

R2023-31
RESOLUTION TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIRECTING THE WARREN COUNTY CLERK TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT FOR
THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE VOTERS CONSIDERATION THE
QUESTION OF WHETHER THE PHILLIPSBURG FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY TAX
SHOULD BE INCREASED TO ONE (1) MILL

WHEREAS, the Phillipsburg Free Public Library is funded in part by a library tax which rate is set at the statutory minimum of 1-3 of a mill; and

WHEREAS, the amount raised by the current library tax annually is approximately \$272,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the amount raised by the current library tax is insufficient to cover the operating expenses of the free public library; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren previously contributed approximately \$600,000.00 towards the Free Public Library budget, which contribution is no longer being made; and

WHEREAS, due to lack of funding from the County, the Town of Phillipsburg has been forced to contribute from the municipal budget monies sufficient to help fund the Free Public Library budget; and

WHEREAS, the governing body has decided that rather than continue to fund the library shortfall through the municipal budget, it makes more sense to place the question before the voters as to whether the library tax should be increased in an amount sufficient to cover fully the Free Public Library budget without the use of municipal funds; and

WHEREAS, in order to increase the Free Public Library tax, the governing body must adopt a Resolution directing the question of whether to change the rate of tax required to be annually raised for the proper maintenance of the Free Public Library be placed on the ballot at the general election in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:54-8(b)(1); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statute, “Upon approval of the proposition by a majority of the votes cast by the voters of the municipality [to increase the library tax] the governing body shall implement [the increased tax amount] in the manor set forth [in the statute].”; and

WHEREAS, the governing body does so desire to place the question as to whether to increase the Free Public Library tax to the voters of the 2022 general election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Town of Phillipsburg, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the following question be placed on the ballot of the 2023 general election for consideration by the voters:

Shall the rate of the tax annually levied for the support of the Free
Public Library in the Town of Phillipsburg be increased from .33

cents per \$100.00 of assessed equalized value of real property to 1
cents per \$100.00 of assessed equalized value of real property?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following explanatory statement shall be included with the question above and shall be printed on the official ballots for such general election in 2023 as follows:

1. The minimum amount required to annually be raised by taxation for the support of the Phillipburg Free Public Library pursuant to subsection A of **N.J.S.A. 40:54-8** is .33 cents per \$100.00 of assessed equalized value of real property.
2. The proposed change in the amount to annually be raised by taxation for support of the Free Public Library is .33 cents per \$100.00 of assessed equalized value for a total proposed amount to be raised annually by taxation for support of the Free Public Library to be 1 cent per \$100.00 of assessed equalized value of real property.
3. If approved by the majority of voters, the proposed increase will result in an average increase in annual taxation of a residential property assessed at the average assessed value of \$94.16 dollars annually; and
4. If approved, the higher tax rate will be in effect for a period of Ten (10) years.

CERTIFICATION

I, Matthew C. Hall, Acting 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 February 22, 2023 meeting.

Matthew C. Hall, MPA
Acting Municipal Clerk