

Commissioners' Meeting held June 6, 2024

1. State of Ohio Performance Audit of Lakeland Community College has an error on page 9. It states that LCC "generates revenue through two property tax levies". In fact, there are 3 levies. The State Auditor failed to mention the .4 mill Bond levy that extracts over \$2.2 million annually from Lake County taxpayers and will continue to collect it until 2041.

We have tried to contact the State Auditor's office, but their email listed on their website is incorrect and voice mail messages go unheeded. Lakeland gets over \$20 million per year from Lake County taxpayers.

Lake County taxpayers were used and abused by the Beverage administration and the Board members for financial malfeasance. The Lake County Commissioners, whether you acknowledge it or not, are also culpable in this debacle since Commissioners appoint several Board members. No one can blame the taxpayers because we are prevented from voting for the Board members.

2. Item #12 on today's agenda deals with the new Alternate Formula for the distribution of the local government funds. We will be interested in hearing your discussion on the appropriateness of the new alternate formula from a committee that violated the Ohio Open Meetings Act.

It is very telling that this committee did not invite Timberlake Mayor John Marra to their last three illegal meetings. Timberlake and other villages had no representation at those meetings.

The estimated distribution schedule to each taxing authority in future years is not included. Will the public be able to get this distribution to ensure complete transparency?

3. I still have not heard from our elected State officials how they are going to rectify the problem with me being censored by the State of Ohio when I provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Property Taxes Review and Reform. They did not want me to tell the impact of the sexennial revaluation on the Lake County taxpayers, and my belief that the 20 mill floor legislation is unconstitutional.

4. The Auburn Career Center was handed three additional defeats in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Lucci correctly stated that :

1. These are frivolous motions.
2. Red herrings are not allowed in court.
3. This matter has been lingering far too long. (12 years)
4. The issues in this litigation have been fully and finally resolved.
5. The Auburn Board is overruled, overruled and overruled.

This is yet another example of gross malfeasance of taxpayers' property taxes. We call for the termination of Superintendent Bontempo and the resignation of the entire Auburn Board of Trustees for being complicit in this financial fiasco.

Unfortunately, the Auburn hierarchy demonstrates taxation without representation since the taxpayers are not given the opportunity to elect Auburn's Board members.

It is all just another illusion of representative government.

5. I will give everyone running for office in November a "heads up" that we will make the issue of seniors be priced out of their homes because of unsustainable property taxes the number one issued that must be addressed immediately.