From the Desk of Carlisle County Judge Executive Greg Terry

Hello citizens of Carlisle County. First and foremost I would like to say thank you for allowing me to serve you in the capacity of Judge Executive these past 10 years. I am looking forward to the future and believe it holds many positive improvements.

I am sure you have heard an Insurance Premium Tax Ordinance has been put in front of the Fiscal Court for approval and I would like to take a minute to explain why this is necessary. To continue to be a fiscally viable county and still be able to improve our roads, offer lifesaving services such as our 911 Dispatch Center and our Ambulance Service along with being able to offer employment to 38 citizens, this includes county elected officials, we have to increase revenue. The following paragraphs bring an explanation to this decision.

Over the last several years I have heard many talk about the county property taxes and have been asked why they are so high and what exactly they are used for. To completely understand what the general fund has to work with one must understand what money we, the county, actually get from these property taxes. I would like to point out that our county tax rates are some of the lowest in the state, and have actually decreased over the last couple of years, thus decreasing the revenue that the county receives. Below is a tax bill from this tax year that shows the county’s portion. As you can see, on a home that appraises at $89,000 only $174.44 of the $1005.52 tax bill will be received and used by the county government.

Property Description: Farm Acres:

LAND HOUSE AND METAL BUILDING County Clerk: N/A

Assessment:

Property Class Tax Authority Assessed Value Rage/$100 Tax

REAL ESTATE STATE 89,000.00 0.12200000 108.58

REAL ESTATE COUNTY 89,000.00 0.19600000 174.44

REAL ESTATE SCHOOL 89,000.00 0.54100000 481.49

REAL ESTATE EXTENSION 89,000.00 0.07862000 69.97

REAL ESTATE HEALTH 89,000.00 0.03200000 28.48

REAL ESTATE AMBULANCE 89,000.00 0.08400000 74.76

REAL ESTATE SOIL CONS 89,000.00 0.02000000 17.80

WBARD FD WBARD FD 1.00 50.00

 Total Assessment: 1005.52

What does that mean at the end of the day? It means that out of the $2,240,145.56 that is estimated to be collected and distributed out to the various taxing districts, only $363,186.11 will be distributed to the general fund for the 2017 tax year. That is at 100% collections rate, which rarely happens.

Of course this is not our only avenue of revenue, but it is our second largest next to the county road aid allocation. The county receives a County Road Aid allocation from the state each year, with 2017’s amount at $638,216. That is down from $785,884.00 in 2014. There are funds from the fee account offices and 911 surcharges that you see on your landline bill, and jail fund allotments that support the budget. This next year will bring an almost 8% increase in the county match to the Kentucky Retirement System, to the tune of almost $100,000. So as you can see our revenues are not increasing, they are decreasing drastically. Major increases in expenses have happened as well. I feel like my office has made large changes to the county budget, as much as it can at this point, without affecting essential services. Our revenues have decreased enough over the past couple of years that our auditors have said we HAVE to do something to increase revenues, we pretty much do not have a choice. That brings us to the proposed Local Insurance Premium Tax Ordinance. This premium tax will be a tax on insurance plans that do not fall under any of the exemptions as laid out in the ordinance. It should also be pointed out, that is on premiums, not the value of the insurance plan itself. We should be able to recover some of our revenue short falls without having to make even more drastic changes. As it is, the road department is working on a skeleton crew with equipment that needs to be updated so we can keep our county roads from falling apart. This is just one example of what this additional revenue will be appropriated for.

It is never easy raising taxes, but as the County Judge and the manager of your tax dollars, I feel it’s my duty to do what I can to make a better place for the next generation to live and work. Please feel free to contact me at my office anytime. I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the county budget and the Local Insurance Premium Tax.