest alone -- THIS IS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE!



Concord is already OVER-BURDENED with taxes, and it's time the trustees REDUCE our taxes and CONTROL their spending.

At the meeting, all citizens who spoke were PRO-FIREFIGHTERS, PRO-CONCORD and PRO-TAXPAYER - and know there's no need for new taxes!

Many citizens are determined to get this message out to Concord citizens and defeat this excessive and unneeded bond, and

....We hope you'll join us! Please forward to your neighbors and friends in Concord.

If you like what you see in this newspaper, your **ADVERTISEMENT**

**COULD BE HERE**

For details contact Brian at "[Brian@lobbyistforcitizens.com](mailto:Brian@lobbyistforcitizens.com)"

## Commissioner Cirino and Young... Citizens cannot count on them....

by Brian Massie

We heard a finely orchestrated sales pitch about the Better Flip project at the Commissioners' meeting held on Thursday, July 25th. Commissioner Cirino was the conductor with Willowick Mayor Regovich, Scott Yamamoto of the Auditor's Office, and Mark Rantala, Executive Director of the Port Authority, all extolling the virtues of the Better Flip, and falling just short of conveying sainthood on Rantala.

The only negative comment about the project we heard, was mentioned

by Mr. Yamamoto. He asked the rhetorical question: "Did they spend too much?".....He continued: "Well, yes..."....As if that overspending is expected by government officials without any repercussions to them.

No comments at all from Cirino on spending \$299,000 on the project. It leaves us to wonder if he thinks that the "ends justifies the means". We thought that uncontrolled, irresponsible, government spending

See Cirino.... Page 5

# It's a Matter of Life

By Brian Massie

Thanks to our Right to Life Lobbyist, Anonymous One, for this article.

"It's A Matter Of Life..."

The road to Auschwitz was built by hate, but paved with indifference. Today the horrors of Nazi Germany may be past, but in America today an even greater number of human beings are on the road to their own deaths in a state subsidized killing center, an abortion mill. The Holocaust murdered twelve million people.



of this great nation, the silence of indifference must end today.

This week, for the 65th time, Congress thwarted an attempt to vote on a bill that would provide medical care and treatment for babies who survived failed abortions — 63 times in the House and twice in the Senate.

Abortion is capital punishment without due process. The preborn child is condemned to

death WITH state approval, but WITHOUT the benefit of trial, judge, or jury. How long will we, a nation professing equal justice under the law, continue to tolerate this mockery of justice?

Since 1973, over 61,500,000 million preborn babies in America alone have been murdered by the holocaust of surgical abortion. For the sake

# Property Valuations... Who does it in Lake County?

By Brian Massie

A citizen in the Willoughby-Eastlake school district asked us if there is any truth to the allegation that the W-E school district has their own real estate appraisers and continual look through the property tax roles to ensure that property values are accurately recorded. I had never heard of that before so we contacted the Lake County Auditor's office and their Appraisal Department, and asked some questions so that we could provide an accurate answer.

Here is what we were told by Mr. Scott Yamamoto, Chief Deputy of the Lake County Appraisal Department:

"The Auditor's office handles all values for assessment purposes. I am unaware of any political subdivisions that have their own appraiser. Boards of Education may have attorneys that check the difference between sales prices and values and may file BOR appeals each year to ask that values be increased to sale prices. This is not an unusual practice in the state of Ohio."

My prior dealings with Mr. Yamamoto has shown that he is extremely knowledgeable in his area of expertise, and is very accommodating to the general public. He is a credit to the Lake County Auditor's office. I can tell you that when I went through the Board of Revision's review process to reduce my personal property value, there was an attorney representing the Riverside School Board ensuring that the best interests

of the school board were maintained.

When I think about it, the school's use of attorneys is disconcerting to me. Follow my logic on this one:

Residents pay property taxes to the schools, and will continue to pay more because school expenditures can NEVER, EVER, EVER decrease....

Schools hire attorneys with those property taxes to ensure that property values are "up to snuff"....

Schools also hire attorneys with those property taxes to lobby the State legislators to ensure that the confusing, complex ballot language for property taxes are not simplified so that the voters

have a better chance to know what they are voting on.... We think that the taxpayers are funding their own demise.....Citizens need to wake up, and vote NO all future new and renewal property tax levies....

Hopefully, we have adequately answered the original question. The Lake County Auditor handles all appraisals, but we have the school's attorney making sure that they "earn their keep" by combing through the records of home sales in the respective community to ensure they can extract every last cent from the taxpayer....

It is our position, that they are draining the life-blood out of the community!

(any resemblance to any Lake County attorney is strictly coincidental)



**"Roundtable with George Csatory" on 1220 AM or 96.9FM "The Word" Cleveland, Mondays 7-9PM**



Join Host George Csatory and co-hosts Steve Kraus & Dakota Sawyer every Monday night from 7-9PM for thoughtful political discussion, with special guests, highlighting Federal, State and Local issues.

**Lake County New Administration Building**  
**Cost to taxpayers: \$30 Million !**  
**Opening: Fall of 2019**



**CIRINO.....From Page 4**

would be a concern for the Lake County Commissioners. Regrettably, we can say that Commissioner Hamercheck is the only commissioner that has expressed concern about the wasteful spending, and the abysmal project management on the Better Flip project. The

Better Flip will be the "white whale" for Cirino and Young....they will ride it all the way to the bottom.

LFC has previously stated that the original idea about the Better Flip was sound, but the project management was shockingly inept.



**DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

*If you would like to help support "Lobbyist for Citizens" you can donate at our website, [Lobbyistforcitizens.com](http://Lobbyistforcitizens.com). All donations will be greatly appreciated.*

# Holmes & Watson solve... "The Case of Severe Back Scratching..."

By Brian Massie

Trigger alert – Based on a couple of messages received, we thought we should issue this fair warning to those without a sense of humor, or easily offended, please do not read this...may cause you to hyperventilate....we are not responsible for any adverse health conditions because of this article. We find our super sleuths on the very intriguing case of "back scratching" in Lake County. How people get prominent government positions befuddles the average citizen, but not to the analytical minds of Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Dr. Watson. As they are both on a camping trip gazing at the billions of stars, they start a rather unique conversation.



**WATSON** "Sherlock, did you hear that Lake County has a new Auditor....gentleman by the name of Galloway?"



**SHERLOCK** "Surely you jest, Watson. What credentials does he have? Can he even balance a checkbook?"

**WATSON** "Beats me Holmes, but I have heard that there is a severe case of back scratching going on in Lake County. Hard to believe I know, but it's a rather common practice. Seems that Galloway has a company called Red State Strategies. I hear it has been a very successful political consulting company. Top flight....helped elect some very influential people.....paid a pretty farthing for his efforts....so they say...."

**SHERLOCK** "Well, Watson it is all rather elementary, but we must have proof of back scratching before I can use my superior intellect and deductive reasoning to connect the dots...."

**WATSON** "Right you are Holmes...well, here is the document filed with the State of Ohio Secretary of State"..... Red State Strategies SOS Documents.

**SHERLOCK** "Well done Watson, looks like this has been in business since 2005. However, this is not enough, I will need to know who has he worked for and what success has he had. By the way, I have heard of the name Galloway before, did he ever hold public office?"

**WATSON** "Ah, your memory never fails you Holmes. Yes, he used to be a Trustee in Concord Township...you remember don't you? ....We have talked about that Township before....you know, the one that is pricing its seniors out of their homes....remember, there has been quite a uproar about their property taxes, and their new school and state of the art fire department levies may just be the "coup de grace" to finish off their seniors....a really dreadful affair....tut, tut..."

**SHERLOCK** "Too much detail Watson – quick stay focused, please....Now who has Red State Strategies helped get elected? I need facts Watson,...facts I tell you, the truth my boy....quickly..."

**WATSON** "Patience my friend, I contacted the Elections Board and received this campaign finance report..... (Cirino Campaign Finance Report, (available through Lake County Election Board) Notice that the campaign committee "Cirino for Commissioner" owed Red State Strategies \$16,167.77. You remember Jerry right.....successful business man, yelled at you on the phone when you questioned his need for fund raising after he just got elected commissioner. He told you personally on the phone, that he only wanted to be commissioner

to help the people of Lake County, and never had any interest in a political career."

**SHERLOCK** "Bye Jove, you are right Watson, now I hear he is running for State Senator – what in blazes happened?"

**WATSON** "Shhhh, Holmes, keep your voice down....the State Senator gig is a secret, except everyone and his brother knows he is looking for endorsements....He relishes being the king maker, the puppet master, if you will.....what Jerry wants, Jerry gets....remember that Holmes."

"This whole unseemly Galloway affair is a prime example. Cirino and Galloway go way, way back. Galloway was running for Commissioner a few years ago but lost to a vibrant, brilliant young woman....I tell you Holmes, that still must be "grinding his gears"....She would have been commissioner except she did not play ball with the Party establishment. Can you guess who was greasing the skids for her defeat?"

"Cirino supported Galloway and a lawyer from the opposite side of the aisle by the name of Mal....something or other. Sorry, Holmes, I cannot remember his full name... he is known as Mr. Continuous in some circles for some reason...Anyway, they were running for Concord trustee against some newbies, and Jerry, although he does not live in Concord, decided that the newbies cannot be trusted to run the up and coming community."

**SHERLOCK** "Wait Watson, Jerry decided who should be Trustee in a community that he does not live in, and he and his Republican Party supported a candidate from the opposite Party? Huh? That is not logical, Watson. I smell a cabal.... I thought it was up to the voters to decide an election?....tell me more Dr. Watson...there must be more backscratching..."

**WATSON** "My esteemed friend, there is so much more. However, do not be naive, the voters only get to decide on who the Party nominates, and independent thinkers are not permitted....it is group think personified."

"Well, after a successful business career Jerry decided to run for Lake County Commissioner as a way of giving back to the people. Sorry, for my smirk Holmes, after that last remark, a little sarcasm I'm afraid – I should remember my decorum...."My Board", sorry I mean "my bad". Being a newbie himself, he decided he needed some high powered political consultants".

**SHERLOCK** "Wait Watson, slow down here....I thought you said that Cirino did not want newbies to be Trustees of the up and coming community known as Concord? But he is a newbie that wants to run the entire County? Something is not adding up.."

**WATSON** "Please Sherlock, lets not get bogged down with facts, shall we? Just remember the WJWJG....what Jerry wants, Jerry gets."....let me finish the backscratching story."

"So Jerry hires Galloway and another consultant by the name of Sabath to help him get elected....and being the professionals that they are, Jerry gets elected."

**SHERLOCK** "Hmmm, Sabath, Sabath? ...you mean the young lady that works as the government liaison for Lakeland Community

College, and is the President of the Lake County Visitors Bureau?.....Do you have any idea how she got those jobs?"

**WATSON** "Well, not sure about the college gig, but Jerry, as Commissioner, appointed her to the position as President of the Visitors Bureau Board."

**SHERLOCK** "Ah, hah, interesting....another case of backscratching uncovered....is there more? There can't be more, can there?"

**WATSON** "Wait 'till you hear this story....remember your good friend Ed, from the Auditor's office?....really sad story....very fine gentleman, had a very unfortunate illness befall him before the last election. However, the establishment was able to finagle the rules so that they could appoint his successor...they are very deft at skirting the rules....truly masters of their craft."

"So the Party holds an election, and you will never guess who endorses Galloway?"

**SHERLOCK** "Watson, you have got to be joking...don't tell me Jerry stepped up to the plate, and endorsed his very own political consultant who never had auditing experience?"

**WATSON** "Holmes, if I'm lying, I'm dying!" Jerry boldly stepped and put his finger on the scale to tip the voting for his buddy, and political consultant – Galloway. Never mind that there were more qualified candidates, such as Belinda, John, and Michael. Remember Holmes, WJWJG.....I wonder if there is any truth to the rumor that they may be placing those initials on his new office door in the new palace being built in Lake County....Nah, probably just a rumor...."

**SHERLOCK** "Wow, Dr. Watson....that is an unbelievable story....so let me recap what I have learned: Jerry Cirino boldly stating that has no interest in a political career, is thinking of running for State Senator; he does not want newbies to get a chance to run the up and coming community in the County, but as rank neophyte to politics he wants to run Lake County; and finally, he appoints or endorses his political consultants that helped him get elected Lake County Commissioner as President of the Visitors Bureau, and County Auditor."

"Dr. Watson, after careful deliberation, and weighing all of the facts, I must conclude without any hesitation that there is serious backscratching going in Lake County, not to mention intense hubris of a magnitude that is off the charts."

"Well done, my friend...you have truly outdone yourself."

**WATSON** Watson clears his throat and says: "Thank you Holmes ....it was nothing really... glad to share the truth with you...."

In a relaxed, reflective moment Watson says: "You know Holmes, as we lay here gazing into the sky we see the infinite number of stars, and galaxies....I think I know what it means....there must be higher power controlling our destiny."

**SHERLOCK** "Balderdash, Watson...you idiot....it means someone has stolen our tent!"

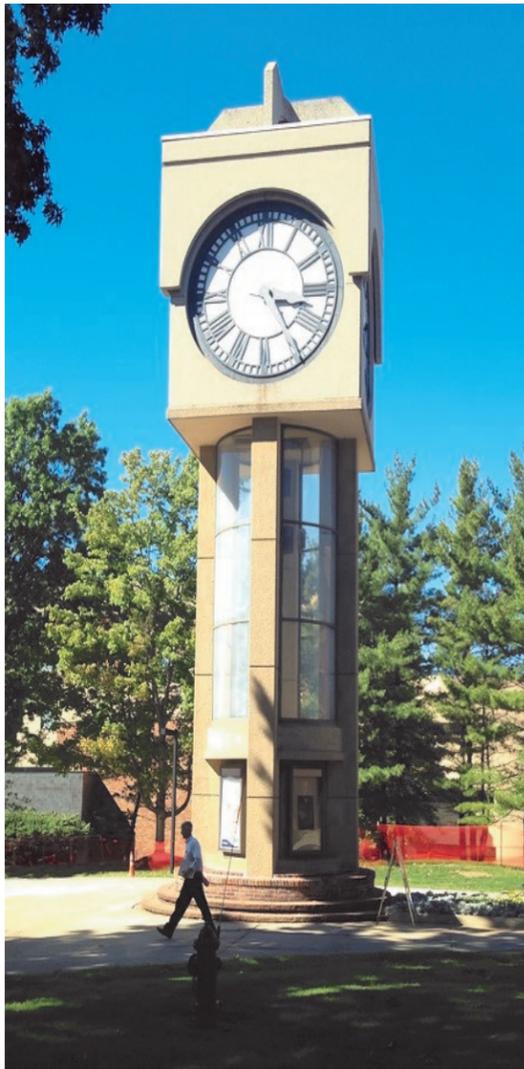
Stay tuned as Holmes and Watson reveal more "backscratching" going on in Lake County.....

# Lakeland Community College... Storm Clouds Ahead?

By Brian Massie

We have written many negative articles about our Community College because we are concerned that the administration is not being good stewards of the taxpayers' money. Lake

being too good to be true. Well there is the other saying about the fact that nothing is really free when using other people's money...somebody's paying for it.



What if many taxpayers were being duped about the value of a "free education?"

What if the noble gesture of "equality of opportunity" actually transformed into the "equality of outcome?"

What if we wanted everyone to "dunk a basketball," so we lowered the rim (i.e. standards) so everyone could achieve their goal?

What if we never had any standards of admission into our community college, so that the college

County taxpayers contributed over \$20 million in 2018 to the school. This represents a \$10 million increase over 2008. There is a continued decline in enrollment, and it appears that trend will continue since the Lake County high schools are also continuing to experience declining enrollments. To offset this decrease in revenue the administration is looking to add dorms, contrary to the Ohio Revised Code, and are focusing on increasing the enrollment of the College Credit Plus program. This program permits high school students to attend LCC, and the costs are paid for by the student's respective high school, and by extension the taxpayers in the community are really paying for the college education. The following article is a result of interviews we have had with various sources in local education.

College Credit Plus.....Are standards allowed anymore?

The allure of "free education" is so inviting, so intoxicating; but it can be a deception. You know what they say about something

could receive payments for remedial courses?

What if we never held anyone accountable for their performance while in college?

What if your targeted students no longer believed in your product, and your students no longer valued your offerings?

What if we pandered to a different student base that would fulfill the need for additional revenue, but most of the students are ill prepared to absorb what you are selling?

What if we were willing to assume that all students, even as young as 13 years old, are capable of doing college level work, and see no need for standards? Should 13-year-old students be milling around with twenty-somethings?

What if one-half of the students, when asked to read out loud, sound more like recent immigrants struggling to learn English, even when they are allegedly the "cream of the crop" of their high school classes?

What if only 3% of the students ever read a book on a regular basis, and the

majority had never read a single novel by Mark Twain, never heard of Ralph Waldo Emerson or Harry Truman; but have extensive knowledge about every app on their smartphone that they use eight hours a day?

What if there was absolutely zero consideration for the well-being of our students because their "free education" kept many employed in high paying positions? This would be the "golden parachute crowd" if we were talking private sector.

What if what we are selling is so watered down (from "lowering the rim"), that the fact that the entire County has the same piece of paper making what was "free" really meaningless?

Ladies and gentlemen, although there are some dedicated College Credit Plus students making the most of the opportunity, many are just ill prepared for college level material. Years ago a 13-year-old may have been prepared for college level courses, but the education being delivered in the public school system these days is so watered down students can barely read out loud or write a coherent sentence with proper structure and punctuation. No, the public school system is too busy indoctrinating our children into the progressive movement to prepare them for post-secondary education.

Today's college is little more than an extension of childhood for these students. Critical thinking is frowned upon in those establishments. These "institutions of higher learning" are busy equipping safe spaces as coping mechanisms when life deals a "curve ball" to the students.

Unfortunately, the mantra of "equality of opportunity" for all has morphed into "equality of outcome" for all, where everyone gets a participation trophy/certificate, or yet another degree that is most likely meaningless.

A great disservice has been perpetrated on these youngsters for not maintaining higher standards, and the taxpayers deserve so much more for their money.

We wonder if an institution's accreditation can ever be in jeopardy.

# Funding a Hispanic Center in Painesville

BY Average American

A special thanks to our new contributor, "Average Citizen", for this article on the proposed Hispanic Center in Painesville. We will be taking notice of Mr. John Rogers conduct regarding this building in Painesville.

265 North State Street Painesville – Proposed Community Center

A Federal USDA grant in the amount of \$132,745.00 was awarded to purchase equipment for an incubator kitchen. Additionally, HOLA received a \$2,500.00 grant from the Ohio Commission on Hispanic Latino Affairs (OCHLA) for the cost of the design and blueprints.

In 2016, Director/Rep. Rogers spent



Perennial politician, John Rogers is the Ohio State Representative representing the 60th District, which includes Eastlake, Fairport Harbor, Grand River, Lakeline, Mentor-on-the-Lake, Painesville, Timberlake, Wickliffe, Willoughby, Willowick, in addition to parts of Mentor and Painesville Township.

Although the State Representative job is considered part-time, the salary is \$60,000 per year. He is also the Executive Director of the Lake County Land Reutilization Corporation, better known as the Land Bank, and by contract is paid \$60.00 per hour for a maximum 1,200 hours (\$72,000) per year. Forget about applying for those part-time jobs, you must be firmly entrenched in party politics to be even considered. This is known as the establishment or "deep state" of Lake County.

The Lake County Land Bank's funding is from 5 % of the fees charged on late payments of property taxes and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. [Federal Department of HUD funding]

In 2016, Mr. Rogers proposed donating a building located at 265 North State Street in Painesville to a Hispanic group known as HOLA [Spanish for "Hello"], controlled by a Ms. Veronica Dahlberg. Initially, the building was going to be an "incubator kitchen" for EVERYONE in the community to use to make food that could be sold at local markets to help pay for the operating expenses of the center.

approximately \$10,000 to have the building gutted on the inside, so that it is a "clean slate". Also, he approved installing a new roof at a cost of \$80,000 of the people's money, but it has not been done yet.

In the 131st General Assembly Ohio House Bill 547, there was an amendment introduced for \$500,000.00, as a business assistance to HOLA Ohio. Fortunately, it was denied.

In 2018 and 2019, HOLA applied for \$250,000.00 in Lake County Community Development Block Grant funds for a Hispanic Community Center/ Commercial Kitchen Business Incubator. Happy to report both were denied.

The talk about an "incubator kitchen" has now morphed into the real reason for HOLA's interest in the building – creating a HOLA Community Center. They aggressively lobby our politicians about illegal aliens, and complain about the Federal Homeland Security's Immigration and Enforcement (ICE) doing their job in Lake County.

The property known as 265 N State Street had an EPA issue which has been resolved, and yet the property is still not listed on the Lake County Land Reutilization Corp as an available property for others to consider purchasing.

Will Mr. Rogers continue to support HOLA, and by extension Illegal aliens; then spend \$80,000 to repair the roof, and donate this building to the HOLA group?

## Health Care.... Is it an Insurance or Control Issue?

By Tom Zawistowski

So the Democrats, and presumably some open border Republicans want to give free health care to the world while the American citizens can barely afford what is currently offered.....Please do not tell me that you do not think that is a problem!!

The following is an article from our patriotic friend from Portage County, Tom Zawistowski

global warming" and your mother doesn't get her insulin this month - until you comply!

If you think that a Democratic/Socialist controlled US Government wouldn't do such things, think again - or read the "Intimidation Game" by Kimberly Strassel of the Wall Street Journal to see how Barack Obama weaponized the entire

protected "employees".

The ONLY way to get better healthcare for lower costs is FREE MARKET, competition - WITHOUT GOVERNMENT CONTROL AT ALL. Right NOW 40% of healthcare cost is "administrative" cost - much of which is from complying with government regulations. Half of healthcare cost is UNNECESSARY but

**If you vote for Democrat/Socialists who want to CANCEL YOUR Private Health Insurance and replace it with Health Care THEY CONTROL . . .**



**. . . there is something Seriously Wrong with YOU!**

Anyone who thinks that the Communists Regressive Leftists, who have taken over the Democrat/Socialist Party, are proposing Government Controlled Health Care because they care about you or your family OR your health OR about making healthcare "affordable" is being duped into surrendering their Liberty! If there is ONLY Government Controlled "Healthcare" then YOU have given complete control of YOUR LIFE to the Government!

Once "Medicare for All" is in place the Government can MAKE YOU DO ANYTHING. If you voted for Trump, you don't get that hip replacement. You refuse to use the "proper" "transgender pronoun", your child doesn't get their asthma medicine. You dare to question "man-made

federal government against the American People. It was ONLY OUR FIGHT against full implementation of "Obamacare" and the election of President Donald Trump in 2016 that saved us - for now.

We ALL need to understand - Healthcare is a LIBERTY ISSUE! Tyrants, Dictators and Communists have used control of health care to control people for centuries. Their claim that the Government can deliver better healthcare, at a lower cost, is absurd on it's face and disproven by our experience with the US Veterans Administration where patients have been killed and abused and mistreated for DECADES by unaccountable, unqualified, union

ordered to avoid being sued or fined for not complying with "mandatory" treatment requirements. Government involvement is the problem not the solution that they claim it will be!

If WE do not defeat the Regressive Communist Left in the 2020 elections, they will IMPOSE Government controlled "Healthcare" on YOU and all of US and destroy ANY CHANCE for private healthcare to ever return in the future. Your individual Freedom and Liberty, and that of all future generations, will be lost FOREVER!

To receive future emails from Tom Z . go to WeThePeopleConvention.org and sign up for his emails at the top of the page.

## County Budget Commission..... so what is their role exactly?

By Brian Massie

When reviewing the Ohio County Commissioners handbook (ok, I will admit I have no life – Monday night football is in my rear view mirror), I found an interesting description of the role of the County Budget Commission.

County Budget Commission

The operative sentence to me is this: "The county budget commission has the important responsibility to assure that both voted and unvoted property tax levies are "needed" by taxing authorities".

The following sentence also warrants additional questions: " While Ohio law allows for two citizens to be elected to the budget commission, no county has ever used this option. (ORC 5705.27) We will ask the commissioners if they have ever thought about that option.

Now here is where "two and two are not equaling

four" for me. We asked Mr. Ed Zupancic, Lake County Auditor, what the Lake County's Budget Commission does exactly. Here is his response:

"The Budget Commission does not approve or deny tax levies, The purpose of the Budget Commission is to assure that when a levy is approved by the voters the proper amount is collected".

What this is telling me is that while the Ohio County Commissioners' Handbook specifically states that it is the responsibility of the CBC to assure that levies are "needed", Lake County Budget Commission only is concerned about the levy AFTER the voters have approved the levy.

So taxpayers are at the mercy of the Board of Trustees of the various sub-division.....now what could go wrong there????

## Lake County Board of Elections..... another fantastic job...

BY BRIAN MASSIE

With the mainstream media focusing on Florida's Broward County and the debacle their election officials have created, it reminds Lobbyists for Citizens (LFC) how fortunate Lake County citizens are to have such honest, competent, and extremely helpful officials at our Lake County Board of Elections.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ross McDonald, Director, for his very capable leadership. Lake County citizens can rest assured that our election process is fair, honest and extremely transparent. Ross has



tremendous upside potential in his career. We hope that Lake County can keep him for a very long time.

LFC also would like to thank Jan Clair, Tom Seymour, and the entire staff for their extraordinary efforts in helping us gain information and understanding on the role of the Board of Elections.

## Lake Tran..... more sales tax revenue Needed....oh, really?

By Brian Massie

We attended a Lake Tran board meeting yesterday specifically to hear them discuss the need for more revenue from the already over taxed citizens. They passed the resolution to place an additional .25% sales tax levy on the November, 2019 ballot . They decided to change the term of the

levy from "a continuing period of time" to a period of 10 years. During the public comment section, LFC spoke regarding our review of their financial statements. We made the following points:

1. The new sales tax increase will generate \$8.5 – \$9.0 million dollars.

2. This translates into 98% increase in sale tax revenue, and over 50% increase in total revenue.
3. We are glad that they chose to eliminate the "continuous levy", since we believe that the political subdivisions must be accountable to the taxpayers.

