

R- 2017-160

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG COUNTY OF WARREN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT A REFERENDUM TO
ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL TAX LEVY FOR A MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION TRUST FUND**

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipsburg is desirous of improving the recreational and conservational efforts of lands for the enjoyment of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Phillipsburg is interested in establishing an Open Space and Recreation Trust Fund to be allocated toward improving recreational facilities, protecting water quality in rivers and streams, historic preservation, conserving natural areas, and developing, maintaining and acquiring lands for recreation and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funds would be dedicated from an annual tax levy not to exceed .02 per \$100 of assessed real property value; and

WHEREAS, the proposed annual tax levy would be imposed for a period not to exceed five years; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7, the question of the annual tax level for Open Space and Recreation Trust funds shall be submitted to the voters of the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council, Town of Phillipsburg, County of Warren, State of New Jersey authorizes to be placed on the ballot in the next general election the following referendum and interpretive statement:

REFERENDUM: Shall the Town of Phillipsburg establish an Open Space and Recreation Fund through an annual levy of .02 per \$100 of assessed real property value for a period not to exceed five years, for the purposes of improving recreational facilities; protecting water quality in rivers and streams; historic preservation; conserving natural areas; and developing, maintaining and acquiring lands for recreation and conservation in the Town of Phillipsburg only; with spending based on the recommendations of a citizens oversight committee and full public disclosure?

[] Yes [] No

**INTERPRETIVE
STATEMENT:**

A “yes” vote will permit the Town of Phillipsburg to establish an Open Space and Recreation Trust Fund with an annual levy of .02 per \$100 of assessed real property value. The average owner would pay \$22 per year, which is equal to \$1.83 per month. After five years, the Fund would expire and require voter approval for it to continue. Funds can only be used for development, maintenance and acquisition of lands for recreation and land and water conservation purposes, as well as historic preservation in the Town of Phillipsburg. An oversight committee of local citizens would advise the Town on how the funds should be spent. There would be full public disclosure of all spending, and every year there would be a public audit of all expenditures. The Fund would enable the Town of Phillipsburg to leverage matching grants from Warren County and the State of New Jersey.

CERTIFICATION

I, Victoria L. Kleiner, Registered Municipal Clerk for the Town of Phillipsburg, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town Council at their August 15, 2017 meeting.

Victoria L. Kleiner
Registered Municipal Clerk