

From: [Lillianne Dunstall](#)
To: [budget](#)
Subject: Email from Constituent
Date: December 4, 2024 2:31:04 PM

Please accept this correspondence from one of my constituents.

Thank you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Christine Ehrat [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 1:10 PM

Hello, Lil,

I am dismayed by the draft proposal. This is going to be very difficult for residents of Wilmot. Please submit this letter to the council's correspondence from me. This is not a good idea at all.

****Rebuttal to Wilmot's Proposed 50.87% Tax Increase****

While the draft budget presented by Wilmot staff highlights the need for increased funding to address significant capital shortfalls, a proposed 50.87% tax increase is not only extreme but could also have detrimental effects on the community. Here are several key points to consider:

1. ****Economic Impact on Residents****: A \$580 increase in property taxes could impose a heavy financial burden on average homeowners, especially those on fixed incomes or struggling financially. In a time when inflation is already impacting household budgets, this drastic increase could lead to significant hardships for many residents. The township should explore alternative funding mechanisms that do not disproportionately affect taxpayers.
2. ****Gradual Approach****: Rather than implementing a drastic one-time tax hike, the township could fund its capital projects more gradually. This could involve smaller, incremental increases over several years, allowing residents to adjust to the changes and providing a more sustainable financial plan. This strategy would help prevent the shock of such a sudden increase and allow for better financial planning for residents.
3. ****Efficiency and Cost Management****: Before resorting to significant tax increases, the township should thoroughly review its current expenditures and identify areas where efficiencies can be gained. Are there programs or services that could be

streamlined or eliminated? Could partnerships with local businesses or community organizations help share costs for capital projects? Prioritizing efficiency can often yield significant savings without burdening taxpayers.

4. **Community Engagement**: It is vital that the township actively engages with the community before finalizing the budget. Residents should have the opportunity to voice their concerns and provide input on capital priorities. This engagement can foster a sense of ownership and collaboration, leading to more widely accepted solutions that reflect the community's needs and preferences.

5. **Long-term Financial Planning**: The township should develop a comprehensive long-term financial strategy that includes immediate capital needs and ongoing maintenance and operational costs. By planning for the future, Wilmot can avoid similar crises down the road and create a more stable financial environment for its residents.

Given what the region is also proposing to add, people cannot begin to afford any double-digit increase in this economy.

In conclusion, while the need for capital investment is clear, a 50.87% tax increase is not the only solution. The township can address its capital needs by exploring alternative funding mechanisms, engaging the community, and prioritizing efficiency without significantly burdening its residents.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine E. Ehrat

