

EDITORIAL

What lies beneath

What prompts the decisions that affect us?

Inward thinking

The debate was long and involved before Ocean City Council voted two weeks ago to use rainforest ipe wood to resurface part of the resort's Boardwalk.

We know the debate will continue on the financial analysis and about the ethics of using products that help deplete the rainforest.

It will stay in the public eye because more protests are planned.

What we find most depressing about the arguments proffered before city council made its decision was the inward thinking expressed by many proponents of using the rainforest wood.

It was the sickening feeling that too many people don't give a damn about the world around us if it means the slightest inconvenience or financial burden.

"Your vote tonight has to do with Ocean City. It doesn't have to do with the world. It has to do with the taxpayers of Ocean City. It's a budget issue; it's saving money. Please don't take on the world issues with this vote."

That was from former city councilman Ron Denney.

"As I see it, it is imperative that we strike a balance between the environmental considerations and the city's financial needs. We should strive to balance these two so that both can be sustained. The problem is that the Earth's ecological needs are infinite, but our city finances are very finite and always limited. We on council have to make a decision and we have to take into account finances because the budget is one of our big responsibilities."

That was from current city Councilman Roy Wagner.

Well, our "finite" financial resources and need to ignore "world" issues certainly did carry the day.

You wouldn't know it from look-

ing at Ocean City, but this must be one impoverished place.

One question? Because Ocean City isn't impoverished financially, what resource is it lacking?

Sea Isle's back and forth

We still can't figure what's going on at the Sea Isle City Board of Education meetings.

In May the board voted not to talk with Ocean City about sending its kindergarten through eighth grade students here despite the struggles of the Sea Isle school to survive.

We figured a majority of board members want to cling to having their own district despite the disadvantages.

That board vote was backed up by the recommendation of the firm hired to run the administration in the district. The firm said, keep the little school open.

This month the board voted, also on the recommendation of the firm hired to administer the school district, to start talks with Ocean City about moving the grades five to eight students here.

The firm said, keep the elementary students, but consider sending the middle school students to Ocean City.

This week, the board voted yet again (when more members were present), against any kind of negotiations starting.

The writing is on the wall. The struggling little district will close at some point.

Maybe some cooler heads will prevail over the course of the coming school year to plan for an orderly transition for the students, a move that will benefit them greatly, won't pose a burden to Ocean City, and will help the taxpayers of Sea Isle City.

Given the heated battle in the boardroom this week, it may take a whole school year for the hot-heads to cool down.