

**Meeting Minutes of July 31, 2003**  
**Board of Supervisors Special Meeting**

Chairman Obernier called the Board of Supervisors Special Meeting of July 31, 2003 to order at 8:00 a.m., and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of the Board of Supervisors by the Township Manager noted Chairman Obernier, Vice-Chairman McCaffrey, and Supervisor Lindborg in attendance. Township Manager, Ronald A. Rambo, Jr. was also present.

Manager Rambo noted the Special Meeting was called to consider Ordinance No. 03-11. It would permit the Township to put a referendum on the ballot in the November Election with regards to open space.

Manager Rambo then read out loud Ordinance No. 03-11. Supervisor Lindborg asked if the referendum states that it is a non-binding. Manager Rambo answered yes, that it is non-binding.

Supervisor Lindborg noted that if the Ordinance were passed it would be important to him that they have a public meeting regarding the referendum. He noted there could be additional issues after they discuss this with the public that would not be appropriate today.

Vice-Chairman McCaffrey suggested that the meetings be held prior to November so they could see the benefit from it in the year 2004 rather than waiting.

Supervisor Lindborg reiterated what Vice-Chairman McCaffrey had said, that doing this prior to November would accomplish two things, one would be to educate the people so they would have a better idea of what the referendum is about. Secondly, if in fact this passes then they would be able to enact something in January.

Vice-Chairman McCaffrey stated that in order for the tax to be effective, it would have to be passed prior to the year it takes effect. Supervisor Lindborg noted he didn't care whether they had the meeting before or after the referendum it would probably be more beneficial having it before.

Chairman Obernier pointed out that Vice-Chairman McCaffrey seems to believe that if the referendum passes there would be an automatic tax increase and he doesn't believe that to be the case.

Supervisor Lindborg noted his understanding is that it is a non-binding referendum until they collectively vote to adopt it. Supervisor Lindborg felt that Vice-Chairman McCaffrey was saying that if the referendum passes and if the Board collectively agrees to enact this ordinance and they do it before December 31, 2003, they could collect the one eighth of one percent for the year 2004.

Vice-Chairman McCaffrey agreed that was what he was stating, rather than wait until 2005 to collect the tax and if you decide that you don't like the idea at all then you can eradicate the whole thing. Vice-Chairman McCaffrey expressed that this is going to be something that progressive communities are going to look at like a homeowner's association maintenance fee for the communities rather than as a tax. Then everything that everybody has professed who feel is important to this community in having less pollution of any kind that you can imagine e.g. light, air, water, less traffic, retaining the atmosphere, and the conditions that people come to West Brandywine to enjoy.

Chairman Obernier asked what Vice-Chairman McCaffrey's thoughts were about taking a separate poll of the people that actually have to pay this tax.

Vice-Chairman McCaffrey noted it is a fine idea but would like to see it done in a systematic way, where it is mailed to a specific person and that person mails it back, not something that could be photocopied and one person could send ten of them back.

Supervisor Lindborg asked about the timing issue. Manager Rambo noted they still have to adopt another ordinance, have a public hearing, advertisement with regards to the official adoption of the addition eighth of a percent, they would still have to go through another hearing process after this for public input for the adoption of the tax.

Supervisor Lindborg asked why they couldn't do this between the November election and the end of the year. Vice-Chairman McCaffrey stated they could, but what he is trying to say is the feeling he get was they are going to put this on the ballot now and then forget about it until it is voted on. Then after it is voted on they will put together what they think should be included in this package and see if everybody likes it, then they will move to impose the tax. People will probably accept the idea, in accepting it they will want to see something happen, so why not move some of that up to this summer and fall so that you can take advantage of next year.

Chairman Obernier noted that they would have an opportunity to educate the people about the referendum in the Newsletter and also at the open house in September. He felt that it won't move along as swiftly as what Vice-Chairman McCaffrey thinks it will. He noted that it didn't matter to him whether they have the teaching or discourse before or after the election, before might be better because they would have more people turning out at the Township for the open house.

Supervisor Lindborg suggested they have information available at the open house about the open space referendum. Have information put in the Newsletter in September and then have a special meeting in October.

Vice-Chairman McCaffrey cautioned that after looking into open space himself for many years, that you do not want to have a rigorous and fully defined use for that money, because the uses and the opportunities over time will shift and change.

Supervisor Lindborg expressed he wasn't thinking they were going to have a very definite well defined program, but there are some area's they do not want to use the money for, e.g. buying property that no one can use.

Vice-Chairman McCaffrey explained the benefits to having just a cornfield, how it doesn't add to the traffic, purifies the air, retains water, habitat for wildlife, and noted the multitude of uses around it.

Supervisor Lindborg noted that it may come up at one of the meetings of how some people would use or not use the money as well. He motioned to put this on the ballot as a non-binding referendum with the understanding they will have public input before and after the fact if it does pass and the Board should collectively decide how the money should be used. Vice-Chairman McCaffrey seconded the motion. Board Members Lindborg, McCaffrey, and Obernier voted aye in favor.

Vice-Chairman McCaffrey asked that the Manager check with voter services and make sure the exact wording is correct for this year for this referendum. Manager Rambo felt it was and noted the Township solicitor had also read it.

Manager Rambo noted the next piece of business was Resolution No.11-03 that pertained to being able to destroy old files after seven years and tax records after ten years. He noted they have invoices, bank statements and such in the attic they would like to destroy. Vice-Chairman McCaffrey asked if the Manager was sure that none of these papers would be useful at some point and Manager Rambo noted he was going by the state requirements. Supervisor Lindborg made a motion to adopt Resolution No.11-03. Vice-Chairman McCaffrey seconded the motion. Board Members Lindborg, McCaffrey, and Obernier voted aye.

Manager Rambo noted that all personnel records kept indefinitely, resolutions, and ordinances. Manager Rambo noted they have a meeting on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. of the Comp Plan Group. With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Ronald A. Rambo, Jr.  
Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer