

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT OLIVE REQUESTING A BINDING REFERENDUM BE PLACED ON THE MOUNT OLIVE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT FOR 2008 RELATIVE TO THE TOWNSHIP'S OPEN SPACE TAX

WHEREAS, NJSA 19:37-1 provides that the governing body of any municipality may request by resolution that the County Clerk place on the ballot for the General Election a question of public policy for which the Township wishes to know the sentiment of the voters; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the Township approved an open space tax of 3 cents in November 1998 and further reinstated that same tax in November 2000 subsequent to an earlier revaluation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of another Township revaluation completed in 2008 the Department of Community Affairs has taken the position that the effective tax was only 1.6 +/- cents per hundred, rounded to 1.5 +/- cents by the County as a result of its certification of the reevaluation, rather than the customary 3cents per hundred of assessed valuation; and

WHEREAS, the Township's governing body wishes to ascertain whether the voters of Mount Olive wish to endorse an increase in the dedicated tax from 1.6 cents to 3 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value for purposes of acquiring open space and/or developing recreational facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive that it does hereby request the County Clerk of the County of Morris to place the following binding referendum on the General Election ballot for 2008 for the voters of Mount Olive Township.

“Shall the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive adopt an ordinance increasing the tax dedicated for acquisition of properties for open space, development of recreational facilities and the preservation of farmland from 1.6 cents to 3 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value effective for calendar year 2009 and thereafter which would mean an increase of approximately \$57 per year for the average assessed home at \$380,300.”

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT

Approval of this proposal (a yes vote) would increase the annual open space tax levy for the Township from approximately \$575,000 to \$1,150,000. The average homeowner currently pays \$57 per year for open space and this would increase to \$114 per year. All funds raised for open space shall be dedicated in a special account to be used exclusively for the acquisition of properties for open space, development of recreational facilities and the preservation of farmland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to the County Clerk.

Raymond T. Perkins
Mt. Olive Council President

I, Lisa M. Lashway, Township Clerk of the Township of Mount Olive do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council held on _____, 2008.

Lisa M. Lashway
Township Clerk