

HONEY BROOK TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors Workshop Minutes
September 8, 2016 --7:00 p.m.

The September 8, 2016 workshop meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Travis Stacey at 7:00 p.m. Other Supervisors in attendance were John McHugh and Tracy Olsen. Also in attendance was Steve Landes, Township Manager and Chris Hartman, Solicitor.

Earned Income Tax Rate for Land Preservation

Chris Hartman presented three (3) options that the Board may use if they decide to reduce the EIT rate for the Land Preservation Program from 0.5% to 0.25% as recommended by John McHugh in prior meetings. The options presented include:

1. Have a new referendum with two questions. This action, which is specifically authorized in Act 442, has the potential for generating an answer that the voters didn't intend depending on the way each voter interprets and answers each question. The earliest the tax rate could be changed using this method is 2018.
2. The second option is to also have a referendum with a single question. This method which is not specifically authorized by the Act would result in a much clearer answer. The earliest the tax rate could be changed using this method is 2018.
3. The third option is for the Board of Supervisors to amend the ordinance that was enacted after the original referendum approved the tax up to 0.5%. This method is also not specifically authorized by the Act. Using this method the tax rate could be changed effective for 2017.

Chris reported that the PA Department of Community and Economic Development must be notified no later than December 1st if a change in the rate will take effect the next calendar year.

Steve Landes provided the Supervisors with some pros and cons of lowering the tax together with reducing the program to match the new financing.

Following the information provided by Chris Hartman and Steve Landes the Supervisors discussed whether now was the time to lower this tax.

A spirited discussion followed concerning whether the tax should be lowered at this time and also if the tax should be used for future land acquisition and development for a community park serving the east side of the Township.

There being no additional time for the workshop meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The Board then participated in a joint meeting with Honey Brook Borough and the Northwester Chester County Municipal Authority to discuss the status of the 537 Plan Update and alternatives for update to the waste water treatment plant.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven C. Landes
Township Manager